



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 40 no. 5 - MAY 2011
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

**MEETING
LOCATION
CHANGED!!**
2000 K Street
20th and K Sts
*This is two blocks from
our normal meeting site*

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY
Tues. MAY 3, 2011
7:00pm - **UNIVERSITY SQUARE**
2000 K ST (20th and K Sts)
"BIRDS OF A FEATHER"
John Schmitt, Internationally-known
Bird Artist & Ornithological Illustrator



Our May speaker is John Schmitt, whose work has formed the major artistic contribution to over a dozen books, including *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds* (4th edition) and the *Field Guide to Raptors of Europe, Middle East and North Africa*. John lives in the Kern River Valley and his artwork has graced publicity flyers and t-shirts for Audubon's Kern River Preserve Spring Festival for many years. Over two hundred of his illustrations have appeared in ornithological journals, magazines, and environmental newsletters including *American Birds*, *Continental Birdlife*, and *Western Birds*. His "A Naturalist's Notebook" is a regular feature in *Living Bird*, the magazine of Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. John will be speaking about FEATHERS--their structure and artistic beauty, how they are constructed and how birds use them. John has a spectacular collection of feathers from all over the world, which he will share with us. *This promises to be a memorable program, so come out for a great meeting!*

MAY FIELD TRIPS



Wed. May 4, 7:00am - Ripley National Reserve/Poppy Preserve

State Park Ranger Bill Moffat will lead this birding and late wildflower outing to two reserves under his jurisdiction. Ripley has Joshua trees and junipers, so there will be opportunity for interesting birds as well as some late poppies and other wildflowers at the Poppy Preserve.

Meet at the Park n Ride on Stockdale Hiway between Kaiser & Hiway 99 at 7:00am, returning by 2pm. A suggested \$15 donation will cover cost of gas for drivers and park entrance fee. Bring water, snacks, a lunch, binocs. Call Bill for more information: 661/201-9279. A great trip!

Sat. May 7, 8:00am - City Waste Water Treatment Ponds

Michael McQuerry will lead this local excursion to the sewer ponds to view shorebirds, waterfowl and possibly a few raptors. The last trip was cancelled due to fog, which shouldn't be a problem in May! Meet at the gates to the facility by following Mt. Vernon south off Hiway 58, approximately 3 miles. Bring snacks, water, binoculars. This will primarily be a driving tour. Call Roger Coley for more information: 832-1820 or 342-9309.

(Ending time approximately 10:30am)

Sat. May 14, 7:00am - Tejon Ranch

Meet at the Park n Ride (see description under May 4th field trip) to carpool to Tejon Ranch for birding and late wildflowers (hopefully) in Los Alamos Canyon. Cost is \$10 for gas and space is limited to 20. Call Madi Elsea (322-7470) or email: madielsea@aol.com to sign-up. Bring snacks, water, binocs, etc.- return by noon.

Sat. May 28, 7:30am - Truxtun Lake

Roger Coley will lead a local outing to Truxtun Lake area where 30-40 species of birds are regularly seen: osprey, Calif Thrasher, tree swallows, grebes, herons, late spring migrants, etc. Meet at the Truxtun Lake parking lot on north side of Truxtun Extension near the painted water tank. Level walking - bring water, snacks, etc. Return by 11:00am. Call Roger for information: 832-1820 or 342-9309.

**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 - 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 sightings are made in Kern County.

Please submit your Kern County bird sightings list to: 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 or Madi Elsea, madielsea@aol.com.



WEBSITES to check out...

Kern Birding For a comprehensive website about Kern Co. birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Information about birds? For learning about birds go to 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 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

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

And don't forget our own website:
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

**KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD
2010 - 2011**

Madi Elsea, President

madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

Debra See, Executive Secretary

seemoffats@aol.com; 805-0232

Bill McDonald, Treasurer

WJLJMCD@aol.com; 665-2111

Harry Love, Conservation

love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6245

Ginny Dallas, Programs

vdallas@bak.rr.com; 587-6323

Lisa Twiford, Program Secretary

letwiford@aol.com

Tim Lynch, Publicity

Lynchtim1968@yahoo.com; 428-4455

Kathy Love, Hospitality

kathylove64@gmail.com; 589-6245

Debby Kroeger, Membership Data

decay@att.net; 323-4259

Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor

madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

Ted Murphy, Past President

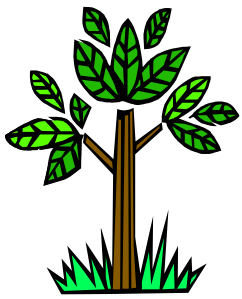
tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307

