



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 46 - No.2 - FEBRUARY 2017
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society

KERN AUDUBON

Tues. FEBRUARY 7, 2017

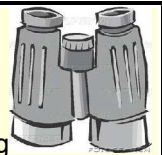
Kern Supt of Schools 1300 17th St, Bakersfield
(Street parking or in lot at 18th & K)

"Sequoia Riverlands Trust - Inspiring love & Lasting Protection for Important Lands"

Sequoia Riverlands Trust is a regional nonprofit land trust dedicated to strengthening California's heartland and the natural & agricultural legacy of the southern Sierra's and San Joaquin Valley. SRT engages landowners, farmers, conservationists and governmental agencies in Tulare, Fresno, Kern & Kings counties to collaborate on land conservation throughout the southern Central Valley. SRT has protected more than 20,000 acres and owns/manages six nature preserves. In conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, SRT has worked to protect 2400 acres in the Carrizo Plains. Camdilla Wirth will share her collection of wildlife photos and talk about the importance of preserving native habitat for future generations, especially in regard to her work in the Carrizo Plain. Bud Darwin will share about SRT's education and volunteer program efforts to engage schools, community groups and individuals to get outside to learn, explore and develop a life-long relationship with the natural world.

Bud Darwin has been an outdoor enthusiast since his youth and has hiked the John Muir Trail in. He has worked for Tulare County as a Social Worker, Probation Supervisor for the Office of Education where he created and administered the Sierra Corps' Outdoor Adventure Program for at-risk-youth. Bud has earned a Congressional Award in recognition for his restoration work on the Carrizo Plains. As the Education Director for Sequoia Riverlands Trust his focus is to provide an array of opportunities for community members to access and experience the natural world. **Camdilla Wirth** joined Sequoia Riverlands Trust in 2015 as Conservation Biologist to support SRT's mitigation site management efforts, particularly in the Carrizo Plain and west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Her experience with the

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS



Sat. Feb. 11th, 7:30am - Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge biologist and Kern Audubon member Geoff Grisdale will lead this morning auto birding tour of the Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge located in northern Kern County. Winter is prime waterfowl & shorebird viewing

Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway (& Don Hart Drive) at 7:30am to carpool. Bring water, snacks, binoculars and a lunch (optional); \$5 for drivers. Trip will end noon-ish. Call Madi (322-7470) for info.

Tues. Feb. 14th, 9:00am - Birds n Bikes along the Kern River Parkway

Join Bill Moffat for a morning of birding & biking! Meet at the Kern River parking lot off Manor Drive across from Calvary Church. Bring your own bike, binocs, snacks and water. It's a Valentine birding opportunity to spot resident birds & late migrants We will also have loaner binoculars. Call Bill at (661)805-0232 for more information.

Sat. Feb. 18th - Tehachapi ponds & more

Greg Hargleroad will lead this visit to local sewage treatment ponds, a groundwater research basin, and two area lakes (Sawyer and Brite), time permitting. **8:00am** meet at the Tehachapi Burger King (Tehachapi Blvd. near Kmart) to carpool to locations. Bakersfield birders meet at 7:15am at the Stockdale Park n Ride (between Real Rd & Hiway 99) to carpool to the Tehachapi meeting spot. Call Greg for info: 818-645-3664.

Editor's note: The creek bordering Pixley National Wildlife Refuge is now a river, washing out the bridge to

VOICES FOR HART PARK

Many thanks to **Linda McMillian, David Schaad and Harry Love**, dedicated and active members of KAS, for speaking at the Kern County Board of Supervisors in opposition to imposing a parking fee for Hart Park. Many members also wrote letters on this topic. Thanks! Even though the Board voted to approve the concept, the final vote is February 7th, 2pm. If you haven't yet written your comments to your County Supervisor, it's not too late. Send a personal note to your supervisor at 1115 Truxtun Ave. 5th Floor, Bakersfield 93301 or by email: board@co.kern.ca.us. Questions? Contact Harry Love, Kern Audubon's Conservation Chair: 805-1420; love3@bak.rr.com

