



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 44. no. 5 - MAY 2015
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org



Kern Audubon
Tues. MAY 5, 2015 - 7:00pm
Kern Supt of Schools City Center
17th & L Sts. - (parking lot @18th & K Sts.)

"FLAMMULATED OWLS & MORE"
Jenna Stanek, Biologist
Southern Sierra Research Station



The **Flammulated Owl** (*otus flammeolus*) is a small, nocturnal, neotropical migrant that vocalizes quietly and is seldom seen. They arrive in April - mid-May to their breeding grounds in the western US, including the Sequoia National Forest, from wintering grounds in Mexico & Central America. The Southern Sierra Research Station conducted surveys for Flammulated Owls in the southern Sierras during 2011-2012 breeding seasons. **Jenna Stanek**, wildlife biologist with the Southern Sierra Research Station has built and hung Flammulated Owl boxes and is in charge of checking the nest boxes with volunteer efforts to check for occupants. Jenna has a BS from Western State Colorado University and a Master's in Wildlife & Fisheries Biology from Clemson University. A follow-up field trip is planned for May 23 to look for these unusual owls (see info below)

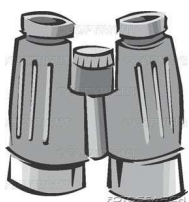
MAY FIELD TRIPS

Sat/Sun May 2-3 - Desert Birding & Campout

A weekend of birding led by birder extraordinaire Alison Sheehy is planned for the first weekend in May. We will meet Sat. May 2 (location & time to be determined) and visit various birding hotspots in eastern Kern County then ending up at Butterbrecht Springs (desert oasis) around 8pm to camp for the night. Early morning (5:30am) birding before dawn is essential to experience the spectacle of migrating songbirds through Butterbrecht and on into the mountains. Last year's group saw approximately 10,000 migrating songbirds just in the first few hours before & after dawn! After Butterbrecht we will explore the Piute Mtn. area, Audubon's Kern River Preserve and Lake Isabella. Details are being worked out and if you would like more information, please call/RSVP to Deb See at 661/805-0232.

May 16, 2015 - Tehachapi Mountain Park Join Kern Audubon-Tehachapi for a walk through the mountain habitat above Tehachapi. We will be on the lookout for late migrants and nesting birds. Mountain Quail, Western Tanager, woodpecker species are some of the birds we're hoping to see. Contact Angela (304-6816) or Greg (818/645-3664) for info. Dress in layers and bring water, snacks, and binoculars.

Bakersfield birders meet at the Stockdale ParknRide (Stockdale between Real Rd. & Hiway 99) at 6:30am or 6:45am at the Starbucks at Hiway 58 & Weedpatch Hiway. **Tehachapi** birders meet at the Kmart parking lot near the Burger King at 7:30. Dress in layers and bring water, snacks, and binoculars. Please plan on carpooling - \$5 for drivers!



May 23, 4:15pm - Breckenridge Owling

Jenna Stanek, biologist with the Southern Sierra Research Station, will lead this afternoon/evening outing to see Flammulated Owls and others. We will meet at the Edison Hwy & Comanche Shell station at 4:15 pm, continuing up Breckenridge Rd to meet Jenna near the Breckenridge USFS campground near top. Flammulated Owls should be nesting in boxes nearby. We will stay until around 7:30 pm, then make our way back down, possibly spotting other owls. Bring water, snacks & sack dinner. Call Deb See, 661-805-0232, for more information. (It's cool at the top of Breckenridge, so bring a jacket.)

PRESIDENT'S NEST

After picking up your morning copy of the *Bakersfield Californian* and getting your cup of coffee, you might turn to the section on Upcoming Events. Then you read about an upcoming Kern Audubon field trip. And you ask yourself, 'How did that notice get in the paper?' Well, you can thank **Jo Richards** (pictured at right), one of our members. She volunteered last year to help with publicity. She is not retired and is proud to announce that she is an octogenarian! She just added this task to her many daily responsibilities. We are very thankful for her dedication to our organization. KAS is much stronger because of Jo!

Harry Love, President



PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

The next work day at Panorama Vista Preserve will be **Saturday May 2, 8-10 AM**. Many thanks to Andy for leading the work crew last month. This will be our 'spring' event, a time for weeding and preparing trees for summer heat. Bring hat, water, gloves, and shovel/hoe. Note: this is not our normal second Saturday because of Mother's Day Weekend. If you would like to help or find out more about this activity, contact **Harry Love (805-1420)**; love3@bak.rr.com Directions: Take Manor Drive to Roberts Lane and go east to the locked gate.



WIND WOLVES & TEJON RANCH SEEK COMMON GROUND

Two of the largest private landowners in Southern California recently launched discussions on proposals to connect the Tejon Ranch Co. and adjacent Wind Wolves Preserve with wildlife corridors and public access. Under consideration are proposals to create freeway underpasses that would allow a variety of creatures — black bear, mountain lion, tule elk, bobcats and badgers — to migrate east and west of Interstate 5, about 90 miles north of Los Angeles.

Until now, the 270,000-acre Tejon Ranch and 99,000-acre preserve, established in 1996 by the nonprofit Wildlands Conservancy, kept a wary distance. "Regardless of whatever differences of opinion there may have been in the past, we are looking forward to a good working relationship with the Wildlands Conservancy," Tejon Ranch spokesman Barry Zoeller said. Most of Tejon Ranch is on the east side of I-5, and the preserve is on the west.

Since 1996, Wind Wolves has brought in more than 157,000 Kern County students to learn about its striking topographical and biological diversity firsthand. It also helped fund transportation costs for those students, many of them from schools receiving free or reduced-price lunches. Wind Wolves is home to more than 400 tule elk, descendants of 21 animals transplanted in 1998, and to the largest known population of the federally endangered Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew.

