

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 47 no. 5 – May 2018

Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society

KERN AUDUBON PROGRAM Tues, May 1st 7pm

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
1300 17th St. Bakersfield (17th and L St.)



"Birds, Buck, and Barbeques"

Speaker: Harry Love and wife, Kathy Love

Harry Love, long time KAS member and conservation chair, will be giving a program on his April-May 2017 birding and camping trip to east Texas, ending up along the Gulf Coast. Along with his wife Kathy and good friends Connie and Claus, he traveled through the Hill Country, San Antonio, ending up at High Island, Texas. This is where 'The Fall' takes place, when birds land after migrating across the Gulf of Mexico. Good birding Texas state parks will also be noted. Besides the birding along the way, he will also show the sights of Bandera ("Cowboy Capital"), Luckenbach (of county music fame), and the best barbeque place in Texas. Highlights of the trip through Tucson, New Mexico, and west Texas will also be included.

May Field Trips

Tues. May 8th 8am – Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area

Join Bill Moffat for a morning of birding at the Buena Vista Aquatic Rec. Area, about 30 miles west southwest of Bakersfield, a premier birding location in the southern San Joaquin Valley, where we can expect to see late migrants, as well as nesting songbirds, waterfowl, raptors and shorebirds. A great location for new birders. Loaner binoculars are available. Meet at **8:00am** at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hwy & Don Harte Dr. across from CSUB to carpool, or at **8:30am at the Buena Vista Rec. Area**. Day use is \$7 per car so carpooling is encouraged. Bring water, snacks, binocs. Lunch is optional at the BV golf course café or BYO. Return after lunch. Call Bill (661-805-0232) for more information.

> URGENT <

~~3 issues left~~

2 issues left

**Countdown to electronic
Warbler ONLY!
Don't be left out.**

Instructions:

If you already receive the eWarbler, do nothing. If you don't, send your email to:
ewarbler@kernaudubonsociety.org.

Important Note:

The change is taking place because the printing/mailling cost of the Warbler is over \$2000 per year and we are a conservation group that is interested in protecting trees (and birds!)

- Please send your email address TODAY-

Sat. May 12th 7am – A Day of Birding in SW Kern Co near the Bittercreek Condor Refuge, Toad Springs, Pine Mt. Club and Mt. Pinos

Extraordinary naturalist Alison Sheehey will be leading us on this wonderful birding adventure in the southwest corner of Kern County.

We will be meeting at the Costco on Panama Lane, in the southwest section of the parking lot, to carpool, and will be leaving at **7am**. People can join us in Maricopa, at the store pkg lot at the intersection of Hwy166 and Hwy33, at **7:45am**. We'll be birding up Klipstein Cyn towards Bittercreek, then at Toad Springs, with birding and lunch at the Pine Mt. Club area. After lunch we'll be looking for the higher elevation birds like the Clark's Nutcracker up on Mount Pinos. We will be back to Bakersfield by around 4pm. Bring \$10 for drivers, water, food, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, etc. Binocs to loan available. Ali wants not more than 5 cars, so please call Deb See(661-809-6135) for questions, to confirm and to tell about vehicle size for carpooling,

Sat. May 26th 8am – Tehachapi Mountain Park

a county park located in the Tehachapi Mountains. We hope to see species that like the higher elevations such as Stellar's Jays and Mountain Chickadees. Meet at the Burger King at 8 am, or at Tehachapi Mountain Park around 8:30am.

Sat. June 2nd SAVE THE DATE- We will be joining with Tulare Audubon on a field trip with Christy Sherr (see Warbler March 2016 as our speaker at Kern Audubon mtg) She is a John Muir Project biologist and retired National and State Park Ranger. We'll be going to a special post-burned area to observe a complex seral forest, an infrequent, and important habitat for birds, insects, other animals and plants. Save this date, as more information will come soon. Call Deb (809-6135) or Bill (805-0232) for info.

Important Announcement from Kern Audubon's Board of Directors

For many years, the procedure for joining Kern Audubon Society has been to enroll in and pay dues to the National Audubon Society. At its March 20 meeting, Kern Audubon Society's Board of Directors voted to change that procedure and do what most of California's Audubon chapters do. That is to ask our members to join and pay dues to our local chapter, the Kern Audubon Society, not the National Audubon Society.

This change does not alter in any way Kern Audubon's status as regular chapter of the National Audubon Society. What it does do is keep all of our members' dues money in Kern County where it is badly needed. The dues remain tax-deductible.

