



Scrub Jay. Photo provided by Mickey Dyke

VOL. 48 ISSUE 10 · DECEMBER 2019

# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Newsletter of

Kern Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society

## • FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST

by Harry Love

President, Kern Audubon Society

This Song Sparrow pictured below seems to be telling us that it's that time of year again, our annual Christmas pot-luck! This is a great time to get together with fellow birders over a meal and entertainment. It also a time when you can buy a unique item, get a gift card, or find a piece of art that fits on the empty shelf in the living room.

There will be both a silent and live auction. But most of all it is a time to make new friendships and to renew old ones. We look forward to seeing everyone at the First Congregational Church on December 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

The new year will soon be upon us! Stay on the lookout for an updated KAS logo and an improvement in communication to our members in a whole new way!

See you soon!

Harry Love, President



Song Sparrow

April 21, 2019 - Basin Wildlife Reserve

Photo provided by Wei Li

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# December's Outing

## Christmas Bird Count

**Saturday, December 14th**

**Beale Park (Oleander & Dracena)**

**Starting at 8:30 a.m.**

As part of the Christmas Bird Count, Linda McMillian will lead a morning of birding at a noted birding "hot-spot". This will be a wonderful experience for birders of all levels! We will be happy to provide binoculars to those who need them. Here's what you need to know:

- **8:30-10:30 a.m.-** Meet at Beale Park (Oleander & Dracena) near the amphitheater(north side of the park).
- **11:00-1:00 p.m.-** For those who want to continue on, or join us later in the day, the birding will continue along the Kern River behind Sam Lynn Ballpark on North Chester. (Sam Lynn Ballpark, take the first right turn past the ball field and drive to parking area along the canal. Walk over the canal bridge to the viewing area along the river).
- For more information, e-mail Linda at [lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net). We will be contributing our sightings to the Bakersfield Christmas Bird Count.

***The official Christmas Bird Count starts that morning at 7:00 a.m. in Hart Park. Contact Dr. John Wilson at [jcwilson@lightspeed.net](mailto:jcwilson@lightspeed.net) if you are interested in participating in this aspect of the CBC. The Christmas Bird Count originally started in 1949-1950 and has been continuously held since 1973.***



Townsend's Warbler

North Beach Campground, Pismo Beach  
October 28, 2019. Photo provided by Mickey Dyke



White-Tailed Kite  
Pixley Preserve

November 20, 2019. Photo provided by Karen Evans

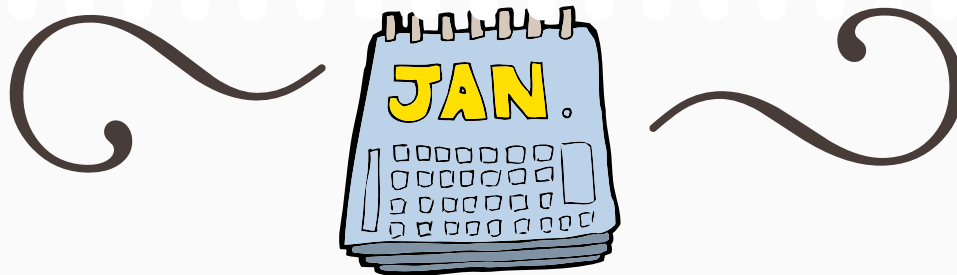
# Dates to Remember!

