

# The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

April, 2016

## **APRIL CALENDAR**

Mon	Apr 8	9 am	Cow Heaven Spring
Wed	Apr 20	6 pm	Board Meeting: Burnetts' refreshments by Parker
Fri	Apr 22	6 pm )	Owens Lake Bird Festival
	through	)	
Sun	Apr 24	3 pm )	KRP Spring Festival
Sat	Apr 30	all day	

## **2nd Annual OWENS LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL**

It is not too late to register for the second annual Owens Lake Bird Festival, to be held mainly in Lone Pine, at Statham Hall, 138 Jackson Street.

Register at

[www.friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival)  
There you will see information on all field trips and other events.

For more information call 760-873-6599 or email [owenslakefestival@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:owenslakefestival@friendsoftheinyo.org)

Tickets, at \$60, (\$30 for students) cover opening reception and all field trips and workshops. Dinner on Saturday night is separate, at \$25. T-shirts are also separate, at \$20.

From the website:

"Join Friends of the Inyo for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Owens Lake Bird Festival on April 22-24, 2016 in Lone Pine, California.

"Designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society, Owens Lake offers world-class wildlife viewing in the southern Owens Valley. Each year in spring and fall Owens Lake supports hundreds of thousands of shorebirds during their annual migrations between continents. For decades, the city of Los Angeles diverted water for its growing population, leaving the Owens Lake bed dry, but now, through dust mitigation and restoration efforts, water and habitat have been returned to the lake, attracting birds once again.

"... the 2<sup>nd</sup> Owens Lake Bird Festival promises to offer tremendous exploration opportunities to experience and celebrate migrating shorebirds as they move between

hemispheres and highlight the significance of the Owens Lake story and the return of a threatened habitat. ...

"The festival begins Friday evening with a reception at the Western Film History Museum. On Saturday, expert guides will lead a variety of trips exploring the landscape, including bird tours on and off the lake and natural history and cultural tours. A dinner reception with a guest speaker will be held at Statham Hall on Saturday night. More exploratory outings will occur on Sunday morning."

Some Kerncrest attendees will be camping at Diaz Lake campground, or possibly Tuttle Creek. Call Brenda or Dan at 760-382-4935 for information, if you would like to join us.

## **BIRDATHON 2016**

It's not until May, but it is May 1st. So it's time to plan, form teams, get pledges and get ready!

It is Kerncrest Audubon Society's one and only annual fundraiser, so plan to contribute, if you can't or don't want to get out and bird. Proceeds go to support our education programs and the Audubon California Kern River Preserve.

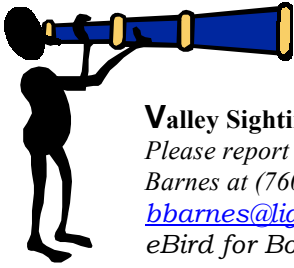
### **Everyone is invited to participate.**

Lee Sutton is again coordinating. Call him at 760-382-6386 if you would like to be put on a team. Also call him if you have formed a team. And to find out where and what time the compilation pizza party will be, where we get together and crow over what we saw or commiserate over what we missed.

Some of us compete as teams, to see the most species of birds. Others go out of their way to bird out-of-the-way places, to add species to the group total. The group total is then included on a list entered into competition for state-wide county-by-county number of species seen. This compilation is made by Bob Barnes. Kern County always wins the "Birdiest Inland County" award.

This event segues into the Kern River Preserve's Spring Festival, making for a fun and "Birdy" weekend, a fitting way to celebrate the coming of Spring and peak of migration season.

See the flyer for that festival on a following page. It's a great place to go hang out for the day!



### Valley Sightings – March 2016

Please report unusual sightings to Bob Barnes at (760)382-1260, or by email at [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net). (or submit to eBird for Bob to glean.)

Four **Snow Geese** continued to be reported for the IWV at China Lake Golf Course through Mar 30 (SLS).

Eighteen **Ross's Geese** last reported for the IWV at the sewage ponds at China Lake NAWs Mar 7 (SLS).

