



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 10 - December 2009
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING

Join Kern Audubon Society...

Tuesday DECEMBER 8, 2009, 6:30PM

LOCATION: KERN SUP'T OF SCHOOLS
17 TH & L Sts.

(NOTE: Special time & date for the meeting!!)



Kern Audubon is planning another evening of holiday fun, good food, fund-raising, and a special program....



"The First Birders: Kawaiisu Indians & the Birds of Kern County" Presented by Jon Hammond

JON HAMMOND is a fourth generation Kern County resident, member of the Tehachapi Mountains Birding Club, and freelance journalist for the *Tehachapi News*. In addition, Jon is a language instructor teaching the Kawaiisu Indian language to tribal members as well as non-Natives. The Kawaiisu Indian people, one of the Paiute tribal groups, have lived in Kern County for at least 3000 years. They gave their own names to bird species many centuries before explorers and settlers arrived. Jon has researched traditional Kawaiisu names for local bird species and will be doing a multi-media presentation with images of local birds along with English & Kawaiisu names as well as discussing the importance of these birds in traditional Kawaiisu culture. Jon will also discuss the importance of some bird species in Kawaiisu mythology, art and lifeways.

Bring a POTLUCK ITEM to share:

main dish (serving 8-10), salad or dessert
Table service, napkins & drinks will be provided

**AND...bring a WRAPPED gift worth \$10 or less
for a fun holiday gift exchange**

There will also be an auction of some SPECIAL items, so
bring cash or your checkbook!

Remember the date change to Tues. Dec. 8th with dinner @ 6:30pm!

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

UPCOMING BIRD FESTIVALS

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival
January 15-18, 2010
www.morrobaybirdfestival.org

Snow Goose Festival
January 28-31, Chico, CA
Celebrates the great Pacific Flyway
www.snowgoosefestival.org

San Diego Bird Festival
March 4-7, 2010
www.sandiegoaudubon.org

If you like travel, birding, fun and education, consider participating in a birding festival. For more information:

www.birdwatchersdigest.com
www.Americanbirding.org/festivals

WEBSITES to check out...

Kern Birding For a comprehensive website about numerous Kern County birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

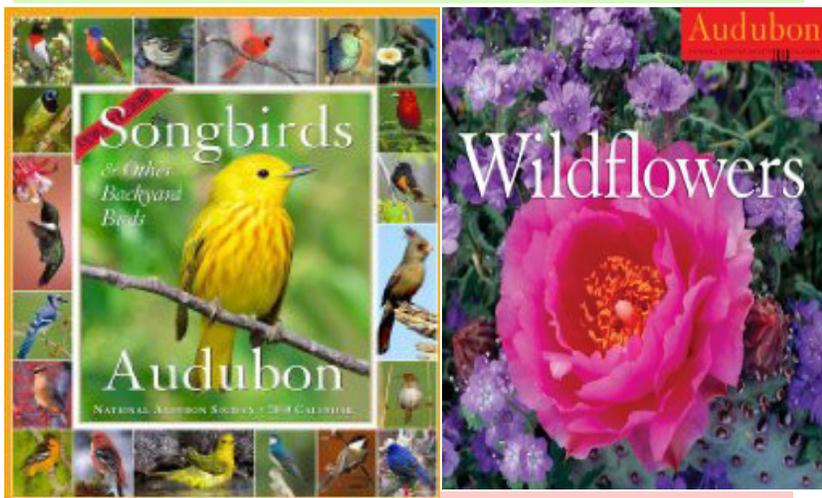
Audubon California has a great website about its activities and organization: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To find out more about national Audubon happenings through an informative electronic newsletter, email chapterleaders@audubon.org

KERN AUDUBON...remember to check out our own website for lots of information and links:
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

AUDUBON CALENDARS

There are still a few Audubon calendars available for purchase either through Harry Love or at the next Kern Audubon meeting on December 8th. There are three types: *Wildflowers*, *Songbirds* & *Green World* and the cost is \$10.00. Contact Harry Love (589-6245). This is a great way to support Kern Audubon.



PANORMA PRESERVE "ADOPTION" PARTY

On Saturday, November 7, Kern Audubon had its second work party for its 'adopted child', the Panorama Vista Preserve. And the turnout was great! Madi Elsea, Bill McDonald, Don and Vonnie Turkal, Clyde Golden, Ginny Dallas, and myself took on the task of making water wells around the trees, placing mulches under them, and watering them. Annette Wells offered us a fantastic surprise: six students from North High School to help the crew. And did they work hard!

