

# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 36 No. 1 - January 2007  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society

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**KERN AUDUBON GATHERING**  
**TUES. JANUARY 9TH (2nd Tuesday!)**  
**7:00 PM**

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

**THE CARRIZO PLAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
**Larry Saslaw, Biologist, Bureau of Land Management**

The first meeting of 2007 will focus on the Carrizo Plains, located at the edge of western Kern County and eastern San Luis Obispo County. At 250,000 acres, it is the largest remaining remnant of original San Joaquin Valley habitat. Soda Lake is the centerpiece with its bed of white salt and a vast open grassland rimmed by steep mountains and traversed by the San Andreas Fault. It is made up of diverse communities of wildlife and plant species and is an area culturally important to Native Americans. The Carrizo Plain was designated a National Monument in 2001 and is managed jointly by the Bureau of Land Management, the Calif Dept. of Fish & Game and the Nature Conservancy.

Larry Saslaw, BLM biologist, will present a program on this fascinating natural area approximately 55 miles west of Bakersfield and will lead a field trip through the Plains on Saturday, January 20, 2007.

Come out for an interesting program, a fun evening and some raffle prizes!!

**FIELD TRIP - CARRIZO PLAINS**  
**Sat. JANUARY 20, 2007 - 7:00am**

Join us for a day's outing and birding at the Carrizo Plains National Monument, led by biologist Larry Saslaw and Dr. Ted Murphy, co-chair of Kern Audubon and retired biologist at CSUB. Birding should be rich with the most hoped for species being wintering Sandhill Cranes. Sometimes there are great numbers of Long-billed Curlews as well as Mountain and Western Bluebirds. Ferruginous and Rough-Legged Hawks may be seen as well as Golden Eagles, Mountain Plovers, Burrowing Owls, etc. Pronghorn are likely to be seen as well!

Meet at the Kern River Bike Path parking area across from CSUB at 7:00am. Bring snacks AND LUNCH, water, binoculars. Layered clothing is recommended as it is likely to be cold. There may be some hiking but not strenuous. The drive to Carrizo is approximately an hour and a quarter, so plan on a day's outing, returning about 4:00pm. Please call Ted Murphy (325-0307) for information and to register.

## FOR THE BIRDS...

Winter is a great time for backyard birding in the San Joaquin Valley. The day after Christmas the Goldfinches arrived at our thistle feeder and we have had a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets flitting through the rosebushes and underneath the grapefruit tree, close enough to observe the male's bright red crown. The number of House Finches seems to increase in winter as well as the migrants...White-crowned Sparrows and Audubon's Warblers. A Sharp-Shinned Hawk sent the birds scatterings a few days ago and landed in a neighbor's tree across the alley. And always there are the House Sparrows, Scrub Jays, Mockingbirds, the occasional Flicker, and Anna's Hummingbirds. Besides the hummingbird feeder, we have three other feeders plus food for the scratchers, who are often joined by a pair of "feral" chickens who live in the neighborhood!

All of these provide some treasured moments when we take the time to sit at our breakfast nook and enjoy these wonderful creatures!

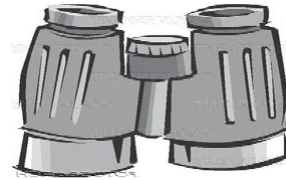
Ted Murphy (tmurphy@csu.edu) and I are grateful for the generous response of all who donated during the year-end appeal and at the December auction. With about \$3000 in the bank, we can prioritize program needs as we begin our first full year of chapter activity. The chapter was reactivated last March after a four year hiatus and we have just received word that we have been re-certified as a chapter of the National Audubon Society. During 2006-2007, the Membership Incentive Program will continue, which means that 100% of new members' payments will be returned to our chapter. So, if you haven't joined or know someone who might be interested, use the membership form on the back. It's good for Kern Audubon, and it's GOOD FOR THE BIRDS!!

Hope to see you at our meeting on January 9th, 7pm and throughout 2007!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair (322-7470)  
madielsea@aol.com

## TUESDAY BIRDERS

The Tuesday Birders will meet Tues. mornings JANUARY 2 & 16. 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](http://www.natureali.org/birding.htm).

## Kern County Bird Sightings/photos

What's unusual in Kern County birding? Go to [kerncobirding@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org).

**ASK AUDUBON...**The newest addition to Audubon's Newswire: submit questions about consumer choices and how they effect the environment--[cblayer@audubon.org](mailto:cblayer@audubon.org).

