



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 3 - MARCH 2009
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

TUES. MARCH 3, 2009

7:00pm

Kern Audubon Meeting & Program
Kern Sup't of Schools - 17th & L Sts.

THE WONDER OF WIND WOLVES

~A Nature Preserve & its Uncommon Beauty~
Dave Clendenon, Preserve Ecologist



Join us for an engaging look at the largest privately owned preserve on the West Coast: Wind Wolves Preserve, a property of The Wildlands Conservancy, which acquired it in the mid-1990's. At 97,000 acres, Wind Wolves is a critical landscape linkage and wildlife corridor between the Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada. It is an ecologically unique region where the Transverse and Coast Ranges, Sierra Nevada, western Mojave Desert and San Joaquin Valley converge. Due to this singular geographic location and an elevation range from 640 to 6,000 feet, the preserve has an impressive array of landforms and habitats, from wildflowers to reintroduced herd of Tule elk. The grasslands are home to the endangered San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed lizard and one of the largest stands of endangered Bakersfield cactus. Birds and raptors abound and in the spring a carpet of wildflowers! Dave Clendenon is the Preserve ecologist. He and His wife, Sheryl, the preserve manager, have been with Wind Wolves for 11 years.

A follow-up field trip is planned for March 28th...see below. For more information about Wind Wolves Preserve, visit the website: www.wildlandsconservancy.org

Field Trip - Saturday March 14, 9:00am

Panorama Vista Preserve Nature Walk

Panorama Vista Preserve is a beautiful 1000 acre riparian preserve along the Kern River just below the Panorama Bluffs. Native sycamore & buttonwillow line the river along with new plantings of native California plants such as willows, cottonwood and oaks. This "replenishment" of native species has mainly been thru the efforts of Andy Honig, member of Kern Audubon, who will co-lead the nature walk with avid birder Kelli Levinson, also a member of KAS. Meet at the preserve at 9am. Take Roberts Lane off Manor Drive and go east (toward the bluffs). Roberts becomes a dirt road; go .5 mile to the white gate and park. Bring water, snacks, dress in layers. Call Andy for info (619-4456) or go to the website: www.panoramavista.org

Field Trip - Saturday March 28, 8:00am

Wind Wolves Preserve

Wildflowers & Birds!! Join Kern Audubon for our field trip to Wind Wolves Preserve to learn more about this scenic and significant area of Kern County. Bring cameras and binoculars and wear walking shoes. We will be on a docent-led tour for part of the trip, including a van ride into the preserve. However, we will be walking on the return trip to the parking area, possibly several miles over easy terrain. Bring water, snacks & lunch, sunscreen, hat, etc. We will return after lunch.

Meet at the Kern River Parkway on Stockdale north of CSUB at 7:50am. Carpools will leave at 8:00am. Contact Madi Elsea (322-7470) for more information.

For the Birds...

I hope you enjoyed counting birds as much as we did for the Great Backyard Bird Count! We recorded 15 species just in our back & front yards in east Bakersfield...with about 100 Goldfinches one day and over 70 Cedarwaxwings eating the big blue berries in our Myrtle tree. I think the cold, wet & windy weather made conditions just right and the birds were plentiful. If you counted, it's not too late to submit your reports, which are due by March 1st. Go to the website: www.birdcount.org to report.

One of the projects we started shortly after Kern Audubon began meeting after its long hiatus, was a library. DON & YVONNE TURKAL took on cataloguing the books, mostly donated by members, and there are now 40 in the collection. The Turkals faithfully brought the books to meetings over the past two years and many of you have taken advantage of checking them out. Now Don & Vonnie would like someone else to have the opportunity to be our librarians and so we thank them for their great service! If you might be interested in becoming the librarian(s) or would like more information, please give me a call. It's not a difficult job!

Congratulations to ANDY HONIG who was featured on the front page of the Bakersfield Californian recently for his dedicated work on the Panorama Vista Preserve. Andy is a member of Kern Audubon and will lead a nature walk thru the preserve on March 14th. Thanks, Andy!

Thanks also to two other Kern Audubon members for their excellent recent programs for chapter meetings: DR. TED MURPHY & JOSH BRADLEY.

One of the best parts of Kern Audubon are the field trips generally held twice a month to many of the incredible locations we have in Kern County. If you would be interested in helping to coordinate this aspect of our program, give Ted Murphy (325-0307) a call!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair
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@yahoogle.com You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

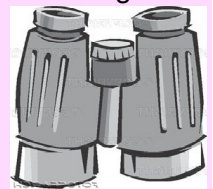
www.Audubon-ca.org is a great website about the activities and organization of Audubon California

AUDUBON IN THE NEWS - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just email chapterleaders@audubon.org

Remember to check out Kern Audubon's own website.....**www.kernaudubonsociety.org**

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. March 17th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place to meet. All birders are welcome!