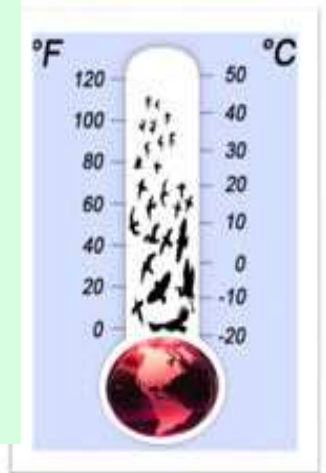


WORKPARTY AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

Saturday, Feb. 11 will be another panorama Vista Preserve work day. We'll start at 9 a.m. and go till 11 a.m. Meet at the preserve gate at the east end of Roberts Lane. There's always something to do out there! Many thanks to the faithful volunteers in January: Mac McCarthy, Andy Honig, Maria Polite and Al Caetano for their help planting milkweed seeds. We hope to see many butterflies out there when the milkweed matures and produces flowers! David Schaad, Coordinator

CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER

Here's the reality. No one can predict exactly what the weather will be like on a certain day 100 years from now — but scientists are very confident that the world as a whole will be a lot warmer. Look at it this way: does a motorcycle accident down the street mean you can't drive your car safely? No. In much the same way, "incorrect" weather forecasts don't tell us much about the reliability of climate projections. Much like a motorcycle and car, weather and climate models include similar parts, but they also use different kinds of data and are operated in different ways to arrive at their respective destinations. Climate scientists can't tell you with 100-percent certainty how much the world will warm in 100 years. **But they can say with certainty that the world will continue to warm**, especially if we



OLYMPIC BIRDFEST April 7-9, 2017

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more, including featured speaker: noted nature photographer Bonnie Block. BirdFest registration is at www.olympicbirdfest.org. The festival is sponsored by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.

Join the festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6, 2017. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon.

Extend your festival with the Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11, 2017: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington.



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-Society and follow the instructions. We now have over 210 members! Thanks to Carly Summers for keeping the site updated!

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

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

Audubon in the news - To learn about National

Looking ahead....Kern Audubon's **March 7th** program will be presented by Reed Tollefson, manager of Audubon's Kern River Preserve



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

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

YEAR-END APPEAL... Once again there has been a generous response to the end-of-the-year appeal in the amount of **\$2485.00!!** The Kern Audubon Executive Board wishes to acknowledge and thank the following persons for your extra gifts toward KAS' continuing efforts to *"create a culture of conservation in Kern County"* in 2017....

Jan & Larry Alford
 Jim & Arlene Burrow
 Steve Carey
 Bill Cooper
 Mylon Filkins, DVM
 Ron & Carol Hauerwaas
 Bob & Wendy Hodash
 Betty Ireland
 Karen Kuckreja
 Janet Lund
 Mike McCabe
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 Mark & Randi Hodson
 Jerry & Caryl Kay
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 Janice Graves
 Lamar Hiatt
 Sasha & Andy Honig
 William Kincaid
 Vicki Lohr, DVM
 Barbara Mansfield
 Gary McKibbin
 Daniel Nadsady
 Mark & Karen Pestana
 Bill & Barbara Reifel
 Cliff & Marian Shaw
 Stephen D. Wilson



**GREAT BACKYARD
 BIRD COUNT
 FEBRUARY 17 - 20, 2017
 WWW.BIRDCOUNT.ORG**

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

1. **Register for the count or use your existing login name and password.** If you have never participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count or any other Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you'll need to create a new account by going to www.birdcount.org

2. **Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC.** You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day, for each new location, or for the same location if you counted at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.

3. **Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "Submit Observations" on the home page.** Or download the free [eBird Mobile app](#) to enter data on a mobile device. If you already participate in the eBird citizen-science project, please use eBird to submit your sightings during the GBBC. Your checklists will count toward the GBBC.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts.

It's free, fun, and easy. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 144,000 online checklists were turned in, creating the world's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

To register and get further information, go to www.birdcount.org. It's fun....participate!!

