

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 47 no. 4 – April 2018

Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**

A chapter of National Audubon Society



KERN AUDUBON PROGRAM Tues, April 3rd 7pm

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
1300 17th St. Bakersfield (17th and L St.)

Wildlife of the American West

“The unique variety of wildlife and birds makes photography from the northern Rocky Mountains, south to desert Southwest, and west to the California Coast – a wildlife photographer’s dream. I’ve spent 35 years shooting in the American West, both as a nature/wildlife photographer and as a photo safari guide. This show will highlight some of the species and tactics I’ve used, as well as amazing locations where I’ve found them. While I do cover many tactics in depth, it’s learning about my subjects that has led to my photography success over my years in the field shooting.”



Speaker: Brent Paull

April Field Trips

Tues. Apr. 10, 8am – Kern River at the Rancheria Rd. Bridge

Join us for birding in a true riparian habitat where the Kern River emerges from the Sierras. 15 minutes from downtown. Look for spring migrants as well as residents like Great Blue Heron, Double-crested cormorants, Mergansers, Eagles, Hawks, Warblers, and Phoebes. The terrain forms a quiet, secluded dell where one hears mostly birds and flowing water. Take Hwy 178 east from

Bakersfield. Rancheria Rd. meets Hwy 178 at 1.5 miles past the traffic light at Alfred Harrell Hwy (Comanche Dr.). Sign for Rancheria Rd. is near the bottom of the long hill. Rancheria Rd is on the left in the gap between two citrus orchards. Turn left and drive ½ mile to our meeting point at the large parking lot before the bridge. Rough trails along the river bank are narrow, uneven footpaths between granite boulders and patches of high, thick brush. So wear long pants, sturdy shoes, a hat and layered clothing. Bring water and sunscreen. Contact Mac McCarthy (661) 589-7768 for more information.

> Urgent Alert <

~~4 issues left~~
3 issues left

**Countdown to electronic
Warbler ONLY!
Don't be left out.**

Instructions:

If you already receive the eWarbler, do nothing. If you don't, send your email to:
kernaudubon@gmail.com.

Important Note:

The change is taking place because the printing/ mailing cost of the Warbler is over \$2000 per year and we are a conservation group that is interested in protecting trees (and birds!)

- Please send your email address TODAY-

**Sat. Apr. 21, 7am - Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival and
9am - Bird Walks at Kern River Preserve**

Celebrate Earth Day at the Kern River Preserve on Hwy 78 in Weldon, 75 minutes east of Bakersfield. The Bioregions Festival celebrates the unique biological diversity of the Kern River Valley where 5 of California's 6 bioregions converge to make a habitat for 350 bird species. Audubon's 3000 acre Kern River Preserve sits along California's largest remaining contiguous riparian forest in a Globally Significant Important Bird Area. For 7:00 and 9:00 Bird walks, meet at Kern River Preserve's headquarters on north side of Hwy 178. 9:00 walk be led by Lee Sutton, past president of Kerncrest Audubon (Ridgecrest). Daylong, valley wide celebration includes activities and booths at Kernville's Circle Park. For a complete list of Festival activities go to www.kernaudubon.org and scroll down to the Festival's 2 page flyer.

April Field Trips Continued... →

Sat.-Sun. April 21-22, Desert Birding and the Amazing Spring Bird Migration at Butterbred Springs

This year our Butterbred Springs/Desert Birding adventure will begin midday, Saturday, piggy-backing onto another field trip that day at the Audubon Kern River Preserve in Weldon, (for those who want to combine the two trips.) Birders can join us at various times and places. At 12:30pm, after lunch at the Preserve, the first group will head East on Hwy 178 toward Walker Pass. We will be birding along the way (Pinyon Jays at pass?), and will be at the Jawbone Canyon Rec Visitor Center/Store, off Hwy 14, at 2:30pm. This is a good place to join us. At 3pm we will head to Red Rock Canyon State Park for birding, and then some other unique birding spots. Food is available at the Jawbone Canyon Store/Deli for dinner or you can bring your own food. Some of us will camp in Butterbred's primitive offside parking area where we will arise early 5:45am the next morning to watch the thousands of migrating birds, then before noon we'll drive back towards California City to hit some more special birding spots before ending our birding outing. Bill Moffat and Deb See will be leading the trip this year, and call Deb at 809-6135 for itinerary, directions, questions, or to optionally RSVP

