



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 45. no 3 - MARCH 2016
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon
TUES. MARCH 1, 2016 - 7:00pm
Kern Supt of Schools City Center
1300 17th St. (17th & L) Parking lot at 18th & K

"The Surprising Benefits of Beetles and Wildfires"
Christy Sherr, John Muir Project Biologist
&
"California Spotted Owl and the Mixed Intensity Fire"
Monica Bond, John Muir Project biologist



Mixed intensity fires and native beetles create some of the most productive and critical habitats for California birds and wildlife, comparable or better than even "old growth" forest. Large, dense patches of standing dead trees are preferred by a host of plants, insects, mammals, and birds such as Black-backed Woodpeckers. Surprisingly, that includes even many of our most threatened and endangered species such as Spotted Owls and Pacific Fishers. Come find out more about why so many wildlife species benefit from conditions created by beetles and fire.

Presenter Christy Sherr is a retired National and State Park Ranger, currently working as a field biologist and Education Coordinator for the John Muir Project of the Earth Island Institute. She is a past president of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Chapter, and watched her ten year old daughter become a birder in a burned forest! An added bonus to Christy's presentation will be a brief slideshow by her colleague Monica Bond on Monica's research with the California Spotted Owl and it's relationship to mixed intensity fires. Monica has spent years in research and is considered an expert on this threatened species.

MARCH FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, March, 8th @ 8:00am - Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area

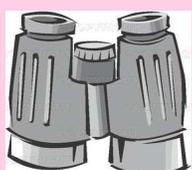
Join Bill Moffat for a morning of birding at the Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area about 30 miles west of Bakersfield where we can expect to see migrating songbirds, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. This will be a great location for new birders. We will also have binoculars to loan. Meet at 8:00am at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway across from CSUB to carpool or at **8:30am** at Buena Vista Rec. Area Bring water, snacks, binocs,

We will be returning after lunch at the Buena Vista golf course (or bring own lunch). Call Deb (805-0232) or Bill (201-9279) for more information.

Saturday March 12 - Piute Ponds at Edwards Air Force Base

The Piute Ponds are located about 6 miles southeast of Rosamond in the Mojave Desert on the southwestern edge of Edwards Air Force Base. The ponds form part of the Harley Berthow Recreation Area and are home to over 200 species of migratory birds. It is also the largest remaining freshwater wetlands in Los Angeles County and is an Audubon Important Bird Area. Misty Hailstone & Greg Hargleroad will lead this field trip onto the Air Force Base.

Bakersfield birders should meet at the Stockdale Park n Ride (on Stockdale Hiway between Hiway 99 and Real Rd.) promptly by **7:15am** to carpool, then meeting Greg and Tehachapi birders at the Tehachapi Burger King at **8:00am**. Contact Greg for more information: 818/645-3664. Bring \$5 for transportation, water, snacks, sack lunch.



Saturday, March 19th @ 8:30 am - Wind Wolves Preserve

Join us for a day of birding and wildlife at the Wind Wolves Nature Festival. There will be hikes and activities for all ages and birders. Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot across from CSUB at **7:45am** if you would like to carpool or caravan to the Preserve. Bring lunch, binos, water, and layered clothing. Contact Deb See for more information: 805-0232.

PRESIDENT'S NEST

Super Bowl is over. But the controversy over football stadiums and birds continues. When the Minnesota Vikings moved forward with an expensive new stadium in 2014, Audubon Minnesota raised several concerns about how a giant facility covered with glass would affect local birds. Millions of birds die every year in collisions with buildings, and advocates saw this stadium in the middle of a migratory pathway as particularly threatening. In Los Angeles, in recent weeks, a proposed plan to house both the newly-relocated Rams and Chargers at a \$2.6 billion stadium made the news. The facility will feature a massive transparent canopy and all the lights that normally come with a football stadium. At this point, no one has done a study of the old Hollywood Park site in Inglewood to determine what, if any, birds will be affected by the new construction of the new stadium. Such a study would be required under CEQA. Audubon California will be looking at proposed designs as they develop. You might be asked to give input and comment at a later date. We will have to wait and see. In football parlance, it is still the first quarter and Audubon has the ball. We want birds to score and win.

Harry Love, President



March 12
'Hill & Dale
Fun Run
Panorama Vista
Preserve

PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORKPARTY

This month's workday, **Saturday, March 12th** will be very different because it is the day of the 2nd annual **Hill & Dale Fun Run at PVP**. We will be helping out with the set up for the event. Please arrive by **7 AM** to help to set up the running course. No shovels, hoes, or gloves this time (yeah!). Bring water and a sun hat. The length of time is up to you. If you need more information, contact Harry Love (love3@bak.rr.com 805-1420)

RENEWING YOUR AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal notices are sent to Audubon members by the National Audubon Society. You can also find the expiration date of your membership on the address label of this newsletter or *Audubon* magazine. You can also check your membership status and renew membership online at www.audubon.org and click on "Member Center" at the **very top of the homepage**. Or send your renewal check in the amount of \$20 to: National Audubon Member Center, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast Fl. 32142

Questions? Contact Linda McMillian, KAS Membership Coordinator: lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net or 661-205-3521.

