



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 45, no 5 - MAY 2016
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon
TUES. MAY 3, 2016 - 7:00pm
Kern Supt of Schools City Center
1300 17th St. (17th & L) Parking lot at 18th & K



"Missing Link: A Race to Protect a Crucial Wildlife Corridor"
Zack Principe, Nature Conservancy Scientist

In this program we will learn about cattle ranches in the Caliente area that provide important wildlife habitat in a narrow corridor between massive Tejon Ranch and the Southern Sierra foothills. Zach Principe will share photos and discuss The Nature Conservancy's "Tehachapi Project".

Zachary Principe is a Stewardship Ecologist with The Nature Conservancy trained as a plant ecologist. Over his 18 years working for the Conservancy he has focused on land management, conservation planning, and land protection in southern California. Over the last decade he has been part of the Conservancy's team to plan and implement conservation actions in the greater Tehachapi and southern Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Special guests joining Kern Audubon for this exciting program will be the Buena Vista group of the Sierra Club and the California Native Plant Society.

There will be election of 2016-17 KAS Executive Board officers, raffle and refreshments. Hope to see you!

MAY FIELD TRIPS

SUN. MAY 1 - Nature Conservancy Lands in Caliente

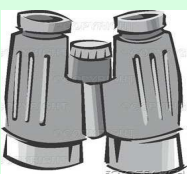
This field trip with Zack Principe, the May 3rd speaker for Kern Audubon, will be to property acquired by The Nature Conservancy near Caliente. Registration is limited, so contact Deb See (805-0232) for availability and details.

SAT/SUN MAY 7 & 8- Desert Birding and Campout

A weekend of birding will be led by birder extraordinaire Alison Sheehy in early May. We will meet Sat. May 7 at 7:00 AM at the Best Western Hotel in California City (also a great place to stay on Friday night). We will then visit various birding hotspots in eastern Kern County, including Galileo Hill desert oasis, then ending up at Butterbredt Springs (desert oasis) around 8pm to camp for the night. Early Sunday morning (5:30am) birding before dawn is essential to experience the spectacle of songbirds migrating through Butterbredt and on into the southern Sierras. In 2014 our group saw approximately 10,000 migrating songbirds just in the first few hours before & after dawn! After Butterbredt we will explore the Kelso Valley and Piute Mtn. area, and possibly Audubon's Kern River Preserve and Lake Isabella. Note: Another Friday night option is camping at Red Rock Canyon State Park (no fee, courtesy of Bill Moffat) with Ali, Bill, and Deb, with possible owling. Join us if you can for all or any portion of this event. Please call with questions/RSVP to Deb See at 661-805-0232.

SAT. MAY 14 - STALLION SPRINGS

Kern Audubon-Tehachapi will host this birding field trip to the Stallion Springs area near Tehachapi to bird ponds and riparian habitats. Cliff Swallows are nesting on the covered bridge! Bakersfield birders should meet at the ParknRide on Stockdale near Hiway 99 at **7:15am** to carpool to the Burger King in Tehachapi to meet leader Greg Hargleroad at **8:00am**. Bring snacks, water, binoculars. Bear Valley birders can contact Greg for a meeting place in Stallion Springs: 818/645-3664 and for more information.



TUES. MAY 24, 8:30AM - TRUXTUN LAKE

Bill Moffat will lead this morning outing along the shores of Truxtun Lakes where we can expect to see late migrants, waterfowl, shorebirds and year-round residents. Beginning birders especially welcome! Meet at the Truxtun Extension parking lot between Mohawk and the painted water tower at **8:30am**. Wear good walking shoes, bring water/snacks. Binocs are suggested and we have some to loan. Contact Bill (661-201-9279) for more information.

The President's Nest



Now that bird migration is at its height, it is appropriate to understand the simple elegance of this natural act. Below is a description from the **American Bird Conservancy**: ‘

The sight of migrating V's of swans or geese high in the blue sky quickens the pulse of those lucky enough to see them in spring or autumn. Imagine though, in numbers as yet incalculable, the larger migration hidden by darkness: the billions of small birds coursing in broad fronts and narrow rivers across the night sky. Travelers extraordinaire, some such as the Red Knot twice traverse the entire hemisphere from Patagonia to the Arctic and back. Others, such as the Blackpoll Warbler, cross thousands of miles of open ocean weighing only 16 grams — the weight of two quarters.

