

VOL. 48 ISSUE 9 · NOVEMBER 2019

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society



Red-Tailed Hawk at Lake Tahoe on Thursday, October 3rd. Ron Worgul, the member who submitted this amazing photo, was approximately 8 feet away from this gorgeous creature.

• FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST

by Harry Love

President, Kern Audubon Society 

As a member of the Kern Audubon Society, you get information on local birds and where the best places are to find them. When you take a walk in Hart Park, or at Tom Sawyer Lake in Tehachapi, you get a narrow look at the state of birds locally. The reduction of the number of birds, from juncos to wood ducks, can be seen as a reflection of a national trend. Last month, the Audubon Society published a report on a trend of reduced bird populations over the past 50 years.

The conclusion is that 1 in 4 birds (25 % of the bird population) that were found 50 years ago have disappeared. That is a decline of three billion birds! It's labeled a "trend" because of the long term data and variety of sources of information. This report was in cooperation with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy, and environmental agencies of both the U.S. and Canada. The question becomes "how can you help in adding to the data?" Answer: There are two reliable sources of individual data; the Christmas Bird Count and the Backyard Bird Count. These are activities which ask birders, like you, for help. So, when the opportunity arises, please participate in them.

For the complete report click on: <https://www.audubon.org/news/north-america-has-lost-more-1-4-birds-last-50-years-new-study-says>

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November's Program

Tuesday, November 5th

Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office
(1300 17th Street) at 7:00 p.m.

Audubon Works Hard to Mitigate Current Threats to Birds and Wildlife

Our speaker in November is Reed Tollefson, the Audubon Kern River Preserve Manager. Reed works tirelessly to preserve and improve the survival rate of plants and animals in Kern County. Birds and other wildlife are struggling to cope with habitat loss, climate change, the introduction of invasive species, feral cats and other man-made threats as never before.

For over 25 years, a group of stakeholders including Reed, National Audubon, local Audubon chapters and many private and governmental conservation partners have collaborated to create a viable wildlife corridor in Kern. An example is the recent conservation acquisition at Desert Springs supported by Kern and Kern Crest Audubon Chapters. Our members will also learn more about the Wimberley Grant from National Audubon. Please join us for more vital information and learn ways our KAS group supports wildlife.



Reed Tollefson analyzes future property acquisition to create a healthy corridor so birds can thrive in the Kern River Valley.



American White Pelican.
Basin Wildlife Reserve in Los Angeles, CA.
January 11, 2018. Photo provided by Wei Li



California Scrub Jay
Los Alamos Park near Santa Maria, CA.
September 26th, 2019. Provided by Mickey Dyke



Brown Pelican
Malibu Lagoon in Los Angeles, CA.
January 11, 2018. Photo provided by Wei Li

Field Trip & Costa Rica Trip

Return of the Cranes Festival

Saturday, November 16th @ 4:00 p.m

Kern National Wildlife Refuge - Pixley

Enjoy this great opportunity as thousands of Sandhill Cranes have returned from Alaska to their feeding grounds in the Kern National Wildlife Refuge Complex. As the sun sets, you will see and hear the cranes as they return to their roosting area. This is a dramatic and stunning event! **Bring your camera, warm clothing, flashlight, mosquito repellent, and binoculars.**



- **CARPOOL:** Meet at the Rosedale Costco parking lot (near the gas station) at **2:45 pm**. Please pay \$5 to the drivers for gas reimbursement.
- **DRIVING YOURSELF:** Meet at the Pixley parking lot at **4:00 p.m** to meet the National Wildlife Staff. Take Hwy. 99 N toward Earlimart. Take the Ave. 56 exit (Sierra Ave.) Drive West for 5.7 miles. Turn rt, (North) on Road 88 (dirt road). In 1 mile you will cross a dry creek - the parking lot is on your left.

Thank you to Brooke Stutz for leading this trip!

Kern Audubon Society's - Birding in Costa Rica Trip

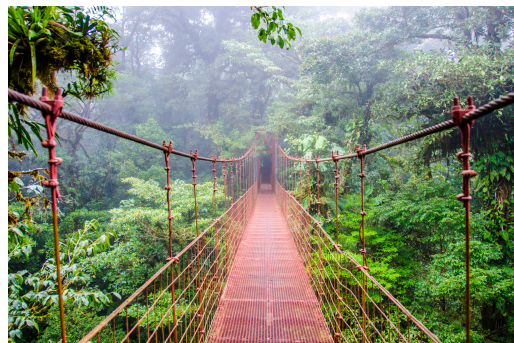
April 9th - 20th, 2020

Come birding with us in Exotic Costa Rica! (Itinerary designed by Bob Barnes)

Cost includes meals - \$2788 with 12 participants

Click this link to access the itinerary:

<https://www.kernaudubonsociety.org/CostaRicaTripApril2020.pdf>



Things You Won't Want to Miss!