Fri. -Sun. Apr. 27-29, (Fri. 6pm, Sat-Sun 6am) Owens Lake Bird Festival in Lone Pine

Experience thousands of migratory birds at the environmental success story that is Owens Lake. Outing topics include birding, geology, and natural and human histories, so there's sure to be something for everyone. Headquarters for the Festival is Stratham Hall, 138 N Jackson St., Lone Pine. For more information, go to friendsoftheinyo.org. For specific questions, email Alex Ertaud at alex@friendsoftheinyo.org.

Sat. Apr. 28 - 8am - Golden Hills "Nature Park"

This former golf course has been turned into a nature park that has 2 ponds and a stream with riparian vegetation. We hope to see many different bird species due to the diversity of habitats and time of year. Meet at the Burger King Parking lot at 8 am, or meet at the Nature park at around 8:15 am. Any questions? Call Greg Hargleroad: (818)645-3664.

Kern Audubon Executive Board

2017-2018

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Board Meeting Apr. 16, 2018 7PM



UPDATE ON SWAINSON'S HAWK MITIGATION

On Tuesday, March 13, the Board of Supervisors approved selected farm land in the San Joaquin Valley as mitigation land for loss of farm land in the Antelope Valley, land that was nesting and foraging area lost to a solar farm. These birds do not migrate to the San Joaquin Valley. We are very unhappy with the decision of the Board and will be in consultation with other environmental groups, one being the Sierra Club, to decide what options are left for us. Our greatest concern can be reflected in the following statement: *Prior to the decision by the Board, there was no protection for the Antelope Valley Swainson's hawk. After the decision, there is still no protection for them. Harry Love, Conservation Chair*

KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, and get updates on field trips and programs! Laura Fahey manages our Facebook, email her at: itzymom@sbcglobal.net.



Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Sign up for **Meetup!**

www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society

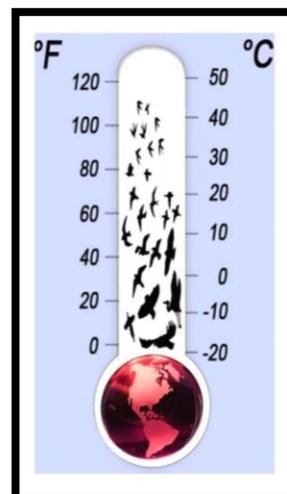
Many thanks to **Carly Summers** for updating events on the site.



Five Facts you can use in your next discussion with climate change deniers:

The World Bank says it will no longer finance oil and gas projects after 2019.

- ExxonMobil agrees to disclose to shareholders the climate risks from its oil operations.
- French president Macron convinced 18 foreign climate scientist to relocate to France, including 13 from the United State.
- A study in the *Lancet* finds that pollution is responsible for 9 million premature deaths each year, more than the combined toll from war and hunger.
- Britain shut down its Hailey VI research station in Antarctica because it is threatened by two huge cracks in the Brunt ice shelf.



Kern Audubon-Tehachapi Chapter

Tuesday Evening, 7pm Apr. 24th, 2018
Golden Hills Elementary School Cafeteria
20215 Park Road , Tehachapi

Refreshments and a fundraising raffle are an added bonus!



"Spring is in the air"

A celebration of all things bird related. Spring is the season for birds to shine. They wear their finest attire and sing their songs of love for all to hear. Soon they'll be nesting, raising their young and eating an incredible amount of bugs. More birds less pesticides.