Birds like the tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird cross the Gulf of Mexico. Known as the feistiest of all hummingbirds, the Rufous Hummingbird makes one of the longest migratory journeys of any bird as measured by body size. The birds travel from breeding grounds as far north as Alaska over several thousand miles to wintering grounds in Mexico. Others island hop across the Caribbean, and millions upon millions more pour north above Central America in spring (south in late summer and autumn), then fan out across North America.

Twice per year, from time immemorial, migratory birds have been making these epic journeys.”
Harry Love, President

Editor's note: Take a KAS field trip--a great way to experience spring migration!



PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORKPARTY

On **Saturday, May 14, 8-10 AM**, we will be having our monthly workday at the Preserve. Spring rains have been very good to the plants. But also the weeds! Please come out and enjoy a May morning taking care of the plants. All you need is water, hat, gloves, a shovel, and a great attitude. Want to join the fun? Contact Harry Love (love3@bak.rr.com 805-1420). Meet at east end of Roberts Lane off Manor Drive 8am!

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,
Attention: Chance Mueleck
225 Varrick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014

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



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. We now have over **147 members!** Thanks to **Carly Summers** for updating events to the site.

KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

“Like” us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on field trips and programs!



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!



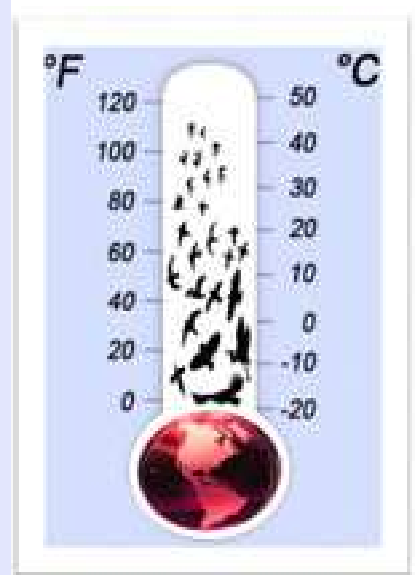


KERN AUDUBON BOOTH AT CALM

On **Saturday, May 21, 9 AM- 4 PM**, Kern Audubon will have its booth at CALM for its 33rd birthday party. Children (with parent's help) will make bird feeders, learn about birds, and dissect owl pellets. It is a great time to connect with children, the next generation of bird-watchers. We have been participating in the event for over 6 years with wonderful help from volunteers. We'd like your help this year! It's only a 2 hour time commitment and all the materials are provided as well as training. Please contact Harry (love3@bak.rr.com 805-1420) if you would like to participate in this worthy and FUN community connection event.

Climate Change Corner: Four Facts Which Can Help You Win At Jeopardy

- 1) Loss of biodiversity:** With every tree cut down we lose countless species of animals and plants. If the rate of global warming will be moving at this rate we will end up losing millions of species. If we take polar bears for example in the past they were heavier, less hungry and much bigger than they are now.
- 2) Natural disasters:** Natural disaster is an effect of earth's natural hazards – floods, tornado, hurricane, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, heatwaves, landslides.... They can lead to massive financial, environmental or human losses.
- 3) Disappearance of Great Barrier Reef:** This is the largest coral reef system which can be seen from outer space. Increasing ocean temperatures bleach the coral reefs. Mass coral bleaching events due to elevated ocean temperatures occurred in the summers of 1998, 2002 and 2006, and coral bleaching is expected to become an annual occurrence.
- 4) Global warming creates opposites:** Global warming turns some areas of the earth hotter or drier while others are turned the opposite direction wetter and colder. Global warming creates opposites in the nature – on one side Amazon rain forest is turning into desert and Sahara is becoming greener and greener.