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

BIRDING ARIZONA

For a truly wonderful and educational birding experience, join Kern Audubon this July 23-30 for a week of birding southeast Arizona with Michael McQuerry, one of our area's finest birders. The mountains of southeast Arizona attract over 100 species of birds from Mexico and Central America that are found only in Arizona. Mac has birded Arizona for over 30 years and knows this area very well, from 13 species of hummingbirds and Elf Owl to Whip-poorwill and Elegant Trogon. Cost is based on lodging (motels or camping) and food, arranged by each participant. Please email Michael with your questions and to sign-up: macbirder@juno.com

Looking ahead to Tues. JUNE 7th..
Kern Audubon's annual fun night with
music & catered BBQ
Jastro Park - 6:30pm



May 7th at PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

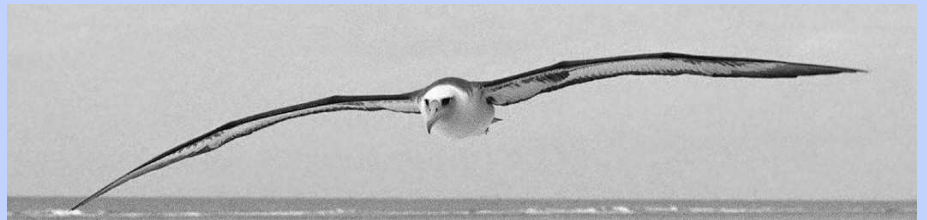
On **Saturday, May 7, from 8-10 AM**, come out to the Panorama Vista Preserve to do work to help the trees grow. This is Kern Audubon's monthly workdparty. Jobs to be done vary from working in the nursery to weeding and pruning the plants. It is a great way to spend a spring morning. What to bring?; shovel/hoe, gloves, hat, and water. Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane (off Manor Drive) at 8 AM. Contact Harry Love (805-1420) for more information: love3@bak.rr.com

HONOLULU – The oldest known wild bird in the U.S. is a new mother. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist spotted the Laysan albatross that's at least 60 years old a few weeks ago. It was with a chick at Midway Atoll, a remote wildlife refuge 1,300 miles northwest of Honolulu.

A U.S. Geological Survey scientist first banded the seabird as she incubated an egg in 1956. She was estimated to be at least 5 years old at the time. The albatross has since worn out five bird bands. Bruce Peterjohn, the chief of the North American Bird Banding Program, said the albatross is the oldest wild bird documented by the 90-year-old bird banding program, which is run by the U.S. Geological Survey, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Canada. "She looks great," Peterjohn said in a news release Tuesday. "To know that she can still successfully raise young at age 60-plus, that is beyond words." The bird, named Wisdom, has likely raised at least 30 to 35 chicks during her life, Peterjohn said.

Albatross lay just one egg a year. But it takes most of a year to incubate and raise a chick, and the seabirds sometimes take a year off from parenting after successfully raising a fledged bird.

(Associated Press, March 8, 2011)



GET THE E-WARBLER

In last month's *Audubon Warbler*, we asked readers to consider signing up to receive the newsletter by email. Unfortunately, the email address was cut-off in printing! So, if you are willing to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please forward your email address to Rod Lee at rodlee@aol.com, referring to the *WARBLER* in the subject line.

There are 3 ways to receive the newsletter: by snail mail thru the USPS; email as an attachment; or on the website: 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 side 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!