We'll look at different sizes of nest boxes for different types of birds. We'll check out a variety of seeds and learn which ones certain birds prefer. Are you trying to attract chickadees??? Try black sunflower seeds. We'll try to understand and better accommodate our feathered friends in this harsh world. If we take care of them it'll be easier for them to take care of us. *If you have any questions email Mary Dufrain: marysalternative@yahoo.com.*

NO SCHEDULED DATE
FOR WORKPARTY AT
PANORAMA VISTA
PRESERVE THIS
APRIL..STAY TUNED
FOR NEXT MONTH!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you use Amazon for your shopping needs? If so, sign up for **AmazonSmile**. A percent (0.5%) of your purchases will go to the Kern Audubon Society. Sign up today on your Amazon account home page. There is no cost to KAS or to you, an AmazonSmile customer.

For the Birds...

In 2006 I was relatively new to Bakersfield and though I had been a birder for more than 10 years, I had not previously been a part of Audubon. In January 2006, I attended what was to be a decision-making meeting about the future of the Kern Audubon Society which was founded in 1974 but had been inactive for 4 years and was ready to fold...unless folks stepped forward to re-energize the chapter. I didn't know anyone, but Dr Ted Murphy, retired CSUB biology professor and one of the founding members, was in attendance and for reasons I never understood, Ted & I hit it off and decided to take on the task of rejuvenating KAS. Ted was the idea person with a wealth of knowledge about birds, Kern County and wildlife in general, plus he knew "everyone". I provided the organizing and between the two of us serving as "co-chairs", the first meeting of this "new" formulation of KAS took place in March with 18 people attending. Irene Heath, another founding member, was instrumental in the transition and very encouraging. Newcomers started coming and folks began to step forward to provide leadership: Annette Wells, Doug Dodd, Roger Coley, Rod Lee (who took over the website started by Ted), Don & Vonnie Turkal, Lynn & Bill McDonald, Ginny Dallas, Harry & Kathy Love, Deb & Bill Moffat. Excellent monthly programs were planned (which continues today!) and 2-3 field trips each month have continued to be a hallmark of Kern Audubon then and now.

I managed to figure out how to put together a newsletter (everybody needs to learn a new skill!) and have appreciated the many folks who have helped get it mailed over the years: Barbara Coley, Linda Greene, Monica Price and many other faithful volunteers.

The focus of Kern Audubon is birds--learning about birds & enjoying them and their habitats as well as standing up for birds through education & conservation--and all this through an organization that seeks to be welcoming. I have enjoyed meeting and working with so many incredible folks who have touched Rod & me throughout the journey of these past 12 years. Kern Audubon continues to be a force for good in Kern County and I know it is in good hands with the present Executive Board. Kern Audubon is a vital organization thanks to the efforts & commitment of so many people, from 2006 to 2018! Thank you, thank you! **However...**

I know many of you care about birds and about Audubon and your leadership and/or involvement in KAS's program and activities is needed. Please consider how you can help--it's fun, rewarding & so very important!

Rod & I will be moving later this spring to Sacramento where we lived 20+ years ago. We will miss our Kern County connections, friendships fostered thru birding and the wonderful places to bird from Hart Park to the desert--and the wildflowers! Please keep birding and help keep Kern Audubon the welcoming experience that it is. Because birds... & people...matter!

Madi Elsea, Past President

"Birding Without Borders"

Noah Stryker was a 29 year old Oregon birder who set out in 2015 to set a new world Big Year record. The previous record was 4,341 species set in 1989 by British birders Ruth Miller & Alan Davies. Stryker figured with changes in world travel, technology, etc. he could set a new world record. His goal was 5,000 species, half of the world's living bird species (10,365 in 2015). Stryker ended the year with an amazing 6,042 species and tells the story of his incredible year of birding in over 40 countries and on all 7 continents, in his book, *Birding Without Borders*, which was donated to our library by Madi Elsea. It's a great story and offers a hopeful message about birds--that even though they face an uncertain future, more people than ever are working to protect them. It's a book that reminds us that indeed, *BIRDS MATTER!*



Photo Courtesy:
allaboutbirds.org

"..large exuberance of lesser goldfinches here in Tehachapi. 100's of birds flying all around us as we walked.."

