

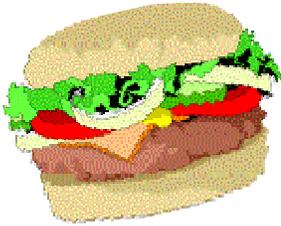


AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 36 No. 6 - JUNE 2007
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

KERN AUDUBON GATHERING

Tuesday JUNE 5, 2007 - 6:00PM
BBQ & POTLUCK



Where: CSUB Environmental Studies
Area/FACT

Turn north on Runner Drive from Camino Media, then right into the parking lot.
Go thru parking lot onto dirt road to ESA fence.

When: 6:00 - 9:00pm

6:00pm - TOURS of Cactus/Succulent Garden,
FACT (Facility for Care & Treatment of Animals) &
Desert Tortoise Compound

7:00pm - BBQ DINNER

8:00pm - "THE DESERT TORTOISE"

Presentation by Don Williams, president Kern
Chapter, Calif Turtle & Tortoise Club



What to bring: salad, side dish or dessert

Plus \$5.00/person for burgers, hotdogs, drinks/table service

Kern Audubon members will barbeque
*Come and enjoy a casual evening of fun
& fellowship as we end our program year!*

Looking ahead...There will be NO regular meetings of Kern Audubon Society and no regularly scheduled field trips during July & August. However, a trip to the Kern River Preserve to see the Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Summer Tanager just may happen. Check the website for updates!

THANK YOU, Kern Audubon

Greg Warrick of the Center for Natural Lands Management, presented the program for Kern Audubon in March on three nature preserves owned and managed by CNLM in Kern County: Semitropic, Sand Ridge, Lokern. Greg manages the preserves and also led us on a field trip to two of the sites. A thank you was recently received: *I want to thank the KAS for the encouraging letter and check...I plan on adding the money to the Sand Ridge Preserve endowment. Your gift is appreciated and will help support our efforts to protect the natural resources at this site...A professor from UC Berkely intends to describe the legless lizard from Sand Ridge as a new species. This adds even more importance to the site, since it may be the only known protected land this lizard occupies.*

Sincerely, Gregg Warrick

Kern Auduboner Named Teacher of Year

Michael McQuerry was recently named Teacher of the Year by the Kern High School District. Michael is a teacher at Liberty High School in the music program and an avid birder. He recently led the Poso Creek field trip. Congratulations, Michael!

TUESDAY BIRDERS

The Tuesday Birders meet the first & third Tuesday mornings, June 5 & 19. Beginning birders as well as the experienced are welcome! Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for meeting time and place.



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@yahoo.com for recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

ASK AUDUBON...The newest addition to Audubon's Newswire: submit questions re:consumer choices and the effect on the environment: cblayer@audubon.org.

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

Tricolored Blackbird Colonies Fail Thousands of Tricolored Blackbirds in northwestern Kern County have mysteriously abandoned several nesting colonies in grain fields and cattail marshes. As a result, a joint effort by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon California, and Kern Audubon Society to save a colony of over 50,000 birds was foiled by the whims of spring weather. The plan involved payment to a dairyman to delay harvest of his 58 acre silage crop until the birds had fledged. A grant of \$5,000 to Kern Audubon Society from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. was matched by another donor to help reach the funding goal. According to Graham Chisholm, Audubon California's Director of Conservation, who facilitated the PG&E grant to Kern Audubon, the money will be held to possibly fund another rescue effort in the future.



Dave Hardt and Scott Frazer, of Kern National Wildlife Refuge, report that the birds had built nests and a few had laid eggs, but left the fields before any eggs hatched. The causal factors are unknown, but they believe a limited food supply, caused by unusually dry and variable weather this spring, was a major reason for the breeding failure. According to Hardt, the local Tricolored breeding population was estimated at 75,000 less than last year and a similar decline has been seen in a smaller population in southern California. Since 99% of the 250,000-300,000 birds in the world live in Kern and Tulare Counties, this trend could become catastrophic to the survival of the species.

Dr. Bob Meese, UC Davis ornithologist, who has worked with the protected bird for several years, is studying the Tricolored Blackbird populations and breeding sites in an attempt to determine just what happened.

