



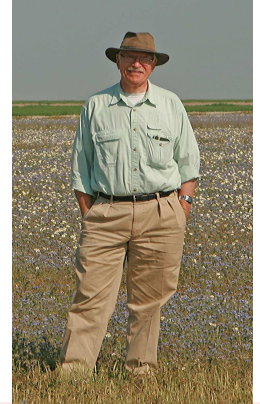
AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 40 no. 9 - November 2011
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org
www.kastehachapibird.org



KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY
Tues. NOVEMBER 1, 2011
7:00pm - Kern Supt of Schools
17th & L Sts. (parking garage 18th & K)

**The Atwell Island Project:
Restoring a Portion of the Tulare Basin**
Dr. Steve Laymon, Project Manager



Over the past 10 years Steve Laymon has managed the Atwell Island Project for the Bureau of Land Management. Located in the southwestern corner of Tulare Co. and adjoining Kings Co., this project has taken 8,000 acres of marginal farmland out of agricultural production and restored it to native upland and wetland habitats. Steve will describe what the Tulare Basin was like prior to European settlement, which included Tulare Lake, the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. Steve will talk about the restoration process at Atwell Island including the project successes and how it has benefited wildlife as well as future plans for the project. A special treat will be the photographs of habitats, flowers, insects, and birds that Steve has taken at the project over his tenure as project manager.

Steve Laymon is a restoration ecologist and ornithologist with a PhD in Wildland Resource Science from UC Berkeley and a MS in Biogeography from Cal State University, Chico. He has conducted research on several endangered species, including the Spotted Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Wed. Nov. 9, 8am - This month's Wednesday Walk with Park Ranger Bill Moffat will be to Buena Vista Lake to see wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at Kern River Parkway parking lot across from CSUB (Stockdale Hiway & Don Hart Dr) at 8am with water, snacks and binoculars. Return before noon. Call AI (833-7605) for info.

Sat. Nov. 12 - An Afternoon of birding....you choose!

We're trying something a little different: an opportunity to explore Atwell Island AND-OR see Sandhill Cranes at Pixley NWR the same day! You choose how to spend the afternoon & early evening given these two birding opportunities....

12 noon - Atwell Island to see the restoration project headed by Steve Laymon following his presentation on Tues. Nov. 6th and to see the variety of upland and wetland birds that are found in the Tulare Basin. Meet at 12 noon at the Rosedale Costco parking lot near the gas station to carpool. Bring lunch or eat before....bring binocs, water, snacks. After birding at Atwell Island, those who wish to do so will continue to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge (see below) to join the Crane Festival and fly-in of the Sandhill Cranes. \$10 person for transportation. Call Deb See for information (805-0232).

AND....OR

3:00pm Sandhill Crane Festival – Pixley National Wildlife Refuge to experience the return of the Sandhill Cranes to the southern San Joaquin Valley and to see them as they return to the safety of the refuge at sunset. During the day the cranes forage in nearby agricultural fields and at night return to the refuge where they are safe from predators. The sound and sight of the cranes as they fly-in is amazing! Meet at 3:00pm at the Rosedale Costco parking lot by the gas station to carpool. Good walking shoes, flashlights, binoculars, cameras-optional, and jackets will be needed and \$10 for transportation. Refreshments will be provided. Call Madi (322-7470) for info.

Sat. Nov. 19, 7:00am - Tehachapi area ponds/lakes

Kern Audubon-Tehachapi is hosting this birding field trip to see wintering species. Dress warm; bring water/snacks. Meet at KMart parking lot (710 W.Tehachapi Blvd.) near Burger King at 7am. Contact Angela Guy (304-6816) for information.

FEAST FOR THE BEASTS: A CALM TRADITION **FRIDAY NOV. 25TH**

The California Living Museum located on Alfred Harrel Hiway (between Hart Park & Lake Ming) invites the public to a free day at the zoo the day after Thanksgiving and the opportunity to help stockpile food for the animals for winter.

