

AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 47 no. 9 – September 2018

Newsletter of **Kern Audubon Society**

A chapter of National Audubon Society

KERN AUDUBON PROGRAM Tues, September 4th 7pm

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
1300 17th St. Bakersfield (17th and L St.)

FROM FRIENDLY PETS TO FIELD HERPING NOTES TO FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO: MEET CHRIS SHARP

Inspired by an early interest in dinosaurs, Chris has studied and enjoyed animals since childhood. This developed into a passion for inspiring others to appreciate and respect animals. Chris is an outreach educator (visiting local schools) and Bird Show presenter at Fresno Zoo. From feeding to cleaning to friending, he is the "BIRD MAN." He loves observing and documenting wildlife. Chris's enthusiasm for exploring our environment and understanding animals is contagious. Please join us to enjoy Chris's ambassador animals, terrific outreach, and **a look behind-the-scenes at the Fresno Zoo.**



Tues. Sept. 18th 8am - Hart Park/Lake Ming

Meet next to Mirror Lake, near the entrance (across from Sheriff's pistol range). Good for beginning birders. Plan to look for birds at the Park and then move to Ming Lake. Bring binoculars, water, and snacks. Leaders: Harry and Kathy Love. Information: call Harry (805-1420) or email him: harrylove1944@gmail.com

Sat. Sept. 22nd 8am - Beale Park

Linda McMillian will lead an early morning of birding at Bakersfield's historic Beale Park. We'll be looking for Rose Ring Parakeets and a Merlin. We'll probably see some early fall migrants and the park's well known parakeet flocks. 1-2 hour time estimate. Meet at the corner of Oleander & Dracena at 8am. Bring water, snacks, binocs (loaners available). Contact Linda at (661) 205-3521.

Sat. Sept. 29th 8am - Tehachapi Mountain County Park.

This area includes riparian and conifer forest habitats. The trip includes a moderate quarter mile hike on a Boy Scout constructed nature trail. Meet in the parking area near the concrete pond at 8:30 am at the park, or meet at the Burger King at 8 am to carpool. Bring water, snacks, binocs. Contact Greg Hargleroad at gregory.hargleroad@hotmail.com for any questions.


September Field Trips


Save The Dates!

Mon. Oct 1 Registration opens for the San Diego Bird Festival (Feb 27-Mar 3) This fun, well organized festival attracts dedicated birders from all over the world. Festival headquarters is conveniently located on Mission Bay, next to I-5 and within walking distance to hotels. The dozens of field trips, ranging from pelagic outings to east county desert trips, fill up very quickly. So, sign up close to Oct 1. <https://sandiegoaudubon.org/events/bird-festival>.

Tues. Oct. 16--Thurs Oct 18 8am - Science Camp at Panorama Vista Preserve. Spend the morning showing the beauty of birds to young kids from local school districts. Contact is Kevin Fahey at (661) 706-7459 or email: kjfahey@sbglobal.net

Thurs. Nov. 1 - Registration opens for the Morro Bay Bird Festival (Jan 18-21) On Martin Luther King weekend, join over 500 California bird festival lovers at Morro Bay, a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. This nearby festival is a favorite of Kern Auduboners. Over 200 bird species usually seen during the festival. Field trips mostly fill up right after registration opens on Nov 1. <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org>.

Captured right: 
 June 19th Field Trip to
 Bitter Creek Condor Wildlife
 Refuge near Maricopa...You
 won't want to miss out on the
 next one!

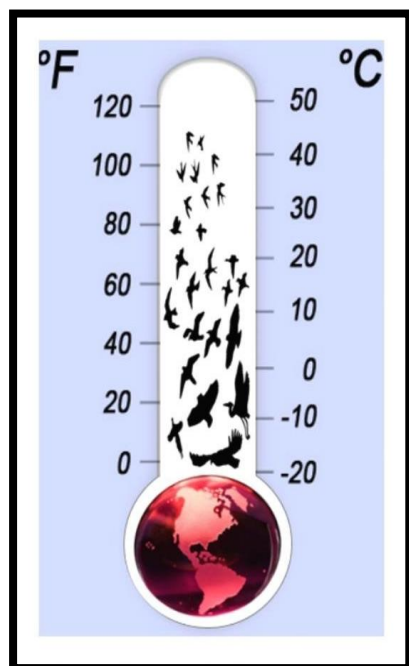
 **NO SCHEDULED DATE
 FOR WORKPARTY AT
 PANORAMA VISTA
 PRESERVE THIS
 MONTH..STAY TUNED
 FOR NEXT MONTH!**



Wonderful World of Birds in Shafter

On Wednesday, August 1, several volunteers from Kern Audubon went to Shafter in the morning to explain to children about the wonders of birds, from habits, feeding, to nesting. This was the third year for KAS to participate in the Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) summer program. During the one and a half hour presentation, the 50 children viewed a video on interesting facts about birds. This was followed by teams of about 10 each going to five different stations to learn about feathers, bird songs, food, binoculars, and owls. It was a fast paced but a

very rewarding day. It ended with Fran Hersh providing books about birds to be awarded during a raffle. Many thanks to the volunteers for the day: Kevin Fahey, Harry and Kathy Love, David Schaad, Mac McCarthy, Wynona King, Barbara Reifel, and Fran Hersh with her 'sidekick' Carson.



