

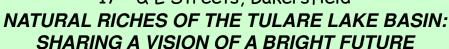
AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No. 2 - FEBRUARY 2008 Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society** A chapter of National Audubon Society www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Gathering
TUES. FEBRUARY 5, 2008

7:00pm

Kern Co. Supt of Schools 17th & L Streets, Bakersfield



Guest Speaker: Rob Hanson, President of Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners and biological/environmental consultant



Rob Hansen is an environmental biologist who has spent decades studying the San Joaquin Valley and its native flora and fauna. He will provide an overview of conservation challenges and opportunities that face residents of the Tulare Lake Basin as well as natural history background to grasp the original natural mosaic of the basin and the living things that call it home. He has worked for The Nature Conservancy and currently is an instructor at College of the Sequoias, is a member of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture and Vice-President of Sequoia Riverlands Trust. He is very knowledgeable about the Tulare Lake Basin, which once covered 570 sq mi, the largest freshwater lake west of the Great Lakes. Rob will share a vision of the Tulare Lake Basin where a healthy, expanded natural landscape (wetlands, uplands and abundant wildlife) enriches the lives of Valley residents, including its wildlife!

Refreshments served...plus great RAFFLE prizes!

February Field Trips

Saturday, February 9th: Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Meet in the parking lot on the north side of Stockdale Highway, across from CSUB, at <u>7:15am</u> for 7:30 departure and carpooling. Trip leaders will be Pam Williams, Wildlife Biologist for KNWR, and Jihadda Govan, Assistant Refuge Manager. We anticipate returning around 12:30 or 1 p.m. This trip is mostly via auto, with a minimal amount of walking on level ground. Dress warmly and bring water, snacks, binoculars, etc. (Bring a lunch if you'd like!)

Monday, February 18th: Pixley National Wildlife Refuge If you haven't had a chance to see/hear the *Sandhill Cranes* flying into the reserve at sunset, it's an incredible experience! We will meet to carpool in the Costco parking lot (Rosedale Highway/Hiway 99) near the gas pumps behind Hungry Hunter at 3:00pm for a 3:15 departure, returning to Bakersfield about 6:30pm. The sandhill cranes normally depart around the end of February, so we should still see the full complement of cranes -- approx. 6000 at last count. By arriving around 4:15, we will have time to walk to the observation deck (1/2 mile), observe waterfowl and shorebirds as well as upland birds, and watch the cranes fly in near dusk. Dress warmly and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and mosquito repellant.

Contact Roger at 832-1820 for further information.

FOR THE BIRDS...

It's still the beginning of the year, so here's some New Year's resolutions for birding in 2008...

- 1) Get beyond the backyard! Resolve to go on an Audubon field trip this year...maybe two!
- 2) Bird an area you've never gone to before...explore something new. Don't know where to go? Call Roger Coley (832-1820) or Ted Murphy (325-0307) for suggestions
- 3) Go to a Birding Festival (see p.4 for festivals coming up), which is a great way to learn more about birds and birding, plus meet other birders AND have a lot of fun!
- 4) Buy a book about some aspect of birding besdies identification, or visit Kern Audubon's library, and expand your knowledge of birds
- 5) Buy some new binoculars....you deserve a good pair with better magnification and it will enhance your birding skills! Not sure what to get? Rod Lee (322-7470) can give suggestions.
- (b) Dress in MUTED tones when birding! Fewer birds will see you if you don't wear white, bright pink or red, and you'll have a better chance to see them. There's a reason hunters and wildlife photographers wear camouflage.
- 7) Take a non-birding friend or relative birding with you. Help grow the number of those who care about birds and their habitats.
- 8) Attend Kern Audubon programs and invite someone...they don't even have to be birders to enjoy the meetings and learn something new!

Good luck with these resolutions or ones of your own making about birding....I hope to see you "out there" in 2008!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair

Websites to check out...

Kern Birding Website For a comprehensive web site covering numerous Kern County birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos

What¹s unusual in Kern County birding? Go to kerncobirding@yahoogroups.com for recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

<u>www.Audubon-ca.org</u> is a great website all about the activities and organization of Audubon California

<u>AUDUBON IN THE NEWS</u> - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just write: 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

New Center at Kern River Preserve

Weldon, CA - Plans are underway to build a new green nature center at Audubon's Kern River Preserve in California. Slated to finish in 2010, development for the center has already received more than \$150,000 in grants from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to begin the project. Building plans include natural daylighting and solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling, and a lecture hall that will help facilitate the center in educating the community about the need to protect open, natural spaces. To read more about plans, visit http://kern.audubon.org/visitor center.htm

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





11th Annual

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Feb. 15 - 18, 2008

hope many Kern Auduboners participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, a significant bird monitoring activities hosted by the National Aubudon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

What is the GBBC?