HOLIDAY POTLUCK

December 3rd @ 6:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church

**ALL DONATION ITEMS NEED TO BE AT THE FOLLOWING
ADDRESS/S BY NOVEMBER 20th!**

- **East Side of Town** - 131 PASATIEMPO DR. (Look for the red umbrella behind Garces)
Call to make sure Andy and Sasha are home: **661-619-4456**
- **West Side of Town** - 916 VISTA VERDE (Stockdale Estates)
Call to make sure Wendy or Bob will be home: Bob: **661-319-2631** Wendy: **661-319-5112**.

IF YOU ARE SOLICITING DONATIONS AND NEED A LETTER FROM KERN AUDUBON
THAT GIVES OUR TAX ID , PLEASE EMAIL:

Bob Hodash at hodashr@att.net<hodashr@att.net>

Last year, we ran out of room to properly display all donations. Any donations that can't be displayed, will be stored for the 2020 Holiday Celebration. We also found that GIFT CARDS were very popular items.



Pied-Billed Grebe

Merced National Wildlife Refuge

March 11, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley



Black-Throated Sparrow

Galileo Hill

October 24, 2019. Photo provided by Mickey Dyke



Great-Horned Owls

Merced National Wildlife Refuge

March 11, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley

Honey Anyone?

Joe Bugni, long time KAS member, has been donating honey which he produces for our auctions. Many members have asked where to purchase some. You can only get it at Cones Health Foods (next to Trader Joes).



Volunteers

Make the Difference!

Annual Kids Day - Tehachapi

Around four hundred people showed up Saturday, Sept. 21st for the 6th annual Kids Day at the Museum event in Tehachapi. Different organizations in the city gathered together and offered various activities to involve the kids.

The Kern Audubon Society was represented with a booth where Janice Polleta, Dawn Nelson and myself helped make bagel/peanut butter/birdseed feeders and Popsicle stick bird callers for the kids and their parents. A member of KAS, Dixie Coutant, the coordinator for the event, was very pleased that Audubon was there and so many of the kids had something they made to take home. One of the mothers came back and thanked us many times because her young daughter loves birds so much and appreciated the Audubon presence. It was a lot of fun and we hope to be included again next year.

~ Carol Gates, Chair of the Tehachapi Group of KAS



Thank you!!!

Huge THANKS to John Schmitt who filled in as our September presenter! Andrea Jones became too ill to travel the day before she was to arrive and John was gracious enough to step in and help. John has been a bird enthusiast and artist his entire life. You can find his work in many publications. He dug deep, revved up the old slide projector, traveled from his home in Wofford Heights and presented a delightful program on his time in Borneo. Kern Audubon is so grateful to John.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival - How to Register



- Prior to October 26th; preferably a week or two go to the website **morrobaybirdfestival.org**.
- On the home page scroll the bottom and register for the brochure. Registering will add you to the email list and you will get notifications. You can always unsubscribe later. Look around the site which contains a lot of good information.
- Click on the tab at the top, "Festival Schedule and Fees". A drop-down menu will appear click on "Festival Schedule". Two large buttons appear on the page. One button for programs and another for schedule. You can download and print or save to your computer. I find both documents helpful.
- Select the events you wish to attend. Create a plan for registration listing the events you most desire first. The event you want may be full. Find alternatives for all events. Always include the event number with the name. At registration you will want to find your event by number not name. The events are in numerical order.
- Once you have your plan it is a good time to book lodging. The most desirable hotels fill up fast. Most attendees go over on Thursday because they have an event scheduled early Friday morning. You can check in early for the festival on Thursday beginning at 3:00 at the Morro Bay Inn. I always go over on Thursday.
- Practice registration opens on October 26th. Practicing registration is important and makes the process easier. You should be able to find the practice registration on the registration tab under registration options. You can also register at festival headquarters once you arrive. You may find a lot of events full.
- **Registration opens on November 2, 2019 at 8:00 am.** You will need your plan and a payment method. Be ready to register with your computer turned on and at the site **morrobaybirdfestival.org**. At 8:00 am you can click on registration and begin the process. You can go to registration now and click on "Registration Tips" from the drop-down menu now. There is a lot of good information in the tips.
- Select any additional items desired; tee shirt, lunch, raffle tickets, etc.
- Pay and complete the process.
- Check on Thursday or Friday. At check in you will receive; name tag, your schedule, map of sites and bird check list. If you ordered a tee shirt you will receive it as well.
- Pickup any lunches ordered at headquarters after 6:00 the day(s) you ordered.

