



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 45, no 1 - JNAUARY 2016
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon
TUES. JANUARY 5, 2016
7:00pm

Kern Supt of Schools City Center
1300 L Sts. (17th & L)
Parking lot at 18th & K

"KERN & PIXLEY REFUGES - BIRDING TREASURES"

Geoff Grisdale, Wildlife Biologist



Geoff Grisdale is the wildlife biologist at Kern & Pixley National Wildlife Refuges and the consulting biologist with the Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area. Geoff will give a current status update on Kern and Pixley refuges. With only 65% water allocation for the refuges, he will discuss how the drought has affected the wetlands and bird use on the refuges and throughout the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Geoff grew up in Michigan, attended Michigan State University and has been in southern California since 2007. With over 9 years experience as a biologist, six of them with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Hopper Mountain NWR, he has done everything from trapping and tracking black bears in southeast Kentucky, to monitoring nesting raptors in the Mojave Desert to rappelling into California condor nests to tag wild condor chicks. In addition to managing the biological programs at Kern & Pixley, he is responsible for conducting aerial surveys of all the wetlands in the southern San Joaquin Valley from Corcoran to Bakersfield.

JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

It's not too late to participate in a Christmas Bird Count and help is needed:

SATURDAY, January 2, 2016 - South Fork Valley Christmas Bird Count

Compiler Denise LaBerteaux, Phone: (760) 378-4278 - year began 1992

SUNDAY, January 3, 2016 - Kern River Valley Christmas Bird Count

Compilers: Alison Sheehey & Bob Barnes, Phone:(760) 382-1260 - began 1979

FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, January, 19 - Bird & Bike along the Kern River Parkway, 9:00am

Join Bill Moffat (201-9279) for a morning of birding & biking! Meet at the Kern River parking lot off Manor Drive across from Calvary Church. Bring your own bike, binocs, snacks, and water. A leisurely ride & birding opportunity to spot resident and late migrants.

Sat. Jan 23 - Tehachapi area ponds

Greg Hargleroad will lead this outing to several ponds in the Tehachapi area including those associated with sewage treatment plant, groundwater recharge basin, and other water bodies time permitting. Dress warmly! We will meet to carpool at **8:00am** at the Tehachapi Burger King in the Kmart shopping center. Bakersfield birders can meet at **7:15am** to carpool at the Stockdale ParknRide between Hiway 99 & Real Rd. behind Kaiser. Call Greg for info: 818-645-3664.

Sat. - Sun. Jan. 30-31 - Southern Calif Wildlife Reserve & Sanctuary

The field trip committee is planning a weekend birding opportunity in the southland! Sat. Jan 30 will be birding at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach in the morning followed by an afternoon visit to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. On Sunday the group will join with Sea & Sage Audubon for a bird walk at the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve in Newport Beach (Orange Co.). If you are interested in this trip, contact Bill Moffat (201-9279) or Deb See (805-0232) for more information.

PRESIDENT'S NEST

I take this time of the year to summarize the year's highlights for our Chapter. For the second year we participated in the drought monitoring survey at Kern & Pixley National Wildlife Refuges. Roger Coley was joined by Bill Lydecker to conduct the surveys. We owe them our gratitude. Our efforts to improve and develop habitat for the endangered Tricolored Blackbird came to fruition in the Kern River Valley at the Bob Powers Gateway Preserve and the Audubon Kern River Preserve. In our Tehachapi group, new people moved into leadership roles, thus strengthening our role in the community. A Conservation team was formed for the chapter. Finally, our continued outreach to children through festivals, CALM and science camp means that future generations will carry on the message of the Audubon Society. By all measures, 2015 was a great year for us. Thank you, all!!

