

VOL. 48 ISSUE 8 · OCTOBER 2019

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Red-breasted Nuthatch taken at Galileo Hill in California City on September 8, 2019.

Photo by Mickey Dyke

• FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST

by Harry Love
President, Kern Audubon Society

Many of us consider ourselves homegrown environmentalists. What does that mean and can it really happen here? It means that we look at local issues that affect birds, air, land, and water. We see problems that need to be addressed, and then seek solutions. We ask government, especially local government, to help us achieve those solutions.

The answer the second question is yes! Homegrown environmentalists are plentiful in Kern County. More good news? We are not alone! Locally, there are two other organizations that get our attention, our time, and even our money. They are the Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club. Kern Audubon Society has joined forces many times with them. Some people are members of all three organizations.

It is important that you seek opportunities to help them, especially by going to events and meetings sponsored by them. Why? Your thoughts, concerns, and messages are multiplied many times over. The old adage still works; there is strength in numbers!

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October's Program

Tuesday, October 1st

Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office
(1300 17th Street) at 7:00 p.m.

Have you ever considered attending a birding festival?



Have you ever considered attending a birding festival? The Morro Bay Winter Festival is right around the corner! Come learn everything you need to know to have a memorable experience.

Join Linda McMillian on Tuesday, October 1st, 7:00 p.m., in the Kern County Supt. of Schools building located at 1300 17th St. Linda is a retired health information management administrator and avid birder. She has attended the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival the last three years and will give you advice on planning your trip including registration, outings, lodging, parking, etc.

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is a yearly eco-tourism event promoting an understanding and appreciation of birds and other wildlife. It also brings an awareness of environment and conservation issues specific to the Central Coast and contributes to the well-being of the Morro Bay community. The event is sponsored by the Morro Coast Audubon Society in collaboration with California State Parks, the Central Coast State Parks Association, and the City of Morro Bay. Each year, the festival grows to include more events and attracts more participants! Almost 600 people attended the 23rd annual event in 2019.



All photos were taken at Morro Bay and provided by:
Ginny Dallas-Dull

Field Trip & Tehachapi's Q3 Meeting

Field Trip to Galileo Hill

Saturday, October 5th @ 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Meet your leader, Ali Sheehey, at 6:00 a.m. in California City.
- We gather in the large parking lot at the south entrance of Central Park on California City Blvd. (Across from Best Western Motel located at 10386 California City Blvd).
- Plan for a late lunch at a local restaurant or pack your own.
- Bring binoculars, water and snacks.
- For details and carpool info call Ginny – 661-301-8188 or go to the Kern Audubon Society website.
- Click below to see a list of possible birds:
<https://silversaddleranch.life/birds-of-galileo-hill.htm>



Tehachapi's Quarterly Meeting Plants for Birds:

Growing Healthy Communities for Both Birds and People

Tuesday, October 29th @ 7:00 p.m.

Golden Hills Elementary School, 20215 Park Road, Tehachapi, CA



John Rowden will speak to us about *Plants for Birds: Audubon's "bird-friendly communities conservation strategy."* This initiative is guided by the principle of improving communities all over the country through providing birds with food, shelter, safe passage and places to raise their young.

Native plants provide resources that support birds in each of those areas, and research is demonstrating that even small patches of habitat planted with natives-down to the yard and neighborhood scale can benefit birds. He will summarize the benefits that native plants provide to birds and explore the resources we have to support the planting of natives, with a particular focus on the Tehachapi area. For more information call Carol Gates, Tehachapi Rep., at 300-1429.

Membership Matters!

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Written by: KAS BOARD of Directors

KAS membership is due for those who joined KAS in 2018. Membership, for those who joined in 2019, will expire in June of 2020. You may contact Linda McMillan at lamcmillan@sbcglobal.net or call her at 661-205-3521 with any questions. The members make KAS a great organization! Thank you for all the support in the past year. You can fill in the form and pay with a credit card. The option to download the membership form and mail with a check is also available on this page. Please **click the link below** to sign-up or renew your membership!