Green Thumb Garden Club
GARDENS

OF BAKERSFIELD

Sat. April 30

10am - 4pm

6 beautiful gardens

\$20/ticket

*Purchase at Flower Bar 13043 Stockdale
or day of tour: E & B Natural Resources,
1600 Norris Rd.*

*Info: Rob Rephan 861-0290
www.bakersfieldgreenthumb.org*

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...Kern Audubon is pleased to welcome these persons (listed below by city) who joined Audubon during the months of March 2010 - March 2011. We invite you to participate in our informative monthly programs, in the monthly "workparty" at Panorama Vista Preserve and in the wonderful variety of field trip outings that explore Kern County environs and the birds that live and migrate through our area. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Debby Kroeger (323-4259) or email: decay@att.net. *Birds matter, so thank you for joining Audubon....we hope you will "join in" for a great Audubon experience!*

Bakersfield

Tim Ackerman
 Carol Amen
 Stephen Andrews
 Mary Anhalt
 Terry Arnold
 Pamela Baugher
 Jean Baughman
 Wayne Berkshire
 Stephen Berra
 Esther Berthalsen
 David Bird
 Claud Black
 Patricia Bonas
 Doris Bondurant
 Paula Brighton
 Thomas Brill
 Barbara Brindle
 L. Brown
 Karen & Bryant Berk
 Roger Burke
 Al Caetano
 Mark Campbell
 Steven Carey
 Jacqueline Carson
 Jean Cater
 Jacquelyn Charland
 Portia Choi
 Karen Cooley
 Audrain Cooper
 Cynthia Copeland
 Bernard Cordes
 Audrey Corley
 Kenneth Correa
 Tonya Courson
 Prudence Covey
 L Bruce De Oilers
 Josephine Del Papa
 Ed Drewry
 Fern Dubois
 Lisa Duncan-Purcell
 Robert Ely
 Larry Emler
 Virginia Empey
 John Ennis
 Carola Enriquez
 Natalie Erlandson
 Donna Fanucchi
 Diana Fisher
 Patricia Fitzpatrick
 Mary Flanagan

Ester Flowers
 Daisy Galletto
 Ginny Garrett
 Theresa Gary
 Robert Gerstle
 Howaida Girgis
 T. Grove
 Theresa Grove
 Isabella Gurr
 Rob & Mary Hagerson
 K. Harminging
 Adora Hartnett
 Roger Hess
 Michael Hoban
 Janette Hubbell
 Sarah Hugher
 Olin Hunter
 Laura Huntington
 Roze Hurd
 Linda Ingalls
 Lynn James
 Lucy Joe
 Caryl Kay
 Gail Lancaster
 Garrett Latayl
 Candace Love
 Robert Martin
 Jennifer Massa
 David Mathis
 Donna McKenna
 Meredith McKnight
 Jack Mettler
 Carol Meyer
 William Meyer
 M. Miller
 Larry & Mary Miller
 Linda Miller
 Diane Mitchell
 Norma Monroe
 Ginger & John
 Moorhouse
 Bruce Mortimer
 Mary Nesbit
 Charlie Nestal
 Oren O'Neill
 C. Opsal
 William Prewett
 Pilar Primera
 Gene Procell
 Norman Reimers
 Lisa Roberts
 J. Rothberg

Jemima Rowe
 Becky Rule
 M.S Produce
 Jacqueline Samarin
 Rebecca Sanchez
 Betty Sanderson
 Doris Saunders
 Leslie Scerbo
 Waldemar & Constance
 Schroeter
 Juliana Sessions
 Joyce Shankle
 Edna Smith
 Lorelei Smith
 Edward Smith
 Jeanne Snider
 Oliver Starkey
 Patti Strickland
 Harold Sugden
 Karen Taylor
 Doris Townsend
 Connie & Alan Tramel
 Patricia Turner
 Anita Ward
 Debra Watson
 Charlene Watson
 Lance Webb
 Elana Wendel
 Patricia Werner
 Norma Whealy
 Diane Wheat
 Phyllis Whitfield
 Jann Williams
 Barbara Willis
 Donna Worrell
 George Yurkas

Buttonwillow

Cheryl Chicca

Caliente

Clarence Chinn

Delano

Karen Stahl
 Evelyn Grimes

Frazier Park

Gary Vartanian
 Kenneth & Tracy Hurst
 John Kelly
 Michael White
 Ed Dyer

Lamont

Sally Bryant
 The Madiera Family
 Maria Elizarraraz

Lebec

Smithbyrd

McKittrick

Dale Sagaser

Shafter

John Stegall
 Steven Rodriguez
 Aletha Frantz
 Vicky Camacho
 Rod Wiens
 Frankie Siemens

