



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No. 4 - APRIL 2008
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Gathering
TUES. APRIL 1, 2008 - 7:00pm
Kern Co. Supt of Schools
17th & L Streets, Bakersfield

"BIRDING IN PERU" Scott Frazer, Biologist US Fish & Wildlife Service



Join Kern Audubon for an evening with Scott Frazer and his wife, Trudy, as they share pictures and images from their recent cultural and natural resources tour of Peru. Scott & Trudy are members of Kern Audubon, so we'll also see pictures of some of the beautiful birds of Peru! They will also share an assortment of books, maps & mementos, along with anecdotes of their trip. Scott is a 1979 graduate of Humboldt State University and his interest in wildlife biology has led him to work with the USDA (Soil Conservation Service), as Refuge Manager for Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Operation Specialist for San Luis Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Complex (emphasis on habitat restoration) and his current work with the Fish & Wildlife Service at the Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge.

Refreshments served...plus great RAFFLE prizes!

APRIL Field Trips

Saturday, April 12, Col. Allensworth State Historic Park. Trip leader will be State Park Ranger Bill Moffat. Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the Costco parking lot on Rosedale Highway, near the gas pumps, for **8:00 a.m. departure and carpooling**. This will be a very interesting multi-purpose trip, since Ranger Moffat is not only well versed in the unique history of Allensworth, but also is an experienced birder; we should see spring migrants, as well as the year-round birds. The trip will last until early afternoon. Bring water, snacks/lunch, sunscreen, binoculars. For more information call Roger at 832-1820.

TUESDAY April 22, Galileo Hill (Silver Saddle Resort). Trip leaders will be Ken and Brenda Kyle, birders extraordinaire. Meet at 6:45 in the NW corner of the Sears parking lot (by the automotive dept.) at Valley Plaza (Ming & Hwy 99), for a **6:50 a.m. departure and carpooling**. This should be a fantastic trip as the oasis at Galileo Hill is a famous migrant "trap" and spring migration will be going strong. Expect to see many species of birds. The "led" portion of the trip will last until about 12:30. Because we will be on private property, participants need to follow the Kyle's instructions so that birders will continue to be welcome. The resort restaurant is NOT open during the week, so bring lunch or plan to eat in California City on the way home. Bring water, food, sunscreen, insect repellent and binoculars. For more information, call Roger at 832-1820. Yes, this IS a TUESDAY field trip!

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Websites to check out...

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

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos

What's unusual in Kern County birding? Go to kerncobirding@yahoogroups.com for recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

www.Audubon-ca.org is a great website all about the activities and organization of Audubon California

AUDUBON IN THE NEWS - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just email chapterleaders@audubon.org

Remember to check out Kern Audubon's own website.....**www.kernaudubonsociety.org**

E-WARBLER If you would like to receive the *Audubon Warbler* by email instead of hardcopy, send an e-mail to tmurphy@bak.rr.com. Save some trees!

A GOOD USE FOR KITTY LITTER BUCKETS

There are lots of uses for those plastic "kitty litter" containers and Kern Audubon member Andy Honig has another! He and Bill Cooper have planted about 20 oak trees near the Kern River in the Panorama Vista Preserve that need to be hand-watered. Andy has found that having a supply of the large cat litter buckets works great for having a ready supply of water for the trees. He needs the 30 lb. size and could also use some back-up watering volunteers to keep the trees watered, especially when he is on vacation. Contact Andy (325-0026) or email him: andym5@bak.rr.com if you have containers to share or if you could help with the watering. We appreciate all that Andy and others have done to make this preserve a reality!

Sign up today to receive **Audubon ACTION ALERT** online! Using Audubon's simple, online action tools, you can influence decision makers on important Audubon conservation priorities.

Audubon California:

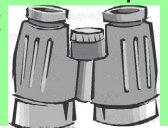
<http://audubonaction.org/California/join.html>

National Audubon Society:

<http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html>

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. APRIL 22 will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders* and will also be one of the April field trips for Kern Audubon. Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for more information.