<https://kernaudubonsociety.org/member.php>

*This Place is
for the Birds!*



This gray & pink bird is an Australian Galah. Photo taken 6/18/19 at the Telegraph Station, in Alice Springs (considered the "Outback"), in Australia. The Galah is part of the Cockatoo family and has a 40 year lifespan.

Photo and description by Fran Hersh.



Hooded Merganser (adult female)

Hart Park

Jan. 12, 2019

Photo by Roger Coley



Cattle Egret

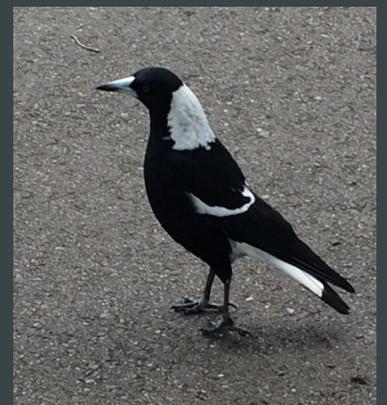
Recharge Ponds off Stockdale Hwy.
west of Enos

Aug. 24, 2019

Photo by Roger Coley



Osprey in Morro Bay
Photo by Mickey Dyke



This black and white bird is an Australian Magpie. Photo taken 6/21/19 in the Botanical Gardens, in Sydney, Australia. The Magpies walk around everywhere and seem oblivious to humans. Their life span is about 25 years.

Photo and description by Fran Hersh.



Volunteers

Make the Difference

SENIOR DAY AT THE GREAT KERN COUNTY FAIR

WRITTEN BY: LINDA MCMILLAN

The weather was beautiful on Friday, September 20th for "Senior Day" at the Kern County Fair. Kern Audubon had a lot of seniors stop by the booth. Thursday night's news broadcast did a story on how many billions of birds have disappeared. Everyone who came to our booth expressed concern for the birds.

I was very gratified so many people cared. We handed out "Birds Matter" buttons and almost everyone took one. Most of the attendees had never heard of Kern Audubon. Some expressed an interest in coming to meetings and outings. I don't think anyone knew we were also a conservation group. Kern Audubon needs to have a presence at more community events, but we need help from the membership. Thanks to Mac McCarthy, Bob Hodash, Margaret Dolan and Frank Bedard for helping.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



BIRDS MATTER!

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY

FALL SCIENCE CAMPS

Our fall science camp dates are October 8th, 9th and 10th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Panorama Vista Preserve. We need your help, no experience needed.

Call Kevin Fahey at 706-7459 or e-mail him at: kjfahey@sbcglobal.net to volunteer or for more information. **Help us teach local kids that birds matter!**



Two Great-horned Owls
taking a shower at Mickey Dyke's house.
September 4, 2019.
Photo by Mickey Dyke

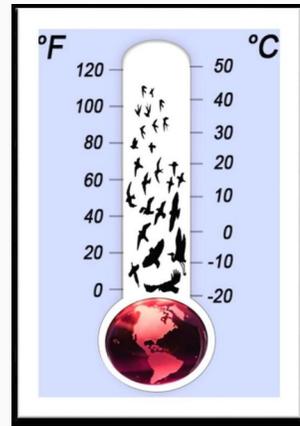


California Quail
Photo by Ron Worgul



Lake Truxtun
May 7, 2010
Osprey (with fish)
Photo by Roger Coley

Did You Know?



CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER CARBON PRICING IS A REAL GAME-CHANGER

Written by: Harry Love

Countries and policymakers around the planet are increasingly recognizing the power of carbon pricing to efficiently drive low-emissions development. In a nutshell, a carbon price assigns a clear cost to each unit of carbon emitted or the carbon content of a fuel burned. Those using or producing that fuel, either in designated industries or across all emitting sectors of society, pay this cost. There's a clear cause and effect: the more carbon you burn and emissions you put into the air, the more you pay.

