

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 35 Number 9 - December 2006
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society

KERN AUDUBON GATHERING

TUES. DECEMBER 5, 2006

6:30 PM

Location: Kern Superintendent of Schools
17th & L Sts., Bakersfield
Street parking or parking structure at 18th & K

Special program featuring *CASEY CHRISTIE*,
Photojournalist - *Bakersfield California*
"Name That Bird!"

Plus...POTLUCK, AUCTION & Election of 2007 OFFICERS!!

A great evening of fun, good food, fund-raising AND a presentation by CASEY CHRISTIE, excellent staff photographer with the *Bakersfield Californian*, is planned for the December 5th meeting of Kern Audubon. Casey Christie has been a Californian photojournalist since 1983 and the *Kern Valley Sun* prior to that. He lives in the Kern River Valley with his wife and 4 children. His favorite subjects to photograph are nature, animals and scenery because "they don't talk back or ask any questions. I've never heard a bird say, 'I said no pictures, man!'" Come and enjoy a showing of his excellent photographs, and help to "name that bird!"

Bring a potluck dish to share: main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks/table service will be provided. Remember that the meeting starts at 6:30pm!!

Bring cash or your checkbook for the AUCTION (we can't do credit cards, sorry!)

See inside for a list of AUCTION items which will make great holiday gifts!!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9th - Field Trip

Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

7:30am - Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot across from CSUB

Scott Frazer, member of Kern Audubon and biologist at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge 45 miles north of Bakersfield, will be our field trip leader and will take us to parts of the refuge not normally seen by the public. Expect to see 40-50 species of waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, birds of prey, mammals, etc.!

Bring warm clothes, binoculars, water, snacks and a lunch. Scheduled return time will be 1:30pm. *In the event of heavy FOG, meet at the parking lot at 8:30am.* Contact Ted Murphy (325-0307) or Madi Elsea (322-7470) for information.

FOR THE BIRDS...

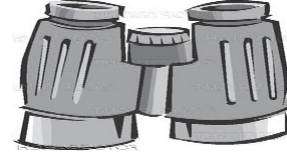
One of the traditions long-associated with the Audubon Society is the annual Christmas Bird Count. Even older than Audubon itself, the CBC began in 1900 as an alternative to the traditional Christmas bird hunt, in which teams shot as many birds as possible. The first count included 27 people in 25 locations, but they were armed with pencils and binoculars! The CBC is the oldest bird census in the world with over 50,000 volunteers in 2000 locations, providing one of the most important bodies of information on wildlife data in the world. Leading two of the Kern County counts are birding experts, John Wilson & Alison Sheehy. Two dates are scheduled (see p. 3) and volunteers are needed for both days. This is not your average field trip...experienced birders are especially needed and an all-day commitment. Contact John or Alison for information and consider participating...

Also, three folks, all new members of Audubon, have stepped forward to volunteer for chapter positions and we are very grateful: ANNETTE WELLS, Membership; KATHY LOVE, Hospitality; VIRGINIA DALLAS-DULL, Audubon Adventures. We will be electing our first set of officers at the December 5th meeting, so come and be a part of a fun & IMPORTANT gathering!

Madi Elsea & Ted Murphy, Co-Chairs
322-7470 325-0307

TUESDAY BIRDERS

The Tuesday Birders will meet Tues. mornings Dec. 5 & 19. Beginning birders as well as the experienced are welcome! Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for meeting time and place!



Kern Birding Website To access an excellent, comprehensive web site covering numerous Kern County birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos

Want to see what's unusual in Kern County birding? Go to kerncobirding@yahoo.com for recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

KERN AUDUBON'S NEW WEBSITE...check us out at: www.kernaudubonsociety.org.

Volunteers needed for Holiday Lights at CALM

The California Living Museum Lights needs 25 volunteers each night to help guests through the zoo during Holiday Lights, as well as ticket takers, and gift shop help. Volunteers will receive a free admission pass to Holiday Lights at the end of the evening (a \$10 value). And if you volunteer 30 plus hours CALM will give or extend a family membership (a \$35 value). Call Lana Fain (871-1822) for more information.

