



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 39 No 10 - December 2010  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)



## KERN AUDUBON

Tues. December 7, 2010

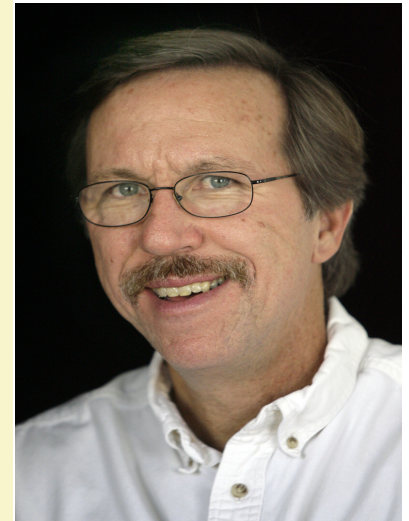
**6:30pm** - Kern Supt of Schools

17th & L Sts. (parking garage 18th & K)

### Capturing Kern's Wildlife...in Pictures!

**Casey Christie, Photojournalist  
Bakersfield Californian**

**Plus...POTLUCK & AUCTION, including  
several of Casey Christie's photos!**



Our December meeting will be highlighted by photos and a presentation by CASEY CHRISTIE, photojournalist for the *Bakersfield Californian*. Casey will show some of his excellent wildlife photos and talk about photojournalism and the variety of subjects he photographs on a daily basis. *"In between assignments I prefer to shoot scenics and some wildlife, birds, etc"* and adds, *"it's great to take nice photos, but especially be able to enjoy what you do and get paid for it!"* Christie has been with the *Californian* since 1983 and the *Kern Valley Sun* prior to that. He lives in the Kern River Valley with his wife and children and was Kern Audubon's 2006 December program. We are delighted to have him and his incredible photography with us again!

This will also be an evening of good food, good fun and good fundraising! Bring a POTLUCK dish to share (main dish, salad or dessert). Drinks/table service will be provided. Remember that the meeting/potluck starts at 6:30pm.

There will also be an AUCTION so if you have an item appropriate for our sale, please call

## **December Wednesday Walk**

Wed. December 15, 7:30am Atwell Island

Atwell Island is a 7000 acre restoration project of the Bureau of Land Management on the southeastern portion of Tulare Lake, which 100 years ago was the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. Steve Laymon is the Project Manager and will lead the field trip to three ponds with wetlands located near the town of Alpaugh. There will be possibility of seeing ducks, geese, wading birds, shorebirds as well as soras, rails and bitterns. The nature trail on the project offers blue-gray gnatcatchers and thrashers, among others.

The field trip will gather at the **Stockdale Park n Ride** (located between Real Rd. & Hiway 99) at **7:30am on Wed. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**, returning by 2:00pm. Bring water, snacks, binoculars and weather-appropriate clothes. There will be walking and it could be muddy. You may bring a lunch or there is a good Mexican restaurant in Alpaugh which also has good hamburgers! For more information, contact Roger Coley (832-1820). This promises to be a wonderful birding opportunity!

## **SANDHILL CRANES GET A LARGE RECEPTION**

On Saturday, November 13, over 35 members of Kern Audubon made their way to the National Wildlife Refuge in Pixley to view the evening fly-in of the cranes as they came in to roost for the evening. Two members of the refuge staff, Nick Stanley and Pam Williams, gave a short history of the refuge and facts about the birds. After walking to the viewing area at about 5 PM, just as the sun was setting, over 3,000 cranes flew in. Their calls combined with the flapping of their wings provided a unique symphony. Tulare Audubon was present and provided refreshments along with Kern Audubon. Over 100 folks were in attendance and everyone hopes the event will be repeated next year.

If you were not able to attend, you can still visit the area until late February when the cranes migrate north. For directions, go to:

[www.fws.gov/kern/refuges/pixley](http://www.fws.gov/kern/refuges/pixley)



Photos by Roger Coley



## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010 - 2011**

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The Kern Audubon Executive Board meets monthly on the third Wednesday, 7pm. Meetings are open to interested members; contact a board member for meeting locations.

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

One of the traditions long-associated with the Audubon Society is the annual Christmas Bird Count, which is actually 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 the Bakersfield CBC is John Wilson, one of our area's expert birders. The count will be held on Wed. Dec. 15th, 7:00am - 5pm. Meet on Mirror Drive near the west entrance to Hart Park. The day will conclude with no-host dinner at Cindy's restaurant on Auburn Blvd. to compile the results. For more information, contact John: [jcwilson@lightspeed.net](mailto:jcwilson@lightspeed.net)

Looking ahead to Tues. January 4, 7:00pm....Join us in the new year for a fascinating look at "The World of Feathers", with nationally known bird artist, John Schmitt.

