

VOL. 48 ISSUE 7 · SEPTEMBER 2019

# AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society

The field trip on 7/13/19 to Kern River Preserve included 15 people and 29 species of birds were sighted.  
Photo provided by Kevin Fahey.

## • FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST

by Harry Love  
President, Kern Audubon Society

Welcome to a "new year" for the Kern Audubon Society! 2019-2020 promises to be one of excitement, change, and challenges.

With 2020 being an election year, there will be a primary focus on the issue of protecting birds and habitats from the negative effects of climate change, both locally and nationally. When you have the opportunity, please be sure to mention this topic in your political discussions. KAS is a group of volunteers! Please considering helping us when asked or have the opportunity. Our strength is not in our numbers, but in our dedication to preserving birds and informing others.

Hope to see you at our September program.

~ Harry Love

## This issue:

- From the President's Nest ~ Page 01
- Upcoming Programs & Field Trip ~ Page 02
- The Power of Membership ~ Page 03
- It's all About Volunteers ~ Page 04
- Did you Know? ~ Page 05
- Member Contributions Thoughts & Photos ~ Page 06
- Past Events & Donors ~ Page 07
- Stay Connected & Get Involved ~ Page 08
- Board Members & Meetings ~ Page 09



# Programs & Field Trip

**Tuesday, Sept. 3rd,**

**Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office  
(1300 17th Street) at 7:00 p.m.**

## • A RESTORATION JOURNEY FOR OWENS LAKE AND SALTON SEA

**Presenter: Andrea Jones,  
Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California**

When Owens Lake was blowing toxic dust, harmful to birds and humans, Andrea facilitated a win-win resolution with LA Department of Water and Power. Join us to learn how Andrea's leadership in conservation efforts converted a toxic hazard into a beautiful oasis and won the support of her detractors.

Recently, a focus of her work has been on saline lakes in California, implementing conservation planning and habitat suitability modeling at Owens Lake and Salton Sea. She has also built climate-resilient tidal marsh restoration projects in San Francisco Bay.

At University of Massachusetts, Andrea earned her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation/Ornithology and her B.S. in Wildlife Biology Management. Prior to Audubon California, Andrea served as the Director of the Coastal Waterbird Program Massachusetts Audubon.



Andrea oversees Audubon's efforts in priority important bird areas with great success at Owens Lake and pioneering work at the Salton Sea.



Andrea Jones acknowledges sponsors who supported the Dust Mitigation Program at Owens Lake.

## **Birding at Hart Park/Lake Ming - 8:00 a.m.**

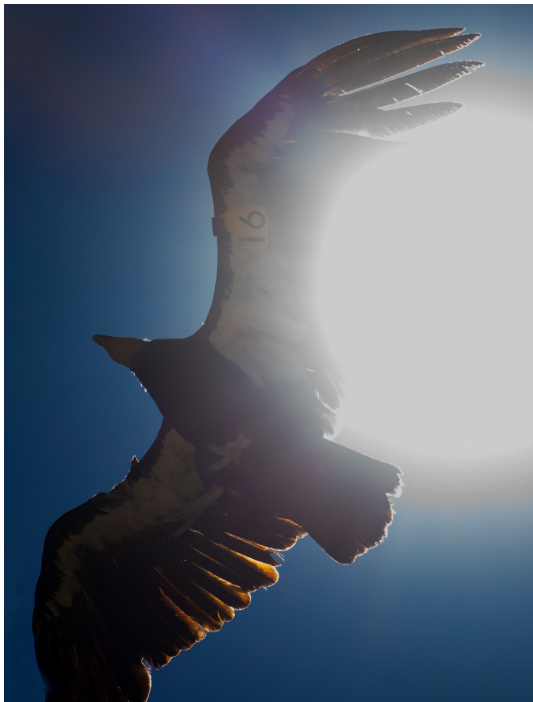
**Tuesday, Sept. 17th**



- Meet your leaders, Harry and Kathy Love, 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 Lake Ming.
- Bring binoculars, water and snacks.
- For more information, call Harry at 805-1420 or email him at [harrylove1944@gmail.com](mailto:harrylove1944@gmail.com).



