



# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 41 no. 57 - September 2012  
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society  
A chapter of National Audubon Society  
[www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org)  
[www.kastehachapibird.org](http://www.kastehachapibird.org)

Tuesday Sept 4, 2012

## KERN AUDUBON'S FALL KICK-OFF

Kern Supt of Schools - 17th & L Sts., Bakersfield

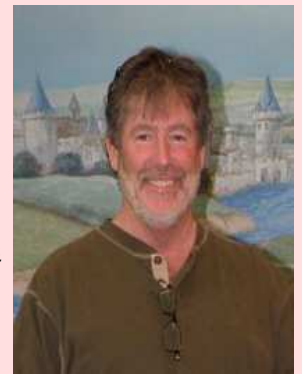
PRESENTING....

### BARNES & WILSON on BIRDS, BINOCLS & BIRDING HOTSPOTS

The dynamic duo of Bakersfield's John Wilson and Ridgecrest's Bob Barnes will kick-off the 2012-2013 Kern Audubon year with an interactive, audience participation program of helpful tips from their collective wisdom & birding expertise. Topics include...



- bird attraction and feeding
- hummingbird attraction, feeding, and gardening;
- binocular selection and use
- birding and smart-phone etiquette
- learning bird song
- field guide review and use
- using weather patterns to help predict bird migration
- helpful references including web sites
- why Kern County has been named "America's Birdiest Inland County" for the past nine years
- PLUS.....Kern County birding hotspots including audience favorites



Numerous handouts will supplement the topics covered for use as reference at home. Bring binoculars, cameras, and spotting scopes with tripods if possible to use and share. Mounted birds and other props will be on hand to enhance the program. An added feature will be the delightful, especially funny 2 minute video "Sh\*@!!% is What Birders Say".

John & Bob are both phenomenal birders and happy to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for birding. John is editor of California Christmas Bird Counts for the National Audubon Society and has an established dental practice in Bakersfield. Bob is a noted tour guide for birding the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierras. He is past Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California and a retired teacher.

Be sure to attend this September 4th kick-off program - it promises to be fun, fast-paced and informative! Bring a friend....Refreshments & raffle included!



### PANORAMA VISTA WORKPARTIES BEGIN AGAIN

September marks the beginning of a new work year at Panorama Vista Preserve. This year workparties will be on the second Saturday of the month starting **Saturday, September 8, 8-10 AM**. After two months of 'rest', the tumble weeds have had time to grow, so weeding will be of prime concern. However, you will be happy to see all of the new growth on the plants. What to bring: sun hat, gloves, water, and shovel/hoe. Andy Honig will be the contact person ([andym5@bak.rr.com](mailto:andym5@bak.rr.com)) for September's work party. Please come out, enjoy the views, and help contribute to a fantastic asset for Bakersfield. New volunteers are encouraged to come out! How to get there: north on Union onto Manor Dr, exit Roberts Lane, turn left(east) until road ends at gate to the Preserve.

## **KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**2012 - 2013**

Madi Elsea, President  
*madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470*  
Al Caetano, Vice-President  
*alvic@bak.rr.com; 833-6705*  
Patty Richardson, Executive Secretary  
*turtlewoman88@yahoo.com*  
Gary McKibbin, Treasurer  
*gmckibbin@farmersagent.com; 392-1403*  
Harry Love, Conservation  
*love3@bak.rr.com; 589-6245*  
Richard Adams, Programs  
*adams14@live.com; 321-9527*  
Deb See & Bill Moffat, Field Trips  
*seemoffats@aol.com; 805-0232*  
Tim Lynch, Publicity  
*Lynchtim1968@yahoo.com; 428-4455*  
Kathy Love, Hospitality  
*kathylove64@gmail.com; 589-6245*  
Madi Elsea, Warbler Editor  
*madielsea@aol.com; 322-7470*  
Carol Gates, Tehachapi Rep.  
*Carol.gates18@gmail.com; 822-0214*  
Angela Guy, Tehachapi Rep.  
*Angelaguy@att.net; 304-6816*  
Ted Murphy, Past President  
*tmurphy@bak.rr.com; 325-0307*

