



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 8 - October 2009  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING/PROGRAM  
TUES. OCTOBER 6, 2009 - 7:00PM

Kern Supt of Schools, 17th & L Sts.

## "Between Science and Magic...The Continuing Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker"

Presented by David Pereksta, USFWS



The Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been shrouded in mystery and disbelief for over a century. Called the "Grail Bird" and the "Lord God Bird", it is one of the most prized birds sought by birdwatchers. David Pereksta will take us on a journey through the tragic and misunderstood history of this magnificent bird. He will chronicle its decline through the 1800s, the rediscoveries and apparent extinction in the first half of the 1900's, the litany of unconfirmed sightings and evidence through the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the most recent rediscovery in 2004, and his own participation in searches for the IBWO from 2006 through 2009. If you do not believe the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still exists, you may need to reevaluate!



Dave is an Assistant Field Supervisor for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, where he works to conserve habitat for threatened and endangered species and migratory birds. Throughout his career, he has studied several imperiled bird species including snowy plovers, least terns, ospreys, northern goshawks, brown pelicans, and spotted owls. An avid birder and nature photographer for over 30 years, he is an active member of Ventura Audubon. He has seen over 1,500 species in travels in the Americas; photographing nearly 900 species along the way.

### OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

For BEGINNERS ONLY: Sat. October 10, 8 - 10am, Ming Lake

If you are new to birding or have difficulty using binoculars, telling a House Finch from a Mockingbird or how to use a field guide, you're invited to come out to Lake Ming for a two hour "in the field" class with birding expert, Michael McQuerry, who is also a retired teacher. Meet at Ming Lake in the parking area by the restrooms at 8am with binoculars, water, hats, sunscreen. If you have questions about directions, etc. contact Ginny Dallas (587-6323)

OWLING FIELD TRIP: Sat. October 17, 5:30pm - midnight

The destination is Breckenridge Mtn. and the goal is to see/hear several types of owls: Saw-whet, Spotted, Western Screech. There will be some hiking, so wear boots or walking shoes, dress for cool evenings, bring water/snacks. We will meet at the Mt. Vernon Albertson's at Hiway 178 & Mt. Vernon at 5:30pm or at the corner of Comanche & Breckenridge Rd. at 6pm. Call Madi, 322-7470 for further information.

### **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair  
madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470  
Ted Murphy, Co-Chair  
tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307  
Harry Love, Conservation  
love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6254  
Tim Lynch, Publicity  
Lynchtim1968@yahoo.com; 428-4455  
Kathy Love, Hospitality  
love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6254  
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vdallas@bak.rr.com; 587-6323  
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awells0526@yahoo.com; 333-4019  
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letwiford@aol.com  
Bill McDonald, Treasurer  
WJLJMCD@aol.com; 665-2111  
Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor  
madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

### **KEEP FEEDERS CLEAN**

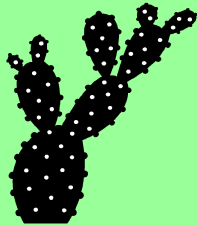
Remember to keep hummingbird feeders clean using a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water. Use a bottle brush to clean the inside and rinse well. Fill feeders with sugar water (four parts HOT water to one part white sugar). Never use honey and avoid red food coloring. *Change solution twice a week during the hot weather!!*

### **10th Annual Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale East Hills Mall**

Sat. Oct. 10, 10am - 5pm  
Sun. Oct. 11, 11am - 3pm

Plants for sale, expert advice,  
educational displays, wonderful  
plants

*Sponsored by Bakersfield  
Cactus & Succulent Society*



### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

Put these dates on your calendars for the area Christmas Bird Counts...detailed information to follow:

Sun. Dec. 20 - Bakersfield CBC  
John Wilson, Coordinator  
Mon. Dec. 21 - Buena Vista CBC  
Allison Sheehey, Coordinator

### **PROPOSED REVISION OF BY-LAWS**

The Kern Audubon Executive Board is recommending a revision of the chapter by-laws, which will be presented at the October meeting for approval by the membership. A copy of the by-laws can be found on the website: [www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org). Please take a few moments to read them in preparation for the meeting!

### **AUDUBON CALENDARS**

Again this year Kern Audubon will be selling beautiful Audubon calendars. There are three types: Wildflowers, Songbirds, and a new one, Green World. All three are the wall size format. Price for each one: \$10.00 (Retail price at Barnes & Noble, Amazon is \$11.69.) You can pick your calendar at the next meeting, October 6. Supply is limited so if you can't get to the meeting, contact Harry Love (589-6245). This is a great way to support Kern Audubon. You can preview the calendars at <http://www.workman.com>

### **PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORK PARTY OCT. 3RD**

On the first Saturday of the month, October 3, there will be a work party outing to the Panorama Vista Preserve, which Kern Audubon has adopted as our conservation project for this year. This fantastic facility is operated by Andy Hoening and others to preserve the natural habitat in the Kern River basin in Bakersfield. Starting at 8AM and ending at about 10 AM, volunteers will do a variety of work, from watering trees to planting new ones to pruning and weeding. This is our first monthly work party to the Preserve. Come and become a member of the team and help make this a great monthly event! Contact Harry Love (589-6245 or email at [love3@bak.rr.com](mailto:love3@bak.rr.com)) for details about where to meet and what to bring. Drinking water will be provided. Hope to see you there!

