



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 4 - APRIL 2009

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

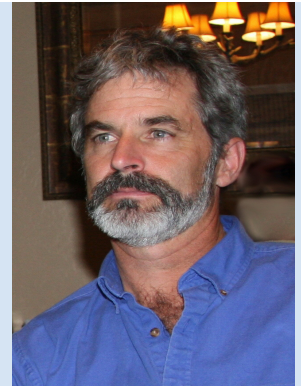
TUES. APRIL 7, 2009

7:00pm

Kern Audubon Meeting & Program
Kern Sup't of Schools - 17th & L Sts.

Audubon California's KERN RIVER PRESERVE

REED TOLLEFSON, Preserve Manager



The Kern River Preserve is a wonderful treasure and we have the opportunity to learn about the significance of this National Audubon Society property managed by Audubon California since 1981. Reed Tollefson, Audubon California's manager at the preserve since 1992, will present a program about this site with its abundance of wildlife, native flora and over 240 species of birds located 57 miles northeast of Bakersfield along the South Fork of the Kern River and Hiway 178 near Weldon. Through the diligent efforts of Reed and other staff of Audubon California, the preserve has grown from the initial historic Brown Ranch to over 3000 acres. Reed will update us on the status of land protection, stewardship and outreach activities. The last year has seen some great successes supporting the preserve's mission to protect one of California's finest remaining examples of Central Valley riparian forest and the wildlife that depend upon it for survival. The coming year presents both opportunities and serious challenges that will have a great influence on the future of this natural treasure. For more information about KRP, go to <http://kern.audubon.org>

KERN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NATURE DAY - Sat. APRIL 4, 8am - 2pm

Let's go OUTSIDE!!

A great day of outdoor activities is planned at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge (located 20 miles east of Delano) with staff from the refuge, Allensworth Historic Park, Bureau of Land Management, CALM, FACT and others presenting activities and information booths. This will be a day of nature exploration, education and fun as participants experience native flora & fauna, local history, plus...

....make a duck decoy from reeds

....identify animal tracks & make a plaster cast

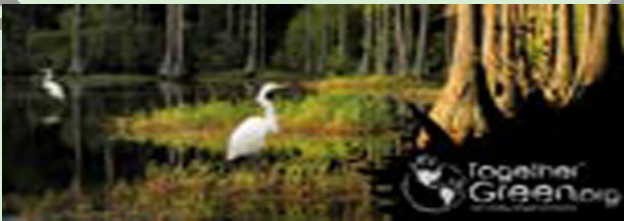
....explore a pond...see wildlife on display...take a field trip!!

And there's more: go to www.fws.gov/kern or call 725-2767 to RSVP for lunch and information. Bring friends, kids, neighbors!



KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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In 2008, Toyota partnered with National Audubon to provide grants to local chapters to fund creative and ambitious projects that engage diverse communities and find innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Each year during the 5 year grant period, *TogetherGreen* grants funds that

- conserve or restore habitat and protect species, improve water quality and reduce the threat of global warming;
- engage new and diverse audiences in conservation actions;
- inspire and use innovative approaches and technologies to engage people and achieve conservation results.

In 2009, 40 grants will be awarded with an average grant of \$25,000. If you have an idea for a project that fits these goals and would be interested in helping Kern Audubon apply for a *Together Green* grant, contact Ted Murphy (325-0307). Deadline to apply is May 1, 2009.

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 Go to this website for what's unusual in Kern County: kerncobirding@yahoo.com You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehey, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

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

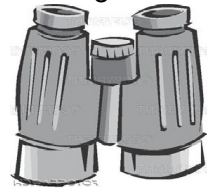
AUDUBON IN THE NEWS - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just email chapterleaders@audubon.org

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

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. April 21st will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*.

Contact Brenda Kyle
(871-4867) for information
about time and place to meet.
All birders are welcome!



Field Trip - Saturday March 28

8:00am

Wind Wolves Preserve

Wildflowers & Birds!! Join Kern Audubon for our field trip to Wind Wolves Preserve to learn more about this scenic and significant area of Kern County. Bring cameras and binoculars and wear walking shoes. We will be on a docent-led tour for part of the trip, including a van ride into the preserve. However, we will be walking on the return trip to the parking area, possibly several miles over easy terrain. Bring water, snacks & lunch, sunscreen, hat, etc. We will return after lunch.

