



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 39 No. 3 -MARCH 2010
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Society

Tuesday March 2, 2010 - 7:00pm

Location: Kern Sup't of Schools

17th & L Sts., Bakersfield

(Street parking or the KSS lot at 18th & K)

NATURE PRESERVES OF KERN COUNTY

Greg Warrick, Preserves Manager



In 1997 the Center for Natural Lands Management acquired three nature preserves in the western part of Kern County: Lokern, Semitropic, and Sand Ridge, plus one in Tulare County, the Pixley Vernal Pools. Biologist Greg Warrick manages all four preserves which feature many species of endangered and threatened animals, including San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, and endangered plants such as Bakersfield cactus and Kern mallow. Bird species of interest are LeConte's Thrasher, Burrowing owl, and Golden Eagle. Greg will discuss these unique preserves along with a slide presentation. He is very familiar with the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley having worked with the environmental group at Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Preserve and with the Endangered Species Recovery program.

March Field Trips

Sat. March 6, 8:00am "Wildflower Wander" - Kern River Preserve

Alison Sheehey, Kern River Preserve Outreach Coordinator and superb naturalist, is leading a wildflower walk around the preserve and we are invited! Meet for carpooling in the Albertson's parking lot, Mt. Vernon exit & Hiway 178 at 8am. (near the doughnut shop). Bring snacks, water, binoculars, lunch. This will be a walking field trip, so comfortable shoes are a good idea. Contact Madi (322-7470) for info.

Sat.-Sun March 13-14 Carrizo Plain & Morro Bay

Scott Frazer, avid birder and naturalist, will be leading this weekend field trip (or Saturday only, if you prefer) to bird along the way to and thru the Carrizo Plain National Monument on Saturday, and birding hotspots in Morro Bay on Sunday. The group will meet for caravanning)at 6:15am on Sat. the 13th. Bring a lunch, snacks, water, binoculars and overnight stuff if you plan to go for the weekend. Contact Scott to let him know if you are planning to attend: 319-1243. See next page for more details!!

Sat. March 27, 7:00AM Tejon Ranch

We will be co-field tripping with Santa Barbara Audubon on this return visit to the Antelope Valley side of Tejon Ranch to see spring migrants and early wildflowers. Space is limited to 20, so please RSVP to madielsea@aol.com if you are interested in attending. Details will follow.

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair
madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470
Ted Murphy, Co-Chair
tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307
Harry Love, Conservation
love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6254
Tim Lynch, Publicity
Lynchtim1968@yahoo.com; 428-4455
Kathy Love, Hospitality
love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6254
Ginny Dallas-Dull, Education
vdallas@bak.rr.com; 587-6323
Annette Wells, Membership
awells0526@yahoo.com; 333-4019
Lisa Twiford, Secretary
letwiford@aol.com
Bill McDonald, Treasurer
WJLJMCD@aol.com; 665-2111
Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor
madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

The Kern Audubon Executive Board meets monthly on the third Wednesday, 7pm. Meetings are open to interested members, so contact Ted or Madi for information about meeting locations.

UPCOMING BIRD FESTIVALS

40th Annual Rivers & Wildlife Celebration
Sandhill Crane Migration
March 18-21, 2010
Kearney Nebraska
www.nebraska.audubon.org

Sat. May 1, 2010

Field trips April 29 - May 4
Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival
For information & registration go to:
<http://kern.audubon.org>

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

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



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

FEB-MARCH AT PANORAMA VISTA

On a cool, cloudy Saturday morning, February 6, many people came to help pot cuttings at the Panorama Preserve with Lucy Clark and Clyde Golden, Deb See and Bill Moffett, Madi Elsea, Bill Cooper, and I representing Kern Audubon. A surprise was volunteers who believed it is great to be a 'good neighbor': a neighbor of the Preserve, Lori, and her two girls along with another family who rode their bicycles to the Preserve. It was great to see such a variety of ages at work. With such a large group, and with Andy and Sasha Honig giving us directions on what needed to be done, by noon most of the cuttings were planted. Bill Moffett also brought box lunches for the crew. The willow cuttings were starting to bud out and many had already produced roots while in water.

On **Saturday, March 6**, Kern Audubon will have its monthly work day at the Preserve. Come out and help plant more cuttings. The weather should be great! **Time: 9-11 AM**. Location: east end of Roberts Lane. Email me (love3@bak.rr.com) or call me (cell 805-1420) if you would like to help. Come and enjoy the 'neighborly fun'!

Harry Love, KAS Conservation Chr.

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@yahoogroups.com You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Michael McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

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

WEEKEND FIELD TRIP - MARCH 13-14, 2010

CARRIZO PLAIN & MORRO BAY

Join Kern Audubon for a weekend birding trip similar to last year, which explored several interesting birding spots in the CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT and MORRO BAY. On the 2009 trip we saw Golden eagles, Short-eared owl, Great horned owls on nest, barn owl, Western bluebirds, a great selection of shorebirds and waterfowl.