BIRDING EXTRAVAGANZA - MAY 14, 2016

A day of history and birding await the public on Saturday May 14th at Col. Allensworth State Historic Park and nearby Atwell Island, a birding preserve being restored by the Bureau of Land Management. This is the approximate schedule:

- 9:00 - meet at Col. Allensworth SHP for welcome and overview of day
 - 9:30 - caravan or use park shuttle to go to Atwell Island from Allensworth, with a welcome at Atwell Island by Jihadda Jovan, preserve manager
 - 10:00 - Kern Audubon led bird walk, activities and games for kids, information tables at Atwell Island
 - 11:45 - caravan and park shuttle back to Allensworth SHP
 - 12:00 - lunch time at Allensworth -- *Bring your own lunch & drinks!*
 - 12:30 - Tours of Col. Allensworth SHP 2-2:30 - End of event
- Colonel Allensworth SHP is about 30 miles north of Bakersfield. From Hwy 99 near the town of Earlimart, take the Ave 56 Exit (Exit 65), then turn west toward Alpaugh and go 7.4 miles on County Rd J22 (W Sierra Av). At Hwy 43 (Central Valley Hwy) turn right (south) and proceed to the intersection of Palmer Av. Turn right and proceed to the Park entrance.*

Looking ahead to Kern Audubon's **June 7th picnic at Jastro Park, 6:30pm....**put the date on your calendar for a fun evening as we close out our 2015-2016 calendar year!



TEHACHAPI BLUEBIRD TRAIL

The Tehachapi Bluebird Recovery Trail is having a good spring so far with some of the following results, thanks to a dedicated team (left) and its leader, Karen Pestana:

From 44 nest boxes at Indian Hill Ranch we found 16 incomplete nests and 28 complete nests with 54 Western Bluebird eggs. At Antelope Run, 2 of 3 boxes had 6 bluebird eggs each (see photo). At Brite Lake there were 11 bluebird eggs plus one nest with a female on the nest.

In total, 77 bluebird eggs were observed in all our group-monitored nest boxes. This is a wonderful start to the 2016 nest box program!

If you have nest boxes at your home, please monitor them using the NestWatch data sheet that Karen can email to you: kptehachapi@sbcglobal.net If you'd like to help with the trails, contact Karen!

Bird-Smart Wind Energy: Protecting Birds from Poorly Sited Wind Turbines

The United States is now the world's leading producer of wind energy, with tens of thousands of wind turbines in operation and many more planned. As a result, bird mortality from collisions is escalating every year, especially in areas where turbines and their associated power lines and towers have been poorly sited from the perspective of bird conservation. The annual loss of birds from wind turbines was estimated as high as 573,000 in 2012. However, vastly more turbines are in operation now, and more than 1.4 million bird deaths are projected by 2030 or earlier if the U.S. meets its goal of producing 20 percent of electrical energy with wind. If that figure reaches 35 percent, as new Department of Energy projections suggest, up to 5 million birds could be killed annually. Alternative energy is critically important to address pollution and climate change, but we strongly believe that renewable energy sources should not be embraced without question. Our Bird-Smart Wind Energy Program's primary goal is to protect U.S. native birds from the rapidly

2016 Great Backyard Bird Count Results

Top 10 most numerous species:

(sum of how many individuals were observed across all GBBC checklists):

Species	Number of Individuals
Snow Goose	1,405,349
Canada Goose	1,166,166
European Starling	624,267
American Coot	515,017
Mallard	510,103
Dark-eyed Junco	487,772
Ring-billed Gull	447,635
Red-winged Blackbird	437,615
American Goldfinch	429,073
American Robin	375,760

Top 10 states by checklists submitted:

* New state checklist record

State	Number of Species	Number of Checklists
California	365	10,861*
Pennsylvania	137	8,705*
New York	166	7,460*
Florida	320	7,308*
Texas	354	7,020*
Virginia	177	5,938*
North Carolina	212	5,521*
Michigan	132	5,109*
Ohio	131	4,955

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2015-2016

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AGENCY HELPS BIRDS, URGES END TO OPEN PIPES

Open pipes, such as uncapped PVC pipes used to mark mining claims, are death traps for hundreds of thousands of birds and other wildlife each year. Animals become trapped inside the pipes and, unable to escape, starve or die of dehydration. More than 3 million mining claims use these pipes as boundary markers. "This is a small change that will make a big difference," said Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze. "Too often birds, bats, lizards, snakes, and small mammals find themselves unable to escape from pipes and vents."

memorandum calls for BLM staff to identify all vertical pipes on BLM-managed lands and to cap, close, remove, or screen them to prevent wildlife from becoming trapped. In addition, all vertical pipes on future facilities must have permanent caps or screens to prevent harm to wildlife. Mine-claim holders are also being encouraged to voluntarily remove PVC pipes used as mine markers and to replace them with wildlife-safe markers.

