



# *The Western Grebe*

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

[www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org)

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***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!

## ***Wildlife viewing in Sonoma, Lake and Marin counties and Northern California***

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to welcome Tom Reynolds, photographer and videographer for its April 18, program meeting at the Lower Lake Methodist Church Social Hall at 16255 Second Street in Lower Lake. The evening begins at 7 p.m. with sign-in and refreshments; the public is warmly invited.

Tom Reynolds is a widely respected photographer from Sonoma County who has been photographing and videoing birds and wildlife in Northern California for 15 years. He has built an impressive body of work around Sonoma County wildlife, mostly at the County's Regional Parks. In his talk to Redbud, Tom will show a 40-minute video of some of the best places to view wildlife in nearby counties and beyond.

Many of his images are stunning, capturing seldom-witnessed scenes: a family of river otters devouring a lunker largemouth bass, a Pileated Woodpecker pecking at wild grapes, a Bald

(Continued on page 5)



*Hungry woodpecker chicks.*



*Bobcat on the prowl.*

### **APRIL MEETING**

**Thursday, April 18**

- **Topic:** Wildlife viewing in Sonoma, Lake and Marin counties and Northern California
- **Speaker:** Tom Reynolds, Photographer and Videographer
- **Refreshments:** 7 pm
- **Announcements:** 7:15 pm
- **Program:** 7:30 pm
- **Location:** Methodist Church Social Hall, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake

## *President's Message* by Roberta Lyons



I hope everyone has purchased their tickets for pontoon boat rides for our upcoming Heron Days event on the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May. This is always a fun and exciting event and is the main fundraiser for the Redbud Audubon Society.

Pontoon boats are driven along the lakeshore from Lakeside County Park near Kelseyville to view a Great Blue Heron nesting site and enjoy other numerous birds on Clear Lake. These tours take place on April 27 and 28. Then, the following weekend, May 4 and 5 tour boats leave from the Clear Lake Campground in Clearlake to follow Cache Creek into Anderson Marsh to view a variety of waterfowl and a Heron nesting site along Cache Creek.

Both of these trips are great fun and you never know what you are going to see. Each boat is guided by a Redbud Audubon bird guide and the fellowship, scenery and bird watching are a great combination.

We have been presenting Heron Days for well over 20 years now. We had to skip one year because of the drought and other years have presented their own challenges (like pouring rain) but over-all these events have always been successful.

Susanne Scholz and I came up with the idea years ago when attending a Regional Audubon Conference at Asilomar. This was back when Wildlife Festivals were just taking off and we realized that the Heron Rookery (nesting site) on Slater Island in Anderson Marsh State Historic Park was a very steady feature for that area. Rookeries sometimes move, but at the time this particular rookery had been on Slater Island for years so it seemed like a solid feature that we could publicize for our boat rides.

We started the event with volunteer boats and drivers, leaving from Redbud Park and doing only Anderson Marsh and Cache Creek. Now, of course, the event has expanded to two ends of the lake and two weekends and we have licensed boat captains driving the boats.

Please check out our website and sign up soon as tickets are selling fast. Go to [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org).

## *Please provide us with your email*

A number of our members have emailed us at [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com), and, if you wish, let us know in what areas you feel you can help.

# *It's time to elect 2019-2020 officers for Redbud*

*By Roberta Lyons*

At the Thursday April 18 meeting we will present a slate of officers for the upcoming Redbud Audubon Society Inc. 2019/20 year. We will call for suggestions from the floor before we take a vote. Our nominating committee this year is Susanne Scholz, Darlene Hecomovich and Jeannette Knight.

We are once again short of people willing to join the board and provide us some much needed help. As of this writing we do not have a vice-president. The vice-president is responsible for taking over the duties of running board meetings when the president is absent, is expected to come to board meetings and generally be an active member of the board of directors. It isn't hard and the president seldom misses a meeting.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please try it out. It involves going to 8 board meetings a year, held both in Kelseyville and Lower Lake. The board meetings are held before our regular program meetings. Here is the slate of officers proposed for next year:

**President: Roberta Lyons**  
**Vice-president: Open**  
**Treasurer: Nicola Selph**  
**Secretary: Katherine Lindsley**

Other board members include: Marilyn Waits, Tina Wasson, Lisa Prather, and Susanne Scholz.

Please join us! If you would like to discuss being a board member or taking on a position, call Susanne Scholz at (707) 994-1804.



