



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 40 no. 6 - JUNE 2011
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org



END OF YEAR GATHERING
Tues. June 7th – 6:30pm
Jastro Park
(Truxtun & Myrtle, 3 blocks east of Oak St.)

DEEP PIT BBQ
**** CATERED BY WESTERN KITCHEN ****
\$10/ADULT - \$5 KIDS UNDER 10



MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
GUITARIST DAVE OGDEN



PLUS....

FALCONER DEBBY KROEGER
& "SQUEAK" THE RED-TAILED HAWK

Red-tailed hawks are a raptor with all the features that help make them successful predators.....For thousands of years falconry has been a sport of kings and a means of survival for peasants.



What do these two statements have in common?
Come to our BBQ and find out!



JOIN KERN AUDUBON FOR THIS END-OF-THE-YEAR GATHERING AS WE ELECT 2011-12 OFFICERS, ENJOY DELIGHTFUL GUITAR & MANDOLIN MUSIC BY KERN AUDUBON'S OWN DAVE OGDEN & A LESSON IN FALCONRY BY KERN AUDUBON MEMBER DEBBY KROEGER...PLUS GREAT FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD!!

Come...bring a friend..to centrally located Jastro Park!!



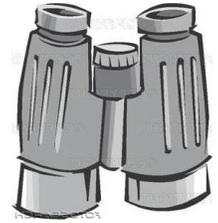
June 4th at PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

The next and last work day prior to our 'summer break' will be on Saturday, June 4, 8-10 AM. Interested in helping? If so email Harry Love (love3@bak.rr.com) or call him (805-1420). There's planting, transplanting, mulching & weeding to be done...join us!

On Saturday, May 7th, Mother's Day weekend, many people came to Panorama Vista Preserve to work in the nursery. It was their way of helping Mother Nature! The delicate job of transplanting newly sprouted sycamores was the job of the day. Others weeded and helped to fill transplant pots. Representing Kern Audubon were Harry Love, Madi Elsea, Clyde Golden, Lucy Clark, Al Caetano, Andy Honig and Bill McDonald. Of special note were retired teachers from CalRTA (California Retired Teachers Association) who worked as part of their volunteer requirement in the community.

Summer Field Trip - Sat. July 16, 6:30am

Kern Audubon will once again have a July field trip to see the beautiful birds that return to spend summers at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summer Tanager, Willow Flycatcher, Vermillion Flycatcher & others. Meet at 6:30am (to beat the heat) on Sat. July 16th at the Mt. Vernon Albertson's parking lot near the donut shop (Mt. Vernon off Hiway 178). Bob Barnes will be the field trip leader. We will return after lunch and are suggesting a \$10 donation for transportation. Contact Madi Elsea for info: madielsea@aol.com or 322-7470.



YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE SURVEY

Audubon California will be holding its third annual **Yellow-billed Magpie Survey** from **June 3-6**. The Yellow-billed Magpie is one of California's most popular birds, and it lives only in California's Central Valley and coastal ranges. For a variety of reasons – including habitat loss, poison, and west Nile virus – the Yellow-billed Magpie population has found itself at risk in recent years, and it is now an Audubon Watchlist species. If we want to help the Yellow-billed Magpie survive, we need to know where it is living and in what numbers.

Taking part is simple: All you need to do is log into eBird (www.ebird.org/california) and record your observations during the four-day survey period. You don't have to be expert to participate, and you don't have to commit to counting birds for the entire four-day period. Every little bit helps. Not only will Audubon California use these findings to guide our conservation efforts, but this information will also be shared with others who are working to help this magnificent species. Learn more at <http://ca.audubon.org/birds/magpie-survey.php>

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010 - 2011

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The Kern Audubon Executive Board generally meets the third Wed. of the month. Meetings are open to interested members; contact a board member for meeting locations

2011 STATE OF THE BIRDS—Birds on Public Lands

The US Dept of the Interior recently released its annual “State of the Birds” report, which is summarized below:

Nearly 850 million acres of land and 3.5 million square miles of ocean in the U.S. are owned by the American people. These habitats are vital to more than 800 bird species in the U.S., 251 of which are federally threatened, endangered, or of conservation concern. More than 300 bird species have 50% or more of their U.S. distribution on public lands and waters. Public agencies therefore have a major influence on the success of conservation efforts to restore declining species and keep common birds common.