CITIZEN INPUT NEEDED ON NEW GENERAL PLAN FOR COUNTY

The County of Kern is beginning the process of updating the general plan for the county. A general plan can best be described as a 'blueprint' for the future and it has a lifespan of many years. Just a few of the topics that a general plan guides are housing development, transportation, and open space. The county is in search of input from citizens as to what should be its guidelines, direction, and final produce. The meeting dates are the 4th Thursday of the month, held at the Board of Supervisor's Chamber's, 1115 Truxtun Ave. The next meeting is Thurs. **February 23, 7 PM**. Topics: Healthy Communities and Land Use. The meetings will continue on the 4th Thursday of the month for the coming year. Want to be involved? Want to know the topics that interest you? For more info and to sign up, go to <http://pcd.kernds.com/planning/generalpanupdate> Questions? Contact Harry Love, Conservation Chair (love3@bak.rr.com 805-1420)

SCIENCE CAMP AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE - Spring 2017

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP AT KERN AUDUBON'S EXHIBIT. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH UNDERSERVED CHILDREN ABOUT BIRDS AND NATURE.

NO PREVIOUS TRAINING NECESSARY There are 4 camps this spring:

Feb. 24, March 3,10,17- 8am - 12:15

Contact Kevin Fahey - kjfahey@sbcglobal.net - (661) 706-7459 for info & to sign up!

UPDATE ON AUDUBON'S EFFORT TO SAVE THE SALTON SEA

As Audubon California ramps up its efforts to address the many challenges to critical habitat at the Salton Sea, the organization recently announced the hiring of Frank Ruiz as Salton Sea Program Director. Ruiz, who is from nearby Coachella, will be tasked with leading Audubon California's multi-faceted campaign to not only safeguard habitat for birds at the Salton Sea, but also address the potential public health disaster impacting thousands of California's as the waters of California's largest lake recede.

The Salton Sea is one of the most important places for birds on the Pacific Flyway, and one of the most imperiled. Beginning in 2018, the Salton Sea will get a lot less water from the nearby Colorado River, eventually up to 40 percent less. Increased water toxicity will kill off the fish that cormorants and pelicans need to survive. The State of California and dozens of stakeholders are working on a plan for the Salton Sea that will control dust, preserve habitat and protect the local economy as the sea shrinks. "The community around the Salton Sea is my home and I am committed to helping guide it to a healthy future," said Ruiz. "Birds and nature are part of what makes the Salton Sea special."

Ruiz comes to Audubon California with more than 13 years of experience leading non-profit organizations, most recently *Por la Creación*, a national alliance of more than 300 faith-based leaders that organizes and trains community stakeholders in their efforts to protect the environment. In addition, his ties to the region run deep, as pastor for a large congregation in Indio, and through *Por la Creación*, a driving force behind the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, which established three new national monuments in the California desert.

NEW BOOK IN KERN AUDUBON'S LIBRARY: "Imperial Dreams:

***Tracking the Imperial Woodpecker through the Wild Sierra Madre* by Tim Gallagher**

Naturalist Tim Gallagher journeys deep into the savagely beautiful Sierra Madre, home to rich wildlife and other natural treasures—and also to Mexican drug cartels—in a dangerous quest to locate the rarest bird in the world—the possibly extinct Imperial Woodpecker, the largest of all *carpinteros*.

Explorer and naturalist Tim Gallagher is obsessed with rare birds. A decade ago, Gallagher was one of the rediscoverers of the legendary ivory-billed woodpecker, which most scientists believed had been extinct for more than half a century—an event that caused an international stir. Now, in *Imperial Dreams*, Gallagher once again hits the trail, journeying deep into Mexico's savagely beautiful Sierra Madre Occidental, home to rich wildlife, as well as to Mexican drug cartels, in a perilous quest to locate the most elusive bird in the world—the imperial woodpecker, a giant among its clan.

