

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 48 no. 4 – April 2019

Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society



KERN AUDUBON PROGRAM Tues, April 2nd at 7pm

Kern County Supt. Of Schools
1300 17th St, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Treating and Rehabilitating California's Wildlife: What we Can Do Locally

Brooke Stutz, RVT, CWR

Have you ever wondered how to care for a baby bird or an injured animal? As a California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved biologist Brooke Stutz spends her working and volunteer hours surveying and protecting our local bird, mammal, and rodent species. She is a Registered Veterinary Technician and Certified in Wildlife Rehabilitation. She earned her degree in biology at CSUB and has volunteered in San Pedro at the International Bird Rescue (IBR) Center - a member of UC Davis's Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN). She has also volunteered in Morro Bay at the Marine Mammal Center's satellite facility rescuing injured, sick, and/or orphaned marine mammals. Brooke participates in training as a Wildlife Responder preparing for oil spill and other disasters. Her passion is to provide high quality nursing care for all her patients. Currently, at her home she cares for Jack, a sun conure parrot, Sunny, a cockatiel, a pigeon, and a peafowl. Please join us for a very informative and useful presentation.



April Field Trips

Thurs. April 4, 8:30-11:30 am – Mill Creek Trail (Kern River Canyon) A bird outing in an area known for its wildflowers, Mill Creek. Besides getting a chance to see mountain birds, you get the opportunity to walk along a trail known for a great variety of wildflowers. It is in the Kern River Canyon. The trail begins easily, but has some up and down and uphill climbs. Then you cross two small streams. The last part is uphill and ends at Indian grinding holes, a great place for lunch. **You do not have to do the entire trail.** You can go as far as you wish. **Directions:** take Hwy 178 into the canyon for 10-14 miles to Kern River Canyon Road, which starts on the right where Hwy 178 curves left and expands to 4 lanes. Turn right onto Kern River Canyon Road. Go past the USFS fire station for about ¼ mile. Trailhead and parking on your right. **What to bring:** water, good trail shoes (perhaps hiking stick), hat, snacks, and lunch (optional). (If you don't eat lunch on the trail, then on the way back to Bakersfield join birders for a deli sandwich or salad on the shaded patio at Coseree's Deli at Rio Bravo Ranch.) Leaders: Harry and Kathy Love, 805-1420.

Sun. Apr 7, 7:30-11:30am – A Morning Birding Isabella Reservoir in the South Fork Kern River Valley with Ali Sheehey. We will be birding along the shore of Isabella Reservoir from Paradise Cove to the South Fork Wildlife Area. Sequoia National Forest manages all of the waterfront property on the reservoir where 215 species of birds have been recorded during April. While our visit is a bit early for many passerine migrants; migrating shorebirds, gulls, and lingering waterfowl should be on the water. After birding the various shorelines, those who wish may continue to will head to Kernville to pick up lunch, picnic and bird the campgrounds at Tillie Creek and Live Oak, head up to the Greenhorn Mountains to target mountain birds for our day list, and-time permitting head back down to the KRV to look for Dippers at Slippery Rock. End at dusk. **Directions:** Meet Ali at 7:30 am at the hard-to-miss Paradise Cove campground along Hwy 178, 4 miles past of the town of Lake Isabella. The big campground and the Paradise Cove Lodge sit all by themselves in a large bend in Hwy 178 next to the lake. Look for birders gathered in the campground. (Note: The Kern River Preserve headquarters is closed due to flooding and other locations may be as well, Ali's motto if plans are thwarted, we punt with many other choice locations to survey.) **Carpoolers from Bakersfield** meet at 6:00 am at Albertson's parking lot on the north side of the junction of Hwy 178 and Mt Vernon. For info: call Mac McCarthy at (661)589-7768.

