



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No 9 December 2008
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

TUES. DECEMBER 2, 2008 - 6:30PM

Location: UNIVERSITY SQUARE - 20th & K Sts.

(Parking lot @ 21st & L)

POTLUCK & AUCTION

Special program: Wildlife in Bolivia

Kern Audubon is planning another wonderful holiday evening of fun, good food, fund-raising, holiday shopping AND an exciting presentation about "Wildlife in Bolivia". The program will be presented by Kevin Malamaa, an environmental consultant and avid nature photographer.

He has just returned from a trip to Bolivia and will share a brief look at wildlife in this South American country, a beautiful land of high mountains and high plains.

Bring a POTLUCK ITEM (main dish, salad or dessert) to share - - drinks and table service will be provided.

Bring cash or checkbook for the AUCTION (no credit cards, sorry!).

Remember...dinner starts at 6:30pm and the location is UNIVERSITY SQUARE instead of Kern Supt of Schools!!

Field Trip Sat. December 6, 2008 - 7:30am

BIRDING HART PARK

Kern County's Hart Park provides a great opportunity to see a variety of birds, especially with the keen observation of **John Wilson**, premier birder and great teacher, who will provide leadership for this Saturday morning field trip. Meet at the Albertson's parking lot on Mt. Vernon at Hiway 178 at 7:30am to carpool. We will meet near the donut shop at the north end of the parking lot. Bring water; dress warm. For more information contact Ted Murphy (325-0307) or 333-3608 (Sat. morning only)

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair
madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470
Ted Murphy, Co-Chair
tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307

Harry Love, Conservation
love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6254
Linda Greene, Publicity
lgreene@bak.rr.com; 322-9954
Kathy Love, Hospitality
love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6254
Ginny Dallas-Dull, Education
vdallas@bak.rr.com; 587-6323
Annette Wells, Membership
awells0526@yahoo.com; 333-4019
Lisa Twiford, Secretary
letwiford@aol.com
Bill McDonald, Treasurer
WJLJMCD@aol.com; 665-2111

HOLIDAY AUCTION

One of our most fun events of the year is the annual December HOLIDAY gathering, which will be Tuesday December 2nd, 6:30pm at University Square. Besides lots of delicious food and a great program, there will be an AUCTION (both silent & bidding-style). Your help is needed. Please consider asking for donations from your favorite restaurant, hair salon, boutique, non-profit organization (such as a guest membership), etc. We can email you a form that you can give acknowledging the donation and Kern Audubon's status as a 501c3. If you'd like a form, email madielsea@aol.com.

Besides donations from vendors, we need other items for the auction, such as new or gently-used gift items or something you have hand-crafted! Please email Dawn with a description of the item(s) or call her for with your ideas: 393-0498 or email: dawn.bradley@stantec.com.

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

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@yahoogle.com f. You'll find 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!

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>

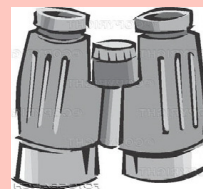
National Audubon Society:

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

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. December 16th 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!



NEST CAMS...If you are interested in watching nesting behavior and the fledging of birds, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has many live and archived "nest cam" videos. Eight species are chronicled, including barn owl, Western & Eastern Bluebird, starling, etc. To watch videos, go to www.nestcams.org.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

One of the traditions long-associated with the National Audubon Society is the annual Christmas Bird Count. Even older than Audubon itself, the CBC began in 1900 as an alternative to the traditional Christmas BIRD HUNT, in which teams shot as many birds as possible. The first count included 27 people in 25 locations, but they were armed with pencils and binoculars! The CBC is the oldest bird census in the world with over 50,000 volunteers in 2000 locations, providing one of the most important bodies of information on wildlife data in the world. Leading three Kern County CBC's are birding experts John Wilson and Alison Sheehy. If you are interested in participating in these daylong counts, contact John or Alison for more information...