The natural incentive is for individuals or sectors to choose low- or zero-carbon fuels like solar and wind whenever possible. There are many, many ways for carbon pricing to work, with some models introducing a carbon price that rises over time, gradually putting more and more pressure on people or industries to cut their emissions. The climate crisis is a complex challenge with no one solution. While carbon pricing may not be a silver bullet, it's one we're going to need it going forward. Support is growing all along the global political spectrum right when we need it.

Source: The Climate Reality Project

RESOURCES THAT EVERY BIRDER SHOULD KNOW!

Information Provided by: Ginny Dallas-Dull

Birding Pal - Is a terrific resource to find birders when you are visiting a new area. Both Ginny Dallas and Cate Uccel have used it with excellent results. The cost is \$10 per year to join. Click on the following link for more information. <http://www.birdingpal.org>

AllTrails - Looking for a good trail to find birds? Type "Birding Trails" into the search engine on the following website to discover great trails to see birds: <https://www.alltrails.com>



Download the App today!

AUDUBON'S WARBLER



Read more about Torpor hummingbirds on page 09

"Neither the hummingbird nor the flower wonders how beautiful it is."

~ AUTHOR UNKNOWN ~

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More Member's Photos



Fledgling Albatross

This picture won a top 100 recognition in the 2019 National Audubon Photography Awards.

Photo by Hob Osterlund



Burrowing Owl
Ontario International Airport,
Los Angeles, California
August 11, 2019
Photo by Wei Li



Western Wood-pewee
taken at Galileo Hill in California City
September 8, 2019
Photo by Mickey Dyke



Osprey
Basin Wildlife Reserve, Los Angeles, California
January 10, 2019
Photo by Wei Li



SNWR
Long-billed Curlew
Photo by Roger Coley



Eagle photos by
Bob and Wendy Hodash

Conservation Corner

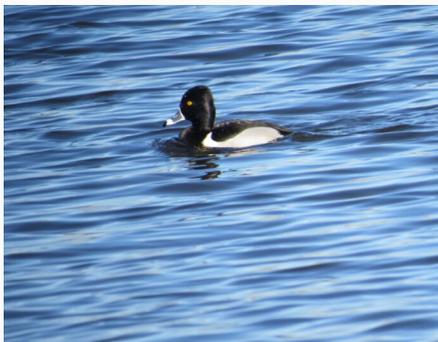
An Incredible Win for the Tricolored Blackbird

The Tricolored Blackbirds just finished a phenomenal breeding season. Audubon California protected 90% of threatened colonies and saved 178,500 birds! An incredible win. During this season, teams found nesting colonies in 15 different farms in 4 counties in the Central Valley.

We established partnerships with 90% of farmers to delay harvests for 6 weeks until chicks could fly off the nest. Leadership from family farms like the Diamond J Dairy saved a whopping 25,000 birds this year. Co-Owner Luciana Jonkman remarked, "We are a first-generation farming family, and we know that sustainability is vital to our farm families and our community...I hope that folks will see this as a huge win-win for conservation and dairy food security in the state of California." **Source: Audubon California**



Photo and article provided by Harry Love



SNWR

Jan. 22, 2019

Ring-necked Duck

Photo Provided by Roger Coley



Bewick's Wren

Panorama Vista Preserve

Photo Provided by Jake Abel



Black Oyster Catchers

Photo by Ginny Dallas-Dull

Feature Article

HUMMINGBIRDS AND TORPOR: AN EXPLANATION

Article and photo provided by: Harry Love

A flash of scarlet and emerald zooms past me as I poke my sleepy head out of the kitchen door, a vibrant splash of summer color against the sullen winter sky. Suddenly, an indignant Anna's Hummingbird, confronts me, beak-to-nose, demanding his breakfast. Shivering, I retreat quickly into the kitchen to prepare warm sugar water for my feathery guest. Hummingbirds are classified into the avian family, Trochilidae, which is from the Greek word, trochilos, or "small bird."

