

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 46 No.8 OCTOBER 2017 Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society** A chapter of National Audubon Society www.kernaudubonsociety.org

KERN AUDUBON Tues. OCTOBER 3, 2017 - 7:00pm Kern Supt of Schools 1300 17th St, Bakersfield (Street parking or in lot at 18th & K)

Feather Forensics: An Intriguing Look at Nature's Complex 'Integumentary' Structure John Schmitt, Naturalist & Bird Illustrator



John Schmitt is an internationally-known bird artist whose work has formed major artistic contributions to over a dozen books, including the most recent edition (7th) of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and recently released *Raptors of Mexico* & *Central America* and *A Guide to Birds of Trinidad and Tobago*. Over 200 of his illustrations have appeared in ornithological journals, magazines and environmental newsletters including *American Birds* and *Living Bird*, the magazine of Cornel University Lab of Ornithology. John lives locally in the Kern River Valley and his artwork has graced publicity flyers and t-shirts for Audubon's Kern River Preserve for many years.

John will be talking about one of his favorite topics: FEATHERS--their structure and artistry, how they are constructed and how birds use them, etc. John has a spectacular collection of feathers from all over the world, some of which he will share with us.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

Wed. October 11th, 8:30AM - Truxtun Lakes. Al Caetano will lead this morning outing along the shores of Truxtun Lakes next to the Kern River with running water, where we hope to see early migrants, waterfowl, shorebirds and year-round residents. Beginning birders especially welcome! Meet at the Truxtun Extension parking lot between Mohawk and the painted water tower at 8:30am, finishing by 11:30. Wear good walking shoes, bring water/snacks. Binocs are suggested and we have some to loan. Contact Al (661-833-6705) for more information.

Sat. Oct 21, 8:00am - Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area Join Al Caetano for a morning of birding at Buena Vista lake about 30 miles west of Bakersfield where we hope to see migrating songbirds, raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds. A great location for new birders. Loaner binoculars available. Meet at 8:00 am at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway & Don Hart Dr. across from CSUB to carpool or at 8:30am at Buena Vista Rec. Area. There is a \$6.00 entry fee per car so it is a good idea to car pool. Bring water, snacks, binocs. Lunch optional at the BV golf course cafe or BYOL. Return after lunch. Call Al (833-6705) for more information.

Sat. Oct. 28, 8:00am - Meadowbrook Park, Tehachapi

_Meadowbrook Park is located at 21750 Westwood Blvd. in Golden Hills. We will meet at the **Burger King Parking lot at 8 am or at the park 8:30**. The park has paved walkways and easy trails with little elevation change. Should see resident birds and fall migrants. Join Greg Hargleroad, leader, for this morning outing. Bakersfield birders can meet to carpool at the ParknRide at 7:15am (parkinglot between Real Rd & Hiway 99 on Stockdale Hiway.) Bring water & binocs. Call Greg for info: 818/645-3664.



FALL SCIENCE CAMP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Kern Audubon has been leading the way with outreach to local 6th grade students through the fall & spring science camps at Panorama Vista Preserve. Help is needed at the three camps **Tues - Thurs Oct 17-19, 2017, 8-noon.** No experience necessary, all materials provided, just a heart for kids and birds! Contact Kevin Fahey for information & to sign up: 706-7459 or kjfahey@sbcglobal.net

PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE WORKPARTY



The first fall workparty at Panorama Vista Preserve will be on Saturday October 14th, 9 - 11am. Bring shovel or hoe, gloves, water and come out for a morning of helping out at the preserve! Contact David Schaad for info: davidws@pacbell.net or 428-2841, Meet at the east end of Roberts Lane off Manor Dr in east Bakersfield at the locked gate. Newcomers always welcome!

REQUESTS FOR SCIENCE CAMP DONATIONS

Susan Castle has been instrumental in helping to develop our excellent 6th Grade Science Camps at Panorama Vista Preserve held in October and March. She has developed a list of needs and is hoping Kern Audubon members can support the camps through donations, either funds or actual items. Contact Susan for info: 661/477-4848. Financial donations can be sent to Kern Audubon at PO Box 3581, Bakersfield CA 93385.

National Geographic Field Guide for Western North America – \$ 20

National Geographic Bird Watcher's Bible - \$35

Stuffed birds with Authentic Bird Songs - \$10 each Zoo Flip Z Books : Eagle \$10 Penguin \$25 Used binoculars that are in good shape

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 and celebrating the best of birding in the Central Valley. 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 in a calendar year. His new book about his adventure is due out soon: *Birding Witout Borders: An Epic World Big Year*. For information about events and to register, go to www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/info/

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017 - 2018

President - Vacant

Vice-President - Vacant

Sasha Honig. Secretary sashahonig@gmail.com; 325-0026 Margaret Dolan, Treasurer dolan.m@sbcglobal.net; 661-330-9059 Harry Love, Conservation love3@bak.rr.com; 805-1420

Field Trip Coordinator - Vacant

Ginny Dallas, Programs vdallas@bak.rr.com - 301-8188 Linda McMillian, Membership Data lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net; 205-3521 Mark Hodson, Member-at-Large mhodson@bak.rr.com; 699-8415 Mac Mccarthy, Member-at-Large macmccarthy3@gmail.com Mona Sidhu, Member at Large Fairmonas@aol.com; 800-8970 Carol Gates, Tehachapi Rep. Carol.gates18@gmail.com; 300-1429 Mary Dufrain, Tehachapi Rep. marysalternative@yahoo.com; 972-4355 Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470 Kevin Fahey, Past President kjfahey@sbcglobal.net; 706-7459

California Hawking Club will hold a mini-meet at Lake Ming on Sat.-Sun Oct 21-22, 10am - 4pm. Those interested in birds of prey and the art of falconry are welcome to attend. More info: calhawkingclub.org

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 Kern Audubon, 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!