Bakersfield CBC - Sunday December 14 (7:00am)

John Wilson is the leader/compiler for the Bakersfield area CBC. Birders will gather at **7:00am** in Hart Park (on Mirror Dr. near the west entrance to Hart Park by the restrooms). Please call John Wilson at (661)747-4628 if you are planning to participate so he can make up territory assignments. We will meet at Cindy's Restaurant at 5PM for no host dinner and reporting/compilation.

If you are interested in assisting with owling, contact Michael McQuerrey <macbirder@juno.com> who will be out shortly after midnight on Dec. 14th and would enjoy company. Or, if you wish to owl separately, contact Michael to coordinate areas of the count circle to assure there isn't a "double count."

Buena Vista Christmas Bird Count - Sunday, 21 December 2008 (6:30am)

Alison Sheehy is the leader/compiler for the 19th Annual Buena Vista Christmas Bird Count. This count is centered on the northeast entrance to Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area and is the most southerly count in California's Great Central Valley. Wintering populations vary with the amount of surface water, making this an interesting count. Normally around 100 species are found depending on the number of participants. You must preregister and be prepared to provide names and vehicle license plate number. This count is conducted behind many closed gates and landowners require this information ahead of time. Meet at Shell Mini-mart at the corner of Enos Lane and Taft Hwy. at **6:30 a.m.** for maps and area assignment. RSVP: Alison Sheehy: 760-378-2029 or natureali@lightspeed.net

Kern Valley Christmas Bird Count - Sunday, 4 January 2009 (6:30am)

Alison Sheehy is the leader/compiler. This count is centered around Isabella Reservoir and covers territory from Bodfish to Weldon and up into the eastern Greenhorn Mountains. Meet at Rainbow Donuts, **6:30 a.m.**, 5640 Lake Isabella Blvd in the Von's Shopping Center, Lake Isabella. Tally dinner specially catered at Audubon's Sprague Ranch House. 5:30 p.m. Dinner cost \$15 each in addition to \$5 CBC fee (vegetarian and meat entrees). RSVP: Alison Sheehy: 760-378-2029 or natureali@lightspeed.net

All experience levels are encouraged to attend. Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. A \$5.00 participation fee paid by Kern Audubon defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the count results by National Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

NEW BIOLOGY COURSE

Bakersfield College will be offering a Spring '09 Environmental Biology course (3 units) including a Lab (1 unit) that will address topics such as air & water quality, conservation, how to go Green, global warming, pollution, recycling, alternate sources of energy, environmental conditions specific to Kern County. This course is made possible in part by a grant from the Kern-Waweah chapter of Sierra Club. For information, contact Professor Hurd: khurd@bakersfieldcollege.edu. The course satisfies GE requirement except for liberal studies majors.

Articles welcomed...& an Editor!!

Kern Audubon welcomes submissions of articles on bird sightings, conservation/environmental issues, book reviews and whatever else you think might be of interest to fellow birders. Please submit by the 15th of the month for the next edition: madielsea@aol.com or Madi Elsea, PO Box 3581 Bakersfield 93385.

We are also looking for someone who might like to be the editor of the *Audubon's Warbler*. It's a fun position and involves 4-6 hours a month plus a computer. If you might be interested, give me a call: 322-7470!

Madi Elsea, Editor

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from November through early April. FeederWatch helps scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

Who can participate?

Anyone with an interest in birds! FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, and bird clubs.

What will you do?

Count birds that appear in your count site. For each species, you will report only the highest number of individuals that you see *in view at one time*. By following this procedure, you are certain to avoid counting the same bird more than once. You will report your bird counts to scientists at the Lab of Ornithology either over our web site or on paper Data Forms.

Does it cost money?

There is a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Lab members) which covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and a year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees.

What will you get?

Participants receive a [Research Kit](#), which contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and data forms—everything you need to start counting your birds. Your kit will arrive about 3 weeks after you sign up. You provide the feeder(s) and seed.

For more information and to sign-up, go to www.feederwatch@cornell.edu

A VOICE FOR BIRDS

Carol M. Browner is chair of the board of the National Audubon Society and Chair of its Executive Committee AND has been named a member of President-Elect Obama's transition team! She has a strong conservation background having as served administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (1993-2001) and with the Florida Dept of Environmental Regulation from 1991-1993.

