



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 44 • Issue No. 7 • March, 2019

Please note meeting place change. Starting in January, Redbud Audubon began meeting at the Methodist Church Social Hall, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake as we have been doing for the last few years. If you are coming through Lower Lake, turn left on Lake Street and then right on Second St. The church social hall is on the right. Sadly, the beautiful Methodist Church was destroyed in the Clayton Fire but the Social Hall where we meet was spared. We have felt that moving our meetings to the south end of the county for half of our season is a way to accommodate all of our Redbud Audubon members county-wide. Hope to see you there!

Entomologist Dr. Jan Washburn to discuss Climate Change and Native Pollinators



Entomologist Dr. Jan Washburn

MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 21

- **Topic:** Climate Change and Native Pollinators
- **Speaker:** Dr. Jan Washburn, Entomologist
- **Refreshments:** 7 pm
- **Announcements:** 7:15 pm
- **Program:** 7:30 pm
- **Location:** Methodist Church Social Hall, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to welcome Entomologist, Dr. Jan Washburn, as guest speaker at its Thursday, March 21, program meeting at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Social Hall starting with refreshments at 7 p.m.

Dr. Washburn, who is retired from UC Berkeley, will discuss the impacts of climate change on native plants and their pollinators, especially in California. Flowering plants and their pollinators have been co-evolving and developing relationships of mutual dependency for over 200,000,000 years. The majority of flowering plants rely on animals to facilitate pollination, and over 70% of these depend on insects for this pollinator

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Gray Hairstreak butterfly and the bee fly are native pollinators.

President's Message

by President Roberta Lyons



Usually when I'm out of ideas for my President's Message, I start hounding people about the importance of volunteering for Redbud Audubon, but more importantly, volunteering to take on leadership positions. I came across a great term recently while reading David Jensen's President's Message for the Mendocino Coast Audubon. It's the acronym STP (Same Ten People). I immediately decided to steal it because it's a great acronym and so true.

I love it when people say to me: you need more young people! You need more diversity! I just look at them and smile. Ya Think? As if we didn't realize this. Of course we do, but accomplishing that goal is another matter. We have been to workshops to teach us how to expand and have followed through on the expert's suggestions. We have reached out to the community and gone into the schools, we are on Facebook, have a website and publicize our events. We have done the best we are able to expand our reach to a younger and more diverse audience. If there are any of you out there with some fresh ideas, please take the initiative and volunteer to carry out your ideas. It would be very much appreciated.

I understand that volunteering in a leadership role takes a great deal of commitment. I also know that "shaming," people into doing so will never work. All I can say is that the STP could use some help and if the future of Redbud Audubon is to be assured, we need more leaders, (especially some under 60!) Call me if you would like to join our board: 707-994-2024. We actually are a pretty fun group!

Many thanks to Suite on Main and Clear Lake Cottages & Marina for offering great discounted lodging to our Redbud Audubon speakers

Clear Lake Cottages & Marina

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Great places to stay in Clearlake and Kelseyville

By Roberta Lyons

We are very fortunate to have two great lodgings opportunities that have been willing to offer discounts to Redbud Audubon when we have the need to provide lodging for our out-of-town speakers.

Now that we are meeting in Lower Lake, we book lodging for our speakers at Clear Lake Cottages and Marina in the City of Clearlake. This is an absolutely beautiful resort and I would encourage people to book a space here if you ever have out of town guests looking for a spot in the south county. When I hear people say, "There is nowhere nice to stay in the City of Clearlake," I immediately disagree and point them to Clear Lake Cottages. It is on the lake with a beautiful natural shoreline and pier. The owners love wildlife and are always excited to point out the Pelicans, grebes, and other waterfowl that frequent the lake right in front of this lodging. Check it out next time you have guests who need a place to stay in the south county. They will love it.

When giving our programs in Kelseyville, the place for guests is the Suite on Main. This is truly "Next Gen Lodging," in the heart of Lake County. This neat spot is right in downtown Kelseyville and is perfect if you have some guests coming this way to enjoy winetasting and/or general nature-oriented activities (like hiking up Mt. Konocti) in the Kelseyville area. There are six elegant suites available for vacations, family visits, weddings and more.

Please support these two businesses that support Redbud Audubon!

Legislative support needed!