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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 November 7th, 7pm KAS meeting & program will be about HAWKS & FALCONS with falconer Steve Shaw.

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KERN AUDUBON-TEHACHAPI Tues. October 31, 7:00pm

Golden Hills Elementary School Cafeteria (20215 Park Rd. Tehachapi)

"Are Birds Dinosaurs?"



Greg Hargleroad, Speaker

Greg Hargleroad is a Tehachapi High School biology teacher and member of Kern Audubon-Tehachapi. He'll be showing us pictures of fossil birds and dinosaurs on Halloween. How appropriate! Greg is also the field trip leader for Kern Audubon-Tehachapi and is a very good birder.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD The Kern Audubon Executive Board has approved a new 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 board as well as those involved with program/field trips, mailings, social media, website. This will be a part-time position with stipend. Persons interested may contact Madi Elsea, Warbler editor: 322-7470 or madielsea@aol.com



CLIMATE CHANGE spells trouble for more than just the polar bear. In 2016 scientists found that the last Bramble Cay melomys, a rodent found on an island in Australia's Torres Strait, had vanished, victim of rising seas and the first documented case of a mammal driven to extinction by climate change. Rising temperatures are depressing some plant and animal populations, driving species toward the poles, shifting migrations and behavior. The population of Arctic shore bird Red Knot is getting smaller. Populations of Adelie penguins on Antarctica have plummeted. This is the legacy of climate change on animals. Who's next?

Photo (left): 22 folks attended the recent Wind Wolves outing which included sighting of a healthy Black Bear

AUDUBON IMPACTS COASTAL COMMISSION ACTION

The California Coastal Commission met recently in Cambria to consider a permit application by a seafood company to modify its existing oyster cultivation activity on tidal mud flats in Humboldt Bay. At its June meeting, the Commission had denied the company's permit application. Audubon California, the U.S. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, the Tulare Basin Wetlands Association and the California Waterfowl Association had objected to the planned location of some of the company's oyster operations in dense, but sensitive, eelgrass beds on the tidal flats.

The Coastal Commission ended up approving a revised permit application, which protects most, but not all, of the healthiest eelgrass areas in the bay. As part of the permit agreement, Coast Seafoods also agreed to cut back and consolidate its footprint of operations to no more than 279 acres. Coast Seafoods owns or leases 4,313 acres of intertidal land and is the largest employer on Humboldt Bay, having oyster farmed there for 70 years.

Humboldt Bay's eelgrass provides essential and increasingly rare habitat for a large number of fish, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Traditional bottom scraping methods of oyster farming, which are no longer allowed in California, have permanently destroyed many of Humboldt Bay's former eelgrass beds. The less invasive cultivation methods in use today still involve boat and foot traffic and installation of equipment, all of which harm the eelgrass and disturb wildlife. Black Brant geese and Pacific herring are particularly vulnerable to loss or disturbanceof eelgrass beds. Herring in Humboldt Bay spawn (lay their eggs) almost exclusively in eelgrass habitat. They have not been reported to spawn when the eelgrass has oyster aquaculture plots.

For the Black Brant, Humboldt Bay's eelgrass beds are their most important wintering and staging area in California. They are small, dark geese with large wings which migrate along the west coast and as far south as Mexico. They winter and feed only in beds of eelgrass, a staple of their diet. They will also eat the herring eggs they find in the eelgrass, as do many shorebirds. They are highly sensitive to disturbance and are negatively affected by vessel traffic during their winter stopover, a time when they must rest and feed efficiently.

Adding to the importance of Humboldt Bay's eelgrass habitat, there is huge decline in eelgrass along the west coast south of Humboldt Bay. Morro Bay, for example, which has always been an important staging area for Black Brant during migration, has lost 97% of its eelgrass since 2007, from 344 acres down to 13. The exact cause of that decline is still unknown. A major transplanting effort was undertaken in 2014, but little of the transplanted eelgrass has survived. *Reported by Mac McCarthy, Member-at-Large, Kern Audubon Executive Board*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities... • Tues. Oct. 3, 7pm - Meeting & program • Wed. Oct. 11, 8:30am - Truxtun lake outing • Tues. Oct. 17, 7pm - KAS Executive Board • Sat. Oct. 21, 8am - Buena Vista lake outing • Sat. Oct. 28, 8am - Meadowbrook Park,

Tehachapi outing

Non-Profit Org US Postage PAID Bakersfield CA Permit #93

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 enclos	Amount enclosed	
Address:	City	Zip	
E-mail	Phone #		