Climate Change Corner: University of California - Irvine

UC Irvine (yes, home of the anteaters) shows that 100 percent renewable is 100 percent doable. Recently, it became the first school in the US to convert to an all-electric bus fleet. Yes, UC Irvine gets a lot of power from onsite PV solar panels. But it has complemented this focus on production with a focus on where the majority of energy is actually consumed: buildings. UC Irvine has been a pioneer for LEED buildings on campus, constructing new facilities to be highly efficient while retrofitting old buildings to conserve energy. It was the first institution in the nation to meet goals outlined by President Obama's Better Buildings Challenge in 2011, and it did so seven years ahead of schedule. Since then, the California school has been a leader in clean tech innovations. In yet another national first, UC Irvine found a way to use a power-to-gas (P2G) system to utilize excess wind and solar electricity that would otherwise go to waste.

CNPS Program on flowers for the birds

On Thursday October 18, 7 PM, join Calflora's Executive Director Cynthia Powell to learn about new tools for Calflora Users. Calflora's plant database hosts over 2 million plants. Come to find out more about what native plants will attract birds. Cynthia will discuss Kern's progress on plants population monitoring tools, email alerts, and speak more generally about new tools in Calflora. This presentation will be at 7pm at Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Room 1A, 1300 17th St., Bakersfield, CA 93301.



KERN AUDUBON ON FACEBOOK

"Like" us and add your comments, photos, bird sightings, and get updates on field trips and programs! Laura Fahey manages our Facebook, email her at: ityzmom@sbcglobal.net.



Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon?

Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Sign up for **Meetup!**

www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society

Many thanks to **Carly Summers** for updating events on the site.



If you use Amazon, then please sign up for [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)

Name Kern Audubon Society as your charity. We will receive a small percent of your purchase at no cost to you. Thank you!

Update on the 2013 Rim Fire

In 2013, the largest fire in California history up to this summer, the Rim Fire, took place in the Stanislaus National Forest. Since then, logging of the burned areas and removal of marketable burned trees took place. It is continuing but with strong opposition of many scientists and organizations, including the Audubon Society.

Unfortunately, post fire logging removes the very element – dense stands of dead trees – upon which many fire-dependent species depend for nest sites and food resources. With respect to birds, the effects of post fire salvage harvesting are uniformly negative. To the black-backed woodpecker, for example, a newly burned forest provides a smorgasbord. Bark- and wood-boring beetles arrive in droves and lay eggs in charred trees; woodpeckers feast when they reach the larval stage. There's often an influx of other bugs, too, which draws aerial insectivores like Dusky Flycatchers and Mountain Bluebirds that hunt for midair meals in the new forest openings created by fire. The patchwork of post-fire habitats also suits White-headed Woodpeckers and other species that nest in open areas but forage in unburned surrounding forests. In fact, most timber-drilling and timber-gleaning bird species disappear altogether if a forest is salvage-logged. Therefore, such places are arguably the last places we should be going for our wood.

Therefore the Kern Audubon Society along with fifteen other environmental groups has requested that the USFS prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to address the snag removal program negative effects on these species and others. We hope that the acceptance of evidence of the negative effect of logging in this area will redirect the USFS activities in the burned areas. Goal: let nature take its role in restoring the balance.



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Board Meeting Apr. 16, 2018 7PM

The State of Birds: September, 2018

Welcome to a new program year for the Kern Audubon Society. During our summer break, the news for birds out of Washington D.C. has not been good. Political and world issues have put President Trump on the front page, but not for the betterment of the country. We may have smiled at his personal indiscretions, misspoken, and tabloid events, but our environment is still under attack. Even the resignation of Scott Pruitt as EPA administrator did not improve air quality or stop the introduction of dangerous chemicals into our environment. Currently the Department of the Interior, under leadership of Ryan Zinke as secretary, is continuing to support a plan, directed by the petroleum industry, to allow oil exploration in sage grouse nesting areas in the west.

Finally, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), signed into law in 1918, is among the oldest wildlife protection laws on the books. Its creation was one of the National Audubon Society's first major victories, and in the years since its enactment, the MBTA has saved millions, if not billions, of birds. Stated most simply, the MBTA is a law that protects birds from people. When Congress passed the MBTA in 1918, it codified a treaty already signed with Canada (then part of Great Britain) in response to the extinction or near-extinction of a number of bird species, many of which were hunted either for sport or for their feathers. Since its passage, the MBTA has broadened its international scope (via treaties with Mexico, Japan, and Russia) and has protected additional species (adding eagles, hawks, and other birds in 1972, for example).

