



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 39 No. 4 - APRIL 2010

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society

A chapter of National Audubon Society

www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Society

TUESDAY APRIL 6, 2010 - 7:00PM

Location: Kern Sup't of Schools

17th & L Sts. Bakesfield

(street parking or lot at 18th & K)



"Wildlife, Solar & Dust at Owens Lake - - Add Water & Stir"

Mike Prather - Birder, Conservationist & Owens Lake "hero"

An enormous wildlife resource has returned to Owens Lake, a migration stopover for tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl that was lost nearly 100 years ago. The lake was dried as a result of water gathering by the City of Los Angeles, but now is receiving careful application of water to control the regional dust storms born with the lake's death. Roughly 35 square miles of Owens Lake's surface are covered with shallow ponds or sheet flooding resulting in thousands of acres of rich feeding habitat for sandpipers, snowy plovers, ducks and geese, with 9 more square miles of ponds and sheet flooding currently under construction.

In 2001 the National Audubon Society designated Owens Lake an **Important Bird Area** and in 2008 included it as one of ten IBA's in California that would receive staff time and resources from Audubon California. Creation of a collaborative lakewide conservation action plan is being led by Eastern Sierra Audubon and Audubon CA in partnership with LA Department of Water and Power, Department of Fish & Game and the State Lands Commission.

Today hundreds of birders and wildlife watchers are visiting the lake on guided fieldtrips to see this amazing migratory spectacle. Nesting snowy plovers (the largest inland site in California), large flocks of least and western sandpipers, thousands of American avocets, peregrine falcon, white-faced ibis and more are watchable wildlife at Owens Lake. Now the challenge is to determine how much of the rare resource can be protected in per

petuity. Can a balance be found between the need for water by Los Angeles and the need to protect wildlife, including its enjoyment by the citizens of California?

Mike Prather is a big part of the reason Owens Lake has been restored and we are fortunate to have Mike, who was honored by Audubon California as one of its top volunteers for 2008, present the April 6th program. Mike has been residing in Inyo County since 1972 when he and wife Nancy moved to Death Valley to teach in a one room school house. He has actively been working on land and water issues in the Owens Valley since 1980 with the Owens Valley Committee (past president), Eastern Sierra Audubon (past president) and Sierra Club (past chapter chair). The re-watering of 62 miles of the Lower Owens River and the massive wildlife return to Owens Lake as a result of the Los Angeles Owens Lake Dust Control Project have been the center of Mike's conservation focus since the early 1980's. The enhancement and protection of the Owens River and Owens Lake Important Bird Areas attracts most of his current efforts and he invites everyone to join in the fun. Mike and Nancy live in Lone Pine and are retired (or 'real tired') from thirty years of teaching

April Field Trips

Sat. April 3 Wind Wolves Preserve 7:45am (see inside for more information)

Sat. April 24 Butterbredt Springs 6:30am....An early morning start to this Mojave desert "migrant trap" to see migrating songbirds. Meet at the Chevron/Jack in the Box at the corner of Union Ave. & Brundage (Union exit off Hiway 58), bring snacks & lunch, water, binoculars. Call Bill Lydecker (900-8595), field trip leader, for more information.

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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The Kern Audubon Executive Board meets monthly on the third Wednesday, 7pm. Meetings are open to interested members, so contact Ted or Madi for information about meeting locations.

UPCOMING CALIF BIRD FESTIVALS

April 15-21 - Arcata CA
Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival
www.godwitdays.com

Sat. May 1, 2010
Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival
<http://kern.audubon.org>

May 7-9, 2010
Calif Redwoods Bird & Nature Festival
Crescent City

If you like travel, birding, fun and education, consider a birding festival. For more information:

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

OWL BOX WEBCAM...go to
www.ustream.tv/theowlbox to see live streaming of recently hatched Barn Owls!



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

SPRING WORKDAY **PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE**

The next workday at Panorama Vista Preserve will be the **SECOND** Saturday of the month, **Saturday, April 10. Time: 8-10 AM**, instead of the first Saturday. Reason for the change? It gives you an opportunity to go on a fantastic outing to Wind Wolves lead by Ginny Dallas on April 3, color Easter eggs or enjoy a day in your garden!

Spring has arrived at the Preserve! Tall grasses, trees in bloom, and work to do. Finally we get a chance to plant those cuttings we did in December. And are they looking healthy! The irrigation system is in and all that is needed is loving, caring planters! Please come and enjoy a great morning at the Preserve. We need YOU!!!

The March 6th workday was cold and rainy and LYNN JAMES was the only Auduboner to attend, so thank you, Lynn!

Contact Harry Love (805-1420) or email love3@bak.rr.com for directions or information.

