



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

Volume 45 • Issue No. 8 • April, 2020

Redbud Audubon cancellations and reasons for hope

By Roberta Lyons and Marilyn Waits

As members and friends have all heard by now, all social gatherings and events are being prohibited through May 1 because of the Coronavirus outbreak. Redbud Audubon had already made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Heron Days along with our regular remaining program meetings, field trips, and our annual May picnic, before word of the extended shelter in place came down.

We want to thank our Heron Days boat owners and drivers for their generous willingness to donate their time and boats to this event that we have enjoyed for so many years. This would have been the 25th anniversary of Heron Days, when people are taken on pontoon boat rides to view the stunning beauty of the Clear

(Continued on page 3)

**Heron Days, and our
remaining program
meetings and field trips for
this season are cancelled.
We look forward to seeing
everyone in the Fall.**



A previous Heron Days trip.



Great Blue Herons can still be seen, even if not at our Heron Days event.



Looking forward to seeing everyone in Spring 2021 for our next Heron Days!

President's Message

by Roberta Lyons

Stay home, stay safe, and look forward



The other day I stood at my window looking out over Clear Lake. The usual birds were swooping around, but up close, in the Blue Oak that lives in front of my window, was a flock of 12 Myrtle Warblers. It was an unusual sight for me to see so many in one flock. It was fun to stand on the other side of the window with such a great close-up view of the birds as they flitted about the tree. I thought about how grateful I am to have such a comfortable place to live with such a fabulous view. A wonderful place to be if one has to shelter in place. I feel many of us are lucky to have homes while we endure this trying time, and I'm extremely appreciative of the people in Lake County who are able to help those who are less fortunate, including the homeless, and fragile people who may be alone and require help from others.

Although I find it difficult to deliver "inspiring messages," here is something that I truly do find inspiring. Many organizations, agencies and businesses are still working to carry out their missions, including Redbud Audubon's Conservation Committee. We are participating in video and conference calls to deliver input on two of our major areas of concern: The Walker Ridge wind development project and the Guenoc Valley Mixed Use Project in southern Lake County. Those involved in opposing the Walker Ridge project continue to map out a strategy to protect this amazing and unique landscape, holding a conference call weekly. The Guenoc Valley project planners have responded to Redbud's concerns and are adjusting their plans to meet them.

The fact that Redbud Audubon has had to cancel all of our events through the end of our season (May) is sad. But we are no different than other non-profits and businesses all over the country. Especially unfortunate is the cancellation of our annual Heron Days. This would have been the 25th anniversary of this event! After I got over the initial relief of not having to be involved in the planning, I realized I will truly miss it and am very sad that it has been cancelled. Heron Days is an event that allows people to see the beautiful shorelines and birdlife of Clear Lake. Many of our participants have no other opportunity to do so, and all are very appreciative to discover how rich our lake is in biodiversity.

I'm going to miss seeing our friends and guests at the last few program meetings and field trips we had planned for this year. I hope everyone is doing ok. And please try to continue to find solace in nature. Even though the State Parks are officially "closed," you can still walk the trails (staying six feet apart of course). It is just the parking lots and probably the restrooms that are closed; but many people park outside of the parks anyway, both at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and Clear Lake State Park. A warning though: There are reports of car break-ins at both spots so don't leave anything of value in your car, especially on a seat where it is visible. Also open for walking is Rabbit Hill, a Lake County Land Trust property in Middletown, as is Boggs Lake Preserve. Not everyone lives in a beautiful neighborhood suitable for enjoyable walks, so it is nice that we have these public areas still available.

Nevertheless, the primary responsibility is to stay home and stay safe. Looking forward to seeing everyone when this is over.

Redbud Audubon cancellations and reasons for hope

(Continued from page 3)

Lake shoreline that is home to nesting herons, grebes, marsh wrens and more. We appreciate our board members who each take on specific jobs like long term planning, publicity, and managing the ticketing system. And of course, the many other volunteers who make this event possible: the folks who check-in passengers at the loading areas, dock hands, bird guides, and booth managers. Thank you all.

We will miss seeing our friends and neighbors. But there is reason to hope. We look forward to presenting Heron Days next year and when this is over, continuing with the many other activities of our organization – our monthly program meetings, monthly field trips, and involvement in important conservation issues facing the county.

Heron Days is Redbud Audubon's only major fundraiser. Proceeds from this event contribute a primary portion of our yearly budget. Our expenses include insurance, speaker fees, hall rent, newsletter production, and other items. We know this is a difficult time for everyone, and Redbud will make it through with our reserves. However, if you are able, please consider donating the cost of a Heron Days ticket to Redbud Audubon. It will be greatly appreciated. You can accomplish this most simply by writing a check (for whatever amount, it doesn't have to be \$30) and mailing it to Redbud Audubon Society POB 5780, Clearlake CA 95422.

Welcome new and returning members

Welcome new and returning members: Jim and Susanne Scholz, Clearlake; Carolyn King, Clearlake; Alan Grinnell, Clearlake; Kathleen Jansen, Lakeport; Adam Garcia, Lakeport; Holly Oswald, Middletown; Kathy Scavone, Middletown; and Michele Quere, Upper Lake.

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
and Donna Mackiewicz

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 and Donna Mackiewicz

To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com

Slate of proposed officers for 2020-2021

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers for the Redbud Audubon Society.

President – Roberta Lyons
Vice – President – Donna Mackiewicz
Secretary Katherine Lindsley
Treasurer – Nicola Selph

Due to Covid-19, we are unable to follow the election process normally held at the April meeting. Because we have never had any nominations from the floor in prior years, the Board of Directors will accept and install the officers presented by the Nominating Committee.

To brighten your day, we are sending images of the beautiful song birds and waterfowl that inhabit Lake County and Clear Lake. Most of these images are taken here in Lake County. Photographers include, but are not limited to: Brad Barnwell, Barbara Bridges, Bob Schoenherr, Roberta Lyons, Donna Mackiewicz, and Jeannette Knight. Enjoy!



Pileated Woodpecker



Northern Flicker

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 a 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.



Western Grebe



Western Grebe and chick



Great-Horned Owl

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 representatives 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.



Bonaparte's Gull



Ferruginous Hawk



Chestnut-backed Chickadee



Pied-billed Grebe



Cedar Waxwing



American Kestrel



Bewick's Wren



Belted Kingfisher



American Bald Eagle



Great Egrets



American White Pelicans



Black-crowned Night Heron



*American
White Pelican*



Lewis's Woodpecker



Green Heron



Cinnamon Teal



American White Pelicans



Cooper's Hawk



American Robin

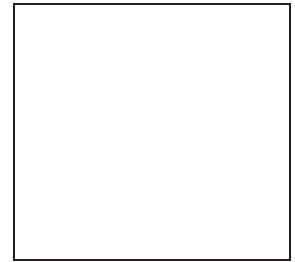


Juvenile Osprey



Juvenile Great Horned Owl

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 joining just 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 donation 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