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual fourday event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy--and it helps the birds! For all the information go to the website: www.birdcount.org How to participate:

- 1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes during February 15-18, 2008. Count birds at as many places and on as many days as you likejust keep a separate list of counts for each day and/or location.
- 2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time, and write it down.
- 3. Enter your results at www.birdcount.org

Results from 2007:

Total checklists submitted: 81.003 Total species observed: 613 Total individual birds counted: 11,082,387

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Don & Yvonne Turkal, Program Coordinators tloveanimals@bak.rr.com; 393-4778 Doug Dodd, Conservation ddodd@csub.edu; 837-0868 .Roger Coley, Field Trip Coordinator rcoley@bak.rr.com; 832-1820 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

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. FEBRUARY 19TH will be the next outing of the Tuesday Birders. Beginners as well as the experienced are welcome! Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place.





Looking ahead to TUES. MARCH 4, 7:00PM....Join Kern Audubon for an evening with **BOB STEELE, professional nature photographer,** who will speak and show slides on "The Birds of Tropical Australia." Bob lives in Kern County and has been published in Birding magazine, the New York Times, WildBird magazine, etc.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!!

Kern Audubon welcomes these new members whose names were received from the National Audubon Society as having joined between July and December 2007...

Chloe Anderson, Brenda Anderson, Bakersfield Veternary Hospital, Louise Clay, Helia M. Corral, Carole J. Dahleen, Alice A. Edwards, Christa Haywood, Wayne Hill, Lynn Hill, Olin L. Hunter, Val H. Larson, Harry Liesch, Judith Penney, Nancy P. Long, Benjamin F. Spingath, William J. Taylor, Jr, Patricia Thompson, Alice Tish, John & Joan Witt, Daniel Workman, Evelyn Hooper, Gloria K. Imera, Kathy Mc Laughlin, Bobbi J. Meyer, Ingrid Schaffer, Joanne Schmidt, Jean Smith, Don Balaban, Richard M. Casagrande, Shelley Fend, Milo E. Hall, George Hammond, Carol A Hauerwaas, Hermina Hunting, Lenna Jennings, Faith Kavilis, Victoria Kendall, Stephen M. Klopp, Gloria Krecklow, Mr. O Lee, Jerry Long, Donna Marie Noce, Yvonne Mc Clain, Marilynn Perry, Christine Plasterer, Nancy Putney, Dale Robbins, John R. Sanders, Thomas Scopin, Ron A. Scott, Virginia Smith, Mr. & Mrs. John Skibinski, Barbara Springstead, Robin Starzman, William Bartling, Charles Bewick, Scott Davis, Ramey Iviarte, Kim Russell, Mr. & Mrs. Anderson

YEAR-END APPEAL...There was a generous response to the end-of-the-year appeal in the amount of \$1565! The Executive Team of Kern Audubon wishes to thank the following persons for your extra gifts toward KAS' plans for continuing to help "create a culture of conservation in Kern County!"...

Richard & Donna Adams Roger & Barbara Coley Helia M. Corral Gary & Carla File

A. Garrison

Ron & Carol Hauerwaas

Carol Lair Vicki Lohr

Hary & Kathy Love

Cathy McCoy Gary McKibbin Ethel Meyer Carla Rivas

Mel & Beverly Rubin

Linda Schrom William Whiteside Virginia Dallas-Dull Randi Cassellius

Linda Cooley Douglas W. Dodd Mylon Filkins, DVM

Linda Greene Sindee Irelan

Aaron & Gaby Kidwell

Jerry Long

Barbara G. Mansfield

Donna McKenna

Joseph Mier

Ted & Peggy Murphy Thelma T. Rover

Thelma T. Royer

Karen Rutter

Gene Tackett Consulting

Ann Williams

SONGBIRD BILL DEFORMITIES

Julie Craves, of the Rouge River Bird Observatory, U. of Michigan, compiles data on songbirds with bill deformities. These are songbirds ONLY, not woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl. If you notice a songbird with a deformed bill, please forward the information to her at jac@rrbo.org. Minimum info to include: species, date, location, and full description of the deformity if there is no photo. She prefers links to photos rather than photos themselves, but they are okay so long as they are small. If the bird is banded, include information on band color and location. You can read more about her work at http://www.umd.umich.edu/dept/rouge-river/bills.html

