

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 48 no. 1 – January 2019

Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**

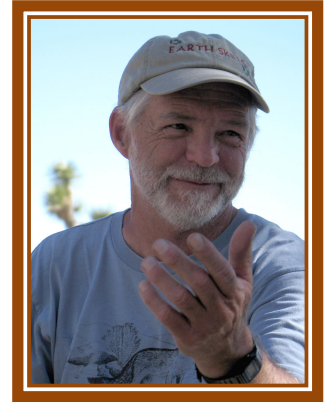
A chapter of National Audubon Society

KERN AUDUBON PROGRAM Tues, January 8th 7pm

Kern County Supt. Of Schools
1300 17th St, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Meet Veteran Tracker, Wilderness Survival Skills Instructor, and Author, Jim Lowery

Please join us as we explore nature with veteran tracker, Jim Lowery of **Earth Skills**. He has trained thousands of naturalists, biologists and rangers. He will share secrets about what those tracks you encounter in the field can tell you - the animal's biology, gender, size, posture and mood. Using examples from our local mountains and urban areas he will teach you many of nature's surprises. He has been an expert consultant for mammal research studies at Edwards Air Force Base and trains State of California field staff on the Central Coast in snowy plover next predator track interpretation. He is the author of **The Tracker's Field Guide** (2006 and 2013) and **Walk with the Animal** (2013) Jim and his wife Mary live in Frazier Park and have led vision quests for 22 years.



January Field Trips

Sat. Jan 5, 8:30-11:30 am - Canebrake Ecological Reserve on the South Fork of the Kern River off Hwy 178: Mickey Dyke will lead a morning bird walk. Level, well-maintained trails wind through two thousand acres of riparian and woodland habitat. Look for Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Western Bluebirds, and Hermit Thrushes among the nearly 100 species found at Canebrake in Dec-Jan. Afterwards, stop for lunch at the historic and charming Onyx Store on Hwy 178 for a made to order sandwich from its well-regarded deli. There are lots of old-time teas, sodas, and candies.

Directions: Canebrake Reserve is on Hwy 178 about 15 miles east of the Isabella Reservoir and past Weldon and Onyx. Reserve's sign and parking lot will be on the left about 5 miles east of Onyx. Carpoolers from Bakersfield meet at 6:30 am at Albertson's parking lot on the north side of the junction of Hwy 178 and Mt Vernon. For info: call Mac McCarthy at (661)589-7768.

Sat. Jan 12, 8:30-11:30 am - Lake Ming and Hart Park

Roger Coley will lead us on a morning of winter birding at Lake Ming and Hart Park. Expect to see a large selection waterfowl and winter birds as well as a Bald Eagle. **Directions:** From Alfred Harrell Highway turn east at the fire station onto Lake Ming Drive and follow it down to the lake. Meet at the first parking lot, dress in warm layers, bring binoculars, water, snacks. For info: call Roger at (661)832-1820

Tues. January 15, 8:30-11:30 am - Bakersfield Treatment Ponds

Gary File will be our leader at a spot with a multitude of waterfowl and shorebirds...good birding and photography opportunities. Good for all levels of birders! **Directions:** From Hwy 58, take Mt Vernon south 2 miles to road's end. Then turn right onto E. Planz Rd and go ½ mile to meet up at the gate. Bring water, binoculars, snacks, and dress in layers. For more information call Mac at (661)589-7768.

Fri.-Mon. Jan. 18-21 – Morro Bay Bird Festival

Join over 500 birders for birdwatching on our beautiful central coast. About 200 species are usually sighted during the festival weekend. For more information go to: morrobaybirdfestival.org

Sat. Jan 19, 9:30-11:30am-Hot Springs Valley Wetlands in Lake Isabella

Join Kerncrest Audubon for a docent led hike at the Hot Springs Valley Wetlands. We will meet behind the Shell Station in the Von's Plaza parking lot at 5610 Lake Isabella Blvd and walk to the Preserve. Our docent will be Reed Tollefson, manager of Audubon CA's Kern River Preserve. Reed will discuss indigenous and migratory wildlife along with the unique wetland environment opportunities and the future development strategies for the Preserve. Bring your binoculars (loaners available) and dress appropriately for changing weather. Here's a link to a video about the Preserve: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=380g69Va3TA>.

Tehachapi Trip Sat. Jan 26, at 8:15 am

Trip will be to the "Tehachapi Ponds," visiting Gene Lake (a groundwater discharge basin), the sewage ponds by the Home Depot, and Tom Sawyer Lake. With hopes to see various waterfowl! Meet at the Burger King in Tehachapi at 8 am to carpool to the 3 sites.

