



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 36 No. 9 - November 2007
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon meeting and program.....
Tuesday November 6, 2007 - 7:00PM

~It's Election Day, so VOTE early!!~
Kern Superintendent of Schools @ 17th & L Sts.
(Street parking or in the lot at 18th & K)

ON THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL

Karen Pestana, Guest Speaker
California Bluebird Recovery Project



Karen Pestana is the Bluebird Trail Coordinator for the Tehachapi Mountain Birding Club and monitor for the California Bluebird Recovery Project. She has been a member of the club since its inception in 1998 and has coordinated the trail for 8 years. She received a BS in Biology at the University of Nebraska and began her career with the National Park Service Midwest Regional Science Office in Omaha followed by a move to California where she worked for the California Department of Fish and Game doing research in diverse areas, such as assessing incidental catch in the gill net fisheries for the Marine Resources Division, monitoring least tern nesting colonies for the Non-game Division, and studying salinity tolerances of Salton Sea sport fish. Returning to the National Park Service, she conducted vegetation studies at Channel Islands National Park.

A move to the Tehachapi area (Bear Valley Springs) with her family has involved her in "citizen science", especially with the bluebird recovery program, which she enjoys very much, along with her roles as Girl Scout leader and substitute teacher. *We look forward to Karen's program and how we can make a difference in bluebird recovery!*

Sunday November 11 - Field Trip

PIXLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE

1:30PM - after sunset

If you haven't seen Sandhill Cranes fly into their roosting places at sunset, it is a primeval experience! Join Kern Audubon for this Sunday afternoon/evening field trip where we will also see White-faced ibis, waterfowl, swallows, etc. Meet at the Rosedale Highway Costco near the gas pumps (behind Hungry Hunter restaurant) for carpooling at 1:20 for a 1:30pm departure. We will be out until after dark; bring water & snack, insect repellent (A MUST!), binoculars, small flashlight. Approx. ¾ mile walk (level gravel road) to observation deck. The cranes fly in at dusk from neighboring alfalfa and grain fields. This trip is for Kern Audubon members only so that we don't overwhelm the cranes. We should be back an hour after sunset - 6:00 to 6:30? Supper on the way home is optional...Call Roger Coley (832-1820) for more information or www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Sat. November 17, 2007

BEGINNING BIRDING

Hands-on Workshop with John Wilson

7:30am - Hart Park

Beginning and novice birders are especially invited to this outing at Hart Park to learn from one of Kern County's premier birders, John Wilson, about the wonderful activity of bird watching. John will focus on basic birding skills, using binoculars and finding birds as well as basic identification skills. We will also be looking for late fall and wintering birds. Some walking involved; notebook/pencil helpful, as well as binoculars, snacks, water, etc.

Meet at the east end of Hart Park at the intersection of Alfred Harrell & River Road, 7:30am. Contact Roger (832-1820) for more information or www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Sat. Dec. 1, 2007 - 7:00am
Techachapi Birding Field Trip

This field trip will be led by Richard Sparks, the acting field trip coordinator for the Tehachapi Mountains Birding Club. Richard is a very experienced birder and has indicated we will visit several lake sites, as well as upland areas, but walking will be relatively short and mostly level. Meet at the Shell Station/Jack-in-the-Box at Brundage & Union (Union exit off Hiway 58) for carpooling, at 7:00 a.m. for a 7:10 departure. Or meet in Tehachapi at 8:00 a.m. at the Walgreen's parking lot at Tucker Road and Tehachapi Blvd. (from Highway 58, take the first Tehachapi offramp and Walgreen's is on the left at the first stop light). Richard will be driving an orange Honda Element which he describes as a "toaster on wheels." Bring snacks, water, binoculars....call Roger (832-1820) for further information.

Upcoming Bird Festivals....