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these newest members who have joined in recent months through our chapter or directly through National Audubon:

Georgia Bailey  
Chester Owen Barnes  
Laurie Blumenthal  
Sally Ellis  
Gary File  
Laura Huntington  
Jean Kleinknight  
Bill & Greta Lydecker  
Bob Martin  
Adrian Palmer  
Lynne Pitchford  
Carolyn Smith  
Sonja Swenson  
Annette Wells

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

## AUCTION A BIG SUCCESS!!

The December meeting & potluck featured fabulous items for the first annual auction. As a result, \$1375 was raised for Kern Audubon's work in 2007! We want to thank everyone who participated in the bidding and buying, KERRY LATTIMORE & YVONNE TERKAL for organizing the auction and getting such wonderful items, and all the merchants and individuals who donated items or gift certificates to the cause. Please patronize the merchants and thank them for their donation!

California Living Museum

Concepts Elite Salon

Paragon Salon Spa

Lassens Natural Foods

Beladgios

French Quarter

Nature's Foodwagon Health Store

Robby's Nursery

Total Woman

Inner Body Works

Marty Murphy aquarium service

No. of the River Parks & Rec

Starbucks

Trader Joe's

Willie Stubblefield

Casey Christie

Ted Murphy

Madi Elsea

Harry & Kathy Love

**BURROWING OWL SURVEY...** The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) is partnering with California Audubon chapters to perform surveys for Burrowing Owls throughout the entire breeding range during a two year period (2006-7). Volunteers are needed to conduct the surveys which help inform a perspective on the status and distribution of this sensitive species. Volunteering for the Breeding Burrowing Owl Survey is fun! Maps are provided of your survey area, instructions, data forms, and assistance if you have questions. Censusing a 5km x 5km survey block typically requires between 5 and 20 hours of work, depending on the location of the block. Survey work must be completed between May 15 and July 15 of 2007. **If you did not participate in 2006 but are interested in participating in summer 2007, the second year of this 2-year project, please email us at [owl@birdpop.org](mailto:owl@birdpop.org) and provide contact information and county of residence.**

Your local volunteer coordinator will then contact you in early 2007 to see if you are still interested, and to provide the survey materials.

Looking ahead to FEBRUARY...Join Kern Audubon on Tuesday February 6, 7:00pm for an excellent program by Greg Warwick, manager of several preserves in or near Kern County owned by the Center for Natural Lands Management: Lokern, Semptropic, Sand Ridge, Pixley Vernal Pools. Greg will also host a field trip to one or more of the preserves on Saturday February 10, 2007.

# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385



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Bakersfield CA  
Permit #93

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. JANUARY 9th, 7pm for the first Kern Audubon meeting of 2007...come & learn about the Carrizo Plains National Monument
- Sat. Jan. 22 Field trip to the Carrizo Plain

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 # \_\_\_\_\_



★ **YEAR-END APPEAL...** There was a GREAT response to the 2006 year-end appeal, resulting in a total of **\$1786** in donations to fund our programs and projects for 2007! Kern Audubon thanks each of the following persons for your generosity:

- |   |                        |                      |   |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| ★ | Allen Andrews          | Bertha Lawrence      | ★ |
| ★ | Bob Barnes             | Norman & Vicki Lohr  | ★ |
| ★ | Patricia Barrett       | Donna Lorenz         | ★ |
| ★ | Joseph Brooks          | Harry & Kathy Love   | ★ |
| ★ | Randi Cassellius       | Jim Lowery           | ★ |
| ★ | Virginia Clark         | Lynn McDonald        | ★ |
| ★ | Roger & Barbara Coley  | Donna McKenna        | ★ |
| ★ | Bill Cooper            | Gary McKibbin        | ★ |
| ★ | David & Sandra Cothrun | Ethel Meyer          | ★ |
| ★ | Virginia Dallas        | Joanne S. Newberry   | ★ |
| ★ | Laura Dennison         | Maria Polite         | ★ |
| ★ | Scott & Trude Frazer   | Marilynn Radoumis    | ★ |
| ★ | Janice Graves          | Beverly & Mel Rubin  | ★ |
| ★ | Angela Guy             | Eric Schoneman       | ★ |
| ★ | Ron & Carol Hauerwaas  | Linda Schrom         | ★ |
| ★ | Andy & Sasha Honig     | Laura Stockton       | ★ |
| ★ | Sindee Irelan          | Lisa Twiford         | ★ |
| ★ | Betty Ireland          | Faith & Frank Vigil  | ★ |
| ★ | Lodema Kotchen         | William C. Whiteside | ★ |
| ★ | Kerry Lattimore        | J. Rhett Wyatt       | ★ |



***GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT – FEB. 16–19, 2007***

What mid-winter activity is fun, easy, free, and helps bird conservation? What can parents and teachers do with children that connects them to a whole new world of natural wonders? This February, the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and “Count for the Record.”

