

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 35 Number 7 - October 2006
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society

KERN AUDUBON

Tuesday OCTOBER 17, 2006 - 7:00PM

Location change for this meeting only!!

UC MERCED DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

20TH & K Sts., Bakersfield

Street parking or University Square parking structure (enter on 20th between L & K))

Guest Speaker: Glenn Olson, Executive Director

Audubon California

“California Audubon Conservation Highlights”

Glenn Olson is Vice President and Executive Director of Audubon California. He oversees Audubon programs in California, which include a network of nature centers and wildlife sanctuaries, 50 local Audubon chapters, and more than 60,000 Audubon members. Audubon California recently completed an update of the *2010 Conservation Action Plan* charting Audubon's course over the next 5 years, including major conservation initiatives to protect the most important California landscapes for birds, such as San Francisco Bay, the Salton Sea, and the Mayacamas Mountains region of the Interior Coast Range.

Glenn has been with Audubon for over 30 years, starting his Audubon career as conservation chair for the Los Angeles Audubon chapter and taught at the Audubon Camp of the West in Dubois, Wyoming. Before becoming Executive Director of Audubon Ca, he was Audubon's Western Regional Director. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from UCLA and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Glenn and his wife, Devon, reside in Sacramento, California. They have 3 grown children.

Refreshments served plus lots of great RAFFLE prizes at the meeting!

Sat. Oct. 7 Lake Ming Birding

“Especially for Beginners!”

Meet: 7:30am - Lake Ming flagpole

This field trip will be oriented toward beginning birders and will be led by Brenda Kyle, one of Kern County's most experienced birders and leader of Tuesday Birders. We will start at Lake Ming and then travel to Hart Park, finishing about 10:30am. Bring binoculars, water, snacks. All experience levels welcome! Call Brenda for more information (871-4867)

If you want to carpool, meet at the Von's parking lot at corner of Stockdale & California, 7:00am, with Ted Murphy (325-0307)

OCT. 21 FIELD TRIP

Windwolves Preserve

7:30am - meet at the Parkway parking lot across from Cal State Bakersfield

Windwolves Preserve is the largest privately owned nature preserve in California (100K acres) and is located just south of Bakersfield along Hiway 166. We had several field trips last spring to bird and see wildflowers, now we will have the opportunity to see Windwolves in its fall colors!

We thank Joseph V. Higbee for the Audubon's Warbler photo (top of page), used by permission. (www.pbase.com/jvhigbee/)

FOR THE BIRDS...

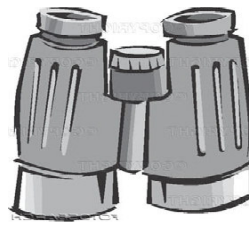
We want to encourage a great turnout for our Oct. 17th meeting with GLENN OLSON, Executive Director with Audubon California. This will be Glenn's first meeting with Kern Audubon since becoming Executive Director and the re-emergence of this chapter, which he is excited about. *Please note that this meeting is at a different time & location: Tues. Oct. 17th at UC Merced (20th & K)!* Glenn will have some important words about Audubon's vision for California, as well as how Kern Audubon can make a difference in Kern County! Come & bring an interested friend!

Our faithful treasurer and one of Kern Audubon's founding members, IRENE HEATH, has finally been able to release her treasurer duties! We thank Irene for her many years of service and are pleased to welcome ANN ETUE as the new Treasurer. Ann joined Kern Audubon in Jan. 2002 and is a retired nurse. She birds regularly with the Tues. Birders.

We're still looking for folks to serve on the leadership team...we need Conservation Comm. members, data base keeper, etc. Call us!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair (322-7470)

Ted Murphy, Co-Chair (325-0307)



TUESDAY BIRDERS

During the month of October, Tuesdays Birders will meet on Tues. Oct 10 & 24th, usually at 7:30am.

Beginning birders as well as the experienced are welcome! Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for the meeting place!