# Membership Matters!



## KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Written by: KAS BOARD of Directors

KAS membership is due for those who joined KAS in 2018. Membership, for those who joined in 2019, will expire in June of 2020. You may contact me, Linda McMillan, at lamcmillan@sbcglobal.net or 661-205-3521 with any questions. The members make KAS a great organization! Thank you for all the support in the past year. You can fill in the form and pay with a credit card. The option to download the membership form and mail with a check is also available on this page.



Please **click the link below** to sign-up or renew your membership!

<https://kernaudubonsociety.org/member.php>



## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

Written by: Kevin Fahey

One of the benefits of Kern Audubon membership is the opportunity to attend one of our field trips (usually monthly). On June 26th, 25 bird lovers attended our field trip to Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The attendees were able to watch as California condors were given physical exams and to learn about the process and its impact on the endangered birds survival. It was an amazing trip. Our thanks to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of the Condors for their time and effort to ensure that all who attended learned about condors and had an exciting experience.



Photos Provided by: Kevin Fahey

# Volunteers

## Make the Difference

### BRINGING THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BIRDS TO SHAFTER

#### TWO HOURS OF JOY!

For the past five years, KAS volunteers have gone to the Shafter Day Care facility operated by the Community Action Partnership of Kern. Over 50 children from the community, ranging from 5 to 15 years of age, attended the July event.

Our KAS members broke the children up into five teams and told them different story about birds. They learned about birding equipment, wingspans, owls, feathers, food, bird calls, beaks and ended with a roulette game about birds. The children had a fun time, learning more about birds and even got to mimic their sounds! The day concluded with Fran conducting a raffle and awarding books to the winners.



Thank you to this year's volunteers Kathy, Fran, Kevin, Frank, Barbara, Wynona, Harry, Claire, and Michael.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### THE GREAT KERN COUNTY FAIR

#### SENIOR DAY

Kern Audubon Society needs a few volunteers to help staff the booth on Senior Day. Participants need to be at the fair grounds at 8:00 am on Friday, September 20th.

The displays and canopy need to be set up inside the fairgrounds by 8:30 am. We are only committing to having an Audubon booth from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. We will start tear down around 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping, email Linda McMillian at [lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lamcmillian@sbcglobal.net). You can select what time slot fits your schedule.



**BIRDS MATTER!**

KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY

### FALL SCIENCE CAMPS

Our fall science camp dates are October 8th, 9th and 10th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Panorama Visa Preserve. We need your help, no experience needed.

Call Kevin Fahey at 706-7459 or e-mail him at [kjfahey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjfahey@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer or for more information. **Help us teach local kids that birds matter!**



# Did You Know?

## CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER

### CALIFORNIA AND FIRE

Written by: Harry Love

The continental United States is 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it was a century ago. The oceans are nine inches higher. The damage is mounting from these fundamental changes and Americans are living in it.

The fires start earlier and seem to last longer. The hotter and drier environment of a warming world has spurred bigger and faster-moving infernos that devastate towns, exhaust resources, and cause billions of dollars in damage. Mega fires like the Carr fire, devoured over 229,000 acres last year in and around Redding, a northern California city nestled amid national forests. The changes are especially acute in the west, where human-caused climate change is a significant factor in worsening wildfires.

The hotter and drier conditions parch soil and wither plants and brush, thus increasing fuel for more forest fires. These more explosive and rapidly spreading fires leave communities with little notice or chance to evacuate. Such fire behavior stood out in the deadly 2018 Carr and Camp fires in California, among others. The Carr fire ultimately caused nearly \$800 million in damage across California. There is also the mounting devastation. In just one year, the Carr fire killed seven people and the Camp fire destroyed the entire town of Paradise, killing at least 86 people. The Camp fire, the worst in California history, cost an estimated \$16.5 billion in damage, according to insurance company Munich Re. (<http://livescience.com>).

