



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 45. no10 - DECEMBER 2016
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society

TUES. DECEMBER 6, 2016

Kern Audubon's
ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING & POTLUCK
6:30PM

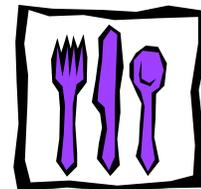
First United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
4600 Stockdale Hiway (& Montclair)
(Please note the time & location change for this meeting!!)

Holiday music by the East High School Chamber Singers!!
Christiane Royhamen, Director

Plus a delightful POTLUCK DINNER



Bring a food item to share.....
...main dish (for 8-10 people)
...salad or side dish
...dessert
(Drinks & table service provided)



PLUS...

Live & Silent AUCTION

• This is one of our fun & important fund-raisers for the year!
Items already promised for the auction are:

- handmade quilt by Randi Hodson
- private tour for 4 of Tejon Ranch

More donations are certainly needed, so please contact Harry Love (805-1420) with a brief description of what you plan to bring. Perhaps you have homemade jams, a "re-gift" item, artwork, tickets to the theater, a merchant's gift certificate, etc. to donate-- call or email Harry Love (love3@bak.rr.com) with your contribution. If you can't join us but have something to donate, contact Harry.



Come on out for a special evening and a fun way to raise funds!

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS



Wed. December 14 - Beale Park and the Kern River @ Sam Lynn Ball Park.

Bill Moffat will lead a morning of birding as part of the Bakersfield Christmas Bird Count. We will start at Beale Park (Oleander & Dracena), a noted birding hot spot, from **8:30 - 10:30am**. For those who want to continue on or join us later, the birding will continue along the Kern River behind Sam Lynn Ballpark on North Chester from **11:00 - 1:00pm**. This will be a wonderful experience for birders of all levels. We will provide binoculars if needed.

8:30am - Meet at Beale Park on Oleander near the amphitheater (north side of the park). For Sam Lynn Ballpark, take the first right turn past the ball field and drive to parking area along the canal. Walk over the canal bridge to the viewing area along the river. We will be contributing our sightings to the Bakersfield Christmas Bird Count. Call Bill, 661-201-9279, for more information.

Note: The official Bakersfield Christmas Bird Count starts that morning at 7:00 am in Hart Park at Mirror Dr. Contact John Wilson, 661-747-4628 if you are interested in participating in this aspect of the CBC started in 1949-1950 and held continuously since 1973.

Sunday Dec. 11, 2016 - Birding Tour of San Emigdio Canyon at Wind Wolves Preserve

Wind Wolves is a 100,000 acre preserve in southern Kern Co with grasslands and mountains and great birding! One of the staff members from the preserve who loves birding will lead us on this outing which should include raptor sightings and more. Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway across from CSUB at Don Hart Drive at **7:45am to carpool** or meet at Wind Wolves administration center at 8:30am. We will use the preserve's van with some folks carpooling as needed with walkie-talkies. Bring water, snacks & sack lunch and \$5 for gas to driver; return after lunch.



WORKPARTY AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

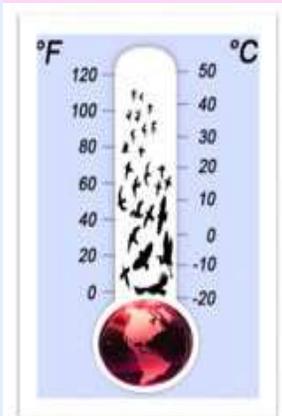
Saturday, December 10, 9-11 AM We appreciate all of you who come out to the Panorama Vista Preserve work days. The next work day will be Saturday December 10, 9 -11 a.m. We'll send out more information about the kind of work as the time draws closer. However bring your hat, water and a shovel if you have one. If you have questions about the event please contact me at davidws@pacbell.net Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane off of Manor Drive at the locked gate. 2 hours for a good cause!

CELL PHONES FOR COLOMBIA

Audubon's Colombia Birding Trail program training local guides for birding tours and education, is in need of cell phones. These will be used to load bird calls, birding apps, etc. If you have used ones that you don't know what to do with, consider donating to Kern Audubon. **Bring your used cells to the next meeting** and Ginny Dallas will collect them for Chris Calonje, who is working on the Colombia Birding Trail for Audubon. Call Ginny Dallas if you have questions: 301-8188.

CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER: QUESTION: HOW CAN HUMANS BE SO POWERFUL AS TO IMPACT THE ENTIRE ATMOSPHERE?

Scientists know our climate is changing, primarily due to carbon pollution from the burning of dirty energy like oil and coal. It's true that other factors impact our climate, including other greenhouse gases such as methane. Solar variation, volcanoes, and clouds all effect the climate, too. Humans, however, release at least 100 times more carbon dioxide into the air than volcanoes. Emissions from Mount Pinatubo, the strongest volcanic eruption over the past 50 years, amounted to just 0.2 percent of human emissions in 1991.



If you'd like to find out what similar groups to Audubon are doing, consider joining **Meetup!** You get email reminders of events and it's free! Go to: www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-



WEBSITES TO check out...

Info about birds? Go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study and conservation of birds

Kern Birding For a great website about Kern County birding spots: www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Audubon California has an excellent website: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To learn about National Audubon go to: www.audubon.org



Do you shop on the internet? Do you use Amazon? If so, you can help Kern Audubon through **Amazon Smile**, a site that allows you to shop for the same items as Amazon but with the added feature that .5% of what you pay to

Amazon will go to KAS. You have the same choices and pay no more. Go to smile.amazon.com to register and select your charity of choice, Kern Audubon Society. When you buy something, just go to the Smile site. It's easy and Kern



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on field trips and

Post-Election Message from David Yarnold, President, National Audubon Society

_____ tory. Now, as has been the case for 219 years, the United States expects a seamless transition of power – one of the great innovations of a representative democracy. I’m adding my voice to those of leaders across America in saying we wish this new president well and we look forward to working with his administration. But we all know President-elect Donald Trump ran a campaign that was often at odds with Audubon’s goals and its mission. Beyond that, his campaign challenged core values that Audubon holds dear. I want to address both of those points today.

Audubon has persevered and prospered through the tenure of presidents from across the political spectrum. Having seen administrations of all political flavors come and go, I want to assure you that we’re well positioned to continue to build on our 111-year legacy. It’s easy to talk about being a centrist network when political leadership has your back. But it’s even more valuable to be a centrist network when political leadership is in your face.

So, give yourselves the credit you’re due: We are a durable, respected, trusted, centrist conservation network with a deep and credible presence in communities all over the nation and the hemisphere. You work every day in communities to plant gardens, clean up trash, protect special places and vulnerable species, fledge new baby birds from nest boxes or beaches, engage people in the joy of birds and nature, prepare the next generation of conservation leaders, and stand up as advocates for birds and the environment we share. Those are our strengths, and all of those things are more important today than ever.

We will work with this new administration wherever we can. And, based on its campaign promises, it seems clear we’ll inevitably oppose it as well. And when we do that, we will do it in full throat and with all of the tools we know how to use, while not cheapening or personalizing the civil discourse that makes democracy special.

But this election wasn’t just about policy differences. For many, it was about core values of inclusiveness and multiculturalism, of equity and fairness. As Audubon’s CEO, here’s my topline message to each of you today as individuals and as leaders in the Audubon network: We value you, we respect you and we support you. We’ll have lots of conversations to come about how we will continue to make a difference for birds, our communities, and the environment in the days and months ahead. I welcome your questions and ideas.

I have zero doubt that birds are going to remain a powerful constant that can bring people together when we need it most. As Bruce Springsteen famously wrote, “Everybody’s got a hungry heart.” We will continue to help feed hearts across America as we’ve always done.



FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS

The Anna’s Hummingbird is a year-round resident in California, so it will continue to be seen at feeders, even during winter months, though maybe not as frequently. So, please continue to provide hummingbird nectar during the winter. Below are “Tips for Feeding Hummingbirds” from the International Hummingbird Society.

Nectar Ingredients: One part sugar to 4 parts water or 1/4 cup sugar to 1 cup water

Dissolve the sugar in hot water. NO red food coloring! Unused mixture can be stored in refrigerator for up to a week.