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

Looking ahead to **TUES. MAY 6th...BIRGITTE MCDONALD, PhD candidate at UC Santa Cruz** will be speaking at the Kern Audubon meeting on "Birds & Pinipeds of Cape Shireff - Antarctica" She's doing her research on Antarctica fur seals, so should have a fascinating story to tell!

Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival - April 30 - May 6, 2008

<http://kern.audubon.org/bioregion.htm>

You are invited to the Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival, April 30 - May 6, 2008, held annually at Audubon's Kern River Preserve in Weldon and Circle Park in Kernville! This festival celebrates the biodiversity of the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada. home to over 200 nesting species of birds, 100 species of mammals, 130+ species of butterflies, and over 2000 species of plants. This year, festival artist, John Schmitt, will present a new t-shirt design featuring "Spring Warblers of the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada". Friday night keynote speaker will be photograhper Bob Steele (www.bobsteelephoto.com), who will give a presentation on "Warblers: nesting, migrant, and vagrant of the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada, plus bonus regional specialty birds". Saturday night's keynoter will be John Muir Laws (www.johnmuirlaws.com) on "An Evening Exploring the Natural World of the Sierra Nevada".

There are 30 different field trips to choose from plus weekend workshops. Many field trip destinations are offered all seven days, with half-day field trips offered Saturday and Sunday. Sign-up early as many trips have limited registrations and some are already sold out! Except for the paid field trips, workshops and dinners, the rest of the festival activities are free and sponsored by Audubon CA's Kern River Preserve, Bob Barnes & Assoc., Kern River Valley Revitalization and Sequoia Nat'l Forest.

Contact Bob Barnes (bbarnes@lightspeed.net) to register or get information on paid field trips and workshops. Contact Alison Sheehey (krpfriends@lightspeed.net) for information on dinners and free events. Visit the festival website to find out about activities and latest information. <http://kern.audubon.org/bioregion.htm>

Bob Barnes, Field Trips Chair
Kern River Spring Nature Festival
P: 760-382-1260 - bbarnes@lightspeed.net

Alison Sheehey, Festival Chair & Webmaster
Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival
P: 760-378-2029 - krpfriends@lightspeed.net

GO DARK FOR BIRDS & GLOBAL WARMING: MARCH 29TH is Earth Hour 8 - 9pm

Earth Hour, which originated last year in Sydney, Australia, is now a global event. For one hour on Saturday, March 29, everyone is asked to turn off their lights from 8-9PM local time. Audubon is already doing its part through our [Lights Out](#) programs. Lights Out encourages building owners to turn off their lights to help birds avoid building collisions during migration, which account for millions of birds deaths each year. Saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas pollution responsible for global warming is icing on the cake.

Cities, communities, neighborhoods, and families around the world will join together in literally turning off the lights for one hour to raise awareness about global warming and to press for action and solutions now. As part of this campaign, lights will be turned off at iconic buildings and national landmarks around the world, and local businesses and restaurants are also encouraged to turn off their lights.

So, light a few candles and enjoy an hour without electric lights. For more information on how you can help us win the fight to reduce global warming pollution, contact audubonaction@audubon.org.

May 10 Field Trip - Bittercreek Reserve to view California Condors....more info tofollow!

REDUCING KERN AUDUBON'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Have you noticed that Kern Audubon invites you to meet at some designated place and then CARPOOL to a field trip location? Ever wonder why? The aim is two-fold: to reduce the number of gas-guzzling vehicles in our convoy, and to encourage getting-acquainted.

At this point, the price of gasoline might seem to be an important factor, although some of us can afford the cost so that doesn't hamper our movements. *But, implicit in Kern Audubon's mission is **conservation**, and reducing green house emissions is an important aspect of that goal.* While some of us drive hybrids, ALL of us can rideshare and have the same effect.

Another aspect is this: a vehicle with four or five people on a common mission will be filled with communication, common learning, and fun! We learn more about the birds, environment, and each other.

