



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 43 no4 - APRIL 2014  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)  
[www.kastehachapibird.org](http://www.kastehachapibird.org)

Kern Audubon Society  
**Tuesday APRIL 8, 2014 - 7:00pm**  
(Note the change in meeting date!!)  
Kern Supt of Schools, 17th & L Sts.

**"Birding Australia"**  
Presented by John Eigenauer



*The Kookabura, national bird of Australia*

*Kookabura sits on an old gum tree  
merry, merry king of the bush is he  
laugh Kookabura, laugh Kookabura, gay your life must be!*

Thus goes the old folk song about the national bird of Australia and one of the birds John Eigenauer will talk about in his coming presentation on birding in Australia. John will show pictures of his adventure and will cover the major families of birds found in Australia as well as discuss prominent birding areas one might consider when birding in Australia. John Eigenauer is a Professor of Philosophy at Taft College. He has been an avid birder for 6 years and in that time has birded extensively around the world. He especially likes tropical birding and has birded in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as well as Australia, Canada, and Europe. John previously presented an excellent program on birding in Panama to Kern Audubon, which included tips on travel, which he will talk about in his Australia program as well. John and his wife, Cece, are members of Kern Audubon and John serves on the Field Trip Committee.

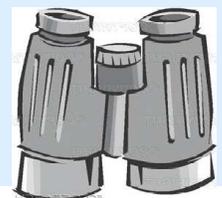
## APRIL FIELD TRIPS

### Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 am - Fort Tejon & Quail Lake

Ranger Bill Moffat will lead this birding field trip to Ft. Tejon and its vicinity and then to the Quail Lakes area. Carpoolers will meet at the Stockdale Hwy/Hwy 99 Park n Ride located between Real Rd. & Hiway 99. Bring snack/lunch, water, binos, layered clothes. \$10 gas donation for drivers. We will return after lunch. Call Bill for more info at 661-201-9279.

### Sunday, April 27, 8 am - Tejon Ranch

Scott Pipkin, staff of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, will lead this "tour & bird" on the San Joaquin Valley side of Tejon Ranch. Carpoolers will meet at the Stockdale Hwy/Hwy 99 Park n Ride, leaving at 8 am. High clearance, 4 wheel drive vehicles are preferable. We'll meet Scot at the Sebastian Rd Guard Station at 9 am. and will return to Bakersfield around 1 pm. Bring snacks, water, binos, \$10 donation for drivers, and wear layered clothes. Call Bill or Deb for more info. at 661-201-9279 or 661-805-0232.



## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**2013 - 2014**

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## **PRESIDENT'S NEST**



Volunteering is the key to the success of the Kern Audubon Society. From programs and outings to newsletter and membership development, people have volunteered to help. Many of these committees, however, consist of only one person. We are in need of more people to help! This makes all jobs/tasks easier and new ideas begin to flow. Therefore I would like for you to consider volunteering to be on one or more of the following committees: **field trips, program, hospitality, publicity, newsletter mailing, yearly fund appeal, and conservation.** How often the committees meet will depend on the tasks. The more people on a committee, the less work for each member. The goal is to have the committees formed by June with work beginning in August. Therefore at the **April, May, and June** programs you will have an opportunity to sign up. Remember, only you can make the Kern Audubon Society strong by becoming actively involved.

Harry Love, President

love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6245

## **April Workday at Panorama Vista Preserve**

The next workday at the Preserve will be **Saturday, April 12, 8-10 AM.** With the arrival of spring, the foxtail grasses and tumble weeds have started to grow. Last month, our Audubon crew of Barbara Long, David Shaad, Andy Honig, Dana Adams, Harry Love, and Vicki Boehning (who also brought 6 Garces students!) started the necessary weeding and we'll continue these tasks in April. What to bring: gloves, hat, water, and shovel/hula hoe. **David Shaad** will be the contact person for this month: [davidws@pacbell.net](mailto:davidws@pacbell.net) or cell phone: 428-2841. Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane.



## ***Tehachapi Birding***

**Kern Audubon-Tehachapi**

**Tuesday April 29th - 7:00pm**

Golden Hills Elementary School Cafeteria  
20215 Park Road

***"Spring is in the Air"***

Our local birds are in breeding colors, singing their little hearts out trying to find the perfect partner who will help build their nests and raise their young. During this time birds consume and feed to their off-spring large quantities of crawling bugs and flying insects. One bird house installed in a garden will help control unwanted damaging pests greatly lessening a gardener's dependence on insecticides, saving money and crops--nature's organic pest control!