Barbara Patrick Joins Great Valley Center

Former Kern County Supervisor Barbara Patrick has joined the staff of the Great Valley Center whose mission is to support "the economic, social and environmental well-being of California's Central Valley. Keep her in mind to receive concerns you have about the quality of life in Bakersfield and Kern County. Contact her by email: barbara@greatvalley.org or call (661)805-7770. A letter of congratulations has been sent on behalf of Kern Audubon.

CARRIZO PLAIN...The public is urged to offer input to the Bureau of Land management regarding the future of the Carrizo Plain Nat'l Monument. Please go to our website for a comment form: www.kernaudubonsociety.org

FOR THE BIRDS...

Paper or plastic? That's the question we often get at the grocery store check-out line, but now we are realizing there's an environmental dilemma no matter which way we go. While paper bags decompose, they "generate 70% more air pollutants and 50% more water pollutants than plastic bags" (*LA Times*, 4/10/07). On the other hand, it is estimated that plastic bags kill at least 100,000 birds, whales, seals and turtles every year (*365 Ways to Change the World*) and are an eyesore all over the landscape. So what to do?! CANVAS BAGS is the way to go, if I could just remember to put them in the car when we go shopping! It seems like a small thing to do to help the environment, but when each of us continues to do those "small" things, it adds up to making a difference, just as it does when we switch to CFL's instead of incandescent light bulbs. And re-using plastic water bottles instead of buying more is another way to resist the the culture's fixation with "pure" water. It is distressing to think how many millions of those bottles end up in the landfill!

It seems like "going green" is finally catching on in the business and corporate world, though there is a long way to go. But it is encouraging to see it happen, however slowly, and to know that we personally can cleanup our own habits for the sake of changing the world!

As we prepare to take a summer break, I want to thank all the field trip leaders, the officers who got involved this year and are doing good work, to the Coley's who address & mail the newsletter, and to those who have helped out at meetings with set-up and refreshments! Thanks to Ted for being such a wealth of knowledge about Kern County and for being such a fun Co-Chair (plus managing the website)! He and I look forward to seeing you at FACT on June 5th for the BBQ, tours and a program on the endangered Desert Tortoise.

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair

FIELD TRIP

Sat. June 2, 2007

Destination: Paiute Ponds
Edwards Air Force Base

Schedule & details contact
Ted Murphy 325-0307 &
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Endangered Species Day in the Classroom

Kern Audubon's Secretary is Lisa Twiford, a teacher at a Delano elementary school, where her 5th grade classroom observed Endangered Species Day. She had each student make a poster of an endangered animal which were posted around the school. In addition, the Critter Creek Rehab Center brought birds of prey to show students and one of the biologists from the Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge spoke about endangered species. The students also signed the online pledge not to hurt endangered animals. Good work, Lisa!

GOT EMAIL? If Kern Audubon doesn't have your email address and you wish to receive updates about field trips, etc. between newsletters and meetings, send your address to madielsea@aol.com. If you want to receive a PDF. file instead of hardcopy of the *Warbler*, send an email with PDF Warbler as the subject to tmurphy@bak.rr.com

Audubon Action News Alert

- **AUDUBON TESTIFIES ON WIND POWER** - On May 1, Audubon's Director of Conservation Policy Mike Daulton testified before Congress at a hearing entitled, "Gone with the Wind: The Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds and Bats." Audubon supports properly-sited **wind power** as a necessary **solution to global warming** but recommends further action to ensure migratory birds are provided with adequate safeguards. On the heels of the Congressional hearing, the National Academy of Sciences released a major report on the impacts of wind power on birds and wildlife. The report rightly concludes that our challenge is to **design and locate wind-power projects to minimize the negative impacts on birds**.
- **BIRD KILLS AT COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS** - Audubon joined with Defenders of Wildlife, the American Bird Conservancy, and other groups in filing comments on an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to **reduce bird kills**. To comply with its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the FCC must adopt regulations to require analysis of the effects of its licensing and permitting actions on migratory birds. The comments, filed April 23, advocate changes such as:
 - All new and existing lit towers should use only white strobes or red strobes/blinking lights (no steady burning red lights).
 - Guy wires should be kept off new towers.
 - Co-location of antennae on existing towers should be encouraged. Where co-location is not possible, tower height should be less than 200' where possible

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Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON:
Sat. June 2 Field Trip
Paiute Ponds
Tues. June 5, 6-9pm
BBQ, TOURS & FUN at FACT

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 # _____