



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No. 2 - FEBRUARY 2008
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Gathering TUES. FEBRUARY 5, 2008

7:00pm

Kern Co. Supt of Schools
17th & L Streets, Bakersfield



NATURAL RICHES OF THE TULARE LAKE BASIN: SHARING A VISION OF A BRIGHT FUTURE

**Guest Speaker: Rob Hanson, President of Tulare Basin
Wildlife Partners and biological/environmental consultant**

Rob Hansen is an environmental biologist who has spent decades studying the San Joaquin Valley and its native flora and fauna. He will provide an overview of conservation challenges and opportunities that face residents of the Tulare Lake Basin as well as natural history background to grasp the original natural mosaic of the basin and the living things that call it home. He has worked for The Nature Conservancy and currently is an instructor at College of the Sequoias, is a member of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture and Vice-President of Sequoia Riverlands Trust. He is very knowledgeable about the Tulare Lake Basin, which once covered 570 sq mi, the largest freshwater lake west of the Great Lakes. Rob will share a vision of the Tulare Lake Basin where a healthy, expanded natural landscape (wetlands, uplands and abundant wildlife) enriches the lives of Valley residents, including its wildlife!

Refreshments served...plus great RAFFLE prizes!

February Field Trips

Saturday, February 9th: Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Meet in the parking lot on the north side of Stockdale Highway, across from CSUB, at 7:15am for 7:30 departure and carpooling. Trip leaders will be Pam Williams, Wildlife Biologist for KNWR, and Jihadda Govan, Assistant Refuge Manager. We anticipate returning around 12:30 or 1 p.m. This trip is mostly via auto, with a minimal amount of walking on level ground. Dress warmly and bring water, snacks, binoculars, etc. (Bring a lunch if you'd like!)

Monday, February 18th: Pixley National Wildlife Refuge If you haven't had a chance to see/hear the **Sandhill Cranes** flying into the reserve at sunset, it's an incredible experience! We will meet to carpool in the Costco parking lot (Rosedale Highway/Hiway 99) near the gas pumps behind Hungry Hunter at 3:00pm for a 3:15 departure, returning to Bakersfield about 6:30pm. The sandhill cranes normally depart around the end of February, so we should still see the full complement of cranes -- approx. 6000 at last count. By arriving around 4:15, we will have time to walk to the observation deck (1/2 mile), observe waterfowl and shorebirds as well as upland birds, and watch the cranes fly in near dusk. Dress warmly and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and mosquito repellent.

Contact Roger at 832-1820 for further information.

FOR THE BIRDS...

It's still the beginning of the year, so here's some New Year's resolutions for birding in 2008...

1) Get beyond the backyard! Resolve to go on an Audubon field trip this year....maybe two!

2) Bird an area you've never gone to before...explore something new. Don't know where to go? Call Roger Coley (832-1820) or Ted Murphy (325-0307) for suggestions

3) Go to a Birding Festival (see p.4 for festivals coming up), which is a great way to learn more about birds and birding, plus meet other birders AND have a lot of fun!

4) Buy a book about some aspect of birding besides identification, or visit Kern Audubon's library, and expand your knowledge of birds

5) Buy some new binoculars....you deserve a good pair with better magnification and it will enhance your birding skills! Not sure what to get? Rod Lee (322-7470) can give suggestions.

6) Dress in MUTED tones when birding! Fewer birds will see you if you don't wear white, bright pink or red, and you'll have a better chance to see them. There's a reason hunters and wildlife photographers wear camouflage.

7) Take a non-birding friend or relative birding with you. Help grow the number of those who care about birds and their habitats.

8) Attend Kern Audubon programs and invite someone...they don't even have to be birders to enjoy the meetings and learn something new!

Good luck with these resolutions or ones of your own making about birding....I hope to see you "out there" in 2008!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair

Websites to check out...

Kern Birding Website For a comprehensive web site covering numerous Kern County birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos

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

www.Audubon-ca.org is a great website all about the activities and organization of Audubon California

AUDUBON IN THE NEWS - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just write: chapterleaders@audubon.org

Remember to check out Kern Audubon's own website.....www.kernaudubonsociety.org

E-WARBLER If you would like to receive the *Audubon Warbler* by email instead of hardcopy, send an e-mail to tmurphy@bak.rr.com. Save some trees!

Sign up today to receive **Audubon ACTION ALERT** online! Using Audubon's simple, online action tools, you can influence decision makers on important Audubon conservation priorities.

Audubon California:

<http://audubonaction.org/California/join.html>

National Audubon Society:

<http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html>

New Center at Kern River Preserve

Weldon, CA - Plans are underway to build a new green nature center at Audubon's Kern River Preserve in California. Slated to finish in 2010, development for the center has already received more than \$150,000 in grants from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to begin the project. Building plans include natural daylighting and solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling, and a lecture hall that will help facilitate the center in educating the community about the need to protect open, natural spaces. To read more about plans, visit http://kern.audubon.org/visitor_center.htm

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



11th Annual

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Feb. 15 - 18, 2008

We hope many Kern Auduboners will participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, a significant bird monitoring activities hosted by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

What is the GBBC?

