



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 1 - JANUARY 2009  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

**TUES. JANUARY 6, 2009**

**7:00pm**

Kern Audubon Meeting & Program  
Kern Sup't of Schools - 17th & L Sts.

## **"The San Joaquin Kit Fox" Presented by Dr. Ted Murphy**



Kenneth Fink -- NPS Photo

The San Joaquin kit fox, Bakersfield's best known endangered species, has been studied by Dr. Ted Murphy, Kern Audubon Society co-chair, since 1972. Dr. Murphy, who retired from California State University, Bakersfield in 2001, will relate some of his "kit fox tales" resulting from seeing and handling hundreds of both well and injured kit fox during his tenure as director of the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment (FACT) at CSUB. Prior to his extensive observations, most of the knowledge of the species was based on limited studies conducted in the desert in western Kern County, but Ted found that the behavior and biology of the urban fox is very different. Join us to hear about "The Doughnut Eating Kit fox," "The Dead Boy Kit Fox," "The BonBon Kit Fox," "The One-eyed Kit Fox," "The Golf Course Kit Fox," and many others.

In addition to his work with FACT, Dr. Murphy was professor of biology at CSUB for 30 years and is also a founding member of Kern Audubon Society.

### **Field Trip - SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2009 - 7:00am**

#### **Kern National Wildlife Refuge**

Scott Frazer, Field Trip Leader

The Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge is a fascinating place to see many different kinds of wintering waterfowl, from ducks to ibis, plus shorebirds and wading birds. January is the PEAK of migration and the refuge will have a nearly full complement of water. Scott Frazer, refuge biologist, will lead us through the refuge, including spots not generally open to the public. Most of the viewing will be from or near cars, and some walking will be involved. Meet at the parking lot across from CSUB (north side of Stockdale Hiway) at 7:00am for carpooling, with departure at 7:10. Dress in layers, bring water/snacks and binoculars. We will return to Bakersfield by noon. Remember, this is a SUNDAY field trip. Contact Ginny (301-8188) for more information.

### **Weekend Field Trip - FEBRUARY 21-22**

#### **CARRIZO PLAINS, MORRO BAY, SAN SIMEON**

A great weekend is planned for visiting some fascinating birding spots within a few hours of Bakersfield....see page 3 for the details!

## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Ted Murphy, Co-Chair  
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letwiford@aol.com  
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### **Websites to check out...**

**Kern Birding** For a comprehensive website about numerous Kern County birding locations go to [www.natureali.org/birding.htm](http://www.natureali.org/birding.htm).

**Kern County Bird Sightings/photos** Go to this website for what's unusual in Kern County: [kerncobirding@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:kerncobirding@yahoogleroups.com) You'll find 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 email [chapterleaders@audubon.org](mailto: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](mailto:tmurphy@bak.rr.com). Save some trees!

### **AUCTION...another success!!**

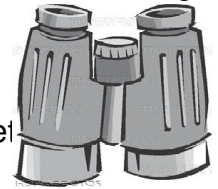
Thanks to creative donations of auction items and to generous bidders, Kern Audubon's December auction was another fun and successful event. The silent auction netted \$283 and the live auction collected \$758...resulting in \$1041 for our chapter to work with in 2009. A special thank you goes to DAWN BRADLEY for her organizing efforts and to her able "assistant", CINDY HUKILL and to all who provided auction items. *Thank you!!*

### **Settlement Extends Lead Protection for Condors**

Brightening the outlook for California condors across the state, on Dec. 10, 2008 the Center for Biological Diversity and allies reached a settlement with the state of California requiring the use of non-lead ammunition in condor habitat for depredation hunting (that is, shooting animals deemed a nuisance or threat). This move extends protections already offered by the historic Ridley-Tree Condor Conservation Act -- passed after the Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, and other groups filed suit to protect condors from lead poisoning -- which limits the use of lead ammunition for big game throughout much of the bird's California range. The state also agreed to consider banning lead ammunition for the hunting of small mammals that sometimes turn into condor snacks.

### **TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.**

Tues. January 20th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place to meet! All birders are welcome!