Kern Birding Website To access an excellent, comprehensive web site covering numerous Kern County birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Wind Wolves Workday - October 7th

Want the chance to be outside in a beautiful setting and help restore some habitat?! Dave Clendenen, Wind Wolves Preserve Manager, invites interested persons to join in the monthly fall work parties at the preserve, 9:00 on Oct. 7, Nov. 11 & Dec. 9th. Bring your lunch, water bottle, leather work gloves, boots, layered clothing, and enthusiasm! Water provided and a BBQ dinner (must RSVP for dinner @858-1115 or 747-0374). Camping available at The Crossing in San Emigdio Canyon on Sat. night. Call the office (858-1115) for more information.

Nov 7 - Vote Conservation: Yes on Prop 84, No on Prop 90

Yes on Prop 84 - \$5.4 billion conservation and water quality bond. Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond, is critical to renew funding for the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Coastal Conservancy, numerous regional conservancies, and other important restoration and acquisition programs. Without Prop 84, many of the State's conservation dollars will dry up within the next one to two years, a risk we cannot afford to take. Audubon California is working hard to make sure that Prop 84 passes!

No on Prop 90 - A Tax Payer Trap Proposition 90 is an assault on environmental protection in California. Hidden behind language to stop abuses of eminent domain, Prop 90 includes several dangerous provisions that would drastically cut back on the government and even voters' ability to protect environment, local communities, and farmland. Prop 90 aims to restrict governments' ability to pass land-use regulations by requiring the government to make huge payments to landowners unless the regulation are to protect narrowly-defined public health or safety. Prop 90 would also make it prohibitively expensive for public agencies to acquire property for wildlife, public works projects, new schools, fire protection measures, and utilities. Audubon CA recommends a "NO" vote.

ONCE UPON A TIME...CLOCKTOWER HOLIDAYS Kern county Museum -- November 16 - December 31

Kern Audubon has been invited to join other non-profits, businesses & agencies to decorate a Christmas Tree or wreath for Clocktower Holidays at the Kern Co. Museum. The theme is "Once Upon a Time" and the trees /wreaths will be decorated using fairy tales. We will need a group of folks to help design the decorations, which will be paid for by the museum. Allene Krizo, a member of Kern Audubon and the museum board, will be Kern Audubon's coordinator. If you'd like to help with this FUN project that will also be a great way to publicize Kern Audubon, call Allene (871-0405). This will be a short-term effort to be concluded by the opening event, November 16th.

Kern River Valley Earns Hemispheric Recognition

by Bob Barnes

The Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada is one of two "Hot Spots for Summer Songbird Diversity" in the Western Hemisphere highlighted in the new book Songbird Journeys: Four Seasons in the Lives of Migratory Birds (Walker Press, New York, 2006). Author Miyoko Chu writes, "Summer bird watching is especially exciting where different habitats converge, bringing diverse bird species together in the same region.... California's Kern River Valley and surrounding areas offer spectacular contrasts in landscapes and wildlife, from lush riparian woodlands to the towering sequoias of the Sierra Nevada to the Mojave Desert and foothill chaparral habitats..."

In the three page section of Songbird Journeys entitled "Southern Sierra Nevada and Kern River Valley, California," Ms. Chu refers to the Giant Sequoia National Monument, Audubon California's Kern River Preserve, the South Fork Kern River Globally Important Bird Area as some of the natural areas found in the region. She then goes into some detail on specific birds to look for in different habitats: Great Basin, Mojave Desert, chaparral, forested mountains of the southern Sierra Nevada, and the Kern River Preserve's riparian habitat. The author's writings on the Kern River Valley end with visitor information: WHEN TO GO (April through July), NEAREST BIG CITIES (Bakersfield, Los Angeles), SPECIAL ACTIVITIES (including art, astronomy, birding, festivals, fishing, geology, hiking, plants, rafting, and wildlife). FOR MORE INFORMATION (Kern River Preserve web site), and RECOMMENDED READING (Tips for birding the area).

Miyoko Chu is an ornithologist and staff science writer at Cornell University's internationally recognized Laboratory of Ornithology. She is editor of the Lab's Birdscope newsletter and assistant editor of Living Bird magazine. She lives in Ithaca, New York, with her husband and two children.

For more information visit: www.songbirdjourneys.com.