## **BIRDS OF THE KERN**

Last winter the Kern Audubon Executive Board applied for and received an Audubon California Collaborative Grant in the amount of \$2500 to produce a color brochure on the birds of the Kern River. The brochure has been completed and is being distributed to Beale Library, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Board of Trade, area hotels, etc. Copies will also be available to Kern Audubon members at the September 4th meeting and as an outreach to new birders and new members to Audubon. The brochure is highlighted by NANCY PUTNEY's beautiful cover artwork (below) and map with bird photos by ROGER COLEY, ROD LEE, JIM BURROW, BILL LYDECKER, ANDY HONIG & MARY DUFRAIN, all members of Kern Audubon. The graphic design was provided by members RICHARD & CHRISTINE SPARKS, owners of SparksArts in Tehachapi. MADI ELSEA provided the narrative portions of the brochure. We are grateful for the Audubon grant that made the brochure possible and hope it will be an attractive tool for outreach and education about birds and the Kern River. Thank you to all who made the brochure possible!

## **RAFFLE COORDINATOR, PRIZES, LIBRARIAN, PUBLICITY....**

These are some of the needs Kern Audubon has for the coming year and you can help by volunteering! Raffle "prizes" are always welcome (gently used items or gifts you don't know what to do with)....a person to keep the raffle organized and brought to the meetings...someone to keep the library and arrange at the meetings for check-out...a publicity person (all done by computer and only about 1 hour/month of time involved). If you'd like to help with one of these functions, contact Madi Elsea (322-7470). You'll have fun and provide an easy and valuable service to Kern Audubon!

## **CALIFORNIA CONDOR OUTREACH & VIEWING BOOTH**

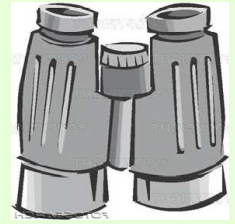
The Friends of the California Condors Wild & Free has a summer outreach booth on Cerro Noroeste Rd where it runs through Bitter Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. This is an opportunity to learn about California Condors and possibly see some in the wild! The booth operates on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 8am - 3pm through September and is located at the upper Bitter Creek NWR sign on Cerro Noroeste Rd. between Maricopa and Pine Mountain Club. Take I-5 to CA 166 toward Taft. Follow CA-166 about 33 miles then left on Cerro Noroeste Rd. past Maricopa. The booth is about 9 miles at the second Bitter Creek NWR sign.



*Kern Audubon Society*  
*www.KernAudubonSociety.org*  
*Audubon California • www.AudubonCA.org*



## SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS



Wed. Sept 12, 7:30am "Wednesday Walk" field trip - Tule Elk Reserve. State Park Ranger Bill Moffat will lead this wildlife viewing trip thru the Tule Elk Reserve. Meet at Kern River Parkway parking lot on Stockdale Hiway (at Don Hart Dr.) across from CSUB to carpool. Bring water, snacks, binoculars. Call 805-0232 for info.

### Sat. Sept 15, 7:30am Hart Park

Kern Audubon field trip & birding class: "Bird Sounds and Careful Observation in the Field" with noted birder Bob Barnes. Gain tips for learning bird sounds, enjoy birds through observation and enhance your ID skills. Beginners as well as advanced birders welcome! Meet at the west end of Hart Park on Mirror Dr. between the two lakes as you enter the park. Bring water, snacks, binoculars. \$5 registration requested. [www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org) or Deb & Bill (805-0232) for info

### Sat. Sept 22 – Sawyer Lake

This field trip is to Sawyer Lake in Tehachapi to see resident birds and fall migrants. Bakersfield birders will meet at **6:45am** at the Stockdale Park n Ride between Real Rd. & Hiway 99 to carpool. Tehachapi area birders will meet at **7:30am** at the Burger King parking lot in the Kmart shopping center on Tehachapi Blvd. Bring water, snacks, binocs. Call Angela (821-7702) or [www.kastehachapibird.org](http://www.kastehachapibird.org) for information.

### Sat. Sept 29, 8:00am – Kern River Preserve's Turkey Vulture Festival

The 18th annual Kern River Preserve Turkey Vulture Festival coincides with one of the largest migration sites of turkey vultures as well as the fall land bird migration. There are booths and activities at the preserve plus opportunities to see the vultures as they "lift-off" from their roosting sites around the preserve. Meet to carpool at Albertson's parking lot on Mt. Vernon & Hiway 178. Call 322-7470 or [www.kernaudubonsociety.org](http://www.kernaudubonsociety.org) for information.

