



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 39 No 7 - September 2010
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Society Fall Meeting.....

Tues. SEPT 7, 2010

7:00pm – Kern Supt. of Schools

17th & L Sts. (Parking garage at 18th & K)

KERN RIVER VALLEY/SO. SIERRA BIRDS & BIRDING

BOB BARNES, Presenter

**Photos by Bob Steele (internationally known bird photographer),
Bob Barnes & Alison Sheehy ("Nature Ali")**

The Kern River Valley and surrounding mountains of the Southern Sierra Nevada have become internationally known birding areas visited by birders from around North America and, indeed, the world. Because of the area's importance to native birds, the South Fork Kern River Valley and portions of the surrounding Sequoia National Forest have also been designated Globally Important Bird Areas by the National Audubon Society.

Through bird and scenic images, Bob Barnes will take us through the birding year in this world class birding area. Join us and learn about the many special birding spots and some of the incredible birds they host....spots you may visit and birds you might see in Kern County's backyard.

Bob Barnes is a phenomenal birder and teacher who has led 250 formal birding trips in the Kern River Valley/So Sierras area over the past 30 years. He is past Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California and past Chair of California Partners in Flight. He's been an active member of and officer for Tulare County Audubon and as President of California Wilderness Coalition, served as catalyst for protection of the South Fork Kern River watershed through his work with various governmental and environmental organizations.

Bob has led many field trips for Kern Audubon, including one scheduled for Sunday Sept. 19th (see below) and we are honored to have him present this program to begin our Fall schedule. Come and enjoy his program on Kern County's special birding regions and realize the opportunities for personal exploration close at hand!



Birding Field Trip

SUN. SEPT 19, 7:30AM – HART PARK/LAKE MING

Join Kern Audubon for the first of Fall field trip to observe & identify resident and migratory birds at Hart Park, Kern River Campground and Lake Ming. Trip leader is Bob Barnes, who has identified up to 80 species of birds in these locations. This will be a half-day field trip beginning at 7:30am at Hart Park. We will meet near the restrooms on Mirror Drive at the west entrance to the park, between the two lakes. Bring binoculars, water, snacks and a picnic lunch. Call Madi (322-7470) for more information. Beginning birders especially welcome!



FOR THE BIRDS....

Birds have begun their fall migration and Kern Audubon is beginning another year of excellent programs and (hopefully) field trip opportunities. In taking over as president I'm mindful of all that this local chapter can do to positively impact our community as we also educate ourselves about birds and other wildlife and their habitats. It's a privilege to be a part of an organization where "birds matter" and your Executive Board, will continue to offer opportunities to learn about and enjoy birds as we also advocate on their behalf.

Yes, "hopefully" we will continue to provide field trip opportunities, but to do so, we need people who are willing to help make field trips happen. Field trips are one of the best ways to do outreach and promote birding and bird concerns, so we want field trips to be a part of what Kern Audubon offers to members and the community. A working group of 4-6 people could plan and implement one or two field trips a month, thereby sharing the load. So, please consider volunteering to be a part of such a group and help keep field trips on the calendar! Contact me or any member of the Board if you are interested or would like more information.

As we begin this new year, I want to thank my co-chair these past four years, Dr. Ted Murphy, for all he has done to reactivate this chapter of Audubon. I learned a lot from Ted and was constantly amazed by all his connections in the community and his dedication to developing Kern Audubon's outreach to and involvement in the greater Bakersfield community. Thanks, Ted, for being an inspiration!

We are also looking for someone who is good on the computer and has knowledge of Excel, which is the program National Audubon uses to record membership data and provide the local chapter with address labels. Annette Wells has graciously served in this position for the past 3 plus years and we want to thank her profusely for her work. Annette is available to train her replacement, which is needed immediately! Please contact me if you or someone you know might be willing to serve!

See you Sept. 7th, 7pm for a great meeting and program!

Madi Elsea, President

NEED INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDS?

One of the best websites for learning about birds and bird behavior is www.cornellbirds@cornell.edu. This is the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the world leader in the study and conservation of birds.

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor

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The Kern Audubon Executive Board meets monthly on the third Wednesday, 7pm. Meetings are open to interested members; contact a board member for meeting locations.

GULF SPILL INFORMATION

For up-to-date information about how the National Audubon Society is responding to the devastating oil spill effecting the Gulf Coast and how you can offer financial support, go to www.audubon.org

WEBSITES to check out...