NATURALLY GREEN DAY **SAT. APRIL 17 - CALM**

In celebration of Earth Day, CALM (Calif Living Museum) is hosting "Naturally Green Day" and will feature activities highlighting birding, proper pruning of trees and water conservation. The event will be held at the museum/zoo from 10am - 4pm. Kern Audubon has been asked to make a "bird watching" presentation and lead some birding excursions around the park. Madi Elsea is looking for some folks to staff a display table and lead some small groups to bird around the park...a few hours commitment is all that is expected. Call Madi for information and to volunteer: 322-7470.

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 Go to this website for what's unusual in Kern County: kerncobirding@yahoogroups.com You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Michael McQuerry, Alison Sheehey, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

Audubon California has a great website about its activities and organization: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To find out more about national Audubon happenings through an informative electronic newsletter, email chapterleaders@audubon.org

WIND WOLVES FIELD TRIP - Sat. April 3

A wildflower/birding outing to Wind Wolves Preserve will take place on Sat. April 3, 8:00am. Wind Wolves is a 100,000 acre preserve owned and managed by Wildlands Conservancy in the grasslands and mountains south of Hiway 166 west of Interstate 5. It is a beautiful place to walk, birdwatch and enjoy the wildflowers so beautiful this time of the year in Kern County. Registrations are limited to 25 persons, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Ginny Dallas (587-6323) or vdallas@bak.rr.com. There are still a few places available. Details about what to bring, meeting place, etc. will be received from Ginny.



KERN RIVER VALLEY SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL SATURDAY MAY 1st

The 16th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival exhibits and activities will take place on Saturday May 1, 2010 at Audubon's Kern River Preserve in Weldon. The preserve will host numerous free events including bird walks led by Kerncrest Audubon, workshops and exhibits in the large, shaded front yard of Preserve Headquarters. Exhibits, walks & entertainment during the day are free!

The keynote speaker for the evening event, an ice cream social, will be David Lukas, Sierra naturalist and author, including *Wild Birds of California* and *Sierra Nevada Natural History*. Cost of the Ice Cream Social and program is \$12.50 and for the program only, \$10.

Registration Fees, and Cancellations:

There is a fee for all other activities, including the Ice Cream Social, evening program, and field trips. Registration can be completed online at REGONLINE. All fees should be paid in advance. Payment by credit card, and check are accepted. The general festival registration fee is \$5 to cover the cost of the online registration. (In the event of a cancellation, notification must be received in writing or email by April 15. Cancellations are subject to an administrative fee of \$25. No refunds of any amount can be made after April 25, 2010; however, you may transfer your registration to another individual.)

Here's a list of some of the events taking place on May 1st:

- 6M - 1pm : South Fork Valley Birding \$30
 - Eastern Sierra Birding (\$30)
 - Kern River Valley Birding (\$30)
 - Mojave Desert Birding (\$30)
 - Kern Valley Butterflies (\$30)
- 9 - 11am: Kern River Preserve Bird Walk
- 9 - 11am: Habitat Enhancements & Stewardship at the Preserve
- 10 - 10:30am: Southwestern Pond Turtles
- 10am - 4pm: Children's activities
- 10:30am: Bird Feeding Workshop
- 11am - noon: Native Plant Gardening Workshop
- Noon: Wildlife calling contest
- 1pm: Basic Bird Identification
- 2 - 3pm: Nature Walk

There will musical entertainment throughout the day and many other activities!
Check the website for more information: <http://kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>

KERN RIVER FESTIVAL MAY 22, 2010, 12-5PM

The first KERN RIVER FESTIVAL is being planned for a Saturday afternoon, May 22nd, to enjoy and raise awareness about Hart Park and the Kern River Parkway. This festival is being sponsored by Kern River Parkway Foundation, the Stewards of Kern River Park (Hart Park) and Kern Co. Parks & Recreation. Lots of volunteers are needed, so if you'd like to get involved, contact Kenny Beal, Stewards of Hart Park Comm: kennybeal@gmail.com

Save Our Parks: Last Chance!

Come to the April program to hear the latest about the drive to place a ballot initiative on the November ballot to support public funding of state parks. As of March 20, 100,000 signatures were still needed. Good news is that you and others provided more than 300,000 signatures. There will be additional voter signature forms at the meeting. Come and help Audubon and other environmental organizations reach the needed number in time, which is April 15th.

Harry Love, Conservation Chair

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Kern Audubon Society
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Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities....

- Sat. April 3 Wind Wolves field trip
- Tues. April 6, 7:00pm - Meeting/program featuring Mike Prather on the restoration of Owens Lake
- Sat. April 10, 8:00am - Panorama Vista Preserve Work Party
- April 17 - Natural Green Day at CALM with Kern Audubon sponsored birding workshop
- April 24 - Butterbredt Springs field trip

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C9ZC300Z)

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 (not Kern Audubon)

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 # _____