



The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

November 2007

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Wed	Nov 7	8:15am	Field Trip Searles Lake
Wed	Nov 7	7:30pm	Special Program Saving Quetzals
Thu	Nov 8	6pm	Board Meeting Burnetts'
Thu	Nov 15	7pm	General Meeting Owens River Water

FIELD TRIP: SEARLES LAKE

Visit the Searles Lake lakebed and see the new bird rescue facility with Bambi, Searles Lake bird rehabilitation specialist, and have lunch with Arzell Hale. Leave **8:15am** from the Park & Ride at the corner of Ridgecrest Blvd. (Hwy. 178) and Richmond Road on the east side of Ridgecrest. Proceed 30 minutes east to Searles Lake. Bring snacks and water. Lunch will be provided. Limit 10 people.

For further information contact: Terri Middlemiss, E: catbird4@earthlink.net, P: 377-5192.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM ROB AND TARA CAHILL

Rob and Tara Cahill will speak on Resplendent Quetzal habitat conservation efforts being conducted in Guatemala.

The Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) has been described as the most majestic bird of the western hemisphere. An inhabitant of the highland cloud forests, the Quetzal flourishes in some of the most at-risk natural habitats of Central America. Rob and Tara, associates of Proeval Raxmu, (pronounced Rash-moo) are dedicated to the conservation of the cloud forests of Guatemala's central highlands. Proeval Raxmu is a team of Guatemalan nationals and foreign ex-patriots, some of whom have been studying the Quetzals for 20 years!

The Cahills have worked in Guatemala for the last six years with projects in agro-forestry, conservation and food security supported by Mennonite Central Committee and Heifer Project International, to conserve these last great habitats. They developed an agro-ecology program at a school for Q'eqchi' speaking youth in Alta Verapaz.

Their presentation on the Resplendent Quetzal brings together research on the Quetzal itself and a review of conservation efforts that include projects in food security in the communities that border the cloud forest.

This program is a joint session with the Kern Kaweah chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Maturango Museum. Maturango Museum, 7:30pm.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING OWENS RIVER REWATERING

An exciting event took place this past year in the Owens Valley. Water began to flow again in the Lower Owens River. Following years of ultimately successful litigation, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began to release water into 60 miles of the river that had dried up because of their prior diversions and pumping. Can you imagine the significantly positive impact this will have for birds and other wildlife as the riparian habitat begins to revive?

Come to our November general meeting (Thursday, November 15th at 7:00 PM at the Maturango Museum) and find out what is happening. Mr. Michael Prather will provide his views on that impact as he update us on Owens Valley water issues. He will cover the Lower Owens River rewatering including a bit of history on how we got to this point and what he sees as the positive effect now and in the future.

We've also asked him to review the dust control measures at Owens Lake and how that air pollution control effort has benefited wildlife, particularly birds.

Mike is a biologist and taught school in Death Valley and Lone Pine for 30 years. He has been actively working on land and water issues in the Owens Valley since 1980. During that time, he has been involved with the Owens Valley Committee (past president), Eastern Sierra Audubon Society (past president) and Sierra Club Toiyabe chapter (past chair). He also participated in the preparation of the Owens Lake Dust Environmental Impact Report and the U. S. Shorebird conservation Plan.

Lee Sutton

***Please Report Observations of Color-Banded
Tricolored Blackbirds!***

Nearly 1800 tricolored blackbirds were color-banded during the 2007 breeding season; your assistance in reporting observations of these color-banded birds is essential to help us to learn more about tricolors. Please report observations to: tricolored.blackbird@gmail.com.

All birds were fitted with a USGS aluminum band, a white color band (denoting the year) and an additional color band denoting county (Yolo County = green, Yuba County = blue, Colusa County = orange).

Please report the following information:

1. observer name(s)
2. observer(s) email, mailing address, and phone number
3. observation date and time
4. county and approximate map location (USGS quad or DeLorme)
5. latitude (decimal degrees)
6. longitude (decimal degrees)
7. number of color-banded birds and color combinations observed
8. dominant land cover type(s) where foraging or roosting flocks were observed
9. approximate number of birds in flock
10. land ownership (public/private), if known
11. were birds roosting or foraging?
12. were birds on or near a dairy or other source of stored grains? (Y/N)
13. approximate distance to stored grains
14. additional information (any additional information that you deem relevant)

You may obtain latitude/longitude coordinates from either Google Earth (free download from Google.com; requires high-speed internet connection) or by free utility on topozone.com.