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy--and it helps the birds! For all the information go to the website: www.birdcount.org

How to participate:

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes during February 15–18, 2008. Count birds at as many places and on as many days as you like—just keep a separate list of counts for each day and/or location.

2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time, and write it down.

3. Enter your results at www.birdcount.org

Results from 2007:

Total checklists submitted: 81,003

Total species observed: 613

Total individual birds counted: 11,082,387

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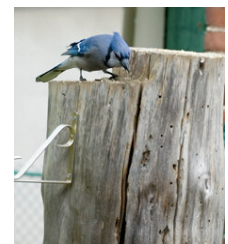
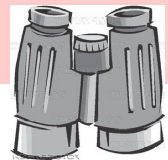
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TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. FEBRUARY 19TH will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Beginners as well as the experienced are welcome! Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place.



Looking ahead to TUES. MARCH 4, 7:00PM....Join Kern Audubon for an evening with **BOB STEELE, professional nature photographer**, who will speak and show slides on "The Birds of Tropical Australia." Bob lives in Kern County and has been published in *Birding* magazine, the *New York Times*, *WildBird* magazine, etc.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!!

Kern Audubon welcomes these new members whose names were received from the National Audubon Society as having joined between July and December 2007...

Chloe Anderson, Brenda Anderson, Bakersfield Veterinary Hospital, Louise Clay, Helia M. Corral, Carole J. Dahleen, Alice A. Edwards, Christa Haywood, Wayne Hill, Lynn Hill, Olin L. Hunter, Val H. Larson, Harry Liesch, Judith Penney, Nancy P. Long, Benjamin F. Spingath, William J. Taylor, Jr, Patricia Thompson, Alice Tish, John & Joan Witt, Daniel Workman, Evelyn Hooper, Gloria K. Imera, Kathy Mc Laughlin, Bobbi J. Meyer, Ingrid Schaffer, Joanne Schmidt, Jean Smith, Don Balaban, Richard M. Casagrande, Shelley Fend, Milo E. Hall, George Hammond, Carol A Hauerwaas, Hermina Hunting, Lenna Jennings, Faith Kavilis, Victoria Kendall, Stephen M. Klopp, Gloria Krecklow, Mr. O Lee, Jerry Long, Donna Marie Noce, Yvonne Mc Clain, Marilyn Perry, Christine Plasterer, Nancy Putney, Dale Robbins, John R. Sanders, Thomas Scopin, Ron A. Scott, Virginia Smith, Mr. & Mrs. John Skibinski, Barbara Springstead, Robin Starzman, William Bartling, Charles Bewick, Scott Davis, Ramey Iviarte, Kim Russell, Mr. & Mrs. Anderson

YEAR-END APPEAL...There was a generous response to the end-of-the-year appeal in the amount of **\$1565!** The Executive Team of Kern Audubon wishes to thank the following persons for your extra gifts toward KAS' plans for continuing to help "create a culture of conservation in Kern County!"...

*Richard & Donna Adams
Roger & Barbara Coley
Helia M. Corral
Gary & Carla File
A. Garrison
Ron & Carol Hauerwaas
Carol Lair
Vicki Lohr
Hary & Kathy Love
Cathy McCoy
Gary McKibbin
Ethel Meyer
Carla Rivas
Mel & Beverly Rubin
Linda Schrom
William Whiteside
Virginia Dallas-Dull*

*Randi Cassellius
Linda Cooley
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Mylon Filkins, DVM
Linda Greene
Sindee Irelan
Aaron & Gaby Kidwell
Jerry Long
Barbara G. Mansfield
Donna McKenna
Joseph Mier
Ted & Peggy Murphy
Thelma T. Royer
Karen Rutter
Gene Tackett Consulting
Ann Williams*

SONGBIRD BILL DEFORMITIES

Julie Craves, of the Rouge River Bird Observatory, U. of Michigan, compiles data on songbirds with bill deformities. These are songbirds ONLY, not woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl. If you notice a songbird with a deformed bill, please forward the information to her at jac@rrbo.org. Minimum info to include: species, date, location, and full description of the deformity if there is no photo. She prefers links to photos rather than photos themselves, but they are okay so long as they are small. If the bird is banded, include information on band color and location. You can read more about her work at http://www.umd.umich.edu/dept/rouge_river/bills.html

LEARN TO LIKE SPIDERS (or, at least tolerate them):

Spiders are our friends! Don't automatically reach for the Raid or rolled-up newspaper every time you see eight legs. The earth would be overrun with pests like flies & fleas if it were not for spiders. If a spider or other relatively harmless bug gets in the house, carefully catch it in a small container and release it outside before instinctively smashing it to bits. Or allow a few out-of-the-way spiders to hang around the plants to keep fungus gnat and earwig problems at bay. (Learn to identify the poisonous spiders, however, and terminate with extreme prejudice if you spot one.)

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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. February 5, 7:00pm - Meeting & program on "Natural Riches of the Tulare Lake Basin"
- Sat. February 9, 7:15am - Field trip to the Kern National Wildlife Refuge - -ducks and shorebirds!
- Mon. February 18, 3:00pm - Field trip to Pixley Nat'l Wildlife to see Sandhill Cranes

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 # _____