



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

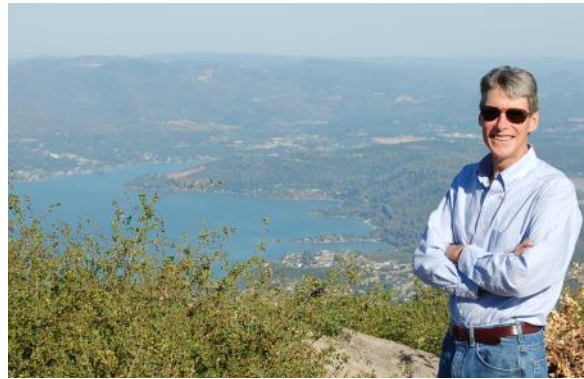
Volume 47 • Issue No. 1 • September, 2021

The Geological Tourist in Lake County is the topic of Redbud Audubon's September program

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to host Dr. Harry Lyons as the speaker at the first program meeting of the season on Thursday, Sept. 16, starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Although Dr. Lyons is best known for his talks on Clear Lake, his interests extend to other topics, including the fascinating geology of the Clear Lake basin, which will be his topic for the September meeting.

"A few folks travel to Lake County to take in the Geology, to marvel at the variety of young igneous rocks, to crumble soil derived from Jurassic muddy sandstones, and to scramble up slopes of serpentine. What's the big draw for this small group?" Lyons asks. His answer is that the terrain around Clear Lake reflects the history of California and the world. Lyons condenses lessons from local experts and informed visitors in tying the region's geological history



Dr. Harry Lyons will discuss geology of the Clear Lake basin.

to actions that occurred below the Pacific Ocean, the area of his study as an oceanographer.

Dr. Lyons has lived in Lake County for over 40 years, for much of that time conveying sci-

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REDBUD AUDUBON

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, September 16, 7 PM

Topic: The Geological Tourist in Lake County

Presenter: Dr. Harry Lyons

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

[Redbud Audubon Program Registration](#)

Or scan the following QR code:



President's Message

By Roberta
Lyons

Monthly programs continue on Zoom; walks resume but with some Covid restrictions



Roberta Lyons

Another September is here, but unfortunately we can't say things are back to normal, which is what I was hoping for at the beginning of summer. We have decided, for now at least, to continue our monthly educational program via Zoom. This worked out pretty well for us last year, but I do miss seeing everyone in person. I know for some folks, however, Zoom is preferable and it has allowed a bigger attendance at our programs, which is a positive development.

We do plan on holding monthly walks but with some "Covid restrictions," in place. We ask that everyone who attends our walks be fully vaccinated and also ask that people wear masks when in close proximity to others on trails or paths. Our first walk will be at Clear Lake State Park on Sept. 18, and we hope that everyone who decides to attend will respect our concerns.

The month of August has been the usual grind for everyone. Smoky skies, fear of fire, fear of Covid. Sheesh! However, most of us have much to be thankful for, including this beautiful albeit smoky, county we live in.

In this month's newsletter, we have re-printed an email that was sent to chapter leaders in August. It encourages us (and everyone) to find joy in birds and nature; to take time to appreciate beauty. Read the article and check out the images.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our first program meeting (by Zoom) and our first bird walk of the season at Clear Lake State Park.

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.

Long-time board member Tina Wasson is retiring and will be greatly missed

Tina Wasson first got involved with Redbud in 2005 when she agreed to take over the duties of secretary. From there, she became treasurer for many years and also served as vice-president.

A graduate of Clear Lake High School, Tina moved away after graduating. She and her husband, Tom, moved back to Lakeport in 1987 and



Tina Wasson

opened Tom's Aircraft Enterprises at Lampson Field, where Tom uses his 50+ years of experience and skills in aircraft repairs and maintenance, and Tina works by his side as office manager.

Tina was one of the three main drivers and organizers who made the Heron Festival a success when it was held at Clear Lake State Park. She expanded the event by adding craft vendors to participate, and the booth fees significantly increased the revenue that supports the chapter's annual operating budget. She organized signing up the vendors, planning out the booth locations, and trouble-shooting as needed.

The two-day Heron Festival was a big success during the few years it was held at the Park, but it became too difficult for the small group of volunteers to manage and is now a "boat ride only," event.

However, when it was happening, the annual festival drew over 1,500 residents and visitors during the weekend.

