



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 43 no 7 - SEPTEMBER 2014
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org
www.kastehachapibird.org

Kern Audubon's FALL KICK-OFF

Tuesday SEPT 2, 2014 - 7:00PM
City Center 17th & L Streets
(Kern Superintendent of Schools)
Parking garage 18th & K Sts. or street parking



THE PACIFIC FLYWAY: SUPERHIGHWAY IN THE SKY

Mike Sutton, Vice-President, National Audubon Society

The Pacific Flyway is an aerial superhighway stretching nearly 10,000 miles from Alaska to South America. It encompasses fewer US states and more Globally Important Bird Areas than any of the other three flyways in North America. Each year at least a billion birds of some 350 species travel the Flyway during their annual migrations, north in the spring to nesting grounds and south in the fall to their winter homes. This, however, represents only a fraction of the birds that used the Pacific Flyway a century ago. Some species, such as the Black-footed Albatross and Least Tern, are in serious trouble. Even many common birds such as the Western Sandpiper, have become far less abundant. There are many threats to the birds of the Flyway, from habitat loss, water diversion for agriculture and development, diminishing food resources, and climate change. California's exceptional drought is only making matters worse.

Audubon has been at the forefront of safeguarding birds and their ecosystems throughout its nearly 110 year history. ***Join National Audubon Vice President Michael Sutton for an evening to celebrate recent victories on behalf of birds and discuss the challenges and opportunities still ahead along the Pacific Flyway—aerial superhighway for the birds!***

Mike Sutton has an extensive background in conservation. Prior to coming to Audubon, he was Vice-president of the Monterey Bay Aquarium where he founded the Center for the Future of the Oceans, the Aquarium's conservation advocacy arm. Before that Mike established and led ocean conservation programs at the David & Lucille Packard Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund where he founded the Marine Stewardship Council based in London. Mike lives in the Carmel Valley and is a great birder!

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, Sept. 17 - Buena Vista Recreation Area

Ranger Bill Moffat will lead us to various birding spots around the lake, wetlands and woodlands, and then we will travel to Noon Park by the Buena Vista Golf Course which has also been noted as a birding area, ending with an optional lunch at the Buena Vista Golf course's Grill. We normally see 45-55 species here. Meet at **8am** at Stockdale Hiway parking lot across from CSUB to carpool or at **8:30** at the entrance to Buena Vista Lake Recreation Area. Call Bill at 201-9279 for more info.

Sat. Sept. 20 - Birding in Tehachapi Go to www.kastehachapi.org for details or call Angela: 821-7702

Saturday, Sept. 27, 7:00 am - Fall Turkey Vulture Festival

Meet at the Mt. Vernon/Hwy 178 Albertsons parking lot to carpool to the Kern River Audubon Preserve for this fall festival. There may be other birding walks starting earlier if people want to go up earlier on their own, and we will watch the KRP website and share those updates. This is always a fun event with displays, nature-bird walks, music and interaction with fellow birders. It ends around 2 pm. For more info call Bill at 201-9279.

Workparty at Panorama Vista Preserve

On **Saturday, September 13, 8-10 AM**, Kern Audubon will begin its fifth year providing workers for the Panorama Vista Preserve. The chores this time will be weeding (yes, those pesky tumbleweeds), working in the nursery, and maintenance around the trees. What to bring?: sun hat, gloves, and water. The Preserve is working on a fantastic new addition...come & see! ***This is a great time to become a new member of the team.*** Come out and find out how you can help. Contact **Harry Love** (805-1420; love3@bak.rr.com) for information. Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane off of Manor Drive at the locked gate at 8am. Just 2 hours of your time!



ALL ABOUT BIRDHOUSES

HOW TO MAKE A SAFE, SUCCESSFUL HOME FOR OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

For many species of birds, there is a shortage of great places to nest. There may be birds that would love to call your habitat home, but they have a specific nesting requirement which needs to be met. Birdhouses can be placed in backyards, schoolyards, parks, forests, deserts, cities...you name it. Support more nesting birds, and give a bird a home. Uses the resources provided by Cornell Lab of Ornithology to become the ultimate nest box landlord; find out what features make a birdhouse idea, which species you can attract to your area, etc. Go to the website for information: <http://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses>

