

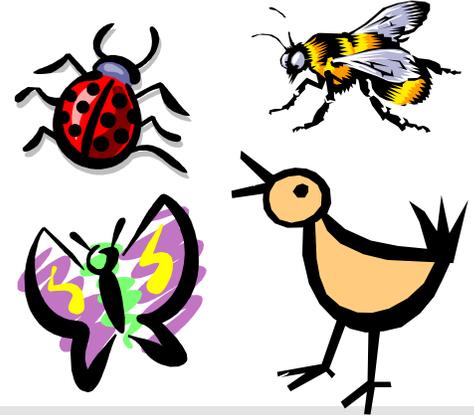


# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 41 no. 4 - APRIL 2012  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)  
[www.kastehachapibird.org](http://www.kastehachapibird.org)

Kern Audubon Society  
**Tues. APRIL 3, 2012**  
**7:00pm**  
Kern Supt of Schools  
17th & L Sts. Bakersfield

**BACKYARD BIRDS & BUGS:**  
**Familiar "Faces" and Fun Facts**  
Bill Moffat, Guest Speaker



Most of us have a lot of birds in our backyards and neighborhoods, plus a variety of bugs...but we can't always identify them and usually don't know much about their natural history. What are beneficial bugs? Why do Mockingbirds sing? What kind of nest does a Scrub Jay make? You might learn the answers to these questions and much more from Bill Moffat, longtime State Park Ranger and lifelong outdoors enthusiast and conservationist. Bill has been with the Tule Elk State Reserve and Tejon State Historic Park for over ten years and before that was ten years as park ranger with Pfeiffer-Big Sur State Park. He has a BA in biology/natural history from UC Santa Cruz and besides his passion birds and wildlife, Bill loves photography. He will be sharing many of his own bird photos as part of this entertaining & informative program...join us Tuesday April 3rd, 7pm!

## **WED. APRIL 11, 8:00AM - "Birds & Bikes"**

The fall birds & bikes field trip along the west end of the Kern River Parkway was such a success that another is scheduled for the central part of the parkway. Meet at the Manor Drive parking lot across from the church (Manor & Denise). Bring your own bike, binocs (extras available to borrow), water and snacks. We will return before lunch. Call 805-0232 or 833-6705 for information.

## **SAT. APRIL 14, 8:00AM - TRUXTUN LAKE**

Truxtun Lake and the areas along the Kern River Parkway are good birding spots, especially in the spring when migratory birds can be seen as well as year-round birds and those who are here seasonally. Meet at the Truxtun Extension parking area west of Mohawk near the painted water tower. Bring water, snacks, binoculars (binocs are also available to borrow). Ending time: 10:30am. (322-7470 for information.)

## **SAT. APRIL 28 - BUTTERBREDT SPRINGS & SAGELAND RANCH**

Butterbredt Springs is an "oasis" in the desert for birds during spring migration and is an Audubon Globally Important Bird Area. It is located in Jawbone Canyon north of Mojave and a great spot to see migrating songbirds. In addition we will spend time at a private ranch owned by a former member of Santa Monica Audubon. This will be a day long birding opportunity. Bring water, snacks and a lunch as there are no convenient stores or fast food places! **Bakersfield participants will meet at 6:00am** at the Stockdale Park n Ride (between Real Rd. & Hiway 99) and **Tehachapi participants are to meet at 7:00am** at the Burger King in the Kmart parking lot (Tehachapi Blvd). Angela Guy & Richard Sparks will be field trip leaders; contact Angela for information: 821-7702

## **KAS NOMINATING COMMITTEE FORMED**

In accordance with KAS By-Laws, a nominating committee has been established to develop a slate of executive officers (president/co-chairs, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) for 2012 - 2013. Committee members are Dr. Ted Murphy, Chair (325-0307); Ginny Dallas (831-8188) and Lynn McDonald (665-2111).

If you are interested in being nominated for one of these positions or to serve on one of the committees that are so important in carrying out Audubon's mission (field trips, conservation, programs, education), please contact one of the committee members for information. A vital Audubon chapter needs an active & involved membership...YOU!!



