

The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

September 2014

September CALENDAR

Wed	Sep 24	6:00 pm	Board Meeting at Suttons'
Thu	Sep 25	7:00 pm	General Meeting
Sat	Sep 20	7:30 am	South Fork cleanup
Sat	Sep 27	8:00 am	Field Trip to TuVu Festival

General Meeting

KERN RIVER PRESERVE and local Conservation Issues UPDATE with REED TOLLEFSON

There's a lot happening in the Kern River Valley and the Indian Wells Valley regarding habitat preservation and restoration these days.

Reed Tollefson, Manager of the Audubon California Kern River Preserve will give us an overview and update of several projects, including the Proposed Federal Listing of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, habitat restoration projects with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Army Corps of Engineers, Sand Canyon Land Conservation, Tri-colored Blackbirds (see also project update on page 3), invasive weed control and other conservation action.

Come get together for our first meeting of the season at the Maturango Museum, Thursday, September 25th at 7:00 pm.

Field Trip

Autumn Nature and Turkey Vulture Festival

Fall is here and the birds are moving from their summer breeding grounds in North America to the wintering grounds in Central and South America. As birds fly south they need places like the Kern River Preserve to rest and replenish on their way. One of the largest concentrations of migrating turkey vultures in North America comes down the Sierra Nevada and through the Kern Valley. If we are lucky we may see "kettles" of hundreds of vultures swirling up into the morning sky. This is a great time of year to get out and enjoy the Kern River Preserve.

6 AM-Early Birding Walk at Migrant Corner Trail- Many bird species can be found during the fall migration moving through the forest canopy from this spectacular overlook.

7:30 AM-and 10:00 AM Bird Walk at Kern River Preserve headquarters-The nature trails at the Kern River Preserve are beautiful in the fall. Take this walk with a knowledgeable guide to visit the river forest and to see a wide variety of birds and if we are lucky migrating Turkey Vultures.

8:30 AM – Nature Presentations by Kern River Valley Environmental Magnet School?? – local students will lead this walk to show kids and their adults about what they have learned here at the Preserve over the last few months.

9 AM to 3 PM-Information Booth-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.

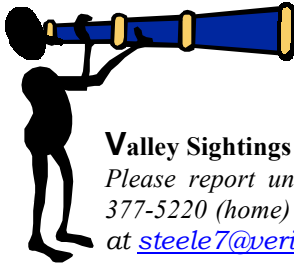
10 AM to Noon-Children's Activities- There will be Junior Biologist activities for children, this is a great way to learn about our Preserve's wildlife and our conservation mission. Kids can do nature art, dissect owl pellets (yuck), learn bird identification and make bird feeders.

12:00 PM to 1 PM-Picnic Lunch. Sit in the shade and enjoy the Preserve and music while having a leisurely lunch. Bring your Lunch

Kern River Valley Environmental Magnet School, Kern Valley Watershed Coordinator, Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development District, California State Parks Elk Reserve, U.S. Forest Service, Facility for Animal Care and Treatment, and Friends of the Condor, Wild & Free, Kerncrest Audubon, Kern Audubon and others will have displays.

All events are at Kern River Preserve- 18747 Hwy 178, Weldon, California 93283.

Kerncrest board members will be at the preserve early, so no one likely will be available to lead a car pool. Brenda Burnett will serve as a clearinghouse at 760-382-4935 (before Friday, Sep 26) to connect people who want to drive up together. Meet at the 76 Station in Inyokern at 8:00 am to car pool. Bring a picnic, or plan to pick up lunch at a local store.



Valley Sightings – Summer 2014

Please report unusual sightings to Susan Steele at 377-5220 (home) or 939-1722 (work), or by email at steele7@verizon.net.

June and July 2014

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at the golf course July 17 (SLS).

Our Rallidae family members had a successful breeding year with juveniles of **Virginia's Rail**, **Sora**, **Common Gallinule**, and **American Coots** noted at the ponds on June 25 (SLS).