In fact, the smallest avian species alive today is the thumb-sized Bee Hummingbird, found exclusively on the island of Cuba. Even though most people think of them exclusively as tropical birds, hummingbirds are found in diverse habitats, ranging from the wettest to the driest, from sea level to over 14,000 feet. As most people know, hummingbirds feed on flower nectar, which is a tempting "gift" of high-energy sugars provided by flowers in exchange for pollination. In addition to nectar, hummingbirds also consume large quantities of small insects, which are full of higher-energy fats as well as essential proteins. Because of their tremendous metabolic requirements, hummingbirds have voracious appetites. Equivalent to the average human consuming an entire refrigerator full of food, hummingbirds eat roughly twice to thrice their own body weight in flower nectar and tiny insects each day.

Besides being among the smallest of all warm-blooded animals, hummingbirds also lack the insulating downy feathers that are typical for many other bird species. Due to their combined characteristics of small body size and lack of insulation, hummingbirds rapidly lose body heat to their surroundings. To meet this energetic challenge, hummingbirds save enough energy to survive cold nights by lowering their internal thermostat at night, becoming hypothermic. This reduced physiological state is an evolutionary adaptation that is referred to as torpor, a type of deep sleep where an animal lowers its metabolic rate by as much as 95%. By doing so, a torpid hummingbird consumes up to 50 times less energy when torpid than when awake. There are several types of torpor, classified mostly by duration and season. Tropical hummingbird species also have rigid metabolic budgets and they rely on daily torpor to conserve energy. Hummingbirds are the "champions" of this kind of energy regulation because they have to be. **Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**



Stay Connected & Get Involved

MEETUP 

Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Well, the easy answer is a new social media website called Meetup.

It is very easy to sign up. You get email reminders of events, instructions on how to join, and, the best part, it is free. To become a member of Meetup, click on the link below and follow the easy instructions:

www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society

That way you do not have to look at the Warbler for upcoming events. You will get reminders online. Many thanks to Carly Summers for updating events on the site.

amazonsmile 

Do you use Amazon for your shopping needs? If so, sign up for AmazonSmile. A 0.5% of your purchases will go to the Kern Audubon Society. Sign-up today on your Amazon account home page. There is no cost to KAS or to you as an AmazonSmile Customer.



KERN AUDUBON IS ON FACEBOOK

“Like” us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, and get updates on field trips and programs! Laura Fahey manages our Facebook, email her at: ityzmom@sbcglobal.net.



Anna's Hummingbird
CSUB
April 7, 2019
Photo by Wei Li



Snow Geese
National Wildlife Refuge
Merced, California
January 26, 2019
Photo by Wei Li



Lake Truxtun
March 5, 2009
Red-shouldered Hawk
Photo by Roger Coley



Western Meadowlark
Sac. National Wildlife Refuge
Jan. 22, 2019
Photo by Roger Coley

We need your photos!

Send photos of birds you have seen on an outing, or just in your backyard to communications@kernaudubonsociety.org

Board of Directors

Meet Your Board of Directors

Harry Love

President & Conservation Chair

Harry grew up in west LA, the youngest of three children. After graduating from Loyola University, he went into teaching. He accepted a teaching position at Foothill High School in Bakersfield, telling his parents, "Don't worry, it will be for only one year". That was 52 years ago.

He soon met Kathy (a Minnesota native) who was also a teacher. They were married 50 years ago last June. Three boys later (who all left home to live elsewhere) and after retirement Harry and Kathy decided to follow their best friends, Claus and Connie, to take up birding. This resulted in many birding trips of the four of them to Arizona and Texas. Both Harry and Kathy became members of the board 12 years ago. They always keep a pair of binoculars in the car when they travel, never knowing when a 'birding' opportunity might arise. On foreign travels, the binoculars are packed in the suitcase with the hope of seeing a bird you cannot find here. On a recent trip to Vietnam, that became true. Harry says that birding, like other addictions, it will be with you the rest of your life. And what a blessing!



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September BOD Meeting

Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Room 1B