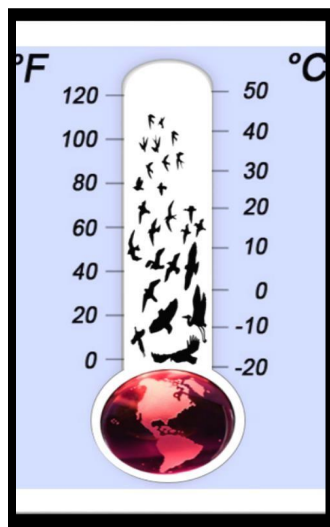
Program: Tuesday, January 29th, 7 PM at Golden Hills School in Tehachapi. Greg Hargleroad, outings chair and local high school science teacher, will speak about waterfowl and why all birds that float are not ducks. Refreshments and raffle to follow.

Advance Preparation for Sat, Feb. 16, Piute Ponds Outing *Apply soon for your personal Access Letter from USAF*

Since the Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, members of the public are welcome after they get a background check and an Access Letter from the Base Security Office. Call Misty Hailstone at (661)275-2435 Mon-Fri 7am to 3pm., or email her at misty.hailstone.1@us.af.mil She needs at least 3-5 business days to process your request. Ask for "recurring access" to use your access letter for future visits.

Climate Corner: Newest Recruits in California's War on Climate Change: Carbon Farmers

More than 80 farmers now engaged in a state-funded program aimed at increasing carbon concentrations in California's soil. Part of the state's overarching goal of curbing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change, the California Healthy Soils Initiative took effect a year ago, when the state's cap-and-trade program made \$7.5 million available in small grants to farmers. That money is used to encourage and implement carbon farming—the buzz term for any strategic agricultural practice that helps suck carbon atoms from the air and into plant tissue and the ground faster than carbon cycles back out. Over time, the process creates rich, carbon-black soil. A growing community of scientists now believe carbon farming will be essential in helping curb global warming trajectories.



Participating farmers add heavy layers of compost to invigorate plant growth while avoiding tilling, which exposes raw soil to the air and allows carbon atoms to bond with oxygen and float off as carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas.

More than half of the Earth's historic soil carbon has been released into the atmosphere by unsustainable farming, according to researchers in the field, and the mission of California's new policy is to put some of that carbon back in the ground.

U.S. carbon farming eventually could lead to annual carbon sequestration of 83 million tons per year on agricultural soils. Given all available lands in the country, including forests, as much as 475 million tons of carbon could be put into the ground each year. That's

significant, if not huge: California alone emitted 472 million tons of CO2 equivalent, in 2016, according to the state's Air Resources Board. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, which manages the soils program, has handed out carbon farming grants to growers in more than 30 counties, including some conservative ones where climate science skepticism may be relatively common.





VS



Raven vs. Crow

Raven or a Crow: How can you tell?

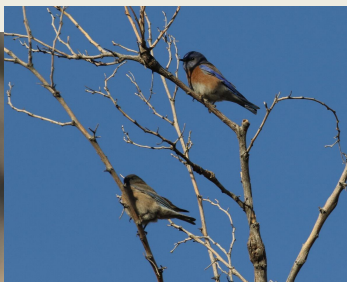
You're outside, enjoying a sunny day when a shadow at your feet causes you to look up. A large, black bird flies over and lands in a nearby tree. You wonder: is that a crow or a raven? These two species, Common Ravens and American Crows, overlap widely throughout North America, and they look quite similar. But with a bit of practice, you can tell them apart. You probably know that ravens are larger, the size of a Red-tailed Hawk. *Ravens often travel in pairs, while crows are seen in larger groups.* Also, watch the bird's tail as it flies overhead. The crow's tail feathers are basically the same length, so when the bird spreads its tail, it opens like a fan. Ravens, however, have longer middle feathers in their tails, so their tail appears wedge-shaped. **On the ground:** A raven's strut is often punctuated by a few two-footed hops. **By voice:** While crows *caw* and *purr*, ravens croak and scream bloody murder. Listen and compare the American Crow to the Common Raven. **In flight:** Ravens ride the thermals and soar, whereas crows do more flapping. Also, the raven's tail resembles a wedge, compared to the rounded fan-like shape of the crow. **Up close:** Ravens have bigger, curvier beaks relative to crows. While both species have bristles at the base of the beak, the ravens are noticeably longer. Its throat feathers are also quite shaggy. **Location-wise:** Common Ravens are much less common than American Crows. Look for ravens foraging in pairs; crows are highly sociable and will hang out in murders and communal roosts.