Thank-you's

FRANK PAULI has donated 4 walkie-talkies for use on field trips...DEAN VAN ZANT donated a pair of binoculars...MICHELLE ZACHLOD, KATHY LOVE & KERRY LATTIMORE decorated Kern Audubon's wreath for the Co. Museum's Clocktower Christmas festivities...KERRY LATTIMORE & YVONNE TURKAL organized the December auction... ROGER & BARBARA COLEY put together and mailed the chapter's first annual fund-raising letter...TED MURPHY created our website: www.kernaudubonsociety.org... **THANK YOU, ALL!!**

JULY 7TH SUMMER BIRD COUNT

In early July, from 1999 - 2002, a South Fork Kern River Valley Rapid Assessment Summer Bird Count was conducted. Participants included a "Who's Who" of California and some out of state birders, particularly in association with the July, 2000 Western Field Ornithologists's Annual Meeting centered in Kernville.

The original concept was to conduct a rapid assessment count every five years in this, one of California's great remaining cottonwood/willow riparian forests. So... a five-years-later count is set for Saturday, July 7, 2007. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate next July 7th (with follow-up birding opportunities that Saturday afternoon and the next day, Sunday). Please mark your calendars now! Plans are for follow-up e-mails in March and May.

Literally thousands of new acres of land have been protected in the South Fork Valley since 2002. This count will provide access to much of this new land and to other areas otherwise off-limits to birders. The chance will be present to have a fun day of birding while producing meaningful data from birding both the areas censused in the past and vast new areas. Audubon chapter and bird club groups are welcome. There are plenty of acres (10,000+) to go around.

JANUARY 9TH-KERN AUDUBON

The Carrizo Plains

Program by Larry Sazlaw, BLM Biologist
Due to the New Year's holiday weekend, we will postpone our January 2 meeting to the second Tuesday of the month... **JAN. 9TH, 7:00pm.** Join us for this exciting program on the Carrizo Plains National Monument. A field trip will follow on Saturday Jan. 22nd.

AUCTION ITEMS

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE FABULOUS ITEMS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE
at the DECEMBER 5TH KERN AUDUBON GATHERING...Bring your checkbooks!

Family membership at CALM
Man's haircut from Carda Swakhamer at Concepts Elite Salon
Facial from Adrianna Tackett at Paragon
Native plant from Debby Kroeger at CALM
Gift from Lassens Natural Foods
Gift from Belagios
French Quarter \$25 gift certificate
Natures Foodwagon Health Store \$25 gift certificate
Robby's Nursery \$25 gift certificate
Total Woman - 2 one-month passes
Inner Body Works Yoga pass
framed bird picture
aquarium service
Yoga class at No. of the River Parks & Rec
Starbucks coffee beans
Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate gift basket
large cone/pod/seed wreath
Gift basket from Trader Joe's

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sun. Dec. 17th - The Bakersfield area CBC will be led by John Wilson. Volunteers are asked to meet at 7:00am in Hart Park (on Mirror Dr. near west entrance to park). Dress warm, bring water, snacks & lunch. Wrap up is around 5pm followed by dinner (no host) and countdown at Cindy's Restaurant (no-host) on Auburn. Registering to participate is essential, so email John Wilson (jcwilson@lightspeed.net) or contact Ted Murphy (325-0307).

Wed. Dec 20th will be the Buena Vista area CBC led by Alison Sheehy, which will cover such areas as the Kern Water Banks, Tule Elk Reserve, Buena Vista Lake. Meet at 6:45am at the Shell Station the corner of Taft Hiway & Enos Lane. 4WD-type vehicles are suggested. Bring a lunch or pick up sandwiches at the Subway near the Shell station. Birding will be until sundown followed by dinner (location to be determined) and a countdown. Registration is essential, so please contact Alison at 760/378-2029) or email her: natureali@lightspeed.net.

For information and instructions about the CBC, go to www.natureali.org or www.groups.yahoo.com/group/kerncobirding (this is the website for rare/unusual bird sightings in Kern County).

Interested in OWLING? As part of the Dec. 20th CBC, Alison Sheehy will be doing a 3:00am owling excursion, so if you are interested contact her at 760/378-2029.

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Kern Audubon Society
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. DEC. 5th Potluck, Auction, Election of 2007 officers and program featuring Casey Christie, *Californian* photographer...6:30pm gathering time!!
- Sat. Dec. 9th Field trip - Kern National Wildlife Refuge
- Tues. Jan. 9th program/meeting on the Carrizo Plains Nat'l Monument - 7:00pm

All meetings & activities are open to the public -- bring your friends and family!

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 # _____