



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No. 1- JANUARY 2008
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org



Kern Audubon Gathering
TUES. JANUARY 8, 2008

7:00pm

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

"Kern National Wildlife Refuge"

Jihadda Govan, Refuge Biologist



The Kern National Wildlife Refuge is one of the significant wintering habitats in the Southern San Joaquin Valle for waterfowl and water birds. Located in the historic Tulare Lake Basin, which was once covered by an inland lake of over a half million acres, the Kern National Wildlife Refuge restores and maintains native habitat as well as a series of dikes that provide water and habitat for several endangered species of mammals as well as thousands of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Jihadda Govan, refuge biologist, will be speaking about the refuge and the wide variety of birds that can be seen during the winter months.

Refreshments served...plus great RAFFLE prizes!

START 2008 WITH



JANUARY 19TH FIELD TRIP
Destination: City Treatment Ponds
8:00Am - Mike McQuerry, Leader

Our January field trip will be to the Wastewater Treatment facility ponds, led by Mike McQuerrey, on Saturday, Jan. 19th. We will meet at the facility gate at 8:00 a.m. In addition to the normal, expected birds, many unusual ones have been seen this winter - we hope to be fortunate on this trip! Bring snacks, water, binoculars, warm layers of clothing, etc. Mike has also indicated it is his intention to continue to Hart Park after the treatment plant, so any who desire to continue on with him, might want to bring a lunch. (Hart Park has been very productive recently with many unusual sightings.)

Directions: From Hiway 58, go south on Mount Vernon Ave. to East Planz Rd. Turn West (right) and proceed to the gate on the right. We will park along the road and carpool from there. If you have questions, contact Roger Coley (832-1820)

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

FOR THE BIRDS...

Ted Murphy and I want to thank everyone who helped make our second annual auction such a success, especially Dawn Bradley, who did the organizing. We had the highest attendance yet since re-organizing in March 2006 with 58! Over \$1000 was raised, Dr. John Wilson made an excellent presentation on wintering birds and bird identification, there was great food and spirited participation in the auction with Willie Stubblefield's welded pelican sculpture generating lots of excitement and a generous donation (thank you, Roger Coley). It was a fun evening and a good way to end 2007!

We want to thank John Wilson and Alison Sheehy for their continued work on the two Christmas Bird Counts in our area (see articles p.5) and to the many KAS members who participated.

We also want to thank our Executive Board for their enthusiasm and faithful work on behalf of the chapter. We are still learning about being an organized chapter of National Audubon as well as how to continue "to create a culture of conservation in Kern County" (our informal chapter motto!).

If you haven't yet attended one of the monthly meetings or gone on a field trip, we hope you will do so in 2008! If you have ideas or questions, call me or Ted or one of the other officers. Keep the Executive Board list handy (p.3) and get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair
(661)322-7470

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

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

www.Audubon-ca.org is a great website all about the activities and organization of Audubon California "**Audubon in the News**" - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just write: chapterleaders@audubon.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>

YES...FEEDING THE HUMMINGBIRDS IN WINTER IS IMPORTANT!!

The Anna's Hummingbird winters in our area, so keeping your feeder stocked with sugar water is a good thing for the Hummers. These are suggestions for keeping feeders hummingbird-friendly all year:

Feeder Facts from Audubon....

Maintaining a backyard hummingbird feeder can help provide the birds with nectar critical to their survival, especially during the fall when they need to double their body mass before migration. (Contrary to a common fear the extra food won't stop a hummer from migrating south when it's time for it to go.) Follow these steps to ensure your yard is a safe and nutritious stopover for hummingbirds:

- Instead of one large feeder, hang several smaller ones in different locations. Keep the feeders far enough apart that the hummers cannot see one another; this will prevent one bird from dominating the rest.
- Fill the feeders with sugar water, made by combining four parts hot water to one part white sugar, boiled for one to two minutes. **NEVER** use honey, which promotes the growth of harmful bacteria, or artificial sweeteners. Also avoid red food coloring.
- Hang your feeders in the shade to discourage fermentation and spoilage of the sugar solution.
- Be sure to change the sugar water regularly - before it gets cloudy, or about twice a week in warm weather.
- Clean the feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water about once a week. If your feeder has become dirty, try adding some grains of dry rice to the vinegar solution and shake vigorously. The grains act as a good abrasive. Rinse your feeder well with warm water three times before refilling with sugar solution.

11th Annual
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Feb. 15 - 18, 2008

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

What is the GBBC?