*Come to the meeting and see the many different kinds of feed and bird boxes that will help attract different birds to your yard!*

Refreshments and a fundraising raffle  
are an added bonus!

Call Mary: 972-4355 or Carol: 822-0214 for info

## **WEBSITES to check out...**

**Info about birds?** To learn more about birds, go to [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu), the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study and conservation of birds

**Kern Birding** For a great website about Kern County birding spots: [www.natureali.org/birding.htm](http://www.natureali.org/birding.htm).

**Audubon California** has an excellent website: [www.Audubon-ca.org](http://www.Audubon-ca.org)

**Audubon in the news** - To learn about National Audubon go to: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) or [chapterleaders@audubon.org](mailto:chapterleaders@audubon.org)



## **Kern Audubon library: "The Backyard Birdhouse Book"**

If you are interested in birdhouses, from this book you will learn how to identify and attract house cavity nesters such as Bluebirds, Purple Martins, Screech owls and the like. There are profiles of 25 species. Also learn how to construct and mount 8 practical, species-appropriate nestbox designs, guard nestlings against predators, monitor and keep records of bird activities, landscape to attract birds and other activities related to birds. Check it out at the next Kern Audubon meeting, April 8th!



## **KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK**

"Like" us on FACEBOOK and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, etc. as well as get updates on field trips and programs!

## **BITTER CREEK NWR Field Trip 3/8/2014**

Eighteen enthusiastic Kern Auduboners led by three members of Friends of California Condor enjoyed a beautiful morning at Bittercreek National Wildlife refuge in southwestern Kern County. Two curious condors circled overhead giving stunning views and great photo opportunities plus we were able to see from a distance condors at a feeding station. Because there were no condors present in the flight cage, we also got a close look at the site where condors are readied for release into the wild and captured and tested for lead poisoning. It was an educational and inspiring look at the ongoing recovery of this majestic endangered species! (Photos used by permission: top left & right: Bob Hardy; bottom right: Kevin Fahey)



## **Indian Hill Ranch** **Bluebird Trail Maintenance Day** Sponsored by Kern Audubon-Tehachapi

9:00 am. March 15th, Karen Pestana and twelve volunteers (pictured below) spent the morning doing maintenance work along the Bluebird Trail at Indian Hill Campground in Tehachapi. Nest boxes were cleaned, repositioned, a few were replaced (picture below on right) and all were made ready for the 2014 nesting season. For the next couple of months these boxes will be monitored for activity, eggs, nestlings and fledglings and all data will be submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Nest Watch Program. This data has been collected and submitted by Karen and her volunteers since the year 2000. The weather was great, everyone was happy and enthused about the upcoming season, even a few bluebirds were seen monitoring the activity. (Article & photos contributed by Mary Dufrein)



Karen Pestana (3rd from left), Project Leader, and faithful volunteers: Cathy, Ed, Jennifer, Jean, Mark, Carol, Susi, Brenda, Tom, Mark and Mary....thank you, all



-3- Bluebird pair has laid a clutch of six eggs already!



## **2014 GBBC SUCCESSFUL**

It's time to put the exclamation point at the end of another exciting, record-breaking Great Backyard Bird Count with a look at how the February 14-17 GBBC stacked up by the numbers:

Number of checklists: **144,109**

Species observed: **4,296**

Countries participating: **135**

Estimated number of participants: **142,051**  
(In 2013 there were 134,000 checklists submitted!)

## **If You Find a BABY BIRD.....**

**1) If the bird is naked** (none or a few feathers), look in the immediate area for a nest to pop it back in to. Birds have a poor sense of smell so it will not be rejected by its parents.

**2) If the baby is feathered and in immediate danger** (in a road or near a predator), move it to a higher branch or other cover as close as possible to where you first found it. Confine cats/dogs. A well-feathered baby is probably a fledgling and ready to leave the nest but not yet ready to fly.

**3) Withdraw and simply watch the bird**, preferably thru binoculars. Allow the parents, if they are present, to attend the baby. Don't immediately assume it's not being cared for, even if an hour passes without seeing a parent arrive.

