



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 43 no. 8 - OCTOBER 2014  
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
www.kernaudubonsociety.org  
www.kastehachapibird.org



## Kern Audubon

Tuesday OCTOBER 7, 2014 - 7:00PM

City Center 17th & L Streets

(Kern Superintendent of Schools)

Parking garage 18th & K Sts. or street parking

**"Bird ID Basics, Fall Migration & Birding Hotspots"**

**Bob Barnes, Birder Extraordinaire**

Bob Barnes is not only a notable birder here in Kern County, he also leads birding tours all over the world. He is an expert birder whose endless enthusiasm puts all levels of birders at ease. Bob will be speaking about beginning bird identification and what to look forward to during fall migration. His focus will be on how to identify birds with confidence and success leading to rewarding birding experiences. There will be voluntary, interactive audience participation to the maximum degree possible. This promises to be a fun and informative evening on birds and birding in Kern County!

Bob is past Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California and past Chair of California Partners in Flight. He's been an active member of and officer for Tulare County Audubon and as president of California Wilderness Coalition, served as catalyst for protection of the South Fork Kern River watershed through his work with various governmental and environmental organizations.

Needless to say Bob is a wonderful birder and we are fortunate to have him as our guest speaker.

*(See below on the October 18th field trip he will lead as a follow-up!)*

## OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

**Oct 4-5** (Saturday 2pm through Sunday morning) "Bed & Bugle Event - Tule Elk State Reserve

Come spend the night among the elk at Tule Elk Reserve and enjoy night time programs: Native American talk, astronomer to highlight the night sky, campfire, puppet show and more! There will also be guided tours of the Reserve at sunset and sunrise. Come in the afternoon (\$8 day use fee) or spend the night: \$8/person including camping! For more information contact Bill Moffat (201-9279) Please RSVP 764-6881 as soon as possible! Tule Elk Reserve is located off Stockdale Hwy just west of Interstate 5.

**Sat. Oct. 18th** - Lake Ming & area

Two meetings times are offered:

**6:30am** - Early birders: explore the lake a half hour before sunrise and a half hour after

**7:30am** - For the rest of us!

**Meet at the large parking lot at the entrance to Lake Ming** (off Alfred Harrell Highway)

Kern County Park, which includes Lake Ming & Hart Park, supports lots of diverse habitats including golf course edge, grasslands, Kern River riparian and marsh habitats, lakes, lawn, shrublands. Along with the diversity of habitats comes an impressive diversity of bird species and numbers of individuals. October 18th should prove to be no exception as Bob Barnes guides us to Lake Ming, Group Picnic Area, the bluff picnic area, and Hart Park. These areas are arguably the best general birding areas in Kern County late fall through winter and into spring. Moderate walking and some driving. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, \$5 registration fee. Ending time is 11am.

All levels of birders are welcome but beginning birders are especially welcome!

Call Deb at 661-805-0232 or Bob at 760-382-1260 for more information.

**Wednesday Walk, October 22, 8:30am** - "Birds & Bikes" with Ranger Bill

Bring your bike & binoculars to the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Manor Dr (across from the church) for a morning of Fall birding...maybe Phainopepla on the elderberries! Bring water, binos & snacks. Call Bill at 661-201-9279 or more info. Ends by 11 am.

## Workparty at Panorama Vista Preserve

On **Saturday, October 11, from 8-10 AM**, Kern Audubon will have its monthly workday at the Preserve. Workday activities are: weeding and maintenance of the trees. *Please bring gloves, water, sun hat, and a shovel/ho*e. We are happy to announce that the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club has promoted our workday to its members. Rotarians are greatly welcomed! Thanks to Jan Graves for making this connection. For more information contact Andy Honig (andym5@bak.rr.com or 619-4456). Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane off of Manor Drive at the locked gate at 8am. Just 2 hours of your time!



### 'Save the Songs' T-Shirt

Have you read the September/October edition of **Audubon** magazine? If so you might be interested in having a "Save the Songs" T-shirt commemorating Audubon's Climate Change campaign. You can get one for the Pacific Flyway and even have Kern Audubon printed on it. Go to: [www.audubon.org/tshirt](http://www.audubon.org/tshirt). Be sure to use promo code MEMBER at checkout to get the shirt for only \$30.



### GOOD TEXAS BIRDING, DAVID

David Davis, very active member of KAS for several years, has moved to Abilene, Texas for a career change. He will soon be a member of the Big County Chapter of Audubon. David was an avid birder at many of our outings and helped out at the Panorama Vista Preserve Science Camp. We thank him for his faithful participation and wish him the best!