This Place is for the Birds!



Ash-Throated Flycatcher
NW Bakersfield near Olive & Calloway
Spring, 2019. Photo provided by Stan Jones



Tree Swallows
San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
March 10, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley



Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Basin Wildlife Reserve in Los Angeles, CA.
December 21, 2018. Photo provided by Wei Li



Song Sparrow
San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
March 10, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley



Scaly-breasted Munia
Laguna Lake near San Luis Obispo
September 25, 2019 Photo provided by Mickey Dyke



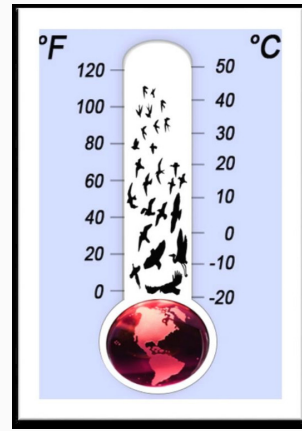
Great Horned Owl
Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, CA.
March 2019. Photo provided by Stan Jones



Vermilion Flycatcher
Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, CA.
March 2019. Photo provided by Stan Jones



Did You Know?



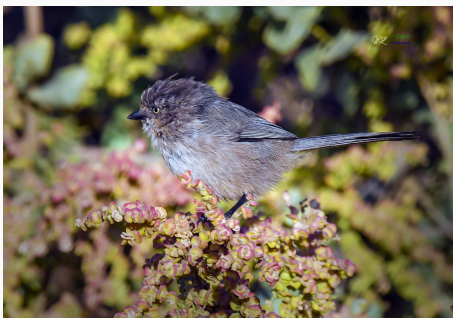
CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER

Provided by: Harry Love

You know how U.S. fossil fuel interests used to stall pro-climate policies saying, "Well what about China? It doesn't matter what we do if they don't do anything. "Today, they're scrambling for a new line. You see, China is ahead of the game when it comes to deploying renewable energy and working to solve climate change. Last summer, China made one of the strongest national commitments to climate action leading up to the UN's COP 21 climate conference, pledging to expand total energy consumption from non-fossil fuel sources to around 20 percent by 2030. It will require China to deploy roughly 800–1,000 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel power by 2030 or about the total current electricity generation capacity in the U.S.

This commitment solidified the progress China has made in recent years in combating its dangerous air pollution problem. As the world's largest carbon emitter since 2006, China making a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and using more and more clean energy is a major breakthrough. And if China can get serious about cutting emissions and embracing renewables, other nations are going to have to follow suit.

Source: Eco Watch (<https://www.ecowatch.com/5-huge-climate-success-stories-10-years-after-the-release-of-al-gores-1891140987.html>)



American Bushtit
Malibu Lagoon in Los Angeles, CA.
October 12, 2018. Photo provided by Wei Li



KAS Field Trip
Hart Park in Kern County, CA.
September 2019. Photo provided by Kathy Love



Northern Shoveler
Merced National Wildlife Refuge
March 11, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley

Feature Article

Differing Drumbeats of Woodpeckers



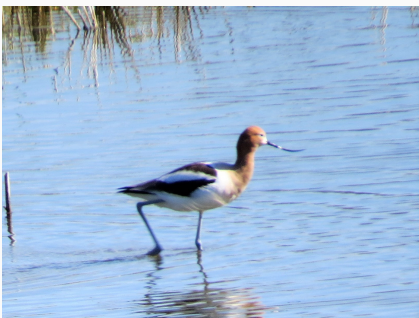
Like a jazz player beating out a drum roll, a woodpecker uses its bill to rap out a brisk series of notes. We also hear woodpeckers knocking on wood when they're carving holes in trees to create nest cavities or extract insect prey, but these whacks are more methodical.

Woodpeckers offer a fascinating cast of drummers. A hefty Pileated Woodpecker lets go a resounding tattoo against a hollow trunk. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seems to be signaling in Morse code, as it snaps its bill against a stub of dead branch. And the little Downy Woodpecker's drum roll seems rather modest—rather short and not too fast. Each time a woodpecker drums on a tree to find food, build a nest, or attract a mate, it gets hit with up to 1,400 g's of force—14 times the amount that would trigger a concussion in humans. Thankfully, the bird has a few ways to dampen the blow: built-in shock absorbers, an enlarged brain case, and a specialized beak and skull that redirect pressure away from its head. As if that wasn't enough, it can also wrap its tongue around the back of its head to serve as a cushion (when the organ isn't being deployed to trap dinner, of course).

