



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 2 - FEBRUARY 2009
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

TUES. FEBRUARY 3, 2009

7:00pm

Kern Audubon Meeting & Program
Kern Sup't of Schools - 17th & L Sts.

"WHERE THE VIEWFINDER TAKES ME"

Wildlife Photography

JOSH BRADLEY, nature photographer



Photograph by Moose Peterson

Josh Bradley has been taking pictures since a child and as a semi-professional these past three years after working with world-renowned wildlife photographer, Moose Peterson, his mentor and friend. Josh is a graduate of CSUB with a degree in biology, which started his career in environmental consulting, conducting threatened & endangered species surveys for construction projects. This work peaked his interest in photography and he began photographing local flora and fauna. After a private tutoring session with Moose he applied for and was accepted in Moose's Master Light Program, eventually becoming his assistant and co-instructor of Wildlife Photographer's Base Camp.

Josh's program will cover the various wildlife and landscapes he has encountered from Alaska to Florida. He will also showcase the techniques he uses in the "digital darkroom" that enhance his photos and are featured in his new book, *The Official Nik Software Image Enhancement Guide: The Photographer's Resource for Professional Workflow Techniques*.

For a preview of Josh's beautiful photography, go to his website: www.joshbradley.net

Field Trip - Saturday February 7, 2009 - 7:30am

Bald Eagles of Lake San Antonio

A great place to see wintering Bald Eagles is on Lake San Antonio, located about 15 miles north of Paso Robles. A 2 1/2 hour tour of the lake on a flat-bottomed boat, led by a docent, gives wonderful views of these magnificent birds as well as views of nesting Golden Eagles and other raptors. The plan is to meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway across from CSUB at 7:30am to carpool to the lake for the 11:00am guided tour. Cost of the boat tour is \$12 (\$10 for seniors 62+) plus transportation (amount depends on # of participants). Reservations are a must so please call Bill Moffatt & Deborah See, field trip leaders, for information and to register: 764-6764. Bring lunch, water, binocs, dress in layers.

Field Trip - Saturday February 14, 8:00am

Audubon Bird Walk - Kern River Bike path

Enjoy a Valentine's Day stroll to see and count local birds as part of the GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, sponsored annually by National Audubon & Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Truxtun extension at Mohawk....bring snacks, water, binocs. Field trip leader is Dr. Ted Murphy (325-0307) with ending time 11:00am.

Weekend Field Trip - FEBRUARY 21-22 (see page 3 for the details)

FOR THE BIRDS...

Earlier last month I attended the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, a weekend of field trips, speakers and workshops that focused on the great diversity of animal and bird life in the Morro Bay area. We met birders from as far away as New York and British Columbia who were not only appreciative of the incredible variety of birds (over 200 species noted throughout the weekend) but the balmy weather, a not uncommon occurrence on the Central coast in winter. Minnestoan Al Batt was the main speaker, a humorist in the vein of Garrison Keillor, an author, birder, freelance writer and radio commentator who reminded us of the joys of birding and challenged us to inspire children and youth to get involved in this great "hobby"!

This was my second birding festival, the first being last year when we attended the Aleutian Goose Festival in Arcata, Calif., another great adventure in birding.

I mention these experiences because birding festivals are growing more abundant and more & more popular. If you haven't taken the opportunity to participate in a festival, I want to encourage you to consider doing so. It is a great way to learn about birds and birding and to learn more about conserving and preserving the habitats so important to birds and other wildlife.

One excellent opportunity close to home is the Kern River Valley Spring Festival, April 30 - May 5 2009. The Kern River Valley is one of the West's premier spring migration regions including the Giant Sequoia National Monument, South Fork Kern River Globally Important Bird Area, Butterbrecht Spring Nationally Important Bird Area, and Sequoia National Forest Globally Important Bird Area. The festival has fabulous field trips led by excellent birders, so put this on your calendar. More information will follow!

If you are interested in wildlife/birding festivals in California, a great website to visit is www.CAWatchableWildlife.org. For information about national bird festivals, go to www.birdwatchersdigest.com or www.Americanbirding.org/festivals.

Many of you sent letters of concern to the State Parks Commission regarding the opening up of Red Rock Canyon to OHV use. A decision is pending. Thank you for your response!

