



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 46 No.9 - NOVEMBER 2017
Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

KERN AUDUBON

Tues. NOVEMBER 7, 2017 - 7:00pm
Kern Supt of Schools 1300 17th St, Bakersfield
(Street parking or in lot at 18th & K)

FALCONRY: HAWKS VS. FALCONS Steve Shaw, Master Falconer



Steve Shaw is a Master Falconer who started working with raptors as a teenager. After a career in health care administration he finally pursued his falconer's license. Now a Master Falconer, he flies and hunts with a hybrid falcon, a Prairie falcon and a Harris' hawk. In addition, he is studying Prairie falcons for the Bureau of Land management in Ridgecrest and in the Los Padres National Forest as well as working on protecting a Prairie falcon site in California City.

Steve will be discussing how hawks, falcons, eagles & owls are different and specifically the use of hawks and falcons in falconry. How are hawks different from falcons in flight and hunting? He will also discuss major threats to raptors and songbirds.

Steve will bring a falcon and Harris' hawk and possibly a Redtailed hawk for the program and is open to folks having a picture with a raptor in hand!

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Tues. Nov. 14, 8:30am - Birds & Bikes Kern River Parkway

Birds & Bikes is an opportunity to get some exercise while enjoying birds along the Kern River Parkway! Al Caetano (833-6705) will lead this outing which starts at Riverwalk Park on Stockdale Hiway at Buena Vista. Meet in the parking lot toward the back near the amphitheater. The group will head west along the river and recharge ponds, stopping often to identify birds. Bring binoculars (loaners available), WATER, snacks and a bicycle. Call Al for more information.

Sat. Nov. 18 - "Return of the Cranes" Festival at Pixley 3:00pm

Sandhill Cranes are now present at Pixley National Wildlife Refuge where they will be for the winter. Pixley NWR and Kern NWR staff will host an opportunity to learn about the cranes, enjoy some refreshments and see the cranes as they fly from nearby agricultural fields to the safety of the refuges' ponds for the night. Bring a flashlight, jacket and walking shoes for the 1/2 mile walk to the viewing platform. (Handicapped access can be arranged.)

Kern Audubon is providing TWO outing opportunities for this event:

11:30am - Deb See & Bill Moffet will lead a pre-crane festival field trip to Atwell Island and other birding spots. Meet at the Rosedale Costco parking lot near the gas station at 11:30am to carpool. Bring \$5 for gas, sack lunch, snacks, water, binoculars, flashlight & a jacket for evening. This outing will finish with the Crane Festival at Pixley NWR at 3:00pm. Questions? Contact Deb (209-9279) or Bill (805-0232) for information.

2:00pm - If you just want to attend the event at Pixley, meet Madi Elsea (549-2391) at the Rosedale Costco near the gas station at 2pm to carpool to the refuge which is located near Earlimart. Bring binocs, snacks, water, jacket & \$5 for drivers. If you plan to go directly to the refuge, please note that the bridge on Rd 88 that connects to the Pixley parking lot is still out so access to the parking lot is from the north. See enclosed flyer for directions.

Sat. Nov. 25, 8:00am - Brite Lake, Tehachapi

Greg Hargleroad will lead this outing to Brite Lake to see waterfowl and perhaps a Bald Eagle and shore birds. Dress warmly and meet Greg at the Tehachapi Burger King 8am or at the entrance to Brite Lake. Bring binoculars, snacks. Bakersfield birders can meet at the Stockdale ParknRide between Real Rd and Hiway 99 at 7:15 to carpool. Contact Greg 818/645-3664 for information.





PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORKPARTY - POSTPONED

From David Schaad (428-2841) "We will not have a work day Saturday Nov 11 at the preserve because of Veteran's day. Some of us will be involved in the parade and other events that day. See you on Sat. Dec 9 for December's work day." David Schaad (428-2841)

HELP NEEDED FOR ANNUAL AUCTION

Our annual HOLIDAY AUCTION is on Tues. December 5th, an event that helps fund Kern Audubon's activities, from program speakers and science camp to the *Warbler* newsletter. To be successful, we need volunteers to solicit auction items from both members and local businesses. Guidelines and sample letters are already prepared for you: ***the time commitment is up to you!*** **Barbara Long** will be helping again this year but we need more folks. If interested or need more information, contact **Harry Love (805-1420 or love3@bak.rr.com)**.



CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM Registration is now open for the 21st annual **Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 16-19, 2017**, hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club in Stockton. Many area field trips are planned plus excellent keynote speakers: Ed Harper on "Wings Over the Central Valley" and Noah Stryker, whose incredible Big Year resulted a new world record of seeing over 6000 birds. For information about events and to register, go to www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/info/

Project FeederWatch



Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. The FeederWatch season starts November 11 so go to www.FeederWatch.org for more information and to register. It's great fun & an important contribution to science! Anyone interested in birds can participate. Participants watch their feeders as much or as little as they want over two consecutive days as often as every week (less often is fine). New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions for participating, as well as a bird identification poster and more. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. There is an \$18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents.

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2017 - 2018

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sashahonig@gmail.com; 325-0026

Margaret Dolan, Treasurer

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Harry Love, Conservation

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Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor

madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470

Kevin Fahey, Past President

kjfahey@sbcglobal.net; 706-7459

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL QUESTIONS Please use the membership form on the back page and send with your \$20 renewal check made out to NATIONAL AUDUBON and mail to PO Box 3581, Bakersfield CA 93385. Questions? Contact Linda McMillian: 661/205-3521

If you'd like to find out what similar groups to Audubon are doing, consider joining **Meetup!** Go to: www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society and follow the instructions. We now have over 240 members! Thanks to Carly Summers for keeping the site updated!



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK "Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings and get updates on activities. Thank you to Facebook editor, Laura Fahey!

Looking ahead....The DECEMBER 5 TH KAS meeting is the annual HOLIDAY GATHERING with POTLUCK & AUCTION.



RETURN OF THE CRANES



November 18, 2017

3-6pm

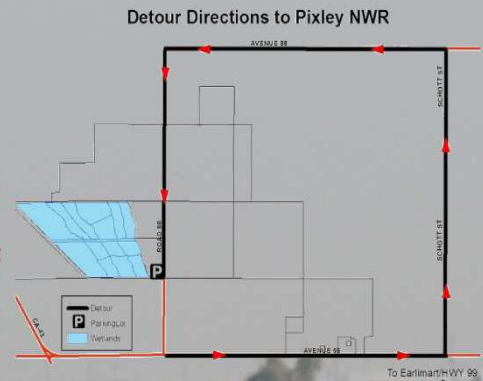


Fall has arrived and the sandhill cranes have started their annual migration south to the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge. The staff of Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges would like you to come join us for refreshments, and a short hike to the observation platform for an opportunity to see thousands of sandhill cranes returning to roost at the refuge. Meet in the parking lot, please bring a flashlight, sturdy comfortable shoes and layers. Special thanks to the Tulare County Audubon and the Kern Audubon.

Directions

If you are traveling from Hwy 43, head East on Ave 56. Turn right to head North on Schott St. Turn left to head West on Ave 88. Turn left to head south on Road 88 and the parking lot will be at the end of Road 88.

If you are traveling from Hwy 99, take exit #65 onto Ave 56 and head West. Turn right to head North on Schott St. Turn left to head West on Ave 88. Turn left to head south on Road 88 and the parking lot will be at the end of Road 88.