Sat. Apr 13, 8:00-9:30 am – Panorama Vista Preserve in Bakersfield Our usual second Saturday bird walk at a local birding jewel. 900 acres on the Kern River below the Panorama Bluffs in northeast Bakersfield. Afterwards keep birding or join any PVP volunteers at work. Bring water and binoculars (loaners available). **Directions:** Take Union Ave north, veering left onto Manor St when Union Ave ends. After crossing the Kern River, take the Roberts Lane onramp. At the top of the ramp, turn left (east) onto Roberts Ln. Proceed ½ mile, past horse stables on the right, and meet at the gate across the end of Roberts Ln. For info: call Mac at 661 589-7768.

Thurs. April 18, 8:30am–2:00 pm - Tejon Ranch

This will be a Tejon Ranch Conservancy led outing on the Tejon Ranch ending around 2:00 pm. **Outing is limited to 15 participants who sign up in advance by April 9.** \$20 per person registration fee and signed waiver forms to be collected at the gate. Actual meeting location on the San Joaquin side of the ranch will be designated shortly before outing. Dress in layers, bring water, snacks, and binoculars (loaners available). **To sign up:** call Mac McCarthy at 589-7768 **and** sign up online with the Tejon Conservancy at:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eg4vtzwo83051e08&oseq=&c=&ch=>

TEHACHAPI GROUP PROGRAM FOR APRIL

Tuesday April 30, 2019 at 7 pm. at Golden Hills School, Karen Pestana will give her presentation on the Western Bluebird Nest Watch Program. Karen and her team of helpers have been very successful in increasing the population of bluebirds in the Tehachapi area. Come and find out what it entails and how you can help. Refreshments and raffle. Questions: contact **Carol Gates at 300-1429**

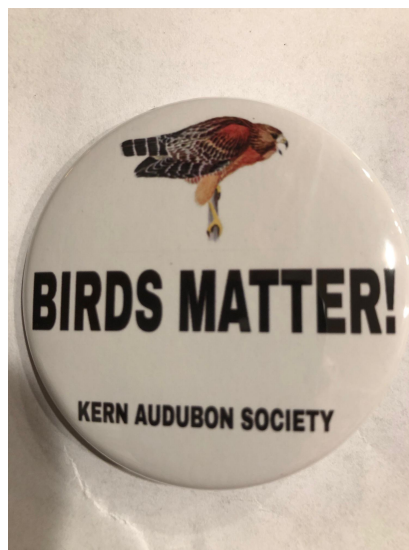
Save the Date:

Fri-Sun, April 26-28, Owens Lake Bird Festival
<https://friendsoftheinyo.org/owens-lake-bird-festival/>

Sat, April 27, Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival
 Daylong festival at Kernville's Circle Park.

Your Donation Money At Work

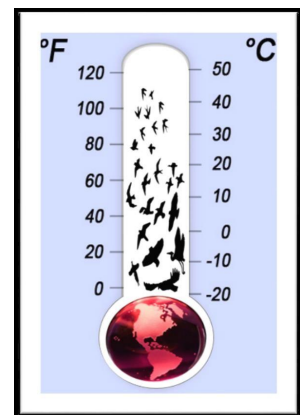
The Executive Board voted to give \$500 towards a fundraising event at Panorama Vista Preserve. The event is a 'fun run' in March called the *Field and Dale*. Our contribution will go towards the purchase of shirts for the participants. We also purchased 200 buttons that read "Birds Matter!" for our science camp students and for our outreach activities. Thanks to Maria Polite, a member, for this idea.



Climate Change Corner: Waste Less Food

Methane from agricultural activities, waste management, and energy use is the second largest cause of climate change behind fossil fuels, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Reducing food waste is the number-one thing consumers can do to significantly lessen their climate impact, according to the Project Drawdown report. "Food that is disposed of and spoiled creates methane, and that's why it has an impact on greenhouse gases, because methane is such a strong greenhouse gas, and that's why reducing food waste has such a large impact." Food waste occurs when we don't buy produce because it has blemishes or is misshapen, when we discard food because it is a day past the expiration date, or because we simply never get around to eating it.

