



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 42 no. 8 - October 2013  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)  
[www.kastehachapibird.org](http://www.kastehachapibird.org)

## Kern Audubon

Tues. October 1, 2013 - 7:00pm  
Kern Supt of Schools, 17th & L Sts.  
(Parking garage at 18th & K Sts. or street parking)

### “Birds of Southeast Asia”

#### Bob Steele, Wildlife Photographer

Internatioanlly known photographer Bob Steele will present a program of his photographs of birds of southeast Asia. Bob and his wife Susan traveled to Thailand and Malayasia in 2012 and 2013. They especially enjoyed Thailand, a country about the size of California which has recorded well over 1000 species of birds, including one of the rarest birds on the planet, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Bob makes his home in Ridgecrest and bird-rich Kern County. His photos have graced the cover of *Birding* magazine, many Cornell Lab of Ornithology publications, *Audubon* magazine and *Birder's World* and he has been a major contributor to the *Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. For more information on Bob Steele and to preview some of his technically stunning work, go to [www.bobsteelephoto.com](http://www.bobsteelephoto.com)



Black-throated Sunbird (Bob Steele photo)

## OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

### Sat. October 5 - Sawyer Lake, Tehachapi

The field trip will start at Sawyer Lake and then we'll walk the Golden Hills Water District Road. We hope to see ducks, geese and shorebirds at the lake. We also hope to "twitch" some fall migrants as we walk. Hawks, Great-horned Owl, and Woodpeckers should also be seen.

Meet at the K Mart parking lot near Burger King in **Tehachapi at 7:30 am.** to carpool. For information: [angelaguy@att.net](mailto: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. **Bakersfield folks will meet at 6:45am** at the Park n Ride on Stockdale Hiway between Hiway 99 & Real Rd. to carpool (\$10 for drivers).

### Sat. Oct 12, 8:30am - Beginning Birders Workshop

Dr. John Wilson, noted Kern County birder, will lead this outing for new & beginning birders at Hart Park. Meet at the east entrance to the park near the corner of Alfred Harrell Highway & River. John will go over basics such as field guides, binoculars and how to identify some of the species regularly seen at the park. Bring binoculars (also available to borrow), water, snacks. We will conclude by 11am. Call Madi (549-2391) for info.

### Wed. October 16, 8:00am - Lake Ming

Join leader Roger Coley for this exploration of the lake on a beautiful fall morning! Waterfowl, fall migrants and resident birds will be spotted. Meet at the entrance to Lake Ming off Alfred Harrell Hiway near the marina. Bring binocs, good walking shoes, sun hats, snacks/water. We will conclude by 11am. Call Roger for info: 832-1820.



### Sat. Oct. 26, 8:00am - Truxtun Lake

Park Ranger Bill Moffat will lead this fall outing around Truxtun Lakes where we can expect to see fall migrants, waterfowl, shorebirds and year-round residents. Meet at the Truxtun Extension parking lot between Mohawk and the painted watertower. Good walking shoes, water/snacks, binocs are suggested. Contact Deb (805-0232) for more information.

## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**2013 - 2014**

Harry Love, President/Conservation

love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6245

Sasha Honig

sashahonig@gmail.com; 325-0026

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gmckibbin@farmersagent.com; 392-1403

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Angelaguy@att.net; 304-6816

Madi Elsea, Past President/Warbler Editor

madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

## **PRESIDENT'S NEST**



Over two years ago, the Tehachapi Mountain Birding Club folded. This meant an end to local programs and outings. However, many of the members were also members of the Kern Audubon Society. They also were aware of the great birding sites and opportunities in their region, especially being at the halfway point between the Mojave Desert and the San Joaquin Valley and initiated the idea of somehow affiliating with Kern Audubon. The KAS executive board responded with an informational meeting in Tehachapi to explain how to establish a sub-chapter of KAS. Well, two years have passed; the dedicated work and persistence of several people have paid off. A big **'thanks'** to **Angela Guy, Carol Gates, Mary Dufrain, and Richard Sparks** for providing the support, skills, and work to make the transition successful. A metaphor that might apply to them is that they are like the weaver bird, building a nest that is the most protective and supportive of all birds. Quarterly meetings are being held in Tehachapi and monthly field trips, so Kern Audubon-Tehachapi is off to a great start!

Harry Love, President

## **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](http://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



**Audubon**

### **WEBSITES to check out...**

**Info about birds?** To learn more about birds, go to [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://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](http://www.natureali.org/birding.htm).

**Audubon California** has a great website about its activities and organization: [www.Audubon-ca.org](http://www.Audubon-ca.org)

**Audubon in the news** - To find out more about National Audubon go to: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) or [chapterleaders@audubon.org](mailto:chapterleaders@audubon.org)

## **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](http://www.Americanbirding.org/festivals)

[www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)

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

[www.natureali.org/nature\\_festivals.htm](http://www.natureali.org/nature_festivals.htm)

## **CARDS, CALENDARS & MORE**

Friends of the Southwest Library collect calendars, cards & notepads for use in their "store" which supports the library. Barb Coley, Kern Audubon member, will be collecting these over the next few months, so please bring them to our Audubon meetings or email her: [bgcoley@att.net](mailto:bgcoley@att.net) for more information.

