



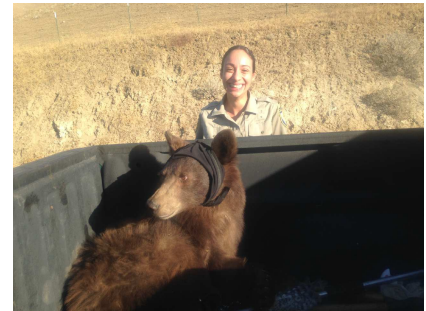
# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 44. no. 2 - FEBRUARY 2015  
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)  
[www.kastehachapibird.org](http://www.kastehachapibird.org)

**Kern Audubon**  
**Tues. February 3, 2015**  
**7:00pm - City Center**  
**17th & L Sts. (parking lot 18th & K Sts.0**

**"Wild Wonders of Kern"**  
**Vicky Monroe, Wildlife Biologist**

Wildlife biologist Vicky Monroe will talk about urban wildlife, wildlife management issues, threatened & endangered bird species, problems of predation on birds, including feral cat impacts, and more. Vicky is with the California Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Central Region. She has a BS from Colorado State University and Masters from James Cook University in Australia, where she conducted field research on the behavioral ecology of flying foxes.



Vicky Monroe with elk & bear!

## FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

### **Sun. February 8, 8:00am - Kern National Wildlife Refuge**

Join Bill Moffat for this outing to see thousands of wintering waterfowl and shorebirds at the refuge. We will meet to carpool at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway & Don Hart Drive across from CSUB. Bring binocs, snacks, lunch, \$5 transportation, water. Call Bill for more info: 201-9279.

### **Saturday Feb 21, 4:00pm - Pixley National Wildlife Refuge**

Join Madi Elsea for this late afternoon outing to Pixley Wildlife Refuge to see wintering Sandhill Cranes. This will be the last opportunity to see them before they fly north to their breeding grounds and it's a spectacular sight as the cranes fly back to the safety of the refuge at sunset. We will meet to carpool at the Rosedale Costco parking lot near the gas station at 4pm and return by 7:00pm. Involves walking about a mile to the viewing platform. Bring a flashlight, water, snacks, \$5 for transportation. Call Madi for information: 322-7470

### **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24, 8:30am - Truxtun Lakes**

Truxtun Lakes is a great place to spot shorebirds and ducks as well as wintering songbirds and some raptors. Meet at the parking area on Truxtun Extension just west of Mohawk. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, good walking shoes for the walk around the two lakes. Call Bill or Deb for info: 805-0232.



### PRESIDENT'S NEST

For many members, the first Tuesday of the month is a special day. It is Kern Audubon's monthly program. They come to meet friends, make new acquaintances, have refreshments, buy raffle tickets (with the hope of winning), and enjoy the program. There are two people who come to every meeting, integral to its success, but have had little recognition: **Cindy & Al Caetano** (right) who bring a largebox containing the raffle items--every month! And then take it home. Cindy also helps with organizing the refreshment supplies and Al is a member of the outings committee. You can find them on almost every outing. So, at the next meeting, give them a 'thanks' for their dedication to our organization!

Harry Love, President





## CAN COOTS FLY?!

The American Coot, also known as “mudhens”, is common around Lake Ming, Hart Park, Kern Refuge, and most any body of water. Yes, they do fly, but usually are seen running laboriously along the surface of the water before they can start take-off flight. Each year some coots migrate from central Canada all the way south to Central America and back again between their nesting and winter grounds. So if we don't see them flying overhead, how do they migrate so far? It turns out that coots only migrate at night, alone or in loose flocks, often at considerable heights, dropping down to alight in the pre-dawn darkness. They fly high enough to occasionally be killed by flying into tall television towers and on one early April night in 1948, a misguided coot flew through an open window and killed itself on the opposite wall of the room on the 11th floor of Holman Hotel in Athens, Georgia. An airplane flying over Tennessee once struck a coot flying at 4500 feet.

“The coot is universally described as a quarrelsome and belligerent bird, more than ready, willing and able to engage in either ritualized or outright physical conflict with its own or other avian species. About the only aquatic birds that it avoids tangling with are the American White Pelican and the Canada Goose.

American Coots sort of look and act like ducks, but they are not related. Often in large winter flocks, coots are the most gregarious members of the normally secretive, marsh-dwelling rail family. Mostly vegetarian, coots swim well but do not have webbed feet. Instead they have flexible lobes along each long toe that fold back when the foot is moved forward in the water to minimize resistance and extend outward to give push on the backward stroke. Even their legs are flattened laterally to cut down on drag when swimming. Pretty energy-efficient for an old coot!”  
(Adapted from an article in “The Cactus Wren-dition”, newsletter of Maricopa Audubon, Phoenix AZ)



### AUCTION UPDATE

These businesses were inadvertently left off the list of those contributing items to our December auction: ALWAYS ALMONDS and FEEL GREAT FITNESS. If you patronize these businesses, please thank them for their support!