## **NEED INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDS?**

A great website for learning about birds and bird behavior is [www.cornellbirds@cornell.edu](http://www.cornellbirds@cornell.edu). This is the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the world leader in the study and conservation of birds.

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

**Kern Birding** For a comprehensive website about Kern Co. birding locations go to [www.natureali.org/birding.htm](http://www.natureali.org/birding.htm).

**Kern County Bird Sightings/photos** For what's unusual in Kern County, go to [kerncobirding@yahogroups.com](mailto:kerncobirding@yahogroups.com) You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Michael McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

**Audubon California** has a great website about its activities and organization: [www.Audubon-ca.org](http://www.Audubon-ca.org)

**Audubon in the news** - To find out more about National Audubon happenings through an informative electronic newsletter, email [chapterleaders@audubon.org](mailto:chapterleaders@audubon.org)

## Workparty at Panorama Vista Preserve

On Saturday, November 6, a large contingent of Audubon members came to the Preserve to tend to the new trees. The first order of business was to clean up the parking lot outside of the gate. Then we went in to weed around the trees and to add mulch. Each month we notice the dramatic change in growth. The word 'forest' almost comes to mind when you visit the Preserve. Later in the day, the Preserve hosted a 'thank you' barbeque for the volunteers.

November's workparty was made up of Paul Gipe (new volunteer), Dana Adams, Al Caetano, Becky Rule, Jan Graves, Ginny Dallas, Harry Love and Andy Honig. Again we had the fantastic and hard working Interact Club from Foothill High School.

The next workday will be Saturday, December 4, at 9 AM (new winter time). Panorama Vista Preserve is located at the east end of Roberts Lane off Manor Drive. Email Harry Love ([love3@bak.rr.com](mailto:love3@bak.rr.com)) or call him (805-1420) for additional information. Come out and join in the benefits of helping new trees. ..it's good exercise & good fun!



## "I'm not a hunter--should I buy a Duck Stamp?!"

Since 1934, federal duck stamp sales have raised more than \$750 million, and this funding has been used to purchase or lease over 5.3 million acres of waterfowl habitat. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by duck stamp sales goes directly to the purchase or lease of wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge system, and the federal duck stamp program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated.

Not convinced? Waterfowl are not the only species that benefit from wetland preservation--shorebirds, riparian songbirds, and Sandhill Cranes thrive at California's wildlife refuges, and many mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians rely on these habitats as well. An estimated one-third of the nation's endangered and threatened species take advantage of these refuges.

The federal duck stamp serves as an entrance pass for national wildlife refuges where admission is normally charged, and duck stamps are also popular collector items.

The number of hunters is declining, but the need to protect wetlands is not. Purchasing a duck stamp each year is one of the best investments you can make to ensure that these valuable habitats continue to thrive.



The 2010 federal duck stamp features an American Wigeon and California's 2010 stamp features a pair of Redhead Ducks. You can purchase federal stamps at many post offices, at many sporting/outdoor stores or online ([www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com)). The California stamp can be purchased at hunter check stations, from the Department of Fish & Game offices or online ([www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)).

Jordan Wellwood  
Audubon California

## GOOD NEWS FOR PRESERVATION

Kern Audubon was one of many groups that provided written feedback that a proposed motorsports racetrack near the Poppy Preserve was incompatible with the preserve. This report was recently received:

*The plan to build a motorsports racetrack near the California State Poppy Reserve has been halted. We didn't have much hope when we started this, but thought we had to try to stop it. All the letters, emails and testimony at several LA Co. Planning Commission hearings paid off.*

*The developer has decided to sell the land to a solar company, which will use it for mitigation lands when its project in the Antelope Valley is approved. As this parcel is part of the area the State originally identified as the best place to preserve poppies, this is very good news. The State was only able to purchase some of the recommended area at the time the Preserve was founded. The developer is quoted in an Antelope Valley Press article as saying that his idea "was met with overwhelming opposition that eventually snuffed it out". Unfortunately, the AV Press is not available on-line. Perhaps the LA Times will run a story that can be read by all.*

Kate Allen  
AV Group of the Sierra Club &  
CNRCC Desert Committee

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Dec. 7, 6:30pm - Holiday potluck & program with Casey Christie "Capturing Kern's Wildlife...in Pictures!"
- Wed. Dec. 15, 7:30am - Atwell Island Field Trip

### Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C30)

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 this form and your check (payable to National Audubon Society) to:

Kern Audubon  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_