

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 36 No. 5 -MAY 2007 Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society** A chapter of National Audubon Society www.kernaudubonsociety.org

KERN AUDUBON GATHERING Tuesday MAY 1, 2007 - 7:00PM

Location: Kern Superintendent of Schools (17th & L Sts.)
(Street parking or in the lot at 18th & K)

"The San Joaquin Valley: The Way It Was"

John Lindsay - photographer, birder, teacher/administrator
John Lindsay is Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Kern County, and an acccomplished
biologist, birder and photographer as well. He will be presenting a program on the San Joaquin
Valley and its habitat and wildlife---the way it was in pioneer days! John is a long-time member
of Kern Audubon and will bring us a fascinating look at our "Valley"...

Refreshments served and great RAFFLE prizes...come and bring a friend!!

Sat. MAY 5 - Field Trip KERN RIVER PRESERVE "Migrant Corner"

Bob Barnes, who led a great trip to Butterbredt Spring in April, will help us see some of the thousands of migrant songbirds passing through the Migrant Corner of the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, Saturday, May 5. According to Bob, the peak of migration should be around May 5! Meet to car pool at 5:15am so that we can leave by 5:30am!! We are leaving early in order to get there for the best viewing time! Meet at the Shell Station/Jack in the Box on the northeast corner of Brundage Lane and Union Ave. (Union Ave. exit off Hiway 58). We will have an early lunch (11-11:30AM) at the Sierra Vista Restaurant and be home by early afternoon. If you prefer, bring a lunch.

Call Ted Murphy (325-0307) or Madi Elsea (322-7470) for information or see http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org/

Upcoming Field Trips...

Kern Audubon will be having several field trips during May in addition to the Kern River Preserve "Migrant Corner", but dates, leadership and locations are still being arranged. Possibilities are Poso Creek and the Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge to view Tri-colored blackbirds. Go to the website or look for an email update for information! We will likely schedule trips on Sat. May 12 & May 19...

http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org

The Verb 'To Bird'

You will surely enjoy this special book, *The Verb 'To Bird'*: *Sightings of an Avid Birder* by Peter Cashwell, an English teacher by profession and avid birder by inner calling. (www.petercashwell.com).

Selected by Barnes and Noble as the "Discover Great New Writers" selection for Summer 2003, the book, according to the publisher, is: "Part memoir, part natural history, part apology...and... will enlighten and entertain anyone who's ever wandered around wet fields at the crack of dawn with dog-eared field guides crushed against the granola bars in their pockets. But you don't have to know the field marks of an indiao buntina appreciate Cashwell's to experiences with non-lending libraries, venomous insects, sports, marketing, and animated Christmas specials.

When you read this book you will learn about birds, birders, and birding; grammar, history, literature, and psychology. You'll chuckle or laugh, nod in agreement, and maybe a "hmm" of enlightenment ... this book is hard to put down!

Kern Audubon has acquired copies at a discount and will make it available to Chapter members for only \$10, \$5 off the list price. Pick up your copy at the **May 1st meeting** and field trips. It will make a great gift for a friend who is a birder, even better for someone you wish to join you in this adventure.

Makes a great gift for Mother's Day!!!

CALM'S 24th birthday is Sat. May 19th, 10am - 4pm with lots of activities and special presentations. Support our local zoo and enjoy a fun day! Go to www.calmzoo.org for information.

TUESDAY BIRDERS

The Tuesday Birders will meet Tuesday mornings May 1 & 15. 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

What¹s unusual in Kern County birding? Go to kerncobirding@yahoogroups.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.

Environmental News...for updates on envirornmental matters, check out these excellent sources: Grist Magazine (Gloom and doom with a sense of humor) www.grist.org/cgi-bin/signmeup.pl?
ENS WORLD NEWS www.topica.com/f/v. html

http://birdingonthe.net/mailinglists/KERN.html

GOT E-MAIL?

If Kern Audubon doesn't have your email address and you would like to receive updates about field trips and other announcements between newsletters, send your address to madielsea@aol.com.

e-Warbler...if you would rlike to receive the Kern *Audubon Warbler* as a pdf file instead of the hardcopy, send an e-mail with PDF Warbler as the subject to tmurphy@bak.rr.com

Upcoming Bird Festivals

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<u>May 4-6, 2007</u> - YOSEMITE BIRDING FESTIVAL in the incomparable Yosemite Valley ...see diverse habitats and great birds! Go to www.yosemite.org/seminars

<u>June 7-10, 2007</u> - POTHOLES & PRAIRIE BIRDING FESTIVAL, Carrington, No. Dakota. Join birding experts from the *Bird Watcher's Digest* to explore the praries pothole region of central ND:Info@birdingdrives.com or www.birdingdrives.com.

<u>August 1-5, 2007</u> - Southwest Wings Birding & Nature Festival at the base of the Huahuca Mountains in southern Arizona (Sierra Vista)....the best birding in Arizona! Call 520-678-8237

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)

BIRD BANDING OPPORTUNITY...

Dr. Meese, UCDavis, is working on the Tricolored Blackbird situation and will be banding birds for the next few weeks. Volunteer helpers are need. If you are interested in being involved, call Scott Frazer, KNWR, 661-725-2767 for details.