What is eBird? (www.eBird.org) A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution. It also provides a way to electronically keep personal bird checklists.

eBird's goal is to maximize the accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. If you haven't started recording your bird sightings, or if it's been a while since you've visited **eBird**, these are some of its features

- You can keep track of all your bird lists: life, year, state, county and more.
- You can easily share checklists with your birding companions. Whether you're on a field trip or birding with friends, one person can enter a checklist and share it with the group. Each person can then edit their version of the list to reflect exactly what they saw.
- You can enter comments, age/sex information, subspecies, hybrids, and "spuhs" on your daily checklists.
- You can select locations using an intuitive Google Maps interface.
- You can report birds from anywhere in Western Hemisphere, including Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Antarctica. We've expanded outside the New World with the addition of New Zealand and plan to continue to expand worldwide in 2009.
- You can import sightings from popular birding software as well as from spreadsheets such as Excel.
- You can get up-to-the-minute rare bird reports from the eBird "Rare Bird Gadget" complete with a map and directions.
- Your sightings are combined with others to create maps, graphs and other helpful birding tools.
- The eBird homepage keeps users up to date on the latest news in eBird and around the birding world.
- Learn when and where to find birds using the enhanced eBird bar charts.

Read about all these features and more by visiting www.eBird.org

KERN AUDUBON & PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

Editor's note: Andy Honig, member of Kern Audubon, is also on the board of the Panorama Vista Preserve and has been involved with PVP's revegetation project for over 10 years. The Kern Audubon Executive Board recently asked Andy to update the chapter on KAS' involvement and the role of native plants in the revegetating of the preserve. PVP is located below the Panorama Bluffs in east Bakersfield. For more info about the preserve, go to www.panoramavistapreserve.org

Audubon members have been involved in volunteer work parties at the Panorama Vista Preserve since February 2010, when several dozen folks learned how to take cuttings from native trees and plants on the preserve and prepare them for propagation. Members have also volunteered to water native plants in the Preserve nursery which were waiting to be planted. Some of the more significant of the native trees and shrubs planted were quail bush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), common saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*), coyote brush (*Baccharis emoryi*), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolius*), cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), arrow weed (*Pluchea sericea*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), bottonbush (*Cepalanthus occidentalis*), bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*).

All of these native plants are important to birds. Anna's hummingbirds visit almost all of these trees and shrubs to gather nectar and insects. Many of the birds breed while in Kern county and nest in our plantings. Seed eaters such as White-Crowned sparrows frequent both species of atriplex. Many insects are attracted to the plantings. The insects, in turn, attract insectivores such as Black and Say's phoebes and Cliff swallows. Cavity nesters such as kestrels and flickers will use cavities in cottonwoods for nesting. Various orioles have been seen nesting in cottonwoods, black willows and sycamores. Bullock's orioles have been photographed with elderberries in their bills. Among the seed eaters attracted in large numbers to sycamore seeds have been Goldfinches. Great Horned owls, Red-Tailed hawks, Red Shouldered hawks and Cooper's hawks prey on rodents that thrive in the habitat created by our plantings.

In summary a new habitat has been created because of the Panorama Vista revegetation project. This is an ecology that involves the trees and shrubs we have planted, and the insects, small mammals, and birds that depend on the natives we have planted. And an important part of this ecology are the Audubon members who along with many other people have worked on this habitat.

Andy Honig (andyhonig@gmail.com)

(The next Kern Audubon workparty will be Sat. December 9. 9-11am)

PUT YOUR STAMP ON CONSERVATION

Originally known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the Duck Stamp was conceived in 1934 when Congress passed and President Franklin D., Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act. The first Duck Stamp was designed by JN "Ding" Darling, then director of the Bureau of Biological Survey, forerunner to today's US Fish & Wildlife Service.

The Federal Duck Stamps are conservation revenue stamps--98% of the purchase price goes directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Buying Duck Stamps is among the simplest ways that anyone (hunters & birders) can participate in wildlife and habitat conservation. Duck stamps are a required annual purchase for waterfowl hunters 16 and older and a current duck stamp grants the bearer free entrance to any national wildlife refuge. But whether a hunter, birder or other outdoor enthusiast or you simply want to help preserve our natural resources for future generations to enjoy, you can contribute to conservation by buying Duck Stamps.

The official name of the Duck Stamp says it all -- Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Among the birds directly benefiting from Duck Stamp revenues are waterbirds such as the least bittern and black tern; shorebirds such as the black-necked stilt and American avocet; raptors such as the Swainson's hawk and golden eagle; and wetland-associated songbirds such as vermilionflycatcher and

Duck Stamps can be purchased at many major sporting goods stores, local post offices (call ahead to make sure they have them), American Birding Association (aba.org/abasales/), Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Your \$25 Duck Stamp purchase supports bird conservation!

