



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No. 7 - OCTOBER 2008

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society

A chapter of National Audubon Society

www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Gathering

TUES. OCTOBER 7, 2008 - 7:00pm

Note *LOCATION CHANGE* (October only)...we will meet at University Square, 20th & K Sts--US2 Room
Parking in the garage @21st & L Sts



Ron Garrett



"California Condor Conservation & Tejon Ranch"

Pete Bloom, Raptor and Condor specialist

Peter Bloom, a consulting zoologist, will speak on "California Condor Conservation and the Tejon Ranch." Pete is a long-term raptor biologist who has studied birds of prey since 1970 and has a vast knowledge of California species. He worked for the National Audubon Society from 1982 to 1987, during the capture of the last of the wild, free-living California Condors. His work involved several phases, from outfitting condors with radio-transmitters to track their movements to capturing the last condors as part of the Condor recovery program. Since that time he has worked with Tejon Ranch studying the condor population and habitat.

Pete received a Master's Degree from California State University Long Beach focussing on Red Shouldered Hawks and is now completing a Ph.D. dissertation for the University of Idaho, Moscow on "Natal Dispersal of Red Tail Hawks" .

October 18th Field Trip, 7:00AM

TOMO-KAHNI STATE PARK

East of Techachapi
7:00am to early afternoon

This will be a combined birding and cultural experience with State Park Ranger Bill Moffatt and birder/rancher John Hammond, who also knows the park extensively and speaks the Kawaiisu language, providing the day's exciting leadership.

Tomo-Kahni is an unusual state parkland, created in the 1990s by tribal elders, anthropologists and state park officials who wished to protect this unique village site and the intriguing blend of High Desert and High Sierra environments that surrounds it.

More information about the field trip is on p.6 and on the website: kernaudubonsociety.org

We will meet for carpooling at the Park n Ride lot on Stockdale between Real Rd. and the entrance to Hiway 99. Dress in layers; bring water, snacks/binoculars. Contact Bill Moffatt for information (764-6764).

BEGINNING BIRDERS FIELD TRIP

Sat. OCTOBER 11th - 7:30am

Beginning Birders are invited to a field trip/workshop in Hart Park to learn birding basics and how to identify some of the species we see in the park. Michael McQuerrey, one of Kern County's expert birders, will lead the field trip. Michael has a vast knowledge of local species, including vocalizations of owls in the area and is an excellent teacher.

Meet to car pool at the Park'n'Ride on Stockdale Highway between Real Road and Hwy. 99 at 7:30AM to depart at 7:40. Bring snacks, water, layered clothing. Call Ted Murphy for more information (325-0307).



KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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REDUCING KAS' CARBON FOOTPRINT

Have you noticed that Kern Audubon invites you to meet at some designated place and then CARPOOL to a field trip location? The aim is two-fold: to reduce the number of gas-guzzling vehicles in our convoy, and to encourage getting acquainted with other birders.

*Implicit in Kern Audubon's mission is **conservation**, and reducing green house emissions is an important aspect of that goal.* While some of us drive hybrids, ALL of us can rideshare and have the same effect.

Another aspect is this: a vehicle with four or five people on a common mission will be filled with communication, common learning, and fun! We learn more about the birds, environment, and each other. What could be better than that?!

Another way to impact our carbon footprint is in reducing paper usage. So, if you would like to receive the *Audubon's Warbler* electronically, just email your request to tmurphy@bak.rr.com

Kern Audubon Executive Board

9th ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE

Tule Elk Reserve

Sun. Oct. 12, 10am - 4pm

Sponsored by the Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians

There will be an elk tour with Ranger Bill Moffatt, exhibitor booths featuring Wind Wolves Preserve, Center for Biological Diversity, Valley Fever Foundation, Kern Water Bank, Matilia Nursery, etc., a children's corner with basketweaving and milkweed cordage, and many Native artists.

Take Stockdale Hiway west past Hiway 5 to Morris Rd. Turn left at the Tule Elk State Reserve sign. The public is welcome for a day celebrating a healthy earth!