## *Tehachapi Birding*



### **Kern Audubon-Tehachapi**

Save these dates:

*Tuesdays Oct 30, Jan 29 & April 30*  
7:00PM

Kern Audubon's satellite chapter in Tehachapi, Kern Audubon-Tehachapi, had a great start last year with monthly field trips under the leadership of Angela Guy and several quarterly meetings. Plans are underway for the 2012-2013 program year and the first quarterly meeting will be....

**Tuesday October 30th - 7:00pm**  
**Golden Valley Elementary School**  
**20215 Park Rd. Tehachapi**

Topic: The California Condor Recovery Program  
with speaker Joseph Briant, USFWS

Many thanks to the planning task force who are making arrangements for this year's programs and publicity: Mary Dufrain, Gail Gewain, Carol Gates, Angela Guy and Richard Sparks. [www.kasteachapibird.org](http://www.kasteachapibird.org) for info!!

## Central Valley Bird Symposium

On November 15th-18th, 2012, the Central Valley Bird Club will host the 16th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton in Stockton, CA. Exciting guest speakers, workshops and field trips highlight this 4 day symposium that is open to the public. Keynote speakers include Ed Harper on "Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley"; Sophie Webb on "Seabirds & Marine Mammals of the Tropical Eastern Pacific"; and Carlos Bettancourt on "The Natural Spondor of the Panama Canal." In addition, Paul Baicich will present "Access Matters: Why Birders Should Care"; "A Century of Field Identification" by Joe Morlan, who represents the Pacific region on the National Audubon Board of Directors and a Bird ID Workshop with Jon Dunne, editor of the *National Geographic Field Guide for Birds of North America*. For the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips plus information about registration, check out the website at: [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org)

## HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Hummingbird solution needs to be changed frequently in the summer as it sours quickly in the heat. Please refresh your solution every 3-4 days, cleaning feeders with a light mix ture of vinegar and water. Spoiled sugar water is bad for the birds!



Remember to use a sugar solution of 4 parts HOT water to one part sugar (e.g. 1 cup boiled water/1/4 cup white sugar). Red coloring is unnecessary and never use honey. Extra solution can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 10 days.



**PROPOSED OHV STATE PARK IN MOJAVE DESERT**

The California State Parks has a division called OHV: Off Highway Vehicles. The division plans and builds riding parks for OHV riders. The funds for this effort come entirely from fees riders pay when they purchase an OHV. The reference 'green sticker funds' is commonly used. Millions of dollars are generated from this fund. The closest State OHV Park to Bakersfield is the Hungry Valley OHV facility near Gorman.

The parks division is currently looking at property near Jawbone Canyon, south and west of Red Rock State Park, off of Highway 14. Much of the land is currently being used by OHV riders. The difference is that an OHV state park regulates riding and limits the scope of the trails. The parcels are split between private party owner and BLM ownership. The public process has just begun, with the first meeting of interested groups held on August 3, which was attended by Harry Love, Kern Audubon's Conservation Chair. Dialog between the different interest groups was the intent of the meeting. Of concern to Audubon is the protection of Butterbret Springs, a Globally Important Bird Area, which is just to the north of the proposed property.

There will be many more meetings prior to the issuing of a draft environmental impact report (DEIR). This document will consist of a full inventory of the current land as to vegetation, animals, and birds. You will be kept informed about issues raised on the DEIR when it becomes available. Contact Harry if you'd like further information: 589-6245 or love3@bak.rr.com

**WIND FARMS IN TEHACHAPI: Upcoming meeting**

For many years, the Kern Audubon Society has been concerned about the number of birds being killed by wind turbines and the proliferation of wind farms both near Tehachapi and beyond. Earlier this year the Board of Supervisors asked the Planning Department to develop an 'exclusion' map, indicating where there would be no wind farms allowed in the county. The intent is to tell both land owners and the wind farm industry that certain areas of the county are 'off limit' to wind farms.

The tentative map was proposed and public meetings were held in Mojave, Rosamond, and Tehachapi in August to get input from residents. Based on the comments, the maps were revised. On September 25, at 2 PM, at the County Building on Truxtun, the Board of Supervisors will listen to public comments and then vote on the final version of the map. Please come to the meeting! Renewable energy, both wind and solar, is a major economic factor for the county and the state. Now is the chance to get it done 'right!' Public input is important. I hope you can attend.

