



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 40 no. 8 - October 2011
 Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
 A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org
www.kastehachapibird.org

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY
 Tues. October 4, 2011
 7:00pm - Kern Supt of Schools
 17th & L Sts. (parking garage 18th & K)

"Birding in Panama" Presented by John Eigenauer



The topic of John Eigenauer's October 4th presentation is "Birding in Panama". John and his wife, Cece, traveled to Panama and Peru this summer and have also birded in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Columbia, and Ecuador. His program will focus on birds as well as "how-to's" of birding in these countries, such as travel, guides, lodging, birding spots, etc. John loves to travel, see and photograph birds and hopes to inspire others to visit Panama to bird. John is a professor of Philosophy at Taft College and Cece is a student at CSUB. They are new members of Kern Audubon and we look forward to John's program!



Kern Audubon goes to the movies "THE BIG YEAR"

A comedy about....birding!

Join us...

Fri. Oct 14, approx. 5:45pm
 Maya Cinema, 1000 California Ave.
 (look for final movie time: kernaudubonsociety.org)

Believe it or not, a major motion picture, *The Big Year*, is about to be released starring Owen Wilson, Jack Black, and Steve Martin. The movie was inspired by Mark Obamasick's best-selling real life chronicle of three colorful and obsessive birders as they compete for the biggest "Big Year": to see and count the most bird species in North America in one year. Audubon served as a resource for the filmmakers, contributing both expertise and Audubon branded materials for set-dressing. Audubon even makes a few appearances in the movie itself. National Audubon president David Yarnold and others had an exclusive preview of the movie and Yarnold reports "it's a positive, engaging look at birding and birders. It even presents a fairly accurate version of Audubon's founding and its history." (See article and interview with the actors in *Audubon* magazine, Sept-Oct 2011, p.30)

It's not every day that a major film with high profile talent injects birds and birding into the pop culture mainstream, so this is a rare opportunity to engage both current members and new audiences. With that in mind, Kern Audubon Executive Board invites members to attend opening night together -- we'll be dressed in bird T shirts and/or wearing binoculars and invite you, also-- and be available to meet and greet the public. We've also planned a number of field trips (see p.3) that will be open to the public...introducing folks to area birding spots and the joys of bird-watching.

In the KAS library are 3 copies of the book, *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature & Fowl Obsession* ...pick one up at our Oct 4th meeting! And see you at the movies!

Kern Audubon Treasurer's Report 2010 -2011

INCOME

Donations/Annual Appeal	\$2215
Raffles	830
Auction	840
National Audubon incentive	1345
Annual BBQ	545
Miscellaneous	185
Total:	\$5960

EXPENSES

Postage (1st Class & Bulk)	\$1015
Printing (newsletter)	1890
Memberships	115
Donations	275
Non-profit Group Insurance	315
BBQ (food/park reservation)	665
Calendars, bird guides, books	570
Membership Data Coordinator	400
Guest speakers	615
Supplies, walkie-talkies	555
Total:	\$6415

Checking Balance 6/30/10 - \$6620
 Checking Balance 6/30/11 - \$6160
 CD Deposit: 2/25/11 - \$1288

Submitted with annual report to National Audubon.

Golfing & Birding in the Valley

Stevenson Ranch Golf Club in the San Joaquin valley is the first golf club/course in the nation to be solar powered and its golf course built in collaboration with Audubon's standards. It is also located close to abundant wildlife and the Pacific Flyway with over a 100 varieties of birds. Located nearby are Great Valley Grasslands State Park and Los Banos Wildlife area. There's a package deal for one night lodging, two \$25 dinner vouchers, 2 breakfast vouchers and use of Lake Honda Trail for \$139. (Golfing extra.) Contact (209) 664-6466 and mention you are with Kern Audubon Society.

Looking ahead to Tues. November 1, 7:00pm:
 Dr. Steve Laymon, BLM Biologist
 "The Restoration of Atwell Island and
 the Tulare Lake Basin"

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

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

2011 -2012

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Kern Audubon Executive Board will meet on Tues. Sept. 20th, 7pm and is open to interested members. contact a board member for locations.