Tricolored Blackbird Colony Near Kern Refuge

Scott Frazer, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, reports a colony of Tricolored Blackbirds has been established in a huge cattail growth at the northwest corner of Gun Club Road at Sherwood Road, southeast of the refuge, the same as last year.

To see and hear a real spectacle, 50,000 or more birds, take I-5 to Hwy 46, then go about 8mi. east to Gun Club Road, then north 5 mi. to Sherwood. Or from Hiway 99, take Hiway 46 west 10 miles to Gun Club, then north to Sherwood.

"The birds are foraging on nearby irrigated croplands and cross the public roads in large numbers making viewing easy from the public road." says Scott, who emphasizes the need for visitors to stay on county roads and avoid entering private property. Take a folding chair and birdwatch from the roadside and go SOON or you will miss the spectacle!

Other colonies are being established in the area and KAS is planning a field trip to the area in early May. Check the website for latest developments.

Kern County is home of a number of protected/sensitive species. The Tricolored blackbird is the only fully protected blackbird in California and numbers only about 300,000 worldwide with over 99% of those in Kern County. (Call Scott Frazer 661-725-2767 for more information.)

BURROWING OWL SURVEY...

Kern County has 93 Burrowing Owl "blocks" that need to be surveyed for The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) survey of the breeding range of this species, with 20 blocks in the area surrounding Bakersfield. Volunteers are needed to conduct the surveys which help inform the status and distribution of this sensitive species. Volunteering is fun! Each block is approx. 3 X 3 mi. and is visited once during the surveyperiod, May 15 - July 15th. Maps of the survey area, instructions, data forms, and assistance are provided. Censusing usually takes between 5 -20 hours, depending on the location of the block, and usually between dawn--10am or 4pm--dusk, when owl activity is greatest.



To volunteer, contact Bill Lydecker (wlydecker@bak.rr.com or 664-1174), a member of Kern Audubon and the Volunteer Coordinator for our area. Bill will be hosting a brief training session at his home on Sat. April 28, 3pm (2800 Trengate) and after the Kern Audubon meeting on May 1st. Let him know which session works for you. A great opportunity to be involved in a vital project that needs our assistance!

Audubon Action News Alert Write to your members of Congress today!

Tell your Representative and Senators to cosponsor crucial global warming legislation—the Safe Climate Act of 2007 (HR 1590), introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman in the House of Representatives, and the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act of 2007 (S 309), introduced by Sens. Bernie Sanders and Barbara Boxer in the Senate. Both bills would mandate the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that scientists say are needed to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

By tackling the biggest cause of global warming pollution—the burning of fossil fuels—we can create jobs, build a more secure future for our children, and leave behind all the wasteful, dirty practices that accompany our current energy path. Coal mining and oil drilling destroy critical bird and wildlife habitat. Air pollution from cars, factories and power plants harms our health and that of our children. A shift toward clean, renewable energy is a shift toward a healthier planet and a brighter future for us all! Many of the technologies needed to make these changes are available now and can be deployed to make an immediate difference, if Congress acts now.

Please write to your members of Congress today. You will be joining thousands of people who have taken action in recent weeks. On March 20, concerned citizens boarded buses to Washington, D.C. for the Climate Crisis Action Day. Rally participants took their concerns to Congress, demanding action on global warming now. Last Saturday, thousands of people participated in over 1,400 Step It Up events nationwide (including many sponsored by Audubon chapters), calling on Congress to reduce global warming pollution 80 percent by 2050. Global warming is a real problem—with real solutions that we can implement today.

Looking ahead to JUNE 5, 6:00PM.... The June meeting of Kern Audubon will take place FACT (The Facility for Animal Care & Treatment), located on the CSUB campus. We will hav BBQ and potluck PLUS tours of FACT and the Desert Tortoise Compound! This will be a specered evening of food and fun, so put it on your June calendars! More info to follow... Looking ahead to JUNE 5, 6:00PM.... The June meeting of Kern Audubon will take place at FACT (The Facility for Animal Care & Treatment), located on the CSUB campus. We will have a BBQ and potluck PLUS tours of FACT and the Desert Tortoise Compound! This will be a special

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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...

- <u>Tues. May 1</u>- Kern Audubon meeting/programwith John Lindsay on "The San Joaquin Valley: The Way it Was" -7pm
- <u>Sat. May 5</u> Field trip to Kern River Preserve's "Migrant Corner" - 5:30am
- Sat. May 12 & 19 check the website!
 All meetings & activities are open to the public - bring your friends and family!

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 <i>Audubon Magazine</i>	(6 Issues) and	the Audubon's	Warbler. (11	issues,
New Member \$20	Renewal	\$35		
Make check payable to Na	tional Audubon	Society		

Send check & form to ...Kern Audubon PO Box 3581 Bakersfield CA 93385

I am enclosing an additional of (Check paya	tax-deductible donation for the work of Kern Audubon in the amount able to Kern Audubon)		
Name(s)	Amount enclosed		
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City	Zin Code Phone #		