Individual visitors will be admitted FREE in exchange for one of the following food items for the animals:

- 3 pounds nuts (pecans, walnuts, almonds , peanuts in the shell without salt or flavoring)
- 2 large bags frozen mixed vegetables
- 2 large bags frozen blueberries, blackberries or raspberries
- 2 pound jar of peanut butter, jam or honey
- 2 pounds dried fruit (raisins, apricots, banana chips, etc.)
- 5 pounds yams or sweet potatoes (fresh)
- 3.5lb bag dog food (IAMS< Pedigree or Science Diet
- 3.5lb. bag of cat food - Purina Cat Chow
- 5 pound bag of wild birdseed
- 3 boxes of Ziploc freezer bags (quart or gallon)
- 2 whole chickens or 5lbs chicken thighs or breasts
- 1 ream of white multi-purpose copy paper
-

\$25 gift card from any pet, grocery, hardware or office supply store will admit 2 adults & 2 children

Zoo hours are 9am - 3pm and Feast for the Beasts marks the start of the holiday season at CALM. Your support is appreciated!



LAST CALL FOR BINOCULARS...

The chapter is ready to order binoculars from Eagle Optics and if you'd like to participate, Eagle Optics will donate one free pair to the chapter for each pair ordered. These are excellent binoculars, 8X40's, for approximately \$125. If you'd like to order a pair, please contact Rod (322-7470) or rodmllee@aol.com. You can check out the binoculars at the next meeting.

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2011 -2012

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tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307

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

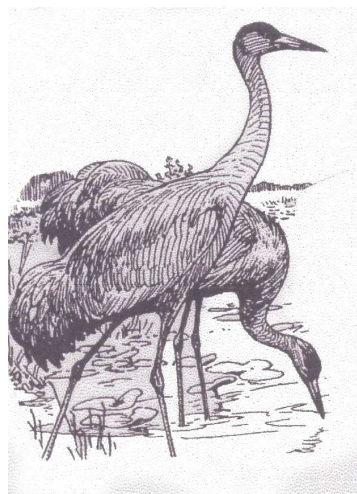
BIRDING FESTIVALS

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...

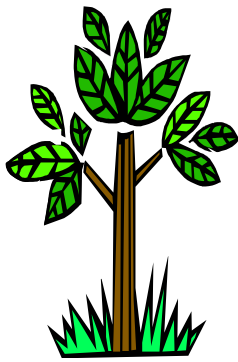
www.Americanbirding.org/festivals

www.birdwatchersdigest.com

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



**Remember the
SANDHILL
CRANE
FESTIVAL
field trip to
Pixley Nat'l
Wildlife
Refuge on Sat.
Nov 12th,
3:00pm!!!**



PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

Saturday, November 5, 8-10 AM will be the next workday at Panorama Vista Preserve. In October, under the great leadership of Al Caetano and Bill Cooper, over 100 new trees were planted at the Preserve. Great work by Audubon members and the Interact Club from Foothill High School. Thanks to the diligence of Andy Honig and others, the seedlings raised at the nursery have done well. November's work will again be to plant new trees. What to bring...shovel, hat, gloves, water. Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane. If you wish to become part of the Kern Audubon work team or for more information, contact Harry Love at 805-1420 or love3@bak.rr.com.

KERN RIVER PRESERVE

Kern River Preserve is owned and operated by Audubon California and is a wonderful spot for birding and enjoying nature, no matter the season of the year. On the first Saturday of each month is a Nature Exploration activity led by Alison Sheehey, Outreach Coordinator. Join her Sat. Nov. 5, 9 - 11am for "Fall Colors" and, naturally, birds! There is also a workday scheduled for Sat. Nov. 19th, so if you'd like to help out, email Alison: natureali@lightspeed.net. The Kern River Preserve is located on Hiway 178 in the community of Weldon. For directions go to www.kern.audubon.org

"INHALE" EXHIBIT HONORS PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

A new year and a new group of artists *Creating Community* has begun. The title of their first exhibit is "INHALE, *Land Stewardship for Cleaner Air,*" which will be open through November 14, 2011, at the Younger Galleries, 1430 Truxtun. The non-profit with which the artists are partnering is the Panorama Vista Preserve and the focus of the art and exhibit is bringing greater awareness of the positive effect of trees on creating and maintaining clean air. Kern Audubon member Nancy Putney is one of the artists along with Elihu Borrero, Linda Brown, Julia Heatherwick and Scott McDonald. The public is invited!