These handy traits have inspired protective gear for concussion-heavy sports such as football and bike racing. The idea is simple: By modeling helmets and collars after a bird's built to head bang, outfitters can decrease the risk of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which is incredibly common in NFL players, as well as other brain diseases. Or so the theory goes. While woodpeckers seem to fare okay in the long run, it's not known if their brains suffer from underlying damage. "They've designed so much protective equipment based on the biomechanics of a woodpecker, but no one has ever looked at a woodpecker brain," says Peter Cummings, a neuropathologist at the Boston University School of Medicine. "That just blew my mind."

Article and photo provided by Harry Love. To read more, click on the link below:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/hear-differing-drumbeats-woodpeckers>



American Avocet

Merced National Wildlife Refuge

March 11, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley



KAS - Tehachapi

Outing in Stallion Springs, CA.

October 2019. Photo provided by Greg Hargleroad



Great Egret

San Luis National Wildlife Refuge

March 10, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley

Stay Connected & Get Involved

MEETUP 

Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Well, the easy answer is a new social media website called Meetup.

It is very easy to sign up. You get email reminders of events, instructions on how to join, and, the best part, it is free. To become a member of Meetup, click on the link below and follow the easy instructions:

www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society

That way you do not have to look at the Warbler for upcoming events. You will get reminders online. Many thanks to Carly Summers for updating events on the site.



Do you use Amazon for your shopping needs? If so, sign up for AmazonSmile. A 0.5% of your purchases will go to the Kern Audubon Society. Sign-up today on your Amazon account home page. There is no cost to KAS or to you as an AmazonSmile Customer.

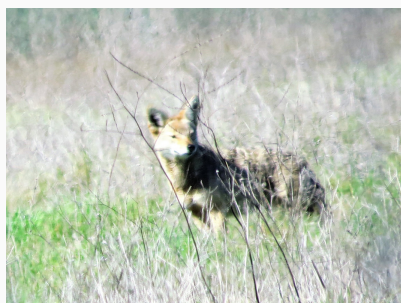


KERN AUDUBON IS ON FACEBOOK

“Like” us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, and get updates on field trips and programs! Laura Fahey manages our Facebook, email her at: ityzmom@sbcglobal.net.

Old Audubon Magazines Needed!

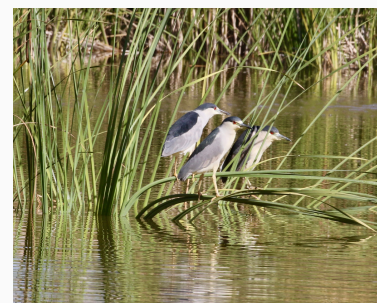
Have copies of your Audubon magazine? We need them to give to students at science camp. Bring them to any monthly meeting.



Coyote
San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
March 10, 2019. Photo provided by Roger Coley



Oops! In the October Warbler, all photos credited to Ginny Dallas were the work of Mickey Dyke.



Black-Crowned Night Herons
Galileo Hill Field Trip
October 5, 2019. Photo provided by Mickey Dyke

We need your photos!

Send photos of birds you have seen on an outing, or just in your backyard to communications@kernaudubonsociety.org

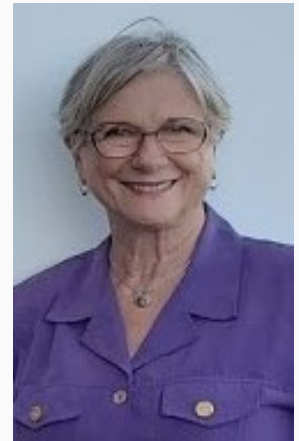
Board of Directors

Meet Your Board of Directors

Ginny Dallas-Dull Program Chair

On a fifth grade field trip to Audubon Greenwich Connecticut (greenwich.audubon.org), Ginny started her birding adventures. Life events stalled the birding bug - a move to California, higher education, children and a career in public education were all part of life's plan. When her husband died in 2006, she felt a desire to renew her interest in conservation, birding, and outdoor exploration.

Of her many trips the one to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana (alone) was the most challenging. Colorful birds of all sizes were omnipresent, but the binoculars weren't so great. Upon return to the U.S. she bought better binoculars and joined Kern Audubon. What a treat to meet fellow birders and head out on a variety of field trips. Through field trips and guest speakers she experienced the immense variety Kern County offers. No wonder it has been named the BIRDIEST INLAND COUNTY in California five years in a row. Birds Matter Here!



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November BOD Meeting

Tuesday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Room 1B