The Great Backyard Bird Count is Feb 13-16--I hope you will participate!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair

Websites to check out...

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

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos Go to this website for what's unusual in Kern County: kerncobirding@yahoo.com f You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

www.Audubon-ca.org is a great website all about the activities and organization of Audubon California

AUDUBON IN THE NEWS - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just email chapterleaders@audubon.org

Remember to check out Kern Audubon's own website.....**www.kernaudubonsociety.org**

IF YOU FIND A BANDED BIRD...

Occasionally you might find a bird that has a band on its leg and wonder what to do. This happened to Julie Clark De Blasic, a biologist with Marcia Wolfe's consulting firm (Marcia is a member of Kern Audubon) and as a result of her research, she provided this information:

- If the bird is alive, make sure to handle it in a safe manner for both you and the bird
- If the bird is dead, handle with gloves and place in a plastic bag that can be sealed
- Note all information on the band. Do not alter or remove it. Also note as much information as possible, including genus, species, gender, color, markings, scars, injuries, general health
- Important reporting #'s: Federal Bird Banding office: 1 (800)-327-2263 to report Federal bands (these have 4 digits on the front and 5 digits on the back). Non-federal bands: 1 (301)497-5969
- Thank you to Julie for this information!

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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WEEKEND FIELD TRIP:
CARRIZO PLAINS, MORRO BAY
February 21 & 22

Looking for a free, educational activity that makes a difference? This month, join tens of thousands of people throughout the US and Canada in the **2009 Great Backyard Bird Count**. You can count birds you see in your backyard, in your neighborhood, at your local park...or from anywhere you can spot birds!

Whether you are new to watching birds or an expert birder, your counts count! Your checklist will contribute valuable information for science and conservation when you enter your tally online at www.birdcount.org. Your list will help scientists understand more about how the distribution and abundance of birds are changing through time. In 2008 participants documented the huge southward movement of northern finches from Canada as well as the expanding range of Eurasian Collard-Dove and the Red-bellied Woodpecker, plus the decline of Northern Bobwhite and Eastern Meadowlark.

It's easy to participate...

- 1) visit www.birdcount.org for easy-to-follow instructions, including tips for identifying bird species. Download a checklist for our area
- 2) Count the birds you see, wherever you choose to count. Write down the highest number of individuals you see at one time--that way you will avoid counting any bird twice.
- 3) After at least 15 minutes of watching in one place, report your results online
- 4) You can repeat your count at the same place on each day of the GBBC. You can also visit other locations and submit separate tallies for those areas as well.

If you don't have computer access, contact Madi Elsea (322-7470), who can provide a data form for you or pick up copies at the Kern Audubon meeting on February 3rd.

This is the 12th annual GBBC and is sponsored by National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The top 10 most commonly reported birds in the 2008 GBBC were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Northern Cardinal | 6) Blue Jay |
| 2) Mourning Dove | 7) House Finch |
| 3) Dark-eyed Junco | 8) Tufted Titmouse |
| 4) Downy Woodpecker | 9) Black-capped Chickadee |
| 5) American Goldfinch | 10) American Crow |

Tulare County Audubon and Kern Audubon will join together for a weekend field trip exploring several of the most interesting birding spots in this part of California: CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT and MORRO BAY. This will be a caravanning field trip with Scott Frazer as field trip leader for Kern Audubon. Participants will meet on Sat. Feb. 21 at 6:00am at the Denny's parking lot at the southwest corner of Merle Haggard (7th Standard Rd.) & Hiway 65 (Porterville Hiway). From there we will carpool and meet Tulare Co Audubon (TCAS) near junction of Hiway 41 & 46, birding south on the way to Carrizo Plains.

After lunch (bring your own) we will head for Morro Bay. We will check into our lodging and then meet at Dorn's Original Breaker's Cafe at 7pm. Sunday morning birding will start at 8AM at the Morro Bay Museum and will include stops at the estuary and Morro Bay hotspots. After lunch, the caravan will travel north to San Simeon to see the Elephant Seals, etc.



Please make motel reservations as soon as possible. The TradeWinds (805/772-7376) and Blue Sail Inn (888/337-0707) in Morro Bay are moderately priced and there is also a Motel 6 (805/772-5641).

