



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 38 No 7 - September 2009  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

## Fall Gathering of Kern Audubon Society JOIN US...

**Tuesday SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

**7:00pm**

Kern Superintendent of Schools  
17th & L Sts.

### Program: "Wildlife Destination: The Galapagos"

Kern Audubon is back after summer break with a fascinating look at one of the most unique plant & animal environments on earth: The Galapagos Islands. Join Kern Audubon members Barbara Reifel and Ginny Dallas as they share highlights of their June adventure 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the islands often referred to as a "living laboratory," the place which makes observation, photography and study endlessly rewarding. Blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, geckos, sea lions, humongous tortoises were observed by these intrepid travelers as they also learned about the impressive international conservation efforts at work to preserve and restore plant and animal habitats and minimize the influence of ecotourism. Their adventure even included meeting Prince Charles, the "royal environmentalist" on his tour of the islands.



*Join us for a fun and informative evening as we kick-off the 2009-2010 Audubon year!*

### **SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS**

#### **Sat. Sept. 12, 8:00am -- Waste Water Treatment Ponds**

Yes, the City of Bakersfield's sewer ponds are a local birding destination...a great place to view shorebirds and waterfowl, especially those migrating through our area. Michael McQuerry, avid and expert birder, will lead this outing to spot the usual and the unusual on the ponds.

Meet at the gate into the treatment plant at 8:00am. Take Mt. Vernon exit off Hiway 58 and go south, following Mt. Vernon until it ends at the gate where we will meet for carpooling into the plant for viewing. Bring water, snacks, binoculars. Call 322-7470 for information.

#### **Sat. Sept. 26, 8:00am -- Kern National Wildlife Refuge**

Kern Nat'l Wildlife Refuge is holding a Fall Open House that will focus on environmental and hunter education as well as bird identification. Refuge tours and dedication of the new observation platform will also take place, plus a free lunch. For information about the Open House, call 725-2767.

If you'd like to attend the Open House, you can go directly to the refuge ([www.fws.org/kern](http://www.fws.org/kern)) or join Kern Audubon on a "field trip". We will meet for carpooling at the Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway just north of CSUB (across the street). Call Madi for info: 322-7470.

### **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Ted Murphy, Co-Chair  
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### **Board of Supervisors Rejects Housing Development Proposal**

On Tuesday, August 18, the Kern County Board of Supervisors, by a vote of 3-2, voted to reject a large mixed use housing development along Rosedale Highway, west of Nord Rd. The argument that produced this vote was that the county and the city are working on developing an updated urban plan and that this development would fall into the year 2035-2050 build out phase. One supervisor, Jon McQuiston, termed the proposal as being 'premature'. This is a great victory for those who support planned growth, in-fill development, and preservation of farm land. Please send a 'thank you' note to the three supervisors who looked to the future, and not the past, in their vote: Mike Maggard, Jon McQuiston, and Don Maben. You can mail your comments to: 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301.

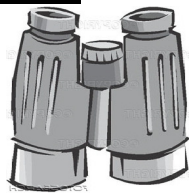
Harry Love  
Conservation Chair

### **KEEP FEEDERS CLEAN**

Remember to keep hummingbird feeders clean using a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water. Use a bottle brush to clean the inside and rinse well. Fill feeders with sugar water (four parts HOT water to one part white sugar). Never use honey and avoid red food coloring. *Change solution twice a week during the hot weather!!*

### **TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.**

Tues. Sept. 15th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*. Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time & place to meet. All birders are welcome!



### **Audubon Magazine Raises the Bar for Recycling**

As one of the leading authorities on environmental issues, you might think *Audubon* magazine couldn't be any "greener." Audubon, the venerable voice for bird conservation since 1899 is taking its environmental commitment to new heights with the September-October issue. Like our LEED Platinum headquarters, Audubon is again setting an example to follow. Despite the many glossies that talk a good game on green issues, fewer than one percent of the 17,000 magazines published in the United States contain any recycled paper. With this issue, *Audubon's* body stock is tripling from 30 percent post-consumer recycled paper to 90 percent. Recycled paper uses less water and energy, emits fewer greenhouse gases, and preserves carbon dioxide-absorbing trees. This paper is also certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and produced without any chlorine. The initiative slashes CO2 emissions from printing by 608 metric tons annually, (a full 7 per cent of Audubon's carbon footprint). The change saves Audubon \$18,000 a year, and saves trees, particularly in Canada's boreal forest, home to 300 species of birds.

