



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 42 no. 6 - JUNE 2013
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org
www.kastehachapibird.org

KERN AUDUBON'S YEAR-END GATHERING
TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2013 · 6:30PM
JASTRO PARK (Truxtun & Myrtle, 3 blocks east of Oak St.)

TRI TIP & CHICKEN PICNIC ***with all the extras***
Catered by Too Fat Sandwich Co.
\$10/adults & \$5/children

**Featuring fantastic entertainment:
BANSHEE IN THE KITCHEN**



Banshee In The Kitchen plays Celtic music with eclectic skill and merry abandon. Touring and recording since 2002, this group has delighted audiences in festivals, theaters and countless other venues from New York to Los Angeles, and as far as Japan. A favorite in Kern County, Kern Audubon is delighted to have them join us for our end-of-the-year gathering! Join us as we also install officers for 2013-14, enjoy delightful food and fellowship!

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS (details www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

Sat. June 8 - Tehachapi Mountain Park

Beat the heat on this birding field trip led by Richard Sparks. Bakersfield folks meet **6:45am**, Stockdale Park n Ride (between Real Rd. & Hiway 99) to carpool, meeting Tehachapi participants at Burger King on Tehachapi Blvd.- **7:30am**. Bring water, snacks & a lunch, binocs, dress in layers. More details: www.KAStehachapibird.org or 333-7918.

Sat. June 22, 6:30am - Kern River Preserve

Alison Sheehey will lead this outing to see summer residents such as Summer Tanager & Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Bring water, binocs, snacks, \$5 participants fee. Meet at Albertson's parking lot Mt. Vernon & Hiway 178. Info: 322-7470.

Sat. July 20 - Sycamore Canyon in Bear Valley Springs

A beautiful wooded hike (medium difficulty) led by Richard Sparks. Bring WATER, snacks, binocs. Bakersfield meet at 6:45am and Tehachapi at 7:30am - see June 8th for details on meeting places. Call Deb 805-0232 for info.

**KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD
2012 - 2013**

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RENEWING YOUR AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal notices are sent to Audubon members by the National Audubon Society. You can also find the expiration of your membership by checking the date on the address label of this newsletter or the *Audubon* magazine. You can also check your membership status and renew membership online at www.audubon.org and click on "Member Center" at the **very top of the homepage**. Or send your renewal check in the amount of \$15 (one year), \$25 (two years), \$35 (three years) to: National Audubon Member Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast Fl. 32142



HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Hummingbird solution must be changed every 2-3 days in the summer as it sours very quickly in the heat. Please refresh your solution and thoroughly clean feeders with a light mix of vinegar & water. Spoiled sugar water is bad for the birds! Remember to use a sugar solution of 4 parts water to one part sugar (e.g. 1 cup boiled water plus 1/4 cup white sugar). Red coloring is unnecessary and never use honey. Extra solution can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 10 days.



We thank Joseph V. Higbee for the Audubon's Warbler photo used as the newsletter logo. Used by permission.

KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us on FACEBOOK and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, etc. as well as get information on field trips and programs!



KIDS, CALM & KERN AUDUBON

On Saturday, May 18, CALM had its 30th birthday party. This meant that parents came, with their children, to see the animals at CALM. Kern Audubon had a booth with reading materials for the parents and activities for the children. From coloring books, to making bird feeders, to dissecting owl pellets (supplied by Bill Moffat), the children had a great time learning about birds. A big thanks to KAS members who volunteered their time to staff the booth: **Bill/Lynn McDonald, Vicki Boehning and Garces students, Irene Heath, Louise Clay, Cindy Vaughn, Al Caetano, Deb See, Harry Love.**



WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? To learn more about birds, go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the 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.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos
For what's unusual in Kern County, go to kerncobirding@yahoogroups.com You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Michael McQuerry, Alison Sheehy 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 go to: www.audubon.org or chapterleaders@audubon.org

FOR THE BIRDS...

It is with mixed feelings that I write my last occasional column as president of Kern Audubon. The past 7 years (as Co-chair for 4 years with Ted Murphy and president for 3 years) have been exciting and fun-filled as Kern Audubon has gone from nearly de-activated in 2006 to a vibrant and active chapter of the Audubon Society once again. From an average meeting attendance of 20 we now average 45-50. The programs have been consistently educational & inspiring, thanks to those who have served as Program Chairs: Don & Yvonne Turkal, Ginny Dallas and Dick Adams. If you'd like to help with program arrangements for next year, please let me know!