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Looking ahead to **Tues. April 7th, 7:00pm**....The April meeting of Kern Audubon will be highlighted by a presentation on Audubon California's KERN RIVER PRESERVE with Reed Tollefson, preserve manager. Put this date and Kern River Valley Spring Festival, April 29-May 5, 2009 on your calendars!

Review of **“Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson”**
By Elizabeth J. Rosenthal (2008, The Lyons Press)

To birders, both novice and expert, after the name of John Audubon, the next one that comes to mind is Roger Tory Peterson. From childhood days to adulthood, people began their love affair with bird watching by using one of Peterson’s field guides. These became our first ‘field bible.’ Elizabeth Rosenthal’s book takes you on a life journey of Roger Tory Peterson, from his birth, through his personal life, birding career and professional expeditions up until his death at age 88 in 1996.

The first half of the book follows his life from boyhood through his marriages and hits the high and low points of both his professional and personal life. Starting off as a rebellious son, he moved to art, and then became a highly respected ornithologist. The second half deals with Roger’s influence on environmental issues of global influence. After conducting one of the earliest DDT studies while in the Army in WWII, he openly spoke out against its use and other pesticides. Along the ‘way’ he helped to form and influence birders like Pete Dunne, Ken Kaufmann, and David Sibley, some of today’s most highly respected birders. Kaufmann & Sibley have also published birding field guides in the tradition of Peterson. Through this biography you get a feel about how Roger’s personal life, both successes and failures, played a role in his professional life.

My only point of contention is one of literary style. The book’s ease of readability is reduced by the author’s constant use of quotations, especially from people loosely associated with Roger. I believe the book would have benefitted more from hearing his story, using his quotes only. However, I recommend this book as a great source of information about how one man has influenced the world of birding, making it one of today’s most popular outdoor activities. To many, because of its competitive nature, it is also classified as a sporting event. Roger’s life definitely supports this interpretation.

Harry Love

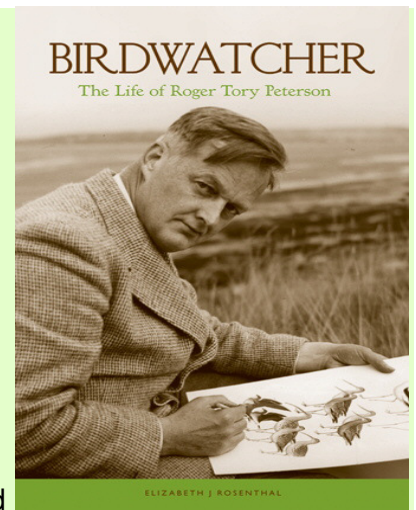
Editor’s note: 2009 marks the 75th anniversary of Roger Tory Peterson’s first book, “The Field Guide to the Birds: Including All Species Found in Eastern North America”, which revolutionized bird identification and made birdwatching accessible to the average person. We thank the author, Elizabeth Rosenthal, for sending Kern Audubon a copy of her excellent biography of this giant in the world of birds and Harry Love, KAS member, for his review. The book will be available in Kern Audubon’s library.

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL 7TH, 7:00pm

Reed Tollefson, manager of Audubon California’s Kern River Preserve, will revisit Kern Audubon Society on April 7 with recent news of the status of land protection, stewardship and outreach activities at the 25 year old site in Weldon, north of Lake Isabella. According to Reed *“The last year has seen some great successes supporting our mission to protect one of California’s finest remaining examples of Central Valley riparian forest and the wildlife that depend upon it for survival. The coming year presents both opportunities and serious challenges that will have a great influence on the future of this natural treasure and the Kern River Preserve.”* KAS is planning a field trip to KRP during their annual Spring Festival at the end of April and Reed’s program will give a good preview of what is at the Kern River Preserve.

Hunters Embrace Lead-free Ammo Rules to Protect Condors

In great news for one of the most endangered birds on the planet, the California Department of Fish and Game has reported that a whopping 99 percent of Golden State hunters have followed new rules requiring the use of non-lead bullets in the California condor’s central and Southern California range. The rules are designed to prevent the poisoning of condors scavenging on bullet-shot game. Lead poisoning is the leading killer of condors, which have been struggling to recover since their number dropped to just nine in the wild in 1985 and subsequently reintroduced in California and Arizona. Unfortunately, non-lead ammunition rules in the condor’s Arizona range have been less effective, with only 70 percent of Arizona hunters in compliance. New laws banning lead ammunition in the Condor range took effect July 1, 2008.



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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. March 3, 2009, 7:00pm - monthly meeting featuring Wind Wolves Preserve
- Sat. March 14, 9:00am - Field trip to Panorama Vista Preserve
- Sat. March 28, 8:00am - Field trip to Wind Wolves Preserve

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (7XCHC30)

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**

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 # _____