



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Enjoy a fascinating program about Sandhill Cranes for the November Redbud Audubon program



Dr. Gary Ivey at the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary in British Columbia.

Sandhill Cranes Visit the Central Valley in Huge Flocks

The Redbud Audubon Society is pleased to host Dr. Gary Ivey with the International Crane Foundation for its Thursday, Nov. 16 Zoom program meeting starting at 7 p.m. To register for the program, click on the link in this newsletter if you receive it by email, or go to Redbud's website, www.redbudaudubon.org and click on the registration link there.

Dr. Ivey will discuss the Sandhill Crane populations that breed and winter in California and the broader Pacific Flyway. His talk will cover the migration routes to the wintering and breeding areas of the three subspecies that use the state. He will describe their behavior and biology and their conservation needs in

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REDBUD AUDUBON

NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, November 16, 7 PM

Speaker: Dr. Gary Ivey, International Crane Foundation

Topic: Sandhill Cranes

To register for this Zoom meeting, click link:

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

Or visit RedbudAudubon.org and click on the registration link

Or scan the following QR code:



Sandhill Cranes

(Continued from page 1)

California's Central Valley.

Sandhill Cranes are social birds that flock together to forage and roost in the thousands. They are large birds with males weighing ten pounds, females slightly less. Their impressive wingspan is 5-7'. With long necks and long legs, they are often described as looking like prehistoric "dinosaur-birds" in flight.

Pairs bond for life and are monogamous. Their graceful courtship "dances" display synchronized dips, bows, head swings, wing spreads, leaps, and flaps.

The open habitats in wetlands and agricultural fields in the Central Valley provide many viewing areas to see the wintering flocks of Sandhill Cranes. The annual Sandhill Crane Festival in Lodi on the first weekend every November offers talks and field trips.

Dr. Gary Ivey works with the International Crane Foundation as a Research Associate and is an expert on Sandhill Cranes in the Pacific Flyway. He has worked with wildlife with particular focus on Sandhill Cranes for over 40 years, concentrating his work on waterbirds, waterfowl, and wetland conservation.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Trumpeter Swan Society and is leading efforts to restore breeding Trumpeter Swans to Oregon. He served for 20 years as a biologist at several western refuges, including 15 years at Malheur Refuge.

Dr. Ivey studied nesting ecology of Sandhill Cranes for his Master's Thesis and wintering ecology of Sandhill Cranes for his PhD, both at Oregon State University. He continues working to further conservation of cranes, Trumpeter Swans, and other waterbirds in Western North America.



Dr. Gary Ivey has worked with Sandhill Cranes for over 40 years.

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.***

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 to defray printing and mailing expenses.

President's Message

by Donna
Mackiewicz



Donna Mackiewicz

To feed or not to feed. That's a tricky question, especially now in Lake County with the migrants returning. If you do decide to feed the birds keep a few tips in mind, please.

Where habitat has been lost, bird feeding stations help provide food opportunities along migratory routes. But we don't want to revisit the 2021 Cassin Finch Salmonellosis outbreak when large numbers of birds died from disease.

You can minimize the harm to birds by following these steps: Reduce disease risk by cleaning your feeder at least once every two weeks, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned every 3-5 days.

Clear out all the old discarded seed under the feeders.

If you notice some birds looking ill, especially if they have discharge around their eyes, remove your feeder until those birds disperse.

Cats in the area? Big problem. Cats kill more than 2.5 billion birds a year in the United States and Canada.

Strikes against windows? Move your feeder to within three feet of reflective windows or cover those windows with decals or screening. A feeder placed 15 to 30 feet in front of a window is an accident waiting to happen.

Hawks enjoying the "buffet" you are providing? You might like to reconsider feeding the birds.

Every day in Lake County is a great day to go birding. Try to visit all the hot spots in the county like Anderson Marsh State Historic State, Borax Lake, Clear Lake State Park, Lakeside County Park, or the Reclamation Area near Upper Lake.

We'd love to hear about your birding or send us a photo.

Enjoy the fall!

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.

October field trip in pictures



Redbud Audubon's October field trip was at Clear Lake State Park where a group of 10 gathered and viewed 40 different species. It was a fun morning. Field trip leader, Brad Barnwell is doing some tallying.



The group gathered in the parking lot at Clear Lake State Park at the start of the field trip.



A field trip "selfie," on the bridge at Clear Lake State Park.



Herman Strik and Anita Benzing checking out a bird.



You can always count on seeing turtles in Old Kelsey Creek. There are both Western Pond, the native turtle, and Red-eared Sliders, that are non-native.



Searching for a warbler.

November field trip at Melo Wetland Preserve

The Redbud Audubon will hold its November field trip at the Lake County Land Trust's Melo Wetland Preserve at 2590 Clipper Lane, Lakeport.

From Soda Bay Road turn onto Reeves Lane and head to the lake. Then turn right on Starr and drive a short distance; the preserve is located at the intersection of Starr and Clipper. Parking is limited so please carpool if you can.

The field trip will be an easy walk around the perimeter of the property to view songbirds and perhaps some waterfowl. Starting time is 9 a.m. For more information you can email Redbud at redbud.audubon@gmail.com or call (707) 805-9410 and someone will get back to you.

2023 - 2024 Field Trip Calendar

Please note. Field trips will start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise announced in the newsletter.

November 18– Melo Wetland Preserve

December 16 – Christmas Bird Count

January 20, 2024 - Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges

February 17, 2024 – Rodman Preserve

March 16, 2024 – TBA

April 20, 2024 – TBA

May 18, 2024 – Highland Springs

Details for each field trip will be published in the preceding newsletter, including directions and start time if different from 9 a.m.