BIRD BOOK & CALENDARS

AUDUBON CALENDARS ARE BACK!

Once again we are selling **Audubon calendars** as a chapter fund-raiser, so plan to purchase your copies at the December meeting. These beautifully photographed 2009 calendars are "wall-style" and one engagement book style and are \$12-\$13 ea. There are different "species" of calendars to choose from:

Songbirds

Nature

Raptors

Wildflowers

Birding Trails

For more information, contact Harry & Kathy Love (love3@bak.rr.com or call: 589-6245).

BACKYARD BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA:

HOW TO ATTRACT THE TOP 25 BIRDS

This is a newly-published 100 page book that includes a profiled bird scale for easy identification, range and distribution maps, color photographs and specific descriptions, including identification marks, behavior, habitat and nesting style. There are also articles by author Bill Fenimore on creating backyard bird sanctuaries, tips on feeders and water features, vegetation, etc.

The book will be selling for \$10 and is especially good for beginning birders!

**Calendars & Books make great GIFTS
and a terrific way to support your local
Audubon chapter!!**

San Diego Bird Festival- March 5-8, 2009....David Allen Sibley is the featured speaker at this annual celebration of one of the birdiest places in the US! For information go to sandiegoaudubon.org and click on Bird Festival.

Looking ahead to TUES. January 6, 2009 for a special program about one of Kern County's endangered species - the San Joaquin Kit Fox - as seen through the eyes of our own Dr. Ted Murphy, professor emeritus Cal State University, Bakersfield.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 16-19, 2009

Join the birds and the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the 13th Annual **Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival!** This area of the central coast is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out the website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. Registration deadline is January 5, 2009 but early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.



AUDUBON CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY: THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION -- March 15, 16 and 17, 2009 - ASILOMAR CONF. GROUNDS

Chapter leaders and members are invited to attend the Audubon CA Assembly held every 18 months at the Asilomar conference grounds in Pacific Grove. Speakers and workshops will focus on emerging strategies for conservation of birds and their habitat in the 21st Century. Workshops will include presentations and discussions such as:

- New science capacity at Audubon California that models impacts of climate change on 350 species of California's birds.
- Young conservationists from chapter and center programs discuss the next generation of conservationists.
- New partners in conservation – agreements with unlikely partners such as developers, ranchers, farmers and oil companies are protecting our habitat and changing how corporations do business
- New conflicts and opportunities: water and wildlife, energy and wildlife, global warming and wildlife.
- New landscapes and seascapes: Audubon California maps Important Bird Areas in California creating a new advocacy tool, and adds marine Important Bird Areas
- New strategies for urban conservation – feral cats, tree trimming policies, degraded habitat restoration, outreach to new audiences and other challenges facing many chapters.

Field trips include:

- Pelagic and Whale Watching on Monterey Bay
- Condor viewing in Big Sur led by the Ventana Wildlife Society
- Birding at Carmel River Mouth and Point Pinos

Members of Kern Audubon Executive Board will be attending, so contact Ted or Madi for more information. If you register by December 11th, there will be a \$50 savings on the registration fee.

For more information go to: <http://ca.audubon.org/assembly.php>

BIRDWATCH RADIO

Birdwatch Radio is a unique audio podcast about birds, birders and conservation. Currently two full length programs are being produced each month featuring some of the best and most interesting people in birding today. They have been getting very positive reviews on various birding blogs, newspapers and websites. The current program features an interview with Ted Floyd, author of the new Smithsonian Field Guide to the birds of North America. You can hear it and all of our archived programs at: www.Birdwatchradio.org/podcast.htm

The goal is to provide an entertaining and informative approach to birding and conservation that will hold the interest of the backyard birdwatcher and field birder alike. And most importantly, to make a difference so the next generation will have birds to watch and enjoy as we do.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385



Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Bakersfield CA
Permit #93

www.kernaudubonsociety.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. DECEMBER 2, 6:30pm - Annual Holiday Potluck, Auction & Program
- Sat. December 6, 7:30am - Field Trip to Hart park
- Christmas Bird Counts - Dec. 14 & 21 & January 4

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 # _____