Central Valley Birding Symposium

November 17 - 20, 2011

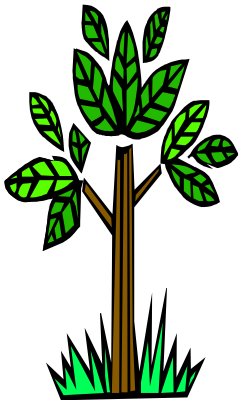
The 15th annual Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held at the Stockton Hilton and is open to the public. Engaging programs, information-filled workshops and bird-filled field trips are planned. Keynote speakers will address such topics as "Appreciating Birds of the Central Valley," "The Writings of California bird pioneer, William Leon Dawson" and "Ten Birds that Changed Birding." For information go to www.cvbs.org or call (209)369-2010. The symposium is sponsored by the Central Valley Bird Club. (Madi Elsea has brochures for those interested: 322-7470.)

BIRDING FESTIVALS

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

For information about festivals in California, go to...
www.natureali.org/nature_festivals.htm

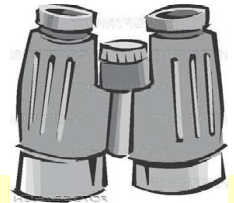


Panorama Vista Preserve

On Saturday, September 10, Kern Audubon Society began its third year of helping out at the Panorama Vista Preserve, located below the Kern River bluffs. Beginning with a great lightning show in the early morning, the day was one of maintenance as we cleaned out the emitters on the drip lines. The smiling workers were Al Caetano, Dana Adams, Bill McDonald, Rod Lee, Madi Elsea, Trevon Sutton, Harry Love and the fantastic Interact Club members from Foothill High School with teacher/Auduboner Jan Graves. New to the group was Tony Swan, a recently retired county employee.

Saturday, October 1 (8-10 AM) will be the next workday with Al Caetano as the Audubon coordinator for the day. You can contact him at alvic@bak.rr.com for more information. (Take Roberts Lane off Manor Drive in east Bakersfield...follow Roberts to the east about one mile where the group will meet at the gate to the preserve.)

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS Starting your own "Big Year"!



WED. OCT. 12, 7:30AM - Wednesday Walk with Ranger Bill Moffat

The destination for birding and exploring will be TEJON STATE HISTORIC PARK, 30 miles south of Bakersfield, led by Bill Moffat & Deb See. Meet at the Park n Ride on Stockdale Hiway one block west of Hiway 99 to carpool. Bring water, snacks, binocs and \$5 to help defray driving costs. Contact Al (833-6705) or Deb (805-0232) for information or www.kernaudubonsociety.org

SAT. OCT 15, 8:00am - Backyard Birding in Tehachapi

Kern Audubon-Tehachapi is sponsoring this field trip with Bob Barnes who will focus on "Field observation and getting the details" and Jean Moore presenting an introduction on birding field guides. Beginners are especially welcome!. The field trip will be at Lawrence's Tree Farm, 19669 Banducci, and possibly continue to Brite Lake. Take Rt. 202 west approx 4 1/2 miles to Banducci, then south to 19669 Banducci. Contact Carol Gates for more information (822-0214). Dress layered, bring water & snacks. www.KAStehachapibird.org

SAT. OCT 22, 8:00am - Truxtun Lake

Truxtun Lake and the nearby Kern River are great local spots to see year round birds as well as fall migrants...roadrunners, egrets, white-crowned sparrows, quail, ducks, raptors, etc. Meet at the Truxtun Extension parking area to the west of Mohawk St. near the painted water tower. Good walking shoes, water, snacks, binocs (we have binocs to loan). Ending time approximately 10:30. Call 322-7470 for information.

SAT. OCT 29, 7:00am - Paradise Valley Road in Tehachapi

Join our new sub-chapter, Kern Audubon-Tehachapi, for this birding/hiking field trip along Paradise Valley Rd on Tehachapi Mountain. Angela Guy (304-6816) is the leader and suggests layered dress as mornings are cold, plus water, snacks and binoculars. Meet at the Kmart parking lot (710 W. Tehachapi Blvd). Take the first Tehachapi exit, then left on Tehachapi Blvd. More info: www.KAStehachapibird.org

SUN. OCT 30, 8:00AM - Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge

This 14000 acre refuge provides feeding and roosting habitat for the endangered California CONDOR, which we will hope to see as well as other wildlife such as Tule elk, pronghorn, mountain lion, etc. The refuge is located in the southwestern Kern Co. foothills south of Maricopa and is also a great birding area. A total of 119 bird species have been recorded, including 90 migratory species. The field trip will be co-led by refuge manager Mike Stockton and Scott Frazer, wildlife biologist at Kern NWR.