Taft

Montgomery Hill

Tehachapi

Kathleen Cunningham
 Chuck Smith
 Don Siglin
 Valerie Aragon
 Ron Bemis
 Richard Erdman
 Patty Wootton
 Jim Schettig
 David Giannandrea
 Carol Folgate
 Alfred Swingle
 James Tucker
 Judith Adamson
 Janet Miller
 Audrey Thompson
 Carol Hauerwaas
 Barbara Kiely
 John Wooten
 Lee Simpson
 Judy Trujillo
 Carol Young
 Larry Carlson

April 18, 2011

Dear Audubon Chapter Leader,

You did it. Thank you. An unprecedented 322 chapters answered our request to stand together as One Audubon and call on congressional leaders to protect key conservation programs from massive, unacceptable budget cuts. This is just the beginning; there is much more we can do together.

I'm truly overwhelmed and humbled by your response. Programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund and State Wildlife Grants are absolutely core to our mission, not only protecting birds and their habitats and but also providing a critical lifeline of funding for state wildlife agencies and Audubon's important conservation work across the country.

A strong EPA is needed to keep our air fit to breathe, to keep our water safe to drink, and to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, yet it faced a \$3 billion budget cut and serious and imminent threats to its authority under the Clean Air Act.

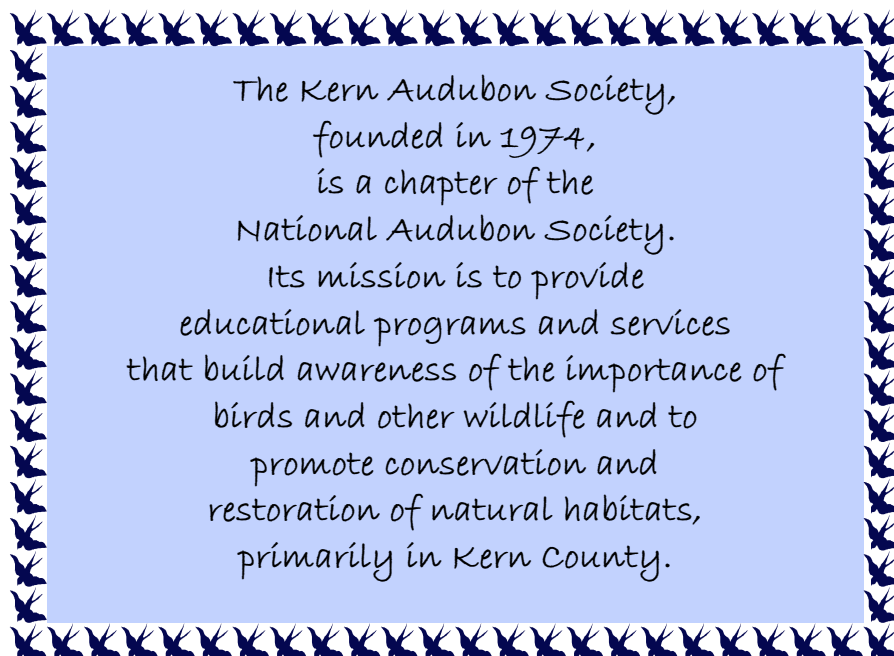
As you know, Congress now has averted a government shut down and finalized a budget to carry it through the end of September. I'm very happy to report that the Land and Water Conservation Fund, North American Wetland Conservation Act, State Wildlife Grants and other critical conservation programs are funded at adequate levels to carry out their functions.

We are **One Audubon** only with our chapters and **we value your help and support**. I've attached the final letter** below as a PDF, with our thanks. It was delivered to the hands of every Senator on Capitol Hill, and it clearly had an impact. I look forward to our next opportunity to show the power of a unified Audubon.

Sincerely,

David Yarnold
President and CEO

*(**Contact Madi Elsea if you would like a copy of the letter)*



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:

- Tues. May 3, 7pm - Monthly meeting with John Schmitt, bird artist & feather expert
- Wed. May 4, 7am - Ripley Nat'l Reserve & Poppy Preserve field trip
- Sat. May 7, 8 - 10am - Workparty at Panorama Vista Preserve
- Sat. May 14, 7am - Tejon Ranch field trip
- Sat. May 28, 7:30am - Truxtun Lake field trip

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