What could be better than that?!

Kern Audubon Executive Board

KERN AUDUBON AND CURLEW SURVEY

Kern Auduboners David Chilton, Roger & Barbara Coley, Madi Elsea & Rod Lee, Rich & Linda Greene, Bill Lydecker, Bill Moffat, Ted Murphy, and Lisa Twiford spent part of a weekend in early February participating in the Point Reyes Bird Observatory/Audubon CA survey of Longbilled Curlews/Mountain Plovers in the Kern Region.

Gary Langham, Audubon California Central Valley Coordinator, is compiling the data and will send the results when that is completed. Many thanks to Bill Lydecker for recruiting the surveyors.

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD WORKSHOP



Survey Training April 5th

Tricolored Blackbirds are a threatened species and surveys of colonies and locations provide helpful conservation information.

The US Fish & Wildlife is hosting a training day for volunteers on Sat. April 5th at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge, 9:30 - 3pm. The workshop will provide information on natural history, logistics of the survey, the importance of the survey to conservation, how to identify Tricoloreds, and a visit to a Tricoloreds colony. Lunch is provided so an RSVP is needed. Please contact Scott Frazer to register: 661/725-2767 and Roger Coley if you'd like to carpool: 832-1820

THANKS TO MARCIA WOLFE FOR MARCH PROGRAM

If you enjoyed Bob Steele's program on Australian birds, you have Dr. Marcia Wolfe, MH Wolfe Associates, to thank - twice! While searching for bird pictures for a consulting report, Marcia came across Bob's web site (www.bobsteelephotos.com) and was really impressed. She asked Kern Audubon Co-chair Ted Murphy if we could get Bob for a program and if so, she would cover his expenses and honorarium. We were able to match Bob's busy schedule with KAS' meeting night and he presented an excellent program on the birds of Australia. Marcia feels it was money well spent, and so do we! Thank you, Marcia, for your program idea and generous donation!

KERN AUDUBON JOINS BC'S GARDEN FEST

Kern Audubon will have a public presence at the Bakersfield College Horticulture Department's 3rd Annual **Garden Fest** on the BC campus Sat. April 19. We will have a booth with informational materials, posters, bird guides and books. KAS has a table, chairs, a canopy, sign, materials--all we need are helpers to staff the booth between 8am and 4pm!! Ted Murphy is coordinating this effort and may call on you...or surprise him and call to volunteer: 325-0307 or tmurphy@bak.rr.com. Give a couple of hours at our booth, and then enjoy the rest of the event - garden, conservation, and environmental groups will have booths, and food and entertainment will also be available.

EARTH DAY RETURNS TO CAL STATE, BAKERSFIELD

After an absence of several years, Earth Day will return to Cal State, Bakersfield on Sat. April 26, in conjunction with CSUB's second *Open House, Celebrate CSUB!* Dr. Carol Raupp, Professor of Psychology, who originated the event, is coordinating this year's activities on the Amphitheater grounds...5,000 visitors are expected!

Kern Audubon will have a booth, coordinated by Ginny Dallas, who will need volunteers to help staff the booth between 9am and 4pm. Please call and sign-up for an hour or two: 587-6323 or e-mail her: vdallas@bak.rr.com. We will have brochures, flyers, pictures & posters for the booth. This is a great opportunity to get out and meet people from other conservation groups, government agencies, and institutions and give some good exposure to Kern Audubon!

There will also be food and entertainment, plus many interesting Open House activities on the main campus.



Upcoming Bird Festivals

GODWIT DAYS - APRIL 18-20

Join the flock at the 13th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival **April 18-20, 2008** at the Arcata Community Center in Arcata, CA. Choose from over 100 field trips and workshops and browse the vendors at the bird fair. An extraordinary birding adventure awaits you between the redwoods and Humboldt Bay! Go to www.godwitdays.com for more details and to register on-line.