**We're looking for more good people to help grow the chapter, explore new ideas, and to have fun!! Get involved with Kern Audubon!!**

## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**2011 -2012**

Madi Elsea, President  
*madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470*  
Al Caetano, Vice-President  
*alvic@bak.rr.com; 833-6705*  
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*  
Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor  
*madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470*  
Carol Gates, Tehachapi Rep.  
*Carolgates18@gmail.com; 822-0214*  
Angela Guy, Tehachapi Rep.  
*Angelaguy@att.net; 304-6816*  
Ted Murphy, Past President  
*tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307*

Kern Audubon Executive Board will meet on Tues. Sept. 20th, 7pm and is open to interested members. contact a board member for locations.

## **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS NEED HELP NOW**

As a birder, you may have visited some local state parks such as Tejon State Historic Park and the Tule Elk Reserve. On your frequent trips to the coast to get relief from our summer heat, you may have visited Montano de Oro or Morro Bay state parks. Now, however, public access to them and other parks is in jeopardy. But we can do something about it!

**Background:** The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has decided to close 70 of our 278 state parks--25 percent of our state parks system--by July 1, 2012 due to budget cuts. In addition, the 208 state parks not on the closure list will continue to suffer from substantial service reductions, such as partial closures (some parks will only be open seasonally or on the weekends), reduced personnel (such as lifeguards), and less maintenance.

Since the founding of the first state park—Big Basin State Park in 1902—Californians have worked to protect and enhance a state park system that has grown along with the state and its needs. However, after years of reductions to the state park budget, the moment has come when government now seeks to make the system smaller, less available and less protected than it has ever been. California's state parks belong to the people of California and their existence is critical to the state's environmental, economic, and civic fabric. *Closing parks means millions of Californians, and millions more tourists, will no longer be able to use these parks for affordable vacations, to improve their health, or for a relaxing escape from their busy lives.* Closing these parks also subjects them to vandalism as well as deterioration from lack of maintenance.

**Action:** Now that you know the problem, there is hope for a solution but only if we act! The **California State Parks Foundation (CSPF)**, with 130,000 members, is the only statewide independent nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating for California's state parks. Go to its website (<http://www.calparks.org>) where you can: **email Governor Brown and legislators, find out ways to volunteer, get more information, and donate to support their efforts.** Please act today!

Harry Love  
Conservation Chair



## **SPRINGTIME WORKPARTY AT PANORAMA VISTA**

On **Saturday, April 14**, from **8-10 AM**, come out to the Panorama Vista Preserve to celebrate spring. The rains of March have helped new plants to grow. Chores that need to be done: weeding, pruning, and planting. At the March 3 workday a large contingent for workers (Al Caetano, Dana Adams, Lynn James, Jerry Kay, Rich O'Neil, Bill Cooper, Bonnie Vaughan, Clyde Golden, Sasha and Andy Honig, Jan Graves, Sean Jensen, and Gabby Salazar) worked in the nursery and planted seedlings. What do you need to bring?: shovel, gloves, hat, and water. Directions: east end of Roberts Lane off of Manor Drive. For information, contact Harry Love at 805-1420 or at [love3@bak.rr.com](mailto:love3@bak.rr.com)

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO KERN AUDUBON BY-LAWS**

The Executive Board of Kern Audubon has recommended the following amendments to the Kern Audubon Society By-Laws., which will be presented at the April 3, 2012 meeting and voted upon at the May 1, 2012 meeting. (Re-numbering of current by-laws will be necessitated.)