GETTING INVOLVED WITH CONDORS

Last year one of Kern Audubon's programs dealt with current efforts to increase the population of California condors in the wild. Now you can get actively involved! Go to Zooniverse.org to find out what to do. Get signed-up and logged-in to CondorWatch and the steps are simple. You will see a picture taken by the CondorWatch camera traps of a carcass (usually still-born calves) and the animals that come to eat. Click on the animals to identify them and CondorWatch will ask a series of questions about what you are seeing. CondorWatch starts with a tutorial and has a field guide to help identify the animals. Kids are encouraged to participate and there are materials for teachers who would like to use CondorWatch in the classroom. You can help save these iconic endangered birds. Source: *Nature Conservancy magazine, August/September 2014*



Photo by Dave Schindler

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2014 - 2015

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GET THE E-WARBLER

US Postal Service regulations requiring a heavier weight paper for bulk mail has meant an increase in paper and mailing costs, probably an additional \$25 per month. 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 rodmllee@aol.com....thank you!!

WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? To learn more about birds, go to 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.

Audubon California has an excellent website:
www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To learn about National Audubon go to: www.audubon.org or 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



Hopefully you had a restful summer with many birding opportunities. And maybe you were able to see a life bird. But the sad news of the summer for birds is that one of the worst droughts in California's history continues into its third year. California has lost a great deal of wetland habitat over the years, making the small amount of habitat that remains all the more precious. In this drought, these remaining wetlands are getting even less water than usual. The rivers and streams that feed these wetlands are dry, and government allocations of water to wetland refuges (in the Central Valley, in particular) have been cut dramatically. Waterfowl that rely on these wetlands as staging grounds for migration, overwintering, or breeding, are finding less habitat than they need. An article in the *Bakersfield Californian* (August 4) detailed the problem of rice farmers in the Sacramento Valley, who normally flood fields, do not have the water. And the birds suffer. Locally riparian vegetation, without water, is under stress and dying. And the birds suffer. What to do? As birders and citizens we need to convince local government and agencies to make conservation of water mandatory. I thought that the experiences of the drought of 1975-78 taught us we all need to be part of the solution. But we have failed to heed the message of then that water is a resource that we all own. And it must be managed for both people and wildlife. Therefore, as a state, we must adopt the 'r' policy, that is, to regulate and ration this natural resource we call water.

Harry Love, President

KERN RIVER PRESERVE

Audubon's Kern River Preserve is implementing the first phase of a three year restoration project funded by the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program and USFWS Partners for Wildlife. We will be planting native shrubs, grasses and trees on 24 acres of formerly cultivated floodplain along the South Fork Kern River. Goal is to enhance habitat for a variety of wildlife species including San Emigdio Blue butterfly, Loggerhead Shrike, Summer Tanager and Southwestern Pond Turtle. The Site Care workday is September 20, 2014, 8am.

Volunteers of all levels of ability and time commitment are welcome. Bring food & water, gloves; wear long sleeves & pants, work shoes or boots. The preserve will supply the tools. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Alexander Restoration Site on Fay Ranch Road, 1/3 mi. north of Hwy 178 in Weldon, just past the entrance to the Kern River Preserve. Contact the Kern River Preserve Land Steward, **Sean Rowe:** srowe@audubon.org or (760) 378-2531 to RSVP.



Audubon

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

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AREA NEW SIGN

Along the Kern River Parkway, across from CSUB, there is a new sign that describes, through words & photos, the area's biological and botanical features. In the 1970s, the City of Bakersfield preserved this site from a proposed golf course and future development. Last year, Kern Audubon Society approached the faculty of the CSUB biology department to survey the area and prepare a sign describing its natural features. Two professors, Drs. Brandon Pratt (pictured below) and Anna Jacobsen, took the lead. Using graduate students and other faculty members, they prepared a sign that gives birders, walkers, bike riders, students, and others the opportunity to learn about the natural history of the area. Funding for the sign was provided through a grant from Chevron, USA. We also thank Bill Lydecker for his survey of birds of the ESA for the project. How to find the sign? Go to the parking lot on Stockdale Hiway & Don Hart Dr. next to Finish Line Bicycles. Walk across the foot bridge and it is next to the bench.



Photo by Harry Love

Looking ahead to **Tues. October 7th...**Join us for an evening with birder BOB BARNES!

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

• Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Sept. 2, 7:00pm - Fall Kick-off Meeting
- Sat. Sept. 13, 8-10am - PVP Workparty
- Wed. Sept. 17, 8am - Buena Vista field trip
- Sat. Sept. 20 - Tehachapi field trip
- Sat. Sept. 27, 7am - Turkey Vulture Festival
-

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 # _____