



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 45, no 8 - OCTOBER 2016  
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

**Kern Audubon**  
**TUES. OCTOBER 4, 2016 - 7:00pm**  
Kern Supt of Schools City Center  
1300 17th St. (17th & L) Parking lot at 18th & K

## "VULTURES: ANCIENT & WITH US STILL" N. John Schmitt, Naturalist & Artist

With the annual Turkey Vulture migration in full swing and Halloween coming soon, this is a timely presentation about an ancient bird common to Kern County. John Schmitt will discuss the biology (including discussion of the Cathartid vulture's extraordinary sense of smell enabling them to locate even the smallest carrion in the densest forest) and appearance of the Turkey Vulture as well as New World vultures, including the Pleistocene era vulture which was probably the world's largest flying bird to ever live. In keeping with a Halloween theme, John will discuss a unique human relationship in Asia known as the "sky burial". The presentation will feature many photos, including images of what vultures have evolved to do...and which may be unpleasant to some viewers!

John Schmitt is a native Californian now living in the Kern River Valley. He's had a lifelong interest in birds which led him to become a feather expert, renowned bird illustrator and self-taught taxidermist. He's traveled world-wide and has lead many birding tours in Latin America, Asia and Europe. His taxidermy works have been exhibited in museums in Santa Barbara, Oakland, Morro Bay and San Francisco's California Academy of Science. His bird illustrations are found in many different publications, including several editions of the *National Geographic's Birds of North America* field guide and a new *Guide to Raptors of Mexico and Central America*, soon to be published. He's currently painting hummingbirds--the most difficult subject he's had to illustrate--for a new *Handbook to the Birds of South America*.



### OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

#### **Tuesday, October 11, 8:00am - Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area**

Join Bill Moffat for a morning of birding at the Buena Vista lake about 30 miles west of Bakersfield where we can expect to see migrating songbirds, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. A great location for new birders. Loaner binoculars available. Meet at 8:00am at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway & Don Harte Dr. across from CSUB to carpool or at **8:30am** at Buena Vista Rec. Area. Bring water, snacks, binocs,

Lunch optional at the BV golf course cafe or BYO. Call Bill (201-9279) for more information.

#### **Sat. October 22, 7:30am - Kern River**

A friend of Kern Audubon has invited us to his private residence along the Kern River for a morning of birding (7:30 - 10am). There will be light walking involved --walking sticks are optional! Bring water and binoculars (loaners available). To RSVP, contact Deb See: 809-6135 and for directions.

#### **Saturday October 29 - Paradise Valley Rd., Tehachapi**

Join KAS-Tehachapi leader Greg Hargleroad for a morning of birding along beautiful Paradise Valley Road in Tehachapi, which borders the Norbertine Convent. We'll be looking for migrants and year-round resident birds. The Green-tailed Towhee is always a favorite! Meet at the Burger King on Tehachapi Blvd (Kmart shopping center) at **8:00am**. Bring binoculars, dress in layers, snacks, water.

Bakersfield birders will meet to carpool at **7:15pm** at the ParknRide on Stockdale Hiway between Real Rd & Hiway 99.

Call Greg for info: 818/645-3664.



### The President's Bird Blabberings

As I sit thinking about Kern Audubon, I can't help but be excited. This past week included two outstanding field trips that included a flock of bird lovers and lots of birds. Thanks to Deb See & Bill Moffat, Field Trip Coordinators, for their tireless efforts, their committee and Saturday's leader, John Wilson. Very exciting adventures. For those of you that haven't joined our field trips, I encourage you to keep an eye on the *Warbler* or our website for the next available opportunity. Spotted this week, 63 species (34 on Tuesday, 29 Saturday). Great bird/nature opportunities! See you at the next field trip!