The results highlight the critical role of public agencies in bird conservation as well as urgent needs for increased protection and management. Conservation and management of habitats and birds on public lands and waters, in partnership with private efforts, are essential to prevent the extinction of entire suites of island species, to buffer forest and aridland species from urban development and agriculture, to provide vital resources for severely declining ocean birds, and to balance our nation’s need for resources from logging, mining, and energy extraction with conservation in all habitats.

The Gold Standard: Wetlands Protection and Management Our nation’s acquisition and management of wetlands have contributed to a notable increase in wetland bird populations in the past 40 years. National Wildlife Refuges provide a network of 150 million acres managed for 700 bird species, including millions of ducks, geese, and shorebirds. The National Park Service and other public land managers in Florida protect the nation’s largest freshwater marsh system, the Everglades, providing essential habitats for millions of wetland birds.

Stewardship Opportunities in Aridlands and Forests

Public lands support more than half of the U.S. distribution of aridland and western forest bird species during the breeding season, indicating enormous stewardship opportunities for public agencies. The Bureau of Land Management is the primary steward of habitat for Gunnison and Greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species. The USDA Forest Service is the largest single manager of U.S. forests and supports at least 50% of the distribution of eight western forest species.

Effective Management is Key to Healthy Bird Populations

Although birds benefit in part because most public lands are protected from residential and commercial development, increased protections and more effective management of habitats and bird populations are essential. Natural processes must be restored to ensure functional and resilient ecosystems through management actions such as control of nonnative species and diseases, prescribed cuts and burns to reinvigorate forests and grasslands, and water delivery and management to sustain wetlands. Many of these needs are expected to intensify because of climate change. All agencies are faced with the challenge of balancing needs for resource extraction, energy development, recreation, and other uses with the growing urgency to conserve birds and other wildlife. To succeed, they will need additional resources and greater public support to increase land protection and management. Better collaboration among agencies will also increase the effectiveness of public lands management for birds that migrate across political boundaries.

(excerpts from 2011 report by stateofthebirds.org)

David Yarnold, Executive Director, National Audubon Society, issued this statement on the report:

"This report is telling us that we must take action to protect the public lands our nation's birds depend on. That means environmentally-sound siting for green energy—and the discipline to wean ourselves off fossil fuel. That means adequate funding for the public agencies that preserve, restore and manage these lands for wildlife and the millions of Americans that visit them. And that means investing in the kind of public-private
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partnerships that have shaped conservation since Teddy Roosevelt established Florida's Pelican Island as the first federal bird reservation in 1903, with support from the Florida Audubon Society."

Like previous USFWS State of the Birds reports, this one reflects the combined effort of multiple public and private (NGO) partners. Audubon's Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation, played a key role as a member of the Report's science team; Glenn Olson, Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, provided broad leadership, as he does for multiple federal bird conservation initiatives; Audubon also participated in communications planning.

TWO BIRD GUIDES TO CONSIDER

Kern area birding spots are described in the 2007 ABA "A Birder's Guide to Southern California." It has chapters on the "Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada," "Kern Desert Oases and Piute Mountains," "Carrizo Plain, Maricopa, and Mount Pinos Areas," as well as chapters on birding areas all over Southern California. Each chapter has map(s), directions, and mileages. The first five pages of the "Other Good Birding Spots" chapter discuss several other Kern County birding sites including in the Buena Vista Lake, Hart Park, Lake Ming, Tule Elk Reserve, and Tehachapi areas. (Note: be sure to get the 2007 edition, not the outdated 1990's edition!)

John Kemper's "Birding Northern California" (Falcon Press, 2000) includes the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada. It includes areas just north of the Kern River Valley which are NOT covered in the ABA guide. It also covers areas in the eastern Sierra north of Kern County as well as the rest of Northern California. It too has maps, directions, and distances.

