



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 43 no. 10 - December 2014
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org
www.kastehachapibird.org

TUES. DECEMBER 2, 2014

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING & POTLUCK

6:30PM

University Square (Reider Center)
20th & K Sts

(Please note the location & time change for this meeting!!)

Featuring...the Bakersfield High Carolers

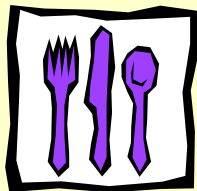
The BHS Carolers are an auditioned group of juniors and seniors who meet weekly to rehearse Christmas carols plus performing close to 20 concerts during December. They are directed by Judy Foth, a senior. This accapella ensemble will sign a program for Kern Audubon featuring twenty traditional Christmas carols, including such favorites as *'Silent Night'*, *'The First Noel'*, *'Jolly Old St. Nicolas'* and *'Feliz Navidad'*.



Bring a POTLUCK ITEM to share:
main dish (for 8-10 people)
salad or side dish
dessert

(Drinks & table service provided)

PLUS...



Live & Silent AUCTION



This is one of our fun & important fund-raisers for the year! Heather Ellison, Auction Coordinator (319-4721) reports that a handmade QUILT, HONEY & RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS are among the items to be auctioned! More is certainly needed, so please contact Heather with a brief description of what you plan to bring. Perhaps you have artwork or homemade jams, etc. to donate--call or email hk_ellison@yahoo.com with your contribution!

One more thing: If you have bird photos or pictures from field trips or activities, bring to the potluck on Dec. 2nd! Deb See will have a picture board for posting pics!

PRESIDENT'S NEST



December 2nd marks our annual holiday program. Since it is held the last month of the year, it also becomes a time to reflect on the highlights of this year. First, our Tehachapi sub-chapter, headed by Carol Gates & Mary Dufraim, are stronger than ever. At the last meeting, over 40 people attended. We are hopeful that others in Tehachapi area will continue to help Carol and Mary to strengthen the group.

Birds Matter! is our slogan and we have done much this year to support it. First, we donated money toward the reestablishment of tricolored blackbird habitat in the Kern River Valley area. Second, we provided data to the Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges on the effects of the drought on waterfowl. Two of our members, Roger and Barbara Coley, are visiting the sites to determine species types and numbers. This data will be used by the refuges to calculate the effects of the drought on migratory birds. Finally, our outings program is as strong as ever. Bill Moffat & Deb See have provided a variety of birding experiences for our members and the community. 2015 look like another year for growth!

Harry Love, President

WORKPARTY AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

Saturday, December 13, 9-11 AM, will be the date and time for this month's workday at Panorama Vista Preserve. Tasks for this month will be eradicating tumbleweeds and weeding. The plants which were put in earlier in a new area will be in need of "tender, loving care". What to bring: gloves, water, sun hat, and a shovel/hoe if you have one. Meet outside the gate at 9 AM. For more information you can contact Harry Love, 805-1420 or love3@bak.rr.com. Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane off Manor Drive at the locked gate. Just 2 hours of your time! Hope to see both present and new team members.



GET THE E-WARBLER

We are asking everyone with email to **receive your Warbler electronically** to save money as well as trees! *Plus, the eWarbler is in color!* You can read it online or print your own copy! PLEASE take a few moments to send your email address to: rodmlee@aol.com....thank you!!

BIRDING FESTIVALS

Bird festivals are fun! You meet other birders, visit new places, see lots of birds, hear interesting presentations, support local economies and much more. For information about festivals around the country, go to...

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

Upcoming California birding festivals to consider:

Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway Jan 21-25, 2015

Chico, Calif. (Sponsored by AltaCal Audubon Society) Registration in early December
www.snowgoosefestival.org

Winter Wings Festival February 12 - 15, 2015

Klamath Falls, Oregon (Sponsored by Klamath Basin Audubon Society) Register early December.
www.winterwingsfest.org

San Diego Bird Festival March 5-8, 2015

Sponsored by San Diego Audubon Society
www.sandiegoaudubon.org - Registration now open

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2014 - 2015

Harry Love, President/Conservation

love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6245

Kevin Fahey, Vice-President

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Pat Turner, Membership Data

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Mary Dufraim, Tehachapi Rep.

marysalternative@yahoo.com; 972-4355

Madi Elsea, Past President/Warbler Editor

madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470



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!

WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? To learn more about birds, go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study/conservation of birds

Kern Birding For a great website about Kern County birding spots: www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Audubon California has an excellent website: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To learn about National Audubon go to: www.audubon.org or chapterleaders@audubon.org

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Sat. December 13, 7:45 am - Tejon Ranch

Scot Pipkin, Tejon Ranch Conservancy Public Access Coordinator, will lead this field trip for Kern Audubon on the San Joaquin Valley side of Tejon Ranch. There will be great views of the valley as well as birding in the oak woodlands. Possible sightings of condor and golden eagle plus many more! Meet at the Stockdale Hiway Park n Ride (between Real Rd. & Hiway 99) at 7:45 am. We will be meeting Scot at the Sebastian Rd gate to Tejon Ranch at 8:30 am. It is likely to be cold, so dress accordingly. Bring water, snacks & a sack lunch; returning to Bakersfield around noon. Call Deb See for information: 805-0232. Car pool donation: \$5

Wednesday Walk, December 17, 9:00 am - Beale Park and neighborhood

Bill Moffat will lead birding around Beale Park and surrounding Oleander area - a productive 'in-town' spot! We'll be contributing our sightings to the Bakersfield Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Beale Park at corner of Oleander & Dracena at 9am. Call Bill @ 661-201-9279 for more information.

The official Bakersfield Christmas Bird Count will be starting that morning at 7:00 am at Mirror Dr in Hart Park. Contact John Wilson, 661-747-4628 if you are interested in participating in this important CBC started in 1949-1950 and held continuously since 1973.

See next page for the full list of Kern County Christmas Bird Counts and sign up!

SCIENCE CAMP



Left -right: Barbara Reifel, Harry Love, Kevin Fahey, Fran Hersch, Louise Clay - Science Camp leaders

For the third year, Kern Audubon had a demonstration table for 6th grade science students at Panorama Vista Preserve over a three day period in October. Facts about birds, identification, and eating habits of owls were the focus of the display and presentation to students. Great thanks to our members for their time & leadership: **Kevin Fahey, Gary McKibbin, Louise Clay, Susan Castle, Barbara Reifel, Fran Hersh and Harry Love** (photo at left). Kathi Parks, director of PVP's Science Camp for Fairfax schools sent this note: *I want to sincerely thank everyone who was involved in this year's science camp on the preserve. I've had wonderful feed back from the schools, which were VERY impressed with the knowledge and diversity of the stations. The kids were still talking about how excited they were the next few days following their trip....I cannot begin to tell you how much it means to see these Science Camps go off so successfully. With so many declines in the education process, I feel that camps like these must continue in the future. Please continue to support these efforts and again, THANK YOU!*

Audubon Secures Water for Wintering Birds

Thousands of wintering migratory birds will have more water and habitat thanks to the advocacy of Audubon California and its partners. Responding to the urging of a coalition of bird and conservation groups, the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) created the Winter Waterfowl Initiative. This voluntary program will provide financial and technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to agricultural producers who are willing to follow precise water management guidelines, developed and tested by Audubon California and Point Blue, on flooded agricultural fields. This will help prevent disease and starvation of migratory birds like Northern Pintails, Snow Geese, and Least



Sandpipers who are crowding into limited wetlands in a severe drought year.

Birds Matter!



Tehachapi Birding

Kern Audubon-Tehachapi invites Tehachapi area birders to consider participating in the Tehachapi and/or Bear Valley Springs Christmas Bird Counts (see information next page for details). All levels of birders welcome!

The next program/meeting of KAS-Tehachapi will be Tuesday January 27, 2015, 7:00pm. More info in next newsletter or call Mary Dufrein: 972-4355.

RENEWING YOUR AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal notices are sent to Audubon members by the National Audubon Society. You can also find the expiration of your membership on the address label of this newsletter or *Audubon* magazine. You can also check your membership status and renew membership online at www.audubon.org and click on "Member Center" at the **very top of the homepage**. Or send your renewal check in the amount of \$15 (one year), \$25 (two years), \$35 (three years) to: National Audubon Member Center, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast Fl. 32142
Questions? Contact Pat Turner, Kern Audubon's member data coordinator: patriciajt@att.net

FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS

The Anna's Hummingbird is a year-round resident in California, so it will continue to be seen at feeders around Bakersfield, even during winter months, though maybe not as frequently. So, yes, please continue to provide hummingbird nectar during the winter. Below are "Tips for Feeding Hummingbirds" from the International Hummingbird Society.



Ingredients

One part sugar to 4 parts water

For example: 1/4 cup sugar to 1 cup water

Dissolve the sugar in hot water. NO red food coloring! Unused mixture can be stored in refrigerator for up to a week.

- *cane sugar is recommended but beet sugar is okay*
- *do not use any other sugar--not turinado or brown sugar, etc.-- and never use honey or artificial sweeteners*
- *spring water is preferred, but most tap water is acceptable*
- *if too many bees are being attracted, change the mixture to five parts water to one part sugar. Bees aren't attracted to a diluted solution*
- *in the fall, wait until you haven't seen even one hummer for 3 weeks before taking your feeders down to reduce risks to late migrants*



16 Tips for Hummingbird Feeders

Type & Size:

- choose a feeder that you are able and willing to clean
- look for a feeder that has the ports ABOVE the pool of liquid to avoid drips
- use a feeder whose size matches your population
- don't fill the feeder all the way if it isn't being used
- more feeders will support more hummers and help reduce territoriality

Freshness:

- change the mixture every four-five days--more frequently when temperature is over 90
- if the liquid appears cloudy or you see mold, wash the feeder thoroughly right away

Location:

- put feeders at least four feet above the ground so they are beyond reach of cats and other predators
- never place a feeder too close to a nest because doing so may cause predation
- if possible, the feeder should be in a shady spot
- placing the feeder where you can see them thru the window is a good idea, too!