If you cannot attend both days of the field trip, you are welcome to participate on either day or leave early on Sunday. Weather is unpredictable, so layered clothing is a good idea. The trip will take place regardless of the weather. Bring SNACKS & LUNCH for Saturday, binoculars, water, etc.

If you are interested in participating, please contact SCOTT FRAZER (Scott_Frazer@fws.gov) or 725-2767 as soon as possible. Space is not limited, however Scott needs a head count for trip planning.

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. February 17th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*.

Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place to meet. All birders are welcome!



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
FEB. 13-16, 2009
Presidents Day Weekend
www.birdcount.org

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

Article and Photo by David Pereksta: Yellow Rumped Warbler



The Yellow-rumped Warbler is a large warbler with a long tail that is flared at the tip, a round head, and a stout black bill. It was formerly considered two different species: "Audubon's" Warbler (the yellow-throated western form) and "Myrtle" Warbler (the white-throated eastern form). In breeding plumage, adult males of both forms are blue-gray above with black back streaks, white underparts with black streaks down the sides and flanks, a small yellow crown patch, a yellow rump, yellow on the sides of the breast, a broken eye-ring, and white spots on the inner webs of the gray tail feathers. The "Audubon's" has a yellow throat, blue-gray face, and a large white wing patch. The "Myrtle" has a white throat that curves up behind the auriculars, a black ear patch, a thin white eyebrow, and two white wing bars. Females and nonbreeding males have the same basic pattern, but the blue-gray coloration is replaced with grayish-brown; nonbreeding females and immatures are similar but duller. The song is a musical trill with doubled elements: *sidl sidl sidl sidl sidl seedl seedl seedl seedl*. The Audubon's call note is a loud *chep*; the Myrtle's is a harder *check*.

Yellow-rumped Warblers are the most abundant overwintering warbler in the U.S and concentrate in large numbers. Their ability to digest the waxes in bayberries allows it to winter farther north than other warblers. They are found in open woods and bushy areas where they often perch upright with their yellow rumps exposed, flitting up to catch insects.

"Audubon's" Warblers make up over 95 percent of our wintering Yellow-rumped Warbler population. They breed from central British Columbia (B.C.) to southern Saskatchewan and south through the mountains of the western U.S. to Guatemala. They winter from southern B.C. south through the lowlands of the Pacific coast states and throughout the southwest east to Texas and south to Panama. "Myrtle" Warblers have a more northern and eastern breeding distribution and primarily winter in the eastern U.S. and south to the Caribbean and Panama, but also occur on the Pacific coast from Washington to Baja and uncommonly in the southwest.

Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warblers occur widely in the lowlands of Ventura County from late September through early May where they are one of the most abundant birds. They can be found in a variety of wooded habitats including parks and neighborhoods, but are particularly abundant in groves of blooming eucalyptus trees like those at Camino Real Park. During the breeding season, they depart the lowlands and can be found nesting in our local mountains at higher elevations in fir dominated woods in the Mount Pinos area. Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warblers can occur anywhere the more common "Audubon's" subspecies is found in the winter, but they are most frequently found in riparian thickets and wet brushy oak woodlands. "Myrtles" can be found with regularity along the Crew Trail at the Foster Park unit west of the Ventura River and in the willows and sycamores at Big Sycamore Canyon.

Editor's note:

The Yellow-Rumped Warbler (Dendroica coronata) is a common backyard and neighborhood bird during the winter months in Kern County. This article was used by permission from "The California Condor", the newsletter of the Ventura Audubon Society and was written by David Pereksta, who writes a regular "Bird of the Month" column for the newsletter. David is an Assistant Field Supervisor for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, where he works to conserve habitat for threatened and endangered species and migratory birds. He also has a related interest in the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and will be presenting a fascinating look on the continuing search for this "extinct" bird for Kern Audubon in the fall.

What is eBird? (www.eBird.org)

A real-time, online checklist program, **eBird** has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, **eBird** provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution. It also provides a way to electronically keep personal bird checklists.

eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in 2006, participants reported more than 4.3 million bird observations across North America.

If you haven't started recording your bird sightings, or if it's been a while since you've visited **eBird**, these are some of its features.