Kevin Fahey, President



### PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORKPARTY

Saturday October 8 is our next work day at the preserve. Come out and help hoe thistles and get some exercise too. Meet at 8 a.m. at the preserve gate east end of Roberts Lane. Plan on two hours of work...or less if we get tired! Bring gloves, water, hoe or shovel, sturdy shoes or boots, and a hat. Contact David Schaad ([davidws@pacbell.net](mailto:davidws@pacbell.net) 428-2841) for more information. Hope you can come and join this great team! Many thanks to the September gang: Al, Andy, Dana, Madi, Jan and her crew from Foothill Interact Club: Andres, Alejandro, Brianda, and Alex.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

National Audubon Society has recently changed its membership renewal procedure. **Starting immediately, renewal of membership will be done through this local chapter, Kern Audubon Society.** The expiration date of your membership is printed on the *Audubon Warbler* newsletter label and on the *Audubon Magazine* label. In addition, Membership Coordinator Linda McMillian will send reminder postcards. Please use the membership form on the back page and send with your \$20 renewal check made out to NATIONAL AUDUBON and mail to Kern Audubon, PO Box 3581, Bakersfield CA 93385.

### DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE FALL WORKPARTY

The Desert Tortoise Natural Area is located in Kern County a few miles northeast of California City. The DTNA Preserve Committee has announced its annual work weekend for Sat. October 22, 9am - 2pm to Sunday Oct. 23, 10am - 3pm. If you'd like to help out with valuable projects (fence repair, trail maintenance, upkeep, etc.) while learning about the desert ecosystem and enjoying the outdoors, you're invited to participate! For more information please call (951)683-3872 or email [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net)



**MEETUP** If you'd like to find out what similar groups to Audubon are doing, consider a social media website called **Meetup**, which sends email reminders and it's free! To become a member go to [www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society](http://www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society) and follow the easy instructions. We now have over **175 members!**



### KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on field trips and programs! We want to thank ANKE HODENPIJL for facilitating our Facebook page for the past two years and welcome LAURA FAHEY, who will be taking over. Thanks, Anke & Laura!!



Looking ahead to Kern Audubon's **November 1st meeting...Gary Lindquist** on backyard birds & birding. Wonderful photographer!

### RAFFLE PRIZES

At the close of Kern Audubon's monthly meetings a raffle is held as a fun fundraiser for the chapter. Items are always needed, so consider bringing something, especially bird-related donations!

### KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### 2016-2017

Kevin Fahey, President  
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[madielsea@aol.com](mailto:madielsea@aol.com); 322-7470

## **KERN AUDUBON-TEHACHAPI**

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – 7 p.m.  
Golden Hills Elementary School Cafeteria  
20215 Park Road, Tehachapi



## **BATS! BATS! BATS!**

Get your Halloween Spirit going at the Kern Audubon-Tehachapi meeting. Don Richardson, Animal Curator for the California Living Museum (CALM), and Biological Field Leader for McCormick Biological, will be our featured speakers presenting a program on bat ecology, conservation, and the bat rehabilitation efforts at CALM. The primary goal of CALM, a permitted wildlife sanctuary, is to rehabilitate and release wildlife back into their natural habitat.

### **“BED & BUGLE” at TULE ELK RESERVE - OCTOBER 15-16, 2016**

Come spend the night among the Tule Elk at Tule Elk State Natural Reserve (8653 Station Rd. Buttonwillow)

#### **Sat. Oct 15, 2016**

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

....From 2:00pm to sunset on Saturday, board the "Elk Bus" for a tour into the reserve

...Saturday evening there will be a campfire program on the life of the elk, stargazing, and more

**Sun. Oct. 16** - Sunday morning a sunrise birding tour will be offered



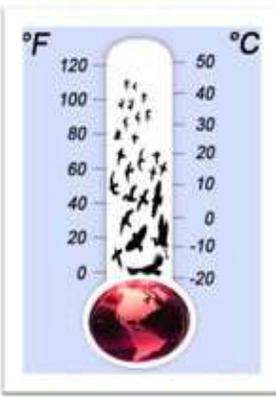
Tent and RV camping space is provided in the picnic area. Check-in starts at 2pm on Saturday. You may also attend any of the event activities without camping at the Reserve. To insure space please RSVP to Ranger Bill Moffat: email [bill.moffat@parks.ca.gov](mailto:bill.moffat@parks.ca.gov) or call 661)764-6881

**Cost:** \$8.00 per adult (includes camping). Children 12 and under are free!

### **BIRDWATCHING CAN HELP KIDS LEARNING MATH**

Next time your child or grandchild has a hard time solving equations, take them for a walk in the park and don't forget binoculars. Don't believe a little birdwatching session can help a child get their homework done? Think again. A simple, yet fun time out can actually have tons of benefits for elementary school students in all STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—areas. Here are five of them.