## **REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



### **OFFICERS**

*President:* Roberta Lyons

*Vice President:* Open

*Treasurer:* Nicola Selph

*Secretary:* Katherine Lindsley

*Past-President:* Marilyn Waits

### **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Bird Observations - Jerry White  
Christmas Bird Count - Brad and Kathy Barnwell  
Conservation - Roberta Lyons & Evelyn Wachtel  
Education - Lisa Prather  
Field Trips - Pat Harmon  
Grebe Project Manager - Marilyn Waits  
Historian - Pat Harmon  
Hospitality - Pat Harmon  
Member-at-Large- Tina Wasson  
Membership Manager - Susanne Scholz  
Newsletter Editor - Roberta Lyons  
Newsletter Email Distribution - Lisa Prather  
Newsletter Production - Jim Scholz  
Programs - Marilyn Waits  
Publicity - Roberta Lyons  
Webmaster and Social Media - Bonnie Thompson

**To contact a board member:**

**Phone 707/ 263-8030**

**Email: [redbud.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com)**





*Trees with shallow roots are not a good choice for planting along sidewalks.*

**Editors Note:** This article is courtesy of Gillian Martin of the Cavity Conservation organization. The article contains great information that we could all use and share regarding proper tree selection for location. Gillian also provided recent information on the proper installation of nesting boxes. We appreciate her sharing this important information with Redbud Audubon Society and our Western Grebe newsletter readers.

## *A Tree's Success Starts with the Selection Process*

*By Gillian Martin*

What if a tree was able to vet its prospective owner and landscape before agreeing to be purchased? Arborists would smile and say 'yes,' a young tree would whistle at the possibility! A silly idea? Well hold on a minute and consider human history.

We don't have to look very far, especially in urban settings, to see examples of 'problem trees.' Is the tree really the problem? These amazing organisms are sometimes criticized for doing what comes naturally, and what millions of years of evolution led them to do. Looking back, we often see that the problem began long before when well-intentioned people anchored them in conditions and locations either unsuitable to their nature or destined for conflicts. From that moment, they were fated to do poorly, possibly fail completely, become an inconvenience or even a hazard. When a battle of wills between trees and humans ensues, the chainsaw rules because trees can't run away. This often results in improper and needless pruning which injures and further compromises the tree's future. The wrong tree planted in the wrong place is really a set up for failure, can you see? So, since trees can't speak for themselves, getting

professional help in choosing one is the best first step.

[SelectTrees.com](http://SelectTrees.com) is a super resource. Keep these key questions in mind as you give the website a try: First ask yourself, why do you want a tree? A tree can offer various benefits such as shade, flowers, fruit, a pleasing architectural element, a screen, support for wildlife and more. Given your goals and the tree's intended location, consider whether the space will accommodate the eventual size of the tree, as well as its roots? Will the roots affect the surrounding hardscape? What other conditions will the tree face? Is the climate, soil, and amount of sunlight suitable for the tree in the long term? Will it have sufficient drainage? How much and what type of human activity will the tree have to endure? Did you know that heavy foot traffic under the canopy compacts soil and damages tree roots? Bark wounds from things like knife carvings, manual edgers, even staplers used to affix signs can injure a tree.

It's an oversimplification to say trees are invaluable to the welfare of humans and to the planet. When we give a tree a good start and put its care in the hands of professionals, we protect our investment, and we ensure the tree will serve us well.

It's a pity that trees can't talk, but another great way of getting acquainted with those in California, at least, is to walk and drive around with Matt Ritter's novice-friendly book, *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us*. You will observe where they thrive, where problems arise, and what they look like when they are all grown up.

## *Welcome new and returning members*

Welcome new and returning members: Vera Lewis, Clearlake Park; Susan Youngblood, Glenhaven; Cathy Sacks, Lower Lake; Sandra Boorn, Clearlake; Sally West, Clearlake Oaks; Bill Bantner, Clearlake Oaks; Kris Tyner, Clearlake Oaks; Sandra Moura, Kelseyville; Clyde Hladky, Kelseyville; Katherine Lindsley, Lakeport; Peggy McCormack, Lakeport; Janet Hagan, Lakeport; Jamie Walker, Lower Lake; Jean Kelton, Lucerne; Beverly Thomas, Upper Lake; Judith Cox, Witter Springs; Susan Kahn, Richmond; Scott and Patty Hale, Clearlake; WD Mahan, Clearlake Oaks and Susan Rode, Kelseyville.

## ***Wildlife viewing in Sonoma, Lake and Marin counties and Northern California***

*(Continued from page 1)*

Eagle soaring near Jenner with a lamprey clutched in its talons, and a close-up of a bobcat perched on a mossy rock at the southwest corner of Spring Lake, its fur glinting in the sun.

