



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 48 no. 1 – January 2019

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society

A chapter of National Audubon Society

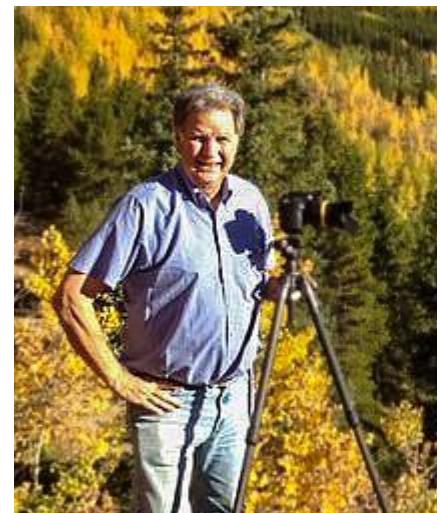
**KERN AUDUBON PROGRAM Tues, February 5th at 7pm**

**Kern County Supt. Of Schools**

1300 17th St, Bakersfield, CA 93301

### Explore Tejon Ranch with Chris Gardner

A recent field trip to the Tejon Ranch led to an explosion of enthusiasm and interest in this vast treasure. To help us learn more about the Ranch, Chris Gardner, a docent since 2013, will share adventures, information, and an appreciation for all aspects of this varied wilderness. He is as comfortable talking about the intriguing history of the Ranch as he is leading birding and driving tours. He counts Pronghorn on some of the Ranch's loneliest backroads. He knows the plants and animals so well that he frequently contributes to the Conservancy's monthly newsletter. Chris is an avid photographer, adept at capturing everything from burrowing owls to black bears. He and his wife Linda live in Pine Mountain Club. Please join us on Tuesday Feb. 5. Learn more on their facebook page.



### February Field Trips

**Sat. Feb 9, 8:00-9:30 am – Panorama Vista Preserve in Bakersfield** Kern Audubon's monthly second Saturday bird walk on 900 acres along the Kern River below the Panorama Bluffs in northeast Bakersfield. Afterwards keep birding or join any PVP volunteers at work. Dress warmly in layers, bring water and binoculars (loaners available).

**Directions:** Take Union Ave north, veering left onto Manor St when Union Ave ends. After crossing the Kern River, take the Roberts Ln onramp. At the top of the ramp, turn left (east) onto Roberts Ln. Proceed ½ mile, past horse stables on the right, and meet at the gate across the end of Roberts Ln. For info: call Mac at 661 589-7768

### Tues. Feb 12, 8:30-10:30 am – The Park at River Walk

Al Caetano will lead a bird walk around River Walk Park next to the Kern River and the Bike Path. Meet in the park's parking lot next to the pond separating the Spectrum Amphitheater and the back of the Target store building.

**Directions:** Enter the River Walk complex on Buena Vista Rd at Stockdale Hwy. At the small traffic circle just ahead, turn left (away from the stores) into the park's parking lot. Then go right and drive to the back end of the parking lot. Park near the pond. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars (loaners available). For info, call Al at 833-6705.

### Sat. Feb 16, 8:45-11:45 am - Piute Ponds (\*\*Bring your access letter\*\*)

Mickey Dyke will lead this outing to Piute Ponds located on Edwards Air Force Base. Expect to see wintering waterfowl by the hundreds as well as many resident species. Dress warmly in layers, bring water, snacks or lunch, and binoculars (loaners available). **Directions:** Hwy 58 to Mojave, then Hwy 14 south to Avenue D, which is about 6 miles south of Rosamond, then left (east) on Ave D one mile to Sierra Hwy, then left (north) one mile to Ave C, then right on Ave C and proceed to the gate. **Meet at the gate at 8:45 am. For info: Mac McCarthy at 661-589-7768**

**Tehachapi carpool meetup at 8:00 am at Burger King (620 Tehachapi Blvd.)**

**Bakersfield carpool meetup at 7:00 am** at the Stockdale ParknRide (between Real Rd. & Hwy 99) to carpool up to the Tehachapi meetup and a short rest stop. Give drivers \$10.00.

### **\*\*\*How to apply for your personal Access Letter from USAF.**

Since the Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, members of the public are welcome after they get a background check and an Access Letter from the Base Security Office. Call Misty Hailstone at (661)275-2435 Mon-Fri 7am to 3pm., or email her at [misty.hailstone.1@us.af.mil](mailto:misty.hailstone.1@us.af.mil)

She needs at least 3-5 business days to process your request. Ask for "recurring access" to use your access letter for future visits.