Since the boat trips for Heron Days still leave from County facilities, Tina took on the responsibility for acquiring the needed permits, as she did for Redbud's annual picnic in May. For each year's picnic, she and Tom brought all the equipment and supplies from Redbud's storage unit, set up at the picnic, and returned everything to storage afterwards.

Tina's great personality and wonderful skills will be missed by the Redbud Audubon board, but we wish her best of luck in her retirement and express much gratitude for her many years of participation.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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President: Roberta Lyons

Vice President: Donna Mackiewicz

Treasurer: Nicola Selph

Secretary: Katherine Lindsley

Past-President: Marilyn Waits

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and Donna Mackiewicz

Education - Lisa Prather

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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



A Western Bluebird parent feeding its young. Photo by Brad Barnwell



Baby Bluebirds are getting ready to fledge. Photo by Brad Barnwell

Redbud Audubon's nestbox trail provides homes to Bluebirds and joy to people seeing them

By Donna Mackiewicz, Redbud Audubon Vice-President and California Bluebird Recovery Program Lake County Coordinator

"I feel bluebirds dancing in my soul." "Seeing these bluebird babies makes my heart sing." We hear phrases like this from first-time visitors seeing nestlings as we monitor nestbox trails.

Did you ever wonder what bluebirds eat? A recent study by John Carpinera found that bluebirds ate 24% beetles and weevils, 21% grasshoppers and crickets, 20% caterpillars, 15% fruit, 6.7% bees, wasps and ants (mostly ants), 6.4% leafhoppers, treehoppers, white flies and aphids, 2.1% other insects and spiders,

1.2% weed seed, 0.7% flies. A very varied diet!

With wildfires again devastating huge areas of Northern California this summer, their destruction to homes and habitats is paramount in everyone's minds. Yet, in the long-term, there are some benefits to birds. By the next breeding season, the seemingly desolate post-fire landscape will be a welcoming place for the bluebirds. Bluebirds thrive in recently burned areas for a number of reasons. Wildfire clears

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A Western Bluebird at Rodman Preserve. This Lake County Land Trust property is home to an officially monitored Bluebird Nestbox Trail managed by Donna Mackiewicz. Photo by Brad Barnwell

Birds tell us to find joy

(From a National Audubon Society email to chapter leaders, August 15, 2021)

If you've ever been fortunate enough to spy on a bird as it builds a nest, you know how inspiring the process can be. Birds spend countless hours searching for the perfect materials, meticulously placing every twig and bit of brush, overcoming rough weather and dodging predators all for a chance to safely raise their young. Despite every challenge, there is somehow a joyfulness to it.

Advocating for a brighter future and a more equitable world takes time and energy, and Audubon supporters who strive to bring about that change need the chance to rest and restore, too. **We must let the joy that birds and nature bring to our lives fuel our fight for their protection.**

Amid all the stressful moments and frightening truths we face in today's world, you deserve to take a moment to enjoy all that birds and nature offer. Start by exploring Audubon's Joy of Birds collection full of beautiful bird photos, fascinating science, and amusing stories. Enjoy!

Redbud comments: Go to www.audubon.org, type in the search bar "15 Awww-Inspiring Photos of Baby Birds" and enjoy scrolling through all the photos, especially the Western Grebe chick and, at the very end, a great shot of Green Heron babies on a branch. Separately, type in the search bar "Eleven Eye-Opening Photos of Birds Just Living their Lives." This section has informative comments after each photo. The photos in both sections are from the Audubon Annual Photo Awards, so they are spectacular photos.

Redbud Audubon's Bluebird nestbox trail

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out high shrubs and grass, making it easier for bluebirds to spot insects from atop hunting perches.

Moreover, wildfire can directly create nesting habitat for all cavity-nesting birds by increasing the number of available tree cavities. Many woodpeckers are attracted to burned areas and they create more available nesting cavities by hollowing out recently burned trees in search of grubs.

So, if wildfire increases the number of natural nesting cavities, will our bluebird nestboxes get any use? The short answer is "yes"! If a pair of bluebirds, titmouse, wrens, or swallows chooses a cavity over one of Redbud's nest boxes that is super okay. But until those new cavities are ready, we will make sure we

can keep your heart singing with each sighting.

Redbud Audubon proudly reports this season's Rodman Preserve trail results: 6 Tree Swallow, 5 Ash-throated Flycatchers and 24 Western Bluebirds and no House Sparrows fledged. These numbers pale in comparison to the birds that fledged from the numerous oak cavities at Rodman.