The Central Valley Birding Symposium, Nov. 15-18 will be at the Sheraton Stockton and has a variety of field trips, workshops & seminars, plus keynote speakers Laura Erickson (owls) and Jon Dunn, editor of *Nat'l Geographic Birds of NoAmerica*. Go to www.cvbs.org

The annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival sponsored by the Morro Coast Audubon Society will be Jan. 18-21, 2008. Check it out at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org or (805)772-4677

For more informatin about bird festivals nationwide, try these websites:

Birdwatchersdigest.com
Americanbirding.org/festivals

California eBird...is an online bird observation and data recording program developed for birders by Audubon CA, PRBO and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which will help with personal record keeping of bird sightings and the scientific community with research into what's happening with birds. www.eBird.org/California provides an easy way for birders, citizens and scientists to enter bird observations into a common databse accessible to those working to protect and restore habitats for birds in California. All you have to do is register on the website as a new user and follow the instructions. When you record your own bird sightings, you are helping science and conservation AND eBird keeps our lists for us! Interactive maps and graphs are provided. Andrea Jones, IBA Coordinator, strongly recommends that Kern Auduboners get involved by visiting the website and recording our bird sightings!

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

Websites to check out...

Kern Birding Website For a comprehensive web site covering numerous Kern County birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos

What's unusual in Kern County birding? Go to kerncobirding@yahogroups.com for recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

ASK AUDUBON...The newest addition to Audubon's Newswire: submit questions re:consumer choices and the effect on the environment: cblayer@audubon.org.

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 write: chapterleaders@audubon.org

GOT E-MAIL?

e-Warbler...if you would like to receive the Kern *Audubon Warbler* as a pdf file instead of the hardcopy, send an e-mail with PDF Warbler as the subject to tmurphy@bak.rr.com. Let's save some trees!

TREE PLANTING - Sat. Nov. 10

The Kern River Parkway Foundation is planning a tree planting day on the Kern River Bike Path Sat., November 10, 8:00am. 250 trees will be planted along the bike path near the Park at River Walk (Stockdale Hwy. @ Buena Vista) and Kern Audubon is planning to be involved. If you plan to come, please bring a shovel/gloves. Contact Douglas Dodd (654-6815; ddodd@csu.edu) to sign up or come on November 10th!

President Bush Offers Needed Bird Conservation Proposals

Laurel, MD (10/21/07) President Bush has announced new conservation initiatives that would help restore and conserve critical habitat for migratory birds. The policies include a planned conservation bank for endangered species habitat, a state of the birds report from the Interior Department, and international bird habitat protection initiatives.

The Statement of Bob Perciasepe, Audubon's Chief Operating Officer: "*President Bush's proposals to boost bird conservation measures at home and abroad address some of the urgently needed assistance for which Audubon scientists have long advocated. While much needs to be done, we welcome the President's leadership. We look forward to working with him on these important bird conservation proposals. We also need to continue work to strengthen the Clean Water Act, restore and expand wildlife refuges, recover endangered species, invest in ecosystem restoration and end our dependence on fossil fuels.*"

VICTORY! Condor Protection Law Signed

Calls, letters, and e-mails from Audubon members throughout California helped push Gov. Schwarzenegger to sign AB 821, the Condor Preservation Act, on October 13. When the law takes effect, it will prohibit the use of lead ammunition for big game and varmint hunting in the areas of California inhabited by the endangered California condor.

The law is needed because lead poisoning caused by eating big game gut piles and varmint carcasses left behind by hunters is a major source of condor mortality, threatening the millions of dollars invested in condor recovery.

Thank you to everyone who made a call or wrote a letter!



Sign up today to receive **Audubon ACTION ALERT** by e-mail! Using Audubon's simple, online communication tools, you can contact and influence decision makers on important Audubon conservation priorities.

Audubon California:

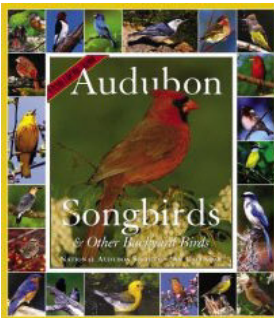
<http://audubonaction.org/California/join.html>

National Audubon Society:

<http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html>

AUDUBON 2008 CALENDARS

Beautiful Audubon calendars for 2008 will be available at the November and December Kern Audubon meetings as a chapter fund-raiser. Cost is \$12 each with six different nature calendars available:



Engagement Calendar
Birds Page-A-Day Calendar
Audubon Birding Trails
365 Songbirds Calendar
Raptors
North American Wildflowers

These will make great holiday & birthday GIFTS!!

How Much Planet Do You Need?!

This website provides an easy and revealing way to see how much you consume, waste, spend, eat...globally speaking. It's like a game...but a serious one.