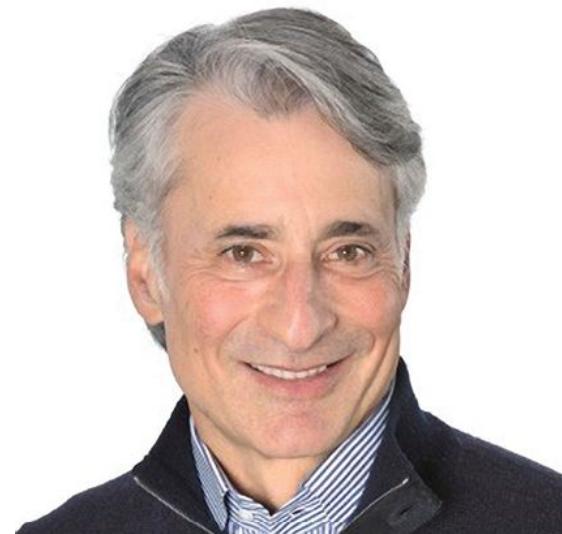
### Sat. Feb 23, 8:30-11:30 – Caesar Chavez Nat. Monument, Keene CA

The National Park Service has again invited Kern Audubon and all other birders to a morning of birding on 117 acres surrounding Caesar Chavez National Monument (La Paz) in Keene, located 25 miles east of Bakersfield on Hwy 58. Ruben Andrade, Monument Superintendent, will speak briefly at 8:30 am and Linda Mutch, Nat Park Service Science Communications Specialist, will orient birders to the site. At last year's event, birders spotted 32 species. Deb See and Bill Moffat will provide leadership for Kern Auduboners. Afterwards, join birders for lunch at the Keene Café. Dress warmly in layers, bring water, a hat, and binoculars (loaners available). **Directions:** Take Hwy 58 east from Bakersfield; take the Keene exit (# 139); turn left and cross under the freeway; take the first right; pass the Keene Café; and look for the Monument entrance ½ mile up the road on the left. **Bakersfield carpool meetup at 7:30** am at the Stockdale ParknRide (between Real Rd. & Hwy 99). Give drivers \$5. For info, call Mac McCarthy at (661) 589-7768.

### ANNUAL MESSAGE

By supporting Audubon in 2018, our community of friends and sustainers gave birds an amazing gift: a better shot at survival in a world of complex threats. How? Well, for starters, you became a compelling voice for birds and the places they need, speaking up for them an eloquent advocates. You provided essential havens for birds throughout every flyway, creating and maintaining bird-friendly communities all around the country. You made significant contributions to science, taking valuable part in the community science programs that shape our approach to conservation. And you generously supported Audubon's vitally important work. As we carry out our commitment to birds and their habitats, it's friends like you who make our best efforts possible. All of these acts help build a more hopeful future for birds. They can't thank you, but I can. On behalf of all of us at Audubon, I want you to know that we're grateful for all you did in 2018 in support of our mission: Protecting birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. You've inspired us and energized us as we move into 2019—a brand-new year full of power and promise as we stand up for birds together. Thank you.

David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society



### ANNUAL FUND APPEAL DONORS

We would like to thank the generosity of the following members for their financial response to our 2018 fund appeal. It is through their dedication to Kern Audubon that we are able to fulfil the mission of the chapter. We greatly appreciate the contributions of: **Ron Worgul, Jan Graves, Bill Abel, Mark and Randi Hodson, Mickey Dyke, Linda McMillian, Fanny Laborde, Mary Lou MacKensie, George Jennings, Jim Nelson, John and Deb Wilson, Paul and Joanne Newberry, Karen Pestana, Mike and Lorelei Smith, Pam Baugher, Al and Cindy Caetano, Roger and Barbara Coley, Mylon Desmond, Stan and Kim Jones, Scott Rosenlieb, William Murray, Kristie Bret Harte, Arlene and Jim Burrow, Georgette Theotig, Louise Clay, Monte Valpredo, Elaine and Doug White, Gloria Pauline, Janet Lund, Lama Hiatt, Keith and Julie Horder, Michael Denney, Sylvia Simms, Larry and Jan Alford, Dolores Whitley, William Whiteside, Daniel Nadgady, Kathleen Cassil, Joe and Bugs Fontaine, Madi Elsea, Rod Lee, Vicki Lohr, William Main, Georgia Bailey, Martha Redstone, Karen Evans, Bruce Weards, John Bogie, and Andy and Sasha Honig.** Members of the Executive Board



## Steps to Choosing a Pair of Binoculars You'll Love

Now that Christmas is over, are you in the market for new binoculars?

Well, if so, below are some buyer guidelines from Cornell Labs.

If binoculars aren't 100% indispensable to bird watching, they're pretty close. For almost any bird that crosses your path, a good pair of binoculars will show you fine details, make colors pop out of shadows, and improve your chance of identifying what you've seen. For most bird watchers, binoculars soon become almost an extension of their bodies. But binoculars are expensive. Binoculars are a long-term investment that starts paying off the day you get them. Most likely you won't be buying new binoculars every couple of years, so it makes sense to choose carefully, try a lot of varieties, and save up for a pair that will deliver great views of the birds you seek out. That said, decades of binocular R&D by the top brands has started to trickle down into their lower-priced models, and you'll be amazed at the image quality you can now get from binoculars priced at a few hundred dollars. Factored out over 20 or more years of bird watching, that's a pretty good deal.

