



REDBUD AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1976

Dear Redbud Audubon supporter,

As we move into our second year of this challenging time, I want to give you a quick update on how your local Audubon Society is doing. I'm happy to report that we are doing well.

In December we began presenting Zoom monthly speaker meetings that have proven extremely popular. We continue to produce our monthly newsletter and distribute it nine months of the year via email and print. While we have not been able to hold monthly field trips, we did conduct our annual Christmas Bird Count, with safeguards.

Our Conservation Committee keeps a close eye on proposed local development projects and comments almost monthly to the Lake County Planning and Development Department regarding a variety of projects ranging from new subdivisions to cannabis permits.

On an ongoing basis, we provide a wide range of bird information on our website and our Facebook page. And we are always available by phone and email to answer questions and concerns from individuals.

Despite all Redbud's continuing activities, the pandemic has had a serious negative impact on the chapter's finances.

This financial impact is primarily because we have had to cancel both the 2020 and 2021 Heron Days boating tours, our only major fundraiser each fiscal year.

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For 24 years these pontoon boat tours on Clear Lake have been our primary nature education outreach to Lake County residents and visitors. Financially, the income from this event supports more than half of our annual operating budget.

Our Audubon chapter is managed entirely by volunteers. Although the costs to run the organization are minimal, they still require funding every year. We pay our speakers an honorarium, including our Zoom presenters. For “in-person,” meetings with non-local speakers, we pay for overnight lodging and mileage. We pay rental fees for meeting places, newsletter printing, liability insurance, our storage unit rent, and occasional professional development expenses such as Audubon conferences and regional meetings. While some of these costs “disappeared,” during this pandemic, many continued.

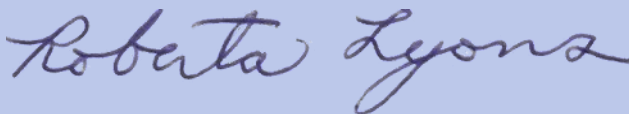
All in all they add up to about \$8,000 a year. We do receive a small annual contribution from National Audubon, but it is to you -- our local supporters -- that we look to for help right now.

For 45 years, Redbud Audubon’s mission has been to raise public awareness and appreciation of the bird life and the natural environment of our beautiful Clear Lake and Lake County. We provide nature education to adults and children and strive to create a social atmosphere that encourages individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate in our events. We work with farmers, developers, business people and resort owners to expand their knowledge of the importance of birds, both for our individual well-being and for the economic well-being of our area.

This year we were able to persuade our Board of Supervisors to declare April “Bird Appreciation Month,” in Lake County. To celebrate this occasion, a series of articles in local media has provided practical ways that everyone in the community can enjoy and protect our local birds.

Given everything your Redbud Audubon Society continues to accomplish, we hope you will consider providing a generous gift of \$50 or more to our effort to keep Lake County a bird-safe and bird-friendly community for all of us to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Roberta Lyons, President,
Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.

You can mail a check or donate on-line. Thank you!

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/REDBUDAUDUBON