### **BIRDIEST COUNTY**

Kern County has once again been named as America's Birdiest Inland County! This is the fifth year in a row that Kern county has won this distinction with birders recording 241 species during the weekend of May 2-4, 2008. The Kern River Preserve and the South Fork Kern River Valley remain one of the critical bird havens that make this county one of the finest places in the country to view many species of birds as well as a destination place for birders from all over the country!

### **2009 Audubon Calendars**

A few wildflower, songbird & engagement-style calendars are still available for purchase at the January meeting or by calling Harry Love: 589-6245.

## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from November through early April. FeederWatch helps scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

### What will you do?

Count birds that appear in your count site. For each species, you will report only the highest number of individuals that you see *in view at one time*. By following this procedure, you are certain to avoid counting the same bird more than once. You will report your bird counts to scientists at the Lab of Ornithology either over our web site or on paper Data Forms.

### What will you get?

Participants receive a Research Kit, which contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and data forms—everything you need to start counting your birds. . Your kit will arrive about 3 weeks after you signup. You provide the feeder(s) and seed.

For more information and to sign-up, go to [www.feederwatch@cornell.edu](http://www.feederwatch@cornell.edu)

## **SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL**

JAN 22-25, 2009-Butte County California

The 10th annual Snow Goose Festival includes **49 field trips**, **17 workshops**, **18 participating artists**, an **outstanding banquet speaker**, an incredible selection of auction items, **numerous youth activities** and a full house of exhibitors. In addition, this year's festival offers, for the first time, designated hotel/motel accommodations in Chico with great rates, and food vendors at the festival headquarters. Ongoing efforts to be as "Green" a festival as possible will also be a highlight.

[www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org) for information!

**San Diego Bird Festival- March 5-8, 2009....**David Allen Sibley is the featured speaker at this annual celebration of one of the birdiest places in the US. For information go to [sandiegoaudubon.org](http://sandiegoaudubon.org) and click on Bird Festival.

## WEEKEND FIELD TRIP: CARRIZO PLAINS, MORRO BAY, SAN SIMEON

February 21 & 22

Tulare County Audubon has invited Kern Audubon to join them in a weekend field trip exploring several of the most interesting birding spots in this part of California. The CARRIZO PLAINS combines the Tumbler Range, Soda Lake, the Salt Bush & Iodine Bush with mystique that draws birders again and again. Hoped for species are Sandhill Cranes, which winters there in great numbers, Long-billed Curlews, raptors, Mountain & Western Bluebirds, LeConte's Thrashers...and Pronghorns . The MORRO BAY area will have an incredible variety of resident as well as wintering birds: Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, Brant Geese, Black Skimmers, Loons, Grebes, White Pelicans, Surf Scoters, shorebirds, etc.

This will be a caravanning field trip with Scott Frazer as field trip leader for Kern Audubon. Participants will meet on Sat. Feb. 21 at 6:00am at the Denny's parking lot at the southwest corner of Merle Haggard (7th Standard Rd.) & Hiway 65 (Porterville Hiway). From there we will carpool and meet Tulare Co Audubon (TCAS) near junction of Hiway 41 & 46, birding south on the way to Carrizo Plains, looking for Yellow-billed magpies, Greater Roadrunners, Golden Eagles, Horned Larks, etc.

After lunch we will be at the Carrizo Plains and then head for Morro Bay via Hiway 58, 101 & 1. We will check into our lodging and then meet at Dorn's Original Breaker's Cafe in Morro Bay at 7pm. Sunday morning birding will start at 8AM at the Morro Bay Museum and will include stops at the estuary and Morro Bay hotspots. After lunch, the caravan will travel north to San Simeon to see the Elephant Seals, etc.

It is strongly suggested that you make motel reservations as soon as possible as this is a holiday weekend. The TradeWinds (805/772-7376) and Blue Sail Inn (888/337-0707) in Morro Bay are moderately priced and there is also a Motel 6 (805/772-5641).

If you cannot attend both days of the field trip, you are welcome to participate on either day or leave early on Sunday.

Since weather is unpredictable, layered clothing is a good idea and the trip will take place regardless of the weather. It is important to bring SNACKS and lunch stuff for Saturday, binoculars, water, etc.

