



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

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Audubon Canyon Ranch uses 30 years of research on heron and egret colonies to guide wetland conservation

On Thursday April 20, Redbud Audubon will host Scott Jennings, an Avian Ecologist with the Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County. The program will be presented on Zoom starting at 7 p.m.

Since 1990, Audubon Canyon Ranch has had a program monitoring heron and egret nesting colonies throughout the northern part of the San Francisco Bay area. During that time, the researchers have observed several colonies change in size or be abandoned, and have seen new colonies form.

In recent years they have used GPS telemetry to study how Great Egrets move across the landscape, in part to learn how far individual egrets might move when they abandon a nesting colony. Scott Jennings will talk about how nesting abundance of Great Blue Herons,

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Scott Jennings holds a Great Egret during a recent study at Audubon Canyon Ranch

REDBUD AUDUBON

APRIL MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 7 PM

Topic: Audubon Canyon Ranch heron and egret research

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

[Redbud Audubon Program Registration](http://RedbudAudubon.org)

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:



President's Message

by Roberta Lyons



Vacant Great Blue Heron nests at the reclamation area.



Roberta Lyons

and a great chance to see one another after so many months (years?) of distancing. We especially welcome our Zoom meeting attendees. Please come meet us in person.

The picnic is held at the Lakeside County Park off of Soda Bay road. We provide grilled hotdogs and veggie burgers and everyone is asked to bring a side or dessert. We also provide water and soda, but you're welcome to bring your beverage of choice. We should be able to see some interesting birds at the park.

Last month I unashamedly bared my ignorance about "Audubon's Warblers," (well, I was a little ashamed) but, because I did that, our expert birder and volunteer Darlene Hecomovich explained the difference to me in a way I finally understand!

Here is Darlene's explanation:

"The species Yellow-rumped Warbler is divided into two sub-species: the Audubon's Warbler and the Myrtle Warbler. Although both occur in Lake County, the Audubon's is more commonly seen. It is also

more colorful and has a yellow throat and a broken white eye ring, whereas the Myrtle's has a white throat and a white eye line above the eye. Now the question remains: Who was Myrtle?????" Love that question!

I doubt if I will ever be able to tell the difference between a Myrtle and an Audubon's, but at least with my new knowledge, I can say: "That's a Yellow-rumped Warbler, probably an Audubon's, but I don't know for sure."

We have had to cancel our field trips for February, March, and April due to weather and storm damage. However, on a dry day recently I was able to travel to the Reclamation Area and found that, while the nests I saw a month ago are still intact and undamaged from the storms, none of them are occupied by Great Blue Herons any longer.

Although there is a very active rookery of about 40 nests at Clearlake Keys this year, the overall number of Great Blue Heron rookeries on Clear Lake appears to definitely be declining. This is both disappointing and concerning.

To learn more about changing heron and egret populations in the Greater Bay Area, please join our April speaker on Zoom to hear the research results of 30 years' study of these two species by scientists at Audubon Canyon Ranch. There is no Heron Days this year, but this April meeting gives us the opportunity to still enjoy these beautiful birds.

Audubon Canyon Ranch research on herons and egrets

(Continued from page 1)

Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons has changed over the last 30 years, and how that information can be used to guide wetland conservation.

He will also share what they have learned about how frequently heron and egret colonies change size or are abandoned, factors thought to be related to colony abandonment, and how often birds return to abandoned colonies.

Scott Jennings is an Avian Ecologist for Audubon Canyon Ranch. He grew up in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties and earned a BA degree in Environmental Studies and Biology at UC Santa Cruz and a MS degree in Wildlife Science at Oregon State University.

Over the last 17 years he has studied the ecology and nesting behavior of everything from Wrentits to Spotted Owls to Adelie Penguins.

Outside of work he spends most of his free time surfing, hiking, backpacking, travelling, hunting and fishing. He lives outside Petaluma with his wife, two dogs, two horses, four sheep, a dozen or so chickens, and a weedy vegetable garden.

Please register for the meeting by going to www.redbudaudubon.org and click on the registration link on the home page; or, if you receive this newsletter by email, click on the link at the bottom of the first page. After you register, the Zoom link for the program will be sent on the day of the presentation.



A Great Blue Heron taking a stick to its nest.



A Great Blue Heron on the alert for a meal.



A Great Egret in flight.



A Black-crowned Night Heron feasting on its favorite meal, a crawdad.

Coming soon...John T. Klaus Park

By Donna Mackiewicz, Redbud Vice-President

Are you ready for bird watching and hiking in Clearlake Oaks?

We all know and visit the usual favorite birding spots around Clear Lake and elsewhere in the county. There is the Redbud Trail off of Highway 20, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park near Lower Lake, Rabbit Hill in Middletown, and Boggs Lake on Mt. Hannah. Kelseyville is home to Clear Lake State Park, and the Reclamation Area near Upper Lake always has surprises, as does High Valley Road near Clearlake Oaks, and Borax Lake in Clearlake. Rodman Slough and the Rodman Preserve are also great places to visit.

So here is some great news about a coming place to bird! The new John T. Klaus Regional Park, located at the gateway to Clearlake Oaks and North Shore communities as you drive west on Highway 20, has been accepted by the Board of Supervisors as a County Regional Park. Located on the right side after you pass the Moose Lodge, the park is 600 acres and will provide both wilderness and recreational activities.

The bequest to the county specified that the property was donated for the purpose of a county park. The Klaus Trust properties, of which this park is a part, include an established oil change business in Livermore that generates \$10,000 a year that will help fund the operation of the park.

The property has abundant chaparral and oak woodlands with Grey Pines, a creek, ponds, and both domestic and native wildlife. For nature lovers, the most exciting feature of the gift will be the back third of the land reserved as a refuge for wildlife. The frontage property on Highway 20 currently has horses, llamas, peafowl and unmanaged invasive star thistle. This frontage area will most likely be developed as a youth sports and athletic activities area.

We will keep you updated on the status of this interesting new park and when it will be available for public visitation. If you have ideas or comments about what you would like to see, or not see, please let us know your thoughts by emailing redbud.audubon@gmail.com.



Someday the public will be able to walk this area, located in the planned John T. Klaus Park.



A heritage oak at the planned John T. Klaus Park.

Slate of officers presented for 2023–24

This year's Nominating Committee for Redbud Audubon, chaired by Marilyn Waits, has presented the slate of officers for 2023–24.

President: Donna Mackiewicz

Vice-President: Roberta Lyons

Treasurer: Nicola Selph

Secretary: Katherine Lindsley

Officers will be voted on during this month's Zoom meeting, after nominations from the floor have been requested. Installation will occur at the May 18th annual picnic.



Chaparral and Grey Pine at the new Klaus 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 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.

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.

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 whereby 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.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Vice President: Donna Mackiewicz

Treasurer: Nicola Selph

Secretary: Katherine Lindsley

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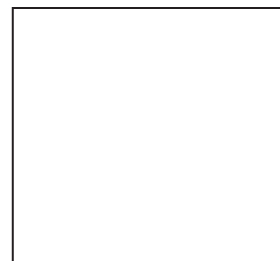
Social Media - Donna Mackiewicz

To contact a board member:

Phone 707/805-9410

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com

Redbud Audubon
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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.

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☐ 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
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