### **SPRING BBQ A SUCCESS!!**

Over fifty Kern Auduboners enjoyed a relaxing evening of fellowship and music under the trees at FACT last June. Many thanks to DAVE OGDEN, guitarist extraordinaire, for the wonderful music and to all those who helped with organization and set-up: Ginny Dallas, Harry & Kathy Love, Ted Murphy, Lynn & Bill McDonald, Dawn & Josh Bradley, Cindy Hukill. We also thank Western Kitchens for the great food and price. It was a great end to the 2008-2009 year!

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

## Approval of protections for North Central Coast - victory for birds and habitat

Emeryville, CA – The approval on August 5, 2009, of sweeping new protections for marine areas from Point Arena to Half Moon Bay by the California Fish and Game Commission marks a tremendous victory for birds and habitat, said representatives of Audubon California recently.

“This is a big step in the right direction for marine birds and wildlife along the North Central Coast,” said Anna Weinstein, Audubon California’s seabird conservation coordinator. “While we certainly would like more protections for our embattled seabirds, we recognize that this compromise solution was the result of a long collaborative process involving scientists, conservationists, commercial fishing interests, and recreational users...Up and down the coast, seabirds are facing tremendous challenges to survive as food sources become less reliable and critical nesting sites face more disturbances,” Weinstein added. “This situation couldn’t wait any longer for solutions, and the Commission made the right decision in taking this action today.”

The proposal that the Commission approved was the called the North Central Coast Integrated Preferred Alternative – with slight modifications from the commissioners. Audubon California supported the proposal because it creates essential protections for a number of important seabirds, particularly *Common Murre*, *Tufted Puffin*, *Brandt’s Cormorant*, *Ashy-Storm-Petrel*, and *Brown Pelican*. The North Central Coast study area covers the area from Point Arena in Mendocino County down to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County, from the shore to the three-mile jurisdictional limit. Additionally, the proposal will create a number of special closure zones, where no vessels may enter, to protect seabirds and marine mammals from disturbance.

Source: Audubon California newsletter

### KERN AUDUBON SPEAKERS BUREAU

Ted Murphy, Co-chair of Kern Audubon, has organized a speakers bureau to provide programs for local clubs and other groups on a wide range of topics by a number of speakers, including:

*Birding in Peru*

*Kern-Pixley Wildlife Refuges*

*Birds of Kern County*

*Early History of the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment (FACT)*

*The Antiquities Act: How National Monuments Were Established*

*Bakersfield’s Favorite Furry, the Urban Kit Fox*

*Global Warming*

*Tule Elk State Reserve*

*History of the Audubon Society*

*Kern County Land Preserves.*

Other topics may be added and additional speakers recruited. All of the presentations are illustrated with color photos and last 45 minutes with question periods following. Some topics may be adapted to a shorter time period of 20—30 minutes, depending on the type of meeting. If you need a program for your group, call Ted (325-0307). He will refer your request to the appropriate presenter who will then contact you to make the arrangements for the presentation.

**Looking ahead to Tues. October 6th, 7:00pm....**The October meeting of Kern Audubon will be a fascinating look at the hunt for the IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER....is it extinct or not?! Join us for a program presented by Dave Peretska, US Fish & Wildlife biologist, who has been a part of the exciting search for this bird, often called “The Lord God Bird”, that may still be surviving in the swamps of the southeastern United States. Dave is from Ventura and is an active member of Ventura Audubon Society. It’s a program you don’t want to miss!

## BirdSleuth

Teachers...are you looking for new, low-cost nature-oriented activities for your students or youth program this year? Consider the [BirdSleuth](http://www.BirdSleuth.net) curriculum developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The first module, *BirdSleuth: Most Wanted Birds*, contains fun, easy lessons with activities that teach children how to identify birds and collect observations that can be reported to the Cornell Lab and used in scientific studies. The curriculum comes with everything you need to help children make an important connection with nature—perhaps for the first time. Each flexible, easy-to-use lesson in BirdSleuth is geared toward upper elementary and middle-school students. Youngsters learn how to identify birds and to really appreciate nature's diversity in their own neighborhoods. Each module comes with lesson plans, a student journal, resource DVD, and more. To learn more about *BirdSleuth: Most Wanted Birds*, or any of the curriculum modules, visit [www.BirdSleuth.net](http://www.BirdSleuth.net) or email Jennifer Fee, BirdSleuth director: [birdsleuth@cornell.edu](mailto:birdsleuth@cornell.edu).

