



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 46 - No.3 - MARCH 2017

Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**

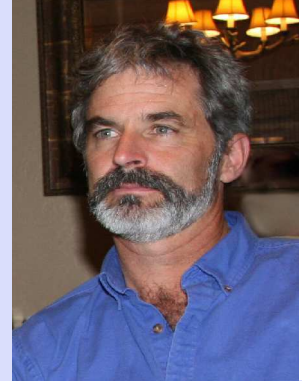
A chapter of National Audubon Society

KERN AUDUBON

Tues. MARCH 7, 2017

Kern Supt of Schools 1300 17th St, Bakersfield
(Street parking or in lot at 18th & K)

"AUDUBON'S KERN RIVER PRESERVE -- CONSERVATION CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES"



Climate change, wildfires, habitat loss, poor air quality, industrial scale energy, water development and other human-caused effects continue to present wildlife and Kern County with severe challenges. Several years of record breaking drought and resultant tree mortality in the Kern River Preserve's riparian forest and across thousands of acres of surrounding uplands have been further aggravated by many large scale wildfires in Kern County. Preserve and other Audubon staff are working with Audubon Chapters, volunteers, and private and public agency partners to help our birds, wildlife, habitat and communities faced with these challenges. And a new challenge: a great water year! Join Reed Tollefson for an update about the Kern River Preserve, one of the treasures of the southern Sierras!

Reed Tollefson has been manager of the Kern River Preserve for over 25 years and has extensive experience in wildlife habitat protection and restoration in the watershed of the South Fork Kern River. As preserve manager he is responsible for overseeing preserve operations and programs, fund-raising, habitat revegetation, research contracts, fire response, grazing, and monitoring of endangered species. Before coming to California in 1987, he worked with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in

MARCH FIELD TRIPS



Wed. March 15, 8:30am - CSUB Ecological Area

Bill Moffat & Deb See will lead this morning excursion to see birds, wildflowers and plantings to be found in the CSUB Ecological Study Area between the Kern River Parkway bike path and the Kern River, which likely will still be flowing by then. This will be a special treat to explore this study area and enjoy spring weather and water in the Kern! Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway & Don Hart Dr across from CSUB. Bring water, hat, binoculars (some loaners available). Concludes around 11am. Contact Bill for info: 805-0232

Sat. March 18, 7:30am - Vernal Pools

We will be carpooling to the Visalia area for an outing to several vernal pools, which should be spectacular this year with all the water. We'll be birding as well as looking for wildflowers and shrimp in the pools. This walk will be sponsored by the Sequoia River Lands Trust. Meet at the Rosedale Costco near the gas station. Bring water, snacks, binoculars (loaners available). Contact Deb See for more information (809-6135).

Sat. March 25 - Cub Lake & Bear Valley Springs ponds

Kern Audubon-Tehachapi will host this birding outing to Cub Lake and other Bear Valley Springs ponds with leader Greg Hargleroad. Meet Greg at the Burger King on Tehachapi Blvd. at **8:00am**. Bear Valley Springs birders can meet him at Cub Lake at 8:30 Bakersfield birders meet at **7:15am** at the Stockdale Park n Ride (between Real Rd & Hiway 99) to carpool to the Tehachapi meeting spot. Call Greg for info: 818-645-3664.

Editor's note: The creek bordering Pixley National Wildlife Refuge is now a river, washing out the bridge to



WORKPARTY AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

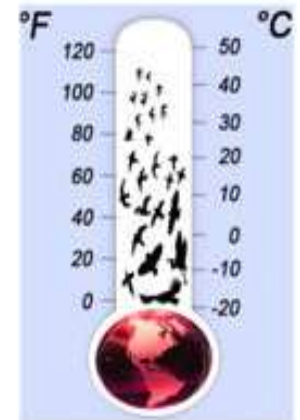
In October 2009 Kern Audubon “adopted” the Panorama Vista Preserve, located below the Panorama Bluffs, as one of our ongoing community projects. Since then, KAS has held a monthly workday, except in the summer, planting, weeding and helping return this wonderful space along the Kern River to it’s former vegetated state (pre-oil operations) and home to many birds. This effort is VOLUNTEER driven and YOU are invited to participate--it’s the second

David Schaad, Coordinator, writes this about the next PVP workday: *Come join us at the Panorama Vista Preserve on **Saturday March 11, 9-11 a.m.** Bring a shovel or hoe, water, gloves, hat. We’ll let you know what we’ll be doing, but it will be something to improve the preserve. Meet at the gate at the east end of Roberts Lane off Manor Drive. Contact me for more info: David Schaad 428-2841 or davidws@pacbell.net*

CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER: What can we do to effect climate change?

There’s an extensive list of things we can do today to limit the amount of global warming we’ll see in the future. At the most basic level, we should take measures to reduce the amount of energy we burn overall. If we’re smarter about how we use energy and design our cities, buildings, and appliances, we’ll be able to do just as much or more than we do now, only using less energy.

Then, of course, we need to do whatever we can to quit burning dirty energy (like oil, coal, and gas) and use clean energy (like wind and solar) instead. One step to help us do so would be to pass laws correcting for the fact that companies now get to profit from fossil fuels without paying for the damage that they do (what we call ‘**putting a price on carbon**’). We can also set limits on how much carbon pollution we can emit. And, we can support clean energy research and projects.



THANK YOU, RECENT DONORS

It’s never too late to give an extra gift to Kern Audubon, so we thank these additional donors as part of the annual appeal:

Dixie Coutant
Patricia Gaspers
Keith & Julie Horder
John & Ginger Moorhouse

WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? Go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study and conservation of birds

Kern Birding For a great website about Kern County birding spots: www.natureali.org

Audubon California has an excellent website: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To learn about National

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2016-2017

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marysalternative@yahoo.com; 972-4355
Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor

If you’d like to find out what similar groups to Audubon are doing, consider joining **Meetup!** You get email reminders of events and it’s free! Go to: www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society and follow the instructions. We now have over 215 members! Thanks to Carly



Looking ahead....Kern Audubon’s **April 4th** program will be about desert tortoises, ravens

KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK “Like” us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on field trips and programs! Thank you to Facebook editor,



"FIELD N DALE" FUN RUN - MARCH 18

Saturday March 18th will be Panorama Vista Preserve's third annual Field N Dale Fun Run. There will be a 6K and a 12K walk or run and you may enter either. Participants will receive a T-shirt especially designed for the 2017 Fun Run and listing Kern Audubon as one of the sponsors (KAS contributed \$500 toward this project). The run is a major fundraiser for the preserve and ALL proceeds go toward maintenance and programs at PVP such as the twice-yearly Science Camps for 6th graders, which KAS participates in.

Go to <http://www.panoramavista.org/events2017.html> for details/registration information. Entry fee, which includes snacks and t-shirt, is \$30 until March 8th.

Note from Andy Honig, Event Team member: *Last year we had a Bald Eagle (photo right) perched in a cottonwood overlooking the race course. Since we haven't (yet) seen the eagle this*



ESCROW HAS CLOSED ON HOT SPRINGS VALLEY WETLANDS PROPERTY

The Hot Springs Valley wetlands property is a 190 acre parcel of land in the Kern River Valley near the town of Lake Isabella. The Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation led the effort to acquire this property. Many thanks to the dedicated members of this group, especially Tom Anderson and Bob Barnes. The property lies south of and adjacent to the Bob Powers Gateway Preserve. It is open space along Highway 178. Through donations from individuals in our Chapter and a grant from Audubon California, this land is now protected. The next step is for interested parties to design a plan which

SCIENCE CAMP AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE - Spring 2017

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP AT KERN AUDUBON'S EXHIBIT. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH UNDERSERVED CHILDREN ABOUT BIRDS AND NATURE.

Helpers are still needed for the last session: March 17th, 8am - noon Contact Kevin Fahey -



CLIMATE CHANGE TALK AT CSUB

Tuesday, March 21, 7 PM at the Student Union Multipurpose Room at Cal State, Bakersfield...Dr. Brandon Pratt (photo) of the Biology Department will lead a panel discussion entitled "*What happened to All the Trees? Climate Change and the Sierra Nevada Die-off*". Brandon has worked with Kern Audubon in cataloging the plant and animal species in the environmental studies area next to the Kern River parkway bike path. The sign along the path that KAS funded was developed by him, other department professors, and CSUB biology students. (Free parking for the event is in Lots K1, K2, and J) See Field Trip schedule for a KAS field trip to the Ecological Study area on Wed. March 15--go to the field trip & attend the lecture!

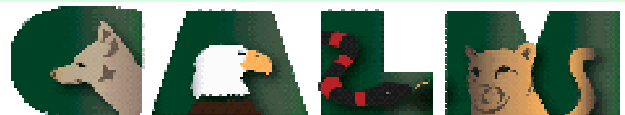
VICTORY FOR HART PARK-- And now...

On Tuesday, February 7, the Board of Supervisors voted against having a \$5 parking fee at the park. This was the result of efforts by an ad hoc committee of over 30 citizens who represented Kern Audubon, Sierra Club, churches, hiking club, and other groups. Many thanks to the work of KAS members **Barbara Reifel, Barbara Long, Bill Cooper, Maria Polite & Harry Love**. In addition, **John Wilson and David Schaad** spoke before the Board about how a fee would impact the people who use the park. But now, the work begins. The Board also voted for the county's General Services Department, which manages the park, to develop a master plan for the park. Time line to develop a plan: **3 months**. This process will involve many citizens offering ideas and making contacts in the community. You can help! All of us are experts on what our park should be. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list or want to attend future meetings, contact Harry Love (love3@bk.rr.com, 805-1420).

NATIVE PLANT TOUR- CALM

Monday April 3, 2017

Kern Audubon & the California Native Plant Society have been invited to the Spring Native Plant Tour at CALM, April 3rd, 9:00am. The California Living Museum is located on Alfred Harrell Hiway east of Hart Park. The cost will be \$3.50 and we will share snacks after the tour at the museum. No reservations are required. Bring your friends!





Happy Holidays

From the Working Lands Team at Audubon California

At Audubon California, we look forward to the holiday season; it is the time of year when millions of migratory waterbirds return to California's Central Valley as part of their migration along the Pacific Flyway and crowd onto farmfields, wetlands and wildlife refuges. This phenomenal spectacle reminds us of our role in this ancient and far-reaching natural phenomenon that each year connects the Arctic with places as far away as Patagonia. It also reminds us why it is so important that we partner with you to ensure sufficient water, food and resting places for these birds when they come to our Valley. Below are a few of our favorite highlights from our work in 2016 to protect and enhance bird habitat throughout the Central Valley. *To support our work please visit audubon.org/birdfriendlyfarming.*

Protecting Tricolored Blackbirds

The Tricolored Blackbird is an iconic California species whose population has seen precipitous decline over the last 100 years. In an effort to protect the remaining birds, Audubon California worked closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the dairy industry and the California Farm Bureau, to save 100% of known colonies nesting on farmland that were at risk of destruction during harvest this year. 2016 marked the first time we achieved full protection of colonies at risk of destruction on farmland in the Central Valley, saving 57,000 breeding adult Tricolored Blackbirds. Our work starts again in February as the new nesting season begins. Support our efforts to save the Tricolored Blackbird at audubon.org/trbl.



Stretching Habitat in Times of Drought

Four years of drought reduced wetland habitat throughout the Central Valley, especially during spring and summer when many wetlands received little to no water. To try to address the shortage of habitat, Audubon California partnered with The Nature Conservancy to create over 3,000 acres of shorebird habitat during April and May on wetlands in the San Joaquin Valley. By prolonging flooding of these wetlands, we created shallow water for shorebirds to rest and feed along their spring migration. The prolonged flooding supported ten times the number of birds than surrounding wetlands that had received rain. In the

upcoming year, we will continue to work to protect water deliveries to the wetlands and refuges for birds and other wildlife.

Farming for Birds

Wildlife-friendly agriculture in the Sacramento Valley provides up to two-thirds of the diet of migratory waterfowl and important habitat for other species including shorebirds and giant garter snakes. With less than 90% of California's historic wetlands remaining flooded farm fields play a critical role in providing food and places to rest.

For the past eight years, Audubon California has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the California Rice Commission and NGO partners to enroll farmers in financial incentive programs to create waterbird habitat. This habitat became even more important during the drought when our public wetlands had less water. In 2016, 58 farmers agreed to manage nearly 30,000 acres through 2019 to support waterbirds by creating nesting and foraging habitat.



Bobcat Ranch

For the third year in a row, a wildfire burned Audubon's 6,800-acre Bobcat Ranch outside of Winters, California. The Cold Fire scorched roughly 60% of the ranch but thanks to the hard work of CalFire, our neighbors, and our ranch manager, Dash Weidhofer, all major structures and cattle were unharmed. We are now actively raising funds to purchase a tractor to help with repairs. While much of the ranch is in fire-adapted, grassland habitat, we worry that the increasing frequency of fires will allow invasive weeds to crowd out the native grasses and plants we restored for birds and other wildlife over the years. For now, we expect to see another amazing wildflower

display this spring like we saw in 2016. You can support Bobcat Ranch at audubon.org/bobcat.

Thank You!

We can't accomplish this work alone and we are honored to work with farmers, agencies, organizations, and individuals like you. The generosity of private donors, foundations and agencies make these conservation projects and victories possible. To support our work please visit audubon.org/birdfriendlyfarmin



Photo credits: Black-necked Stilt banner: Audubon California; Tricolored Blackbird: Jerry Ting; Birders: Desiree Loggins; White-faced Ibis over rice: Audubon California; Bobcat Wildflowers: Dash Weidhofer; Working Lands Team (from left: Tara Wertz (USFWS), Samantha Arthur, Khara Strum, Desiree Loggins, Matthew Danielczyk, Meghan Hertel, Juan Altamirano).

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. March 7, 7pm - Meeting & program
- Sat. March 11, 9-11am - PVP Workparty
- Wed. March 15, 8:30am - CSUB Ecological Study Area field trip
- Sat. March 18, 7:30am - Vernal Pools
- Sat. March 25 - Bear Valley Springs field trip

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

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

____ Renewal \$20

Make check payable to **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

SEND this form and your check to National Audubon for \$20 to:

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PO Box 3581
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Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

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