We thank Joseph V. Higbee for the Audubon's Warbler photo used as the newsletter logo. Used by permission. ([www.pbases.com/jvhigbee](http://www.pbases.com/jvhigbee))

### **REVISED BIRDER ACCESS POLICY FOR SILVER SADDLE RESORT/GALILEO HILL**

As of Sept. 1, 2009 and until further notice, Silver Saddle/Galileo Hill is closed to the public (non-members), including birders\*\* on weekends (Fridays at noon, Saturdays, Sundays, and long holiday weekends). Birders may continue to access the grounds on weekdays: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and before noon on Fridays. ALL facilities except the campground\*\* are off limits every day of the week. The bungalows, hotel, restaurant, and RV park are no longer accessible to birders or any other non-member at any time. Birders can use the grounds, the outside restrooms and picnic areas, but are restricted from using any of the buildings.

\*\*The campground is open all week for anyone, including non-member birders, who care to rent a space (\$100/day on weekends, \$45/day on weekdays). Weekend camping can be shared by up to 7 people, 2 cars, 2 large tents (or 4 small tents). *This means that those who wish to bird at Silver Saddle on the weekend can only do so if you have registered and paid for a campsite at the campground!* Birders who are registered campers can eat in the restaurant when open on weekends.

The staff at Silver Saddle continues to welcome birders within the guidelines of this new corporate directive.

Further note from Bob Barnes: to separate birders (who are welcome) from non-birder non-members (who will be asked to leave by Silver Saddle security any time found on site), please check in at the hotel office as close to 8:30am opening hours as possible to tell Silver Saddle staff you are a birder so they can tell security. If you start birding at dawn, please work your way over to the hotel office by 8:30am to check in. If you are approached by security before 8:30am, tell them you are a birder and that you have been asked to check in at the hotel office c. 8:30am and that you will do so.

Our thanks to Bob Barnes (Ridgecrest Audubon) and Kelli Levinson (Kern Audubon) for working with the staff of Silver Saddle on clarification of these new access rules. If you are planning to bird at Silver Saddle, you are asked to cooperate with the changes so that we might continue to have access to this very important bird area and birding spot in the Mojave Desert. If you have questions about these policies, feel free to contact Ted Murphy (325-0307) or Madi Elsea (322-7470).

### **LONG-BILLED CURLEW SURVEY UPDATE**

Gary Langham, Audubon California's Director of Bird Conservation, reports that the recent Long-billed Curlew survey was a success. Gary says: "We've already surpassed our previous curlew counts with 20,303 so far." More survey results are still to be returned, so the total may go higher. Thanks to Kern Audubon members Bill Lydecker, Bill Moffat, Tucker Moffat, Deb See, John Wilson, Yvonne and Don Turkal, Ted Murphy, and Marcia Wolfe for spending long hours driving around Kern County looking for curlews!

**Looking ahead to Tues. November 3, 7:00pm....**The November meeting of Kern Audubon will feature one of Audubon California's newest staff member, JORDAN WELLWOOD, who is Coordinator for the Central Valley/Sierra areas of Audubon CA. Her topic will be *Protecting California Birds* and she will discuss the major threats that birds face in California and what Audubon is doing to protect the landscapes that birds will need in order to thrive in the future.



## Enjoy Fall at our National Wildlife Refuges

Flooding of the refuge has begun and the ducks are starting to return to the **Kern National Wildlife Refuge**, 20 miles east of Delano, and fall is a great time to visit. Two new observation platforms have been built and there is a new auto tour route which will be open all year, even during hunting season. At the **Pixley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge** 20 miles west of Earlimart, the Sandhill Cranes will be flying in starting in September and stay for the winter, providing a great opportunity to view these primordial birds, which are best seen at sunset as they fly back to the refuge to spend the night in safety. For more information and



## KERN AUDUBON LIBRARY

Kudos to SCOTT & TRUDE FRAZER, who have volunteered to be Kern Audubon's "co-librarians." They will bring a selection of books to the monthly meetings for check-out and provide a brief review of one of the many interesting books in our collection for the *Warbler*. If you have a bird-related book that you'd like to donate or recommend a book, contact the Frazer's at 746-6915).

