



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 40 no. 4 - April 2011  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Tues. APRIL 5, 2011

7:00pm - Kern Supt of Schools

17th & L Sts. (parking garage 18th & K)

**"Purple Martins & Tejon Ranch"**  
**Mike White, Tejon Ranch Conservancy**

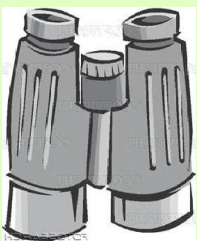


Dr. Mike White, Conservation Science Director for the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, will present a fascinating look at Purple Martins, a member of the swallow family and a colony-dwelling bird that is rare in California. It is a designated Species of Special Concern. While eastern birds nest almost exclusively in man-made boxes, California Purple Martins nest mainly in natural cavities in trees. Surveys have found nesting colonies in the Tehachapi mountains and more recently on Tejon Ranch, where they nest mostly in large valley oaks. These sites have been designated as Audubon "Important Bird Areas."

Mike White, an experienced birder and naturalist, earned his doctorate in a joint program at UC Davis and San Diego State University. He has over 20 years of professional experience in conservation planning, environmental regulations and ecosystem management and has served as lead biologist for many high-visibility projects, including the Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation program and as technical advisor to the environmental groups that negotiated the landmark 2006 Tejon Ranch Conservation & Land Use Agreement conserving up to 90% of the 270,000 acre ranch.

Join us for an informative evening on Purple Martins and an update on the Tejon Ranch Conservancy and its conservation efforts!

## APRIL FIELD TRIPS



### **Sat. April 2, 7:00am – Kern Water Bank**

Cheryl Harding of the Kern Water Bank will lead this birding field trip to some of the Water Bank's recharge ponds. We will meet at the GREEN GATES to the KWB at 7am. Go west on Stockdale Hiway to Hiway 43 (Enos Lane); go south to green gates which are on the west side across from Kern River Bike path parking lot. (If you get to the bridge across the river, you've gone too far!) Bring water, snacks, etc. We will return about 11:15am. There will be some walking but mostly it's a driving outing. Call Roger for more information: 832-1820.

**Wed. April 13, 7:30am – Kern River area near Hart Park** for birding and wildflowers on private property. Meet at Sugar Mill Cafe 2523 N. Chester for breakfast or 8:30 in parking lot, returning by noon. Bring water, binocs, snacks, walking shoes. Call Bill Moffatt for information: 399-2282.

### **Sun. April 17, 7:30am – Kern River Preserve's Migrant Corner**

Alison Sheehy, Kern River Preserve Outreach Coordinator and excellent birder, will lead this field trip to one of Kern County's best spots to see spring migrants. Meet at Costco/Rosedale parking lot near gas station; return by 3pm. Bring snacks, lunch, water. Note: There will be approximately 2 miles of walking, up and down hills and the trail is not manicured. Call Roger for more information: 832-1820/.

## **Tricolored Blackbird Survey April 15-17, 2011**

This April, as part of Audubon California's effort to help save one of California's most sensitive birds, volunteers will scour California for Tricolored Blackbird **and our help is needed!**

Audubon California and the Tricolored Blackbird Working Group will conduct the triennial statewide survey April 15-17 to estimate the current population of this imperiled species. Volunteers will survey known, historical colony sites as well as scout for new colonies that have escaped detection. No prior experience is necessary and any help, big or small, is welcome.

To prepare for the survey, a training session will be held to learn the basics of surveying. Wondering how to ID a Tricolored vs. a Red-winged Blackbird? Or how to accurately estimate the size of a 60,000 bird megacolony? These are the types of questions that will be answered at the training.

Both "veterans" and newcomers are asked to attend the training session for the San Joaquin Valley:

Los Banos Fish and Wildlife Office

Date: **April 9th, Saturday**

Time: 9:30am-11:30am

To take part in the survey, please contact Kellier Kyle, Audubon California's Tricolored Blackbird Conservation Coordinator: [kkyle@audubon.org](mailto:kkyle@audubon.org), or by phone at (916) 649-7600, Ext. 114



Tricolored  
Blackbird  
UC Davis

### **WEBSITES to check out...**

**Kern Birding** For a comprehensive website about Kern Co. birding locations go to [www.natureali.org/birding.htm](http://www.natureali.org/birding.htm).

