



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No. 6- SEPTEMBER 2008
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Gathering
TUES. SEPT. 2, 2008 - 7:00pm
Kern Co. Supt. of Schools
17th & L Streets, Bakersfield



"The Tejon Ranch Conservation Agreement"

Guest speaker: **GRAHAM CHISHOLM**
Director of Conservation, Audubon California

The Tejon Ranch Conservation Agreement announced in May 2008 secures 375 square miles of California's largest contiguous land holding. The ranch is at the crossroads of four distinct ecological regions, and home to innumerable rare species including California Condor, San Joaquin Kit Fox, Spotted Owl, and many more. Audubon California's Graham Chisholm will discuss the details of the agreement, as well as the many issues at play during negotiations with the Tejon Ranch Company. This promises to be an exciting and informative program about the historic agreement reached between Tejon Ranch and several environmental organizations, including Audubon CA, to preserve 90% of Tejon Ranch's rich habitat from development. Graham Chisholm was one of the principal negotiators and has also been selected to chair the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, which will oversee the care and use of the newly protected wildlands.

Join Kern Audubon for the first meeting of the fall....refreshments served!!

SEPT 13th Field Trip

We will be exploring a local birding hotspot--the Bakersfield Waste Water Treatment ponds--on Sat. Sept. 13th, 8:00AM, as the first field trip of the fall. Michael McQuerry, one of Bakersfield's expert birders, will provide leadership. There should be lots of shorebirds and possibly waterfowl. Meet at the Park n Ride on Stockdale (between Real Rd. & Hiway 99) at 8AM or at the entrance to the ponds on Mt. Vernon south of Hiway 58 at 8:15am. (Follow Mt. Vernon past the green waste plant until it dead-ends at the gate). Contact

Ted Murphy (325-0307) for more information. Bring water, snacks, etc...We will be carpooling around the ponds.



"Gardening for the Birds"

Sat. Sept 20, 10am - noon

The Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society invites all bird lovers (you!) to a program dedicated to helping birds by providing food, water, and shelter in your garden, patio, and deck. Frequent Kern River Preserve presenter Marya Miller, and Teri Gallion will share their expertise with us.

September 20 10 am

Trinity United Methodist Church
(corner of Niles and King - 1 blk east of Baker)
Basement--refreshments served

Contact Lucy Clark for information: lucyg391@gmail.com; 391-9302

More Kern Audubon activities (see inside)....

Sat. 9/27 - Explore Outdoor Day@KERN NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sat. 9/27 - Field Trip to Kern River Preserve TURKEY VULTURE FESTIVAL

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Bill McDonald, Treasurer
WJLJMCD@aol.com; 665-2111

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!

Trapping for research

Greg Warrick, Center for Natural Lands Management, will be trapping small mammals and possibly kit foxes at Lokern Preserve on September 22-26. If anyone is interested in tagging along, call Greg (387-9453) or Ted Murphy (325-0307).



Turkey Vulture, ©Dan Suchman

TURKEY VULTURE FESTIVAL

Sept. 27-28, 9am - 4pm

The Kern River Valley Turkey Vulture Festival celebrates the height of fall Turkey Vulture migration through California's "Valley Wild", the Kern River Valley. One of the two largest known migration sites in North America (north of Mexico) - 7,664 Turkey Vultures were counted during the 2004 festival with 24,000 counted from September 14th - October 14th. The magnitude of the migration over this southern Sierra Nevada count site is awe inspiring. This is also the fall migration period for land birds, including eastern rarities. The preserve is located near Weldon on Hiway 178, one hour east of Bakersfield.

Kern Audubon is offering a **field trip** to the festival on Sat. Sept. 27th, meeting at 6:45am at the Shell Station at corner of Brundage & Union. After the TV "lift-off" we will stop for brunch at the Sierra Cafe near the refuge and return around noon. Contact Madi (322-7470) for information about the trip and www.Audubon-ca.org/kernriverpreserve for information about the festival.

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:

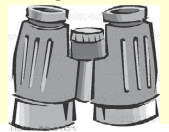
<http://audubonaction.org/California/join.html>

National Audubon Society:

<http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html>

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. Sept 18th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place to meet.



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

RAFFLE PRIZES are welcomed for the monthly Kern Audubon fund-raiser. Bring a wildlife-related article or something special to share at the next meeting!

