



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 44. no. 8 - October 2015
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon
Tues. October 6, 2015 - 7:00pm
Kern Supt of Schools City Center
17th & L Sts. - (parking lot @18th & K Sts.)

"BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BIRDS & WILDLIFE OF KERN COUNTY"

Presented by Nature Ali (Alison Sheehey)



From valleys, to mountains, to deserts... Kern County and its neighboring counties are full of the wonders of nature. This program will be a quick overview of where and when to find magnificent birds, wildflowers, geological wonders, and some of the oldest plants in North America. Come and plan to have a "virtual" tour with Nature Ali and her great photography and then head out to the field. Fall migration is winding down but our winter resident birds are just arriving. Find out where and when to see waterfowl...how to participate in Christmas Bird Counts and just what they are. Want to know where big trees are and where to find snow? How about the best places for spring migration and fields of wildflowers? Where are the parks and protected spaces? Learn all this and more on October 6, 2015 with Nature Ali!!

Alison Sheehey, aka Nature Ali (www.natureali.com) is a California Master Naturalist with a degree in Anthropology. She currently is the Programs Director of Sequoia ForestKeeper, a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization based in Kernville, CA. Ali is the past president of Kern Audubon and has been active in protecting and appreciating all that is natural in Kern County and beyond since her arrival here in 1980.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

Tues. October 13, 8:00am - Pixley National Wildlife Refuge

This will be a great morning of birding in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week. We will be walking around the flooded areas of the refuge for good viewing of waterfowl, upland & shorebirds. This area is normally closed to the public. A US Fish & Wildlife biologist will provide guided access for the outing. Pixley NWR is a 45 minute drive north of Bakersfield in southern Tulare County west of Earlimart.

Meet to carpool at the Rosedale Costco near the gas station at 8am. Bring snacks, lunch & water as well as binoculars (we have some to borrow). Or you can meet at the Pixley NWR parking lot at 9am. Contact Bill Moffat (201-9279) for more information.

Sat. October 17, Tom Sawyer Lake, Tehachapi

Join leader Greg Hargleroad for a morning of birding around Sawyer Lake and creek. This area is riparian and oakwoodlands habitat with good opportunity for waterfowl, migrants and resident birds. Meet Greg at the Burger King on Tehachapi Blvd at 8am to carpool. Bakersfield folks meet at Stockdale ParknRide at 7:15am. Bring water, snacks, binocs; outing ends at 11am. Contact 818-645-3664 for more information.

Sat. October 24, 8:00am - Hart Park

This will be a local outing for all levels of birders, so plan to join us for a great morning of birding at a wonderful location. Hart Park offers a variety of habitats for resident and migrant birds, all within easy walking distances. Bring snacks, water, binocs (binoculars are available to borrow). Call Bill Moffat (201-9279) or Madi Elsea (322-7470) for more info.



PRESIDENT'S NEST



"Branding". That is a term used to describe a company or product that has a very positive public image. What comes to mind are: Kleenex, Coca-Cola, and UPS. These companies benefit because of consumer satisfaction and loyalty. The Audubon Society also benefits from 'branding'. Our organization is looked upon as the premier environmental group, with no partisan affiliation and no agenda outside of protecting birds, their habitats and our environment. To county supervisors, agency personnel, and city council members, just the name of the Kern Audubon Society elicits respect. They listen to our message because our message is clear and free from political discourse. Your letters, emails, and public comments to decision makers help to strengthen the branding process when you mention that you are a member of the Kern Audubon Society. One more observation: in a public meeting, introducing yourself as a 'member of the Audubon Society', elicits smiles from decision makers. Just like birds do.

Harry Love, President



WORKPARTY AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

On **Saturday, October 10**, we will have our workday at the Preserve. **Time: 8-10 AM**. October weather is a great time to be out gardening. Our tasks will be weeding and planting new cuttings in the nursery. Bring hat, water, gloves, and a shovel or hoe. Meet at the gate as the east end of Roberts Lane. If this will be your first time on a workday, contact Harry Love (805-1420 love3@bak.rr.com) for directions and to answer questions. Hope you can come out to join our team!

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 19th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 19-22, 2015 at the Stockton Hilton in Stockton, CA. Thursday Night's Keynote speakers are Ed Harper & Ed Pandolfino on "**A Central Valley Year of Sights & Sounds**". Friday Night's keynote is by Steve N.G. Howell on "**Shift Happens: Rare {Vagrant} Birds in North America.**" Steve is an acclaimed field ornithologist and international bird tour leader with WINGS. Saturday Night's keynote program is presented by Kate Marianchild on "**Our Magnificent Valley Oaks; Hubs of their Habitats.**" Kate is a naturalist, birder, and author of the best-selling *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants, and Animals among California's Oaks*.