The March-April field trips have yet to be determined but will be announced in upcoming newsletters. Put these dates on your calendar and plan for a fun day of birding with friends!

Birds spotted during the October field trip to Clear Lake State Park

Mallard	50
California Quail	7
Pied-billed Grebe	2
Eared Grebe	1
Western Grebe	1
Clark's Grebe	1
Western/Clark's Grebe	44
Sora	1
American Coot	17
Double-crested Cormorant	4
American White Pelican	62
Black-crowned Night Heron	1
Great Egret	1
Turkey Vulture	16
Osprey	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Belted Kingfisher	2
Acorn Woodpecker	12
Nuttall's Woodpecker	1
Northern Flicker	4
Black Phoebe	6
Steller's Jay	1
California Scrub-Jay	5
American Crow	1
Common Raven	4
Oak Titmouse	5
Bushtit	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Bewick's Wren	1
European Starling	5
Northern Mockingbird	2
Cedar Waxwing	20
House Sparrow	3
White-crowned Sparrow	5
Golden-crowned Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	3
California Towhee	1
Spotted Towhee	3
Brewer's Blackbird	12
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3

Updated Great Blue Heron rookery report

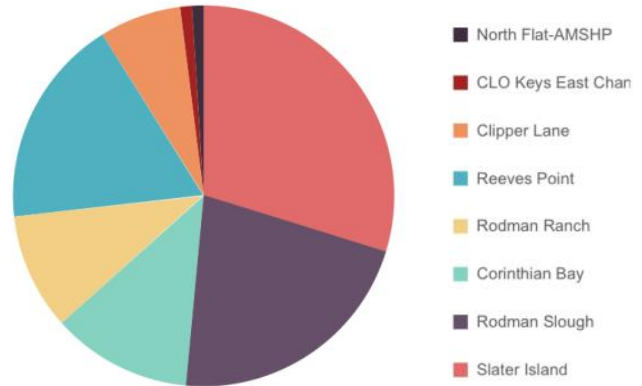
By Roberta Lyons

Starting in 2021 some Redbud Audubon Society members, mainly Kathy and Brad Barnwell, started documenting the changes and movement of the Great Blue Heron rookeries on the shores of Clear Lake.

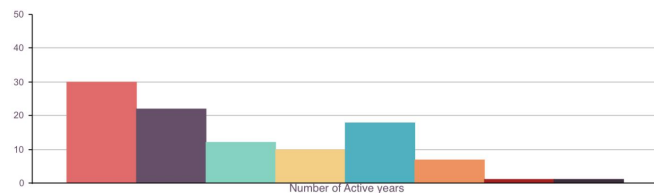
We once again are publishing an updated graph and information regarding the rookeries. There are still no nests on the historical site on Slater Island in Anderson Marsh, however around 20 nests in use by GBH's this year were viewed on the north side of Cache Creek in what is known as the "North Flat," area of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

Also, Donna Mackiewicz, Redbud Audubon's president and resident of Clearlake Keys in Clearlake Oaks, has documented about 20 nests in the channel near her house. You can view the updates in the graph published in this newsletter. Sadly, the Rodman Slough rookery, which could be viewed from the Reclamation Area hiking path near Upper Lake was not active this year (Spring of 2023) based on an observation from the Reclamation Area.

Active Years for Great Blue Heron Rookeries



Great Blue Heron Rookeries
Lake County, California Sites & Years Active



Location	Years Active	Under 30 Nests	Over 30 Nests	Year Decrease Noted	No Nests Noted	Number of Active years
Slater Island	1990 to 2019		x	2018	2020	30
Rodman Slough	2000 to 2021		x		2022	22
Corinthian Bay	2006 to 2017		x		2018	12
Rodman Ranch	1990 to 1999		x		2000	10
Reeves Point	2006-2023	x			Still active	18
Clipper Lane	2017-2023	x			Still active	7
CLO Keys East Channel	2023	x			New	1
North Flat-AMSHP	2023	x			New	1

Christmas Bird Count is set for Dec. 16, 2023

Redbud Audubon Society will carry out its annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 16. (CBC) is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country. Former participants will be sent information about meeting times and places by the count organizers, Brad and Kathy Barnwell; the public is also welcome to participate and can do so by emailing Redbud Audubon at redbud.audubon@gmail.com for more information.

On the day of the count, participants will meet at 5 p.m. at Kelseyville Pizza for the final tally. Pizza is provided by Redbud and all who participate are welcome to attend.

Previous to the bird count, on Thursday, Dec. 14 starting at 7 p.m. Donna Mackiewicz will host a Zoom Bird Identification program. This will be an extensive slide show featuring birds that are often seen on the annual count and birds that are common to Lake County. The program emphasizes the field characteristics of the common and some not-so-common birds here. The Zoom registration will be in the December Western Grebe newsletter. Please note the bird ID program is being held a week earlier than our usual programs because of the date of the CBC.

National Audubon has been holding a Christmas Bird Count for 124 years. The official count period usually starts in the middle of December and ends the first week of January. Every individual bird and species encountered during the day is recorded. Each count group has a designated circle of 15 miles in diameter and tries to cover as much ground as possible within a certain period of time.

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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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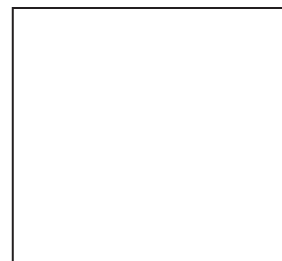
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To contact a board member:

Phone 707/805-9410

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com

Redbud Audubon
PO Box 5780
Clearlake, CA 95422



National Audubon/Redbud Audubon
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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

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