- **Counting as a warm up.** When students observe birds, they don't have to only enjoy their colors. You can also encourage them to count and estimate bird populations right in your local neighborhood, which also happens to be the birds' habitats.
- **Scientific method 101.** Why is this bird here? Why is it eating that? So many things to wonder about! By watching birds, young students make their imaginations fly, which can also translate into making inferences and using the scientific method to solve problems.
- **Geometry, anyone?** Birdwatching gives kids the opportunity to create models of birds, focusing on wing, tail and body shapes, while learning more about them. This is a boost for any child with artistic skills, too!
  - **Biology lesson.** A stroll outdoors it's also useful for kids to learn the scientific foundations of bird anatomy, their behavior and the way they adapt to make survival possible.
  - **Fact-based experiences.** The basis of all science is data. With birdwatching, students learn how to collect and analyze real-time data, which can later be used to make their own hypotheses and assumptions



### CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER: Why Trees Are Needed

One tree can convert as much as 48 lbs. of carbon dioxide into clean air per year. Some rainforests provide a home to 15,000 species in a single acre. A mature tree can reduce peak summer temperatures by up to 9° Fahrenheit.

#### How We Make The Work of Trees Hard

The **amount of carbon dioxide** emitted by the average family in the United States breaks down this way: **One half** from heating and cooling the house. **One quarter** from transportation. **One quarter** from using electricity (Burning **one gallon** of gasoline puts **19 pounds** of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.)

### CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 20th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium **Nov. 17-20, 2016**, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. The CVBS gets off to a great start with Thursday Night's Keynote speaker, professional bird photographer Bob Steele, presenting on "**Birding in the Central Valley Over the Past 20 Years**".

Friday Night's keynote program is presented by Kimball Garrett on "**The Central Valley's Prominent Place in the Past and Present of California Field Ornithology.**"

Saturday Night's keynote program is presented by Ed Harper and friends on "**Celebrating 20 Years of the CVBC and the CVBS.**"

Workshops are offered as well as field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, which always turn up exciting birds. To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and fieldtrips, check out our website at:

<http://www.cvbsreg.org>

### Tehachapi Bluebird Nest Box Program 2016 Results – It was a very good year!

A team of 21 volunteers participated in monitoring western bluebird nest boxes in the Tehachapi area during the 2016 nesting season. The monitoring data was then entered into NestWatch, a citizen science program at Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Results from 69 Boxes Monitored in 2016:

- First Egg- March 10      Number of Eggs - 379
- Number of Young - 307      Number of Fledglings - 218

The success rate of bluebird nest attempts that produced at least one fledgling was 65.88%

Sixty-nine is an average number of boxes monitored per year during the program's seventeen year run. During this time, the range of first egg dates has been from February 27 to May 16. The last three years have been the earliest dates recorded for the program. This year's number of fledglings is a high number compared to the past 16 years. There are only two other years with fledgling numbers over 200: 265 fledglings in 2006 and 243 fledglings in 2009. In addition, there were two ash-throated flycatcher nests yielding 8 fledglings and one oak titmouse nest with 4 fledglings.



### NEW AUDUBON PROGRAM

The National Audubon Society has a new program entitled **Plants for Birds**. It is described on the website, [www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds](http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds). It's all about finding native plants that are good for birds and will grow in your area. In this area, that of course means also good for water conservation. Tons of good information. Check it out!

**FREE AUDUBON BIRD APP** Audubon has released an updated version of the [Audubon Bird Guide app](#) and it's FREE to bird lovers nationwide. With 821 species profiles and 3200-plus world-renowned bird photos, Audubon's award-winning app instantly turns any mobile device into one of the most trusted field guides in North America.