## Holiday Pot-Luck



**Tuesday, December 3rd @ 6:30 p.m.**

**First Congregational Church**



## *Ancient Kern Comes to Life*

*Tuesday, January 7, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.*

*Presented by*

*Retired Geologist and KAS BOD Member - Mark Hodson*

*Kern County Superintendent of Schools*



## Lake Ming Field Trip

**Saturday, January 11, 2020 @ 8:30 a.m.**

**Popularized by Roger & Barbara Coley and led by**

**Linda McMillan and Ginny Dallas**

**(Meet us by the picnic/playground area!)**

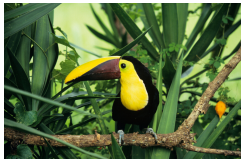
# Costa Rica Trip

## Only 3 Spots Remain!

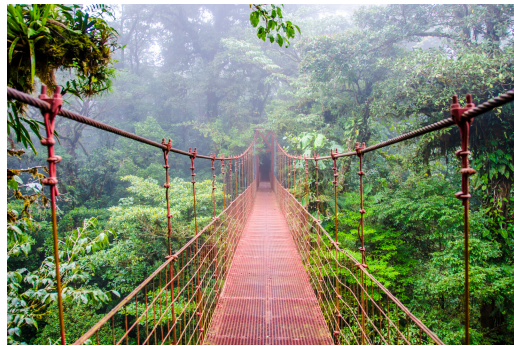


### Kern Audubon Society's - Birding in Costa Rica Trip April 9th - 20th, 2020

Come birding with us in Exotic Costa Rica! (Itinerary designed by Bob Barnes)  
Cost includes meals - \$2788 with 12 participants



For more information, please contact Ginny Dallas-Dull at  
661-301-8188 or email her at [vdallasdull@gmail.com](mailto:vdallasdull@gmail.com)



Olympic Peninsula April 17-19, 2020  
**BirdFest**  
Come bird with us!



- ▣ San Juan Island Cruise
- ▣ Neah Bay Birding Excursion
- ▣ Guided Birding Trips
- ▣ Bird Art Classes
- ▣ Photography Workshop
- ▣ NAS Photography Exhibit
- ▣ Auction & Raffle
- ▣ Gala Banquet with Speaker:  
**Scott Pearson**

Located in Sequim, WA  
For more information:  
[www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)  
[info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org)  
or 360-681-4076



FUNDRAISER

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Olympic Birdfest April 17-19, 2020

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet and more. Our featured speaker is Scott Pearson a researcher in Ecology, Marine Biology & Zoology at the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 14-16, 2020 or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 19-21, 2020; three days exploring northwest coastal Washington.

Click on the link below to learn more:  
<https://olympicbirdfest.org/events/bird-images>

# You Will Be Missed!

## John Wilson

### Friend and Fellow Bird Lover

John Wilson, professional photographer, devoted family man and Kern Audubon Society member passed away on October 9, 2019 after a long battle with cancer. John was a past Vice-President and was on the Board as Hospitality Chair. His love for photography took him on many Audubon Field trips to photograph birds and wildlife. John died at age 77. The members of KAS extends their sympathy to his family and all those close to him.



John & Irene Wilson



Budgie

July 29, 2018 - Bakersfield, CA  
Photo provided by: Roger Coley



Pin-Tailed Whydah

October 2, 2010 - Bakersfield, CA  
Photo provided by: Roger Coley



Snow Egret

Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles CA  
Photo provided by: Wei Li



Great White Egret

Near the Park at River Walk, Bakersfield, CA  
Photo provided by: Wei Li

# Sandhill Cranes



## AUDUBON'S NEW CLIMATE REPORT WHAT IT MEANS FOR BIRDS IN THE ARID WEST

Provided by: Harry Love

**Climate and Water in the West:** In the West, we're already dealing with a multi-decade historic drought and longer, more intense fire seasons. Climate change threatens western water resources and some researchers are calling our new reality, "aridification." Overall, the West has experienced increases in the severity and length of droughts over the past 50 years, taking a toll on water supplies. Climate change not only alters the quantity of flows, but also the timing. Rising temperatures in the winter cause more precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow in mountainous areas from Colorado to California. Furthermore, warming temperatures are causing snow to melt earlier in the spring, altering the timing of stream flow in headwaters rivers. The Colorado River's water supply is stretched thin—due to diversions, over-allocation and climate change—and further increases in temperature will reduce snow pack and river flows harming the river and the 40 million people and 400 species of birds that rely on it. By mid-century, climate warming is projected to decrease total Colorado River flows by 20 percent from the observed historic average. Likewise, across the network of saline lakes that dot the West, including the Great Salt Lake, we see reduced water levels that can negatively impact millions of shorebirds, water birds, and waterfowl. These drying lake beds can cause health and economic problems as well as a decrease in food and habitat for birds. It's essential that we curb carbon emissions to limit temperature increases and work proactively, doubling down on conservation practices, so that these already stressed water ecosystems can sustain life in the arid West for decades to come.