Legislation in Congress (**HR 4239**), and a new interpretation of the law by the administration, would end the ability to hold industries accountable for bird deaths. These proposals would prevent enforcement of "incidental" bird deaths, removing incentives for companies to adopt practices that protect birds from threats such as oil waste pits, and eliminating penalties for companies that kill substantial numbers of birds, including from large oil spills.

Now, the most important step is for you to take action, locally, and now.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy represents us and the environment.

You need to let him know that the environment is threatened by Trump's agenda.

Urgent! Do it today! To contact him, go to: <https://kevinmccarthy.house.gov/contact>.



Story of Owls by a New Member

I want to let you know that for the past six years, a pair of great horned owls have been nesting in the palm trees of my back yard. Last year, two breeding pairs nested and produced babies. This year, two nestlings appeared and they sit out on the branches waiting for their parents to return. They are real beauties! We won't trim the trees so the bird will always have a place to nest and raise their young. We have cute stories about papa owl trying to teach one of the nestlings to fly. By the way, we do not feed them or go looking for their nests. There is plenty of areas, such as the Kern River and the bluffs for them to search for food -

less than a mile away - and we see the pellets in the back yard almost daily. There is also a fountain where I have seen one of the adult owls sitting on the rim for fifteen minutes or more. I change the water daily as other birds like to drink from it and bathe, finches and bluebirds. I haven't identified the type of blue bird yet but found she has a nest in another palm tree across the swimming pool from the owls! - *Janice Banducci*



Photo courtesy of allaboutbirds.org

Quick Announcements from Kern Audubon!

Kern Audubon Board of Directors meetings are open to any member. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month Aug-May, except Dec. Usually at 6:00 pm in the same location as for our monthly meetings, at Kern Co Sup of Schools at 17th + L Sts. Contact is Harry at 805-1420 harrylove1944@gmail.com

Kern Audubon's website is looking for members' bird photos. If you've taken bird photos in Kern County that might look good on our website, send them to Harry Love at harrylove1944@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name, the name of the bird, and where you took the photo.

Ready to recycle your National Audubon or other birding magazines? Kern Audubon wants your old copies of *Audubon* or *Nature Conservancy* for use at our Science Camps. You can drop them off at KAS's monthly membership meeting. Thank you.



PLASTICS: HOW YOU CAN SAVE SEA ANIMALS

Our oceans are choked with plastic, and the animals that live there are suffering for it. Last month, a whale died in Thailand after swallowing 17 pounds of plastic. In April, a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain with 64 pounds of plastic in his stomach. Birds, fish and sea turtles can also mistake plastic for food -- with tragic results. One of the worst kinds of plastic pollution is something we've known for decades we shouldn't even be using in the first place: polystyrene, what most people call Styrofoam. A cup made from polystyrene foam might keep our coffee warm for a few minutes, but is that worth the risk to the lives and health of whales and sea turtles? **We can live without it, but wildlife often can't live with it.** Even those of us who don't live near the ocean can do our part to end the use of polystyrene. You also can make change right in your own community, by asking the businesses you visit every day -- your coffee shop, your local restaurant -- to make the right choice for the environment.



Two birds: What you may not know



While **ravens** in the wild are unlikely to pick up human language, in captivity they can become quite talkative. Some ravens are even better than parrots at mimicking human speech, not to mention sounds from the human world like car engines revving or toilets flushing. In the wild, meanwhile, ravens sometimes imitate other animals, mimicking predators like wolves or foxes to attract them to tasty carcasses they're unable to break open on their own.

Ostrich eyes are the largest of any animal that lives on land (though they can't rival some of the massive creatures that inhabit the depths of the sea). Approximately the size of a billiard ball, their eyes are actually bigger than their brains.



Kern Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3581

Bakersfield, CA 93385

Kernaudubonsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The basic membership dues cover the cost of your subscription to the Warbler. Please consider joining or renewing at a higher level to support the important environmental education and conservation projects critical to the protection of wildlife and the environment. All of your membership dues will be used to support our local education and conservation efforts.

(Note: Membership in Kern Audubon Society does not make you a member of National Audubon. You must complete a separate membership form with National Audubon on its website. See link at bottom of this page.)

Check all boxes that apply to your membership in KAS.

_____ I am a new member

_____ I am a renewing member

_____ Individual membership \$20

_____ Student \$15

_____ Family membership \$35

_____ Benefactor Membership \$100

_____ Condor life time membership \$1,000

Donations: _____ \$5 supporter (recurring monthly) _____ \$10 sustaining (recurring monthly)

One time: _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other amount _____

Print this form. Make your check for membership in KAS and any additional donations payable to **Kern Audubon Society**. Mail check and this membership form to:

P.O. Box 3581, Bakersfield, CA 93385

If you wish to pay by credit card, you may use the Pay Pal button on our web site
(kernaudubonsociety.org)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Kern Audubon Society will not sell or distribute any member information to any other organization.

If you want to also join National Audubon go to: <https://www.audubon.org>