Follow these steps:

- 1) Pick a magnification. Deciding between 8x and 10x binoculars is a personal choice. In general 10x are better at distance birding. But it usually also means a narrower field of view, a slightly darker image in low light, and more noticeable hand-shake. An 8x gives you a smaller image that's wider, brighter, and easier for finding and following birds.
- 2) Test a lot of models. No two birders look through binoculars exactly the same way. Size of hands, shape of face, how you focus, how you carry the bins when you're not using them—all matter. So pick up as many pairs as you can to get a feel for what suits you.
- 3) Look for bright, crisp, true color. Image quality has an overriding importance. How bright are the bins? How sharp? How true are the colors? How well do they resolve details in a backlit image? Most optics stores are better lit than your average forest—find somewhere dark to compare low-light performance. Check the eye relief. Most binoculars have eyecups that retract to accommodate eyeglass wearers or extend to provide shading for those without. Look for durable, multi-adjustable eyecups. If you wear glasses, adjust the eyecups to their minimum position and make sure there's enough eye relief—you shouldn't see black rings around the image.
- 4) Review additional features and warranties. Pay attention to field of view and close focus, two measures that affect how much you'll see. See our report on field of view and close focus to understand how these factor into your choice. Also pay attention to durability, waterproofing, and warranty—many major optics companies now offer excellent warranties



## JOE BUGNI: MEMBER EXTRAODINARE

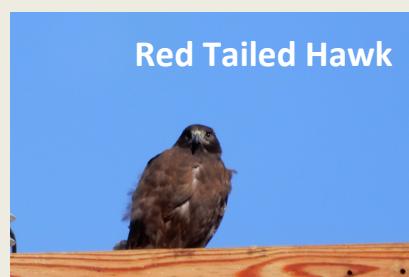
**Joe Bugni** is a long term member of KAS. He has a business in Pumpkin Center that produces honey for a variety of businesses, such as Cone's Health Store. His honey is greatly valued by local residents. For many years he has donated for each Christmas auction 10 or more jars. His generosity has greatly helped the chapter. We are all indebted to him. We thank him for his support.

## Birds Sighted by Members

Submitted by Clyde Golden, Steve Shaw, Ron Worgul



Cactus Wren



Red Tailed Hawk



Wood Duck



Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Well, the easy answer is a new social media web site called **Meetup**. It is very easy to sign up. You get email reminders of events, instructions on how to join, and, the best part, is it free. To become a member of Meetup: go to [www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society](http://www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society) and follow the easy instructions. That way you do not have to look at the Warbler for upcoming events. You will get reminders online. Many thanks to *Carly Summers* for updating events on the site.

**Raffle Items Needed** Have more than one item at home? Received a gift that you do not need? If you answered 'yes' to one of these questions, please bring the item (or buy one) to our monthly meeting. We need more items for our raffle.

### Old Audubon Magazines Needed

Have copies of your Audubon magazine? We need them to give to students at Science Camp. Bring them to any monthly meeting.

### Kern Audubon Executive Board 2018-2019

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VICE PRESIDENT – ADMIN. TEAM

SECRETARY – ADMIN. TEAM

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**Board Meeting Feb. 19, 6 PM**

### 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: [ityzmom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ityzmom@sbcglobal.net).



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.

### PHOTOS NEEDED!

Please send photos of birds you have seen on an outing, in your backyard, or anywhere else to **Harry Love** [harrylove1944@gmail.com](mailto:harrylove1944@gmail.com) We would like to celebrate birds you have seen!

### Quick Announcements from Kern Audubon!

**Kern Audubon Board of Directors meetings are open to any member.** Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month Aug-May, except Dec. Usually at 6:00 pm in the same location as for our monthly meetings, at Kern Co Sup of Schools at 17<sup>th</sup> + L Sts. Contact is Harry at 805-1420 [harrylove1944@gmail.com](mailto:harrylove1944@gmail.com)

# Good Ol' Audubon Fun



Christmas Gathering



# Kern Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3581

Bakersfield, CA 93385

[Kernaudubonsociety.org](http://Kernaudubonsociety.org)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

The basic membership dues cover the cost of your subscription to the Warbler. Please consider joining or renewing at a higher level to support the important environmental education and conservation projects critical to the protection of wildlife and the environment. All of your membership dues will be used to support our local education and conservation efforts.

(Note: Membership in Kern Audubon Society does not make you a member of National Audubon. You must complete a separate membership form with National Audubon on its website. See link at bottom of this page.)

**Check all boxes that apply to your membership in KAS.**

I am a new member       I am a renewing member

Individual membership \$20       Student \$15

Family membership \$35       Benefactor Membership \$100

Condor life time membership \$1,000

Donations:  \$5 supporter (recurring monthly)  \$10 sustaining (recurring monthly)

One time:  \$30  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

Print this form. Make your check for membership in KAS and any additional donations payable to **Kern Audubon Society**. Mail check and this membership form to:

P.O. Box 3581, Bakersfield, CA 93385

If you wish to pay by credit card, you may use the Pay Pal button on our web site  
([Kernaudubonsociety.org](http://Kernaudubonsociety.org))

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Kern Audubon Society will not sell or distribute any member information to any other organization.*

If you want to also join National Audubon go to: <https://www.audubon.org>