Harry Love, Conservation Chair (bak.rr.com)



**BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROJECT**

The Bluebird Recovery Project had another successful year of monitoring Western Bluebird boxes at Indian Hill Ranch in Tehachapi. The project coordinator is KAREN PESTANA, project coordinator since 1999 and Kern Audubon's guest speaker in October. Karen has an enthusiastic group of volunteers who take care of the boxes and monitor nest activity bi-weekly for the three months of nesting activity. We want to thank this dedicated group of volunteers, most of whom have been doing this for over 10 years: *Jean Moore, Susi Martin, Mary & Mark Dufrain, Jennifer Cook, Kathy Burris, Lyn Bennett, Angela Guy, Carol Gates, Mark & Karen Pestana, Janet Meabon.* We also want to thank the owners of Indian Hill Ranch, *Barbara and Robert Schultz*, who have allowed access for 13 years to put up and monitor about 50 nest boxes! Bluebirds thank you all!!

*Kern Audubon Society, founded in 1974, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Its mission is to provide educational programs and services that build awareness of the importance of birds and other wildlife and to promote conservation and restoration of natural habitats, primarily in Kern County.*



## **RENEWING YOUR NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP**

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: 10/12 means that your membership expires in October 2012. 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

You can also renew your National Audubon membership (which includes membership in Kern Audubon) ONLINE by going to [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and clicking on Member Center in the upper menu bar. Follow the instructions and you can find out the date your membership expires and renew your membership online with a credit card.

## **US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE ADOPTS AUDUBON MODEL**

### **A LETTER FROM DAVID YARNOLD, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY:**

In the face of truly epic challenges to birds, habitat and human health, we know that large-scale action is needed to complement local conservation efforts. In order to do that, we're committed to building powerful partnerships. And we can't imagine a more potent partner than the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service itself. So, here's the big news: Audubon's innovative conservation approach is being adopted by the F&WS as a national model.

What persuaded the F&WS was the core-habitat strategy we pioneered to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and the vulnerable sagebrush ecosystem. That concept has been embraced by the F&WS for expansion to other imperiled species and habitat. Audubon Chapters, which provide a large-scale framework for focused collaboration across our network, will play a vital role in the implementation of this effort.

Audubon's work has already led to protection of 15 million acres (and growing) in the American West, and laid the groundwork for shaping responsible energy development in the region. This fall, it will be the focus of a forum of conservation leaders Audubon is hosting in collaboration with the F&WS as well as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Our policy, science and conservation teams are leading identification of additional Audubon priority species that fit the Sage-Grouse model. Like the Greater Sage-Grouse, each will 1) be an effective environmental barometer and ambassador for critical habitat; 2) have the potential for landscape-level outcomes; 3) possess strong data that can guide conservation; 3) be able to generate motivation for key stakeholders seeking conservation solutions.

Audubon's Flyway science leads have identified nine key species:

Western Sandpiper and Black Brant (Pacific)  
Lesser Prairie Chicken and Mountain Plover (Central)  
Wilson's Plover and Cerulean Warbler (Mississippi)  
Golden-winged Warbler and Piping Plover (Atlantic)  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Western Rivers)

The F&WS's response to this proposed list of species was enthusiastic. And the agency's director, Dan Ashe, has shared the following in a recent letter to me: "I see great potential in cooperating with Audubon to develop common species-based objectives, and to work together to ensure landscape-scale conservation is achieved."  
([http://www.audubonaction.org/site/DocServer/Dan\\_Ashe\\_letter.pdf?docID=361](http://www.audubonaction.org/site/DocServer/Dan_Ashe_letter.pdf?docID=361))

This is an inspiring demonstration of how Audubon's new strategic plan is helping to define, drive, and deliver conservation impact at scale. We look forward to working with chapters as it unfolds.

David Yarnold  
President & CEO / National Audubon Society

## 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. 4, 7pm - Fall Program & Kick-off
- Sat. Sept. 8, 8am - Workparty at Panorama Vista Prs.
- Wed. Sept 12, 7:30am - Tule Elk Reserve Field Trip
- Sat. Sept. 15, 7:30am - Hart Park Field Trip
- Sat. Sept. 22, 6:45am - Sawyer Lake Field Trip
- Sat. Sept. 29, 8:00am - Turkey Vulture Festival

#### Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (C2ZC300Z)

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