- *cane sugar is suggested but beet sugar is okay - Do not use any other sugar and never use honey or artificial sweeteners*

Feeders: Type & Size & Location

- choose a feeder that you are able and willing to clean
- don’t fill the feeder all the way if it isn’t being used
- more feeders will support more hummers and help reduce territoriality
- put feeders at least four feet above the ground so they are beyond reach of cats and other predators
- if possible, the feeder should be in a shady spot

Maintenance

- feeders must be cleaned between refillings--don’t “top off” without cleaning
- use a mild detergent or vinegar and water; rinse thoroughly
- about once a month, soak the feeder in a solution of bleach and water (1Tbsp bleach per quart of water); rinse thoroughly

HOT SPRINGS VALLEY UPDATE & APPEAL

TO KAS MEMBERS: *The Hot Springs Valley addition to the Bob Powers Preserve will create an area to support many bird species, in particular, tri-colored blackbirds. In the past members from our Chapter have provided work hours helping to make this project a reality. This area is in 'our backyard', a birding paradise. Kern Audubon has also provided funds in the past. The acquisition is now so close. This is the last push. Please read about the project below. Then, hopefully, you will go to the website to donate towards the \$17,500 target goal to help finish the acquisition!*

Harry Love, Conservation Chair

LAKE ISABELLA'S HOT SPRINGS VALLEY WETLANDS ACQUISITION UPDATE

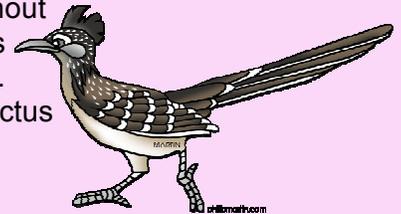
Audubon has made a huge commitment of funds toward the acquisition of the 190 acre Hot Springs Valley Wetlands property at the edge of the community of Lake Isabella in the Kern River Valley: \$100,000 from Audubon's Wimberly Wildlife Fund for land Acquisition plus thousands of additional dollars donated by numerous Audubon Chapters.

The Hot Springs Valley is a satellite portion of the South Fork Kern River Valley Important Bird Area. It supports "Kern" Red-winged Blackbird and Tricolored Blackbird, both California Species of Special Concern. It supports the 2nd largest known population of the rare Alkali Mariposa Lily (with over 20,000 plants counted during the latest survey in May 2016).

GREAT NEWS! ALMOST THERE!!! Thanks to a match commitment made recently by a generous local donor to cover half of the final \$35,000 needed, \$17,500 in new donations will complete the fund raising for the \$825,000 acquisition of the 190 acre Hot Springs Valley Wetlands Project property in Lake Isabella. It would be highly unfortunate if after raising over \$790K plus the commitment of \$17.5K in matching funds, the acquisition fails due to the inability to raise the final \$17,500! If you are able, **PLEASE** help finish off this acquisition knowing your donation will be doubled by our generous local donor. Escrow is projected to close December 28 which means the \$825K must be in the escrow account before that date. Fully tax deductible, end-of-year check donations of any size may be directed to the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation: KRVHF, PO Box 1249, Lake Isabella, California 93240. On-line donations are best made by using the "Donate" page on the KRVHF web site - www.krvhf.org. Finally, thank you to the hundreds of you who have already donated. Almost there!

BIRDS BENEFIT FROM DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

The California desert landscape is teeming with unique species of flora and fauna. Interior Secretary Jewell's signing of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) was the culmination of years of hard work. Audubon's role was showing there doesn't have to be a choice between renewable energy and bird safety when the proper guidelines are put into place. This plan does just that, it stops state and federal fast-tracking of renewable energy projects without considering their ecological impacts. Why the focus on deserts? Deserts have become the most desired location for renewable energy development. Some of the birds of interest protected by this plan include Verdin, Cactus Wren, LeConte's Thrasher, Roadrunner, Bendire's Thrasher.