SPROUTING BIRD SEED?!

If you have a bird feeder over lawn or flower beds, you may have a problem with sprouting bird seed. If so, you can avoid this problem by filling a large roaster pan with birdseed, putting it in the oven at 150 degrees for several hours, then cool. This will deactivate the seeds and they won't sprout!

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2015-2016

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Looking ahead to the **APRIL 5, 2016**

Kern Audubon meeting....The

program will feature "Colombia -- A Birding Adventure" with Ginny Dallas, Larry Emet, Rod Lee & Madi Elsea who traveled to Colombia last July to bird the country with the most bird species in the world!

AMAZON SMILE....Do you shop on the internet? Do you use Amazon? If so, you can help Kern Audubon through



Amazon Smile, a site that allows you to shop for the same items as Amazon but with the added feature that .5% of what you pay to Amazon will go to KAS. You have the same choices and pay no more. Go to smile.amazon.com to register and select Kern Audubon Society. When you buy

something, just go to the Smile site. It's easy and Kern Audubon will benefit!



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird

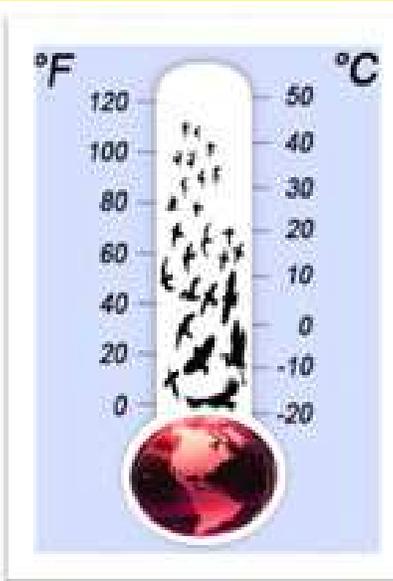
Symposium on California's Energy Future

California is experiencing great challenges and opportunities as the nation's energy future evolves amid plunging oil prices and climate change mandates. Those challenges and opportunities are no more evident anywhere than in Kern County, whose economy has long been linked to petroleum extraction and whose vast, open land has proved ideal for wind and solar power projects.

This new reality will be the subject of a community forum set for Thurs. March 3 in Bakersfield. "California's Energy Future," a public symposium focusing on these changes, will bring together four energy experts: Cathy Reheis-Boyd of the Western States Petroleum Association; Todd Strauss, PG&E's senior director of Energy Policy, Planning and Analysis; renewable energy advocate Paul Gipe, and include state Sen. Jean Fuller, who leads the senate's Republican caucus.

This panel discussion will describe the policy landscape ahead and hear key perspectives from the state legislature, environmentalists and energy industry leaders. Panelists will explain what we have learned nearly a decade after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the landmark climate change bill, AB32. And they will share their thoughts about how climate policy is changing life in California and the way we do business.

The event, free to the public, is sponsored by TBC Media and CALmatters, a nonpartisan public interest journalism venture based in Sacramento and takes place at 6:30 p.m. at The Mark, 1623 19th St, Bakersfield. The 90-minute discussion begins at 7 p.m. and concludes with a 20-minute audience Q&A. Tickets are free but reservations are required, and seats are limited to 90. To reserve seats call 661/395-7384.



CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER

- **Greenhouse gases**, including **carbon dioxide, methane and water vapor**, trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere and warm the planet.
- In general, the **greenhouse effect is a good thing**. Without greenhouse gases, the temperature on Earth would be too cold to support life. With too many, it would heat up beyond survivable levels. Earth is sometimes called the **Goldilocks Planet** because it is "**just right**."
- Since **1958**, the **amount of carbon dioxide** in the atmosphere has been measured from an observatory on **Mauna Loa**, a volcano in Hawaii.
- The pre-industrial concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was **280 parts per million (ppm)**. As of March 2009, it has reached **387 ppm**.
- Today, the amount of carbon dioxide is **higher than at any time in the last 650,000 years**. And the Earth's average temperature is **increasing faster than ever before**.

BIRD FESTIVALS For information about festivals around the country, go to...

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals
www.birdwatchersdigest.com

46th Annual Audubon's NEBRASKA CRANE FESTIVAL March 17-20, 2016 - Kearney, Neb.

