



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 44 • Issue No. 9 • May, 2019



The annual Audubon picnic is a fun event with delicious food provided by members and guests.

MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 16

***End of year potluck
picnic and installation
of officers***

- **Time:** 5:30 PM
- **Location:** Lakeside County Park on Park Drive off of Soda Bay Road

Annual Audubon end-of-year picnic and officers' installation

Redbud Audubon Society members and guests are welcome to join us on Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. for our annual end-of-year picnic and installation of officers.

The event will be held at Lakeside County Park on Park Dr. off of Soda Bay Road. The picnic

(Continued on page 7)



*Darlene Hecomovich and
Michele Quere enjoying last
year's Audubon annual picnic.*

President's Message by Roberta Lyons



Another Redbud Audubon season has sped by, and here we are getting ready to “go dark,” for the summer. “Going Dark,” is a rather antiquated phrase I think; it was the phrase used in the earlier days of civic clubs and organizations that took a break for the summer. I guess it shows my generational inclination to cling to old ways of doing things. It also highlights the fact that well, some of us are getting “old.”

Or maybe I should say, “older.” That word seems to have less sting and invites less scolding from people who claim that “old,” is just a state of mind and one shouldn’t mention this unavoidable state. I also should say that I don’t mind getting “older.” I appreciate it. I simply mention it to weave in a subtle warning and “heads-up” that we need to prepare for the day when all of us “older,” folks may want to quietly (or maybe loudly) bow out of our civic duties. This will happen to Redbud Audubon. Even though we have been “going strong,” since 1974, the fact is that as of now we have no younger generation following in our footsteps to operate the organization the way it has been run over the years.

Don’t despair. It’s ok. Just because organizations fade doesn’t mean that intent and concerns have faded. We have to face the fact that younger people do things differently now. They don’t want to go to meetings or get hung up in procedures, but that doesn’t mean they don’t care. Something will come along to take our place, or, other people will take this group over and run it differently and successfully.

For now, those of us who volunteer to keep the chapter running are willing to continue. Check out the article on pages 5-6 if you want to be impressed by the number of volunteers that we do have. Heron Days was a success, both financially and socially. We garnered enough funds to move forward with another season of presenting quality programs to our devoted public. We’ll keep leading field trips and carrying out the very important Christmas Bird Count.

So everyone, hope you can make it to the Annual Redbud Audubon Picnic, enjoy your summer and see you all in September!

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 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.



Salton Sea's iconic pelicans and cormorants are quickly becoming a thing of the past

By Garrison Frost, Audubon California

As the Salton Sea's waterline continue to recede, California's largest lake is losing some of its iconic bird species, including pelicans and cormorants. The report released recently, which aggregates several sources of bird monitoring data, shows how dramatic ecological change at the Salton Sea is forcing some birds out, resulting in fewer overall species of birds taking advantage of habitat.

One of the fastest disappearing species appears to be the American White Pelican which, according to surveys, has declined from a high of 20,000 birds in 2008 to fewer than 100 now, according to aerial surveys conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Audubon's own surveys show a similar drop-off in recent years. This decline is largely the result of the Sea's increased salinity, which is killing off the tilapia upon which the birds feed.

"For a community that once held annual Pelican Days Birding Festivals, the decline of these great birds is certainly disheartening," said Andrea Jones, Audubon California's director of bird conservation, and principal author of the new report. "At its peak, the Salton Sea hosted a broad diversity of birds, and any habitat restoration that takes place here should serve that diversity."

A complete version of the report is available at ca.audubon.org.

The Salton Sea is one of the most important places for birds in North America, and the larger region is home to about a million people. The 350-square-mile sea has partially replaced wetland habitat lost to agricultural and urban conversion in the Colorado River Delta, California's coast, and the San Joaquin Valley.

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



This fellow was very accommodating as viewers slowly motored by.

The Redbud Audubon Society has been presenting Heron Days for 24 years. This year over 240 guests enjoyed the pontoon boat tours at Lakeside County Park on the last weekend in April and into Anderson Marsh on the first weekend in May. Pictured is one of the groups touring Anderson Marsh. Photo by Roberta Lyons



Heading out of the harbor.

***Thank you to our Heron Days Sponsors
Pacific Gas and Electric
Disney Boat Rentals***

Volunteers are the foundation of Heron Days success

The 246 guests who enjoyed seeing multiple species of birds on Clear Lake during the two weekends of the 2019 Heron Days could not see the extensive behind-the-scenes planning and contributions of the many volunteers that make this much-anticipated education event possible.

This year **Marilyn Waits**, Past-President, and **Lisa Prather**, Education Chair, were the lead coordinators who began several months ago organizing the many functions of Heron Days.

The volunteer boat-owners/captains and the bird guides are the ambassadors for Redbud who enable the first-hand memorable experience of nature that guests carry home with them. These are the people who share with our guests their love of birds and beautiful Clear Lake.

Boat Owners/Captains

Disney's Boat Rentals, **Henry Bornstein**, **Jim Herrmann**, **Karl Hosier**, **Ben Lawson**, **Mike Mayer**, **Bob and Carol Prather**, **Bob Rumfelt**, **Jim Scholz**, and **Rick White**. The boat owners were recruited and scheduled by **Marilyn Waits**.

