



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 5 -MAY 2009

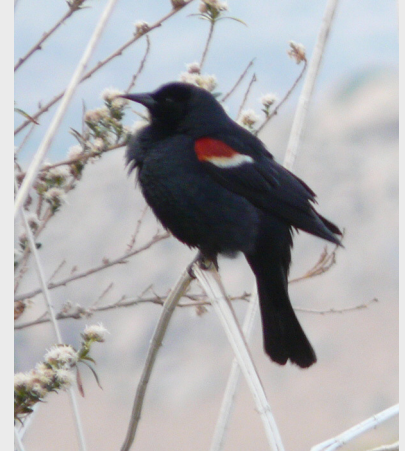
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

**TUES. MAY 5, 2009**

**7:00pm**

Kern Audubon Meeting & Program  
Kern Sup't of Schools - 17th & L Sts.

**THE TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD:**  
**Birding colonies, Farming & Cows**  
**Presented by Dr. Robert Meese,**  
**leading expert on Tricoloreds**



Dr. Robert Meese has been working for over 5 years with Tricolored Blackbirds, a species of special concern in California due to loss of habitat. The Tricolored Blackbird is the most colonial songbird in North America where it tends to breed in immense colonies(60-100,000 birds) in crops that dairy farmers grow to feed their milk cows. Often, only 2-3 of these silage colonies are conserved each year and the rest are lost through harvest, severely limiting reproduction. Dr. Meese is working with private landowners and agencies to try to conserve or create conditions favored by breeding tricoloreds, including the purchase of fields, In May 2008 Audubon California reached a settlement with a Tulare County farmer that resulted in a colony of 80,000 tricoloreds being rescued.

Much of Dr. Meese's work is in the field, where he has had a lot of time for personal as well as professional observation of this beautiful species of blackbird, which is found in great numbers in Kern County. He has been a research associate at UC Davis for over 20 years and his work with tricoloreds is supported by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Calif Dept of Fish & Game.

We look forward to a very interesting presentation at our May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting!

**FIELD TRIP - MAY 23, 2009, 6AM**  
**GALILEO HILL**

If you've ever wondered what a "migrant trap" is, this is your opportunity to find out! Michael McQuerry & Gary File, expert birders and Kern Audubon members, will lead us on a field trip to a migrant trap in the middle of the desert located at the Silver Saddle Resort at Galileo Hill, 10 miles east of California City. This desert oasis in an otherwise arid landscape attracts songbirds migrating across the desert on their way to the mountains of the West and farther north and has often reported some of the rarest vagrants known to California.

We will leave at 6:00 am, meeting at the Shell Station/Jack-in-the-Box at the corner of Brundage & Union, one block off Hiway 58 (Union exit). This is an early start, but the desert gets warm early and the birds get up early! Bring water, snacks, layered clothing. We will return to Bakersfield around noon. Contact Madi for more information: 322-7470.

**FOR THE BIRDS...**The next meeting of the Kern Audubon Executive Board will be Mon. May 18, 7pm (location TBA) and we will be meeting with the new Audubon California Central Valley/Sierra Conservation Coordinator, Jordan Wellwood. Executive Board meetings are held monthly and are open to interested chapter members. Contact me or Ted Murphy if you are interested in attending. We are also working on updating the chapter's By-Laws and will put them on the website for review after the next board meeting.

Your Executive Board would like to invite you to consider getting involved with the work of Kern Audubon because as you know, field trips, programs, publicity, etc. don't happen by magic...they take people working together to get them organized! We are looking for persons who could handle (individually or as a team) these responsibilities:

- PUBLICITY (approximately 2 hours a month, all by computer)
- PROGRAM COORDINATORS (most of the programs for next year are already being scheduled so we need folks to handle arrangements that make monthly programs enjoyable and run smoothly)
- FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS (Since re-energizing Kern Audubon we've had stellar field trips and are looking for a team of folks to make the arrangements and help with coordinating the twice-monthly offerings)

Please contact me, Ted Murphy or Ginny Dallas if you'd like more information. Remember, "it's for the birds"!

Madi Elsea, Co-Chair (322-7470)

### **KEEP THOSE FEEDERS CLEAN**

The hot weather has started, so hummingbird food spoils quickly. Keep feeders clean using a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water. Use a bottle brush to clean the inside and rinse well. Fill feeders with sugar water (four parts hot water to one part white sugar, boiled for 1-2 minutes.) Never use honey and avoid red food coloring. *Change solution twice a week during the hot weather!!*

### **Websites to check out...**

**Kern Birding** For a comprehensive website about numerous Kern County birding locations go to [www.natureali.org/birding.htm](http://www.natureali.org/birding.htm).

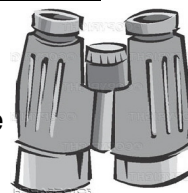
**Kern County Bird Sightings/photos** Go to this website for what's unusual in Kern County: [kerncobirding@yahoo.com](mailto:kerncobirding@yahoo.com) You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehey, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

**www.Audubon-ca.org** is a great website about the activities and organization of Audubon California

Remember to check out Kern Audubon's own website.....**www.kernaudubonsociety.org**

### **TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.**

Tues. MAY 19th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time & place to meet. All birders are welcome!