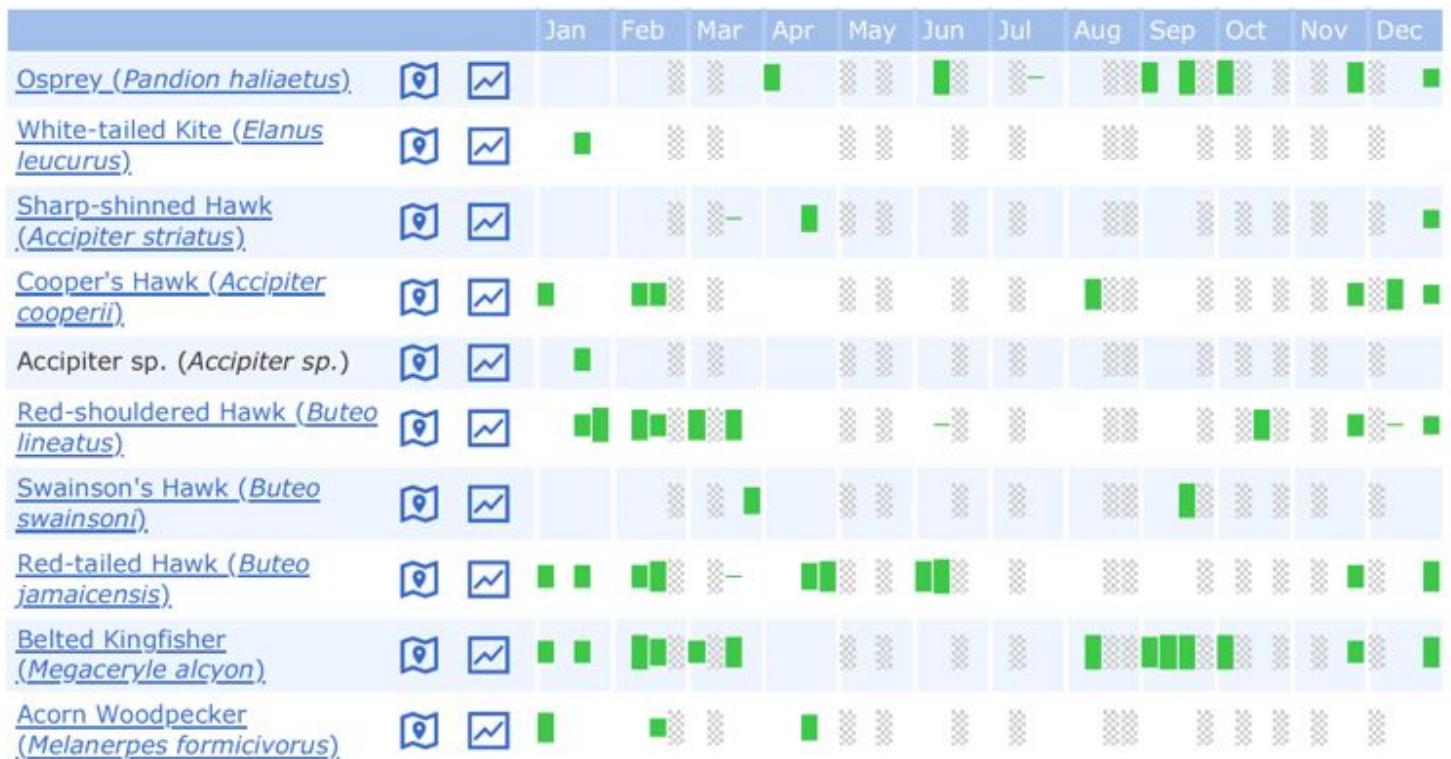
By Harry Love



Brooke's Birding Bits: Brooke Stutz, Wildlife Biologist 5--Mile Radius Patch

Part 2

Many people have started competitions through this feature. Each month one of the organizers announces a monthly challenge. The first challenge for 2019 was the January Bar Chart Challenge. The Challenge consisted of birders to go out to their "Patch"/5MR to help fill any gaps in data within their areas. Below is a snippet of a Bar Chart from the Kern River Parkway Bike Trail—Truxtun Lakes found on eBird. Each month is broken up into four sections: first week is the 1st through 7th, second week is the 8th through 14th, third week is the 15th through 21st, and the fourth week is the 22nd through the last day of the month. The green bars represent complete checklists submitted to eBird. A green dash represents only that bird was submitted to eBird, which is usually an unintentional bird observation, for example, you were bike riding along the bike trail with nonbirders and decided to add the bird to eBird at a later time. For example, look at Sharp-shinned Hawk in March. The gray bars indicate less than five checklists submitted. The blank spaces indicate that the species is unknown during that period.