Birds Sighted by Members

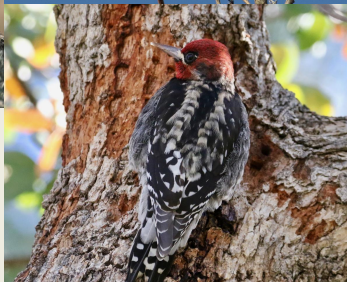
Submitted by Mike Iseman, Mickey Dyke, Jake Abel, Maria Polite



Burrowing Owl



Bush Tit



Cedar Waxwing

Christmas Auction

Many thanks to the members who either made an item for the auction or provided one. We had over 40 items! A special thanks to **Randi Hodson** who provided two quilts for the live auction. **Joe Bugni** provided a dozen jars of his locally produced honey. **David Schaad** provide several stone jewelry items that he made. **Al Catano** made two artful birdhouses. Many local businesses provided us with gift cards/certificates. Please show your appreciation by becoming a customer. Be sure to mention the Kern Audubon Society! The businesses are: **Quality Shoe and Foot care, Too Fat Sandwich Shop, Spencer's Restaurants, Dewars, Bill Lee's, Frugattis, Tejon Ranch Conservancy, Wind Wolves, Buena Vista Museum, Bakersfield Melodrama, Outback Steakhouse, La Costa, and Chef Noodle Bar.**

KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, and get updates on field trips and programs! Laura Fahey manages our Facebook, email her at: ityzmom@sbcglobal.net.



Raffle Items Needed

Have more than one item at home? Received a gift that you do not need? If you answered 'yes' to one of these questions, please bring the item (or buy one) to our monthly meeting. We need more items for our raffle.



Kern Audubon Executive Board 2018-2019

PRESIDENT- ADMIN. TEAM

VICE PRESIDENT – ADMIN. TEAM

SECRETARY – ADMIN. TEAM

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Board Meeting Jan. 15, 2019 6pm



Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Sign up for **Meetup!**
www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society

Many thanks to **Carly Summers** for updating events on the site.



Do you use Amazon for your shopping needs? If so, sign up for **AmazonSmile**. A percent (0.5%) of your purchases will go to the Kern Audubon Society. Sign up today on your Amazon account home page. There is no cost to KAS or to you, an AmazonSmile customer.

PHOTOS NEEDED!

Please send photos of birds you have seen on an outing, in your backyard, or anywhere else to **Harry Love**
harrylove1944@gmail.com
We would like to celebrate birds you have seen!

Quick Announcements from Kern Audubon!

Kern Audubon Board of Directors meetings are open to any member. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month Aug-May, except Dec. Usually at 6:00 pm in the same location as for our monthly meetings, at Kern Co Sup of Schools at 17th + L Sts. Contact is Harry at 805-1420 harrylove1944@gmail.com

Good Ol' Audubon Fun

PVP



Tillie Creek



Birding in the Uplands Area Along Bike Path



Bird Outing to Pixley to See Sand Hill Cranes



Kern Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3581

Bakersfield, CA 93385

Kernaudubonsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The basic membership dues cover the cost of your subscription to the Warbler. Please consider joining or renewing at a higher level to support the important environmental education and conservation projects critical to the protection of wildlife and the environment. All of your membership dues will be used to support our local education and conservation efforts.

(Note: Membership in Kern Audubon Society does not make you a member of National Audubon. You must complete a separate membership form with National Audubon on its website. See link at bottom of this page.)

Check all boxes that apply to your membership in KAS.

_____ I am a new member

_____ I am a renewing member

_____ Individual membership \$20

_____ Student \$15

_____ Family membership \$35

_____ Benefactor Membership \$100

_____ Condor life time membership \$1,000

Donations: _____ \$5 supporter (recurring monthly) _____ \$10 sustaining (recurring monthly)

One time: _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other amount _____

Print this form. Make your check for membership in KAS and any additional donations payable to **Kern Audubon Society**. Mail check and this membership form to:

P.O. Box 3581, Bakersfield, CA 93385

If you wish to pay by credit card, you may use the Pay Pal button on our web site (kernaudubonsociety.org)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Kern Audubon Society will not sell or distribute any member information to any other organization.

If you want to also join National Audubon go to: <https://www.audubon.org>