FOF for **Black-bellied Plover** was from the ponds July 12 (TW).

FOF for **Snowy Plover** was from the ponds July 22 (SLS).

FOF for **Semipalmated Plover** was from the ponds July 21 (SLS).

FOF for **Spotted Sandpiper** was from the ponds July 9 (SLS).

FOF for **Solitary Sandpiper** was from the ponds July 17 (SLS).

FOF for **Greater Yellowlegs** was from the ponds July 7 (SLS).

FOF for **Willet** was from the ponds July 22 (SLS).

FOF for **Lesser Yellowlegs** was from the ponds July 12 (TW).

The **Whimbrel** at the ponds June 23 was a bit later than expected for a spring migrant and way too early for a fall migrant (SLS, TL). Our first of fall for this species was from the ponds July 12 (TW).

FOF for **Marbled Godwit** was from the ponds July 22 (SLS).

FOF for **Least Sandpiper** was from the ponds July 7 (SLS).

FOF for **Western Sandpiper** was from the ponds July 7 (SLS).

FOF for **Long-billed Dowitcher** was from the ponds July 7 (SLS).

FOF for **Wilson's Phalarope** was from July 7 (SLS) at the ponds while our LOS was June 23 (SLS, TL).

FOF for **Red-necked Phalarope** was from the ponds July 14 (TL).

FOF for **Caspian Tern** was from the ponds July 22 and the LOS was from June 23 (SLS).

FOF for **Black Tern** was from the ponds July 14 (TL) and the LOS June 16 (SLS).

The **White-winged Dove** at the golf course July 8 was the 190th species for that location (SLS).

Up to four **White-winged Doves** continued in Ridgecrest (BB, EC).

Our **Burrowing owl** pair was successful with four young noted on June 18 (BB). The full size of the family wasn't apparent until the 7th of July when eight birds were first noted (JO).

The last report of our **Long-eared Owls** was from June 18 at the cemetery with three juveniles perched together (BB).

An immature **Peregrine Falcon** summered in our area and was noted most weeks at the ponds (SLS).

FOF for **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was from the ponds July 21 (SLS).

FOF for **Swallows: Tree, Bank, and Cliff** July 9 (SLS), and **Violet-green** and **Barn** July 14 (TL) all at the ponds.

A **White-breasted Nuthatch** was in Ridgecrest July 28 (LT).

A **Phainopela** was in Indian Wells Canyon on June 6 (L&SSu).

FOF for **Orange-crowned Warbler** was from the ponds July 26 (TW).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was SW of Inyokern June 13 which is our latest spring record by two weeks (LK).

FOF for **Western Tanager** was from SE Ridgecrest July 11 (L&SSu).

FOF for **Black-headed Grosbeak** was from SE Ridgecrest July 19 (L&SSu).

FOF for **Lazuli Bunting** was from the ponds July 28 (TL).

A **Scott's Oriole** was SW of Inyokern July 12 and July 23-27 (LK).

FOF for **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was from the evaporation fields July 5 (L&SSu).

Thanks to the following observers: *Bob Barnes, Encar Card, Louise Knecht, Tim Ludwick, John Oliver, Lee and Shirley Sutton, Lynn Thompson, Tom Wurster*

August 2014

The **Eared Grebe** that crash landed N of Inyokern on Aug 30 had a brief but reviving swim in a dog pool before he was released (LB).

An immature **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at the ponds Aug 30 (TW).

FOF for **Short-billed Dowitcher** was from the ponds Aug 3 (TL).

Sanderlings were at the ponds Aug 3-4 (TL) and 12 (SLS).

Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at the ponds from Aug 4-24 (SLS, TW).

FOF for **Forester's Tern** was from the ponds Aug 3 (TL).

Calliope Hummingbirds were S of Inyokern Aug 19-24 (SLS) and in SE Ridgecrest Aug 24 (LS).