Harry Love, President



VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

On Thursday, December 3, KAS volunteers helped to address, fold, and stamp our annual fund appeal mailing to members. Many thanks to **Jerry Kay, Donna Adams, Madi Elsea, Laura & Kevin Fahey, Susan Castle, Sami Neymark, Louise Clay, Kathy & Harry Love and Melisse Herring** for giving of their time.....The December 12th Panorama Vista Preserve workparty included regulars **Paul Gipe, Al Caetano, Maria Polite, David Schaad, Monica Tudor, Deb See, Dana Adams, Dawn Woltz, and Holley Lazzarini** with first-timers **Ted Wright, Mac McCarthy, and Stephen Black**. We also had a student, Jose Zamora, from the Interact Club at Mira Monte High School..... A new conservation team has been formed with **Pat Bonas, Sherry Dolan, Ashleigh Pryor, Sami Neymark, Lucy Clark and Harry Love, Chr.....**We are also pleased to announce that **Linda McMillian** is the new membership coordinator. Please contact her (lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net; 205-3521 with questions about renewing your Audubon membership.

Do you shop on the internet? Do you use Amazon? If so, you



can help Kern Audubon through **Amazon Smile**, a site that allows you to shop for the same items as Amazon but with the added feature that .5% of what you pay to Amazon will go to KAS. You have the same choices and pay no more. Go to smile.amazon.com to register and select your charity of choice, Kern Audubon Society. When you buy something, just go to the Smile site. It 's easy and Kern Audubon will benefit!

WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? Go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study and conservation of birds

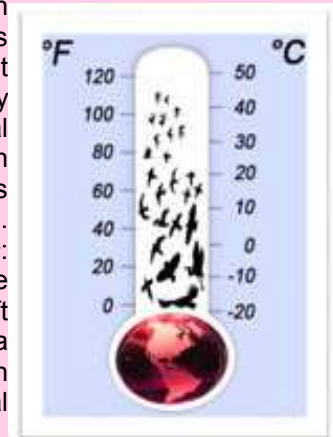
Kern Birding www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Audubon California has an excellent website: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To learn about National Audubon go to: www.audubon.org

CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS: CONTINUED...

The Montana Glacier National Park has only 25 glaciers left from the 150 that were there in the year 1910.....Over 100 million people living in coastal regions will be displaced by just a one-yard rise in sea levels.....Cows produce more methane than the oil industry does: 20 percent of U.S. methane gas emissions is produced by farmed cattle burps and farts.....In 1896, Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius was the first to say that burning fossil fuels may eventually result in global warming.....Of the land in California, 99.84 percent is experiencing drought.....
Now for some good news: Many airlines are encouraging "green" aircraft landings by descending in a smooth, continuous fashion to reduce fuel vibrational noise and save on fuel.



KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2015-2016

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KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on field trips and programs!



KERN AUDUBON-TEHACHAPI
Tuesday, January 26, 2016 - 7 p.m.
Golden Hills Elementary School Cafeteria
20215 Park Road, Tehachapi



“Backyard Ecology & Gardening”

Liz Block - Tehachapi-Cummings Water District

Guest Speaker Liz Block will introduce several ecological concepts to make your landscape more user-friendly, especially for birds. The presentation starts with soil processes, the detrital food web, and why raking and bagging your leaves could be a chore better left undone. Ditto for deadheading flowers; they're packed full of food for birds. Learn how to add shrubs and flowers to the landscape to support pollinators throughout the year and which shrub was voted number one by the bluebirds. A list of Tehachapi native plants for our landscapes will be provided.

Liz Block is the Water Conservation Coordinator for Tehachapi Valley and keeps busy helping people give up the high cost of lawn living. She has a Master's degree in Environmental Science and worked for years on environmental pollution impacts to wildlife before getting into water conservation. She is a Master Gardener from two states and has completed the Master Naturalist course at Tejon Ranch Conservancy. Her passion for the natural world motivates her to make wherever she is a little bit greener, and her border collie motivates her to go hiking as often as possible.

Join us for a great program, light refreshments and a raffle. For more information contact Dixie Coutant 599-1889.