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

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

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 email chapterleaders@audubon.org

Remember to check out Kern Audubon's own website.....**www.kernaudubonsociety.org**

E-WARBLER If you would like to receive the *Audubon Warbler* by email instead of hardcopy, send an e-mail to tmurphy@bak.rr.com. Save some trees!

Sign up today to receive **Audubon ACTION ALERT** online! Using Audubon's simple, online action tools, you can 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>

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. October 16th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place to meet.



RAFFLE PRIZES are welcomed for the monthly Kern Audubon meeting fund-raiser. Bring a wildlife-related article or something special to share at the next meeting!....If you would like to help provide REFRESHMENTS, contact our Hospitality Coordinator Kathy Love (589-6245)...she'll love you!

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

CSUB'S FACT BBQ FOR THE BIRDS

The 26th annual Facility for Animal Care & Treatment of (FACT) Barbecue for the Birds and Open House will be Saturday October 4th, 2pm with BBQ at 5pm in the Environmental Studies Area at CSUB.



There will be tours of FACT, feature talks and demonstrations with live birds of prey. Many young birds, such as barn owls, great horned and red-tail hawks will be on display. CSUB biology students will give visitors an opportunity to dissect owl pellets and study bones of animals eaten by owls.

Nature gifts, FACT tshirts, note cards, etc. will be for sale by the CSUB 60Plus Action Network.

The dinner includes deep-pit beef and turkey, beans, salad, desserts, etc....plus a silent auction, LIVE auction and opportunity drawing. Dinner tickets are \$15/adults, \$10/seniors and students, \$ 6 children (ages 5-12). Call 654-3167 for reservations or email FACT at fact@csub.edu.

FACT is a wildlife rescue and conservation education project founded in 1975 by Kern Audubon's own Dr. Ted Murphy, CSUB professor emeritus of biology! FACT is supported by this annual barbecue, members of Friends of FACT and the sale of gift items.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

On Sat. October 11th, 9am, the Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will hold its annual sale of native plants on the CSUB campus near FACT. The public is invited! Enter CSUB on the south side of campus off Camino Media. A large selection of plants appropriate to various habitats in Kern County will be available. For more information contact Lucy Clark: Lucyg391@gmail.com



BACKYARD BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

A newly-published book will be available at the October 7th meeting of Kern Audubon called *Backyard Birds of California: How to Identify and Attract the Top 25 Birds*. The book includes a profiled bird scale for easier identification, a range and distribution map for each bird, color photographs and specific descriptions, including identification marks, behavior, habitat and nesting style. There are also articles by author Bill Fenimore on creating backyard bird sanctuaries, tips on feeders and water features, vegetation, etc.

The 100 page book, available for \$10, is especially good for beginning birders and will make wonderful gifts!

Support the chapter fundraiser...buy a book!

Looking ahead to **TUES. NOVEMBER 4th, 7:00pm....** A special program is planned with **ALISON SHEEHEY** as our guest speaker on the Natural History of Kern County. Alison is an accomplished photographer and has an amazing presentation on the variety and diversity of the flora, fauna and geography of Kern County. She is also Outreach Coordinator for the Kern River Preserve, one of Audubon California's nature centers, located just an hour east of Bakersfield along the southfork of the Kern River.

Kern Audubon Speakers Bureau

Ted Murphy, Co-chair of Kern Audubon, has organized a speakers bureau to provide programs to local clubs and other groups on a wide range of topics by a number of speakers, including:

The Antiquities Act: How National Monuments Were Established
Birding in Peru
Tule Elk State Reserve
Kern-Pixley Wildlife Refuges
Bakersfield's Favorite Furry, the Urban Kit Fox
History of the Audubon Society
Global Warming
Birds of Kern County
The Early History of the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment.
Kern County Land Preserves.

Other topics may be added and additional speakers recruited. All of the presentations are illustrated with color photos and last 45 minutes with question periods following. Some topics may be adapted to a shorter time period of 20—30 minutes, depending on the type of meeting.

If you need a program for your group, call Ted (325-0307). He will refer your request to the appropriate presenter who will then contact you to make the arrangements for the presentation.