### RENEWING YOUR AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal notices are sent to Audubon members by the National Audubon Society. You can also 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

### KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2014 - 2015

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### GET E-WARBLER

Due to increased paper and mailing costs, we are asking that everyone with email to **receive your Warbler electronically** to save money as well as trees! *Plus, the eWarbler is in color!* You can read it online or print your own copy! If we don't have your email address, PLEASE take a few moments to SEND THE ADDRESS TO [rodmlee@aol.com](mailto:rodmlee@aol.com)....thank you!!

### 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, world leader in the study/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 an excellent website: [www.Audubon-ca.org](http://www.Audubon-ca.org)

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



### KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

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

## PRESIDENT'S NEST



This summer, while on a camping vacation at Lassen National Park, I received a phone call from Audubon's national office that our chapter was named in the trust of Elizabeth Stucker, who lived in southern California. She had designated a generous amount of funds to the National Audubon Society but specifying Kern Audubon and two other local chapters as recipients. The amount willed to Kern Audubon was **\$127,000!** **Wow!** was my first response. This is a fortuitous windfall! We now have the opportunity to do long term planning and financing of projects of importance to us. To that end, the Executive Board will be working with a consultant to strategize about how best to use these funds now and in the future, both for short term as well as long term goals. We value your input! If you have suggestions on how you would like to have these funds used, please email or call me or any member of the board (see roster on p. 2). In the meantime, we will continue our regular funding activities (raffle, auction and yearly appeal) to finance our operating expenses. We promise to be *'as wise as an owl'* in support of the mission of Audubon, especially as we contemplate and plan for this incredible gift! We promise to focus on our slogan: **"Birds matter!"**

Harry Love, President

### Science Camp at Panorama Vista Preserve

On **October 21, 22, and 23** (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) from **8AM-12PM**, there will be a science camp at PVP for elementary and middle school children from the Fairfax School District. **We are in need of volunteers to help at the camp. At least three people are needed each morning.** All of the materials are provided. Students, in groups of 25, come to Audubon's learning station to find out about birds, especially owls, and is at the station for about 25 minutes. The smiles you see on their faces when they learn about bird names means the experience was worthwhile! This is Kern Audubon's third year working with this fantastic program. Join with Kevin Fahey who has already volunteered! You can sign up for one or more mornings!

Contact: Harry Love (love3@bak.rr.com) 805-1420.

### Central Valley Bird Symposium

The 18th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held Nov. 20-23, 2014 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA

Keynote speakers include Ed Harper on "Appreciating birds of the Central Valley, Nat Seavey on "From Flood to Drought: A Birds-Eye View of Water Management in the Central Valley" and Joel Greenberg on "The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon." Greenberg is working on a documentary on the Passenger Pigeon's "flight to extinction." In addition there are workshops and many field trips. Check out the website for more information: [www.2013cvbs.org](http://www.2013cvbs.org)

Looking ahead to **Tues. November 4th, 7pm**...Join us for an evening with Scott Pipkin, Public Access Coordinator for Tejon Ranch Conservancy.

### **Kern Audubon-Tehachapi**

**Tues. October 28th**

**7:00pm**

Golden Valley School  
20215 Park Rd., Tehachapi

**"Bats Aren't Birds --  
But They do Fly!"**

**Andy Krause, Biologist**

Come and learn more about the world of bats and why they are important to our environment and why the environment is important to our bats. Andy Krause is a biologist with MHWolfe & Associates and has a passion for bats, which he will share about in this fun & informative program two days before Halloween! Andy is an experienced biologist with a passionate interest in all wildlife, especially bats & birds. He has surveyed and photographed Whooping Cranes and the midwest's Greater Sage Grouse as well as kitfoxes & leopard lizards & more.

Join Kern Audubon-Tehachapi for this fun evening---raffle & refreshements, too! Contact Carol (300-1420) or Mary (972-4355) for more information

## Field Guide to the Future: Nearly Half of North America's Birds at Risk from Global Warming

Nearly half of the bird species in the continental U.S. and Canada are threatened by global warming. Many of these species could go extinct without decisive action to protect their habitats and reduce the severity of global warming. That's the startling conclusion reached by Audubon scientists in a new study.

Here in California, birds threatened by global warming include the barn owl, mountain bluebird, American kestrel, and golden eagle.

Of 588 bird species examined in the study, 314 are at risk. Of those, 126 species are at risk of severe declines by 2050, and a further 188 species face the same fate by 2080, with numerous extinctions possible if global warming is allowed to erase the havens birds occupy today.

"The greatest threat our birds face today is global warming," said Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham, who led the investigation. "That's our unequivocal conclusion after seven years of painstakingly careful and thorough research. Global warming threatens the basic fabric of life on which birds – and the rest of us – depend, and we have to act quickly and decisively to avoid catastrophe for them and us."

To understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them, Langham and other Audubon ornithologists analyzed 30 years of historical North American climate data and tens of thousands of historical bird records from the U.S. Geological Survey's North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Understanding those links then allowed scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive – and not survive – in the future.