DECEMBER AUCTION

The following businesses were generous supporters of the fundraising auction at our December KAS gathering. To show your appreciation, please patronize them.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Noriega's Basque Café | La Costa Mariscos Restaurant | Dewars Ice Cream |
| Chef's Choice Noodle Bar | Sequoia Sandwich Company | For the Birds |
| Spencer's Restaurant | Gaslight Melodrama | Costco |
| John's Incredible Pizza | Bakersfield Condors | Trader Joe's |
| Famous Dave's Barbeque | Tejon Ranch Conservancy | |
| Loma Linda Restaurant | Joe Bugni's honey | |

Many members also graciously donated items for the auction. A special note of appreciation for the handmade items provided for the live auction by Randi Hodson, Madi Elsea, Sasha & Andy Honig and Al Caetano, all successfully auctioned by our auctioneer Bill Moffat. It was a wonderful evening with good food, a delightful puppet show by Susan Castle & Barbara Castle and generous bidders who raised \$1570 for 2016!!

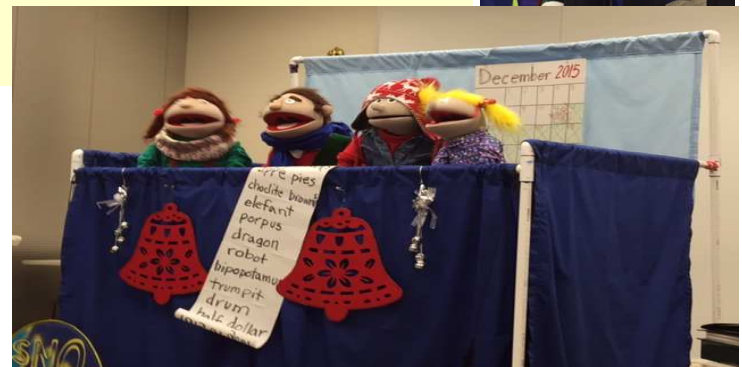
Photos by Kathy Love.



HABITAT TO BE PURCHASED

Adjacent to the established 18 acre Bob Powers Gateway Preserve in the Kern River Valley is a 190 acre parcel of land in what is referred to as the Hot Springs Valley. Both areas are prime bird habitat, especially for Red-wing and Tricolored Blackbirds. The Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation, a land trust, has the option to purchase this 190 acre parcel if it can raise \$900,000. When complete, the area will have birding trails and interpretive signage. Many of our members have donated \$10 towards reaching this goal and the Kern Audubon board has designated **\$1,000** towards the project. This is one way your contributions are spent to improve and protect bird habitat. (If you are interested in donating, you may do so through the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation PO Box 1249 Lake Isabella CA 93240. Questions? Contact Bob Barnes 760-382-1260.)

HUMMINGBIRDS IN WINTER....It's a myth that feeding hummingbirds in the winter will keep them from migrating! The Anna's Hummingbird is a year-round resident in California and will appreciate having a feeder stocked with fresh sugar water. Just remember to keep your feeder clean! To make sugar water heat 2 cups water and add half cup of sugar. Extra sugar water can be kept in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.



BIRD FESTIVALS For information about festivals around the country, go to...

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals
www.birdwatchersdigest.com

March 3-6, 2016 SAN DIEGO BIRD FEST

www.sandiegoaudubon.org

April 14-18, 2016 - GODWIT DAYS (Arcata CA)

www.godwitdays.org

Keynote speaker is David Sibley

MEETUP If you'd like to find out what similar groups to Audubon are doing, consider a social media website called **Meetup**, which sends email reminders of events and it's free! To become a member go to www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society and follow the easy instructions.

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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...

- Sat. Jan 2 - South Fork Kern Valley Christmas Bird Co.
- Sun. Jan 3 - Kern River Valley Christmas Bird Count
- Tues. January 5, 7pm - KAS Program/meeting
- Tues. Jan. 19, 9am - Birds & Bikes
- Sat. Jan. 23 - Tehachapi area ponds
- Jan 30-31 - Southern California field trip

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

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* (10 issues)

___ New Member \$20

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEND this form and your check for \$20 to:

Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____