



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 42 no. 9 - NOVEMBER 2013
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org
www.kastehachapibird.org

Kern Audubon

Tues. November 5, 2013 - 7:00pm
Kern Supt of Schools, 17th & L Sts.
(Parking garage at 18th & K Sts. or street parking)

"Renewing a River: Audubon and the Restoration of the San Joaquin River"

Meghan Hertle, Audubon California

Rivers hold a special place in our hearts and minds, evoking memories of waterways, sustaining an abundance of wildlife, and providing the life blood of farms, communities, and cities. However, many of our California rivers have been seriously impacted by water diversions, channelization, and pollution—with the San Joaquin River being one of the most compelling examples. The San Joaquin River is the second largest river in California, yet since the early 1950s its channel was dry for 60 miles. Over the decades, it lost a diverse mosaic of wetland and riverside natural areas that supported an abundance of wildlife – migratory birds and salmon in the hundreds of thousands—replaced by what has been called the most altered landscape on Earth. But in 2006, the future of the San Joaquin River changed when it became part of one of the largest river and salmon restorations in the country.

The goal of this restoration is to return the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to life, establishing sustainable balance among its many uses by both humans and wildlife. Since 1988 Audubon has been a part of this effort to save the river. Meghan Hertle's presentation will take viewers on a photographic journey that highlights the river's history, its importance to birds, wildlife and humans, and efforts to save this river.



NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Sat. November 9 - Atwell Island and Pixley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Crane Festival

This promises to be a great afternoon & evening of birding in the northern part of the county. We will meet at **12:30pm** at the Costco on Rosedale near the gas station to carpool. Eat lunch before you come and bring a SACK DINNER, snacks & water, binoculars and jackets for the evening. After birding at Atwell Island (a Bureau of Land Management restoration project near Alpaugh), we will head to Pixley NWR for the "Return of the Sandhill Cranes Festival" starting at 4:30pm. There will be a 1/2 mile walk to the observation deck at sunset, which is the best time to see the Sandhill Cranes as they fly back to the protection of the refuge for the night. Bring flashlights! Cost is \$10 for transportation.

Those wishing to attend the Sandhill Crane event only can meet at Pixley NWR at 4pm. It's a 45 minute drive from Bakersfield to Earlimart via Hiway 99. Go west at Avenue 56 approx 5.7 miles to sign to refuge. Go north 1 mile.

Wednesday Walk with Ranger Bill - November 13 "Birds & Bikes" - 8:30am

Bring your bike & binoculars to the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Manor Dr (across from the church) for a morning of Fall birding. Target bird? The Phainopepla! Bring water & snacks. Call Bill or Deb for info: 805-0232. Ends by 11am.



Sat. November 16 - Tehachapi area Lakes & Ponds - 7:30am

The Tehachapi area lakes and ponds host many migrating or wintering duck and shorebird species. The field trip will include stops at Brite Lake, the Norbertine Monastery pond, the Tehachapi sewage lagoons, and "Lake Jean," the recharge basin at the east end of town. We should see a variety of ducks as well as grebe and heron species. Red-shouldered Hawks, Osprey, and Bald Eagles are also possible.

Meet at the Tehachapi K Mart parking lot near Burger King at **7:30 am**. We will carpool from there. Contact Angela Guy at angelaguy@att.net or 304-6816. Dress in layers and bring water, snacks, lunch, binoculars. If you have a spotting scope you might want to bring that as well. There will be spare binoculars available, if needed. (www.kastehachapibird.org for information)

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2013 - 2014

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madielsea@aol.com, 322-7470

WHAT'S IN A TITLE?

Of the slate of officers you approved last May, one spot was vacant, that of **vice-president**. First, you need to know what a Kern Audubon vice-president doesn't do: **no** public speaking, **no** letters to write, **no** automatic succession to the presidency. Therefore, this leaves only one responsibility: to attend the monthly board meetings and to chair meetings **only when the president is absent**. As a premier environmental organization, we need to be the best, with a full contingent of officers. If this position appeals to you, please contact me.

Harry Love, President

805-1420 /love3@bak.rr.com

BIRDING FESTIVALS

Bird festivals are fun! You meet other birders, visit new places, see lots of birds, hear interesting presentations, support local economies and much more. For information about festivals around the country, go to...

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals

www.birdwatchersdigest.com

For information about festivals in California, go to...

www.natureali.org/nature_festivals.htm

RENEWING YOUR AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal notices are sent to Audubon members by the National Audubon Society. You can find the expiration of your membership by checking the date on the address label of this newsletter or the *Audubon* magazine. You can also check your membership status and renew membership online at www.audubon.org and click on "Member Center" at the **very top of the homepage**. Or send your renewal check in the amount of \$15 (one year), \$25 (two years), \$35 (three years) to:



National Audubon
Member Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast Fl. 32142

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

It's not too late to register for the CV Bird Symposium November 21-24 in Stockton CA. Lots of field trips and workshops are being offered as well as guest speakers such as Kimball Garret of the American Birding Association and photographer Bob Steele on bird photography. Registration is \$100. Go to www.2013cvbs.org for information.

From Kern Audubon's Library

Librarian David Schaad submitted this review of the book, *Birding on Borrowed Time* by Phoebe Snetsinger. It will be available to borrow at the next meeting.