During this time Kern Audubon's influence has grown regarding Kern County conservation issues because of Harry Love's knowledge about issues such as wind energy and solar power and how they impact birds and other wildlife. As Conservation Chair Harry has attended countless Kern Co Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings representing Kern Audubon. He has become a steady and respected presence on our behalf and has been a valued member of the Executive Board.

So...it is with confidence & trust and my delight that Harry has been elected to serve as the next president of Kern Audubon effective July 1st. He's capable, personable and has a heart for Audubon and its mission to protect birds and their habitats. Kern Audubon is in good hands!

We are still looking for someone to serve as vice-president, so contact Harry or Ginny Dallas if you might be interested. Also elected to serve as executive officers are Sasha Honig, Secretary, and Gary McKibbin, Treasurer. Thank you to Harry, Sasha & Gary!

When I moved to Kern County in 2003 I had little knowledge of its bird and natural diversity. Since becoming involved with Audubon I've learned what an amazing county this is and have enjoyed many incredible field trips. Thanks to field trip coordinators/team members, Kern Audubon has visited over 40 field trip sites over the past 6 years! I want to thank Ted Murphy, Roger Coley, Deb See & Bill Moffat for their organizing leadership and to all who have provided birding expertise for these many outings: John Wilson, Kelli Levinson, Michael McQuerry, Gary File, Bob Barnes, Ali Sheehey, Angela Guy, Richard Sparks, Scott Frazer, Roger Coley.

We have accomplished many things these past 7 years but I am especially proud of the "adoption" of Panorama Vista Preserve, creation of the beautiful *Birds of the Kern* brochure, addition of the Techachapi area sub-chapter and of the MANY volunteers who do mailings, greet at meetings, bring goodies, handle raffles, staff the KAS booths at activities/festivals and serve as members of the Executive Board!! Also, we have a great website managed by my husband & birding partner Rod Lee, who has also provided much behind the scenes support of the president...thank you, Rod!

I have been blessed to be a part of Kern Audubon and have appreciated your confidence & support. I am happy to continue to serve as editor of the *Warbler* and welcome your feedback to make it better! And please remember...**BIRDS MATTER!**

MADI ELSEA, *President*

This is the last newsletter until September. Please check the websites for updates:
www.kernaudubonsociety.org -- www.kastehachapibird.org

June Workday Day at Panorama Vista Preserve

On **Saturday, June 8, 8-10 AM** Kern Audubon will have its last workday at the Panorama Vista Preserve until Sept. This is the time to get the preserve ready for the summer. Tasks will be from planting trees to removing young tumbleweeds (next year's crop). In May, a great crew of workers planted new trees to replace ones that had died. Planting trees is a very rewarding job! Audubon members were Andy Honig, Bill Cooper, Harry Love, Madi Elsea, Lynn James, Vicki Boehning, Maria Polite, and Bill McDonald. Other workers were Tony Swan, Lori de Leon, Monica Tudor, and the hard working students from Vicki's class at Garces High School. For June's workday, Andy Honig (andym5@bak.rr.com; 619-4456) will be the contact person. PVP is located at the end of Roberts Lane off of Manor Drive.



THE CLUB-WINGED MANAKIN

Manakins are a family of about 50 species of small, mostly starkly colored birds famous for their lekking behavior in which groups of the same species gather to perform ritualistic dancing or hopping behavior to win a mate. (The red-capped manakin is famous for his outlandish performances that humans have labeled the "moonwalk"—easily found on YouTube).

One of these species, the club-winged manakin, has inspired wonder not through his dance, but through the unusual, high-pitched hum that he seems to emit with his wings. This phenomenon remained a mystery until Dr. Kimberly Bostwick of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology used high speed video analysis to discover the source of the unusual sound. She discovered that it emanates from an unusual evolutionary adaptation: a series of curved (club-shaped) bones in the wings, two of which have ridges. She found that the bird vibrates its wings at an incredible 107 beats per second (faster than hummingbirds). In doing so, the wings rub together, passing over the ridged wing to produce the unusual sound.

Dr. Bostwick's findings are available with stunning videos on her website, www.singingwings.org.

Contributed by KAS member, John Eigenauer



Left:
Club-winged
Manakin

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. June 4, 6:30pm - Annual Picnic @ Jastro Park
- Sat. June 8, 8 - 10am - PVP Workparty
- Sat. June 8, Field trip to Tehachapi Mountain Park
- Sat. June 22, 6:30am - Kern River Preserve field trip

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C2ZC300Z)

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 Code _____ E-mail _____ Phone # _____