Many thanks for your assistance!

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MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

One always-great bird festival is the Winter one at Morro Bay. This year's dates are Friday, January 18 – Monday, January 21, 2008. Brochures and registration are available on-line at www.morrowbaybirdfestival.org, or a paper brochure can be borrowed from Brenda Burnett at 375-8634.

GARAGE SALE

In the last issue of the Chat, the *wrong date* was given for the annual garage sale in the article describing it! (The date was correct in the monthly calendar of events.) I am sincerely sorry for any inconvenience that caused.

We had a good turnout in spite of the date confusion. All the clothing we were unable to hang in the Spring museum swap meet because of the wind were pre-priced and waiting in the Burnett and Sutton closets, and several items left over from that sale were stored in various garages. So we had a good selection of items and a beautiful day weather-wise, and we cleared \$360! Many thanks to all who worked and contributed.

FIELD TRIPS

There isn't often room in the Chat to write up past field trips. It's great to have space to thank those who lead trips for us!

October's trip to the Great Basin preserve at Little Lake was led by Susan Steele, who (due to our scheduling the trip mistakenly on a non-flex Friday) actually took off work to lead us! The day was crisp, and not too breezy, and the birding and petroglyph sightings were great, as was the lunch provided by our hosts. The limit of 20 people attended, including 5 from the Eastern Sierra Audubon in Bishop.

It's hard to pick highlight birds. We saw a total of 49 species! I guess the most unusual for the area was Wilson's Snipe, and we got good, long looks at Vesper Sparrows.

November's trip, led by Bob Barnes, was not so lucky on the weather. But in spite of the howling wind, Yellow-rumped Warblers were out in force (35+). Highlight birds were Cassin's Finch and Fox Sparrows, and we saw five species of raptor! Thank you, Bob!

Would you like to receive email notices of Kerncrest Audubon activities?

Did you miss the last field trip or monthly meeting because it slipped your mind?

The Kerncrest Audubon Society board of directors has decided to provide a new service to our members. An email notification list will be prepared, only containing members that request inclusion, to receive email notices of upcoming Kerncrest Audubon activities.

These notices will be limited in number and frequency and will only contain information on Kerncrest Audubon Society activities, such as field trips, monthly meetings, local festivals, and similar events. Your email address will never be shared with anyone.

If you would like to receive these notices please send an email to webmaster@kerncrestaudubon.org requesting that your email address be added to the list. Current members of the board of directors are already included.

Noel Gravelle, webmaster

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

National Audubon Society

Includes 1 year of Audubon magazine, Local chapter membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donor's address for gift subscriptions:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ New Member/Gift - \$20 (Renewal will be \$30)

____ Senior (62+) or full-time Student - \$15

Please enclose a check payable to National Audubon Society

Clip out and mail to: National Audubon Society

Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51005

C45

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Boulder, CO 80323-1005

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Kerncrest Audubon Society

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ yr Kerncrest Audubon Society Membership @ \$15/year

(Includes subscription to *The Chat*)

____ yr Subscription to *The Chat* only @ \$7/year

____ Please request the National Audubon Society to exclude my name from promotional mailing lists.

Please enclose a check payable to Kerncrest Audubon Society.

Clip out and mail to: Kerncrest Audubon Society

P.O. Box 984

Ridgecrest CA 93556

Kerncrest Audubon Society

Sherry Brubaker President 375-2945

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Brenda Burnett Publications 375-8634

Lloyd Brubaker Backyd Bird Count 375-7245

Terri Middlemiss Conservation 377-5192

Dan Burnett Education & 375-8634

Membership

Newsletter Ed. Brenda Burnett 375-8634

Webmaster Noel Gravelle 375-2325

website: www.kerncrestaudubon.org

Explanation of membership categories:

National Audubon Society membership includes membership in the local chapter. It also includes a subscription to the Audubon magazine, and to the Kerncrest newsletter, *The Chat*. It also provides the right to vote in society elections, and inclusion on national society mailing lists for informational materials and solicitations for contributions.

Membership in the Kerncrest Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Chat*, (not to *Audubon* magazine) and provides the right to vote in local society elections.

Inclusion on national mailing lists is optional.

A subscription to *The Chat* only does not provide the right to vote in elections.

The Chat

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