Kern Birding For a comprehensive website about Kern Co. birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos For what's unusual in Kern County, go to kerncobirding@yahoogroups.com You'll find recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Michael McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

Audubon California has a great website about its activities and organization: www.Audubon-ca.org

Audubon in the news - To find out more about national Audubon happenings through an informative electronic newsletter, email chapterleaders@audubon.org

WINDMILLS & BIRDS

The enXco company, based in Santa Monica, is in the process of applying for permission to construct a 8,300 acre wind farm, with 250 1 megawatt towers, to produce renewable energy. The Audubon Society is a strong proponent of wind farms and the concept that renewable energy is far better than a fossil fuel dependent generator of electricity. Our concern is the inevitable bird kills associated with 450 foot rotor blades. The company has done extensive surveys of the property that is directly west of Rosamond, noting migratory bird routes and raptor nests and foraging patterns. Even though the area is low in both categories, Audubon and the Kern County Planning Department are asking for a five year monitoring phase after construction to see how many birds and bats are killed. The key issue is that wind farm technology and siting formulas have improved in the past two decades and that future improvements will continue to reduce avian mortality. We are hoping that prescribed monitoring, by an independent biologist, will reduce bird kills and improve the technology. We know that global climate change is also a threat to bird populations. Reduction of carbon dioxide in the air will help to reverse this change. A vote on the final EIR goes to the Planning Commission on September 7. Contact me (love3@bak.rr.com) if you need additional information.

Harry Love, Conservation Chair

WORKDAY AT PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

Join Kern Audubon Saturday, September 11, 8-10 AM, as we begin our second year of 'adoption' of the Panorama Vista Preserve. Work that needs to be done is weeding around the new trees and general maintenance. The new plants are doing great but do need some TLC after our summer break. Bring gloves, shovel, and hoe if you have them...sunscreen, hat, and water are a must. (Note: because Labor Day Weekend falls on the first Saturday, we opted for the second one.) Call Harry Love (805-1420) or email him (love3@bak.rr.com) if you would like to become part of the 'adoptive team' or join us on Sat. Sept 11th, 8am at the gate to the preserve. Directions: take Manor Drive to Roberts Lane exit and go east on Roberts to the gate!



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK???

National Audubon is encouraging local chapters to get involved in the world of social media as a way of attracting new and younger populations of people, especially those interested in nature and the environment. Is there someone in our chapter who would like to help develop a Kern Audubon Facebook page?! If you might be interested, contact Rod Lee, 322-7470 or rodmlee@aol.com

Central Valley Birding Symposium

Bird lovers, bird listers and birders of all levels of experience are invited to the 14th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium to be held at the Hilton in Stockton, CA, Nov. 18-21, 2010. This year evening programs will feature dynamic photographer and author Paul Bannick giving a program based on his research on "Owls and Woodpeckers of the West" and award-winning photographer/author Moose Petersen, who will give a presentation on "California's Threatened and Endangered Birds".

Workshops include Jon Dunn on sparrows and Joe Morlan's shorebird ID workshop focusing on loons and grebes, plus many others, ranging from Central Valley Raptors to Beginning Birding and digiscoping to bird sketching. Field trips will be offered plus the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, wonderful displays of art and gifts at the Birder's Market. For more information or registration go to the website at www.cvbs.org or contact Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net

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

AUDUBON "APPS"

Audubon has "apps" and is working in alliance with Audubon Guides/Green Mountain Digital to produce mobile apps for the iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and coming soon to the Android Market. There are over 25 apps available on the iTunes store and a website is designed to engage users to share sightings, photos and communicate. www.AudubonGuides.com

Green Mountain Digital (www.greenmountaindigital.com) is an innovative digital media publisher and the mobile apps market leader in nature and wildlife. The most popular apps include:

- Audubon Birds – A Field Guide to North American Birds
- Audubon Wildflowers - A Field Guide to North American Wildflowers
- Audubon Nature New England - The Ultimate New England Nature Guide

AUDUBON ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT/CEO

New York, NY - The National Audubon Society has announced that David Yarnold has been named its new President and Chief Executive Officer, giving new momentum to efforts to connect people with nature and their power to protect it. A passionate conservationist, Yarnold currently serves as Executive Director of Environmental Defense Fund and President of Environmental Defense Action Fund. Prior to that, he was a Pulitzer Prize-winning editor at the *San Jose Mercury News*.

"David brings proven leadership in the for-profit and non-profit sectors to Audubon at a time when efforts to protect birds, habitats and the resources that sustain us are needed more than ever;" said Holt Thrasher, Audubon's Board Chair. "His leadership ability, his passion for conservation and grassroots action, his communications skills and his organizational expertise all make him the perfect fit for the Audubon of 2010 and beyond."

"David is a boundary-crosser, the kind of flexible thinker and values-based executive that a complex conservation and fundraising landscape demands right now," Thrasher said. "He shares Audubon's traditional passion for birds and its visionary understanding that helping people to protect them will safeguard our own future as well. I have no doubt that David will lead Audubon in expanding its reach to new audiences and elevating its conservation successes to new heights." .