Thanks, Frank! Frank Pauli has generously donated speakers to go with Kern Audubon's digital projector...a great enhancement for our programs!

EXPLORE OUTDOOR FIELD DAY - SEPT. 27TH - KERN NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE

In celebration of Public Lands Day, the Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge will hold an "Explore Outdoor" Field Day on Sat. Sept 27th, beginning with a guided bird tour at 7:30AM. Activities will be held during the morning hours, including a Retriever demonstration, childrens' activities and an "Around the Pond" walk. Booths and displays will be hosted by friends and organizations of KNWR, such as Kern Audubon, Dept of Fish & Game, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association, Calif State Parks, and others. A FREE lunch will be provided with activities concluding after lunch.

If you would like to help at the Kern Audubon booth, contact Ginny Dallas (301-8188) or Ted Murphy (325-0307).

KNWR is located approximately 45 minutes north of Bakersfield. Take Hiway 99 north to Hiway 46. Go west on Hiway 46 thru Wasco to Corcoran Road. Go north on Corcoran Rd. approximately 10 miles to the refuge, which is at the corner of Corcoran & Garces Hiway.

Public Comment on Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge

The Bitter Creek Refuge was established in 1985 to provide safe roosting and foraging habitat for California Condors. Condors are now flying back and forth between Ventura County and Bitter Creek NWR. A large flight pen is housed at the refuge and is used to hold condors that are injured or getting ready to be released into the wild. You can view the refuge along HWY. 166 and Cerro Noroeste Rd, with the possibility of seeing a condors.

The primary habitat of the refuge is open grassland providing valuable foraging habitat, which has been historically by the wild condor population. Several springs are found within its boundaries and creeks flow intermittently, depending upon rainfall. The refuge protects the habitat of a variety of plants and animals, including the golden eagle, prairie falcon and the endangered San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard and Bitter Creek Canyon provides a riparian corridor. Birders have the opportunity to spot golden eagles, prairie falcons, rough-legged hawks, Swainson's hawks (winter), tri-colored blackbirds, loggerhead shrikes and many other species.

Currently the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the management agency of the refuge, is in the process of accepting public comment on a proposed management plan. A recent article in the *Bakersfield Californian* by Lois Henry caused Fish & Wildlife to extend the comment period from July 31 to September 30, 2008. Of the four alternative action plans, Audubon CA supports Alternative D, a combination of four grass management tools: grazing, prescribed burning, mowing, and herbicide in order to improve native grasses, thus improving on the biodiversity. This alternative offers the best opportunity to return the area to its natural state and to provide the best foraging opportunities for the condors.

You can view the management alternatives at the following site: www.fws.gov/hoppermountain/index.html
Comments may be offered in two ways: 1) in writing to Bitter Creek NWR, P.O. Box 370, Maricopa, CA 93252 or 2) email to Refuge Manager Mike Stockton at mike_stockton@fws.gov. Your comments are urged!

Harry Love, Conservation Chair (589-6245)

Audubon CA & Offshore Drilling: Write your Congressman!

President Bush in June removed an executive order banning oil drilling off America's coastlines, and has been applying increasing pressure on Congress to lift its 27-year ban so that drilling can commence. Audubon California stands squarely against this proposal, as we feel that offshore drilling is not only a false solution to our ongoing energy problems, but also an unnecessary risk to our precious shoreline habitats. More than 3,000 members of our Action Alert network have already let their elected officials know their opposition to new offshore drilling. Please lend your voice to this effort. Contact your congressional representatives: Kevin McCarthy (202)225-2908 or Jim Costa (559)495-1027.



Looking ahead to TUES. OCTOBER 7th.....We have invited PETE BLOOM, wildlife biologist and expert on California Condors, to speak about this endangered bird and how it is doing in the wild.

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Sept. 2, 7:00pm - Meeting/ program
The Tejon Ranch Conservation Agreement
- Sat. Sept. 13, 8:00AM - Field trip to
Bakersfield Water Treatment Ponds
- Sat. Sept. 20, 10am - Gardening for
Birds - joint meeting with CA Native Plants
- Sat. Sept 27, 7:30am Explore Outdoor Day
@ Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
- Sept. 27-28 - Turkey Vulture Festival

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 # _____