To download the Audubon Bird Guide, go to: [www.audubon.org/apps](http://www.audubon.org/apps)

### SCIENCE CAMP FALL 2016

Kern Audubon has an exhibit and teaching opportunity at the Science Camp held fall & spring at Panorama Vista Preserve. The fall dates are:

Oct 18, 19 & 20, 8am - 12:15

This is a great opportunity to teach underserved middle-schoolers about birds & nature. No training is needed and all the materials are supplied. You can select one or more days to help. Contact Kevin Fahey for more info: [kjfahey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjfahey@sbcglobal.net) or 706-7459.

We thank these folks already signed up to help: Bill Cooper, Lucy Clark, Louise Clay, Fran Hersh, Lauren Franconi, Deb See, Bill Moffat, Harry Love.

Kern Audubon has been involved with this program for 4 years and it has been much appreciated by the school districts that are involved. Thank you to all those who have participated!

**NEW BOOKS IN KAS LIBRARY**

Three new books have been added to Kern Audubon's library and will be available for check-out at the next meeting:



***The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic & the Endangered***

Pandemonium is the bird sanctuary and conservation organization author Michelle Raffin has dedicated her home and life to. The sanctuary has over 40 species of mostly exotic species at the edge of extinction and she tells their story of love, mourning, sacrifice, coping and more. Learning about the individual birds teaches the reader about the interrelationship of human and birds. Beautiful color photos introduce the birds.

***Elsewhere in the Land of Parrots by Jim Paul***

A captive parrot leads David into a journey of self-discovery and Fern, an American scientist, studies an endangered parrot in Ecuador. It's a novel about the resiliency of birds and people and having the courage to heed the messages the world sends you and to welcome unexpected love.

***The Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans***

by John Marzluff & Tony Angell

Two maverick scientists tell amazing, true stories of crows who rage, grieve, give gifts and even design and use tools. Their research show how the birds' big brains, though different from our own, achieve many of the same feats--arguing that humans don't possess the only minds in the universe.

**We are still missing books from our library--please return them at the next meeting so others can enjoy them as well. A partial list of the books of the KAS library is shown on the website: [kernaudubonsociety.org](http://kernaudubonsociety.org) We thank David Schaad for continuing to be our librarian!**

AUDUBON CALIFORNIA  
Kern River Preserve  
PO Box 1662, Weldon Ca 93282

June 23, 2016

Kern Audubon:

Thank you for being a friend to birds--and people!--at the Kern River Preserve and your generous gift of \$1000 dated May 19, 2016. Your support will help continue the conservaiton work done over the last 30 years by Audubon Kern River Preserve, and *with our partners*, will help protect this ecological treasure. Our protection of land and water rights, our fight against invasive weeks, our restoration of habitat, along with research and community outreach, has created many wins. Your support makes these wins possible.

You are an important partner in this work, and we are deeply grateful to you! Your gift will enable us to engage with partners like California State Parks to implement the very best management on the 28,000 acres they recently purchased in nearby Jawbone, Butterbredt Canyon and Kelso Valley. These areas are vital to protecting migrating songbirds, raptors and up to 30,000 Turkey Vultures that fly through here each autumn on their way south into Mexico. Your support will help us stop further wind energy development in this area, ensuring that those projects are installed in more suitable locations.

Your support will help us to host school groups and visitors, combat invasive weeks, protect land and restore habitat in the Kern River Watershed. You are helping the effort to aid the threatened Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Tri-colored Blackbirds and many other species. Our conservation work plays a critical role in the effort to recover these imperiled species.

Thank you, again, for supporting the Kern River Preserve. You make this work possible!

With gratitude,  
Reed Tollefson  
Executive Director



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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. 4, 7pm - KAS Meeting & program
- Sat. Oct. 8, 8am - Panorama Vista workparty
- Tues. Oct. 11, 8am - BV Aquatic Area field trip
- Sat. Oct. 22, 7:30am - Kern River field trip
- Sat. Oct. 29, 8am - Paradise Valley Rd, Tehachapi

### 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

\_\_\_\_ Renewal \$20

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**SEND** this form and your check to National Audubon to:

Kern Audubon  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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