"Audubon's mission has never been more relevant. From the grassroots to state houses to national and regional policy, its wingspan is unparalleled," Yarnold said. "I'm excited by the opportunity to work with a nationwide network of Audubon Chapters and Audubon Centers that combine local concern, knowledge and action to equal conservation that makes a difference on a grand scale. It will be an honor to lead an organization whose name has meant 'trust' and 'conservation achievement' for more than a hundred years."

Yarnold's *San Jose Mercury News* was consistently ranked as one of America's 10 Best Newspapers and was called, "America's Boldest Newspaper" by a panel of international judges. During his time in San Jose, the Mercury News was widely recognized for its commitment to diversity and for its in-depth coverage of technology. He was also one of three Pulitzer Prize finalists for editorial writing in 2005.

"For me, going to Audubon is like going home. Community-based education and action that breeds broader changes has always been engaging and rewarding for me and those are the things Audubon does best," Yarnold said.

He will assume the Presidency of Audubon on Sept 1.

AUDUBON'S KERN RIVER PRESERVE

The Kern River Preserve is a 2987 acre preserve located on the South Fork Kern River corridor near Weldon, a biologically rich piece of natural California that protects one of California's finest remaining riparian forests and the wildlife it supports. If you haven't been to the preserve, it is located about an hour east of Bakersfield on Hiway 178. Several upcoming events will be of interest and the public is always welcome! Go to the website for more information:

<http://kern.audubon.org>

- Sat. Sept. 4th, 9 - 11am: *Demonstration on South Pacific Pond Turtle* - Learn about the preserve's efforts to help head-start this native species of concern
 - Sat. Sept. 18, 7 - 11am Workday at the preserve
 - Sat. Sept. 25, 9am - 3pm *Kern Valley Nature & Vulture Festival*
- Sat. Oct. 2 - *Plein Air Watercolor Workshop* - Learn how to paint in the field...bring materials such as paint, paper, brushes, field chair, etc.

Want more information? Email: krpfriends@audubon.org or call (760)378-2029

Prop 21: A LEGACY FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Did you know that 52 Audubon California Important Bird Areas are at least partially owned by California State Parks, totaling 156,000 acres?



Audubon California, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwood League and California State Parks Foundation are sponsors of The State Parks & Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act ("State Parks Initiative") appearing on the November 2, 2010 statewide ballot as Proposition 21.

Prop 21 works like this-

- Vehicles registered in California will get a free, year round day use admission to all California state parks in exchange for a new annual \$18 vehicle license fee, a considerable savings if you go to more than two State parks in a year.
- The funding will provide a stable, reliable and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians.
- The parks budget will no longer be subject to cuts by the legislature or the Governor, the Trust Fund cannot be borrowed from or raided, and our state Parks can begin work on acquisitions and deferred maintenance once the funds become available.

The passage of this proposition is a conservation legacy that all of us Audubon members in California can leave to future generations!

If you can give any volunteer time to the campaign please go to <http://yesforstateparks.com/> and GET INVOLVED. Save our State Parks and help pass Proposition 21 in November!



"Jewels of the Sky"
Mon. August 30, 7:00pm
BeeKay Theater, Tehachapi

Ross Hawkins, Hummingbird Society

One of the world's leading advocates and recognized authority on hummingbirds and featuring amazing images of these birds.

Public welcome...come early for a good seat!

Although trained as a research scientist (chemistry), Ross Hawkins early decided his real future lay in investments and spent most of his working career as a stockbroker for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Fate intervened, however, when his wife, Beth, introduced him to the amazing world of hummingbirds in 1988. He was never the same again! In 1996, after diligent study and after determining that no organization was focused on hummingbird conservation (despite the fact that about 10% of all the 329 hummingbird species were endangered), he founded the nonprofit Hummingbird Society. Just a few years later, he took early retirement from his stock market career to devote himself full time to the Society.

Currently the Hummingbird Society is working with several partners to plan and execute projects aimed at preventing extinction of three Critically Endangered hummingbird species: The Juan Fernandez Firecrown (Chile), the Honduran Emerald (Honduras), and the Colorful Puffleg (Colombia).

(Hawkins' photo courtesy of Juan Bahamon)

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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

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Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. Sept. 7, 7:00pm ~ Program by Bob Barnes on Kern River Valley & Southern Sierra Birds and Birding
- Sat. Sept 11, 8-10am ~ Panorama Vista Preserve Work morning
- Sun. Sept. 19, 7:30am - Field trip to Hart Park/Lake Ming led by Bob Barnes