



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 41 no. 1 - January 2012
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org
www.kastehachapibird.org

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY
Tues. JANUARY 10, 2012
(We will be meeting the second Tues. due to the holidays.)
7:00pm - University Square (temporary location)
20th & K Sts.

"Emperors of the Ice"

The Emperor Penguins of Antarctica
Dr. Gitte McDonald, speaking



Emperor penguins are the premier avian diver, regularly diving to depths of 1500 feet while holding their breaths for over 10 minutes. Dr. McDonald will be talking about the ecology of emperor penguins and the recent field season at the Cape Washington (Antarctica) Emperor penguin colony where studies were conducted on the foraging ecology and diving physiology of Emperor penguins. Physiological data loggers were deployed that will improve understanding about how they are able to perform such extreme dives. In collaboration with National Geographic, small cameras were attached to some penguins to learn more about what they eat and see when they are diving. Dr. McDonald is doing post-doctoral work at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego. Join us for a fascinating look at these iconic birds as we began the year 2012!

JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

Sat. Jan. 14, 8:00am - Kern National Wildlife Refuge

A trip to the Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in winter is a fantastic opportunity to see thousands of wintering ducks, grebes, possibly geese, shorebirds and raptors. Noted birder, Dr. John Wilson, will lead this morning field trip. Meet at Kern Parkway parking area across from CSUB (Stockdale & Don Hart Dr) at 7:50am for a depart time of 8am. Bring your lunch, snacks, water & binoculars (binoculars are also available to borrow). Call Al for more information: 833-6705. We will be carpooling so there will be a \$10 donation for gas.

Wed. Jan. 18, 8am - This month's **Wednesday Walk** with Park Ranger Bill Moffat will be to local area recharge ponds and possibly the Lokern Preserve to view wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot across from CSUB (Stockdale Hiway & Don Hart Dr.) to carpool, 8am. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, etc. Call Bill for information: 201-9279. Bring water/snacks. Return before noon.

Sat. Jan. 28, 7:30am - John James Audubon's *Birds of America* - USC's Doheny Gallery

We've scheduled a visit to the Doheny Gallery to see one of the volumes of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* double elephant folio (see inside for more information). The curator will talk with us about the history related to Audubon's work and the process used to print these life-sized paintings. There are only 140 known copies of Audubon's work with the last one selling for \$8.8 million in 2001. This will be a daylong field trip with an outdoor birding adventure in the afternoon (still to be planned). Group size is limited to 20 and the cost will be \$35/person to cover transportation, parking and donation to the gallery. Contact Deb See (805-0232) to register.

AUCTION UPDATE

Handmade bird quilts, driftwood birdhouses, a very old Audubon print, Felix Adamo's cougar photo, a handmade horsehair basket, items from the Mary Wharter estate, massage gift certificates, tickets to the Lights at CALM and much more! These were just some of the wonderful items donated for the holiday auction at the December meeting that netted \$1250! Many thanks to DICK & DONNA ADAMS, who organized the auction and did the auctioneering and to PATTY RICHARDSON for designing the auction bid sheets. Thank you to everyone who donated items, and to those who made bids and purchases. Our thanks also to KATHY LOVE & CAROL GATES for the lovely table decorations and for the great potluck provided by you, the members. It was a fun, informative & fruitful evening!



GRANT RECEIVED

The Kern Audubon Executive Board recently applied for an Audubon California collaborative grant in the amount of \$2500, which has been approved. The proposal is to produce a brochure on "The Birds of the Kern River," specifically along the portion of the river from Lake Ming to Buena Vista Lake. Kern Audubon produced a *Checklist of the Birds of the Kern* in the late 1990's and copies are still available. This new effort will be a colored brochure with bird photos and directions to places along the Kern River where one might see many of the 230 species of birds that have been identified along this 30 mile stretch of the river.

The ExBoard is looking for folks who would like to help design this brochure and for photos by Kern Audubon photographers for use in the brochure. If you are interested, please contact Madi Elsea (madielsea@aol.com). The grant will need to be expended by May 2012!