Come Celebrate: Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 16-19, 2009

Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the 13th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival! Because of its coastal location, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2009 brochure, or register online. Both the brochure and online registration will be available in October 2008. The registration deadline is January 5, 2009 but early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.



BIRD FEEDING BASICS

Provide nectar for hummingbirds.

Make a sugar solution of one part white sugar to four parts water. Boil briefly to sterilize and dissolve sugar crystals; do NOT add red food coloring. Feeders must be washed every few days with very hot water and kept scrupulously clean to prevent the growth of mold.

Clean feeders and rake up spilled grain and hulls.

Uneaten seed can become soggy and grow deadly mold. Empty and clean feeders at least quarterly, if not monthly. Using a long-handled bottlebrush, scrub with dish detergent and rinse with a powerful hose; then soak in a bucket of 10% bleach solution for at least 5 minutes, then rinse well, and dry in the sun. Keep spilled grain and sunflower hulls raked up under your feeders to prevent spread of disease.

Store seed in secure metal containers.

Store seed in metal garbage cans with secure lids to protect it from squirrels and mice. Keep the cans in a cool, dry location; avoid storing in the heat. Damp seeds may grow mold that can be fatal to birds. Overheating can destroy the nutrition and taste of sunflower seeds. For these reasons, it's best not to keep seed from one winter to the next.

Locate feeders to reduce window collisions. |

In the United States, approximately one billion birds die from flying into windows each year. Protect birds from collisions by placing feeders more than three feet from windows, if possible. Mobiles and opaque decorations hanging outside windows also help to prevent bird strikes. Or attach fruit tree netting outside windows to deflect birds from the glass.

Keep cats indoors.

Cats kill millions of birds annually in the United States, often pouncing on ground-feeding birds and those dazed by window collisions. Responsible and caring cat owners keep their cats indoors, where they are also safer from traffic, disease, and fights with other animals. Outdoor cats are especially dangerous to birds in the spring when fledglings are on the ground. Bells on cat collars are usually ineffective for deterring predation.



BIRD FEEDING BASICS
BY STEPHEN W. KRESS, PH.D.

For more information go to www.audubon.org/bird/bird_feeding

More information on exciting Oct. 18th field trip: Tomo-Kahni State Park, east of Tehachapi. CA State Park Ranger Bill Moffat, trip leader, will be joined by Tehachapi Mountain Birding Club president Jon Hammond to guide us on a wildlife/cultural tour of Tomo-Kahni State Historical Park, one of the newest of the California State Parks. Both are great birders, very knowledgeable wildlife enthusiasts, and they are also members of Kern Audubon!

Tomo-Kahni, or "Winter Village," was the site of a Kawaiisu (Nuooah) Village. The Kawaiisu migrated from the Great Basin and made the Tehachapis their home for two to three thousand years. Noted for their finely woven baskets of intricate and colorful design, the Kawaiisu roamed the Mojave Desert during tsummers and spent winters in this Native American Village in Sand Canyon.

Jon Hammond is a Tehachapi rancher and correspondent for the Tehachapi News. His weekly column, "Pen in Hand", shares his extensive knowledge of the area's history, plants, agriculture and animals. Not only is Jon an expert birder/photographer, he has extensive knowledge of the Park and speaks the Kawaiisu language. He has compiled a bird list with Kawaiisu names.

Ranger Bill Moffatt has 25 years experience as a park ranger, including Big Sur State Park and Carnegie SVR near Livermore before coming to Kern County where he manages 4 parks: Tule Elk Reserve, Tejon and Allensworth State Historic Parks and the Mojave Desert State Park.

To carpool meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Park'n'Ride on Stockdale Highway between Real Road and Hwy. 99. For more information, you may call Bill Moffat at (661)201-9279 or check the Kern Audubon website at www.kernaudubonsociety.org.

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Oct. 7, 7:00pm - Meeting/ program "Calif. Condor Conservation & Tejon Ranch"
- Sat. Oct. 11, 7:30AM - Beginning Birders field trip to Hart Park
- Sat. Oct. 18th, 7:00am Tomo-Kahni State Park, Tehachapi, for birding and Native cultures exploration

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 # _____