Twenty **Mountain Quail** at SSDC IBA's Cow Heaven Canyon Mar 31 (SLS, BS).

A **Great Blue Heron** at a yard N of Inyokern Mar 25 (TM).

**Swainson's Hawk, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Mountain Bluebird, and Lincoln's Sparrow** added to the all time SSDC IBA's Cow Heaven Canyon bird list Mar 20 bringing the species list to 97 for that canyon (SLS, BS).

**Swainson's Hawk** and **Cliff Swallow** added to the all time SSDC IBA's Freeman Canyon bird list Mar 20 bringing the species list to 114 for that canyon (SLS, BS).

A **Rough-legged Hawk** over RWWP Mar 26 (LSu, SSu).

A **Common Gallinule** heard at SSDC IBA's Indian Wells Canyon on Mar 25 may be new for that canyon (LSu, SSu).

A **Wilson's Snipe** at SSDC IBA's Sand Canyon Mar 8 was bird species #152 for that canyon (SLS).

A **White-winged Dove** continued at China Lake Golf Course through March (SLS).

A **Barn Owl** at a yard N of Inyokern through March (TM).

A **Burrowing Owl** at a property SW of Inyokern on Mar 9,10,25 (LK).

A **Long-eared Owl** at a yard SW of Inyokern on Mar 10 (LK).

A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** S of Inyokern Mar 30 was Kern County's First of 2016 (SLS).

A male **Rufous Hummingbird** at an east side Ridgecrest yard Feb 28 and a female there Mar 3 (LSu, SSu).

A **Vermilion Flycatcher** at China Lake Golf Course Mar 7 (SLS).

**Loggerhead Shrikes and LeConte's Thrashers** having a hard time successfully nesting at a property SW of Inyokern due to high wind and predatory **Cooper's Hawk** and **Greater Roadrunner** (LK).

Twenty **Pinyon Jays** at SSDC IBA's Cow Heaven Canyon Mar 31 (SLS, BS).

A **Rough-winged Swallow** at RWWP Mar 12 was IWV's First of 2016 (LSu, SSu).

Two dozen **Barn Swallows** just ahead of a storm frantically trying to get into a home through windows and skylights SW of Inyokern Mar 11 (LK).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued in NW Ridgecrest with one Mar 31 (BB).

Sixteen **Sage Thrashers** at SSDC IBA's Cow Heaven Canyon Mar 2 (SLS, BS); 9 continued there Mar 7 (CG); 1 there Mar 31 (SLS, BS).

A **Hooded Oriole** in NW Ridgecrest Mar 4 was Kern County's First of 2016 (BBu).

One female and three male **Hooded Orioles** at a yard SW of Inyokern Mar 30 & 31 (LK).

A **Bullock's Oriole** south of Inyokern Mar 28 was IWV's First of 2016 (SLS).

Two **Scott's Orioles** at SSDC IBA's Cow Heaven Canyon Mar 31 (SLS, BS).

A **Red Crossbill** continued south of Inyokern through Mar 28 (SLS).

KEY: IWV = Indian Wells Valley watershed; RWWP = Ridgecrest Watchable Wildlife Park; SSDC IBA = Southern Sierra Desert Canyons Important Bird Area

*Thanks to the following for reporting: Linda Anderson (LA), Bob Barnes (BB), Brenda Burnett (BBu), Carl Giometti (CG), Louise Knecht (LK), Terri Middlemiss (TM), Bob Steele (BS), Susan Steele (SLS), Lee Sutton (LSu), Shirley Sutton (SSu).*

### APRIL ANTICIPATED FIRST OF 2016 ARRIVALS:

Spring migration is a wonderful occurrence in the Indian Wells Valley each year. Do report First of 2016 arrivals during April (and lingering wintering birds as well). A sampling of possible IWV First of 2016 arrivals during April, many not expected until late April, include **Flycatchers (Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond's, Gray, Dusky, Pacific-slope, Ash-throated), Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Warblers (Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's, Wilson's, Yellow-breasted Chat), Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak,...** Spring migration continues! Yippee!