With the above two books all of California is covered.

The fastest way to get copies of each is to CALL the Los Angeles Audubon Society Bookstore (323-876-0202 - ask for Martha). Beware of Amazon as many people have ordered from there and received the outdated 1990s edition!

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Hummingbird solution must be changed every 2-3 days in the summer! It sours very quickly in the heat, so please refresh your solution and thoroughly clean your feeders with a light solution of vinegar each time. Spoiled sugar water is bad for the birds! Remember to use a solution of 4 parts water to one part sugar (1 cup boiled water and 1/4 cup white sugar).



The Kern Audubon Society, founded in 1974,
is a chapter of the
National Audubon Society.

Its mission is to provide educational programs and services
that build awareness of the importance of birds and other
wildlife and to promote conservation and restoration of natural habitats,
primarily in Kern County.

WINDMILLS, WINDMILLS & MORE WINDMILLS?!

The good news is that Governor Brown, last month, signed a law that California will have 33% of its electricity provided by renewable sources by 2020. Also, Tehachapi, because of the geography and climate, has strong sustainable winds to produce electricity from the wind. For over 20 years, wind farms have been built on the hillsides to the east of the city.

However, it has only been within the last few years that studies have been made to evaluate the effects of wind turbines on birds and bats. The data is still being collected and government agencies are starting to give guidelines on siting and size of the projects to reduce bird kills and to preserve migratory bird routes.

Now there is a proposed 7,000+ acre project, with 131 wind turbines proposed to the area south of the city, adjacent to Dennison Road. Each tower would be 500 feet in height with blades 300 feet in diameter. The farm would begin at the 4,500 ft level and process to the ridgeline of 6,000 ft.

Kern Audubon has requested that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project include extensive avian studies and use of established guidelines provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Energy Commission.

The Audubon Society is well aware of the benefits to bird populations by reducing greenhouse gases. Renewable energy is a solution. However, as with any thing we choose, the rule of thought, *'the right thing, at the right place, and the right time'* still prevails. Bigger is not necessarily better. I will keep you up to date as the project progresses through the developmental process.

Harry Love (love3@bak.rr.com)
Conservation Chair

BAGEL BIRD FEEDERS, AUDUBON and CALM

On Saturday, May 21, Kern Audubon participated in the day long 28th birthday party for CALM held at the facility. Besides having a booth displaying different birds, birding locations, birding tips, and membership information, there were special activities for children. From making bird feeders to placing names next to bird photos, the children became excited about the rewards of relating to birds. And even some of their parents got 'infected' by their enthusiasm. Over 80 feeders were made. Great thanks to the following KAS volunteers: **Bill & Lynn McDonald, Roger & Barbara Coley, Harry & Kathy Love, Carol Gates, and Lisa Twiford** for staffing the display and helping _____

BIRDING ARIZONA

It's not too late to sign-up for the Kern Audubon's southeastern Arizona birding trip with Michael McQuerry July 23-30. Mac has birded Arizona for over 30 years and knows this area very well, from 13 species of hummingbirds and Elf Owl to Whip-poorwill and Elegant Trogon. Cost is based on lodging (motels or camping) and food, arranged by participants. Please email Michael with your questions and to sign-up: macbirder@juno.com

WEBSITES to check out...

Kern Birding For a comprehensive website about Kern birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Information about birds? For learning about birds go to www.cornellbirds@cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the world leader in the study and conservation of birds.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos For what's unusual in Kern County, go to kerncobirding@yahoogroups.com You'll find recent bird sightings by Bob Barnes, Michael McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

Audubon California has a great website about its activities and organization: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To find out about National Audubon happenings through an informative electronic newsletter, email chapterleaders@audubon.org

And don't forget our own website:
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join Kern Audubon for these activities:

- Sat. June 4, 8 - 10am - Workparty at Panorama Vista Preserve
- Tues. June 7, 6:30pm - Annual BBQ at Jastro Park
- Sat. July 16, 6:30am - Field Trip to Kern River Preserve

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