HOLIDAY AUCTION & POTLUCK

Set aside this date - **TUES. DEC. 6TH, 6:30PM** - for Kern Audubon's annual holiday party and auction (live & silent). This is always a fun event and an important fund raiser for our chapter. Help is needed to organize the auction itself and donations are needed for the auction. Already donated is a beautiful *North American Game Birds* Plate Collection, a set of eight numbered plates by the renowned wildlife artist Jim Killen. Each plate portrays a different, well-known game bird, such as the California Quail (pictured to the right). The auction will also include some of the items received through the Mary Wharter estate.

Call Madi (322-7470) to volunteer your services for this event!



NATIONAL AUDUBON & NATIONWIDE

Audubon has put together a special deal with Nationwide Insurance that could mean significant savings on auto insurance for members of Audubon. For more information and a free quote, go to www.nationwide.com/Audubon, call 1-866-633-5747, or contact a local agent to take advantage of this special discount on auto insurance. (*Audubon Newswire* 9/8/11)

A KERN COUNTY "BIG YEAR"

Susan Steele is a member of Kerncrest Audubon and a phenomenal birder...and she's doing a Kern County Big Year, which means she is trying to see as many species of birds in one year in Kern County. As of October 15th, she had tallied 318 species and is asking help from other birders to increase her count. If you'd like to see her list of species she's still missing, call her at 760/382-8557 or email her - ssteele7@verizon.net - and let her know if you see something unusual!

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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

In the tradition of Audubon, Christmas Bird Counts will be held throughout Kern County from December 14 – January 1. Listed below are the dates and the “compilers” who are leading/organizing their particular count area. If you would like to be involved, contact the compiler for the count or counts you are interested in. Lots of volunteers are needed. Also, if you can house a birder for a night, this will save some folks the expense of a hotel as some people come here from the Bay Area to help with our CBC’s. Contact Alison Sheehey if you can provide a bed: natureali@gmail.com or 760/417-0268. Many thanks to Alison Sheehey, Outreach Coordinator for Audubon’s Kern River Preserve, for coordinating the schedules and recruiting many of the compilers.

WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2011

Bakersfield CBC, Kern County: Compiler: [John Wilson](mailto:John.Wilson@kerncountyparks.com) (336-0283) year began 1949 -held in 1950 -resumed in 1973

THURSDAY, December 15, 2011

Tejon Ranch CBC, Kern & Los Angeles Counties: Compiler: Michael White; by invitation only - year began 2008

FRIDAY, December 16, 2011

Buena Vista CBC, Kern County: Compiler: [Alison Sheehey](mailto:Alison.Sheehey@kerncountyparks.com), Phone: 760-417-0268. - year began 1989

SATURDAY, December 17, 2011

Butterbredt CBC, Kern County: Compiler: [Charles Bragg](mailto:Charles.Bragg@kerncountyparks.com), Phone: (310) 454-9662 - year began 1977

Lancaster CBC, Los Angeles/Kern Counties: Compiler: [Mary & Nick Freeman](mailto:Mary.Nick.Freeman@kerncountyparks.com), Phone: (818) 247-6172 - year began 1980

SUNDAY, December 18, 2011

China Lake CBC, Kern County: Compiler: [Pete Woodman](mailto:Pete.Woodman@kerncountyparks.com), Phone: (760) 377-3466 - year began 1957

TUESDAY, December 20, 2011

Tehachapi CBC, Kern County: Compiler: [Larry Parmeter](mailto:Larry.Parmeter@kerncountyparks.com), Phone: (559) 276-8753 - year began 1992

WEDNESDAY, December 21, 2011

Bear Valley Springs CBC, Kern County: Compiler: [Alison Sheehey](mailto:Alison.Sheehey@kerncountyparks.com), Phone: 760-378-2029 - year began 1995

SATURDAY, December 31, 2011

Carrizo Plains CBC, Kern & San Luis Obispo Counties: [Roger Zachary](mailto:Roger.Zachary@kerncountyparks.com), Phone (805) 466-6222 - year began 1971

South Fork Valley CBC, Kern County: Compiler Denise LaBerteaux, Phone: (760) 378-4278 - year began 1992

SUNDAY, January 1, 2012

Kern River Valley CBC, Kern County: Compiler: [Alison Sheehey](mailto:Alison.Sheehey@kerncountyparks.com), Phone: 760-417-0268. Housing available bring sleeping bag - year began 1979

At right is the new viewing platform at Atwell Island Restoration Project, which is one of the field trip opportunities being offered on Sat. Nov. 12th....join us for a great outing!