Here's the first review from Trude:

*I want to highlight a wildlife masterpiece by one of the great American waterfowl biologists, Paul A. Johnsgard's, SONG OF THE NORTH WIND A Story of the Snow Goose, published in 1974. This small book of only 106 pages tells the story of the annual life cycle of snow geese in the Nebraska-Louisiana flyway. The story follows the geese from arrival on their breeding grounds through nest building, gosling education, staging, migration, waterfowl hunting seasons, and wintering along the Gulf of Mexico. Included are beautiful creation stories and myths from Native American culture and lovely original drawings by Paul Geraghty. This book will be enjoyed by all who admire birds, and especially waterfowl.*

Note: Go to [www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org) for a complete listing of all the books in our library.




## WILSON PASSES THE "TORCH"

John Wilson, longtime member of Kern Audubon and one of our area's finest birders, has completed his 10 year tenure as Kern County Coordinator for *North American Birds*, the journal of the American Birding Association which provides a complete overview of the changing panorama of North America's birdlife. Kern County is in the Southern Pacific Coast region with each county represented by a coordinator. Observers compile and send their sightings to county coordinators at the end of each season (winter, spring, summer, fall) who then compiles a report to this region's editor, Guy Mc Caskie. It is the "journal of record" for birders. John has passed the coordinator position for our area on to KELLI LEVINSON, also a member of Kern Audubon. Kelli's contact information is the following:

KKHeindel@gmail.com  
1819 Locust Ravine  
Bakersfield, CA 93306  
661-203-5919

Congratulations to Kelli on this new position and many thanks to John for his many years of work on behalf of birds. John will continue to coordinate the Bakersfield area Christmas Bird Count .

**E-Warbler**...Want to receive the Audubon Warbler by email? Send an email to [rodmlee@aol.com](mailto:rodmlee@aol.com)



## Ways to Contact Your Representatives

Many times you are asked to contact your city, county, or state representative regarding an important local or statewide conservation issue affecting birds and habitat. Below is a list of mailing addresses, phone numbers and email contact. Keep this list near your computer, phone, or writing table. And keep the pressure on those who represent us!!

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-445-2841

email: go to website: <http://gov.ca.gov>

State Assemblywomen Jean Fuller

4900 California Ave. Suite 100-B

Bakersfield, CA 93307

Phone: 395-2995

email: go to website: <http://arc.asm.ca.gov>

State Senator Roy Ashburn

5001 California Ave. Room 105

Bakersfield, CA 93309

Phone: 323-0441

email: go to website: <http://cssrc.us>

Bakersfield City Council

1600 Truxtun Ave.

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Phone: 326-3761

email: [city\\_council@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:city_council@bakersfieldcity.us)

Kern County Board of Supervisors

1115 Truxtun Ave. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Phone: 868-3601

email: [district@co.kern.ca.us](mailto:district@co.kern.ca.us)

Note: immediately after the word 'district' place the number of the supervisor you wish to contact:

1: Jon McQuiston 2: Don Maben 3: Mike Maggard 4: Ray Watson 5: Michael Rubio

## Make A Difference Day

Sat. Oct. 24th

10am - 2pm

The City of Bakersfield will hold an eco-friendly event on "Make A Difference" Day at Lassen's parking lot on California on Sat. Oct. 24th. Eco-friendly products will be available and participants will have a chance to drop off various recyclable and reusable items, such as used motor oil filters, e-waste (computers, TV's, cell phones, batteries, etc.) as well as clothes, tires, and polystyrene (styrofoam).

## Upcoming Bird Festivals

*Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival*

January 15-18, 2010

[www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org)

(805)772-4677

Registration begins October 1st!!

*San Diego Bird Festival*

March 4-7, 2010

Bill Thompson III, keynote speaker

[www.sandiegoaudubon.org](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org)

If you like combining travel, birding, fun and education, consider attending a birding festival. Check out one of these websites for more information:

[www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)

[www.Americanbirding.org/festivals](http://www.Americanbirding.org/festivals)

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Oct. 6, 7:00pm - Monthly program on "The Ivory-billed Woodpecker"
- Sat. Oct. 3, 8:00am - Panorama Vista Preserve Work Party
- Sat. Oct. 10, 8:00am - Beginner's Birding field trip at Ming Lake
- Sat. Oct. 17, 5:30pm - Owling at Breckenridge Mtn.

## Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C9ZC300Z)

If you would like to be part of a grass-roots conservation organization with a distinguished history, join the National Audubon Society and Kern Audubon! Please complete the form below and send with your check !

Membership includes *Audubon Magazine* (6 Issues) and the *Audubon's Warbler*. (11 issues)

\_\_\_\_ New Member \$20      \_\_\_\_ Renewal \$35

Make check payable to **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY (not Kern Audubon)**

Send check & form to ...Kern Audubon  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385

I am enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation for the work of Kern Audubon in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_. (Check payable to Kern Audubon)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_