This is Phoebe's story of how she saw more birds in her life (8,398 species) than any other person at the time of her death in 1999. She began at age 34 when she laid eyes on a beautiful Blackburnian Warbler. She began traveling the world, observing and learning about the world's thousands of bird species. Her intensity and urgency increased when she was diagnosed with cancer and given one year to live. This is lively chronicle of birding adventures and a profoundly moving human document of a truly extraordinary woman.

David also requests that if you have books that belong to the library, please return them so others can enjoy them as well! Questions? Call David: 428-2841 or check out the website for a list of the books in the library: www.kernaudubonsociety.org

WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? To learn more about birds, go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the world leader in the study and conservation of birds.

Kern Birding For a great website about Kern County birding spots:
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 go to: www.audubon.org or chapterleaders@audubon.org

We thank Joseph V. Higbee for the Audubon's Warbler photo used as the newsletter logo. Used by permission.

PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORKDAY

On **Saturday, November 9, 9-11 AM**, Kern Audubon will be having its next monthly work day at the Preserve. The jobs will vary, from mulching to weeding. The Preserve has many tools now, so you don't have to bring your own, but do bring hat, water, and gloves. Last month, the response was fantastic. Paul Gipe, James Geyer, Pat Turner, Dana Adams, Jan Graves, Luis Valladares, Jerry Kay, and Harry Love came to work. But the big story was the fantastic group of students (over 30) from the Interact Clubs of Foothill and Mira Monte High Schools. They did a fantastic job! Thanks to advisors Jan and Luis for bringing them. Would you like to join in the fun? Join us at the gate to the preserve (east end of Roberts Lane off Manor Drive) at 9:00am. Contact Harry (805-1420 love3@bak.rr.com) for more information.



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AREA-UPDATE

Kern Audubon Society is working on the 430 acre Environmental Studies Area north of the bike path in conjunction with the CSUB biology department, which has identified the plant and animal species in the studies area. The goal now is to provide a sign for the public to be aware of the species and how to connect to a website for detailed information about the area. With the help of Kern Audubon member and Chevron, USA employee, **Greta Lydecker**, Chevron was contacted with a request to grant funds to finance the sign. **Chevron** has agreed to finance the entire sign project in the amount of \$2400! Much thanks to Chevron and to Greta and for Chevron's commitments to this project, the Panorama Vista Preserve, and other environmental projects in the community. **Thank you Chevron!**



UPDATE ON USED BINOCULARS

Last month KAS mailed 15 used binoculars to the American Birding Association (ABA) as part of their Birder Exchange Program. The binoculars will go to students living in the Caribbean area who are working on their birding skills. More binoculars are needed! Please bring your old ones to the next Kern Audubon meeting, Tuesday November 5th, 7:00pm!

REFLECTION FROM A FOUNDING MEMBER* ON KERN AUDUBON'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

To: Madi Elsea & Harry Love,

Please give everyone my best regards and congratulations on reviving this Audubon chapter from a serious but thankfully, not permanent slump (2002-2006). We're thriving again and I'm in awe of the success of it all. I've always considered the original organization of Audubon in Kern County to be one of my greatest donations to this lovely earth on which we all reside. We owe so much for all of this bounty and beauty and I'm glad that I was able to be part of carrying on this legacy. Simply put, there isn't anything more important. All of you who are now doing the work of going forward are heroes and I hope that all of you love working in this cause as I did for many years.

You couldn't be volunteering for anything more important!

Most sincerely,
Irene Heath

**Editor's note: Irene Heath was Kern Audubon's first president the year it was founded in 1973.*



Project FeederWatch

Embrace the winter. Count feeder birds for science!

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH is a winter-long survey of birds that visit backyard feeders in North America, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You can participate in this "citizen science" project that helps scientists track movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution. Anyone interested in birds can participate, including children and novice birders! Participants watch their feeders as much or as little as they want over two consecutive days weekly and report their findings. Participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions. There is a \$15 annual fee which covers materials, staff support, data analysis and a year-end report.

If you'd like more information or to participate, go to: www.feederwatch.org. Project Feederwatch starts November 9, 2013, so register now!

Looking ahead...Join Kern Audubon for the **Annual Holiday gathering on December 3rd, 6:30pm.**

Photographer GREG IGER will present a brief program of photos and we will have our annual potluck & AUCTION. Heather Ellison, Auction Chair, is coordinating the silent & bidding auction and is hoping you will donate items such as artwork, wreaths, quilts, bird-related items, etc. Please call or email her with a description of your item(s): 319-4721 or hk_ellison@yahoo.com



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us on FACEBOOK and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, etc. as well as get information on field trips and programs!

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Nov. 5, 7:00pm - Fall Program/Meeting
- Sat. Nov. 9, 9 - 11am - PVP Workparty
- Sat. Nov. 9, 12:30pm - Atwell Island/Pixley NWR outing
- Wed. Nov. 13, 8:30am - Birds & Bikes Field Trip
- Sat. Nov. 16, 7:30am - Tehachapi area lakes/ponds outing

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C2ZC300Z)

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* (10 issues)

____New Member \$20

Make check payable to **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Send this form and your check for \$20 to:

Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____