One to two **White-winged Doves** continued in Ridgecrest (BB, EC).

An **Acorn Woodpecker** was SW of Inyokern Aug 30 (PW).

Our immature **Peregrine Falcon** continues to be seen at the ponds (SLS, TW, CM).

FOF for **Western Wood-pewee, Willow Flycatcher** and **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was from the cemetery Aug 3 (TL).

FOF for **Dusky Flycatcher** was from the evaporation fields Aug 16 (L&SSu).

FOF for **Warbling Vireo** was from the college Aug 3 (TL).

The **White-breasted Nuthatch** in Ridgecrest was joined by a second bird Aug 16 and they remained through the end of the month (LT).

FOF for **House Wren** was from the ponds Aug 20 (SLS).

FOF for **Marsh Wren** was from the ponds Aug 24 (TW).

FOF for **Bewick's Wren** was from the ponds Aug 24 (AS).

FOF for **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was from the ponds Aug 3 (TL).

Lucy's Warblers were at the pond Aug 3-4 and 25 (TL).

A **Virginia's Warbler** was at the ponds Aug 20-24 (SLS).

FOF for **MacGillivray's Warbler** was from the ponds Aug 20 (SLS).

FOF for **Common Yellowthroat** was from the golf course Aug 24 (AS).

FOF for **Yellow Warbler** was from the ponds Aug 2 (CM).

FOF for **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was from the college Aug 3 (TL).

FOF for **Townsend's Warbler** was from Ridgecrest Aug 3 (TL).

FOF for **Yellow-breasted Chat** was from the golf course Aug 24 (AS).

FOF for **Chipping** and **Brewer's Sparrow** was from the ponds Aug 4 (SLS).

Thanks to the following observers: *Bob Barnes, Linda Bates, Encar Card, Louise Knecht, Tim Ludwick, Curtis Marantz, Alison Sheehey, Lee and Shirley Sutton, Lynn Thompson, Peter Woodman, Tom Wurster*

Help Needed at the Kern River Preserve

Hi Kern River Preserve Friends,

Can you help us clean up the South Fork Wildlife Area and public roads around the Preserve on Kern Valley Pride Day. Saturday, September 20, 2014? Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters at 7:30 am. -

Let Sandra Weiser know by e-mail at sweiser@audubon.org or call 760.378.2531 if you will join our Kern River Preserve team. For out of town people let us know if you need a place to stay for the night.

Thanks.

Reed Tollefson

CHAPTER UPDATE

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD GRANT

You may have been hearing that there is a shortage of well drillers about because farmers all over the state are drilling and deepening wells. Fortunately, the failure of our habitat restoration project leaders to find a driller has led to a currently-under-negotiation agreement with a local Lake Isabella community district to lease an unused well adjacent to the preserve. Work should resume shortly on that project.

KILLER PIPES

Volunteers from Kerncrest Audubon Society last spring located and capped well over 100 fence posts in the Indian Wells Valley and vicinity. Many thanks to Joanna Koob, Dan and Brenda Burnett, Bob Parker, Hector Villalobos, and Shelley Ellis who provided materials.

JUNIOR AUDUBON

Sessions resume at Faller and Inyokern schools on Tuesday, September 9th

We have recently ordered 16 pairs of binoculars to replace broken ones for Faller School. Eight of these will be paid for by Kerncrest, and eight will be provided through a matching program of Eagle Optics. Thank you to WACOM and to all who contributed to the Birdathon. Without binoculars, the Junior Audubon program could not continue!

Kerncrest Audubon Society Board of Directors

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Or go to our website at www.kerncrestaudubon.org, click on "Membership" in the right-hand column of the page, then click on the Audubon logo with the flying egret. When filling in the form, select the chapter C45 KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY from the pull-down menu to have your first year's dues credited directly to our chapter, please.

By joining on line, you may pay by credit card.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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(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

National Audubon Society membership includes membership in the local chapter, a subscription to the Audubon magazine and 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.