This will be a caravanning field trip with Scott Frazer as field trip leader. Participants will meet on Sat. March 13 at **6:30am** in the Denny's parking lot at the southwest corner of Merle Haggard/7th Standard Rd. & Hiway 65 (Porterville Hiway). From there we will carpool traveling west on Hiway 46, birding on the way to Carrizo Plain and on the monument as well. After lunch (bring your own) we will head for Morro Bay for dinner and lodging. On Sunday birding begins at 8AM at the Morro Bay Museum and will include stops at the estuary and Morro Bay hotspots, concluding at noon.

Participants need to make own motel reservations as soon as possible. The Blue Sail Inn (888/337-0707) is on Market street across from Dorn's Café in Morro Bay and there is also a Motel 6 (805/772-5641), plus many others.

If you cannot attend both days of the field trip, you are welcome to participate on either day or leave early on Sunday. If you are interested in participating, please contact SCOTT FRAZER (Scott_Frazer@fws.gov) or 319-1243...soon!. Space is not limited, however Scott needs a head count for trip planning.



KERN RIVER FESTIVAL **MAY 22, 2010, 12-5PM**

The first KERN RIVER FESTIVAL is being planned for a Saturday afternoon, may 22nd, to enjoy and raise awareness about Hart Park and the Kern River Parkway. This festival is being sponsored by Kern River Parkway Foundation, the Stewards of Kern River Park (Hart Park) and Kern Co. Parks & Recreation. Lots of volunteers are needed, so if you'd like to get involved, contact Kenny Beal, Chr of Stewards of Hart Park Comm. kennybeal@gmail.com

WIND WOLVES FIELD TRIP - Sat. April 3

A wildflower/birding outing to Wind Wolves Preserve will take place on Sat. April 3, 8:00am. Because the size of the group was unwieldy last year, Wind Wolves has asked us to limit the registrations to 25 persons. If you are interested in attending, please sign-up through Ginny Dallas (587-6323) or vdallas@bak.rr.com. Details will follow.



More About Tejon Ranch

At the chapter's February meeting, Tom Maloney of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy spoke to the group about the birding and outing prospects at Tejon Ranch. On February 11, the Conservancy sponsored a meeting of interested parties from Audubon, Sierra Club, and the community near the Ranch to give input as to developing a public access program for the Ranch now and in the future. I attended on behalf of Kern Audubon along with some others from Bakersfield and the desert communities. The Conservancy's goal is to allow individual, groups, and schools to have access to the rich diversity of the Ranch. Our chapter will be having outings there this year. However, you have the chance to learn more about the Conservancy and to be informed about coming activities. Go to the website, <http://tejonconservancy.org>, sign up for email updates and learn more about the Conservancy. Enjoy and have input on management of this great treasure just south of us!

Harry Love, Conservation Chair

Looking ahead to Tues. April 6th, 7:00pm...The restoration of Owens Lake on the beautiful east side of the Sierra Nevadas will be the topic of the April 6th meeting. The presenter will be Mike Prather, who has been involved with the mammoth effort over the past 25 years to restore this important stop-over on the Pacific Flyway. Owens Lake is a designated Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

AUDUBON CA SUPPORTS BALLOT MEASURE TO PROTECT STATE PARKS

Continuing its long support for California State Parks, Audubon California has endorsed the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010, a proposed statewide initiative slated for the November 2010 ballot that, if approved by voters, would provide a stable source of funding that would keep state parks open.

The State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010 would ensure a dedicated and reliable funding stream for state parks through an **\$18 annual surcharge on most California vehicles**. By law, the trust fund could only be spent on state parks, urban river parkways, wildlife, natural lands and ocean conservation programs. Vehicles subject to the surcharge would receive **free, year-round admission** to all state parks. Californians will no longer pay day-use fees at any state parks.

California's 278 state parks, which include state beaches and state historic parks, are priceless public assets and a vital legacy for our children and future generations. Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the brink of being shut down. Only last-minute budget reprieves kept them open. But nearly 60 state parks will be shut down part-time or their hours of operation reduced because of this year's budget cuts, and more park closure proposals and budget cuts are expected next year.

With this announcement, Audubon California joins a coalition of supporters including the California State Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Sierra Club California, Save the Redwoods League, Defenders of Wildlife, Surfrider Foundation, California State Park Rangers Association, California State Lifeguard Association and Ocean Conservancy.