## **Birdwatchers No Featherweights in Contributions to Economy**

A new report released recently by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows one of every five Americans watches birds, and in doing so, birdwatchers contributed \$36 billion to the U.S. economy in 2006, the most recent year for which economic data are available. The report – *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis* – shows that total participation in birdwatching is strong at 48 million, and remaining at a steady 20 percent of the U.S. population since 1996. Participation rates vary, but are generally greater in the northern half of the country. The five top states with the greatest birding participation rates include Montana (40 percent), Maine (39 percent), Vermont (38 percent), Minnesota (33 percent) and Iowa (33 percent). The participation rates of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region include Washington (31 percent), Idaho (28 percent), Oregon (27 percent) and Hawaii (10 percent).

The report identifies who birders are, where they live, how avid they are, and what kinds of birds they watch. In addition to demographic information, this report also provides an estimate of how much birders spend on their hobby and the economic impact of these expenditures. The report is an addendum to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The 2006 survey is the eleventh in a series of surveys conducted about every 5 years that began in 1955. The survey, conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with state wildlife agencies and national conservation organizations, has become the reference for participation and expenditure information on fish and wildlife recreation in the United States. The survey helps quantify how enjoyment of the outdoors and wildlife contributes to society and promotes a healthy economy – and further strengthens the Service's commitment to conserve the nation's wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of the American people.

A copy of the *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis* can be downloaded from the Fish & Wildlife website: [http://library.fws.gov/Pubs/birding\\_natsurvey06.pdf](http://library.fws.gov/Pubs/birding_natsurvey06.pdf)

We're looking for a "librarian"...If you like books, like to read and would like others to have that opportunity, Kern Audubon needs you! The chapter has a good collection of bird and bird-watching related books that need to be displayed and available for check-out/check-in at our monthly meetings. If you would be interested in serving in this position, contact Madi (322-7470) or Ted (325-0307) for more information.

## Enjoy Fall at our National Wildlife Refuges

Flooding of the refuge has begun and the ducks are starting to return to the **Kern National Wildlife Refuge**, 20 miles east of Delano, and fall is a great time to visit. A new observation platform has been built near the headquarters and there is a new additional auto tour route which will be open all year, even during hunting season. At the **Pixley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge** east of Earlimart, the Sandhill Cranes will be flying in around mid-September and staying for the winter, providing a great opportunity to view these primordial birds, which are best seen at sunset as they fly back to the refuge to spend the night. For more information about the refuges, go to the website: [www.fws.gov/kern](http://www.fws.gov/kern) or call: 725-2767. The public is invited to the Kern NWR Open House on Sat. Sept. 26, 2009 - 8am - 2pm for refuge tours, presentations and lunch!

## KERN VALLEY AUTUMN NATURE & TURKEY VULTURE FESTIVAL

**Sat. Sept 26, 2009 - 9am - 3pm**

The 15th Annual Kern River Valley Autumn Nature & Turkey Vulture Festival will take place at Audubon's Kern River Preserve east of Weldon, on the last Saturday of September. The festival corresponds with one of the largest known migration sites (north of Mexico) of Turkey Vultures as well as the fall land bird migration. There will be booths, workshops, nature walks, children's activities, etc. at the preserve, plus seeing the vultures as they lift-off from their roosting sites around the preserve. For more information, visit the KRP website: <http://kern.audubon.org/tvfest.htm>



## KERN - BIRDIEST INLAND COUNTY

With 246 species reported for the May 1-3, 2009 weekend count, Kern County has once again earned recognition as "America's Birdiest Inland County," the sixth year in a row Kern has earned this distinction. Los Angeles County earned America's Birdiest County recognition overall with 264 species and Corpus Christi, Texas, earned the Birdiest City recognition with 217 species. Bob Barnes is the Coordinator & Compiler for Kern County....we thank Bob and all who participated in Kern County's effort!

## PROPOSED REVISION OF BY-LAWS

The Kern Audubon Executive Board has been in the process of revising the chapter by-laws and will present the recommended revisions at the October meeting for approval by the membership. A copy of the by-laws can be found on the website: [www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)

## Upcoming Bird Festivals

If you like combining travel, birding, fun and education, consider attending a birding festival. Check out one of these websites for more information:

[www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)  
[www.Americanbirding.org/festivals](http://www.Americanbirding.org/festivals)

## 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...

- Tues. Sept. 1st, 7:00pm - Monthly program "Wildlife Destination: The Galapagos Islands"
- Sat. Sept. 12, 8:00am - Birding field trip to the City Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Sat. Sept. 26, 8:00am - Field trip to the Kern National Wildlife Refuge

## Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C9ZC300Z)

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*. (11 issues)

\_\_\_\_ New Member \$20      \_\_\_\_ Renewal \$35

Make check payable to **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY** (not Kern Audubon)

Send check & form to ...Kern Audubon  
PO Box 3581  
Bakersfield CA 93385

I am enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation for the work of Kern Audubon in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_. (Check payable to Kern Audubon)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_