**Information about birds?** For learning about birds go to [www.cornellbirds@cornell.edu](http://www.cornellbirds@cornell.edu), the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the world leader in the study and conservation of birds.

**Kern County Bird Sightings/photos** For what's unusual in Kern County, go to [kerncobirding@yahoo.com](mailto:kerncobirding@yahoo.com) You'll find recent bird sightings by Bob Barnes, Michael McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

**Audubon California** has a great website about its activities and organization: [www.Audubon-ca.org](http://www.Audubon-ca.org)

**Audubon in the news** - To find out about National Audubon happenings through an informative electronic newsletter, email [chapterleaders@audubon.org](mailto:chapterleaders@audubon.org)

**And don't forget our own website:**  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010 - 2011**

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Ted Murphy, Past President

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The Kern Audubon Executive Board will meet Wed. April 20, 7:00pm. Meetings are open to interested members; contact a board member for meeting locations

## **OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED**

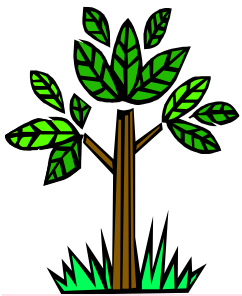
Ginny Dallas has done an outstanding job of organizing the slate of speakers for Kern Audubon's monthly programs and Harry Love has done the same with our successful workparties at Panorama Vista Preserve and representing KAS' conservation concerns at public hearings and through letter writing. And they'd like to share the opportunity with YOU...to be involved with getting these events organized and getting our concerns heard!

If you'd like to help Ginny with the program aspect of Kern Audubon, call (301-8188) or email her: [vdallas@bak.rr.com](mailto:vdallas@bak.rr.com).

If you'd like to be involved with conservation efforts or helping Harry with organizing PVP work parties, call him (589-6245) or email: [love3@bak.rr.com](mailto:love3@bak.rr.com).

Or say YES if Ginny or Harry calls you!

Looking ahead to Tues. May 3, 7:00pm....  
JOHN SCHMIDT, bird artist and feather expert



### **APRIL 2ND at PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE**

On Saturday, April 2, from 9-11 AM, Join Kern Audubon at the Preserve and help spring arrive! Volunteers are needed to tend to the nursery, plant new plants and get the Preserve ready for spring. What to bring: hat, gloves, water, shovel or hoe. With good rains in March, it should be a great time to see new growth on the plants...and weeds to hoe! For information call Harry Love (805-1420) or email : [love3@bak.rr.com](mailto:love3@bak.rr.com). (Directions: Take Roberts Lane exit off Manor Drive and go east to the gates.)

### **BIRDING ARIZONA WITH MICHAEL MCQUERRY**

Southeast Arizona is legendary in US birding. The mountains of Mexico extend just into Arizona in the form of the "Sky Islands" of soaring mountains: Huachuca's, Chiricahua's, the Santa Rita's. The birds of Mexico and Central America follow these mountains into the US only in Arizona. There are nearly 100 species which occur nowhere else in the United States. Michael McQuerry, Kern Audubon member and frequent field trip leader, has birded southeastern Arizona for 30 years and will lead a July birding trip for Kern Audubon July 23-30. The cost is based on lodging (motels or camping) and food, to be arranged by each participant. Please email Michael with your questions and to sign-up: [macbirder@juno.com](mailto:macbirder@juno.com). Opportunity to see 13 species of hummingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Varied Bunting, Gray Hawk, Gilded Flicker, Elf owl, Whip-poorwill, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Rufous-winged sparrow,...just to name a few!

### **AMERICA'S BIRDIEST INLAND COUNTY COMPETITION: APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2011**

For the past seven years, Kern County has been recognized as the nation's "birdiest inland county" in the annual Birdiest County competition. Last year's total was 242 species and in 2009, 246 species. The 2011 Kern County effort will take place over 72 consecutive hours from Friday through Sunday, April 29 - May 1. All bird species observed by anyone during any of the 72 consecutive hours may be contributed to the overall list to be submitted ... as long as the detections are made in Kern County.