### **Looking ahead to March 3rd...Join Kern**

Audubon's Bill Lydecker and his presentation about Pronghorn Antelope, native species to the San Joaquin Valley.

## THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT - FEBRUARY 13-16, 2015

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts.

It's free, fun, and easy. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 144,000 online checklists were turned in, creating the world's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

To register and get further information, go to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)

### PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

The next scheduled workday at the preserve on February 14 has been cancelled. Since it is Valentine Day, celebrate by helping out someone you love or admire. 2014 marked a great year for the workday with lots of students who came out to help. Besides the Interact Clubs from Foothill and Mira Monte High Schools, we also had students from the North High science club plus Bakersfield College science students. We are very happy that the next generation shows so much interest in helping the preserve to flourish. We also appreciate all the Kern Audubon workers!

### KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### 2014 - 2015

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[love3@bak.rr.com](mailto:love3@bak.rr.com); 589-6245

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Sasha Honig, Secretary  
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Gary McKibbin, Treasurer  
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Madi Elsea, Past President/Warbler Editor  
[madielsea@aol.com](mailto:madielsea@aol.com); 322-7470

**YEAR-END APPEAL...** Once again there has been a generous response to the end-of-the-year appeal in the amount of **\$2805.00!!** The Kern Audubon Executive Board wishes to acknowledge and thank the following persons for your extra gifts toward KAS' continuing efforts to "create a culture of conservation in Kern County" in 2015....

acqueline Appel

Jewell I. Burton

Susan Castle

Bill Cooper

Ginny Dallas-Dull

Marcia Eyherabide

WH Handley

Mark & Randi Hodson

Fanny & Steve Jacobs

Dan N. Kimm

Eva M. Loeb

James C. Lowery

Gary McKibbin

Ginger & John Moorhouse

Gloria Pauline

Elizabeth Saba

Mike White & Jesse Stallcup

Shirley Wold

Pam Baugher

Al & Cindy Caetano

Louise Clay

Helia M. Corral

Pat DeMond

Mylon Filkins

Kristie Gret Harte

Andy & Sasha Honig

Phillip & Joyce Kerse

Ken & Genie Lange

Vicki Lohr

Janet Lund

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J. Rhett Wyatt

Arlene & Jim Burrow

Steve & Ann Carey

Jim & Judy Collier

David Cothrun

Margaret Dolan

Peggy A. Finley

Lamar Estelle Hiatt

Keith & Julie Horder

Jerry Ludeke

Curtis O. Lee

Harry & Kathy Love

Bill & Greta Lydecker

Michael McQuerry

Joanne & Paul Newberry

Mel & Beverly Rubin

Mark Van Voorhis

Wm. C. Whiteside

### Excerpts from Governor Brown's 2015 Inauguration Speech

Note from Harry Love, President of Kern Audubon: This speech supports Audubon's Climate Report of 2014. We are fortunate to live in a state that takes the lead on reducing global warming.

*"We are leaders in renewable energy and efficiency... Under laws that you have enacted, we are on track to meet our 2020 goal of one-third of our electricity from renewable energy. **We lead the nation in energy efficiency, cleaner cars and energy storage...** The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, backed up by the vast majority of the world's scientists, has set an ambitious goal of limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius by the year 2050 through drastic reductions of greenhouse gases. If we have any chance at all of achieving that, California, as it does in many areas, must show the way... I propose three ambitious goals to be accomplished within the next 15 years:*

*Increase from one-third to **50 percent our electricity derived from renewable sources;***

***Reduce today's petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent; Double the efficiency of existing buildings and make heating fuels cleaner...**I envision a wide range of initiatives: more distributed power, expanded rooftop solar, micro-grids, an energy imbalance market, battery storage, the full integration of information technology and electrical distribution and millions electric and low-carbon vehicles.... Taking significant amounts of carbon out of our economy without harming its vibrancy is exactly the sort of challenge at which California excels. **This is exciting, it is bold and it is absolutely necessary if we are to have any chance of stopping potentially catastrophic changes to our climate system.**"*

### 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](mailto:rodmlee@aol.com)....thank you!!

### 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!



### 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 or check your membership status and renew membership online at [www.audubon.org](http://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

You can also contact Pat Turner, Membership Coordinator for Kern Audubon: 717-4174

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society  
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[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

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### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

#### • Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Feb. 3, 7:00pm - Meeting & Program
- Sun. Feb 8, 8:00am - KNWR field trip
- Sat. Feb. 21, 4:00pm - Pixley field trip
- Tues. Feb 24, 8:30am - Truxtun Lakes field tip