If you are interested in participating, please contact SCOTT FRAZER ([Scott\\_Frazer@fws.gov](mailto:Scott_Frazer@fws.gov)) as soon as possible. Space is not limited, however we would like to have a head count for trip planning.



**YEAR-END APPEAL...**There has been a generous response to the year-end appeal in the amount of **\$1510** (as of 12/21/08). The Kern Audubon Executive Team 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"...

*Jeanette F. Biggar  
Bill Cooper  
Virginia Dallas  
Iva & Randy Fendrick  
Andy & Sasha Honig  
Kerry Lattimore  
Tim Lynch  
Cathy McCoy  
Gary McKibbin  
Linda McMillian  
Joann S. Newberry  
Irvin Pike  
Mel & Beverly Rubin*

*Joseph V. Brooks  
David Cothrun  
Douglas W. Dodd  
Ron & Carol Hauerwaas  
Carol Lair  
James C. Lowery  
Barbara G. Mansfield  
Donna McKenna  
Joe Mier  
Daniel P. Nadsady  
Richard D. Owen  
Thelma T. Royer  
Karen Rutter*

### 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 ....



#### **Feeder Facts from Audubon**

Maintaining a backyard hummingbird feeder can help provide the birds with nectar critical to their survival, especially during the cold winter months. And contrary to myth, feeding hummingbirds DOES NOT keep them from migrating...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 once a week when the weather is cold; twice a week when it gets warmer
- 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. Or use a bottle brush. Rinse your feeder well with warm water three times before refilling with sugar solution.

## **AUDUBON GOES PLATINUM!**

Audubon has earned the competitive LEED® Platinum Certification for its new headquarters in New York City. The home office at 225 Varick Street received the highest point total of any commercial interior in the world evaluated for certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"Audubon's LEED Platinum certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council, which manages the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program. The certification includes four levels of certification: LEED Certified, LEED Silver, LEED Gold, and, the highest, LEED Platinum.

The new Audubon office also received an Award of Merit from New York Construction Magazine as one of the Best Green Projects of 2008.

## **AUDUBONER TO BE ENERGY "CZAR"**

To fill the newly created position of assistant to the President for energy and climate change, President-elect Obama has chosen Carol Browner, a former EPA administrator under President Bill Clinton and the longest-serving administrator in the history of the agency. Browner is currently the chair of the National Audubon Society. Board of Directors. John Flicker, president of the National Audubon Society, said "*Carol Browner is an outstanding choice to direct the integration of energy and environmental policy and to reposition the U.S. as a leader in addressing global warming.*"



**JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**  
**COUNT FOR FUN, COUNT FOR THE FUTURE**



Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), **February 13-16, 2009**. A joint project of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.cornell.edu/ornithology) and the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org), this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). In 2008, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) reached new heights. For the fourth year in a row, participants submitted record numbers of checklists. Bird watchers submitted 85,725 checklists with observations of 635 species, representing 9,805,216 individual bird sightings during the four-day count. The GBBC provides an invaluable real-time snapshot of bird distribution across North America. Each year changes are seen in where the birds are located, based on factors that include climate change, weather patterns, food supplies, diseases, and breeding success. Plan now to participate! For more information go to [www.citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:www.citizenscience@audubon.org)

## **BIRDWATCH RADIO**

Birdwatch Radio is a unique audio podcast about birds, birders and conservation. Currently two full length programs are being produced each month featuring some of the best and most interesting people in birding today. They have been getting very positive reviews on various birding blogs, newspapers and websites. The current program features an interview with Ted Floyd, author of the new Smithsonian Field Guide to the birds of North America. You can hear it and all of our archived programs at: [www.Birdwatchradio.org/podcast.htm](http://www.Birdwatchradio.org/podcast.htm)

The goal is to provide an entertaining and informative approach to birding and conservation that will hold the interest of the backyard birdwatcher and field birder alike. And most importantly, to make a difference so the next generation will have birds to watch and enjoy as we do.

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

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society  
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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. JANUARY 6, 2009, 7:00pm - monthly meeting featuring Dr. Ted Murphy on the San Joaquin Kit Fox
- Sun. January 11, 7:00am - Field trip to the Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_