[.http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/consumerConsequences.html](http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/consumerConsequences.html)

Looking ahead to **DECEMBER 4, 6:00PM...This will be Kern Audubon's second annual holiday POTLUCK & AUCTION** with a special program on Bird Identification with John Wilson!

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair

madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

Ted Murphy, Co-Chair

tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307

Don & Yvonne Turkal, Program

Coordinators

tloveanimals@bak.rr.com; 393-4778

Doug Dodd, Conservation

ddodd@csub.edu; 837-0868

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rcoley@bak.rr.com; 832-1820

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Kathy Love, Hospitality

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Ginny Dallas-Dull, Education

vdallas@bak.rr.com; 587-6323

Annette Wells, Membership

awells0526@yahoo.com; 333-4019

Lisa Twiford, Secretary

letwiford@aol.com

KERN AUDUBON OUTREACH

Dr. Ted Murphy, Kern Audubon Co-Chair, is forming an outreach team to tell the community about Kern Audubon and Kern wildlife. He plans for a group of KAS members who will take powerpoint presentations to service clubs, schools and lead nature walks for groups such as Scouts. This will be a good opportunity to meet the public, meet interesting people and help **create a culture of conservation in Kern County!** Contact Ted at 325-0307 or tmurphy@bak.rr.com and get involved!

TUESDAY BIRDERS TO MEET MONTHLY

November 20th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Beginners as well as the experienced are welcome! Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about meeting time and place.



Window Bird Alert

Thousands of birds are killed each year from flying into home windows. Window Alert is a low-tack decal that reflects ultraviolet sunlight invisible to humans but not to birds. The decals help them "see" windows and thus avoid striking the glass. Cost is \$4 for set of 4 decals: www.windowalert.com to order decals.....

URBAN SPRAWL: THE COST AND THE CURE
James Kunstler to speak in Bakersfield

“The future will require us to build better places, or the future will belong to other people in other societies.”—James Kunstler

On **Wednesday, November 14, 7:00-8:30 PM**, at Cal-State University Bakersfield, in the **Icardo Center** (gym), **James Kunstler** will be speaking to the public about what we need to do now to make our communities livable. ***There is no charge for admission or parking.***

Kunstler is the well-known author of *The Geography of Nowhere* (Simon & Schuster, 1993) and *Home from Nowhere* (Simon & Schuster, 1996). He has long been recognized as a fierce proponent of New Urbanism and strident critic of sprawl and the high costs and inefficiencies associated with an automobile-centric culture. Kunstler’s latest book, *The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of the Oil Age, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-first Century* (2005), expands on his past critiques of suburbia by exploring the economic, political and social changes that will result from the end of access to cheap fossil fuels and the impact this will have on the way we live, work, farm and build.

His topics and approach to them challenge current development trends in the south valley. In the morning he will be speaking to planners and other involved in deciding public policy on development.

Enter from Camino Media, near the Marketplace. It is first building on the right. Parking is next to the Center.



Welcome, New Members

We welcome the following persons who became members of Kern Audubon during the six months of January - July 2007:

Kay Allen, Chloe Anderson, Brenda Anderson, Bakersfield Veterinary Hospital, Dawn & Josh Bradley, George Brink, Margo Brock, Cynthia Cameron, Margaret Clark, Louise Clay, JE Coleman, Helia M. Corral, Dana Davis, Susan Durkan, Frank Echnique, Alice Edwards, Constance Everett, Rose Foster, Mark Garcia, Evelyn Gonzales, Christa Haywood, Wayne Hill, Lynn Hill, Deanna King, Gayle Kuhar, John Ladniak, Val Larson, Harry Liesch, Jerry Long, Bettie Lucas, Bill & Greta Lydecker, Bobbi Meyer, Joe Mier, Maria Montez, Debra Mood, Valerie Neubarth, Jesse Ochoa, Chester Barnes, Tom & Della Page, Carole Ann Peck, Judith Penney, Belen Perez, Irvin Pike, Nancy Pounds, Nancy Putney, Bruce Rapp, Betty Richards, Sonya Richardson, Etta Robin, David Smith, Jean Smith, Benjamin Spingath, Sheldon St. Clair, William Taylor, Jr., Brenda Thomas, Tonya Thompson, Alice Tish, Cliff Tucker, Mark Van Voorhis, John & Joan Witt, Roselin Witer, Bob Wollitz, Daniel Workman, Jean Yerkey

LOCAL ACTION NEEDED: SUPPORT MANDATORY CURBSIDE RECYCLING

On November 7, the Bakersfield City Council will take up a proposal that would lead to universal curbside recycling collection. Kern Audubon Society urges the city to approve the measure, which would authorize the city to pursue a \$1.5-million state grant to improve the city’s recycling collection and sorting capability. Recycling saves energy and resources, resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions and habitat protection.