Look at Osprey in January.

Birding your "Patch" can also help with keeping eyes on events that could affect your birding location, such as the city clearing out all the shrubs and vegetation that many of the birds using the area depend on for cover. I noticed the City of Bakersfield Water Resources Department recently conducted shoreline maintenance around Truxtun Lake, where they removed all the vegetation, including dead trees, that green herons and blackbirds use for cover. Fallen dead trees are habit for many birds and other animal species for coverage and foraging opportunities. The water level was also down during the maintenance which normally during the winter months many bird species have been observed swimming, diving, and dabbling in the lake's waters. Did this Project affect winter migrants or resident birds? The city is going to eventually be planting more trees, which is Phase 3: reforestation. I wonder what species of trees they are planning on planting?

Brooke's Birding Bits: Brooke Stutz, Wildlife Biologist 5--Mile Radius Patch

Part 2 Continued

As I write this, I have recorded 39 species within my "Patch", that is less than 9 percent of the recorded birds of Kern County and that puts my work within my "Patch" at number 2 out of 6 Kern County "Patches". There are a lot of people out there submitting data to eBird; which I have a lot of work to do submitting more lists on eBird. Do you eBird? If so, eBird has their own monthly challenges and yearly challenges with incentives of winning binoculars. The 2019 challenge "Checklist-a-day" prize is a pair of Zeiss Terra ED 8x42 binoculars! Even if you do not want to compete with other people, maybe you want to compete with yourself by getting out and birding more; but birding with someone can be a lot of fun. Let's make 2019 the year we challenge ourselves or challenge our friends to a friendly competition. Anyone up for an afternoon lunch of birding or heading out to see the cranes fly at dawn or dusk?

Birding with Michael (Mac) McQuerrey

I first met Michael McQuerrey in the early 1980's. A mutual friend of ours phoned me up and asked me if I wanted to join a small group of birders on a trip out to the east Kern County desert. We all piled into Michael's Volkswagen Bus and headed out, where along the way incidentally, Michael dutifully abided by the then national 55 mph maximum speed limit. While poking around out in the desert we all heard a single "chip" warbler note. None of us recognized it but while we were searching, someone in our group said, "Maybe it's just an Audubon's Warbler." Michael replied, "No, not enough 'treble'." I had never heard such a term used to describe a bird call but being as Michael spoke the language of music, I eventually came to realize that it probably made sense, at least to him. As my birding experience grew and I became much more familiar with the identification of bird vocalizations, Michael and I (and other birders) would often use musical terms to describe bird sounds. One of Michael's favorite birding activities was owling. He had the ability or mimic with his voice the songs and calls of many owls. Occasionally we would pile into Michael's bus and chug on up Breckenridge Mountain or up to the Greenhorns.

One time I was out on the end of the San Simeon pier scanning for gulls when I noticed the distant figure of a man in the parking lot with a pair of binoculars. I swung my scope around to see if I recognized him and there was Michael, binoculars up, looking at me, looking at him, looking at me. We both waived at each other.

Ever the teacher, Michael led many trips locally for the Kern Audubon Society club. Michael was a student of the late artist, author, and naturalist Roger Tory Peterson. Peterson once wrote that birds were a litmus indicator of our environment and that is why we should study them. Ever since I first read that over forty years ago, I have used that term, litmus indicator, when assessing the character of people. Everything we say, everything we do, and who we associate ourselves with, serves as litmus indicators by which people judge us. As I looked out over the several hundred people attending Michael's memorial service, I couldn't help but think of it as a litmus indicator of the character of Michael McQuerrey. I and the birding community will miss him.