On a recent day, Landon Peppel (right), biologist and manager of Wind Wolves Preserve, drove a visitor up a narrow dirt road with panoramic views essentially unchanged since explorer John C. Fremont established a ranch there in the 1850's. "This is what much of Southern California looked like a few centuries ago," Peppel said, standing on the brow of a hill overlooking a vista of rolling grasslands and wildflowers: lupine, cream cups and California poppies



Edited excerpt from the Los Angeles Times, March 26, 2015 Reporter: Louis Sahagun

RENEWING YOUR AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal notices are sent to Audubon members by the National Audubon Society. You can also find the expiration of your membership on the address label of this newsletter or *Audubon* magazine. You can also check your membership status and renew membership online at www.audubon.org and click on "Member Center" at the **very top of the homepage**. Or send your renewal check in the amount of \$15 (one year), \$25 (two years), \$35 (three years) to: National Audubon Member Center, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast Fl. 32142

If you have questions about membership, contact Pat Turner, Kern Audubon's membership coordinator: 717-4174 or patriciajt@att.net.

WEBSITES to check out...

Info about birds? To learn more about birds, go to www.birds.cornell.edu, the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, world leader in the study/conservation of birds

Kern Birding For a great website about Kern County birding spots: www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Audubon California has an excellent website: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To learn about National Audubon go to: www.audubon.org or chapterleaders@audubon.org

KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us on FACEBOOK! Add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on field trips and programs!



Looking ahead to **TUES. JUNE 2, 6:30PM** at **Jastro Park** for our **end-of-the-year picnic with CALM and ambassador birds!**

GET THE E-WARBLER

We are asking everyone with email to **receive the Warbler electronically** to save money as well as trees! You can read it online or print your own copy and it's in color! PLEASE take a few moments to send your email address to rodmlee@aol.com....thank you!!

BIRD FESTIVALS are fun! You meet other birders, visit new places, see lots of birds, hear interesting presentations, support local economies and much more. For information about festivals around the country, go to...

www.Americanbirding.org/festivals
www.birdwatchersdigest.com

SCIENCE CAMP at PVP

This spring on four consecutive Fridays, Kern Audubon hosted a booth at the Panorama Vista Preserve's Science Camp with volunteers teaching middle school children about birds and their importance in our lives. Some students came from Shafter, and for some, this was their first time along the river. In teams of 10-15, students participated in bird trivia, gained knowledge about importance of birds, and dissected owl pellets, always the favorite activity. This is our third year participating. Our team was led by **Kevin Fahey** with helpers **Georgette Theotig, Barbara Reifel, Louise Clay, Ginny Dallas, Harry Love, and Susan Castle**. Susan added a presentation using "reader's theater," with students reading aloud about birds. What a great learning event! This event exemplifies Kern Audubon's commitment to student outreach, the next generation of birders. Hopefully you can help next year!



YOUR ACTIONS AT WORK In February, more than **32,000** Audubon supporters submitted public comments to oppose a petition to remove the Coastal California Gnatcatcher from the endangered species list. The threatened bird depends on Southern California's coastal sage scrub habitat, right where some of this country's most aggressive developers want to build. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now in a 12-month review process of the petition. Participating in the public review process is one of the most important ways of protecting birds and wildlife. (Source: Audubon Advisory)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The executive board of Kern Audubon consists of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, who are elected annually at the spring meeting. These are the nominations for 2015-16:

President - Harry Love Vice-President - Kevin Fahey
Secretary - Sasha Honig Treasurer: - Gary McKibbin

The election will take place at the May 5, 2015 meeting with installation of officers at the June picnic. Questions/comments? Contact Lucy Clark, Nominations Chr: Lucyg391@gmail.com

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD 2014 - 2015

Harry Love, President/Conservation
love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6245

Kevin Fahey, Vice-President
kjfahey@sbcglobal.net; 706-7459 (cell)

Sasha Honig, Secretary
sashahonig@gmail.com; 325-0026

Gary McKibbin, Treasurer
gmckibbin42@gmail.com; 392-1403

Deb See & Bill Moffat, Field Trips
seemoffats@aol.com; 805-0232

Ginny Dallas, Programs
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Kathy Love, Hospitality
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Jo Richards, Publicity
jo_richards@rocketmail.com; 909-226-9879

Pat Turner, Membership Data
patriciajt@att.net; 398-8387

Carol Gates, Tehachapi Rep.
Carol.gates18@gmail.com; 823-4305

Mary Durfrain, Tehachapi Rep.
marysalternative@yahoo.com; 972-4355

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

eBird--GLOBAL TOOL FOR BIRDERS, CRITICAL DATA FOR SCIENCE: www.ebird.org

- Record the birds you see
- Keep track of your bird lists
- Explore dynamic maps and graphs
- Share your sightings and join the eBird community
- Contribute to science and conservation

eBird is a real-time, online checklist program which has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

Go to www.ebird.org and begin recording your bird sightings---it's fun and it's free!



"Look & Lounge" Birding....it was relaxing and we still saw over 30 species! Kern River Parkway 4/21/15. Leader Bill Moffat is in the middle. Photo by Harry Love.



American Kestrel using its nest box at Panorama Vista Preserve 4/20/15. Photo by Andy Honig.

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Kern Audubon Society
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Bakersfield CA 93385



www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. MAY 5, 7:00pm - Meeting & Program
- Sat. MAY 2 - PVP Workparty
- Sat.-Sun MAY 2-3 - Desert birding/camping
- Sat. MAY 16 - Tehachapi Mountain Park field trip
- Sat. May 23 - Breckenridge owling field trip

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C4ZC300Z)

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* (10 issues)

____ New Member \$20

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Send this form and your check for \$20 to:

Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____