## **Central Valley Bird Symposium**

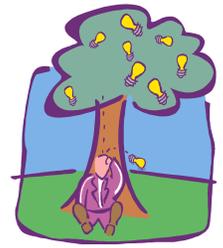
Interested birders are invited to participate in the 17th annual Central Valley Bird Symposium November 21-24 at the Stockton Hilton in Stockton CA. The symposium is jam-packed with keynote speakers, workshops, and dozens of field trips throughout central California. Kimball Garrett of the American Birding Association is one of the speakers and noted photographer Bob Steele (Kern Audubon's October 1st program!) is leading workshops on bird photography. Several beginning birders workshops will be presented plus there will be artwork and gifts for sale. Registration is \$100.

For more information and to register for this exciting event, go to [www.2013cvbs.org](http://www.2013cvbs.org)

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

## PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORKPARTY

On **Saturday, October 12th, 8:00 - 10:00AM**, Kern Audubon will have a work party at the preserve located just below the Panorama Bluffs. It's just a 2 hour commitment but what rewards! This month we will be doing general maintenance. In September twelve members of Foothill High School's Interact Club along with Jan Graves, Andy Honig, Clyde Golden & Madi Elsea hacked down a lot of tumbleweeds! Bring gloves, water, sunhat, shovel/hoe. Meet at the gate at the east end of Roberts Lane. If you need directions or other information, contact Harry Love, 805-1420 or love3@bak.rr.com



## GOT UNUSED BINOCULARS?!

The **American Birding Association** has a program to collect working binoculars and scopes to give to people in developing countries. There are researchers, educators, and conservationists in Latin America and the Caribbean striving to protect birds and their habitats, but many are working without the most basic equipment, such as binoculars and field guides. The **ABA Birders' Exchange Program** collects donated new and used equipment and distributes it to our colleagues working to conserve birds and their habitats throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. **Bring the equipment you wish to donate to our monthly meeting.** Presently we have collected four binoculars. Periodically we will send a shipment to the Birder's Exchange. This is a great way for your unused equipment to have a new owner!



KERN RIVER CORRIDOR ENDOWMENT and HOLDING CO., INC.  
5025 Panorama Drive Bakersfield, CA 93306 (661) 872-3569 Tax ID# 77-0500760

Dear Kern Audubon Members,

On behalf of the Kern River Corridor Endowment, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous cash donation for use at the Panorama Vista Preserve.

Additionally, I would like to thank you very much for partnering with us in choosing the Preserve for your monthly work days. A "thank you" is woefully inadequate for all the work hours the Kern Audubon members have spent at the Preserve and it is greatly appreciated.

As you are aware, we are embarking on the second phase of habitat restoration with an additional 129 acres underway. We are currently working out water issues, getting bids for irrigation installation and growing out plants to go in the ground this fall. A part of the restoration will take place at the main entrance to the Preserve at 901 East Roberts Lane. In addition to the restoration, we will be putting in a welcome sign and improving the parking lot, all part of the grant project. You can be proud to be a working partner as we go forward with our restoration plans.

Again, thank you very much for your generosity, your continuing support of the Preserve is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Belli, President

Looking ahead...Join Kern Audubon for the next meeting, Tues. **November 5th, 7pm**, with MEGHAN HERTEL, Audubon California, who will talk about the success of efforts to revitalize the San Joaquin River and its possible implications for the Kern.

## 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. Oct. 1, 7:00pm - Fall Program/Meeting
- Sat. Oct 5 - Sawyer Lake Field Trip (Tehachapi)
- Sat. Oct. 12, 8 - 10am - PVP Workparty
- Sat. Oct 12, 8:30am - Beginning Birders Workshop
- Wed. Oct. 16, 8am - Lake Ming Field Trip
- Sat. Oct. 26, 8:00am - Truxtun Lake Field Trip

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_



## **KERN AUDUBON TURNS 40**

On October 24, 1973, the Kern Audubon Society received its charter from the National Audubon Society. The first edition of the *Warbler* (Vol. 1, No. 1) was June of that year. This marked KAS as the 31<sup>st</sup> Audubon chapter in California. The president (then referred to as 'organizational chairman') was **Irene Heath**. She is still an active member of our group and attends most of our monthly meetings. In the first edition of the *Audubon's Warbler*, some new members of which you are familiar were **Bill Cooper** and **Ted Murphy**. The first field trip was to the Stockton

(Frank) ranch in the Greenhorns. Program meetings were held at Bakersfield College, in Forum West. The first program was by Philip Schaeffer from the Sacramento office of Audubon. The topic was a slide show depicting the loss of bird life due to uncovered oil sumps. (Now there are rules that require netting over sumps). Of note, one of the early field trips was to Dr. George Lawrence's ranch (Carol Gates' father) in Tehachapi, with a pancake breakfast being served to all. As to membership dues, in 1973 a family membership was \$15 and regular at \$12. As Irene noted in her opening column, "we are just preening our feathers for flight". This is a great metaphor for the birth and launch of a fantastic, vibrant chapter of Audubon. At forty, Kern Audubon is not showing its age thanks to the beginning work by Irene, Ted, and Bill. We appreciate their efforts and are thankful for theirs and your continued support!