BINOCULARS....Many thanks to the 10 people who ordered Eagle Optics "Denali" binoculars through Kern Audubon. This resulted in 3 new pairs for the chapter, including one that is now with KAS-Tehachapi. From time to time we will order additional binoculars as folks express interest, so let Rod Lee (322-7470) know if you'd like to buy a pair (8x42's). Approximate cost is \$145.



KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2011 -2012

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

BIRDING FESTIVALS

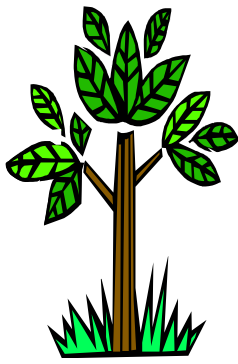
Bird festivals are fun! You meet other birders, visit new places, see lots of birds, hear interesting presentations, support local economies and much more. For information about festivals around the country, go to...

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals

www.birdwatchersdigest.com

For information about festivals in California, go to...
www.natureali.org/nature_festivals.htm

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



PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

Come celebrate the New Year at the Preserve! On **Saturday, January 7**, Kern Audubon will have its monthly work party at Panorama Vista Preserve, **9-11 AM**. This marks the beginning of the third year of our 'adoption' of the Preserve. Come out to help plant, weed, and tend the new plantings from last year. What to bring?: gloves, water, and a shovel. Need information? Contact Harry Love at love3@bak.rr.com or call 805-1420. To get there take Roberts Lane off Manor Drive in east Bakersfield and take Roberts east to the locked gate.

Wind Farms and Public Information

Kern Audubon Proposal Supported by Board of Supervisors

Kern County is the wind farm capitol of the state. This is good news for renewable energy advocates. However, the concern has been what the effect of these turbines is on birds and bats. Numerous approved EIRs list mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the turbines on birds. The measures require the developer to have a biologist on site during both the construction and operation phases. However, there has not been a way for the public to be aware of information gained about the success/failure rate of these measures. The report of the findings goes to the Planning Department and to state and federal agencies but there has been no public posting of these findings.

At the December 13, 2011, meeting of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, Kern Audubon's Conservation Chair Harry Love requested that the Planning Department establish a format for the posting of information about the degree of success of mitigation measures. By a vote of 5-0, the Board gave approval for the Department to establish a protocol and template for field biologists to post status of mitigation measures regarding the construction and operation of wind farms. By July, 2012, there will be a website in place.

Kern Audubon, with help from Audubon California, will work with the Kern County Planning Department on the development of the website. We believe that more information available to the public will result in a more informed analysis of future proposals. Progress in and improvement of the wind farm industry can best be accomplished with a joint effort by the developer, the government, and the public. This is a win-win and Kern Audubon helped make it happen!

Editor's note: Many thanks to Harry Love for his initiation of this proposal to the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Dept. Harry met individually with each of the five supervisors and Lorelei Oviatt, Planning Dept director, prior to the board meeting which resulted in a very positive response by the Board of Supervisors!

BIRDS OF AMERICA FIELD TRIP - SAT. JAN 28, 2012

John James Audubon, for whom the Audubon Society is named, was a famed naturalist and artist of the 1800's, known for his life-sized paintings of birds. His collection of paintings became known as the first and most celebrated encyclopedia of America's birds and is the most famous ornithological work in history. One of the rare copies of his 4-volume set, Birds of America, is part of the Hancock Natural History Collection housed in the Doheny Library of the University of Southern California. The size of the collection is such that the four volumes are referred to, technically, as a "double elephant folio." Each volume measures 39 inches high by 28 inches wide (3'3" X 2'4") and so heavy it takes to librarians to carry!

Melinda Hayes, curator of the collection, will make a presentation to our group and we will be allowed a hands on experience with one of these rare volumes of Audubon's work. Because space limitations at the library, the group size will be limited to 20. If there is more interest than what can be accommodated on this trip, we will schedule a return visit in the spring or summer.



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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Sat. Jan. 7, 9am - Panorama Vista Workparty
- Tues. Jan. 10, 7pm - Program: Emperor Penguins
- Sat. Jan. 14, 8am - Field trip Kern Natl Wildlife Refuge
- Wed. Jan 18, 8am Wed. Walk @ Goose Lake
- Sat. Jan. 28, 7:30am - Field trip to USC Doheny Gallery to see John James Audubon's folio "Birds of America"

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