James Hautman of Chaska Minnesota is the artist for the 2017-2018 Duck Stamp featured to the right with three Canada Gees

For more information about the Duck Stamp program, go to www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamps.php



COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR The Kern Audubon Executive Board has approved the position of COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR to "carryout and coordinate functions relating to the important role of communication for the chapter and its outreach to the community." This will include editing the monthly newsletter and coordination with Executive Board as well as those involved with program/field trips, mailings, social media, and website. This will be a part-time position with pay. Persons interested may contact Madi Elsea, Warbler editor: 322-7470 or madielsea@aol.com. *Deadline to apply is November 10, 2017.*



LAZY GARDENER

Project FeederWatch and Cornell Lab of Ornithology encourage "Lazy/Messy Gardeners" this winter to help birds get through the winter. Here are 7 ways to provide a "messy garden":

- Leave your leaves
- allow dried flower heads to stay standing
- let grass grow tall & seed
- build a brush pile with fallen branches instead of throwing them out
- forget the chemicals
- leave snags on your property
- delay garden clean-up until spring or after several 50 degree days allowing overwintering pollinators to move on

Take the pledge at FeederWatch.org and sign up for the newsletter. There's lots of great information about birds and how you can help science by watching your feeders this winter! www.feederwatch.org

CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER: POST PARIS AGREEMENT The President's denial of global warming is getting a cold reception from America's cities. 381 US Mayors representing 67.9 million Americans, will adopt, honor, and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement. This is an effort to meet each of our cities' current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st century clean energy economy. We are increasing investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. We will buy and create more demand for electric cars and trucks. Finally, we'll build and strengthen relationships around the world to protect the planet from devastating climate risks. The world cannot wait—and neither will we.

381 US #ClimateMayors, representing 67.9 million Americans, have committed to adopt, honor and uphold the climate goals of the Paris Agreement



GRANT RECEIVED The Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission has granted Kern Audubon's education program \$800 towards the purchase of supplies and equipment for outreach to students and children. The grant, prepared by Susan Castle, Ginny Dallas, and Harry Love, will go toward the purchase of an iPad for showing bird videos to students. Our outreach program has expanded to Panorama Vista Preserve science camp, nature festival at Wind Wolves, summer camp in Shafter, and CALM. We have received requests from schools to come on campus for presentations. There are more items that need to be funded. If you wish to help, mail your donation to **KAS, P.O. Box 3581, Bakersfield 93385. Indicate Educational Supplies on your check. It will be greatly appreciated!**

THANK YOU TO SCIENCE CAMP TEAM

Kern Audubon provided another outstanding Science Camp for 300 students from the Fairfax School District at Panama Vista Preserve this month. Many thanks to the following volunteer "teachers" for giving time & energy for this important outreach: **Louise Clay, Bill Cooper, Ginny Dallas, Kevin Fahey, Mic & Kay Hall, Fran Hersh, Julie Horder, Claire & Mike LaHogue & son Michael, Harry Love, Mac McCarthy, Gary McKibbin, Barbara Reifel.**

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED.....Remember the annual fund-raising auction is held as part of our December 5th Holiday Gathering and potluck which will be held at First United Methodist Church, 4600 Stockdale Hwy. Perhaps you have artwork you'd like to donate, a handmade item, home-made jams/jellies, something bird-themed or gift certificates from your favorite restaurant, store, etc. Contact Harry Love (805-1420) to get involved!

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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...

- Tues. Nov. 7, 7pm - Meeting & program
- Tues. Nov. 14, 8:30am - Kern River Parkway
- Tues. Nov. 14, 7pm - KAS Executive Board
- Sat. Nov. 18 - Pixley Natl Wildlife Refuge
- Sat. Nov. 25, 8am - Brite Lake, Tehachapi

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
 Renewal \$20

Make check payable to **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

SEND this form and your check made to National Audubon for \$20 to:

Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____