Looking ahead to 2017... Kern Audubon's January meeting will be a week later than usual, due to Kern Superintendent of Schools being closed for the holiday school break. So...we will meet on **Tuesday January 10, 7:00pm**. Guest speaker will be Felix Adamo, Photojournalist for *The Bakersfield Californian*.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - KERN COUNTY

One of the traditions long-associated with Audubon is the annual Christmas Bird Count. Even older than Audubon itself, the CBC began in 1900 as an alternative to the traditional Christmas BIRD HUNT, in which teams shot as many birds as possible. The first count included 27 people in 25 locations, but they were armed with pencils and binoculars! The CBC is the oldest bird census in the world with over 50,000 volunteers in 2000 locations, providing one of the most important bodies of information on wildlife data in the world. The goal is to count all the birds in a 15 mile radius with teams being assigned to a section in that radius. If you are interested in participating in these daylong counts, contact the compiler listed below or contact Alison Sheehey (natureali@gmail.com) or go to her website:

WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2016 - Bakersfield CBC

Compiler: John Wilson (661) 366-0283 - began 1949 -1950 and resumed in 1973

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16 - California City CBC

Compiler: Alexia Sveida: (661) 810-6268 - year begun: 2015

SATURDAY, December 17, 2016

- Butterbredt CBC, Kern Co.
Compiler: Charles Bragg, Phone: (310) 454-9662 - year began 1977
 - Lancaster CBC, Los Angeles/Kern Counties
Compiler: Mary & Nick Freeman, Phone: (818) 247-6172 - began 1980
 - Tejon Ranch CBC, Kern & LA Counties Year begun 2008
- SUNDAY, December 18, 2016 - China Lake CBC, Kern & San Bernardino Counties
Compiler: Pete Woodman, Phone: (760) 377-3466 - year began 1957

MONDAY, December 19, 2016 - Tehachapi CBC

Compiler: Larry Parmeter, Phone: (559) 276-8753 - year began 1992

TUESDAY, December 29, 2015 - Bear Valley Springs CBC

Compiler: Ron Melin, Phone: (310) 540-2775 - year began 1995

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30, 2016 - Red Rock Canyon, Kern Co

Compilers: Jean Rhyne & Alexia Sveida (661)810-6268 Restarted in 2014

SATURDAY, December 31, 2016'

- South Fork Valley CBC Compiler Denise LaBerteaux, Phone: (760) 378-4278 - year began 1992
- Carrizo Plains CBC, Kern & San Luis Obispo Cos. Compiler Roger Zachary (805)466-6222 - began 1971
-

SUNDAY, January 1 - Kern River Valley CBC

Compiler: Bob Barnes, (760) 382-1260 - began 1979

Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. The count results are tabulated by National Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Help is needed on many of these counts, so find one that interests you and contact the compiler for more information. (New birders are paired with veterans, so you don't have to be an expert.) Too cold to come out on a cold day? How about keeping a list of birds that you see in your yard on that day (be a "feeder watcher"), or you can join a team to cover a territory near

GIFT BOOK IDEA

Harry Love, Kern Audubon's Conservation Chair, offers this recommendation of a great book: *Jane Alexander, actress and member of the board of the national Audubon Society, has written a book, **Wild Things, Wild Places**, using her journeys over the years to highlight 23 endangered ecosystems. Each chapter revolves around the efforts of a different scientist that she was able to embed with and learn from in the field: Alan Rabinowitz, leader of Panthera and a loyal friend, whose life work is to protect jungle cats from the black market; Patricia Wright, whose expertise on lemurs and anthropology allows her to connect villagers in Madagascar to ranger-training programs; Tom Morgan, a master birder from the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, who helped Alexander discover the migration phenomenon unfurling in her own backwoods. Can be purchased at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com*

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. Dec. 6, 6:30pm - Holiday Potluck/Auction at First United Methodist Church, 4600 Stockdale
- Sat. Dec. 10, 9-11am - PVP Workparty
- Sun. Dec. 11- Wind Wolves Field Trip
- Wed. Dec. 14 - Beale Park & Kern Riverfield trip

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

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* (10 issues)

___ New Member \$20

___ Renewal \$20

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEND this form and your check for \$20 to:

Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) _____ Amount
enclosed _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____