Meet at the Kern River Parkway on Stockdale north of CSUB at 7:50am . Carpools will leave at **8:00am**. Contact Ginny Dallas (587-6323) for more information.

Looking ahead to Tues. May 5, 7:00pm....The May meeting of Kern Audubon will be highlighted by a presentation on a bird species of special concern: the Tri-colored Blackbird. Robert J. Meese, PhD, UC Davis professor of Environmental Science ,who has been researching Tri-colored birds since 2004, will share about his work and this threatened bird species.

Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival

April 29 - May 5, 2009

Special events: May 2 & 3

The Kern River Preserve, Weldon CA

The 15th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival will take place April 29 through May 5, 2009, with special activities on Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3. Audubon California's **Kern River Preserve** in Weldon, will host numerous free events including bird walks, bird banding with the Southern Sierra Research Station, and information booths and exhibits located in the large, shaded front yard of Preserve Headquarters. In addition, all day birding and natural history field trips with expert leaders are offered Wednesday-Tuesday, April 29 - May 5.

Special Guests : Friday evening Keynote Speaker: **Jason & Zorka Saleeby**, CalTech Geologists; Saturday Keynote Speaker: **Bob Barnes**, expert on regional birding and nature tourism opportunities, who will speak on "Birding the Southern Sierra & Kern River Valley"; and **Charlotte Goodson**, Children's Story Teller.

Field Trips:

Excellent all day field trips (\$30 - \$40) are offered daily beginning Wed. April 29th through Mon. May 4th to birding hotspots such as Butterbrecht Springs, Mojave Desert oases, Owens Lake, Greenhorn Mtns., Kern River Valley, etc. led by expert birders. Sign up soon as they fill up quickly. Go to <http://kern.audubon.org/KNRVSNFactivities.htm> for a detailed list of field trip opportunities and leaders.

Workshops/Activities (free) will take place at the preserve on the weekend, plus preserve field trips.

AUDUBON AT HOME MEETS "THE DAILY GREEN"

Throughout the month of March, Audubon was featured on TheDailyGreen.com considered "*The consumer's guide to the green revolution.*" Tips link back to Audubon's web pages. With 70,000 viewers as of March 13, that meant more traffic to the National Audubon website: audubon.org. Over 8,000 people viewed the tips on "Attracting Hummingbirds" on March 1- the first day. The Daily Green works with MSN and Yahoo, so the content may be syndicated to a larger audience. Topics range from gardening to signing the Birds & Climate Petition. Check it out! <http://www.TheDailyGreen.com/>

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS

The Kern National Wildlife Refuge is monitoring Tricolored Blackbird activity in our area and ask for your support. This is the time of year these birds are setting up nesting colonies, so if you see activity such as carrying nesting material, foraging, flocking, etc., please note where and what type of land they were seen on, such as dairy, ranch, wetland. Please be mindful of private property by not trespassing and observe from roadways. Please call the KNWR office with your information: 725-2767 and speak to Jihadda Govan, Deputy Project Leader, or any staff member. This is very helpful information to the staff as they can't be everywhere!



COAST HORNED LIZARD SURVEY

When you are out & about hiking, birding, wildflowering this spring and summer, keep your eyes out for the COAST HORNED LIZARD, a species of Special Concern on the decline in California due to conversion of habitat to housing, golf courses, agriculture, oil drilling and an invasive non-native ant species (Argentine Ant), which the lizard won't eat and which crowds out native ant species. The Coast Horned Lizard occurs on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada from the Central Valley up to 6,200 ft. in the southern Sierra. Historically this species occurred throughout much of the San Joaquin Valley but populations are now few and isolated. Found in grassland, chaparral and open pine, oak and pinyon-juniper woodlands, the Coast Horned Lizard is dependent on open ground where loose soil allows for burial during periods of inactivity or hibernation.

This is the only horned lizard within the region of focus and should be readily identifiable by its flattened, spiny body, stocky appearance and horns adorning the head (see picture).