LEARN TO LIKE SPIDERS (or, at least tolerate them):

Spiders are our friends! Don't automatically reach for the Raid or rolled-up newspaper every time you see eight legs. The earth would be overrun with pests like flies & fleas if it were not for spiders. If a spider or other relatively harmless bug gets in the house, carefullly catch it in a small container and release it outside before instinctively smashing it to bits. Or allow a few out-of-the-way spiders to hang around the plants to keep fungus gnat and earwig problems at bay. (Learn to identify the poisonous spiders, however, and terminate with extreme prejudice if you spot one.)

Upcoming Bird Festivals

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SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL - FEB 6-11

Kenn Kaufmann, world authority on birds and author of several bird guides, is the key note speaker at this fesitval in San Diego, where last year 225 species were identified during the festival. For information go to <u>sandiegoaudubon.org</u> and to register.

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ALEUTIAN GOOSE FESTIVAL - MARCH 28-30

Come celebrate Spring and the return of the once endangered Aleutian Geese to the northern coast of California at the 10th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival. **March 28-30 2008** in Crescent City/Del Norte County. Located in the home of Redwood National Park and the Smith River National Recreation area, the festival offers 60+ workshops/fieldtrips, Native American Heritage, birds-birds-birds, Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, Pelagic trip, Smith River Drifts, Geology, Botany and more... To see it all...www.aleutiangoosefestival.org. or call (707)465-0888

GODWIT DAYS - APRIL 18-20

Join the flock at the 13th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival **April 18-20, 2008** at the Arcata Community Center in Arcata, CA. Choose from over 100 field trips and workshops and browse the vendors at the bird fair. An extraordinary birding adventure awaits you between the redwoods and Humboldt Bay! Go to **www.godwitdays.com** for more details and to register on-line.

VERDE VALLEY BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL - APRIL 24-27 "Cultivating Habitat" is the theme of this central Arizona birding festival, including Sedona and Cottonwood. Registration starts Feb. 1st: www.birdyverde.org or (928)282-2202

For more informatin about bird festivals nationwide, try these websites:

www.Birdwatchersdigest.com

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals

New Novel Takes on Endangered Species and Extinction

How the Dead Dream, a new novel by Center for Biological Diversity staffer Lydia Millet, was voted one of the 10 best novels in 2007 by the National Book Critics Circle and highlighted as one of the best reads for 2008 by the *LA Times*. The novel tells the story of an ambitious young real estate developer . who, after a personal crisis, becomes obsessed with rare and vanishing animals and starts breaking into zoos at night to be close to them. Millet, an award-winning novelist who married to Center for Biological Diversity founder Kieran Suckling, has written one of the very first American novels to approach the emotional and aesthetic implications of the extinction tragedy. How the Dead Dream is notable for its thoughtful engagement with the social and personal effects of massive species loss.

The protagonist soon learns to recognize the signs of an animal's imminent disappearance. Some were tagged or collared or photographed, some monitored by bureaucrats. Sometimes a group or individual took up the cause of an animal or a plant and could muster the rationale for a lawsuit, and often the courts favored the victim; but the victim remained a victim and for each victim whose passing was noted thousands more slid away in the dark.

As he struggles by night with ideas of human aloneness and what it might mean to be a "last" animal, he's building sprawling subdivisions by day, grappling with bizarre personal circumstances and fending off attacks by his jealous business partner.

How the Dead Dream is Millet's sixth novel, and not the first to explore environmental issues; her fifth, Oh Pure and Radiant Heart, deals with the moral, cultural and philosophical legacy of nuclear weapons. Look for How the Dead Dream and many other intersting books in the Kern Audubon library at the next meeting or contact Vonnie Turkal (393-4778).

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society PO Box 3581 Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- <u>Tues. February 5, 7:00pm</u> Meeting & program on "Natural Riches of the Tulare Lake Basin"
- <u>Sat. February 9, 7:15am</u> Field trip to the Kern National Wildlife Refuge - - ducks and shorebirds!
- Mon. February 18, 3:00pm Field trip to Pixley Nat'l Wildlife to see Sandhill Cranes

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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

| | ng an additional tax-deductible donation for the work of Kern Audubon in the amount (Check payable to Kern Audubon) |
|---------|---|
| Name(s) | Amount enclosed |
| Address | E-mail |
| City | Zip CodePhone # |