During February 16–19, 2007, people of all ages, from beginners to experts, are invited to join this event which spans all of the United States and Canada. Participants can take part wherever they are – at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges. Observers simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, and enter their tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc). This year marks the tenth anniversary of the GBBC, and by participating in greater numbers than ever before, with more checklists submitted, provides more information about bird population trends – and helps to better inform conservation efforts.

Last year, participants submitted more than 60,000 checklists – and reported 7.5 million birds overall and 623 different species. The count helped chronicle the early spring migratory routes of Sandhill Cranes, documented lingering migrants such as Orange-crowned Warblers and Tree Swallows, revealed the ongoing range expansion of introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves, and recorded declining numbers of American Crows.

Participants who want to hone their bird watching skills can learn more from the Great Backyard Bird Count web site, which offers [identification tips](#) and access to photos, sounds, maps, and natural history information on more than 500 bird species. People can also submit photos to an online [gallery](#) showcasing the dazzling array of winter birds found during the GBBC. [Competitions](#) add another element of fun, including a photo contest, rankings for most numerous birds, and the coveted “checklist champ” title for towns, states, and provinces with the highest participation.



**KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

<b>CO-CHAIRS:</b>	<b>MADI ELSEA &amp; TED MURPHY</b>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>LISA TWIFORD</b>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>ANN ETUE</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	<b>ANNETTE WELLS</b>
<b>CONSERVATION:</b>	<b>MARY GRIFFIN</b>
<b>AUDUBON ADVENTURES:</b>	<b>VIRGINIA DALLAS-DULLS</b>
<b>CBC COMPILER:</b>	<b>JOHN WILSON</b>
<b>WARBLER EDITOR:</b>	<b>MADI ELSEA</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY:</b>	<b>KATHY LOVE</b>

**Upcoming Bird Festivals**

**February 2-4, 2007** is the 10th annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival at Mare Island. Go to [www.sfbayflywayfestival.com](http://www.sfbayflywayfestival.com) for more information.

**February 7-12** is the San Diego Bird Festival with trips to the desert, seashore, wetlands and pelagic trips to Baja. For information go to [www.sandiegoaudubon.org](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org).

**Feb. 15-18, 2007** is the 25th annual Klamath Basin Wildlife Festival at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Trips to nearby Klamath Basin Nat'l Wildlife Refuge to see the largest concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states, plus thousands of wintering waterfowl. Go to [www.winterwingsfest.org](http://www.winterwingsfest.org) for info.

**A LIGHT BULB TO CHANGE THE WORLD?!**

It costs less than \$3, but it has the power to change the world: the "compact fluorescent lightbulb"...known in the energy business as CFL's or "energy savers." They have changed dramatically since first being introduced in 1985 and now all the original problems have been conquered: the bulbs come on quickly; their light is as bright & steady as a lightbulb; and the old U-shaped tubes have been replaced by the swirl or spiral and actually fit in the places we use bulbs!

What hasn't changed is the energy savings. CFL's emit the same light as incandescents, but use **75-80% less electricity!** What that means is that if 110 million American households bought **JUST ONE SWIRL CFL and screwed it in the place of an ordinary 60-watt bulb, the energy saved would be enough to POWER A CITY OF 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE...enough electricity to power all the homes in Delaware and Rhode Island.** (from *Fast Company*, Sept. 2006, p.76)

Have YOU converted at your home or business?!

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT UPDATE**

The Bakersfield area CBC was led by John Wilson on Sunday Dec. 17th with a group of 13 birders, including Ted Murphy, Rick Hewitt, Gary File, Brenda & Ken Kyle, Mike McQuerry, Dennis & Kathy McDonnell, John Lindsay, Gordon Black, Bill Lydecker, and Kelli Levinson. A total of 131 species was observed, a seven year low. John Wilson is also the Compiler for the Bakersfield CBC. John is also the Co-Editor of the California Christmas Bird Count.

The Buena Vista area CBC on December 20th was led by Alison Sheehy, and covered areas such as the Kern Water Bank, Tule Elk Reserve, Buena Vista Lake. Volunteers making up the two teams along with Alison were Barbara Reifel, Xiaohong Huang, Madi Elsea and Al diMartini. 111 species were observed. Alison Sheehy is also the Compiler for the Buena Vista CBC.

To support those who participated in the two counts, Kern Audubon paid the registration fee for each volunteer (\$5)...money well spent! We want to thank John Wilson & Alison Sheehy for their time and energy in organizing these counts as well as the compiling responsibilities!