Please submit your Kern County bird species sightings list to: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net) during the count period and/or ASAP after May 1, 2011.

If you'd like a list of the areas to be covered, email Bob Barnes, [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net) or Madi Elsea, [madielsea@aol.com](mailto:madielsea@aol.com).

### **Western Field Ornithologists Conference Sierra Vista, AZ August 17-21, 2011**

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Besides a program of speakers and workshops, we will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma quail, Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed hawks, a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped sparrows and much more. For information and to register go to [www.westernfieldornithologists.org](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org) and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. Download the Conference document and review before beginning registration.

### **BIRDING FESTIVALS**

Bird festivals are fun! You meet other birders, visit new places, see lots of birds, hear interesting presentations, support local economies and much more. Here's a listing of upcoming California bird festivals...

#### **Godwit Days Spring**

#### **Migration & Bird Festival**

April 14-20, 2011 - Arcata CA

Keynote: Scott Weidensaul, Author/naturalist

[www.godwitdays.com](http://www.godwitdays.com)

1-800-908-WING

#### **Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival**

#### **Audubon's Kern River Preserve**

Sat. April 23, 2011

<http://kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>

#### **Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival**

April 28 - May 2, 2011

Marin & Sonoma Counties

email: [aweiss@eacmarin.org](mailto:aweiss@eacmarin.org)

#### **CA Redwoods Bird & Nature Festival**

May 6-8, 2011 - Crescent City CA

Keynote: Mark Rauzon, Pacific

Seabird Researcher

[www.calredwoodsbirdfest.org](http://www.calredwoodsbirdfest.org)

1-800-343-8300

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



## KERN RIVER VALLEY SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL & EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday April 23, 2011

9am - 4pm - Kern River Preserve

Audubon's Kern River Preserve east of Weldon is hosting this annual festival that celebrates the incredible diversity of the region and the central place of birds that reside there or migrate through. Join the preserve staff and volunteers for workshops on bird feeding, pond turtles, habitat conservation, activities for the kids (including an Easter egg hunt), a morning bird walk and more! Kern Audubon will have a booth along with other groups and organizations. Go for the morning or bring a picnic and make it a day! Go to [www.kern.audubon.org](http://www.kern.audubon.org) for more information!

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Kern River Preserve Bird Walk. A Kerncrest Audubon Society volunteer will lead this walk through a portion of California's largest Fremont cottonwood and red willow riparian forest; a Globally Important Bird Area. Kern River Preserve Headquarters is the best place to study hummingbirds as they visit feeders in the yard.

10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Southwestern Pond Turtle Lecture. Learn about the Kern River Preserve's preservation efforts for this rare species.

10 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. LIVE MUSIC.

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Habitat Enhancements and Stewardship at the Kern River Preserve.

Join Preserve manager Reed Tollefson on a hike around the restoration sites of the Kern River Preserve. Learn about the ongoing efforts of habitat improvements and exotic plant removal that has contributed to greater numbers of nesting species of birds.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve. Junior Ranger Program - Nature crafts, storytelling.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles. Educational presentations throughout the day by Herp-Ecology. On display will be a wide variety of California reptiles and amphibians.

10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bird Feeding Workshop. Our bird feeding coordinator, Birdie Foster, will teach how to clean and maintain feeders and what type of feed attracts birds.

11:30 a.m. - Noon. LIVE MUSIC

11 a.m. - noon. Native Plant Gardening Workshop. Native Plant Gardening Workshop. This talk will be about how to use native plants in your garden.

Noon - 12:30 p.m. - Wildlife Calling Contest & Native Bird Easter Egg Hunt

Noon - 12:30 p.m. - No-host Picnic at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters

12:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. LIVE MUSIC

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. - Native American use of Native Plants. Discover how local Native Americans used, and use, native plants as sources of medicine and food. The land that the preserve sits on was Tübatulabal (the local Indian tribe) territory.