Note: Harry Love, KAS Conservation Chr. will have copies of the petition at the March 2nd Kern Audubon meeting or contact him directly to sign the petition: love3@bak.rr.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome these persons who joined Kern Audubon in 2009 from cities and communities of western Kern County: Bakersfield, Caliente, Delano, Frazier Park, Lebec, Shafter, Tehachapi:

Donna Rodriguez
Trisse Camacho
Jewel Erberich
VT Walhood
Anna Hesler-Marler
Yolanda Gibson
Elizabeth Trainor
Elizabeth Williams
Jeff Matthews
Lorraine J. Ward
Monica Price
Alice Jandt
Louise Wilson
Joann Phillips
Joy Bruce
Eleanor DeHart
Elizabeth Gossett
Fanny Laborde
Laurel E. Hayes
Cheryl J. Burroughs
T. Goff
Cherri Duran
Mary L. Palmer
Mark Mutz
Susan Jayne Hotchkiss
Carol Lawrence Gates
Sue H. Ryt
Lantie M. Bell
Cynthia Gussman
John Place
Margaret Bridges
Peggy Decuir
Elizabeth Fox

J. Wesley Sanderson
Linda Lancaster
Manuel Dominguez
Virginia Gregg
Carole Heninger
Calvin Bidwell
Bakersfield City Library
Jason H. Kang
Graciela Griebing
Lloyd Schultz
Derek Abbott
Andrew Dayamude
Nathan Keith
Kathy Perkinson
George G. Ross, Jr.
Sylvia Simms
Judith Gleason
Edward Keith
Judy Allen
Anke Hodenpijl
Diana Mills
Sheryl Ferguson
Scott Cossey
William Forrest
Claire Urata
Calen Wood
Larry Arbanas
Walt Wortendyke
Donald E. Trout
V. Tones
Janet Lund
Marilyn McCune

Carol Overstreet
Curtis Newman
Lynne Schindler
Dawn Lopez
Helen Wheatley
Barbara Jackson
Marvin C. Beck
Shirley Castro
John Schwamb
Ruth OvertonM
Paul Gullam
Marty Mertz
ILewis Betty
Chris McCune
Geraldine Yerry
Barbara Lane
Amy E. Gray
Gwen Condit
Gloria M. Barron
Amy Angeli
Chris Niemala
Roberta j. Owen
CR Swanbeck
Judy Stone
Jessica & Sarah Cravens
Harold Johnston
Beatrice McCubbin
James & Cheryl Wilson
Carolyn Douglas
Florence Norman
Wanda Formhals
Sharon Hench

GRANTS BRING NEW LIFE TO PANORAMA VISTA RESTORATION

.....tremely fortunate to have its Panorama Vista Preserve adopted as a conservation project by Kern Audubon Society. In the past year our vision for habitat restoration of Panorama Vista has been greatly expanded because of several grants we have received totaling almost \$60,000. Most of this grant money came to be realized because Scott Frazer, Partners for Fish and Wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Kern County and member of Kern Audubon, learned about the Preserve when an appeal was made for cat litter jugs and buckets at an Audubon meeting last spring. Thank you, Scott!

The mission of Partners for Fish and Wildlife is to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for conservation and/or restoration of their native habitat. Upon learning more about it, Scott found that the Preserve was a perfect candidate for Partners assistance with its 950 acres and 3 miles of native riparian forest along the Kern River. Scott soon helped us get a \$25,000 grant from Partners, has provided us with invaluable technical assistance and also helped us obtain a grant of \$23,500 from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service. With this money and some matching funds provided by the KRCE we were able to commission an extensive study of our preserve by River Partners of Modesto, a non-profit founded to facilitate the restoration of riparian land. In addition to these two major grants we have received \$5,000 for a water tank and pump from the Kern Wildlife Commission and \$5000 from Chevron toward putting back into production an old agricultural well on Preserve property. We were assisted by Kern Audubon's Bill Cooper in obtaining the Wildlife Commission grant.

These grant monies will enable us to put in an irrigation system to support the 6,000 trees that we have been "creating" through cuttings and plantings from native trees and shrubs on the Preserve, such as willow, cottonwood, wildrose. The goal is to have the irrigation in soon so trees can be planted this spring!

Bill and another Audubon member, Rich O'Neil along with donating many hours of work at the Preserve have on numerous occasions spent their own money on Preserve projects and are responsible for the Preserve receiving a Kern River Parkway Foundation donation. The Kern chapter of California Retired Teachers has also donated much appreciated funds as well as Audubon member and volunteer Lucy Clark (who is especially interested in native plant propagation). Lastly we have made good use of a 500 gallon water tank donated by Audubon members, Pat and Larry Mumford

And the cat litter jugs and buckets?! The jugs are still used to carry water now and then and the buckets are being used to store cottonwood and willow cuttings.

We especially wish to thank Harry Love who has coordinated Audubon work parties at the Preserve and given many hours of sweat labor to this project. With thanks to Kern Audubon and its members, Panorama Vista is on its way to being a source of pride for not just for Bakersfield but the entire San Joaquin Valley. So please accept our thanks and warm appreciation, Kern Audubon! After all, the end result we all hope for will be increased numbers of birds and other critters in this restored area of the Kern River!

Andy Honig



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. March 2, 7:00pm - Meeting/program featuring Nature Preserves of western Kern County
- Sat. March 6, 9:00am - Panorama Vista Preserve Work Party
- March 13-14 - Carrizo Plain/Morro Bay Field Trip
- Sat. March 27 - Tejon Ranch Field Trip

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 # _____