Some of our members who are also members of National Audubon may receive email from National on legislative issues that affect our birds. National Audubon (as well as California Audubon) makes it easy to click on a link to locate your representative in Congress and their email. Your voice is important! Our voices together can make a difference. Redbud Audubon forwards pertinent legislative notices via email to you. We hope you will not mind if you receive them both from National Audubon and us. The protection of our bird life is extremely important.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



The Calpine Corporation in Middletown donated \$10,000 to the Redbud Audubon Society Osprey Pole Fund, which helped facilitate the installation of a new Osprey pole at the County's Lakeside Park near Kelseyville. Pictured receiving the check is Redbud Audubon board member, Marilyn Waits, (R) from Danielle Matthews Seperas, Manager of Government and Community Affairs for Calpine Corporation and Dan Cole, Construction Manager at Calpine, the Geysers.



Marilyn Waits, Redbud Audubon Society board member; Faith Rigolosi, who suggested to Redbud to replace the Osprey nest; Terry Knight, Record-Bee columnist who initiated the donation from the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee, Dan Cole, Calpine, Geysers Construction Manager who coordinated the pole purchase and installation and Don Walsh, Lakeside County Park Supervisor. All attended the recent Osprey pole installation at Lakeside County Park near Kelseyville.

Group effort results in new Osprey Pole at Lakeside County Park

The Osprey nest tree at Lakeside County Park near Kelseyville was a popular Osprey-watching site for many who love this iconic bird of Clear Lake. Sadly, the diseased tree was deemed a hazard by the County of Lake and was cut down over the winter.

Faith Rigolosi, owner of Eyes on the Wild, a photography touring business here, brought the situation to the attention of Redbud Audubon's board member, Marilyn Waits, who set about arranging the installation of a new pole for the Osprey to call home.

Calpine Corporation made a generous donation of \$10,000 to Redbud Audubon's Osprey Pole Fund (a fund established decades ago to facilitate Osprey pole replacement). Funds from this grant enabled Redbud to purchase the pole for the Osprey nest and hire Lucchetti Excavating Company of Ukiah to install it.

The County of Lake Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee also approved \$5,000 for Redbud to purchase two Osprey interpretive panels to be installed at Lakeside County Park, one in English and one in Spanish because so many Hispanic families use the park regularly. Terry Knight, wildlife and fishing editor for the Record-Bee, initiated the request for the interpretive panel funding from the committee.

On Feb. 4, the Lucchetti Company arrived with their equipment and with help from Dan Cole, Construction Manager at Calpine, the Geysers, the pole was raised with the nesting disc attached to the top. Two weeks later, Dan had to go up in a telescopic boom truck to place the old nest in the nesting disc. Osprey are known to return to their old nests, and placing the old nest in the empty disc encourages the Osprey to use the new nesting site. Sure enough, the Osprey have returned and both of the osprey pair have been spotted sitting on the edge of the nest disc.

The pole and the descriptive panels will provide a wonderful interpretive and wildlife viewing opportunity for both Lake County residents and visitors. Redbud Audubon thanks everyone involved with this project: Calpine, Terry Knight, Faith Rigolosi, The County of Lake and our intrepid board member, Marilyn Waits, president emeritus, leader of our on-going Grebe Conservation Project, meeting speakers organizer, and Osprey nesting pole manager. Thank you all!



Attaching the nesting disc to the Osprey Pole are Mike Lucchetti (L) and Casey Waddington of Lucchetti Excavating in Ukiah, and Dan Cole (R), Construction Manager for Calpine.



The old osprey nest was saved and is shown here, ready to be installed on the new nesting disc.



Dan Cole and Brian Powers, County Parks Superintendent, watch the project unfold.



The Osprey Pole is hoisted up during the project work recently at Lakeside County Park near Kelseyville. The Osprey, a hawk-like fish-eating bird prevalent on Clear Lake, are already back in the area searching for nesting places.



The pole and disc are up, ready for the old nest.



Dan Cole places the nest on the new pole.

Brad and Kathy Barnwell receive Stars of Lake County Award for Environmentalism

Brad and Kathy Barnwell, active Redbud Audubon Society volunteers were presented with the Stars of Lake County Environmentalist of the Year Award at the annual “Stars,” event held in February at the Soper Reese Theatre in Lakeport.

