



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No. 5 - MAY 2008

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society

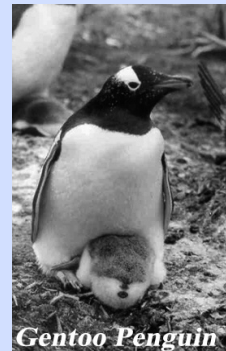
A chapter of National Audubon Society

www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Gathering
TUES. MAY 6, 2008 - 7:00pm
Kern Co. Supt. of Schools
17th & L Streets, Bakersfield

"Birds & Pinipeds of Cape Shirreff, Antartica"

Presented by Brigitta McDonald, US Antartica Marine Living Resources Program



Guest speaker Brigitta McDonald is part of the US-Antartica Marine Living Resources Program, sponsored by NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She is a Ph.D. candidate at UC Santa Cruz, conducting her dissertation research on the reproductive and foraging behavior of Antarctic fur seals at Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. She will be giving an overview of the penguin and seal research conducted at Cape Shirreff, a protected area located on Livingstone Island, part of the South Shetland Island Chain at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. It is the home to abundant wildlife. Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins breed there every summer and there are many other penguin species that visit. It is also the location of the southernmost breeding colony of Antarctic fur seals. Ms. McDonald will be discussing the research being conducted on the behavior and ecology of these species and how this plays a role in a larger ecosystem-monitoring program.

Gitti McDonald is the daughter of Kern Audubon members Bill & Lynn McDonald.

Refreshments served...plus great RAFFLE prizes!

MAY FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 10 – Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge This refuge is the traditional feeding and roosting habitat of the California condor, which we hope to see, as well as providing habitat for San Joaquin kit fox, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and Tule elk. A total of 119 bird species has been recorded at Bittercreek, including 90 migratory species. The 14,000 acre refuge is located in the southwestern San Joaquin Valley foothills of Kern County. **The field trip will be led by Mike Stockton, manager of the Bittercreek Refuge.**

Meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Highway across from CSUB for CARPOOLING at 8:a.m. for an 8:15 departure, returning by approximately 1:30 p.m. Bring snacks/lunch, water, sunscreen, binoculars, etc. For more information, call Roger at 832-1820.

Saturday, May 24 – Birding in the Neighborhood. On your lunch hour? Want a quick break from housework? Need to plan a short activity with children or grandchildren? This field trip will highlight three Bakersfield birding sites not previously visited by our group, which can provide a brief but pleasant birding experience. Join Roger & Barb Coley, field trip leaders for this fun outing. We'll meet at the Kern River Parkway parking lot across from CSUB for CARPOOLING at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 departure. Some walking, but not strenuous...return between 12-1pm. Bring snacks & water, sunscreen, binoculars, as usual. For more information, call Roger at 832-1820.

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KITTY LITTER BUCKETS STILL NEEDED

Andy Honig (325-0026) still needs those kittly litter containers! He and Bill Cooper have planted about 20 oak trees near the Kern River in the Panorama Vista Preserve that need to be hand-watered. Andy has found that the 30 lb. size plastic kittly litter buckets or containers work very well for hauling water. *Please bring any you can share to the next Kern Audubon meeting, May 6th!* Or contact Andy if you won't be there and he will arrange to pick yours up. He could also help with the watering, so give him a call! We appreciate all that Andy and others have done to make this preserve a reality!

West Nile Hotline If you find a dead bird and it appears to have been dead less than 24 hours, call the West Nile Virus hotline: 877-968-2473. The bird will be picked up and tested for West Nile. If the bird seems dead longer than that, use a plastic bag to pick the bird up and deposit in your garbage. Wash your hands !

Websites to check out...

Kern Birding For a comprehensive website about 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@yahoogroups.com for 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

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. Save some trees!

Sign up today to receive **Audubon ACTION ALERT** online! Using Audubon's simple, online action tools, you can influence decision makers on important Audubon conservation priorities.