For comments or questions, please email the Board at communications@kernaudubonsociety.org or call Mac McCarthy at 589-7768. The switchover is expected to begin next fall. The Board thinks this change will support our motto, "Birds Matter."

There are two big reasons for this change:

First reason to keep our members' dues money here for activities and projects in Kern County, where there are thousands of square miles of bird habitat. National Audubon returns only \$3 to Kern Audubon out of the \$20 each renewing member sends them. This membership changeover will keep an additional \$4000-\$5000 in Kern County.

Second reason is that Kern Audubon has run shortfalls of at least \$3000-\$5000 per year for the last three years. Only a bequest from Elizabeth Stucker a few years ago has allowed Kern Audubon to cover its deficits. By contrast, National Audubon ran a budget surplus of \$7.7 million last year. Kern Audubon has been one of only four California Audubon chapters to require

its members to join the National Audubon Society. 28 chapters have their members join the local chapter. Those include most of California's larger chapters. 13 chapters offer members a choice of joining the local chapter or National Audubon.

FYI, National Audubon's website provides access to the websites of California's chapters: <http://www.audubon.org/about/audubon-near-you?state=CA> Kern Audubon will provide an address and web link for members wishing to join the National Audubon Society. The best option for birds is to join both the Kern Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society.

By joining Kern Audubon, members will support local conservation and receive monthly issues of our newsletter, the Warbler, regular notices for field trips, and informative membership programs on the first Tuesday of the month. Members who also join the National Audubon Society will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine, Audubon.

Kern Audubon Executive Board

2017-2018

PRESIDENT- VACANT

VICE PRESIDENT - VACANT

SASHA HONIG - SECRETARY

sashahonig@gmail.com; (661) 325-0026

MARGARET DOLAN - TREASURER

mdolan635@gmail.com; (661) 330-9059

HARRY LOVE, CONSERVATION CHAIR

harrylove1944@gmail.com; (661) 805-1420

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR - VACANT

GINNY DALLAS – PROGRAM CHAIR

vdallasdull@gmail.com; (661) 301-8188

KEVIN FAHEY, OUTREACH CHAIR/ PAST PRESIDENT

kjfahey@sbcglobal.net; (661) 706-7459

JOHN WILSON – HOSPITALITY CHAIR

john1942@sbcglobal.net; (661) 747-2855

LINDA MCMILLIAN, MEMBERSHIP DATA

lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net; (661) 205-3521

DAVID SHAAD – CHAPTER LIBRAIAN

davidws@pacbell.net; (661) 428-2841

MARK HODSON, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

mhodson@bak.rr.com; (661) 699-8415

MAC MCCARTHY, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

macmccarthy3@gmail.com

MONA SIDHU, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

fairmonas@aol.com; (661) 800-8970

SUSAN CASTLE, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

bcastle4100@sbcglobal.net; (661) 477-4818

CAROL GATES, TEHACHAPI REP.

carol.gates18@gmail.com; (661) 300-1429

MARY DUFRAIN, TEHACHAPI REP.

marysalternative@yahoo.com; (661) 972-4355

JAKE ABEL, WEBMASTER

thatcadguy@gmail.com; (661) 337-9143

EX-OFFICIO: LINDA VASQUEZ, WARBLER EDITOR

communications@kernaudubonsociety.org;

(661) 345-7859

Board Meeting May. 15, 2018 6:30PM



**SAVE
THE DATE**
June 5 for annual
tri-tip and chicken
picnic at
-YOKUTS PARK -
more info in next
newsletter.

KERN AUDUBON 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.



Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Sign up for **Meetup!**

[www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon Society](http://www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society)

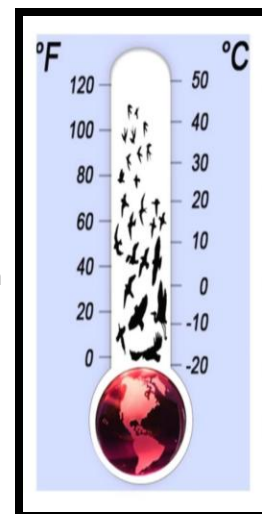
Many thanks to **Carly Summers** for updating events on the site.



CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER:

Arizona State University

Arizona State takes full advantage of abundant desert sunshine to produce energy, create community, and support its neighbors. Along with using carbon offsets, ASU has installed 88 solar systems to help meet its goal of carbon neutrality by 2025. These are not simply panels on the outskirts of campus – ASU gets innovative with its projects. One unique project in the Memorial Union has a triple benefit effect. It provides a 25-foot high shade canopy for students from the scorching heat, beautifies a campus common place through artistic design, and generates nearly 400 kilowatts of electricity through PV solar. ASU is also committed to being a good neighbor. The university is developing economically and culturally smart renewable solutions with the nearby Navajo tribe as the reservation phases out coal usage.



OUR ANNUAL
OUTREACH AT
THE CALM BIRTHDAY
PARTY IS MAY 19.

(It's a very rewarding
experience.)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
FOR THE 2:00 - 4:00PM
TIME SLOT.

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL
GINNY DALLAS IF YOU
CAN HELP OUT :
VDALLASDULL@GMAIL.COM
or 661-301-8188

NO SCHEDULED DATE
FOR WORKPARTY AT
PANORAMA VISTA
PRESERVE THIS
APRIL..STAY TUNED
FOR NEXT MONTH!



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You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you use Amazon for your shopping needs? If so, sign up for **AmazonSmile**. A percent (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, an AmazonSmile customer.

**Birding is something that
we do for enjoyment...**



**...so if you enjoy it,
you're a good birder.
If you enjoy it a lot,
you're a great birder.**

- Kenn Kaufman



EASY WAY TO DONATE

Now you can donate towards supporting the many projects important to the Kern Audubon Society at any time. How? Go to our website (kernaudubonsociety.org) and click on the DONATE button in the top right hand corner. You can use your credit card or PayPal. It is that easy!

June 5 election: Proposition 68-Vote Yes!

On the ballot this coming June 5 is Proposition 68: the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act. This bond will provide funding for many things including local parks, open spaces, habitat restoration, and the Salton Sea. Of special importance to our Chapter is that it will help to fund the many improvements needed at Hart Park. For over a year, our members have been very active in seeking comments and advice on how to improve the park. The major stumbling block in addressing the problems is financing. This bond will help the county to finance the needed improvements.



Sandhill Cranes

April 12, 2018

In mid-March two friends and I headed to Nebraska to see the Sandhill Crane migration north along the Platte River corridor. It was truly an experience of a lifetime, exceeding our expectations. This was a mystical event, connecting oneself, to millions of years past, in which one confronts the majesty and mystery of nature, appeals, I recommend this journey.

We flew to Omaha, choosing the most direct flight, even though it meant a three hour but easy drive to Kearney where we were staying. We reserved spots at the blinds located at the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at the Rowe Sanctuary a twenty minute drive from our accommodations. Our booking included the three mornings and two evenings for the two days we spent in in the area, a good idea to ensure a full experience. Events, like low flying eagles, can cause a sooner-than-hoped-for fly away, so having more than one booking is some "insurance." Volunteer guides led the groups for the approximately two hours we spent in the blinds. The sanctuary had a count of 329,000 Sandhill Cranes in the corridor for the time we were there.

Afternoons we spent driving the area, watching and photographing the feeding, dancing, socializing of these beautiful birds. A bonus of the trip were the thousands of snow geese we saw each day as they too made the migration along the Platte.

What will we most remember? Cold, quiet morning walks to the blinds, the loud and continual vocalizing of the cranes, the nearness of thousands seen from the blinds as they settled in for the night, continual waves of them as far as the eye could see at sunset and their blasting off in first light, the snow geese, lovely volunteers and staff at the Rowe Sanctuary. Most importantly, we will remember the emotional response to the beauty and power of unseen forces operating, even under reduced natural conditions

We did, indeed, walk in reverence, with deep respect and awe, at such potent evidence of the ageless cycles of nature.

Maria Polite, Audubon Member

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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. May 1, 7pm - KAS Program
- Tues. May 8, 8am - Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area
- Sat. May 12, 7am - A Day of Birding in SW Kern Co near the Bittercreek Condor Refuge, Toad Springs, Pine Mt Club and Mt Pinos
- Sat. May 19, 9am - Audubon booth at CALM Birthday Party
- Sat. May 26, 8am - Tehachapi Mountain Park
- Sat. Jun. 2, 8am - Save the Date: Joining Tulare Audubon field trip *more details to come*
- Tues. Jun 5 - Save the Date: KAS BBQ/Picnic at Yokuts Park

Membership Application – KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

If you would like to be apart 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

Send this form and your check made to National Audubon for \$20 to:

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Kern Audubon
PO BOX 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s): _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____