**Kern River Preserve Spring Festival,  
Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
AUDUBON CALIFORNIA KERN RIVER PRESERVE**



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Spring is here and the birds are moving north to the breeding grounds in North America. As they migrate they need places like the Kern River Preserve to rest and replenish on their way or to stay and raise their families. A wonderful diversity of birds are found at the Preserve including Yellow Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lawrence's Goldfinches and Summer Tanagers. We will have two excellent local musical groups, activities and displays for our guest to enjoy. This is a great time of year to get out and experience the Kern River Preserve and to celebrate spring.

**7:00 AM-Bird Walk at Kern River Preserve headquarters**-The nature trails at the Kern River Preserve are beautiful in the spring. Take this walk with a knowledgeable guide to visit the river forest and to see a wide variety of birds.

**9 AM to 2 PM-Information Booths and Displays**-Staff and volunteers will keep you informed about this event and the Kern River Preserve. Stop in and buy a t-shirt or learn how to become a supporter of the Kern River Preserve. We have T-shirts with beautiful bird art work by John Schmitt and other artist in many sizes.

**10 AM to Noon-Children's Activities with Kern Audubon** - There will be activities for children, this is a great way to learn about our Preserve's wildlife and our conservation mission. Kids can do nature art, learn bird identification, dissect owl pellets and make bagel bird feeders.

**9:30 AM- Bird Walk.** A naturalist will lead a bird walk at the preserve headquarters. There are some great birds out there and we will have a knowledgeable guide to help you find them!

**11:00 AM – Kern River Band** – This band brings Vintage Country and Old Western music - specializing in three and four part traditional harmonies.

**Noon - Out of the Blue** - Enjoy Bluegrass and Folk music by this very popular and highly regarded Kern Valley band.

**Bring a Picnic Lunch and enjoy Live Music.** Sit in the shade and enjoy a leisurely picnic lunch and music from local bands. Bring your Lunch, a beverage and a blanket to sit on.

California State Parks Elk Reserve, U.S. Forest Service, Friends of the Condor, Wild & Free, Kern Audubon and others will have displays.

All events are at Kern River Preserve-18747 Hwy 178, Weldon, California 93283. For directions and general information please visit us at Kern River Preserve on Facebook or webpage at <http://kern.audubon.org>. Questions e-mail [rtollefson@audubon.org](mailto:rtollefson@audubon.org) or call 760-378-2531.

**COW HEAVEN SPRING**

If you would like to help with the annual hike/picnic/birding trip to Cow Heaven Spring to check on condition and maintenance, it's on Monday, April 8. Call Lee Sutton at 760-382-6386 for more information.

Here are some forms for you to use to contribute to the Kerncrest Audubon Society Birdathon, or to collect pledges from friends.

Collect pledges from friends wishing to sponsor by number of species seen, or contributions from those making lump sum donations, and bring them to the Birdathon. E-mail Lee at [2roadrunner@verizon.net](mailto:2roadrunner@verizon.net) or call 760-382-6386 for extra pledge sheets, to sign up, or for information.

If you can't participate, MAKE A CONTRIBUTION and mail it to Kerncrest Audubon Society, PO Box 984, Ridgecrest CA 93556. If you wish to contribute by species, please note the pledge by species and include your telephone number, so someone can call you after the event and let you know how many species were sighted.

**KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDATHON Pledge/Contribution**

1. Birder's (or Team's) Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Choose Your Per Species Pledge:  
\_\_\_ 10 cents \_\_\_ 25 cents \_\_\_ 50 cents \_\_\_ 1 dollar \_\_\_ Other amount
- OR: Choose a Lump Sum Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How can we contact you?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form to Kerncrest Audubon Society, P.O. Box 984, Ridgecrest, CA 93556.

**KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDATHON Pledge/Contribution**

1. Birder's (or Team's) Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Choose Your Per Species Pledge:  
\_\_\_ 25 cents \_\_\_ 50 cents \_\_\_ 1 dollar \_\_\_ Other amount
- OR: Choose a Lump Sum Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How can we contact you?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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