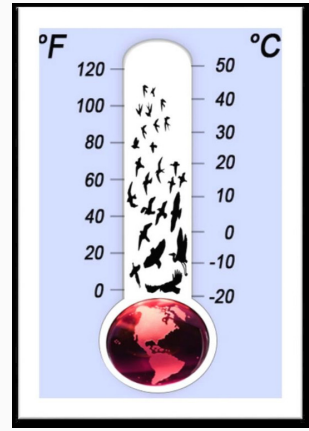
Just to note, my youngest son lives in Redding, CA and the fire got within three miles of his house.

## NO JET SKIS ON LAKE MING

### VICTORY FOR BIRDS!

On June 18th, by a vote of 3-1, the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to not allow the use of jet skis on Lake Ming. Harry Love, conservation chair, spoke on behalf of all of the members who have used the lake for birding.

Many Audubon members offered testimony about the unique quality of the lake for aquatic birds, especially grebes and mergansers, for both nesting and foraging. Home owners in the area were concerned about the noise pollution while others were concerned about safety. Lake Ming is now a safe haven for birds.



**"The earth has  
music for those  
who listen."**

~WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE~

# Member Contributions

## • THOUGHTS FROM ONE OF OUR OWN

**Brooke Stutz - Wildlife Biologist, RVT, CWR**  
**Kern Audubon Society**  
**Member-at-Large**

Many of you fellow Kern Auduboners are familiar with the website, [www.natureali.org](http://www.natureali.org), a site where you can peruse the photos by local birder and fellow Audubon member, Ali Sheehey, documenting the birds of Kern County. On the list birds that have been documented in Kern County is the snowy plover. This bird is a rare occurrence to the wetlands of the Kern County area, so it's a rare treat for local birders. If you travel to California's coast, there are areas roped off with signs indicating the area is closed due to nesting snowy plovers. These tiny little shore birds are sensitive to human disturbance, especially dogs running off leashes.

However, snowy plovers are most sensitive to regulation changes. On August 12, 2019, the US Department of Interior published the "Trump Administration Improves the Implementing Regulations of the Endangered Species Act". What does it mean under this Administration to "improve" the Endangered Species Act (ESA)? Well for one, threatened species, such as the Snowy Plover, Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Northern Spotted Owl, and a few more, are no longer given the same protection as endangered species. **What does that mean for these species? Does this mean federal funding for snowy plover nesting monitoring programs will no longer receive money?** The outcome from "improvements" to the ESA are currently unknown. The Trump Administration has also attacked scientist's studies on Climate Science.

Audubon's climate models for snowy plovers have indicated a 56 percent loss of winter range by 2080. In 1973, the United States became the world leaders in conserving our species by enacting the Endangered Species Act. The Act that helped recover the Peregrine Falcon, Brown Pelican, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, California Least Tern, and numerous others. The Snowy Plover does not have a state listing. What does this mean for snowy plovers across our state. California Department of Fish and Wildlife have been stepping up to add protection to the species that are losing federal protection. Nature Ali's site currently has a record of 442 native bird species, plus 10 introduced species. On state lands these birds may be protected, but what happens to them now when they are on federal lands? Especially federal land projects that are bypassing environmental review. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act revision has removed a lot of protection for our birds. The Endangered Species Act has currently reached an "endangered" status. Regulatory acts such as the ESA are vital in helping to conserve the bird species in our areas as well as other natural resources that should be conserved for generations to come.

**Photo's from One  
of Our Members**



Juvenile owl. Photo submitted by Micky Dyke



# Past Events & Donors

## June Picnic - Harris Hawks Along the River

On June 4th, KAS had its annual picnic at Yokuts Park. Over 60 members attended, one of our best turnouts. Highlight of the evening were the two Harris hawks that Frank Virga brought. He explained the unique hunting features of the bird. There were also drawings for bird feeding items donated by Ace Hardware in Taft.