The couple were given the award together as they do many things as a team. Brad is well known for his beautiful wildlife photography, especially of local birds. He never hesitates to allow organizations such as the Redbud Audubon Society and other groups to use his photographs for publicity or displays (several of his photographs are on display at the Lake County Land Trust’s Rodman Preserve Nature Center). The nomination letter for Brad and Kathy included their many accomplishments:

Brad served on the Lake County Land Trust Board of Directors for 8 years. Although no longer on the Board of Directors, Brad is on the sub-committee for management of the Rodman Preserve.

Kathy served on the Redbud Audubon Society Board of Directors for several years and was Secretary during that time.

They both organize and carry out the annual Redbud/National Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This event is an outstanding example of Citizen Science at its best, but it would not be possible without the efforts of people like Brad and Kathy. They organize and appoint leaders for the count circles and keep track of the data collected and send it to eBird, which in turn sends it to the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Ornithological Lab. This effort is very important in



Kathy and Brad Barnwell, recipients of the Stars of Lake County Environmentalist of the Year Award.

gaining knowledge on the state of birds not only in Lake County, but California and the United States as well.

In preparation for the annual CBC, Brad presents a bird identification workshop for all those planning on participating in the count.

Brad and Kathy lead walks for numerous local clubs including the Clear Lake State Park Inter-

pretive Assoc. the Anderson Marsh State Historic Park Interpretive Assoc. Redbud Audubon Society and the Lake County Land Trust.

When leading the field trips for all of the above mentioned groups, they track and report all of the birds seen on these outings.

Brad is a member of the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association Board of Directors.

Brad and Kathy both operate and troubleshoot the computer/projection system needed to present PowerPoint and video programs for the Redbud Audubon Society.

Brad and Kathy have regularly updated and produced the Seasonal Checklist of Birds of Lake County. This list is a very popular and useful handout, not only for local birders but for those visiting the county to enjoy this pastime. They both serve as bird guides for the annual Heron Days event, a popular birding event presented by the Redbud Audubon Society.

Congratulations to Brad and Kathy Barnwell! We are lucky to have you.

Entomologist Dr. Jan Washburn to discuss Climate Change and Native Pollinators

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service. Scientific data clearly show that earth's climate is changing rapidly as atmospheric carbon dioxide levels rise. Climate models predict that the earth's ecosystems will experience higher and more variable temperatures, shifts in rain patterns, and more frequent and more severe storms.

These climate changes will have a profound effect on the seasonal growth and development of native plants and the activity and behavior of pollinators that service them. Plants living at high altitudes and those with specialized pollination relationships will be most profoundly impacted. Increased temperatures will displace and eliminate alpine vegetation, increase pollen production among many species, alter the chemical composition of nectars, facilitate invasion of non-native

species, and eliminate some pollinator species altogether.

Dr. Jan Washburn grew up in West Virginia where he was collecting insects by the age of three and began rearing butterflies before entering first grade. To this day, he would always rather be out-of-doors than inside.

After earning a B.S. degree in biology and an M.A. in ecology from the University of Delaware, he moved to California 40 years ago to earn a PhD in entomology from UC Berkeley. After completing his degree, Jan remained on the research faculty at Cal for 24 years.

For ten years he conducted field research at the Hopland Research and Extension Center. Now retired, Jan splits his time between homes in Oakland and Comptche. He is an avid naturalist, devoted kayaker, seasoned bird watcher, and aficionado of most all creatures with more than four legs (ticks excepted). He keeps busy with volunteer work and travel. Jan has served as a docent for the UC Botanical Gardens in Berkeley for the last 12 years, trained Mendocino and Santa Clara Master Gardeners in entomology for the past 15 years, and has been a trustee on the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District for 25 years. Dr. Washburn is also a Trustee for the Comptche Land Conservancy.

Membership explained

You have a choice between two types of membership. Most of you are members of National Audubon and are assigned by National to our Redbud Audubon chapter. We offer chapter-only membership whereby you must enroll via the internet. Visit us at www.redbudaudubon.org and click on membership for further details. If you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail and are open to receiving it by email, you can save the chapter significant printing and mailing costs by emailing us at redbud.audubon@gmail.org and letting us know. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by mail, please consider donating \$10 - \$15 to Redbud Audubon.



Looking at nesting birds during the last Heron Days.