Bring water, snacks, a lunch, binoculars. Ending time is approximately 1pm with an option to continue on to Pine Mountain Club to see mountain birds.

Meet to carpool at the Kern River Parkway parking lot across from CSUB on Stockdale & Don Hart Drive at 8:00am. Please bring \$5 to help defray driving costs for drivers. Call Scott (746-6915) or Madi (322-7470) for information or www.kernaudubonsociety.org.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

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...

- Sat. Oct. 1, 8 - 10am - Workparty Panorama Vista
- Tues. Oct. 4, 7:00PM - Program on Birds of Panama
- Wed. Oct. 12, 7:30am - Tejon State Historic Park

Field Trip

- Sat. Oct. 15, 8:00am - Backyard Birding/Tehachapi
- Sat. Oct. 22, 8:00am Truxtun Lake Field Trip
- Sat. Oct. 29, 7:00am - Field Trip to Paradise Valley

Road/Tehachapi

- Sun. Oct 30, 8:00am - Field Trip to BitterCreek
NWR & Pine Mountain Club

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C30)

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 _____ E-mail _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # _____

Please indicate if you would like to receive your *Audubon's Warbler* electronically: ____yes ____no

Condors vs. Power Lines, and For Once , the Condors Win

From the Mercury News (San Jose)



Crews from Pacific Gas & Electric have begun a project to bury nearly three miles of power lines in the scenic wilds of Big Sur -- not to improve the views, but to protect the endangered California condor.

The \$4.2 million job involves removing 46 wooden power poles and roughly 13,000 feet of overhead utility lines between now and December in Monterey County on the south side of Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. "The power lines have taken three condors by collision or electrocution since 2001," said Kelly Sorenson, executive director of the Ventana Wildlife Society, a non-profit group that has released condors in Big Sur since 1997. "Any level of mortality from a single cause like this is a cause for great concern."

Built in the 1950s, the power lines stretch east from coastal Highway 1 up steep slopes of the Los Padres National Forest to the summit of Anderson Peak. But the power lines also are located directly in the path of one of the nation's most ambitious programs to restore an endangered species. Because condors are among the world's most endangered animals, and biologists working with federal and private funding have spent \$35 million in recent decades in a painstaking effort to restore their numbers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and environmental groups had been working with PG&E to find a solution before more birds were killed. The utility potentially could have faced federal enforcement actions for violating the Endangered Species Act.

Today the California condor population has grown to 395. Of those, 195 live in the wild at Big Sur, Pinnacles National Monument in San Benito County, Southern California (including Kern County), Arizona and Baja California. Flying long distances each day, condors have recently expanded their range to include Zion

KERN AUDUBON - TEHACHAPI

The recently started "sub-chapter" of Kern Audubon in Tehachapi has formed a "planning team" which has made some basic plans for the year. Participating are Angela Guy, Gail Gewain, Richard Sparks, Carol Gates and Jean Moore with Carol and Angela serving as representatives to the Kern Audubon Executive Board. Two field trips have been planned for Oct. 15 and Oct 29, so see p. 3 of the *Warbler* and check out the Kern Audubon website:

[www. KAStehachapibird.org](http://www.KAStehachapibird.org)

Monthly field trips are planned starting in November.

Richard Sparks is the webmaster and will be updating the website.

The Planning Team has also planned for quarterly meetings with a program night on Tues. Nov. 29, Tues. Feb. 28 and May 30 or 31. Look for more information on the website!

WHEN DOES MY MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE?

When your Audubon membership is getting ready to expire, you should receive a renewal notice from NAS. You can also check the address label on this issue of the *Audubon Warbler* for the date your membership expires. It will be in the upper righthand corner of the label. For example: Exp: 10/11 means that your membership expires in October 2011. If your membership is set to expire or already has, please send a renewal check in the amount of \$35 to:

National Audubon Society

Membership

PO Box 422250

Palm Coast, FL 32142

If you are receiving the electronic version of this newsletter and would like to know your membership expiration date, email Rod Lee: rodmlee@aol.com. Rod is currently handling membership data questions. (Please note that the recent \$20 renewal special is no longer being offered. Renewals are \$35/year.)