MAKE IT YOUR BIG YEAR—DISCOVER BIRDS WITH AUDUBON

A major motion picture about bird watching! Yes, and it's in theaters now: "The Big Year", about three birders who compete to see the most species of birds in North America in one year, which is based on a true story. It's great fun and is about America's second fastest growing hobby after gardening—birding. Bird watchers abound in Kern County, too, from backyard bird watchers to elite birders who compile lists and drive hundreds of miles to see rarities. And all of us share a common interest in birds because, as we say in Audubon, *birds matter!*

According to a recent survey by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, an astounding 48 million Americans watch birds—20% of the population—and also contribute approximately \$36 billion annually to the economy. While that's good news, what's significant is that birding leads to discovering, enjoying, and conserving nature and especially birds. It was the protection of birds that led to the founding of the Audubon Society, named for the American bird artist and naturalist, John James Audubon. The Audubon movement began in the late 1800's as a response to the widespread slaughter of birds, especially to supply the millinery (hats) trade. Many abhorred the traditional Christmas bird hunt and instead bird counts were started. The annual Christmas Bird Counts are still held 110 years later and provide valuable information about the status of birds that inform scientists and policy makers in addressing the needs of birds and other wildlife.

Locally, Kern Audubon, one of nearly 500 chapters of the national organization, was started in 1974 to carry out Audubon's mission to "conserve and restore habitat, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and earth's biological diversity." That mission is supported through field trips and educational programs, sponsorship of the Panorama Vista Preserve reforestation program, and through conservation recommendations to the Kern County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on matters such as wind energy proposals (with some good results for improving bird mortality). Check out Kern Audubon's website for information about upcoming field trips to Truxtun Lake, Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge, Tehachapi Mountain, Sandhill Crane Festival, and more.

Birds matter for many reasons—they are a joy to watch, especially when we take the time to enjoy them. But they also matter because birds are important indicators of the overall health of our environment. Like the proverbial canary in the coalmine, they send an urgent warning about threats to our water, air, natural resources, climate and more. We are evermore aware of the disappearance of wildlife habitat and the degradation of public lands through a variety of causes—environmental challenges facing our communities and state, challenges that Audubon addresses.

Yes, *birds matter* and individually we can help make a difference to birds and I invite you to consider some of these steps:

1. Reduce or eliminate pesticide & herbicide use. By using fewer chemicals in and around your home you will help keep birds, pets & your family healthier. By Audubon's estimate, 7 million birds are killed yearly by homeowners' use of pesticides and herbicides
2. Let your yard get a little messy! Leave snags for nesting places and place downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, a great source of cover for birds.
3. Plant native plants. Native flora provides birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds, and is home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.
4. Attract hummingbirds with sugar water, made by combing 4 parts of water to one part white sugar, boiled for one minute. Don't use honey, artificial sweeteners or food coloring. Clean feeders at least once a week with a little white vinegar.
5. Create, clean & protect water sources in your yard—birds need water to drink and bathe in. Keep birdbaths clean and change the water at least weekly.

Birds matter, so have a BIG YEAR and discover birds with Audubon!

Locally we are at www.kernaudubonsociety.org and nationally go to www.audubon.org or www.facebook.com/AudubonAtHome.



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. Nov. 1, 7:00PM - Program: Atwell Island Restoration
- Sat. Nov. 5, 8am - Panorama Vista Workparty
- Wed. Nov. 9, 8am Wed. Walk: Buena Vista Lake
- Sat. Nov 12, Atwell Island & Pixley NWR
- Sat. Nov. 19, 7:00am - Paradise Valley Rd., Tehachapi

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