If you see this lizard, please report your sighting to Jackson Shedd, a naturalist and member of Altocal Audubon: jackson_shedd@sbcglobal.net. Please include the following information:

- Name of observer(s)
- Date and time
- Locality (county, elevation, etc.)
- Land use at time of observation
- Photo voucher, if possible



Kern Audubon INFO Booth **Volunteer for FUN & Support!!**

Last year KAS members had a great time staffing our Kern Audubon information table at several local festivals. It's a great opportunity to meet the public and get the word out about our activities and programs, so consider signing up to help for just ONE HOUR at these coming events:

Sat. April 4 - NATURE DAY
Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Sat. April 18 - GARDEN FEST
Bakersfield College 9am - 2pm

Sat. April 25 - EARTH DAY
Cal State Bakersfield 9am - 2pm

Sat. May 2 - KERN RIVER VALLEY
SPRING FESTIVAL
Kern River Preserve 9am - 4pm

Volunteers are especially needed for the Garden Fest & Kern River Valley Festival. Call GINNY DALLAS (301-8188) or email her at vdallas@bak.rr.com to sign-up!!

Upcoming Bird Festivals

If you like to combine travel and birding, check-out these nature/birding festivals being held this spring and early summer:

Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival

April 23-26 - Arizona
www.birdyverde.org

Spring Wings Bird Festival

May 8-10 - Fallon, Nevada
www.SpringWings.org

Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival

June 3-7 Jamestown, NoDakota
www.birdingdrives.com

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

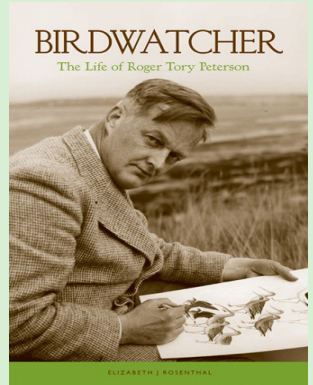
New in Kern Audubon's Library

"Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson"

By Elizabeth J. Rosenthal (2008, The Lyons Press)

To birders, both novice and expert, after the name of John Audubon, the one that comes to mind is Roger Tory Peterson. From childhood to adulthood, many people began their love affair with bird watching by using one of Peterson's field guides. Elizabeth Rosenthal's book takes you on a life journey of Roger Tory Peterson, from birth, through his personal life, birding career and professional expeditions until his death at age 88 in 1996 -- a fascinating look at one of the "giants" of the birding world.

2009 marks the 75th anniversary of Roger Tory Peterson's first book, "The Field Guide to the Birds: Including All Species Found in Eastern North America", which revolutionized bird identification and made birdwatching accessible to the average person. The book will be available in Kern Audubon's library.



Birding for the iPhone Generation

Remember when only birds tweeted? That's changed, of course, and thanks to this app, the world of bird-watching has changed too. If you love the thrill of identifying trills, this is a handy resource for those random times when you are out and come across a feathered friend you want to know more about, but you don't happen to have your 400-plus-page Sibley Field Guide handy. With the "Explorer Plus" version, you get photos and detailed Audubon images of 891 species of birds, compared to 145 birds in the "Backyard" version. Both include range maps, detailed behavioral and other information and an interactive search where you enter the color, body size, beak and wing shape and other traits and it will narrow down the possibilities. The apps also play audio of songs and calls, along with a phonetic guide to help you replicate them (like the sand hill crane's "kar-r-r-o-o-o.") This is best used for helping you learn to identify the sounds, because conscientious birders know false calls can be confusing and detrimental. The fact that it's a database and not dependent on Wi-Fi means you can still access the information even if you're far from a signal. It also comes with free lifetime updates, which is really something to sing about.

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

Birds and Climate Change: On the Move

Nearly 60% of the 305 species found in North America in winter are on the move, shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles. Audubon scientists analyzed 40 years of citizen-science Christmas Bird Count data — and their findings provide new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems. Northward movement was detected among species of every type, including more than 70 percent of highly adaptable forest and feeder birds.

Only grassland species were an exception - with only 38 percent mirroring the northward trend. But far from being good news for species like Eastern Meadowlark and Henslow's Sparrow, this reflects the grim reality of severely-depleted grassland habitat and suggests that these species now face a double threat from the combined stresses of habitat loss and climate adaptation.

It is the complete picture of widespread movement and the failure of some species to move at all that illustrate the impacts of climate change on birds. They are sending us a powerful signal that we need to 1) take policy action to curb climate change and its impacts, and 2) help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to unavoidable habitat changes, even as we work to curb climate change itself.

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Sat. March 28, 8:00am - Field trip to Wind Wolves Preserve
- Tues. April 7, 2009, 7:00pm - monthly meeting featuring Kern River Preserve
- Kern River Valley Spring Festival, April 29 - May 5, 2009 at the Kern River Preserve

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C9ZC300Z)

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 (not Kern Audubon)

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 # _____