### **Article 6: Officers**

*Section 2. Eligibility for the Executive Board shall require active chapter membership in good standing. The President (or Co-Chairs) shall have been an active member in good standing of the chapter and held an Executive Board position, committee chair, or an at-large appointment for at least one year.*

*Section 9. Removal of Officers – Any or all officers may be removed without cause by the general membership at a general meeting by a majority of vote of members present.*

The complete by-laws may be viewed on the website: [www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

## **SPRING BIRD FESTIVALS**

One great way to experience spring migration is at one of the state's many bird festivals being held this season. Most feature great birding trips, lectures by experts, workshops and terrific socializing. Here are some of the California festivals in April and May that you may want to take in:

### **[Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival](#)**

Arcata CA  
April 19-25, 2012

### **[KERN VALLEY SPRING NATURE Festival](#)** (Earth Day)

Weldon CA  
April 21, 2012 – exhibits – workshops

### **[Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival](#)**

Point Reyes CA  
April 27-29, 2012

### **[Heron Festival](#)**

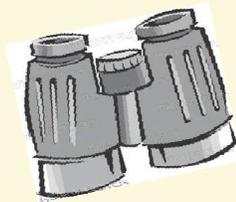
Clearlake CA  
May 5, 2012

### **[Spring Wings Bird Festival](#)**

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Fallon, Nevada  
May 18-20, 2012

### **[Walk on the Wildside](#)**

Freeport, CA: Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge –  
Beach Lake Preserve  
May 19, 2012 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



## **SIERRA CLUB SPRING BANQUET**

The Kern-Kaweah chapter of Sierra Club will hold its annual banquet on Sat. April 14th and extends a welcome to members of Kern Audubon to attend. Guest speaker is Sierra Club's new executive director of national Sierra Club, Michael Brune, speaking about "A 21st Century Agenda for Sierra Club", including important issues such as climate change, clean energy and the Keystone XL Pipeline. Highlights also include chapter awards plus recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter.

The annual banquet is a mid-day event held at Hodel's Country Dining, Olive Drive & Knudsen Dr. Social hour is 11am - 12 noon with complementary wine, iced tea and coffee, followed by buffet lunch from 12 - 1pm with 3 entrees. Cost is \$22/person. Please make reservations no later than April 9th. Send check made to Kern-Kaweah Chapter Sierra Club to Judy Kavanaugh, 9512 Forbes Park Dr., Bakersfield CA 93312.



## **Kern Audubon-Tehachapi**

The next quarterly meeting of the sub-chapter will be Wed. May 30, 7:00pm at Alpine Forest Chalet, 18900 Alps Dr. Don Richardson will present a program on CALM. Put it on your calendar!

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

## KERN COUNTY BIG BIRDING WEEKEND – MAY 4 - 6, 2012

For the past 8 years, Kern County has won the distinction of being America's "Birdiest Inland County" with a total of 245 species counted last year. The 2012 Kern County effort will take place over 72 consecutive hours from Friday through Sunday, May 4-6. All bird species observed by anyone during any of the 72 consecutive hours may be contributed to the overall list ... as long as the detections are made in Kern County. Kern Auduboners are welcome to participate...send sightings to: Bbarnes@lightspeed.net

These are among the areas needing coverage:

- Annette Rd & Bitterwater Valley Rd along San Luis Obispo County line (Grasshopper Sparrow)
- Antelope Valley portion of Kern Co. (e.g.: Edwards AFB-restricted access, Rosamond)
- Bakersfield [(e.g.: Bakersfield Sewer Ponds, Beale Park Spotted Dove), Heritage Park, Hart Park/Lake Ming, Kern River Parkway, Kern Sanitation Authority, Panorama Vista Preserve, Riverside Park]
- Breckenridge Mountain (owls)
- Buena Vista Lake/Tule Elk Reserve (Burrowing Owl)
- Butterbredt Spring
- California City Central Park
- China Lake (restricted)/Ridgecrest (e.g.: Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest Watchable Wildlife Park)
- Desert Oases (e.g.: Frog Spring, Kelso Creek Sanctuary, Rocky Point, Tunnel Spring)
- Frazier Park/Los Padres National Forest/Mill Potrero Rd/Mt. Pinos
- Galileo Hill
- Greenhorn Mountains (montane species, owls)
- Hwy 58/base of foothills/Arvin/Hwy 184 quadrangle (Arvin ponds, Common Ground-Dove)
- Isabella Reservoir
- Kern Co. portion of CA Hwy. 41 between Kings Co. and San Luis Obispo Co. (YB Magpie)
- Kern National Wildlife Kern River County Park (Hart Park, Kern River Group Picnic Area, Lake Ming)
- Kern River Valley (e.g.: Tillie Creek Campground)
- Piute Mountains (Jawbone Canyon Rd., Piute Mtn Rd., Saddle Springs Rd-Black-chinned Sparrow)
- South Fork Kern River Valley (e.g.: Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Chimney Peak Byway, Kern River Preserve-Fay Ranch Rd/Headquarters/Migrant Corner Trail/Sierra Way, South Fork Wildlife Area)
- Tehachapi/Bear Valley Springs (e.g.: Purple Martin)
- Wetland areas throughout Kern Co. (including sewer ponds)
- Wind Wolves Preserve (e.g.: California Condor, Common Ground-Dove, Least Bell's Vireo)

**Congratulations to these longtime members of Audubon: Joe & Bugs Fontaine & Irene Heath, who joined Audubon March 1, 1972...prior to the founding of Kern Audubon! Thank you for your faithful and generous support for 40 years!!**

## **Open vertical pipes are death traps for birds and other wildlife**

**Audubon California is alerting homeowners and land managers who might not even know they're killing thousands of birds a year**

Emeryville, CA – Audubon California is warning landowners about the dangers of open vertical pipes to wildlife on public and private properties. Exposed pipes – which can take the form of sign posts, irrigation vents, unused chimneys and survey markers – are particularly hazardous for small cavity-nesting birds that either fall into these openings, or enter looking for nesting space. Once inside, birds are unable to open their wings to fly out, and the smooth sides make it impossible to climb out. Inevitably, the birds suffer a miserable, unnecessary death from starvation and exposure. It is estimated that many thousands of birds die suffer this fate every year.

“Don't underestimate the threat that open top vertical pipes pose to birds and wildlife,” says Dan Taylor, Audubon California's executive director. “Without doubt, thousands of birds are needlessly suffering and dying. Look around your community, home, ranch or farm and you will find these death traps. These can be easily removed, closed, screened or capped.”

Audubon California staff recently pulled down a 20-foot-tall ventilation pipe last year from an abandoned irrigation system in Kern County and discovered a seven-foot-long black mass composed entirely of decomposed carcasses of hundreds of dead birds and animals including kestrels, flickers, bluebirds and fence lizards. The date etched into the concrete at the base of the pipe showed that it had been in place for more than 50 years. This incident revealed what Audubon California had long suspected: exposed vertical pipes with open tops pose a tremendous hazard to birds and other wildlife.

“Identify the vertical pipes on your property then cap, close, screen all of them, or if this isn't possible, remove them,” recommends Taylor. “Also, don't keep this information to yourself, when you visit other properties, share the knowledge about the dangers of open pipes.”

For more information about how to avoid these hazards and/or photographs of birds found in open pipes, contact Daniela Ogden, [dogden@audubon.org](mailto:dogden@audubon.org) or (510) 601-1866 ext. 231.



Above: This six-inch pipe contained seven feet of compacted bird carcasses – Audubon Kern River Preserve & Southern Sierra Research Station staff collected 231 skulls from this pipe alone.  
Right: This is a 50 year old uncapped irrigation pipe.



### **How you can help on your property**

- Look around and identify all the open top vertical pipes on your property.
- Cap, close, remove or screen all of them.
- Even pipes placed temporarily will trap birds.
- Put screens over sapling protector tubes, or leave openings at the bottom for birds and wildlife to escape.
- When you visit other properties – public or private – share what you know about the dangers of open pipes.

For more information, go to the Kern River Preserve website, [Kern.Audubon.org](http://Kern.Audubon.org) and click on “Land Stewardship”

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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### Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. April 3, 7pm - Program: Backyard Birds & Bugs
- Wed. April 11, 8am - Birds & Bikes field trip
- Sat. April 14, 8am - Panorama Vista Workparty
- Sat. April 14, 8am - Truxtun Lake field trip
- Sat. April 21 - Kern River Valley Spring Festival
- Sat. April 28 - Butterbredt Springs 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