Expanding the trails and number of nest boxes within the county are in the works for this winter at Anderson Marsh and the Wright Property at Anderson Marsh and the Wright Property. Just think...30 nest boxes could fledge hundreds of native birds!

Contact Redbud Audubon if you'd like more information on nestboxes or volunteering with the nestbox trails.

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.



Redbud Audubon's Vice-president, Donna Mackiewicz, loves sitting on her back porch at her home in the Clearlake Keys. She is often visited there by numerous varieties of birds that are attracted to the habitat and feeding opportunities there.

Lately a beautiful pair of Red-shouldered Hawks have been frequenting the area preying on crayfish that hang-out on the banks covered with water primrose. Donna is treated to this sight every day and enjoys photographing the birds in action.





Many Redbud Audubon members know Gae Henry. We are very pleased to note that one of her photographs has been included in a very important book. The recently released **Peterson Field Guide to North American Bird Nests**, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, contains this photograph by Gae. The photograph is of a mixed nesting colony of Western and Clark's Grebes, taken in 2017 in Anderson Marsh. It is featured on page 90 of the field guide. Gae is a long time member of Redbud Audubon and has served the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association as secretary of the board of directors for over 15 years. She and her husband, Henry Bornstein, live in Highlands Harbor and have enjoyed many kayak trips into Anderson Marsh.

Membership explained

Just a quick reminder that 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 for which you must enroll via the internet. You can visit our website at www.redbudaudubon.org and click on membership for further details.

Also, as a reminder, 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.



We can't guarantee that you will see a Bald Eagle at the Sept. 18 field trip at Clear Lake State Park, but you never know. This image was taken by Brad Barnwell at the park.

First field trip of the year to be at Clear Lake State Park

Redbud Audubon is resuming in-person field trips in September. We ask that all attendees be vaccinated against Covid-19 and please wear a mask when close to others on the trail.

The first field trip of the year will be at Clear Lake State Park on Saturday, Sept. 18. This is always a fun location and the trip will be led by Audubon volun-

teers and State Park volunteers, Brad and Kathy Barnwell. We will be meeting in the main parking lot at 9 a.m. for a leisurely walk through the park. Expect to see songbirds, raptors, and wildfowl. Be sure to pay the park fee when you enter.

For information call Roberta Lyons at (707) 994-2024.

The Geological Tourist in Lake County is the topic of Redbud Audubon's September program

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entific information on Clear Lake to two generations of college students. The Emeritus Professor of Biology/Ecology from Yuba College grew up in Brooklyn, attended Rutgers College and Stanford University, and was awarded his PhD in Oceanography as a National Science Fellow from the Scripps Institution of the University of California.

He currently is serving as the president of the Lake County Resource Conservation District and as a founding member of the Middle Creek Restoration Coalition. He has been appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to the Blue-Ribbon Committee for the Restoration of Clear Lake. He often speaks, and sings, about the natural history of Clear Lake and efforts to restore and preserve its watershed.

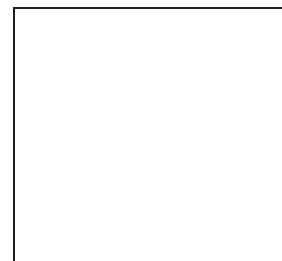
2020-21 Chapter Financial Report

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Revenues	Audubon Membership Revenue	\$2,121
	Contributions	2,546
	Educational Programs & Events (Heron Days)	-146
	Sales (books, booth sales)	50
	Interest	6
	Total income	\$4,577
	Cost of Goods Sold	\$17
	Total Revenue	\$4,560
Expenditures	Administration	\$3,086
	Educational Programs & Events	1,004
	Newsletter Printing/Mailing	2,954
	Marketing Outreach	542
	Storage rental	1,398
	Total Expenditures	\$8,984
	Net Income in Operating Funds	-\$4,424
	Beginning Retained Earnings 6/30/20	\$40,242
	Net Income 2020-2021	-4,424
	Ending Retained Earnings 6/30/21	\$35,818
Assets	Cash & Equivalents (Checking, Savings, etc)	\$35,763
	Inventory Held for Sale	1,368
	Total Assets	\$37,131
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	576
	Total Liabilities	\$576
Funds	Reserved (Osprey Fund)	5,493
	Unreserved (Not Committed)	30,270
	Total Fund Balances	\$35,763

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