What does this mean for bird species in the arid West? It should come as no surprise that western forests are one of habitat groups with the most threatened bird species in warming scenarios. As temperatures increase, drought, extreme heat, and fire will become more intense, more widespread, and more devastating across the West. This has implications for water quality and watershed health and will affect both birds and people. Two examples of birds associated with Western Water priority freshwater and saline lakes habitats that are highlight climate vulnerable in Audubon's report are Yellow Warbler and Long-billed Curlew. The bright, sweet song of the Yellow Warbler is a familiar sound in stream side willows across the West. Long-billed Curlews are often found around the Great Basin of Utah around emergent wetlands and marsh, as well as using agricultural fields where nesting and brood-rearing take place in pastures and hay meadows.

Birds associated with Western Water priority habitats that are highly climate vulnerable include:

- Yellow Warbler (High vulnerability in 3 degrees C warming scenario especially in Oregon, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. Moderate in summer at both 2 and 3 C)
- Sandhill Crane (Moderate vulnerability in summer at 2 and 3 C with species projected to shift north and mostly out of the contiguous U.S. range)
- Long-billed Curlew (High vulnerability range wide in summer at 3 C including in Colorado, Utah, California, New Mexico. Moderate at 1.5 and 2 C)
- American Dipper (High vulnerability in winter at 3 C particularly in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, California, and Arizona. Moderate in summer and at 1.5 and 2 C)

Source: <https://www.audubon.org/news/audubons-new-climate-report-and-what-it-means-birds-arid-west>

# Meet Your Webmaster

You have seen Jake's name in your emails and on our website. You might ask yourself, who is he and what does he do? Jake grew up in Bakersfield, graduating from Highland High School, and received a degree from Ohio State University. As a control systems engineer, he soon developed a skill in information technology (IT), making it his occupation.

He is a lifelong birder, honing his skills with his father Bill. A while back, at a KAS monthly meeting, our current webmaster, Rod Lee, was looking for a replacement, as he was moving to Sacramento. Without hesitation, Jake accepted the job. The results are fantastic; a web page with a calendar, bird photos by members, and links for you to become more aware of activities and topics that match your interests. He is constantly making change to upgrade our ability to keep you informed. This is occurring even though Jake (for a new job) moved to Ohio. All of these improvements are done remotely! You can show your appreciation to Jake by sending him an email: [thatcadguy@gamil.com](mailto:thatcadguy@gamil.com).



Jake Abel  
KAS Webmaster



Green Jay  
Harlingen, Texas  
Photos provided by Harry Love



Brite Lake Outing #1  
Tehachapi, California  
Photos provided by Harry Love



Black Bellied Whistling Ducks  
Harlingen, Texas  
Photos provided by Harry Love



Brite Lake Outing #2  
Tehachapi, California  
Photos provided by Harry Love

# This Place is for the Birds!



Cedar Waxwing  
April, 2019 - Bakersfield, CA  
Photo provided by: Alex Merrill



Black Swan  
February 18, 2015 - Bakersfield, CA  
Photo provided by: Roger Coley



Red Tailed Hawk  
October 20, 2019 - Galileo Hill, California City  
Photo provided by: Mickey Dyke



Ring-Necked Pheasant  
February 11, 2013 - Bakersfield, CA  
Photo provided by: Roger Coley



Townsend's Warbler  
January, 2019 - Bakersfield, CA  
Photo provided by: Alex Merrill