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day 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 like—just 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

2008 AUDUBON CALENDARS

A few 2008 Audubon calendars will be available at the January 8th meeting as a chapter fund-raiser. January price is \$10 each with 4 different nature calendars still available:

- Page-A-Day Calendar of Birds*
- Songbirds Calendar*
- Raptors*
- North American Wildflowers*

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EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

January 15th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Beginners as well as the experienced are welcome! Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information re: time and place.



TEJON RANCH

The Kern chapter of the Calif Native Plant Society invites Kern Audubon and anyone interested in what's happening regarding Tejon Ranch to attend a meeting on Tues. January 15, 7:00pm at Beale Memorial Library (Lake Room). Ileen Anderson, a former Bakersfieldian who now works for the Center for Biological Diversity, will discuss the future of Tejon Ranch which is so important to Kern County, the State, wildlife corridors and, especially, the California Condor.

Looking ahead to February...Join us for the February 5th meeting of Kern Audubon! February speaker will be Rob Hansen, President of the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners. Carole Comb, co-founder, Secretary and acting Executive Director of the TBWP will also be present for the meeting and program on this historically significant area of the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Fish and Game Commission Votes to Protect Condors.

California condors can look forward to a happy (and lead-free!) new year in 2008. Audubon's decade-long effort to protect the California condor from lead poisoning has succeeded at last. On December 7, the CA Fish and Game Commission voted 3-1 to adopt new regulations to ban the use of lead ammunition in areas of state that are inhabited by endangered California condors. The new regulation goes further than the recently enacted Condor Protection Act (AB 821), which the governor signed in October, in that it also bans the use of lead in .22 caliber and rimfire ammunition, which were exempted from the legislation. The regulation will take effect on July 1.

Audubon members' calls, letters, and e-mails to legislators, the governor, and Fish & Game Commission members helped secure these major victories.

Landmark Energy Bill Becomes Law.

Audubon won a partial victory on December 19 when the 2007 Energy Bill was signed into law. The bill represents a major step forward in energy conservation by mandating a 40% increase in vehicle fuel efficiency. Cars and trucks sold in the U.S. must achieve an average fuel efficiency of 35 miles per gallon by 2020. Although this fuel efficiency standard is low by international standards—it lags behind Europe, Japan, and China—it still represents a great step forward. It is the first time the U.S. has raised fuel efficiency standards since they were first introduced in 1975! As a result of Audubon's efforts, the bill also contains protections for birds and habitat that could be put at risk from the expansion of biofuels production.

The bad news is that the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), requiring 15% of America's electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2020 was defeated in the Senate. More work remains to be done to put the United States on a path toward confronting the challenge of global warming. But the Energy Bill was an important—if incomplete—first step.

On H.R. 6, the House version of the Energy Bill which included both increased mileage standards and the RES, Congressman Kevin McCarthy (R) voted NO. Congressman Jim Costa (D) voted YES. Thanks for your calls and letters to these representatives in support of a strong Energy Bill.

Top Ten Things to Be Thankful For

The National Audubon Policy staff put together this list of things we are thankful for. Happy Holidays and a Green New Year to all!

10. New leadership in Congress has brought new momentum for getting environmental policy back on track.
9. Both the House and Senate passed appropriations bills increasing money for refuges, endangered species recovery, Land & Water Conservation Fund and other important conservation funding.
8. We're thankful for a system that encourages citizen participation and an opportunity to comment on: changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, listing the Polar Bear as endangered, clarifying protections for wetlands under the Clean Water Act, and much more.
7. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is still safe and wilderness legislation to protect it is gaining ground.
6. We're thankful for the very positive response from chapters around the country that hosted our Alaska Roadshow, learned more about Alaska, and took action to protect its vast treasures.
5. We're thankful that the Bald Eagle, our national symbol, has gone from an all-time low of 417 nesting pairs in 1963 to an estimated high of 9,789 breeding pairs today; the eagles flying the skies of all lower 48 states are proof that the Endangered Species Act works!
4. We're five years' thankful for a \$6 Billion authorization for Ecosystem Restoration, and that there is still *something left to restore*.
3. We're thankful for the successful Audubon lawsuit that kept oil rigs out of Alaska's Teshekpuk Lake for now; we're still fighting for this wetlands wilderness!
2. We're thankful for hearings on global warming in Congress that aim to lead versus mislead.
1. We are thankful for our wonderful chapter leaders, activists, volunteers and workshop participants. So many of you responded this past year to our alerts and other appeals for action. You are the best!

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

I am enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation for the work of Kern Audubon in the amount of _____. (Check payable to Kern Audubon)

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # _____