Invitation to Attend 24th Annual Barbecue for the Birds Saturday, October 7th, 5 p.m.

It's time once again for the annual FACT (*Facility for Animal Care & Treatment at CSUB*) **BBQ for the Birds**. We are looking forward to a great deep-pit dinner, great music by Rare and Endangered, and very exciting live and silent auction bidding. Open House begins at 2:00p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. The silent auction will run during open house and dinner. Live auction bidding begins after dinner.

Tickets are available from members of Friends of FACT, by calling FACT at 654-3167, or email FACT at fact@csub.edu. Reservations are requested and tickets can be purchased in advance. If time allows tickets will be mailed to you, tickets will be at the door. Tickets are: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors (60+), \$6 kids 5-12. Hope to see you there!

HILLSIDE ORDINANCE: WHAT'S NEXT

After unanimous recommendation by the City Planning Comm., the proposed Hillside Ordinance goes to the City Council on Wed. Oct. 11th. You are asked to call or email the City Council to urge their support. Phone: 326-3767 or fax: 323-3780. Email: city_council@bakersfield.ca.us. Letters to the Editor are also encouraged: opinion@bakersfield.com

RAFFLES NEED PRIZES! Have some birding or nature related items that might make good raffle prizes?! Bring them to the monthly meetings and we will use them as part of our fund raising! Like to coordinate the monthly raffle? What an easy job! Contact Madi (322-7470) to volunteer!

Proposed SVRA

The County Planning Comm. hearing on the proposed State Vehicular Recreation Area north of Bakersfield, was scheduled to be heard Sept. 28, with its recommendation to go to the Board of Supervisors on Tues. Oct. 24th. There are serious environmental concerns related to Poso Creek, which runs through the southeastern portion of the proposed park, as well as concerns about air quality and Valley Fever spores from the dust. Members of Kern Audubon are asked to contact Supervisors urging a NO vote. Call or email: 868-360; board@co.kern.ca.us or Chairman Patrick: district3@co.kern.ca.us

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Oct 7 - Lake Ming field trip, especially for beginning birders
- Oct 17 - Program with Glenn Olson, Aud CA Exec Director
- Oct 21 - Wind Wolves field trip

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Bakersfield CA
Permit #93

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (7XCHC30)

If you would like to be part of an organization that actively protects our present and future, join National Audubon Society and Kern Audubon! Please complete the form below and send with your check !

Membership includes the national *Audubon Magazine* (6 issues) and the Kern *Audubon's Warbler*.

____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 # _____

PROPOSED BAKERSFIELD STATE VEHICLE RECREATION AREA

A draft Environmental Impact Report has been made on a proposed State Vehicular Recreation Area (also known as an Offhighway or OHV park) to be located on 11,000 acres approximately 9 miles northeast of Bakersfield, near the intersection of Round Mountain Road and Adobe Canyon Road. The park would be owned and operated by the California State Parks and would be open during daylight hours 7 days a week for use by all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles and 4WD vehicles. Anticipated use would be approximately 100,000 visitors annually.

The proposed site elevation ranges from about 800 ft to 2800 ft and running from east to west through the site is Poso Creek, the second largest perennial stream in Kern County, second only to the Kern River. The downstream portion of Poso Creek within the project site contains a dense covering of riparian woodland dominated by willows and cottonwoods. and provides suitable habitat for 17 sensitive wildlife species, including 6 federally and/or state endangered and/or threatened wildlife species, in addition to a number of common resident and migratory wildlife species. The draft EIR indicates there are "sensitive biological resources within Poso Creek considered to be valuable to the region, and potential direct and/or indirect impacts to any portions of Poso Creek are considered significant" and would require "mitigation measures."

Other significant "Impacts on the Environment" to be considered: air quality, water issues, access to the site, wildland fire, agriculture.