### **QUESTION ABOUT RENEWALS??**

If you are wondering if your Audubon membership has expired or if you are due for renewal, you should have gotten a notice from the National Audubon Society. Kern Audubon does have information about the date your membership expires and you can send your renewal through us by using the form on the back page. But National Audubon is responsible for sending membership renewal notices. However, feel free to contact Kern Audubon's Membership Coordinator to find out when your membership expires: Annette Wells (333-4019) or [awells0526@yahoo.com](mailto:awells0526@yahoo.com)

### **KERN RIVER PARKWAY WORK PARTY**

**Sat. May 23 - 8:00am**

Kern River Parkway Foundation will be relocating the current irrigation system away from the bike path in order to account for the root systems growth and subsequent interference with the path. We need 60 volunteers for about 2 hours on May 9th, meeting at The Park at River Walk amphitheater at 8:00 am. If you can help out, be there on May 9th! Contact Deb See ([seemoffats@aol.com](mailto:seemoffats@aol.com)) for more information.

**Looking ahead to Tues. JUNE 3, 6:00pm. - DEEP PIT BBQ** Once again we will have a season ending BBQ at FACT, Facility for Animal Care & Treatment (CSUB). This year the meal will be a catered DEEP PIT BBQ, making it easy on everyone. Cost :\$10/person. Put it on your calendar now!!

## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor  
madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

## **ANTARCTIC "SAFARI"**

Have you ever dreamed of going to Antarctica or South Georgia? Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris has offered our Audubon chapter the opportunity to travel on two amazing trips to the Southern Ocean, with Kern Audubon receiving \$500 for each person who registers:

*Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands - December 28, 2009 to January 25, 2010*

Antarctica is a marvel of wildlife abundance in the face of a dramatic, severe, yet beautiful landscape. Imagine yourself among a colony of over 100,000 King Penguins or among Rockhopper, Gentoo, Macaroni, Chinstrap, and Adelie penguins displaying passionately during the short Antarctic summer! With the most in-depth itinerary and more time on shore, you'll see the best this region has to offer. For more information go to:

[www.cheesemans.com/antarctica\\_sg\\_dec09.html](http://www.cheesemans.com/antarctica_sg_dec09.html)

*South Georgia and the Falkland Islands*  
*October 15 – November 8, 2009*

This landscape of vast glaciers pouring into the sea provides rare beauty that words cannot convey. Explore colonies of King Penguins, Elephant Seals in their peak of breeding activity, and colonies of Wandering, Grey-headed, Light-mantled Sooty and Black-browed Albatross.

*Doug, Gail, and Ted Cheeseman are long-time members of Audubon and have been leading trips to Antarctica since 1984. As wildlife biologists and photographers, they focus on providing an in-depth wildlife experience with maximum field time and an emphasis on conservation. Please call them with any questions: (800) 527-5330*

## **BIRD PHOTO CONTEST**

Bird-loving photographers are invited to submit entries for the newly-announced *Audubon Magazine Photography Awards: Birds in Focus*. The awards are presented in association with Nature's Best Photography magazine and sponsored by Nikon. Entries will be accepted online, May 15- July 15 in Professional, Amateur, and Youth categories. Award recipients, selected by a panel of distinguished judges, will be announced in December and will have their work displayed by *Audubon* and *Nature's Best Photography*, both in print and online. Prizes include:

- *Journey to Peru's Tambopata National Reserve*
- *An ultimate birding safari to Australia's "Top End," the Northern Territory*
- *14-day Tropical Rivers and Rainforest cruise through South America*
- *Opportunity to travel to Honduras with Audubon wildlife photographer Roy Toft*
- *A Nikon D80 digital SLR camera, 18-55mm NIKKOR VR lens, and a set of Nikon EDG 8x32 binoculars*

**Submissions:** Accepted May 15 - July 15, 2009. Up to 10 images per entrant. For details, visit [www.AudubonMagazinePhotoAwards.com](http://www.AudubonMagazinePhotoAwards.com)

## **BIRDIEST COUNTY COMPETITION**

For the past six years, Kern County has won America's "Birdiest Inland County" bird species count with an average of 234 species. The count this year is the 72 hours from Friday May 1st through Sun May 3rd. All bird species observed (in Kern County) by anyone during any of the 72 consecutive hours may be contributed to the overall list to be submitted to the Kern County coordinator, Bob Barnes: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net).

The Kern River Valley, Butterbreed Springs and Galileo Hill are well-covered by the Kern River Valley Spring Festival, but other areas need coverage: Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Greenhorn Mountains, Arvin ponds, Bakersfield, Frazier Park, Piute Mtns., Tehachapi, Wind Wolves Preserve (Common Ground Dove), Buena Vista Lake, Tule Elk Reserve. If you visit any of these areas during the count weekend, please report all of your sightings to Bob Barnes!

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

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Kern Audubon Society  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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Bakersfield CA  
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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. MAY 5, 7:00pm - monthly meeting featuring tricolored blackbirds
- Kern River Valley Spring Festival, April 29 - May 5, 2009 at the Kern River Preserve
- Sat. MAY 23 - Field trip to Galileo Hill

## Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C9ZC300Z)

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 (not Kern Audubon)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_