Please take a moment to call or e-mail the City Council in support of universal curbside recycling.

E-mail: city_council@bakersfieldcity.us
Phone: 661/326-3767

KAS Backs City Habitat Conservation Measure

Kern Audubon Society provided comments to the Bakersfield City Council on October 10, favoring a proposed ordinance to establish a \$500 per day fine for developers and property owners who grade their properties prior to obtaining the necessary permits. Such illegal grading often results in the destruction of endangered species and their habitats, such as Burrowing Owls and the San Joaquin kit fox. The measure was needed to give strength to Bakersfield’s Habitat Conservation Plan. Funds generated by the fines will be placed in a fund to be used toward purchase of land for habitat reserves.

ACT NOW TO HELP STOP GLOBAL WARMING—Urge Congress to Pass a Renewable Electricity Standard and Increase Vehicle Fuel Efficiency

The catastrophic effects of global warming pose a tremendous threat to the survival of many of the world's bird species, which is why the Audubon Society has made combating global climate change a top legislative priority.

And we need your help. Please fax, email or phone our US Senators and Representatives McCarthy & Costa. The energy bill is before committee NOW, so responses are needed as soon as possible! Thank you!!

Here's a sample letter to use as a model. Remember, the most effective letters are written in your own words.

RE: House and Senate Energy Bills: Support 15% Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) and a35 mpg Corporate Average Efficiency Economy Standards (CAFE)

Dear Representative or Senator _____,

Congress will soon convene a conference committee to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act (HR 3221), introduced by Speaker Pelosi, and the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007 (HR 6), introduced by Congressman Rahall.

I urge you to support a final bill that combines two vital elements of both the House and Senate versions:

The House provision creates a national Renewable Energy Standard (RES) that would require utilities to generate 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020. This standard would boost the production of clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar power, biomass, and geothermal, while saving money for consumers, creating jobs, and lowering greenhouse gas pollution.

The Senate version raises the average fleet-wide Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standard from 27 mpg to 35 mpg by 2020. This long overdue improvement in gas mileage will save 1.2 million barrels of oil per day, save consumers \$25 billion, and substantially reduce global warming pollution.

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy estimates that combining the best elements of both versions would cut global warming pollution by 19 percent and save consumers \$850 billion by 2030.

I urge you to make sure that the version of this legislation that Congress sends to the President includes BOTH a 15% RES and a 35 mpg CAFE standard. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Your name _____

Sen. Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
E-mail at her website: <http://boxer.senate.gov/>
Phone: (202) 224-3553

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
E-mail at her website: <http://feinstein.senate.gov/>
Phone: (202) 224-3841
Fax: (202) 228-3954

Rep. Kevin McCarthy
1523 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
E-mail at his website:
<http://kevinmccarthy.house.gov/>
Phone: (202) 225-2915
Fax: (202) 225-2908

Rep. Jim Costa
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
E-mail at his website:
<http://www.costa.house.gov/>
Phone: (202) 225- 3341
Fax: (202) 225- 9308

When you find a bird band:

Call 1-800-327-BAND (2263) - Bird Banding Lab
You keep the band. We will send you a certificate with information about the bird. By reporting band numbers you will be helping to manage our continental waterfowl resource. When you call the Bird Banding Lab, we will ask when and where you encountered the bird. We can then tell you when and where the bird was banded and mail you a certificate of appreciation with additional information."

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Kern Audubon Society
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join **KERN AUDUBON** for these activities...

- Tues. Nov. 6th - Kern Audubon meeting/program on the Techachapi Bluebird Trail
- Sun. Nov. 11, 1:30pm - Field trip to Pixley Wildlife Refuge to see Sandhill Cranes (Members only field trip)
- Sat. Nov. 17, 7:30am - Beginning Birding Workshop at Hart Park
- Sat. Dec. 1, 7:00am - Tehachapi Birding Field Trip

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 # _____