Maintenance

- feeders must be cleaned between refillings--don't "top off" without cleaning
- use a mild detergent or vinegar and water; rinse thoroughly
- about once a month, soak the feeder in a solution of bleach and water (1Tbsp bleach per quart of water); rinse thoroughly
- some feeders can be put in the dishwasher for sterilization
- if your feeder is attracting ants, use a moat or AntGuard to stop them

2014 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

One of the traditions long-associated with Audubon 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. The goal is to count all the birds in a 15 mile radius with teams being assigned to a section in that radius. If you are interested in participating in these daylong counts, contact the compiler listed below or if you have questions, contact Alison Sheehy (natureali@gmail.com) or go to her website:

www.natureali.org

Sun.14 Dec – China Lake CBC (Peter Woodman, compiler – 760/377-3466)

Wed.17 Dec – Bakersfield CBC (John Wilson, compiler – 661/336-0283)

Sat.20 Dec – Butterbredt CBC (Chuck Bragg, compiler- 310/454-9662)

Sat.20 Dec – Lancaster, LA/Kern Co (Mary & Nick Freeman, compilers – 818/247-6172)

Mon.27 Dec – Tehachapi CBC (Larry Parmeter, compiler - 559/276-8753)

Sat. 27 Dec – Carrizo Plain -partially in Kern Co (Roger Zachary, compiler – 805/466-6222)

Mon. 29 Dec - Bear Valley Springs - (Ron Melin, compiler - 310/540-2775)

Sat. 3 Jan – South Fork Valley CBC (Denise LaBerteaux, compiler – 760/378-4278)

Sun.4 Jan – Kern River Valley CBC (Tim Ludwick, compiler –

Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. The count results are tabulated by the National Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Help is needed on many of these counts, so find one that interests you and contact the compiler for more information.

Too cold to come out on a December or January day? Compilers need help contacting landowners for permission to access to their property so birders will not trespass. How about keeping a list of birds that you see in your yard on that day (be a “feeder watcher”), or you can join a team to cover a territory near your home. (New birders are paired with veterans, so you don’t have to be an expert.) Beginners to experts are welcome, maybe you know the area that a visiting birder doesn’t. If you’ve ever heard yourself say, “Maybe it’d be fun to learn birds,” here’s a great opportunity. Call the contacts listed above to participate at any level.

CLIMATE CORNER

On November 11, President Obama made a historic announcement with China to achieve new, more ambitious goals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean energy. The targets put forth by both countries will reduce climate pollution in the U.S. by 26-28 percent from 2005 levels, and will peak CO2 emissions in China by 2030 and increase its non-fossil fuel share of all energy to around 20 percent by 2030. Together, the U.S. and China account for over one third of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The joint announcement highlights the critical role the two countries must play in addressing climate change.

More needs to be done to reduce carbon pollution, but the joint agreement is heralded as a major step forward in international efforts to avoid the worst effects of global warming.



Looking ahead...Start 2015 with Kern Audubon! Join us for the Jan. 7th (7pm) program with Kelli Levinson, awesome birder and Kern County Coordinator for *North American Birds*, the journal of the American Birding Association.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WIN AT BALLOT BOX

On November 4, Florida voters passed a measure that designates nearly a billion dollars a year to conservation efforts for the next 20 year, perhaps the biggest environmental victory in the history of the state. Audubon chapters gathered more than 35,000 signatures to put Florida’s Water and Legacy Amendment on the ballot. **Audubon Florida** and National Audubon contributed more than \$200,000, much of which was matched with other funds from Audubon donors.

In California voters passed a \$7.2 billion water bond that includes a number of major elements that will directly benefit birds in California. At one time, there were as many as 11 competing water bond bills in the Legislature, many of which omitted consideration of the environment and birds. Working in concert with a number of partners, **Audubon California** turned this into a conversation about birds, providing data on the lack of water for wildlife and the impacts on bird populations. The final version of Prop 1 included substantial funding for California’s legal obligations to provide water for birds and other wildlife, habitat restoration, and watershed protection.

Audubon California invested \$50,000 in promoting the water bond, worked with Sea & Sage Audubon Society to pilot a telephone “get out the vote” effort among members in Orange County, and ran a statewide “get out the vote” campaign through email and social media called “Vote for Birds.”

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

- Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...
- Tues. Dec. 2, 6:30pm - Annual Holiday Gathering
- Sat. Dec. 13, 9-11am - Panorama Preserve Workday
- Sat. Dec. 13, 7:45am - Tejon Ranch field trip
- Wed. Dec. 17 - Beale Park field trip & CBC

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 # _____