Audubon Bird Guides

Brad Barnwell, **Pat Harmon**, **Floyd Hayes**, **Darlene Hecomovich**, **Gae Henry**, **Katherine Lindsley**, **Harry Lyons**, **Roberta Lyons**, **Doug Prather**, **Nicola Selph**, **Susanne Scholz**, **Janet Swedberg**, and **Kris Tyner**. The bird guides were recruited and scheduled by **Lisa Prather**.

Special thanks goes to Boat-owner/Captain **Henry Bornstein** (with his wife **Gae Henry** as Bird Guide) for their generosity in adding a third trip on each of their two days' participation in the boat tours.

Behind the scenes were many other volunteers whose hard work supported the four days of Heron Days. **Evelyn Wachtel** managed the online registration and ticketing process. **Roberta Lyons** handled all the publicity. **Tina Wasson** obtained the Parks Department permit for Lakeside, and **Nicola Selph** obtained the insurance certificates. Redbud provided lunches for all the volunteers who worked a full day at the event. For those lunches, **Pat Harmon** made

(Continued on page 6)



Captain Henry Bornstein at Anderson Marsh tour.



Jeanne Vierra was one of the many volunteers who helped out during Heron Days.



Birding along the shoreline.



Marilyn Waits, Redbud Audubon Society board member and one of the Heron Days organizers, Analie Jimenez, Katherine Lindsley, Redbud board secretary and volunteer and Lisa Prather, Redbud board member, volunteer and Heron Days organizer, staffed the Grebe booth at the Heron Days event at Lakeside Park near Kelseyville.

Volunteers are foundation of Heron Days success

(Continued from page 5)

homemade cookies, accompanied by fruit, chips and Subway sandwiches.

The volunteer crew for the two days at Lakeside County Park included on-site manager **Erica Lundquist**, dock manager **Randy Lundquist** and check-in staff **Tje Koske** and **Bonnie Weiss**. **Erica and Randy Lundquist** were also the heavy-equipment movers who picked up and returned the canopies, tables, and chairs from the Redbud storage unit. **Marilyn Waits** and **Lisa Prather** managed the grebe conservation exhibit tables and the sales of field guides, Redbud t-shirts and new Redbud hats. Assisting them were **Tresa Thorly**, **Katherine Lindsley**, and two Clear Lake High School seniors, **Analie Jimenez** and **Jennifer Cruz**, who each volunteered a day to help with set-up, sales, and take-down of the exhibit tables. **Emily Prather** helped with errands before and during the two weekends.

The crew at Clear Lake Campground was equally important to Heron Days' success. First and foremost was **Lisa Wilson**, owner of this beautiful location on Cache Creek. Her enthusiasm and energy made both guests and volunteers feel welcome and at home in this peaceful setting under the trees. **Marilyn Waits** was on-site manager, **Rick McCann** served as dock manager, and **Evelyn Wachtel**, **Susan Cameron**, **Jeannie Vierra**, and **Peg Landini** managed the check-in table. Assisting **Lisa Prather** at the exhibit and sales tables were **Tresa Thorly** and **John Portner**.

This year's Heron Days was the 24th annual celebration of this springtime nesting event. As in past years, the event drew not just local residents, but visitors from Sonoma, Marin, Mendocino, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and Sacramento counties. Heron Days is Redbud's major fundraiser that enables our chapter to carry out its many educational activities throughout the year.



The 24th annual Heron Days event hosted almost 250 people on pontoon boat rides to view birdlife on Clear Lake.

Join us for our last field trip of the year to Potter Valley

The Redbud Audubon Society will hold its last field trip of the year on May 18 to Potter Valley and along the Eel River. If you want to caravan from Lakeport, meet at the Lakeport Park-and-Ride area, south of the Highway 29/175 intersection at 8:30. Another option is to meet at the Potter Valley Bridge at 9 a.m.

We are following the route taken by the Peregrine Audubon Chapter. According to their newsletter, the primary birding is done along the scenic main stem of the Eel River with stops at the Pioneer Bridge, Trout Creek, and possibly Burris Lane. Both MacGillivray's and Hermit Warblers are usually seen on this trip, and they can be difficult to find elsewhere. Other possible birds include Bald Eagle and American Dipper.

The Potter Valley Bridge is located 1/4 mile north of Hwy 20 on Potter Valley Road at 9 a.m.. Bring your lunch, water, binoculars, and favorite field guides. For more information, call Pat Harmon at (707) 263-4977.



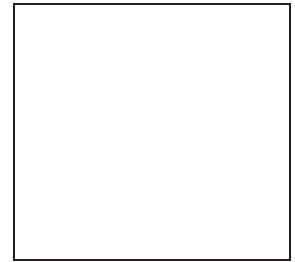
An experienced and knowledgeable bird guide is on each pontoon boat tour. This is one of the highlights of the trips. Here volunteer Doug Prather is telling folks about the amazing Yellow-headed Blackbirds that live in the tules along the shoreline of Clear Lake.

Annual Audubon end-of-year picnic and officers' installation

(Continued from page 1)

is a potluck, but Audubon supplies hotdogs, buns and condiments. You are welcome to bring alternate meat or meat-substitute to grill if you prefer. Sodas and water will also be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring salad, beans, chips, or dessert to share. Please arrive at 5:30 p.m. Look for us down by the lake to the left of the launch ramp. We will install officers and it is a nice way to visit with and get to know chapter members.

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.

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