**4) Look & listen for others of its species.** Constant contact calls given by fledglings serve to keep their parents apprised of whereabouts.

**5) If you see an adult of its species nearby**, especially one carrying food, you may assume that it will feed and care for the baby.

**6) If several hours pass and you don't see an adult** tending the baby, walk the area around it, looking and listening for other fledglings giving the same calls. It's possible this one has just become separated and may need to be carried over to join the rest. Head for the thickest nearby cover; parent birds lead their young toward cover soon after fledgling.

**7) Resist the temptation to carry out a friendly abduction.** A baby bird's best chance for survival is always with its own parents. Plus, removing a fledgling is illegal unless you are a licensed rehabilitator. Playing a recording of the bird's song can be a good way to summon the parents. Note where the first answer comes from and try to locate the family there. Be careful when doing this...and never overdo it--there is always the risk of disturbing other birds in the vicinity during nesting season.

**8) If you are sure the parent birds are nowhere to be found**, you may contact a wildlife rehabilitator such as FACT at Cal State Bakersfield, which may take some species of baby birds such as owls and raptors.

Carefully pick up the baby and place in a small cardboard box or plastic food container large enough for the bird to stand up in or move around a bit. Handle the bird as little as possible and using a facial tissue or paper towel for padding. Cover the container LOOSELY with a towel leaving a small gap for good air circulation. Keep box in a warm, quiet area and don't try to feed or water.

From the Grange Co-op

## **WATERING IN THE DROUGHT**

Did you know that 60-65% of home water usage is from irrigation? Does this mean that you have to live with a barren landscape in this dry year? There are many ways to have an attractive and healthy landscape using less water. Broken sprinklers & emitters are one of the culprits in wasting water. So check your irrigation system for needed repairs and consider switching to low volume sprinkler heads/emitters to help reduce the amount of water needed to maintain your landscape. They only use 7-15 gallons of water per hour. Most lawns only need to be watered twice a week for a total of 20-40 minutes. Cycle soak where there is a problem with run-off and watch for overspray and adjust heads as needed.

And don't forget to provide clean & fresh water for the birds!

--from a Master Gardener

**LOOKING AHEAD....**Join us on Tuesday May 4th for an exciting program featuring **SUSAN STEELE**, one of Kern County's elite birders, presenting her Kern County "Big Year" of birding!

## **SPRING CLEANING**

Remember to clean your birdfeeders regularly (at least monthly!) using a mild vinegar or bleach solution. Make enough solution to immerse an empty, cleaned feeder for 2-3 minutes. Rinse thoroughly and dry. This includes hummingbird feeders which collect mold easily!

Remember to discard food that smells musty, is wet, or looks moldy. Disinfect food storage containers and the scoop. Prevention is important...don't wait til you see sick birds.



## SCIENCE CAMP AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

Kathi Parks, education coordinator at Panorama Vista Preserve, has developed a spring environmental science camp at the Preserve for the past several years which has focused on middle school students from the Fairfax, Edison, and Richland (Shafter) school districts, where many of the students do not have the resources or opportunity to get out into nature. Five stations are set up around the Preserve to teach about a particular branch of science, such as astronomy, spiders, plant identification, nature art, and birds. Kern Audubon has participated for the past two years with displays that explain to students how to identify birds, eating habits of birds, and a special emphasis on owls. The final display, a student favorite, is for students to dissect owl pellets (provided by Bill Moffat) to discover what types of animals owls eat.

The following members have volunteered at our booth: David Shaad, David Davis, Kathy Love, Barbara Reifel, Maria Polite, Madi Elsea, Carol Gates, Mary Dufrain, Margaret Duriga, and myself. It's a personally rewarding experience, especially seeing smiles on students as they listen to the song of a ruby crowned kinglet or the excitement of a red tail hawk soaring over the booth. Kern Audubon will continue to participate in the program in future years. I hope that you will make this activity part of your dedication to the community outreach efforts of KAS. (see pictures below!)

Harry Love, President/Conservation Chr



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Kern Audubon Society  
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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. April 8, 7:00pm - April program/meeting
- Sat. April 12, 8 - 10am - PVP Workparty
- Wed. April 16 - Ft Tejon/Quail Lake field trip
- Sun. April 27 - Tejon Ranch field trip

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_