Heron on nests at Shirley Slough.

Heron Days planned for April 27-28 and May 4-5

It's time to put the annual Redbud Audubon Heron Days event on your calendar! This year, we will continue to follow the format we started last year with Heron Days taking place over two weekends at two locations: Lakeside County Park on Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28 and at Clear Lake Campground on Cache Creek in Clearlake on May 4 and 5.

The 90-minute tours will leave between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The tour fee is \$30. Tours from Lakeside County Park follow the shoreline where numerous grebes, cormorants and other wildlife can be viewed as well as an active Great Blue Heron rookery, or nesting site. The trip from Clear Lake Campground travels into Anderson Marsh and along Cache Creek, which is the location of another heron rookery and may be hosting nesting and mating Western and Clarks Grebes.

Registration will open on March 20 and will be available on the Redbud Audubon website: www.redbudaudubon.org.



A Great Blue Heron carrying nesting material. Photo by Brad Barnwell.

Please provide us with your email

A number of our members have emailed us at redbud.audubon@gmail.com to opt to receive our newsletter, "The Western Grebe" by email as opposed to receiving it by mail.

Not only do you help save a tree, you help us save on expenses and energy in sending it to you by regular mail, and it comes to you in color versus the black and white mailed version. If you have been meaning to, but haven't yet done so, take the minute or two out of your time to do so.

Even if you still prefer to receive the mailed version of the "Grebe", we would like to have your email for our records. Once in a while, we send out emails to our members about important events or bird sightings that may be of interest. You are also welcome to email us with any information that you think would be of interest to the membership. Questions requiring expert opinions are forwarded to the appropriate persons.

Also, we rely on our members for whom we have emails to help us with any volunteer efforts that we may have. Often it just means a couple of hours of your time. Whether you have areas of expertise or birding skills that you can share, or are willing

Field Trip at Clear Lake State Park brought a variety of sightings

Six people showed up at Clear Lake State Park in February for an enjoyable walk that yielded some interesting sightings, including mating Osprey (which hike leader Brad Barnwell warned us about!) Leading the group were Kathy and Brad Barnwell and Pat Harmon.

Some of the "stand out," sightings included 27 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Participants also saw two Hermit Thrush, eight Wood Duck, three Belted Kingfisher, one Pileated Woodpecker and 16 Acorn Woodpecker, 16 California Golden Crown Sparrows, 24 American Robins and many more species.

Please join us on our field trips which are usually on the third Saturday of the month following our monthly third-Thursday program meetings.

to help us with general staffing of booths, setting up booths and transporting materials, we welcome your participation.

So please give us your email address by sending it to redbud.audubon@gmail.com, and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

March field trip to Lakeside County Park has been cancelled due to flood-stage lake levels

Field Trip Calendar

Following is the field trip calendar for the Redbud Audubon Society for 2018 – 2019. Prior to each field trip a description will appear in our newsletter, the *Western Grebe* and on our website with more information about the upcoming outing. You can also call our field trip chair, Pat Harmon at (707) 263-4977 for information. Outings start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

March 23

Field trip cancelled due to flood stage lake levels.

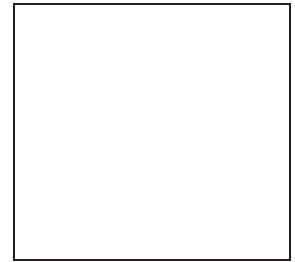
April 27-28-Heron Days

May 4-5-Heron Days

May 18-Potter Valley



Redbud Audubon
PO Box 5780
Clearlake, CA 95422



National Audubon/Redbud Audubon
Joint Membership Application
New Member Introductory Rate — \$20 for the first year

- ☐ **YES** Enroll me in both the National Audubon Society and local chapter Redbud Audubon. Start my subscription to **Audubon Magazine**, and **The Western Grebe** chapter newsletter.
- ☐ Check this box only if you wish to receive **The Western Grebe** newsletter by regular mail. Otherwise, it will be emailed to you.
- ☐ From time to time, National Audubon may share its mailing list with other environmental organizations. If you do not wish to be contacted, please check this box.

You have the option of just joining the Redbud Chapter by enrolling online at www.redbudaudubon.org.
Newsletter by email \$25/year; by regular mail \$35/year.

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- ☐ I would also like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon. My check is enclosed for
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