Photo Courtesy: Mary Dufrain

Goldfinch Symbolism

***It's time to unleash your own song
and follow the path of your own
creativity. Allow yourself to explore
something absolutely new to you
today.***
-Goldfinch

If Goldfinch has flown across your path;

It is a sure sign of exuberance, liveliness and enthusiasm in your current world. They are here to remind you to enjoy **life** and savor each moment for the **joy** that is in it. Perhaps it's simply time to celebrate who you are, your accomplishments or just for the sheer fun of it. You are reminded that **life** is for living – and that each moment you waste on sending forth negative **emotions** such as fear, hatred and anger are moments that are forever lost. Find **joy** in the now.

see picture below

Science Camp!

This Spring we nearly froze during the first week with private school students and their parents that drove them to Panorama Vista Preserve. The second week was cancelled because of a school having to back out at the last minute (it was rainy anyway). The third week was wonderful weather and an awesome group of students from Shafter. We still have the pleasure of looking forward to teaching another group on Friday (if it isn't raining as predicted).



It is fun to share what we are passionate about at Audubon with young people who at first often aren't thinking they are going to learn anything outside of the classroom. At Science Camp we teach them that they can make a difference in keeping our world clean and healthy for birds, animals and people. We teach them a few amazing facts about birds and we see the students AND their chaperones get excited and have fun! Everyone who volunteers is a HUGE help. You may not feel like you are doing anything but you are. We can't do it without you! A BIG thank you to all who have and will help!





United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
Sierra Nevada Network
Inventory & Monitoring Program
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, California 93271



February 22, 2018

Dear Volunteer Birders,

Thank you for all you contributed to a great day of birding at César E. Chávez National Monument on February 10th. It was a fun as well as productive day – we added 10 species to the list and verified an uncertain 2016 observation of western meadowlark (in 2016 we thought a starling may have just been mimicking a meadowlark, but this year it was unmistakable!). Our February 9-10 efforts added the following birds to the monument's checklist:

- American white pelican (flyover on Feb 9)
- Wilson's snipe
- Red-breasted sapsucker
- Say's phoebe
- Northern mockingbird
- Ruby-crowned kinglet
- Golden-crowned sparrow
- Savannah sparrow
- Lincoln's sparrow
- Spotted towhee
- Western meadowlark (verified 2016 observation)

In addition, we noted the following three species had been previously reported on eBird checklists associated with the monument: warbling vireo, western tanager, and ruby-crowned kinglet. As a result of your birding efforts and these additional eBird observations, the checklist is now up to 64 species. We are attaching a document that shows the entire list, along with brief notes indicating the newly observed or documented species. Once we update the checklist brochure, we will email that out to you. We really enjoyed the day, and are grateful for your enthusiastic participation in this event. If you are interested in future volunteer opportunities at the monument, please contact Superintendent Ruben Andrade (661-823-6130, or Ruben_Andrade@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Linda Mutch
Science Communication Specialist
Sierra Nevada Network Inventory & Monitoring Program

Take a look!

Burrowing Owls were a hit at the sewer ponds tour. (photo by: Mickey Dyke)



*Spotting scopes helped get good views at the sewer ponds field trip 3/13/18
(photo by: Madi Elsea)*



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. Apr. 3, 7pm - KAS Program
- Tues. Apr. 10, 8am - Kern River at the Rancheria Rd. Bridge
- Sat. Apr. 21, 7am - Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival
9am - Bird Walks at Kern River Preserve
- Sat.-Sun. April 21-22, Desert Birding and the Amazing Spring Bird Migration at Butterbreth Springs
- Tues, Apr. 24, 7pm - KAS Tehachapi program
- Fri.-Sun. Apr. 27-29 - Owens Lake Bird Festival in Lone Pine
- Sat. Apr. 28, 8am - Golden Hills "Nature Park"

Membership Application – KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

If you would like to be apart 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

Send this form and your check made to National Audubon for \$20 to:

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Kern Audubon
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Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s): _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____