Audubon California:

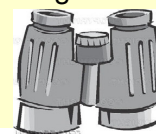
<http://audubonaction.org/California/join.html>

National Audubon Society:

<http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html>

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

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



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

RAFFLE PRIZES are always needed for our monthly fund-raiser. Bring a wildlife-related article or something really special to share for our next meeting, May 6th!

THANKS TO LUCY CLARK FOR PBS ANNOUNCEMENT

Lucy Clark, KAS member and president of the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society, is sponsoring an announcement on KVPR in May, on behalf of Kern Audubon. The announcement will say:

Today's programming on FM89 is provided in part by Kern Audubon, celebrating the 20th birthday of Molloko, the first CA condor chick conceived and hatched in captivity.

Go to www.savetejonranch.org for more info.

Thank you, Lucy Clark!

Josh Bradley Signs Book Deal

Josh Bradley, a CSUB biology grad who works as an environmental consultant, is making great strides in pursuit of a career in photography. He is associated with B. "Moose" Peterson, a foremost wildlife photographer (Wildlife Research Photography), accompanying him on photo shoots and photography workshops. Recently, Moose gave Josh the job of teaching the workshops.

Last month Josh signed a contract with Wiley Publishing Co. to write a user's manual for Nik Software, a post-processing program used by digital photographers. The book is scheduled to be published in the fall. Josh has donated a number of his outstanding photos to Kern Audubon for our December auction. You can see his images at www.joshbradley.net. Josh & his wife, Dawn are members of Kern Audubon and Dawn serves as Kern Audubon's raffle-barbecue-auction coordinator. Good luck to Josh and thanks to both of them!

KERN RIVER SPRING FESTIVAL

It's not too late to attend the Kern River Valley Spring Festival taking place this week, Wed. Apr 30 - Tues. May 6 at the Kern River Preserve east of Lake Isabella. Activities and field trips abound, so go to the website: <http://kern.audubon.org> for schedule. Three members of Kern Audubon are leading field trips: John Wilson, Michael McQuerry & Gary File.

BIRDIEST INLAND COUNTY COUNT

It's time to count birds again for the "birdiest inland county" competition, which Kern County won last year with 235 species for the 72 hour count. If you are able to bird Kern Co. during ANY of the hours during the count dates of 7pm Thurs. May 1 - 7pm Sun. May 4th, please submit your sightings via email to Bob Barnes: bbarnes@lightspeed.net. Areas that still need coverage are Arvin ponds, Bakersfield, Frazier Park, Piute Mountains, Wind Wolves Preserve (common ground dove), Buena Vista Lake, Tule Elk Reserve. For more information contact Madi Elsea (322-7470) or email Bob.



The National Audubon Society has recently announced a new initiative in alliance with and funded by Toyota called "TogetherGreen". The goals of the program are to nurture conservation leaders, achieve conservation results and engage millions of Americans in conservation action. The leadership program will be developing 200 "Fellows" who will take part in the program over 5 years. The conservation innovation grants program (Grow GREEN) will select and fund local initiatives planned to generate tangible conservation results. Grants will be awarded to innovative endeavors to engage communities in conserving land, water, energy and wildlife.

The Kern Audubon Executive team will be looking at possible ways we might take advantage of this exciting program. If you have ideas about projects contact Ted Murphy (325-0307) or Madi Elsea (322-7470). For more information, go to the website: www.audubon.org & click on "TogetherGreen"

REDUCE KERN AUDUBON'S "carbon footprint" by carpooling on our field trips! This saves gas and energy and it's fun!

Looking ahead to TUES. JUNE 3rd...Join us for the second "annual" end-of-the-year BBQ! We had such a great time last year that we will once again be on the grounds of FACT at Cal State, Bakersfield. Tours of FACT/Desert Tortoise Compound, good food and fellowship, and a special program. More info to follow...

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. May 6, 7:00pm - Meeting & program : Penguins & Fur Seals of Antartica
- Sat. May 10, 8:00AM - Field trip to Bittercreek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
- Sat. May 24, 8:00am - Field trip to discover Bakersfield birding spots

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 # _____