Reynolds has become an unofficial photographer and ambassador for Regional Parks, donating his images for county use on social media, websites and publications, conducting regular birding trips on park properties, and making presentations to local schools and nonprofit groups on wildlife and photography. "He spends most days in one park or another," said Meda Freeman, spokeswoman for the department. "He's so immersed in his work, and his product is so tangible and beautiful. He's so committed to his mission that he won't even accept a free parking pass from us. We consider ourselves pretty lucky to have his support."

Reynolds, now in his 70s, came to wildlife photography late in life. For most of his career, he worked as a fleet manager for PepsiCo. After taking an early retirement from the company, he moved to Santa Rosa and spent 10 years as a heavy equipment operator for the county until his second retirement.

A San Diego native and longtime Los Angeles resident, he moved to Santa Rosa more than a decade ago and remains enthralled by the county's natural splendor. His volunteer role combines his belief in public service and his lifelong hobby. He was born with the "Kodak gene," he says. "I just like being outside. I go up to the National Wildlife Refuges in the Sacramento Valley once in a while, but mostly I just visit the regional parks. They're incredible properties, and you can spend a lifetime exploring them."

His photographs have been key to Sonoma County's bid to boost local support for parks and increase their draw for tourists. "He posts pictures almost every day. People see that and they want to visit those places," said Regional Parks Director Caryl Hart.

Tom Reynolds' contributions have been recognized with several major awards. He was awarded the Sonoma County Regional Parks' "Best of the Best" Volunteer award in 2011. The following year, the county Board of Supervisors honored Reynolds as one of 18 "Outstanding Volunteers." In 2013 Madrone Audubon awarded him the chapter's Bentley

Smith Award for his photography and work with education and the environment.

His life has been challenging since the Tubbs Fire in October 2017 when he lost his home, computer equipment and cameras, all his possessions, and all his photos. He recovered most of the photos from Facebook and Shutterfly.

You can preview some of Tom's amazing photos and videos on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tom.reynolds.505>



### ***Observations***

*By Jerry White (JRW)*

Two WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were found on Clear Lake near Glenhaven on March 4, 2019 by Bryan McIntosh. One of the two birds was seen later the same day by Dave Woodward. Many observers reported the birds from the same location until at least March 11th. This is the 3rd record of this species for Lake County. A BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was found on the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) by Floyd Hayes and his group on December 15, 2018 in the Clearlake Park area. Two RED-NECKED GREBES were reported, one on November 28th near Glenhaven by Dave Woodward. The other one was found by Kris Tyner and the group he was with on December 15th in the Clearlake Park area.

Doug Prather found a BLACK-NECKED STILT in the Reclamation area on November 16th. This is the latest Fall record for the county. Doug also had a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER in the Loch Lomond area on December 8th. Dave Woodward had a RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER at his residence near Lakeport on October 25th. Six GREAT-TAILED GRACKLES were found on the CBC at Redbud Park by Floyd Hayes and his group. This was the 2nd Winter record for Lake County.

Although not uncommon for Lake County at this time of year, a report of COMMON GOLDENEYE on Feb. 21 from Boggs Lake (Darlene Hecomovich) was a first for this location.

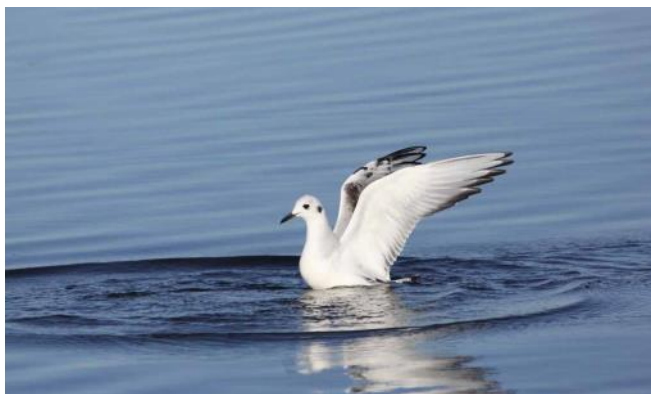




*Some pelicans are still here during the upcoming Heron Days boat rides.*



*Sign up soon for your boat ride tickets!*



*You never know what you are going to see, like this Bonapartes Gull.*



*Great Blue Herons are the star of the day.*

## ***Tickets are selling fast for this year's Heron Days event in April and May***

Redbud Audubon Society's annual Heron Days event takes place over two weekends at two different 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. This event features pontoon boat tours to view birds and other wildlife on Clear Lake.

Tickets are going fast for this year's tours at both locations. Many tours for April 27 (leaving from Lakeside County Park) are sold and the April 28 tours from the same location are filling up fast as well.