In June, more than 100 groups led by American Bird Conservancy sent a joint letter to the BLM and the USDA Forest Service, asking the two agencies to accelerate efforts to address this longstanding threat to birds. The groups specifically asked BLM and the Forest Service to take three key actions:

- Issue national policy directives to remove or modify existing pipes, and to delineate standards to prevent use of open pipes in the future.
- Initiate a federal rulemaking to require that mining-claim holders replace pipes that can cause mortality and to use wildlife-safe markers on all current and future claims.
- Dedicate sufficient resources annually to educate mine-claim holders on this issue; to coordinate and carry out partnership efforts to remove pipes; and to carry out necessary infrastructure improvements within the public lands and national forest systems.

According to the BLM publication *Public Land Statistics*, in 2014, 3.5 million mining claims were on record on BLM-managed lands in 11 contiguous western states and Alaska. An examination of 854 pipes in the state of Nevada revealed 879 dead birds—an average of more than one bird death per pipe—as well as 113 reptiles and mammals. Of the 43 species of birds recovered from the markers by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, most were cavity nesters. The Ash-throated Flycatcher and the Mountain Bluebird were the most frequent victims, but other species commonly trapped included woodpeckers, sparrows, shrikes, kestrels, and owls.

Up to 30 Bird Mortalities in One Open Pipe - This threat to birds has been documented from Oregon to New Mexico. In November 2011, BLM specialists in Oregon documented alarming rates of bird mortality at claims in the Burns area. The toll to birds "could be enormous," one researcher stated in his written report. "A single uncapped, vertical PVC cylinder can potentially entrap and kill dozens of native birds from multiple species." Pipe-pulling efforts have so far documented as many as 30 bird mortalities in a single pipe.

Source: American Bird Conservancy

LANDMARK WIN FOR LITTLE FISH & SEABIRDS Dozens of forage fish species critical for seabirds and other marine wildlife on the west coast gained landmark federal protection on April 8, 2016, under a new rule from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Audubon commends NOAA for publishing this final rule which proactively protects several types of herring, squid, smelt and other fish in 280,000 square miles of ocean providing critical foraging habitat for albatrosses, shearwaters, storm petrels and other seabirds.

The Audubon network on the west coast collaborated for several years with the Pew Trusts and other groups to support the policy and rule. This landmark rule recognizes that seabirds and other marine wildlife depend on an abundant and diverse array of forage fish species. Some of the species protected today are already fished heavily elsewhere around the world, which has contributed to major declines in our Pacific marine birds. Now, 280,000 square miles of foraging habitat critical for our marine birds and other wildlife will be protected by creating a high bar for sustainability before allowing any new fisheries targeting these forage fish.

Audubon California, Sea and Sage Audubon, Audubon Society of Portland, and Audubon Activists comprised the network supporting this policy action over the last several years. Earlier this year, Audubon members in California and across the nation sent more than 20,000 letters to NOAA in support of the proposed rule. These letters and the voices of the Audubon network made a real difference: in its final rule, NOAA notes it "appreciates the broad public interest in this rulemaking and has taken the strong public support it received during the comment period into account in its approval of this final rule."

Source: Audubon California

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. May 3, 7:00pm - KAS Meeting & program
- Sat/Sun May 7-8 - Dessert birding/campout
- Sat. May 14, 8am - Panorama Vista workparty
- Sat. May 14, 7:15 & 8am - Stallion Springs outing
- Tues. May 24, 8:30am - Truxtun Lakes outing

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 to National Audubon for \$20 to:

Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____