The study also reveals areas that are likely to remain stable for birds even as climate changes, enabling Audubon to identify "stronghold" areas that birds will need to survive in the future.

The result is a roadmap for bird conservation in coming decades under a warming climate. The study provides a key entry point for Audubon's greater engagement on the urgent issue of global warming. Responding to the magnitude of the threat to our birds, Audubon is greatly expanding its climate initiative, aiming to engage a larger and more diverse set of voices in support of protecting birds.

Solutions will include personal choices to conserve energy and create backyard bird habitat, local action to create community climate action plans, state-based work to increase rooftop solar and energy efficiency, and our work in Important Bird Areas and other efforts to protect and expand bird habitats.

For more information, visit [Audubon.org/Climate](http://Audubon.org/Climate).



### **Paradise Valley Road, Tehachapi - Field Trip 9/20/14**

Pictured above (Left-right): Ariana Zavala, Maria & Carlos Zavala, Susan Castle, Greg Hogelroad, Madi Elsea, Angela Guy, David Chilton, Mark Hodson, Rod Lee. Not pictured: Carol Gates, Randi Hodson, photographer

A beautiful fall morning greeted the 12 birders, including 10 year old Ariana, on a field trip up Paradise Valley Road in Tehachapi. 49 species were sighted, including Green-tailed Towhee, Golden Eagle and lots of Western Bluebirds! Angela Guy was the leader.

### **BIRDS CAN MAKE YOUR DAY**

Trish O'Kane is a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin. She published the following story about how she, while teaching elementary students in New Orleans, explained how birds can make your day. ***"And so on the first day of class I always tell my new students the Katrina sparrow story. I tell them that the birds are a gift to help them get through each day, a way to enjoy the world while we change it so that young people, everywhere, have a chance. I tell them that when the world is caving in on them, just walk outside, listen for a minute, find that cardinal, that woodpecker, that pesky crow, and see what they're up to. That tiny act, that five-minute pause, won't save the planet, I tell them, but it might save you, one bird at a time."***

## Friends of Condors

Join the Friends of California Condors Wild and Free as we celebrate National Wildlife Refuge week with a tour of Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge and Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. Both refuges are essential to the California Condor Recovery Program and are normally closed to the public. The tour of Bitter Creek NWR is located near Maricopa will take place on Sunday, October 12, 10:00 am - 2:00pm. A week later, on Sunday, October 19 the Friends group will offer a tour of Hopper Mountain NWR located near Fillmore starting at 8:00 am and ending by 3:00 pm. During the tour your guide will provide information about condors while keeping an eye skyward as we always hope to view a Condor soaring on the thermals above the group.

Contact Carol at [tours@friendsofcondors.org](mailto:tours@friendsofcondors.org) for more information or to make a reservation. *The tour is by reservation only and spaces are limited.*



Photo by Bob Hardy



Rufous Hummingbird by Ali Sheehey

## DAZZLING HUMMERS

On **Saturday, October 25, 2014** the Tehachapi Heritage League will partner with Kern Audubon Society to present **"Hummingbirds: Dazzling Bundles of Energy!"** Dr. H. Ross Hawkins, founder and executive director of the Hummingbird Society based in Sedona, Arizona, will start with the basics in "Hummingbirds 101" and continue with an exploration of the rich beauty of some of the **338** known hummer species.

Since this event will be held at the **Tehachapi Depot, 101 W. Tehachapi Blvd** seating is limited (only 80 people). The presentation: **doors open at 5:30 pm, program begins at 6 pm.**

Reservations may be made at the **Tehachapi Museum, 822-8152, 310 S. Green Street, Tehachapi**. Tickets are **\$15.00**. Reservations are confirmed upon payment. **Make check to the Tehachapi Heritage League PO Box 54, Tehachapi CA 93581**

## BOB POWERS GATEWAY PRESERVE PROJECT

The pump at the Bob Powers Gateway Preserve was installed recently and is now pumping water (photo right) into the preserve, located near the junction of Hiways 155 & 178 in Lake Isabella. This resulted from a grant from Audubon California and \$2500 each from Kern Audubon and Kerncrest Audubon. Flowing water to the pond will enable growth of needed nesting vegetation, especially in anticipation of a colony of Tricolored Blackbirds. Given the effects of the drought, the pump's installation is a significant movement forward for the preserve! Pictured is the underground pump, existing nettles vegetation, and an overview of the preserve. Questions? Call Harry: 589-6245, who provided the photos.



## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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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 - Monthly Meeting/Program
- Sat. Oct. 11, 8-10am - PVP Workparty
- Sat. Oct. 18, 7:30am - Lake Ming field trip
- Wed. Oct. 22, 8:30am - Birds & Bikes
- Sat. Oct. 25, 6pm - Hummingbird Lecture

### Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_