The next work day at the Preserve is Saturday, December 5. Time is 8-10 AM. If you are interested in helping in the development of this urban wilderness, please join us. You can contact me at 805-1420 or at love3@bak.rr.com for details.

Harry Love, Conservation Chair



Lynn McDonald & Andy Honig planting trees

GOT PAPERBACKS?? If you have paperback books that you don't know what to do with, consider giving them to the Delano State Prison library. Books needed are mysteries, self-help, novels. Madi Elsea is collecting books for the prison librarian, so bring to meeting on Dec. 8th or call her at 322-7470.



Tom and Jo Heindel

BROWN PELICAN REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Tom Strickland and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Sam Hamilton announced on November 11, 2009, that the Brown Pelican, a species once decimated by the pesticide DDT, has recovered and is being removed from the list of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. "At a time when so many species of wildlife are threatened, we once in a while have an opportunity to celebrate an amazing success story," Salazar said. "Today is such a day. The brown pelican is back!"

The brown pelican was first declared endangered in 1970. Since then, especially because of a ban on DDT and efforts by states, conservation organizations, private citizens and many other partners, the bird has recovered. There are now more than 650,000 brown pelicans found across Florida and the Gulf and Pacific Coasts, as well as in the Caribbean and Latin America.

"After being hunted for its feathers, facing devastating effects from the pesticide DDT and suffering from widespread coastal habitat loss, the pelican has made a remarkable recovery," Strickland said. "We once again see healthy flocks of pelicans in the air over our shores."

The pelican's recovery is largely due to the federal ban on the general use of the pesticide DDT in 1972. This action was taken after former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* and alerted the nation to the widespread dangers associated with unrestricted pesticide use.

**Looking ahead to Tues. January 5,
7:00pm** The first Kern Audubon program of the year will feature birder, photographer, and teacher KELLI LEVINSON who will speak about her recent adventures birding in Ecuador!

FOR THE BIRDS...

When we reactivated this chapter of Kern Audubon Society in 2006, one of our commitments was to provide interesting field trips once or twice a month to destinations in and around Bakersfield and Kern County. Field trips have provided a wonderful opportunity to bring in new members as well as to educate all of us about the diversity of our area's flora, fauna, geography, landmarks and history. Some sites we have visited more than once, others deserve a second or third visit and there are many new places waiting to be discovered and birded!

However, like all "volunteer" organizations, Kern Audubon depends on its members to do more than just enjoy what is offered, but to become involved in helping make things happen, including field trips. Ted Murphy did much of the planning for field trips the first year and a half and Roger Coley did a great job coordinating them during 2007-2008. In the absence of a coordinator since then, Bill Moffatt, Scott Frazer, Ted Murphy, Ginny Dallas & I have filled in. However, that has been a temporary solution and not an ideal one. Inevitably one person carries much of the load. So, starting in January, the Executive Board has made the decision to place field trips "on hold" until someone or a group of "someones", steps forward to fill this important role.

So what's involved? It is primarily a task of "arranging", which doesn't require the coordinator to be a fantastic birder or even to attend all the field trips. We need people to determine locations to visit (we have a great list already, thanks to Roger, which can be found on the website), date & time to go and recruiting a knowledgeable birder to provide leadership. A "host" is needed the day of the field trip to take registrations, etc. and Executive Board members are willing to serve in that role, if field trip coordinator(s) aren't available.

Ideally, 3-4 people could make up a "Field Trip Coordination Committee" so that planning, & arrangements could be shared.

If you have been a field trip participant and enjoyed the experience, we hope you will want to take that experience a step further....and help Kern Audubon continue its outreach. If you are willing to be a part of this effort for 2010, please contact me or any member of the Executive Board...and soon....

Birds matter!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair (322-7470)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

One of the traditions long-associated with the National Audubon Society 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 leaders for more information...

Bakersfield CBC - Sunday December 20 (7:00am)

John Wilson is the leader/compiler for the Bakersfield area CBC. Birders will gather at **7:00am** in Hart Park (on Mirror Dr. near the west entrance to Hart Park between the lake and the entrance). Please email John Wilson {jcwilson@lightspeed.net} for information and if you are planning to participate so he can make up territory assignments. Counters will meet at Cindy's Restaurant (Aurdurn at Oswell) at 5PM for no host dinner and reporting/compilation.