Workshops include: "**Birding: the 12-step Program--Bird ID explained**" by Steve N.G. Howell, "**Shorebird ID Workshop**" by Jon Dunn, "**A Mini Tricolored Blackbird Symposium**", moderated by Dan Airola, and a photo workshop by Bob Steele. Plus lots of exciting field trips! For more info on speakers, workshops, and fieldtrips, go to <http://www.cvbsreg.org>



Sept. workers at Panorama Vista Preserve: Harry Love, Ashleigh Pryor, Dana Adams, Clyde Golden

Info about birds? Go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study and 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



Do you shop on the internet? Do you use Amazon? If so, you can help Kern Audubon through **Amazon Smile**, a site that allows you to shop for the same items and price as the regular site but with the added feature that .5% of what you pay to Amazon will go to KAS. You have the

same choices and you pay no more. You do need to register (smile.amazon.com) and select your charity of choice, the Kern Audubon Society. Then, when buy something, just go to the Smile site. It is easy and Kern Audubon will benefit!

BIRD FESTIVALS are fun! You meet other birders, visit new places, see lots of birds, hear interesting presentations, support local economies and much more. For information about festivals around the country, go to...

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals
www.birdwatchersdigest.com



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us on FACEBOOK! Add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on field trips and programs!



Kern Audubon - Tehachapi

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015

Golden Hills Elementary School
20215 Park Road, Tehachapi

"Turkey Vultures & Condors"
Guest Speaker: John Schmitt



aturalist, feather expert and internationally known bird artist. Over two hundred of his illustrations have appeared in various ornithological journals, environmental newsletters and magazines, including *Living Bird* (magazine of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology), *American Birds*, *Continental Birdlife*, and *Western Birds*. He will speak on Turkey Vultures and Condors, especially elaborating on the Turkey Vultures' curious relationship with storks. He has many interesting facts and he tells a good story. John lives in Wofford Heights.

**Please come and join us for this evening of free bird entertainment...
plus refreshments and a fund-raising raffle!!**

Project FeederWatch



Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. The FeederWatch season starts November 8th and ends April 3, 2016, so go to www.FeederWatch.org for more information and to register. It's great fun & an important contribution to science!

Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. Participants watch their feeders as much or as little as they want over two consecutive days as often as every week (less often is fine). They count birds that appear in their count site because of something that they provided (plantings, food, or water). New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions for participating, as well as a bird identification poster and more. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. Then each fall participants receive our 16-page, year-end report, [Winter Bird Highlights](#). Participants also receive the Cornell Lab newsletter.

There is a \$18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report.

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK



Traveling to the Los Angeles area? Need a place to take your children or grandchildren to learn more about birds? Well, the Audubon Center at Debs Park has a facility that meet your needs. Located just north of downtown Los Angeles, Ernest E. Debs Park, located along the Arroyo Seco, is a little-known but exciting spot to bird. It's at its peak in late April during the height of spring migration, but is also productive during the fall and winter months. Besides having nature trails, the Center also hosts classes on the science of birds. For more information, visit the Park's

California's desert deserves permanent protection

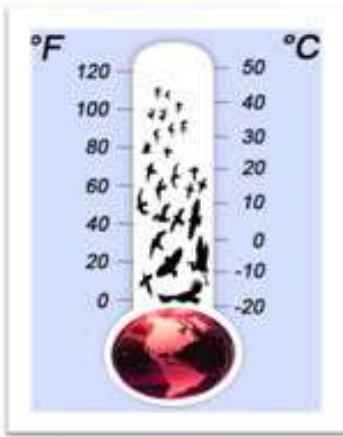
September 10, 2015 THE LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD

After more than six years of analysis, debate and draft proposals, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is close to issuing its final plan for nearly 10 million acres that it controls in the California desert, designating sections for recreation, industry, conservation and renewable energy production. If its most recent "preferred option" prevails, this will be a strong blueprint for the future, protecting the desert's most pristine and environmentally significant land while making good use of perhaps its best natural resource — abundant sun for solar energy. But one thing has been missing in the BLM's plan so far: a guarantee that the conserved lands will be protected permanently, as such lands have been everywhere else in the country.