The May 4 and 5 tours into Anderson Marsh from the Clear Lake Campground are also filling fast. Three tours are already sold out but May 5 from Clear Lake Campground still has plenty of openings. Check out [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) to see what is still available, register for a boat ride and pay on-line. If you can't pay via the website for some reason, call the Audubon phone number: (707) 263-8030 and leave a message but please note reserving by phone makes extra work for volunteers.

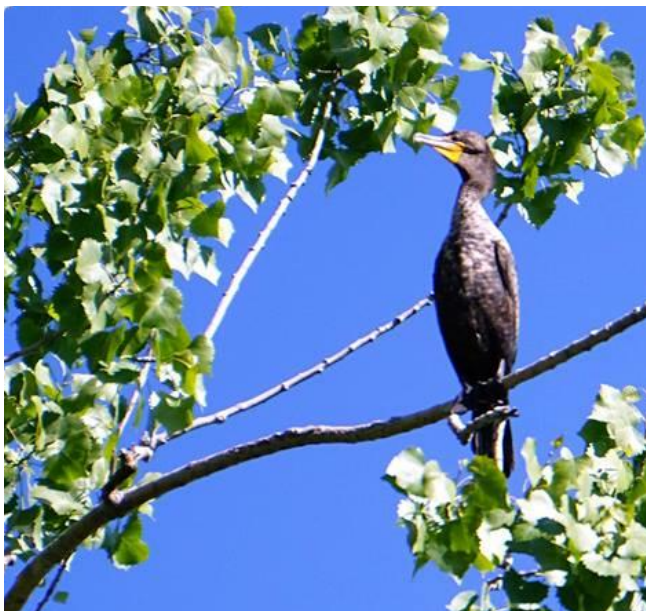
The 90 minute tours will leave between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The tour fee is \$30. Tours from Lakeside County Park follow the shoreline where numerous grebes, cormorants and other wildlife can be viewed as well as an active Great-blue Heron rookery, or nesting site. The trip from Clear Lake 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.



*Osprey are always a popular siting during this event.*

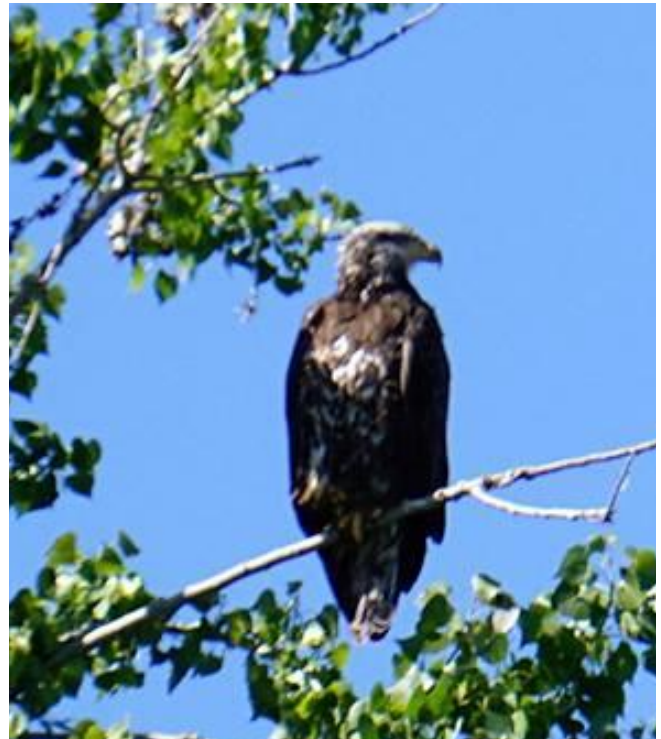


*Great Egrets will most likely be spotted.*



*Double-crested Cormorants are often found among the nesting Great Blue herons.*

**Photos by Brad Barnwell, Barbara Bridges,  
and Roberta Lyons.**



*Bald Eagles are always a special treat to see.*

## 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 web-site 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.

**April 27-28-Heron Days**

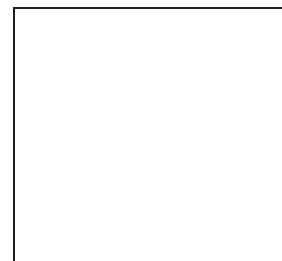
**May 4-5-Heron Days**

**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.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would also like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon. My check is enclosed for  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Please make check payable to Redbud Audubon Society. Mail your application and check to  
POB 5780, Clearlake, CA 95422**

***Thank you for supporting Redbud Audubon Society***  
*Connecting People with Nature since 1974*