Buena Vista Christmas Bird Count - Monday December 21 (6:30am)

Alison Sheehey is the leader/compiler for the 20th annual Buena Vista Christmas Bird Count centered on the northeast entrance to Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area and the most southerly count in California's Great Central Valley. Wintering populations vary with the amount of surface water, making this an interesting count. Normally around 100 species are found depending on the number of participants. Meet at Shell Mini-mart at the corner of Enos Lane and Taft Hwy. at **6:30 a.m.** for maps and assignment. For information and to RSVP, contact Alison Sheehey: 760-378-2029 or natureali@lightspeed.net

Kern Valley Christmas Bird Count - Sunday, January 3, 2010

Alison Sheehey is the leader/compiler. This count is centered around Lake Isabella Reservoir and covers territory from Bodfish to Weldon and up into the eastern Greenhorn Mountains. For information and to register, contact Alison Sheehey: 760-378-2029 or natureali@lightspeed.net

All experience levels are encouraged to attend. Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. A \$5.00 participation fee paid by Kern Audubon defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the count results by National Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

Anyone with an interest in birds can participate! FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE! There is a \$15 participation fee, which covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and a year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Participants receive a **Research Kit** containing instructions, a bird identification poster, wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and a tally sheet—everything needed to start counting your birds. Participants also receive a subscription to the Lab of Ornithology's newsletter, *BirdScope*.

For information and to sign up go to www.birds.Cornell.edu

E-Warbler...Want to receive the Audubon Warbler by email? Send an email to rodmlee@aol.com

Dear Audubon Chapters:

As you probably know by now, the California Legislature passed a comprehensive water reform package early Wednesday morning November 4, 2009). The Governor signed it earlier today.

Audubon California was one of six conservation groups that worked on behalf of the package. Our partners included NRDC, Environmental Defense, The Nature Conservancy, Bay Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, and others. There is specific language in this package related to the protection and conservation of migratory birds, and that wouldn't have been there if not for our involvement, and I'm proud of that work.

The reforms are a significant breakthrough and will ensure better environmental management for the Delta. While there are ways we would have improved the package from a conservation standpoint, the political realities that we faced in passing such an important and controversial set of reforms were significant. Nonetheless I am comfortable that this represents historical gains for the environment. In many ways, this is the biggest step forward for migratory bird conservation that this state has taken in decades.

The new water package benefits migratory birds and wildlife in the following ways:

* *Mandates no net loss of migratory bird habitat as a result of restoration or delta improvements, and where practicable, calls for habitat enhancement.*

* *Imposes a much higher standard for environmental protection on current efforts to improve water delivery and restore fisheries.*

The water bond passed by the Legislature, and requiring approval from the voters, contains the following supports for migratory birds, wildlife and habitat:

* *\$2.25 billion for Delta habitat restoration*

* *\$215 million for watershed restoration that supports threatened and endangered species*

* *\$100 million to provide water to Central Valley wildlife refuges*

* *Funding for important conservation of the Klamath region and Salton Sea, as well as conservation on private lands that is increasingly important for migratory birds.*

Audubon California's Dan Taylor and others on our policy, science and chapter team made a real difference in Sacramento, and ensured that important bird conservation provisions were included in the package. We look forward to continuing to provide information about the Delta and water bond in the coming months. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

All the best,

Graham Chisholm, Executive Director

Audubon California

BINOCULARS

Kern Audubon now has two excellent pairs of Eagle Optics 8x42 binoculars for use on field trips and birding classes. This was made possible by four Kern Auduboners participating in the Eagle Optics purchase program, which resulted in the chapter receiving 2 free pairs! Thank you to Donna Adams, Ginny Dallas, Lynn McDonald & Rod Lee!

If you'd be interested in purchasing a pair as part of this program in the future, contact Rod Lee (322-7470).

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

AUDUBON CA'S "BIRD OF THE YEAR"

Voting has begun for Audubon California's 2009 Bird of the Year, which will recognize a California bird species of conservation interest that made a significant impact in 2009. All members are encouraged to cast their votes online on Audubon California's website at www.ca.audubon.org through Dec. 7.

Audubon California created the designation this year to highlight the state's remarkable birds and the conservation challenges many of them face. Soon after voting ends on Dec. 7, the winner will be announced to those who provide their email address to Audubon California while voting. A public announcement will be made soon afterwards.

Although you can vote for any bird, the Audubon California Board of Directors has nominated six species in particular:

- California Condor
- Brown Pelican
- Peregrine Falcon
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Yellow-billed Magpie
- Western Snowy Plover

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Kern Audubon Society
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Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities..

- Sat. Dec. 5, 8-10am - PVP Work Party
- Tues. Dec. 8, 7:00pm - Holiday potluck, auction and program on the Kawaiisu Indians
- Sun. Dec. 20 - Bakersfield Christmas Bird Count
- Mon. Dec. 21 - Buena Vista Christmas Bird Count

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 # _____