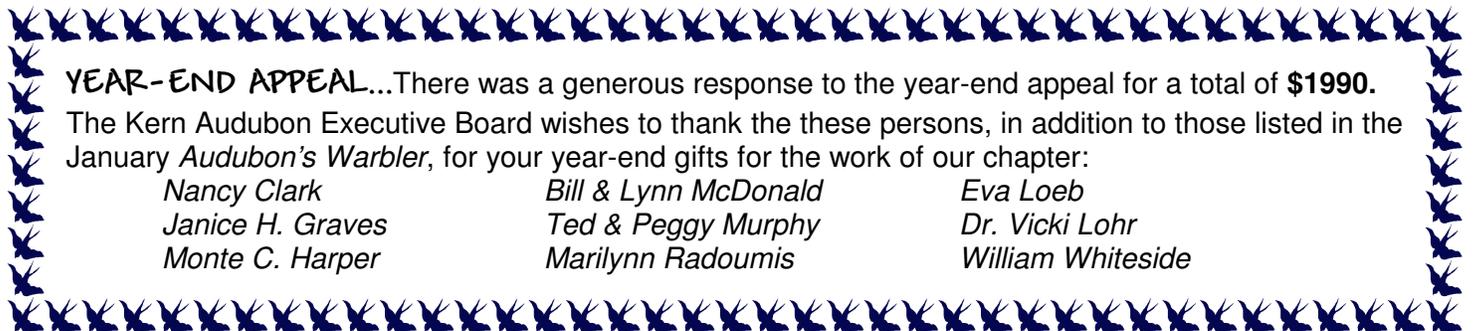
- You can keep track of all your bird lists: life, year, state, county and more.
- You can easily share checklists with your birding companions. Whether you're on a field trip or birding with friends, one person can enter a checklist and share it with the group. Each person can then edit their version of the list to reflect exactly what they saw.
- You can enter comments, age/sex information, subspecies, hybrids, and "spuhs" on your daily checklists.
- You can select locations using an intuitive Google Maps interface.
- You can report birds from anywhere in Western Hemisphere, including Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Antarctica. We've expanded outside the New World with the addition of New Zealand and plan to continue to expand worldwide in 2009.
- You can import sightings from popular birding software as well as from spreadsheets such as Excel.
- You can get up-to-the-minute rare bird reports from the eBird "Rare Bird Gadget" complete with a map and directions.
- Your sightings are combined with others to create maps, graphs and other helpful birding tools.
- The eBird homepage keeps users up to date on the latest news in eBird and around the birding world.
- Learn when and where to find birds using the enhanced eBird bar charts.

Read about all these features and more by visiting www.eBird.org

BIRDWATCH RADIO

Birdwatch Radio is a unique audio podcast about birds, birders and conservation. Currently two full length programs are being produced each month featuring some of the best and most interesting people in birding today. They have been getting very positive reviews on various birding blogs, newspapers and websites. The current program features an interview with Ted Floyd, author of the new Smithsonian Field Guide to the birds of North America. You can hear it and all of our archived programs at: www.Birdwatchradio.org/podcast.htm

The goal is to provide an entertaining and informative approach to birding and conservation that will hold the interest of the backyard birdwatcher and field birder alike. And most importantly, to make a difference so the next generation will have birds to watch and enjoy as we do.



YEAR-END APPEAL... There was a generous response to the year-end appeal for a total of **\$1990**. The Kern Audubon Executive Board wishes to thank these persons, in addition to those listed in the January *Audubon's Warbler*, for your year-end gifts for the work of our chapter:

<i>Nancy Clark</i>	<i>Bill & Lynn McDonald</i>	<i>Eva Loeb</i>
<i>Janice H. Graves</i>	<i>Ted & Peggy Murphy</i>	<i>Dr. Vicki Lohr</i>
<i>Monte C. Harper</i>	<i>Marilynn Radoumis</i>	<i>William Whiteside</i>

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. February 3, 2009, 7:00pm - monthly meeting featuring nature photographer JOSH BRADLEY
- Sat. February 7, 7:30am - Field trip to the see wintering Bald Eagles at Lake San Antonio
- Sat. February 14, 8:00am - Valentine's Day Audubon Bird Walk to see & count birds along the Kern River Parkway bike path
- Feb.21-22 weekend field trip to Carrizo Plain & Morro Bay

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (7XCHC30)

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**

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 # _____