A hearing has been scheduled by the Kern County Planning Commission to receive public comments on SEPTEMBER 14, 2006, 7PM, Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, Kern Co. Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun. Though this proposed SVRA is in the "conceptual level" of planning, the Planning Commission WILL be making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors based on the EIR, written public comments and the staff report. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hear the proposal on Tues. October 10, 7pm. Kern Auduboners are encouraged to attend both hearings and/or offer comments to the Planning Commission. You can write the commissioners by email: planning@co.kern.ca.us. The website for Kern County Planning Dept. is www.co.kern.ca.us/planning.

Please express your concern about the SVRA's impact on the Poso Creek environment and raise questions about the impact the park will have on our air quality, including dust (Valley Fever spores?!). 100,000 "visitors" on motorized vehicles will have an impact

Madi Elsea (322-7470) and Ted Murphy (325-0785) have CD copies of the draft EIR if you'd like more information.

DESERT TORTOISE NATURAL AREA

The 39 square mile Desert Tortoise Natural Area is found in Eastern Kern County, 4 miles northeast of California City just off the Randsburg-Mojave Road. It is home to California's state reptile, the Desert Tortoise, 29 species of breeding birds, 27 other reptile species and 23 species of mammals. The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee is planning a Work Party October 28-29 which provides an opportunity for birding as well as getting acquainted with desert tortoise habitat. Tasks for the work party include weeding, fence & trail maintenance, clean-up. For more information and to register, contact Michael Connor, Committee Director, at (951) 683-3872 or email at dtpc@pacbell.net.



SAVE THIS DATE!!!

Tues. Oct. 17th - 7:00pm
Special meeting date
KERN AUDUBON

Plan to meet & hear
GLEN OLSON,
Executive Director of Audubon
California

This will be Glen Olson's first appearance with Kern Audubon since taking over as Executive Director of Audubon CA. Let's give him a great welcome and hear about Audubon CA's vision for our state!

This will be no first Tuesday meeting in October...
join us on October 17th, 7pm!

LOKERN PRESERVE

Lokern Preserve is one of several small preserves in the southern San Joaquin Valley operated by the Center for Natural Lands Management. The 3000 acre site is located 33 miles west of Bakersfield along Hiway 58. The preserve's terrain consists of flat and gently rolling shrubland and grassland. Vegetation is mixed and hosts a number of endangered animals, including kit fox, blunt-nosed lizard, San Joaquin antelope ground squirrel & Tipton kangaroo rat. The endangered plant species Kern mallow is also present. Preserve Manager Greg Warrick will present a program for Kern Audubon in February on the Center's three preserves as well as leading a field trip. In the meantime, Greg invites persons interested in the small mammal trapping/tagging program, to consider helping out sometime during the week of Sept 25-29. It involves a 4 hour evening commitment, but promises to very interesting. If you would like more information, contact Greg by email: gwarrick@cnlm.org and indicate the Kern Audubon connection.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Is Audubon just about birdwatching? Far from it! The mission of Audubon is ***to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.*** To that end, National Audubon's "Agenda 2006" includes these 9 priorities for the 109th Congress:

- 1) Clean water protections by strengthening the Clean Water Act (Proposition 84 in Calif.)
- 2) Protecting birds and wildlife by supporting America's basic conservation laws including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Protection Act.
- 3) Preserving America's Arctic Landscape--opposing drilling in the Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge which has breeding grounds for millions of migratory birds.
- 4) Protecting our great natural heritage -- bringing back nationally significant places in the American landscape by efforts to reduce pollution, and restore habitat.
- 5) Conserving ocean life--supporting measures to reinvigorate fisheries, prevent overfishing, increasing protections for seabirds and coastal areas.
- 6) Protecting wildlife refuges
- 7) Connecting people with nature through Audubon Nature Centers, such as the Kern River Preserve.
- 8) Investing in birds, wildlife and habitat through funding for federal wildlife refuges, Land & Water Conservation Fund, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, invasive species control programs.
- 9) Helping private property owners help birds and wildlife--support funding for conservation programs in the Farm Bill as well as tax incentives for landowners to protect bird and wildlife habitat.

The Audubon Society has been in existence since 1899 and its first significant event: the Christmas Bird Count of 1900. It has long been one of the most significant grass-roots conservation organizations with over 400,000 chapter members. Thank you for being part of the Audubon legacy!