Dr. John Wilson, fellow birder

UPDATE ON ANNUAL FUND APPEAL DONORS

We would like to thank the generosity of the following donors who responded to our annual fund appeal. With their financial support, we can improve our outreach to the community. The donors are: **Maxine Barber, Genevieve Fabrizius, Julie Broat, Gary File, Wei Li, Stella Rous, Lorraine Unger, Ginny Dallas, Larry Emlet, Dana Adams, Irene Heath, Steve Shaw, and Frank Bedard.** In the February Warbler, under donations, **Mylon Filkins** was mistakenly listed as Mylon Desmond. We apologize for the mistake. With the passing of our great friend and birder, Mike McQuerrey, **Jerry Ludeke, Bill and Joan Van Heul, and Robert Scales** gave money towards his memorial fund.

Birds Sighted by Members

Submitted by Harry Love and Linda McMillan



Egyptian Plover



Great Horned Owl



Kingfisher

Good Ol' Audubon Fun

Cesar Chavez National Monument



Science Fair at Harris School



Wind Wolves



To keep our programs interesting and informative a **PROGRAM TEAM** is forming. We need 5 members. Our purpose is to seek out and schedule speakers for the 2019-2020 year. To volunteer please email or call Ginny Dallas: contact info in "Executive Board Box."

Raffle Items Needed Have more than one item at home? Received a gift that you do not need? If you answered 'yes' to one of these questions, please bring the item (or buy one) to our monthly meeting. We need more items for our raffle.

Kern Audubon Executive Board 2018-2019

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VICE PRESIDENT – ADMIN. TEAM

SECRETARY – ADMIN. TEAM

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Board Meeting April 16, 6 PM



Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Well, the easy answer is a new social media web site called **Meetup**.

It is very easy to sign up. You get email reminders of events, instructions on how to join, and, the best part, is it free. To become a member of Meetup: go to www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society and follow the easy instructions. That way you do not have to look at the Warbler for upcoming events. You will get reminders online. Many thanks to **Carly Summers** for updating events on the site.



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

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

Laura Fahey manages our Facebook, email her at: ***ityzmom@sbcglobal.net***.

PHOTOS NEEDED!

Please send photos of birds you have seen on an outing, in your backyard, or anywhere else to **Harry Love** *harrylove1944@gmail.com* We would like to celebrate birds you have seen!

Please Pitch In!

Kern Audubon Board of Directors meetings are open to any member. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month Aug-May, except Dec. Usually at 6:00 pm in the same location as for our monthly meetings, at Kern Co Sup of Schools at 17th + L Sts. Contact is Harry at 805-1420 *harrylove1944@gmail.com*

Being on the **Executive Board** is meaningful.
Please talk with an existing
board member to volunteer,
We can really use a few more Birders!

Kern Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3581

Bakersfield, CA 93385

Kernaudubonsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The basic membership dues cover the cost of your subscription to the Warbler. Please consider joining or renewing at a higher level to support the important environmental education and conservation projects critical to the protection of wildlife and the environment. All of your membership dues will be used to support our local education and conservation efforts.

(Note: Membership in Kern Audubon Society does not make you a member of National Audubon. You must complete a separate membership form with National Audubon on its website. See link at bottom of this page.)

Check all boxes that apply to your membership in KAS.

_____ I am a new member

_____ I am a renewing member

_____ Individual membership \$20

_____ Student \$15

_____ Family membership \$35

_____ Benefactor Membership \$100

_____ Condor life time membership \$1,000

Donations: _____ \$5 supporter (recurring monthly) _____ \$10 sustaining (recurring monthly)

One time: _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other amount _____

Print this form. Make your check for membership in KAS and any additional donations payable to **Kern Audubon Society**. Mail check and this membership form to:

P.O. Box 3581, Bakersfield, CA 93385

If you wish to pay by credit card, you may use the Pay Pal button on our web site
(kernaudubonsociety.org)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Kern Audubon Society will not sell or distribute any member information to any other organization.

If you want to also join National Audubon go to: <https://www.audubon.org>