# This Place is for the Birds!



Adult Female Prairie Falcon  
October 10, 2019 - Carrizo Plain  
Photo Provided by: Steve Shaw



Eared Grebe  
October 22, 2019  
Photo Provided by: Mickey Dyke



Black Throated Sparrow  
Photo Provided by: Mickey Dyke



Audubon Oriole  
Falcon State Park, 2019  
Photo Provided by: Harry Love



American Crow (Camouflaged in Driftwood)  
October 29, 2019 - Harris Beach State Park in Brookings Oregon  
Photo Provided by: Lynn McDonald

# Stay Connected & Get Involved

**MEETUP** *meetup*

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 website called Meetup.

It is very easy to sign up. You get email reminders of events, instructions on how to join, and, the best part, it is free. To become a member of Meetup, click on the link below and follow the easy instructions:

[www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society](http://www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society)

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.

**amazon**smile

Do you use Amazon for your shopping needs? If so, sign up for AmazonSmile. A 0.5% of your purchases will go to the Kern Audubon Society. Sign-up today on your Amazon account home page. There is no cost to KAS or to you as an AmazonSmile Customer.



**KERN AUDUBON IS 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](mailto:ityzmom@sbcglobal.net).

## Old Audubon Magazines Needed!

Have copies of your Audubon magazine? We need them to give to students at science camp. Bring them to any monthly meeting.



John Rowden and Greg Hargelroad  
October 2019 Meeting  
Tehachapi, CA



Who?  
Dawn Nelson, that's who!  
Tehachapi, CA

## We need your photos!

Send photos of birds you have seen on an outing, or just in your backyard to [communications@kernaudubonsociety.org](mailto:communications@kernaudubonsociety.org)

# Board of Directors

## Meet Your Board of Directors

### Member-at-Large Mark Hodson

Almost 15 years ago, my then-girlfriend asked if I'd like to join her for a Saturday morning birding walk. I'd enjoyed everything else we'd shared, so, even though I'd never seriously considered birds, why not? Well, I ended up traipsing through dusty scrub-land, trying to peer at flying birds through a twenty year old pair of inexpensive compact binoculars. But, when I trained them on a perched Anna's hummingbird, his entire head glowing fluorescent pink in the early sun, I knew I wanted more.

Since then, with a lot of help from Kern Audubon members and others, I've learned to appreciate birds as I never imagined, I've been amazed by more birds than I ever thought I'd see, and I've gotten to know some wonderful people. A chance to watch, to contemplate a bird in the wild still thrills me, and I love that I'm able to share this enthusiasm with my fellow Audubon members. And yes, the girlfriend is my wife.



## Kern Audubon Executive Board 2019-2020

**President: Harry Love**

E-mail: harrylove1944@gmail.com  
Phone: 661-805-1420

**Vice President/Outreach Chair: Kevin Fahey**

E-Mail: kjfahey@sbcglobal.net  
Phone: 661-706-7459

**Secretary: Kerry Lattimore**

E-Mail: kerry-k@earthlink.net  
Phone: 661-304-2386

**Treasurer: Margaret Dolan**

E-Mail: mdolan635@gmail.com  
Phone: 661-330-9059

**Program Chair: Ginny Dallas**

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Phone: 661-301-8188

**Membership Data: Linda McMillan**

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Phone: 661-205-3521

**Hospitality Chair: Frank Bedard**

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Phone: 661-872-4259

**Chapter Librarian: David Schaad**

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Phone: 661-428-2841

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**Member-at-Large**

Mona Sidhu  
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**Member-at-Large**

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**Member-at-Large**

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**Tehachapi Rep.**

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Phone: 661-300-1429

**Tehachapi Rep.**

Greg Hargleroad  
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Phone: 818-645-3664

**Field Trip Coordinators**

Admin Team

**Webmaster**

Jake Abel  
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**Ex-Officio**

Kimberly Barella, Warbler Editor  
E-Mail: communications@kernaudubonsociety.org

**Next BOD Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00 p.m.**

**Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Room 1B**