Environmentalists expect the BLM's Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) to set aside about a third of its acreage for conservation — 3.5 million acres of land in seven southern California counties. This portion of the acreage is home to iconic species such as the desert tortoise and bighorn sheep, and is the site of petroglyphs and other important historical and archaeological treasures. Slightly less than a tenth of the total land — close to 1 million acres — would be zoned for energy development, largely solar. A second phase of the desert plan, being developed by county and city governments for the areas over which they have jurisdiction, is expected to provide more land for energy development.... Under a 2009 federal law, the BLM's National Conservation Lands are set aside for permanent protection. The law didn't name any specific land within the area covered by the BLM's desert plan because the process of examining that land for preservation was just beginning. But it did include more general wording that says "public land within the California Desert Conservation Area administered by the Bureau of Land Management for conservation purposes" is to be permanently preserved. The law's intention is clear. If that land needs to be removed from protection later on, Congress always has the power to do that.

Further, these protected lands should be shielded from future mining claims. There already are various claims staked in the areas most likely to be named as conservation areas, and those have a right to go forward — although most mining claims don't lead to actual mining. But if this land is worthy of conservation, the BLM certainly shouldn't allow one of the most environmentally intrusive forms of industry on it.

NOTE: The Kern Audubon Society has encouraged Kern County to become a partner in the DRECP. Our county is the state's largest developer of renewable energy: solar and wind. We have emphasized that bird and other species habitat must have a high priority when siting these energy projects. To date, Kern County has not become a signatory of the agreement. If you believe that Kern County should participate in this plan to protect our desert and support a statewide policy for renewable energy development, then please write to your supervisor expressing the need for Kern County have a strong environmentally sound renewable energy plan. Our supervisors are: Mike Maggard, David Couch, Leticia Perez, Mick Gleason, and Zach Scrivner. Address: 1115 Truxtun Ave., 5th Floor, Bakersfield 93301.



CLIMATE CHANGE CORER Of the 588 North American bird species studied by Audubon, more than half are likely to be in trouble because of climate change. The models indicate that 314 species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080. Of the 314 species at risk from global warming, 126 of them are classified as climate endangered. These birds are projected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2050. The other 188 species are classified as climate threatened and expected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2080 if global warming continues at its current pace.

NOTE: This will be a monthly feature of the Warbler, giving you facts for your dialogue with others.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

In a few months our dedicated Membership Coordinator, Pat Turner, will be moving out of the area. She's provided excellent leadership for this very important role with Kern Audubon for the past several years. This position involves reporting membership changes to National Audubon, sending welcome letters to new members and preparing labels for the monthly newsletter. Time involved is approximately 6 hours a month. If you might be interested in learning more about what's involved, contact Madi Elsea (322-7470).



Kern Audubon's website (www.kernaudubonsociety.org) is one place to look for info about Kern Audubon field trips and MEETUP is another! And if you'd like to find out what similar groups are doing, well, the easy answer is a social media web site called **Meetup** You get email reminders of events, instructions on how to join, and, it's free! To become a member of Meetup, go to www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society and follow

eBird--GLOBAL TOOL FOR BIRDERS, CRITICAL DATA FOR SCIENCE: www.ebird.org

- Record the birds you see
- Keep track of your bird lists
- Explore dynamic maps and graphs
- Share your sightings and join the eBird community
- Contribute to science and conservation

eBird is a real-time, online checklist program which has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

Go to www.ebird.org and begin recording your bird sightings--it's fun and it's free!

OCTOBER SCIENCE CAMP

For the past several years Kern Audubon has been working with Panorama Vista Preserve on the science camps it offers for local school district 8th graders. Audubon volunteers provide basic information about birds in four different stations around the preserve. Materials are provided by Kern Audubon and all that is needed are enthusiastic volunteers to staff the stations. Kevin Fahey is overseeing this project and is looking for a few more folks for the next science camp, October 20-21-22. The camp runs 8-12 and the students really enjoy the outing and interaction with our volunteers, plus what they are learning about birds. No experience needed and you only need to volunteer for one morning! If you'd like more information and the opportunity to get involved, contact Kevin: 706-7459 or kifahev@sbcglobal.net

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2015-2016

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Oct. 6, 7:00pm - Meeting & Program: Beginners Guide to Birds of Kern County
- Sat. Oct. 10, 8-10am - PVP Workparty
- Tues. Oct. 13, 8 am - Pixley NWR
- Sat. Oct. 17 - Sawyer lake, Tehachapi outing
- Sat. Oct. 24, 8am - Hart Park Beginners outing

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 # _____