The imperial woodpecker's trumpetlike calls and distinctive hammering on massive pines once echoed through the high forests. Two feet tall, with deep black plumage, a brilliant snow-white shield on its back, and a crimson crest, the imperial woodpecker had largely disappeared fifty years ago, though reports persist of the bird still flying through remote mountain stands. In an attempt to find and protect the imperial woodpecker in its last habitat, Gallagher is guided by a map of sightings of this natural treasure of the Sierra Madre, bestowed on him by a friend on his deathbed. Charged with continuing the quest of a line of distinguished naturalists, including the great Aldo Leopold, Gallagher treks through this mysterious, historically untamed territory where an ancient petroglyph of the imperial can still be found....Gallagher's passionate quest takes a harrowing turn as he encounters armed drug traffickers, burning houses, and fleeing villagers. His mission becomes a life-and-death drama that will keep armchair adventurers

MAKING SENSE OF COFFEE LABELS As with any agricultural product, getting to know the backstory behind where your coffee is grown can help you be confident that your money is supporting your values. Here's a quick primer to what some common labels on coffee bags may mean as far as shade cover and bird habitat:



BIRD FRIENDLY coffee is grown on farms certified by scientists from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. This coffee is triple-certified—meeting Organic, Fair Trade, and additional strict requirements for both mature canopy cover and the type of forest in which the coffee is grown. This coffee is guaranteed to support bird habitat.



RAINFOREST ALLIANCE standards for shade cover are less stringent than Bird Friendly, but more than 70 percent of Rainforest Alliance certified farms maintain shade cover, and the standard promotes preserving forest in reserves and along waterways. On farms where forest canopy is not the native ecosystem type, conservation area set-asides of 30 percent or greater are required in the standard.



ORGANIC coffee, like other certified organic crops, is grown without most synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. There are no criteria for shade cover,

- **SHADE-GROWN** labels often appear on coffee, but this designation has no regulations or certification standards. If you buy shade-grown coffee intending to support birds, you are trusting that the coffee company is telling the truth.
- **SPECIALTY** means the coffee scores 80 or higher on a tasting scale. It has nothing to do with environmental conditions, though specialty coffees tend to come from small

Editor's note: I was able to purchase "Shade Grown" and "Rainforest Alliance" coffee (see labels to the right on one brand of Gevalia Kaffe) at Von's, which mainly carries sun-grown coffee and many "Organic" labeled coffees. Albertson's also carries a couple of Rainforest Alliance branded coffees.

Harry Love notes: There is no local source of Bird Friendly coffee. However, you can order online from Gold Country Roaster (www.goldcountryroasters.com). Under coffee, click on SMC certified Bird Friendly coffees from Guatemala and Peru.



Talk to your supermarket manager about being more "bird-friendly" with coffee!!

Americans drink one-third of the world's supply of coffee and are the driving force behind the shift from traditional, shade-grown coffee to habitat-destroying sun coffee. The decisions we make at the supermarket or specialty shop have profound effects on birds.

Sun coffee may be cheaper to purchase, but in truth, there is no such thing as "cheap coffee." Throughout the tropics, inexpensive sun-grown varieties exact an enormous toll on biodiversity, not to mention rural families and small cooperatives steamrolled by large agribusinesses.

Fortunately, there is a surprisingly easy solution: *Drink the right coffee.* **Bird Friendly** is widely regarded as the gold standard. Coffee that safeguards habitat for the birds we care about, while providing an opportunity for farmers to receive a higher price for their crop—and which, because it ripens slowly in the shade, tastes far richer and more complex in your cup. All you have to do is choose Bird Friendly coffee. It may be the easiest and tastiest way to help migratory birds. *Source: American Bird Conservancy*

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Kern Audubon Society
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385



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Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Feb. 7, 7pm - Meeting & program
- Sat. Feb. 11, 9-11am - PVP Workparty
- Sat. Feb. 11, 7:30am - KNWR field trip
- Sat. Feb. 14, 8:30am - Birds n Bikes
- Sat. Feb. 18 - Tehachapi field 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 to National Audubon for \$20 to:

Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____