Kerry Lattimore with Zelda, the Harris hawk



Andy Honig, Larry Emlet, Bill Moffat



Bill Meadez, Mona Sidhu, Linda Meadez



Eric and Fran Hersh



Kathy Love, Laura Fahey, Ginny Dallas



Kimberly Barella, David Schaad, Ann DeRoy, Ron Worgul



Stan and Kim Jones



Marilyn Perry, Pat Mumford



Pam Deschwaen, Ted Murphy



Nelovfa and Alex Merrill, David Chilton, Kevin Fahey

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

We would to thank the following members for their generous donation:

Kathlyn Day Kline & James Lowery

## Stallion Springs Outing



On June 22nd, Greg Hargleroad lead his monthly Tehachapi Group birding outing to Stallion Springs Horsethief Lake and golf course.

# Stay Connected & Get Involved

## MEETUP

Want to know about upcoming outings for Kern Audubon? Want to find out what similar groups are doing? Well, the easy answer is a new social media website called Meetup.

It is very easy to sign up. You get email reminders of events, instructions on how to join, and, the best part, it is free. To become a member of Meetup, click on the link below and follow the easy instructions:

**[www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society](http://www.meetup.com/Kern-Audubon-Society)**

That way you do not have to look at the Warbler for upcoming events. You will get reminders online. Many thanks to Carly Summers for updating events on the site.



### **We need your photos!**

Send photos of birds you have seen on an outing, or just in your backyard, to Harry Love @ [harrylove1944@gmail.com](mailto:harrylove1944@gmail.com).

## amazon smile

Do you use Amazon for your shopping needs? If so, sign up for AmazonSmile. A 0.5% of your purchases will go to the Kern Audubon Society. Sign-up today on your Amazon account home page. There is no cost to KAS or to you as an AmazonSmile Customer.



### **KERN AUDUBON IS 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](mailto:ityzmom@sbcglobal.net).

## Coming in October!

### **Field Trip with Alison Sheehey - October 5th**

A great field trip, with Alison Sheehey, is planned for October 5th. This outing is designed for experienced birders and will catch late migrants at Galileo Hill. Look for details in the October edition of the Warbler.



# Board of Directors

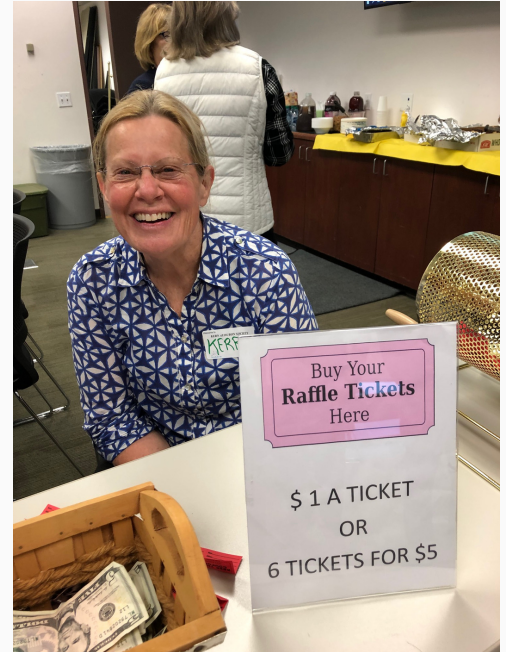
## Meet Your Board of Directors

### Kerry Lattimore

#### Secretary & BOD Member

Kerry Lattimore is a petroleum geologist, botanist, birder and more recently, an artist. She is also a docent with the Tejon Ranch Conservancy. She loves to travel. She has been to Tanzania, Rwanda, Nepal, Tibet, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, India, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Colombia, Japan, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Japan, Korea and a bunch of others. She recently discovered John Muir Laws and the Nature Journaling Club last year and has avidly taken up plein air sketching and painting.

She is married to Eric Berger, and has 2 daughters and one grandson. She grew up in the Sacramento area. And finally, she really likes working with kids. In her own words, "I hope I'll be a great secretary for Kern Audubon". Please welcome her at our September program.



## Kern Audubon Executive Board 2019-2020

**President: Harry Love**

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**Ex-Officio**

Kimberly Barella, Warbler Editor  
E-Mail: communications@kernaudubonsociety.org

**September BOD Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00 p.m.**

**Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Room 1B**