<http://nebraskacranefestival.org/>

April 14-18, 2016 - GODWIT DAYS (Arcata CA)

www.godwitdays.org

Keynote speaker is David Sibley

PHOTOS NEEDED

The Kern Audubon Executive Board is working on a long-overdue brochure about this chapter and its activities and community outreach. Kevin Fahey is coordinating this project and needs pictures of Kern Audubon activities, such as people birding, group shots, etc. Pictures need to be high resolution and can be emailed (as an attachment) to Kevin:

kjfahey@sbcglobal.net

Or call Kevin for more information: 706-7459

WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? Go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study and conservation of birds

Kern Birding www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Audubon California has an excellent website: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To learn about National Audubon go to: www.audubon.org

MEETUP If you'd like to find out what similar groups to Audubon are doing, consider a social media website called **Meetup**, which sends email reminders of events and it's free! To become a member go to www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society and follow the easy instructions.



HOW CLEAN IS YOUR FEEDER?

Clean birdfeeders/birdbaths are critical in preventing the spread of disease between birds. Birds with disease are also more likely to die from starvation, dehydration and predation, so protect them by following these tips:

- **DISINFECT...**to keep pathogens at bay, immerse seed feeders & birdbaths in a 9 to 1 water - bleach solution, rinsing thoroughly. Do this one or two times per month.
- **EVERYDAY...**empty water from your birdbath, even in colder weather. Brush or wipe clean, then refill with clean water. People like clean dishes and fresh water, so do birds!
- **DISCARD** old seed/hulls when you clean feeders and rake or sweep up uneaten hulls on the ground. Disease causing germs can live up to 5 days in food and several hours in water.
- **OVERCROWDING...**If possible, provide more than one feeder and spread them out. Crowding expedites the spread of disease, so give birds variety and plenty of room.



Humans Would Not Exist Without These 5 Creatures

By now, you may have heard the buzz about bees as concerns about their disappearance have heightened in recent years. What would we do without having bees to pollinate the world's food supply? Here are five other species that help us, humans, survive.

1. Ants: Over 12,000 species of ants have been scientifically identified and they are abundant in most ecosystems. Ants aid in decomposition and turn up more soil than earthworms! When ants dig tunnels, they aerate the soil and recycle nutrients. Ants even help reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and the need for irrigation. Seed-harvesting ants transport seeds to their nutrient rich nests, where plants can safely grow, free of harm from herbivores.

2. Termites: A termite's diet is based upon roots, wood, bark, and stems. Termites are detritivores and decomposers, meaning they consume decomposing plant matter and play vital roles in recycling ecosystem energy, as well as in balancing biogeochemical cycles.

3. Bats Though they are often portrayed as creepy flighty creatures in Hollywood films, bats are exceptionally important to our ecosystem. And don't worry about vampires. Out of over 1,200 species of bats, only three are blood-sucking vampires and bats won't harm humans unless they are threatened. Insectivorous bats, which make up 70 percent of bat species, perform nocturnal insect control services by consuming millions of pest insects each year. Farmers are grateful to bats because they save billions of dollars of crops each year, while reducing the need for chemical pesticides.

4. Frogs: Frogs act as bio-indicators, which means they indicate the health of their ecosystems. Frog skin is very porous and permeable, allowing substances present in the environment to be absorbed within their fatty tissues. Since frogs will most often be the first animals to react to biological hazards, they are helpful for warning humans to take action.

5. Birds: *Ecological Jack of all Trades:* Birds perform a broad variety of ecological roles, including forest decomposition, insect pest control, nutrient recycling, bio-indication of ecosystem health, plant pollination, and seed dispersal. Some ground-dwelling birds even help aerate and turn up soil with their claws. Birds keep systems in balance, but they are not only ecologically significant to humans; they provide inspiration to people with their aesthetic magnificence.

(Article provided by Kevin Fahey)

PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE & COVENANT COFFEE

'field n 'dale 6k - 12k fun run

Where BakersFIELD & OilDALE meet below the Bluffs!!

Saturday March 12, 8:30am

Proceeds to benefit Panorama Vista Preserve

"Commitment to the greening of our community"

- Registration limited to 300 participants
- Custom race awards 1st - 3rd place in all age groups
 - Free Raffle and massages
 - Wicking T-shirt
- Breakfast provided by Covenant Coffee & Deli
- Course map & info at www.panoramavista.org
 - NO PACKET PICK-UP AT RACE SITE

Pre-registration before 3/1/16 - \$30

After 3/1/16 or on race day - \$40

Register in person at following locations/dates:

Sole 2 Sole Sports

9000 Ming Ave

_3 - 6:30pm

Covenant Coffee

1700 N. Chester Ave.

OR

Register online at www.Ultrasignup.com

Race staging area is 901 East Roberts Lane, approx. 1/2 mile east of Manor Street at parking area by white gate. Must be to this area by 8:00am--first race begins at 8:30am!

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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. March 1, 7:00pm - Meeting & program
- Tues. March 8, 8:00am - Buena Vista field trip
- Sat. March 12 - Field & Dale Fun Run
- Sat. March 12 - Piute Ponds field trip
- Sat. March 19 - 8:30am - Wind Wolves Preserve

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

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: _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____