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Basic Bird Identification Workshop. Learn how to identify some of the common birds around the Kern River Valley, bring binoculars and field guides.

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. LIVE MUSIC

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Nature Walk. Learn about the plants, trees, birds and animals that are all part of the Kern River Preserve.

The Kern River Preserve is located on Hiway 178, 57 miles northeast of Bakersfield past Lake Isabella and thru the communities of Mountain Mesa & South lake. It is 1.1 mi. past the T-intersection of Hiway 178 & Sierra Way. Look for the Audubon CA Kern River Preserve sign and turn left onto the dirt road & into the preserve.

## HAPPY BELATED 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

In 1960, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established by Congress and signed by President Eisenhower, just one year after Alaska was granted statehood. From this first effort to preserve the natural wonders of Alaska, many other wildlife refuges, national parks, and wilderness areas have been established. The article below gives perspective to the importance of this golden anniversary.

### **Statement of Audubon President David Yarnold on the 50th Anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:**

“Protecting wild Alaska was bold and audacious 50 years ago. Defending it today is even more important. The Eisenhower administration’s establishment of the Arctic National Wildlife Range in 1960 recognized the importance of ‘America’s Serengeti’ to both wildlife and the human spirit. It was a visionary act – not only in the protections that it has provided for more than 180 species of birds, 36 species of land mammals, and nine marine mammals, but in its awareness that future generations deserve and need an opportunity to be inspired by the enduring presence of wilderness. Today, Audubon joins people across our nation and around the globe to celebrate the beauty, diversity, and unadorned splendor of this unique place, now known as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We also honor the foresight and commitment of those who took the first action to protect it.

“It is now up to us to make sure that one of the most untouched Arctic ecosystems in America remains intact. The combination of climate change and oil and gas development poses a “double threat” to America’s Arctic wildlife and wildlands. Warming temperatures are already causing significant ecological disruption, while industrial oil and gas development imperil species like the polar bear and migratory caribou. At risk is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge, the 1.5 million acre Coastal Plain. Even though it includes some of the best polar bear denning and caribou calving habitat on the entire North Slope, this vital area lacks permanent protection.

“Audubon and our grassroots supporters, along with many other dedicated conservationists, have worked long and hard to keep the Refuge safe from oil and gas drilling. Now, we call on our nation’s leaders to continue the work their predecessors began five decades ago, by extending permanent protection to the Coastal Plain. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we must take this historic opportunity to take the next critical step to preserve America’s great Arctic wilderness.”

*Now in its second century, Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in conservation. Audubon...where birds matter!*

### **NEWSLETTER READERS...WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

There are currently 3 ways to receive Kern Audubon’s monthly newsletter, the *Audubon Warbler*: by snail mail thru the USPS; by email as an attachment; or on the website: [www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org). The cost to print and mail the newsletter is approximately \$200/month, depending on # of pages and size of mailing. Approximately 40 members receive the newsletter electronically and 450 receive it by mail. This is the most expensive item in our budget, so we would like to increase the number of readers who receive the *Warbler* by email. Aside from reducing the cost, there are two other advantages to viewing the newsletter electronically: photos are in color and it is good environmentally to use less paper!

We realize not everyone has Internet service and others like receiving the “hard copy”. However, we want to encourage as many of us as possible to choose to receive the newsletter online.

To that end, If you are willing to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please forward your email address to Rod Lee at [rodlee@aol.com](mailto:rodlee@aol.com), referring to the *WARBLER* in the subject line.

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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:

- Sat. April 2, 9-11am - Workparty at Panorama Vista Preserve
- Tues. April 5, 7pm - Monthly meeting with Mike White, Tejon Ranch Conservancy
- Wed. April 13, 7:30am - Field trip to Kern River environs
- Sun. April 17, 7:30am - Field trip to Migrant Corner at the Kern River Preserve
- Sat. April 23 - Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival at Kern River Preserve, Weldon

### Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C30)

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 \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you would like to receive your *Audubon's Warbler* electronically: \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no