### **BED & BUGLE - OCTOBER 5-6, 2013**

Come spend the night among the Tule Elk at Tule Elk State Natural Reserve, **Sat. Oct 5, 2013.**

...See the elk in native habitat along with birds, coyotes and other native species

...From noon to sunset on Saturday, board the "Elk Bus" for a tour into the Elk Reserve

...There will be a campfire program Saturday nite on the life of the elk, stargazing, and a puppet show with "Ranger Fred".

...On Sunday morning a sunrise birding tour will be offered

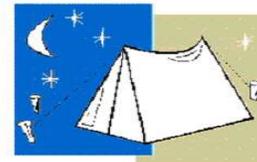


Tent and RV camping space is provided in the picnic area. Check-in starts at 12 noon on Saturday. You may also attend any of the event activities without camping at the Reserve.

The program is limited to 100 persons. To insure space please RSVP. **Cost:** \$8.00 per adult (includes camping). Children 12 and under are free!

For more information contact the Reserve at (661)764-6881 or RSVP to Ranger Bill Moffat: email [bill.moffat@parks.ca.gov](mailto:bill.moffat@parks.ca.gov)

**“Bed and Bugle”**



### **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AREA: Joint Project with CSUB and Kern Audubon**

In the 1980s, the City of Bakersfield designated the 400+ acres located north of CSUB as an 'environmental studies area' (ESA) for use by CSUB biology students. The area was also dedicated for public access by foot. It is bordered to the east by Coffee Rd, to the west by Calloway Rd, to the south by the bike path, and to the north by the Kern River. Presently, the only sign indicating that an ESA exists is a small map of the entire Kern River corridor.

In December, 2012, Kern Audubon Society's Conservation Chair, Harry Love, met with three professors of the CSUB Biology Department: Drs. Moe, Jacobson, and Pratt, who agreed to have a graduate student do a study of the native plants in the area. KAS member Bill Lydecker set about to photograph and survey the birds of the area. After completing the field work in June, 2013, department members surmised that the area is a prime area for student field work and that the biological resource values of the area need to be available to the public. They agreed that a sign along the bike/foot path, which would describe the area and explain the biological resources, would be an asset to students, faculty, and the public.

Kern Audubon will provide the sign and is presently seeking funds (grants, donations) to purchase and install the sign on the bike path. The cost is \$2400. It would indicate the biological features of the area, birdlife, and, most importantly, how one can use a smart phone to download more information. If you are aware of potential sources of funds, please contact Harry Love, President/Conservation: 805-1420 or by email: [love3@bak.rr.com](mailto:love3@bak.rr.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!



### **KERN AUDUBON-TEHACHAPI**

Tues. October 29, 2013

7:00pm

Golden Hills School Cafeteria  
20215 Park Rd. Tehachapi

*For information contact Carol Gates: 300-1429*

## OCTOBER AND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

No, your calendar is correct. It is not December! But it is good to get ready for a great winter time activity. From **December 14 through January 5** tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. This year marks the **113<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season.

Each of the citizen scientists who annually braves snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the CBC makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition -- and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation. **LOOK FOR KERN COUNTY CBC'S IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!**

## HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAYS

Join **Audubon Kern River Preserve** staff & volunteers for our Habitat Restoration Workdays. Kern River Preserve will be implementing the second phase of a 3 year restoration project funded by the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program and USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program. We will be planting native shrubs, grasses and trees on 24 acres of formerly cultivated floodplain along the South Fork Kern River. Our goal is to enhance habitat for a variety of wildlife species including San Emigdio Blue butterfly, Loggerhead Shrike, Summer Tanager and Southwestern Pond Turtle.

### **Volunteer Workday Calendar:**

October 19, 2013 - Install Irrigation System & Site Preparation  
November 9, 2013 - Install Irrigation System & Site Preparation  
November 16, 2013 - Install Irrigation System & Site Preparation  
December 14, 2013 - Site Preparation & Planting  
January 11, 2014 - Site Preparation & Planting  
January 18, 2014 - Site Preparation & Planting  
February 8, 2014 - Site Maintenance and Planting  
February 15, 2014 - Site Care & Planting  
March 8, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
March 15, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
April 12, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
April 19, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
May 17, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
June 21, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
July 19, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
August 16, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
September 20, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
October 18, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
November 15, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance  
December 13, 2014 - Site Care & Maintenance



Volunteers of all levels of ability and time commitment are welcome. We need volunteers that can take on responsibility for various portions of the project.

\*If you or your group have the time and ability to help on dates other than scheduled workdays please contact us to coordinate.

Bring food & water, gloves; wear long sleeves & pants, work shoes or boots. The preserve will supply the tools. **Meet at 8am at the Alexander Restoration Site on Fay Ranch Road**, 1/3 mi. north of Hwy 178 in Weldon. Contact the Kern River Preserve Land Steward, Sean Rowe (email: [srowe@audubon.org](mailto:srowe@audubon.org) or (760) 378-2531) to RSVP.