29th Annual FACT BBQ for the Birds will be Sat. Oct. 8th, 5:00pm. There will be a great dinner, great music and live & silent auction. Tickets by calling FACT (Facility for Animal Care & Treatment) at 654-3167 or email FACT@csub.edu. Tickets are \$15/adult, \$10/senior & CSUB students, \$6 kids 5-12

Now despised, dandelions once were revered

Posted by Sandi Doughton

Seattle Times photographer Steve Ringman snapped this portrait of a plant that's instantly recognizable to everyone.

Dandelions inspire strong emotions -- mostly negative in the modern world.

But until the rise of the lawn in the early 1900s, the plants were so valued that prize specimens were exhibited at county fairs. Gardeners would weed out grass to make room for dandelions.

I've always admired the dandelion's tenacity. In late summer, when my lawn turns a crispy brown, only the dandelions thrive. What makes them so hardy?

I found the answers in this online presentation by **Anita Sanchez**, an environmental educator in New York state and author of "The Teeth of the Lion: The Story of the Beloved and Despised Dandelion."

Native to the Middle East, dandelions were such important medicinal plants that the Pilgrims apparently carried seeds to North America. The plants pack more vitamin C than tomatoes, more vitamin A than oranges and were used as a liver tonic to help cleanse the blood.

In French, the species name translates to "teeth of the lion," possibly because of their tooth-shaped leaves and powerful health effects. "When we weed them out of the garden, we're probably weeding out the most nutritious plants," Sanchez said.

Multiple adaptations make dandelions bulletproof. They're not picky about pollinators. Almost any insect can do the job. No pollinators? No problem. Dandelions have the rare ability to clone their own seed.

Each "petal" on the cheerful yellow heads is actually a separate flower, which produces a seed. Two hundred seeds sprout from a single puff ball, and can be carried up to 200 miles by thermal air currents.

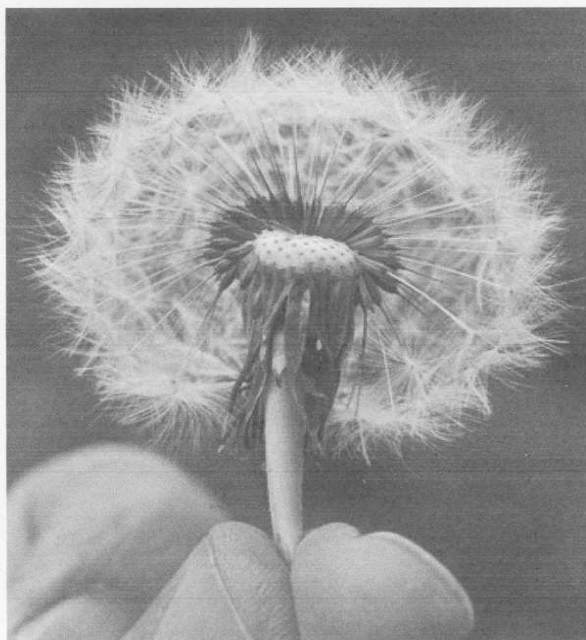
Once a seed hits the ground, it latches on with little barbs. Only one seed out of a hundred fails to germinate. Those tap roots that make dandelions so hard to pull are usually about 3 feet long, though they can grow to an amazing 15 feet.

"If there's the tiniest drop of moisture, the tiniest bit of soil, the smallest crack in the cement, the dandelion can find a way," Sanchez said.

One thing they can't tolerate is shade. Letting your lawn grow three to four inches tall will eliminate dandelions.

But Americans want perfectly manicured grass. We apply nearly 80 million pounds of insect- and weed-killing chemicals to our lawns and gardens annually, according to the National Audubon Society. Much of that barrage is directed at dandelions. Sanchez said her book was inspired by Audubon's estimate that seven million birds are killed every year by homeowners' use of pesticides and herbicides.

Her own rule of thumb for a healthy, chemical-free lawn is one that's dotted with dandelions -- which makes my yard a champion. "If you see dandelions, you can be pretty sure that lawn is good place to let your kids run barefoot," she said.



The Teeth of the Lion

The Story of the Beloved and Despised Dandelion



Reprinted from the Seattle Times, June 13, 2011