VERDE VALLEY BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL - APRIL 24-27

"*Cultivating Habitat*" is the theme of this central Arizona birding festival, including Sedona and Cottonwood. Registration starts Feb. 1st: www.birdyverde.org or (928)282-2202

For more informatin about bird festivals nationwide, try these websites:

www.Birdwatchersdigest.com

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals

Is Ethanol a Solution to Our Energy Woes? Do The Math!

It does seem like making fuel (ethanol) from plants would: reduce our dependence on fossil fuels to run internal combustion engines; produce less pollution since it has only two by-products, water, and CO₂; and be more economical, since the primary source of energy is the sun, which we don't have to pay for. But, and its a BIG but, a recent *National Geographic* article (October, 2007) compares different ways of "Growing Fuel" and demonstrates that there is a wrong way and a right way.

One gallon of ethanol costs \$1.09 to produce and most is used in E85 (85% ethanol, 15% gasoline). If gasoline is \$3.03 per gallon, and E85 is \$2.62, the E85 cost to get the equivalent energy is \$3.71. Although greenhouse emissions (production and use) is 22% less, it requires a fossil fuel input of 1 to obtain a corn output of 1.3. This method uses only the corn seeds, not the stalk, leaves, and roots of the plant. Using corn for ethanol production leads to higher prices for food for humans and livestock, which increases the cost of corn products, meat, dairy, and poultry. More and more farmers stop growing and use their land to grow corn instead of tree and row crops.

Cane ethanol production in Brazil produces twice as much ethanol as corn, at a cost of \$.87 per gallon.

Gasoline (25% ethanol) retails for \$4.91 per gallon: pure ethanol, widely used as auto fuel, cost \$3.88 to get the energy equivalent of a gallon of gasoline and produces 56% less greenhouse gas emissions. Cane ethanol production requires only 1 gallon of fossil fuel energy per 8 gallons of ethanol.

Canola oil is used as biodiesel fuel in Germany (soy oil is used in the U.S.). There diesel fuel retails for \$6.15; to get the energy equivalent of one gallon of gasoline, biodiesel would cost \$6.73, produce 68% less emissions, and require 1 unit of fossil fuel to produce 2.5 units of biodiesel.

A more hopeful source of energy is cellulosic ethanol, which would use a wide variety of plant materials, from agricultural and forestry wastes to municipal solid waste, to fast-growing prairie grasses, like switchgrass, which can be produced very cheaply. It is estimated that cellulosic ethanol could replace up to 13% of the world's oil consumption. One unit of fossil fuel would be used to produce from 2 to 36 units of ethanol, depending on the process used, and there would be 91% less emissions. Unfortunately, the problem of converting cellulose to ethanol has not been solved.

It will be interesting to see how the federal energy bill handles the fuel situation. Hopefully there will be incentives to use less energy rather than subsidies for the production of corn for ethanol.

Submitted by Dr. Ted Murphy
Professor Emeritus, Biology, CSUB

Audubon Barbecue at FACT - June 3rd

Our 2007 June barbecue meeting at FACT -the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment at Cal State's Environmental Studies Area was so much fun, we decided to do it again.

Dawn Bradley and our friends at FACT will help us by providing the meat, drink, and visits to special parts of the ESA and we will provide an entertaining program to top off the evening. We will also add a Kern Audubon raffle to the program, so if you have an item that would make a good raffle prize, bring it to the April or May meeting marked "BBQ".



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Kern Audubon Society
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Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. April 1, 7:00pm - Meeting & program with Scott Frazer: "Birding in Peru"
- Sat. April 12, 7:45am - Field trip to Allensworth State Historic Park
- Tues. April 22, 6:45am - Field trip to Galileo Hill to see spring migrants

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (7XCHC30)

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*. (11 issues)

___ New Member \$20 ___ Renewal \$35
Make check payable to **National Audubon Society**

Send check & form to ...Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

I am enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation for the work of Kern Audubon in the amount of _____. (Check payable to Kern Audubon)

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # _____