



Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Volume 11, Issue 1

Audubon CALIFORNIA

Spring 2007

Audubon's mission is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity."

SPRING... NATURE... EARTH... ahhh...

There is no better place to celebrate spring and the beauty and abundance of our planet than at the 13th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival. This year there are a few changes and lots of additions along with many returning activities. Come join in the fun and learn new stuff, see life birds, find a wildflower or two, or just enjoy breathing some of the cleanest air in Kern County.



Rivers, trees, mountains, & wildlife
Spring and summer are great times to visit
the Kern River Valley

Beginning on Thursday, April 26 and running through Monday, April 30th, the whole festival is geared toward learning about our environment. Bob Barnes is *see Spring NatureFest page 9*

SOUTHWESTERN POND TURTLE



Southwestern Pond Turtle

For many years we have anxiously watched for evidence of young turtles around the Kern River Preserve but haven't observed anything except adults. Last year, Laurie Robinson applied for a grant for the preserve and the permits to begin a headstart program. The purpose of the project *see Turtles page 2*

WORKING FOR NATURE

How hard could it be to take care of a wildlife sanctuary? Don't we just sit around and watch birds all day? Well, no, we are constantly running, albeit in a beautiful setting that always makes work a joy.

Our work week never really ends as long as we are on the preserve. For example in the past few weeks: we picked up litter, planted trees, removed invasive weeds, started an appraisal



Sandra Wieser, Daniel Meyer, and Jeff King pick up trash dumped along the South Fork Kern at the Fay Ranch Road bridge

see Working page 2

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 21 – 8 a.m. NatureFest Prep. RSVP.

Saturday - Sunday April 28-29 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Spring Nature Festival (formerly BioFest), Kernville, Weldon.

Saturday, May 19 – 8 a.m. – Spring Cleaning. RSVP.

Saturday, June 2 - 4th Sequoia National Forest-South Butterfly Count

Sunday, June 3 - 4th South Fork Kern River Valley Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 16 – 8 a.m. – clean HQ, groom nature trail. RSVP.

Saturday, June 30 - 7th North Fork Kern River Valley Butterfly Count

Sunday, July 1 - 5th Giant Sequoia National Monument - South Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 7 – Bird Count - South Fork Rapid Assessment Bird Survey.

Saturday July 14 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. California Amphibian & Reptile Celebration. KRP HQ, Weldon.

Saturday August 11 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hummingbird Celebration. KRP HQ, Weldon.

Saturday, September 15 – 7 a.m. – Kern Valley Pride Day

Saturday - Sunday, September 29-30 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kern Valley Turkey Vulture Festival, KRP

Saturday, - Sunday, October 27-28: Annual KRP Friends Appreciation Weekend. RSVP.

Sunday, December 30: 30th Annual Kern River Valley Christmas Bird Count: Compiler, Alison Sheehy

Saturday, January 5, 2008: 17th Annual South Fork Valley Christmas Bird Count: Compiler Denise LaBerteaux.

For more information or to RSVP
email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net
phone: (760) 378-3044

Friends of the Kern River Preserve



P.O. Box 833
Weldon, CA 93283-0833

email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net
website: <http://kern.audubon.org>

The Kern River Preserve is managed by Audubon California for the preservation of one of California's largest contiguous cottonwood-willow riparian forests and the wildlife it supports.

The Friends of the Kern River Preserve is a membership organization that provides volunteer & financial support for outreach, education, wildlife habitat protection, & stewardship.

Your support is critical to the success of the Kern River Preserve. Please consider making a donation by filling out the membership form and mailing it to the Friends.

STAFF

PRESERVE MANAGER..... REED TOLLEFSON
OUTREACH COORDINATOR ALISON SHEEHEY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... SANDRA WIESER
OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION ASST DENIS DUNNING
MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS..... JEFF KING

VOLUNTEERS

BIRD FEEDING COORDINATOR..... BIRDIE FOSTER
FEEDERS: DARRELL BARNES, BILL FOSTER, MARIA GARCIA, GORDON & CHRIS HANCOCK, CHLOE KENNEDY, MARTINE METZENHEIM, MARYA MILLER, BOB SHOWERS, HOLLY SORENSON & GERRY TESSMAN

SPECIAL PROJECTS

BOB BARNES, MIKE GALLAGHER, RON GILLENLINE, CHARLOTTE GOODSON, BUZ LUNSFORD, KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY, JOHN SCHMITT, PATRICIA SEAMOUNT

Turtles cont. from page 1

is to increase the survival of hatchling turtles and help the local population rebound. Headstarting is a process by which hatchlings are raised in captivity until they are large enough to avoid predators and then are released to the wild. The southwestern pond turtle has experienced dramatic declines over its entire range due to overharvest, habitat loss, introduction of non-native predators and disease. The Kern River Valley supports a population of these turtles and plenty of good habitat, however due to predation by non-native large mouth bass and bullfrogs combined with native predators, the reproductive success is very low.

The turtle team consists of both staff and volunteers who have been authorized on collecting permits to handle these sensitive species. More volunteers are welcome to help with the construction of the turtle enclosure and the care of the eggs and hatchlings (an authorized person has to be in attendance if any turtles are handled).

The project got off to a slow start, with Bill Foster, Darrell Barnes and Gordon Hancock fixing up the research trailer at the preserve headquarters as the incubation facility.

The pace quickened in November when ground was broken for the new pond enclosure, where the turtles will be raised until they reach a weight of 70 grams. They will then be

released back to appropriate habitat in the South Fork Valley. Until then they will live in one of two ponds that are completely predator free and built to simulate the natural environment as much as possible. Completion of the structure is anticipated by early June. In addition to Bill, Darrell, and Gordon, the turtle team consists of Chris Hancock, Bob Showers, Jeff King, and Reed Tollefson. See turtle project photos on page 9. §



Expect to see more turtles this size at the conclusion of the turtle project

Working cont. from page 1

on an important property, fixed leaky plumbing, reported to granting organizations, budgeted for next year, informed visitors, discouraged trespassers, posted signs, planted understory plants, worked on the new headstart turtle enclosure, repaired canals, wrote a newsletter, applied for several grants, removed invasive weeds, chased cows out of fields, repaired fences, worked with partners, conducted wildlife and plant surveys, attended meetings, planned festivals and other events, upgraded our website, designed new signs and banners, updated schedules for volunteer workdays, mowed lawns, pruned trees, mowed tumbleweeds, filled bird feeders, and on and on... oh, and yeah, we watched birds too!



We can't and didn't do all of this alone, we had the help of some great volunteers who spend a lot of time helping on many projects including watching birds and lots of other creatures as well! We still have a lot more to do and could use the help of many more devoted people. Restoration projects continue, more trees and understory need to be planted, protective sleeves need to be placed on each plant to keep gnawing rodents from eating the tender young trees and herbs. And then there is the work that never really ends.



Jeff King releases water onto KRP's latest restoration site.

There is trail restoration and we have a huge festival coming up and need more volunteers to help with contests, collect door prizes, lead trips, help with our information booths, dinners, and our new visitors'

center fundraising concert. After that, the new visitor's center and natural history museum that will need plenty of dedicated volunteers to help keep it open and stocked. If you are interested in helping out for any of our projects or want to become a trained docent, contact Alison at 760-378-3044 or email krpfriends@lightspeed.net. §

KRP NEWS BRIEFS

Alison Sheehy went from part-time to full-time Outreach Coordinator on February 1st.

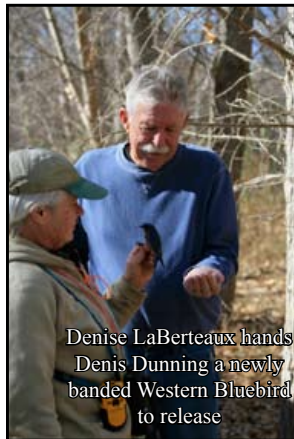
Denis Dunning has been hired to help with bookkeeping, sign making and other assorted duties.

Volunteer bird feeders have begun the spring feeding schedule.

New bird feeders Bob Showers and Holly Sorenson have joined the team led by Birdie Foster.

The Turtle Project team is moving full-steam ahead with building the turtle holding facilities.

Denise LaBerteaux and Bruce Garlinger have concluded the winter bird banding program for the season. The spring and summer MAPS stations begin in May. §



Denise LaBerteaux hands Denis Dunning a newly banded Western Bluebird to release



New Visitors' Center Conceptual Design

NEW NATURE CENTER & MUSEUM

Buildings dating back to the 1920's, a river changing course, and the entrance road flooded for weeks at a time, forces us to confront a new reality; the preserve needs another place for our friends and the public to gather. We have started the process by creating a tentative design for a green modular complex. But we don't want to just build for current capacity, we want to make this a state of the art facility for community events, educational programs, and make it fully functional for our disabled friends. For more details on our conceptual design visit our project webpage: http://kern.audubon.org/visitor_center.htm §

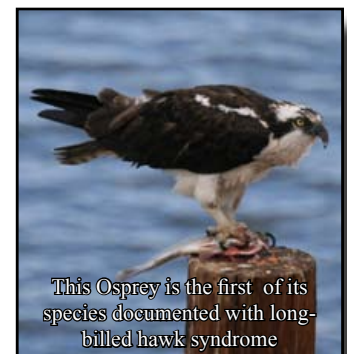
EARTH DAY

Join the staff and volunteers of the Kern River Preserve for a trash removal and festival preparation project. Earth Day workday will take place on April 21 from 8 a.m. until around 3 p.m. or whenever you feel like quitting for the day.

A no-host barbecue and camp-out at the preserve will follow with a hike up Fay Canyon planned for Sunday morning. Bring gloves, hat, water, lunch and wear work clothes and shoes that can get wet (or wear rubber boots). All tools will be provided. Please RSVP to krpfriends@lightspeed.net or phone: 760-378-2531. §

FESTIVAL PHOTO TURNS OUT TO BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Our festivals are intended to educate the public about our local environment and build support for our conservation efforts. We used this photo of an Osprey to compel and excite people about our area and the natural history events that will take place in 2007. When raptor expert John Schmitt saw the photo alarm bells rang about the excessively long bill of this particular bird.



This Osprey is the first of its species documented with long-billed hawk syndrome



Friends of the Preserve enjoyed a holiday dinner. Photo by Sandra Wieser

FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE MEETINGS

1st Friday of most months at 1 p.m.

We meet at the Sprague House to discuss projects, needs, and volunteer work assignments. Contact Birdie for information.

Phone: 760-378-1902 or email: 1birdy@verizon.net.

JUST BECAUSE

Because many of us never know how much we affect others while we are here. We want each of you to know how very important all of you are to the preserve and to your friends here at the preserve. Whether through donations, volunteer time, or just by reading this newsletter and then spending time appreciating the beauty of our planet, each and every one of you has talents and value that add so much to the live's of others. §



DEPARTURES

Phyllis Allin, beloved wife of Phil and happy spirit, passed away on March 22nd after a long battle with cancer. Even through her ordeal both she and Phil were always upbeat. The team of Phil and Phyllis kept our festival dinners going for years. We dedicate our Spring Nature Festival in loving memory of her. Phyllis' love of life and infectiously optimistic spirit will always be remembered with a smile. She will be missed. §

John had recently illustrated what is known as Long-billed Hawk Syndrome for the Falcon Research Group (www.frg.org). The phenomenon has been documented in many raptor and even in passerine species but had never been found in Osprey until John saw this photo. This finding has sparked interest with the Southern Sierra Research Station and they will now be monitoring local populations for more evidence of affected birds. Long-billed hawk syndrome can lead to death and is characterized by loss of bone in the jaw and an overgrowth of the keratin sheath that forms the bill. No cause has yet been identified. §

AMERICA'S BIRDIEST INLAND COUNTY COMPETITION

7 pm - Apr 26-29 - 7 pm

For three years in a row Kern County has won the America's Birdiest Inland County competition. Help make it four years. The 2007 Kern County effort will take place over 72 consecutive hours from 7 pm, Thursday, through 7 pm, Sunday, April 26-29. All bird species observed by anyone during any of the 72 consecutive hours of may be contributed to the overall list to be submitted.

The Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival takes place that same time, providing a solid base list. Report all of your sightings as one species each added by 12 different people could make a huge difference.

Please submit your Kern County bird species sightings list to: bbarnes@lightspeed.net ASAP after April 29. §

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT recap

What a great thing to do on a beautiful weekend, birders enjoyed crisp winter air among and some great birds during the two Kern Valley CBCs.

For the South Fork count which includes most of the Kern River Preserve, nineteen field counters in 7 field parties found 100 species plus three more count week birds. On Saturday, Alison Sheehey and Sandra Wieser found 9 species of Woodpeckers, mostly in Scodie Park in Onyx. In total ten species of woodpeckers accounted for 10% of the total species for the SFK CBC. (Acorn Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker). Other great birds included a brief look at a Rough-legged Hawk over Canebrake and many more Ferruginous Hawks than normal. The team of Frank Gibson, Don Storm, and David Chilton found a White-throated Sparrow among a group of White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows at a private residence on Fay Ranch Road.



White-headed Woodpecker

The next day the Kern Valley CBC was held on a beautiful but chilly day (22°F start temp). The 22 field birders in 12 groups and 5 feeder watchers produced 128 species with two additional species during count week. The best bird was John Schmitt's record White-throated Sparrow. Two teams: Bob Barnes and Marya & Darrell Barnes, recorded the first Eurasian Collared Doves for the count. Sandra Wieser and Alison Sheehey found a very rare to this valley American Avocet. The best part of the KRV CBC was the tally of owls, all species expected within the count circle were found including: Barn, Western Screech, Long-eared, Great Horned, Northern Pygmy, Northern Saw-whet, Spotted, and Burrowing. Thanks to the owling teams of Michael McQuerrey and Gary File, John Schmitt, and Bob Barnes.

Thanks to everyone who helped and a big thank you to Bruce & Denise and Ron Gillentine for two fantastic post birding feasts! §

TURKEY VULTURE FESTIVAL recap

What do 350 people have in common? They all appreciate the phenomenon of vultures and came to visit the Kern River Preserve to witness a great weekend of activities and interaction with like minded souls.

Thanks go to so many people for making all of these volunteer events run so smoothly. The Friends



of the Kern River Preserve have made an effort to keep these events running for years with support from Kern River Valley Revitalization. Join us September 29-30 for our 14th Annual Turkey Vulture Festival.

Thanks to Birdie & Bill Foster, Chris & Gordon Hancock, Marya Miller & Darrell Barnes, Sandra Wieser, Jeff King, Laurie Robinson, Marcella Freerks, Denis Dunning, Terri Gallion, John Schmitt, Bob Barnes, and many others. §

AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CELEBRATION

Saturday, July 7th - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join Buz Lunsford and his team of reptile rescuers for the annual California Amphibian and Reptile Celebration.

The non-profit organization Herp-Ecology along with its sister organization Reptile Rescue educate visitors with live native reptiles and amphibians. Learn about native species and subspecies and how exotic species (some of which will be on hand) can negatively impact native wildlife.

Each year there are snakes, lizards, salamanders, and frogs for participants to touch and learn about. §

HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION

Saturday, August 11th - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join us for a day of marveling at North America's feathered



Bob Steele led a very popular hummingbird photography workshop in 2006

jewels. Thousands of visiting Rufous hummingbirds, which nest as far north as southwestern Alaska and winter in Mexico, attend our festival each year along with Anna's, Black-chinned, Allen's, Costa's and Calliope Hummingbirds!

Our volunteer bird feeders do their best to make this a special and important place for these little beings to raise their families or to stop and rest on their long and arduous migration. Hummingbirds would have much less reason to visit if it weren't for the support of "The Friends of the Kern River Preserve". §

CLEAN-UPS, PLANTINGS, etc...



Chana Cortez and Reed Tollefson post-property boundaries

Each month we have scheduled activities for Friends of the Kern River Preserve to join. The preserve always needs help and our volunteers are critical to the success of many of our projects. Please check the calendar of events for upcoming activities and then let us

know if you can help. Thanks! §

E-ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested in getting updates between newsletters? Please send a note to krpfriends@lightspeed.net. You will receive an occasional e-newsletter, festival updates, and workday announcements. §

RESTORATION

Volunteers have been busy since last December preparing and planting sites along the South Fork Kern River off of Fay Ranch Road. From digging irrigation ditches, to weeding, filling pots, and getting cuttings of red willow, cottonwood, wild rose, stinging nettle, mugwort, and mulefat, teams have been working almost every Saturday led by Reed Tollefson. Much of the work in January and February was done by boys from Owens Boys Camp. Many Friends of the Kern River Preserve and staff of Audubon California have helped plant new trees and herbs on our restoration sites after the boys did a lot of the prep work. We are pleased to have an opportunity to work with troubled youth and to rebuild the network of irreplaceable volunteers. §



Shana, Anna, and Sandra dig up roses to transplant to the newest restoration site.

KRP ENDOWMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The preserve continues to grow with staff working diligently to provide new amenities for our friends and guests. Under our current funding our programs are running at maximum and we rely on volunteers to fill the gaps in necessary programs. We need your help to move forward. Please consider a gift to grow the preserve's management endowment to support our stewardship,

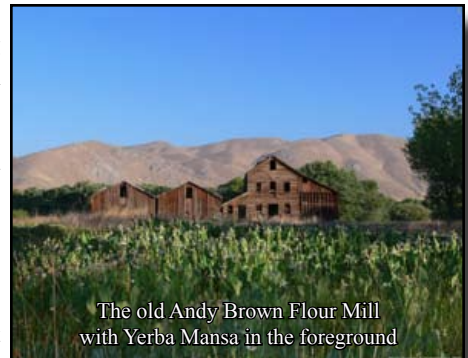
education, and outreach efforts.

Consider making a donation or leaving a bequest in your will. We can ensure it will be used at the Kern River Preserve. If you would like more information or help on how to go about doing this, contact Reed Tollefson, E-mail: rtollefson@audubon.org or phone: 760-378-2531. §

THE OLD A. BROWN MILL

Over the last 129 years the Andrew Brown Mill and surrounding structures have graced the South Fork Valley landscape. Time has taken its toll on this grand old building and soon it will join its contemporaries and fall to create habitat for many different creatures.

As for why it has been allowed to decay, lack of funds pretty much sums it up. The Kern Valley



The old Andy Brown Flour Mill with Yerba Mansa in the foreground

Historical Society launched an effort several years ago to stabilize the building but vandals stole the brass that held the stabilizing rods together. Unfortunately as time marches on the price of restoring the building continues to escalate beyond reach of all who have attempted to raise money for the project.

This year we have experienced some strong wind storms that have torn off much of the tin roof. The sagging structure is just too dangerous for anyone to climb onto to replace the lost material, so we anticipate the grand old lady will fall to the effects of gravity in the next few years. Come visit and pay your respects before that happens, BUT we ask that no one venture near the drop zone as these buildings may collapse without warning. §

INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION

Staff of the Kern River Preserve and California Department of Fish & Game spent time every year trying to eradicate invasive weeds from the South Fork Kern River watershed.

Each of us can help prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals. The article that follows is a tutorial on the very thirsty Salt Cedar: one of a series of articles we have planned to educate about local invasives and some steps each of us can take to help eradicate them. Our next tutorial will be about giant cane.

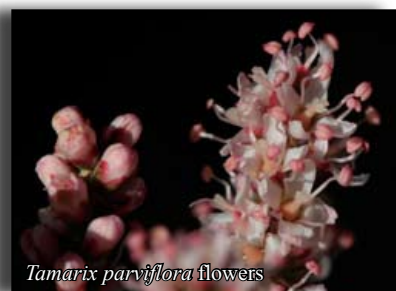
SALT CEDAR (*Tamarix sp.*)



Salt Cedar tree

Salt Cedar may appear to be the only tree or shrub around springs and rivers in many desert areas. This is because this invasive species can overwhelm native riparian vegetation by making the ground salty and by dropping the water table beyond the reach of the natives.

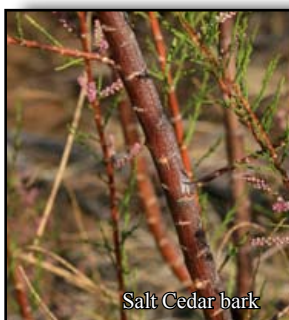
Five species of *Tamarix* have been identified in California: *T. aphylla*, *T. ramosissima*, *T. chinensis*, *T. gallica*, and *T. parviflora*.



Tamarix parviflora flowers

All except *T. aphylla* are considered noxious invasives. Two species are most common *T. parviflora* and *T. ramosissima*. These two species are told apart by their flowers, *T. parviflora* has four sepals and petals, while *T. ramosissima* has five.

All are many-branched shrubs or trees with small scale-like leaves, which superficially resemble cedar sprays. The leaves have salt glands, and salt crystals can often be seen on leaves. Small white to deep pink flowers are densely arranged on plumelike stalks. The bark is reddish brown with smooth stems less than an inch in diameter.



Salt Cedar bark

These invasives were introduced



Salt Cedar leaves

from Europe, Asia and Africa as windbreaks throughout the west. Deep rooted, *Tamarix* can severely lower the water table. They spread by seed and cuttings.

Salt Cedar is difficult to eradicate since it spreads rapidly and usually resprouts after treatment. Follow-up monitoring to treat resprouts is essential. Prevention is the best management strategy for avoiding problems with salt cedar in and around home landscapes. If salt cedar is found growing in landscaped areas, immediately pull the plant before it can spread. Pulling plants (try to remove as much of the root as possible) is an effective way of controlling a few scattered plants growing within landscaped areas. Use of a broad-leaf herbicide is another option but care must be taken to avoid injuring nearby plants.

Established salt cedar populations are difficult to control and require multiple years of intensive management. Removing all woody material is essential as the plant can resprout from twigs. A management program should include prevention, monitoring, and



Salt Cedar in bloom

treatment of small satellite populations before plants develop extensive roots. Make sure root fragments and seed are not transported to other sites. Always clean vehicles, machinery, and clothing after visiting infested areas. §



WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL

Visit the Kern River Preserve each season to see it all!!!



Welcome to the *13th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival and Earth Day Celebration*. On Saturday find information booths, exhibits and workshops at Circle Park, Kernville.

Saturday and Sunday find many events at AUDUBON-CALIFORNIA'S Kern River Preserve, 18747 Hwy 178, Weldon, bird walks, demonstrations, workshops, exhibits, and children's activities.

NEW IN 2007: COLORING CONTEST: PHOTO CONTEST: ESSAY CONTEST: BUTTERFLY ID CONTEST: KERN VALLEY EARTHDAY RIVER CLEANUP: SUNDAY WORKSHOPS AT KRP:

WHERE TO MEET: Riverside Park (RP), Kernville or Kern River Preserve Headquarters (KRP), Weldon.

SCHEDULE OF SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY April 26th

5:45 am - 3 pm Butterbredt Spring & East Kern Desert Oases. KRP. \$\$

6 am - 3 pm Cottonwood-Willow Riparian, Great Basin, & Mojave Desert Spring Birding. KRP. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Chaparral, Oak Foothill, & Mixed Conifer Spring Birding. RP. \$\$

FRIDAY April 27th

BIRDERS' COOPERATIVE BIG DAY ... A modified Big Day style of all day birding. The goal will be to see as many species as possible while enjoying them as well. Bring food & water to last all day. All field trips involve carpooling. Sign-up for one of the following:

5:45 am - 3 pm Butterbredt Spring & Kern Desert Oases. KRP. \$\$

6 am - 3 pm Inyokern west to the Kern River Valley. Meet at Union 76 Station in Inyokern. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Chaparral, Oak Foothill, & Mixed Conifer Spring Birding. RP. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Kern National Wildlife Refuge east to the Kern River Valley via Greenhorn Summit. Meet at the Kern NWR. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Kern River Valley/Southern Sierra Nevada Spring Birding. KRP. \$\$

6 pm - 10 pm Low Country Owling. KRP. \$\$

6 pm - 10/11 pm High Country Owling. RP. \$\$

3:30 pm - 5 pm Earth-Honoring Faith. A spiritual appreciation of the environment. Kernville United Methodist Church. FREE

5 pm - 7 pm Catered Mexican Dinner. Family Life Center, Wofford Heights. Fee \$20.

7 pm - 8:45 pm - Evening Program. \$10 at the door if only attending the program: Introduction to the Butterflies of the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada by Fred Heath

SATURDAY, April 28th

5:45 am - 3 pm Butterbredt Spring & Kern Desert Oases. KRP. \$\$

6 am - 3 pm Cottonwood-Willow Riparian, Great Basin, & Mojave Desert Spring Birding. KRP. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Kern River Valley/Southern Sierra Nevada Spring Birding. KRP. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Chaparral, Oak Foothill, & Mixed Conifer Spring Birding. RP. \$\$

7 am - Noon Bird Banding Demonstration at Kern River Preserve. FREE

7 am - 10 am Basic Bird Photography Workshop with Bob Steele. \$\$

8 am - 10 am Spring Nature Run 10K/ 5K. Whiskey Flat Trailhead, Burlando Road, Kernville. \$\$

8 am - noon. North Fork Kern River Earth Day Cleanup. RSVP with Mountain & River Adventures 760-376-6553

8 am-Noon Hillside in Bloom: Wildflower Walk. RP. Carpool. \$\$

8 am - 1:30 pm Geology of the Southern Sierra. RP. Carpool. \$\$

9 am - 11 am Kern River Preserve Beginning Birdwatching. the Information table at KRP. FREE

9 am - 11 am Habitat enhancements and stewardship at the Kern River Preserve. FREE

9 am - 4 pm Kern River Preserve Festival Headquarters, Kern River Preserve, Weldon. FREE

9:30 am - Noon Musical Entertainment "Mama's Mid-Life Crisis" Circle Park, Kernville. FREE

10 am - 11 am Hiking and Biking Safety in Mountain Lion Country. Sequoia National Forest's Kernville office. FREE

10 am - 3 pm An Introduction to the Butterflies of the Kern River Valley. KRP. FEE: \$10.

10 am - 4 pm Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve. FREE

10 am - 4 pm Kern Valley Museum. FREE

10 am - 4 pm Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles, Herp-Ecology. Kern River Preserve Headquarters. FREE

10 am - 4 pm Kern River Fish Hatchery Trout Festival. Kernville. FREE

10 am - 4 pm Paiute Nuui Cunni Cultural Center (Native American) French Gulch, Wofford Heights. FREE

10 am - 5 pm CIRCLE PARK FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS, Circle Park, Kernville. FREE

10:30 am - 3:30 pm Mill Creek Trail Wildflowers. At trail head.

1 pm - 2:30 pm Musical Entertainment "Mama's Mid-Life Crisis" Circle Park, Kernville. FREE

2 pm - 3 pm Hiking and Biking Safety in Mountain Lion Country. Sequoia National Forest's Kernville office. FREE

2:30 pm - 5 pm Musical Entertainment "OUT OF THE BLUE" Circle Park, Kernville. FREE

3:30 pm - 5 pm Advanced Bird Photography Workshop with Bob Steele. \$\$

5 pm - 7 pm Catered Deep Pit/Vegetarian Dinner. Fee \$20. Family Life Center Wofford Heights.

7 pm - 8:45 pm - Evening Program. \$10 at the door if only attending the program: Big Picture in a Small Frame: The Natural History of Kern County and the Southern Sierra Nevada

6 pm - 10 pm Low Country Owling. KRP. \$\$

6 pm - 10/11 pm High Country Owling. RP. \$\$

SUNDAY, April 29th

5:45 am - 3 pm Butterbredt Spring & Kern Desert Oases. KRP. \$\$

6 am - 3 pm Cottonwood-Willow Riparian, Great Basin, & Mojave Desert Spring Birding. KRP. \$\$

7 am - Noon Bird Banding Demonstration at Kern River Preserve. FREE

7 am - 3 pm Kern River Valley/Southern Sierra Nevada Spring Birding. KRP. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Chaparral, Oak Foothill, & Mixed Conifer Spring Birding. RP. \$\$

7 am - 4 pm Natural History of the Kern River Watershed KRP. \$\$

8 am - 12 pm Bodfish Piute Cypress Botanical Area Walk. RP. \$\$

9 am - 10 am Beginning Mammal Tracking Workshop at the Kern River Preserve. FREE

9 am - 11 am Kern River Preserve Beginning Birdwatching. KRP. FREE

9 am - 4 pm Kern River Preserve Festival Headquarters, Kern River Preserve, Weldon. FREE

10 am - 10:30 am Reptile ID workshop at the Kern River Preserve with Buz Lunsford. FREE

10 am - 3 pm An Introduction to the Butterflies of the Kern River Valley. \$\$: \$10.

10 am - 4 pm Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve. FREE

10 am - 4 pm Kern Valley Museum. 49 Big Blue Road. FREE

10 am - 4 pm Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles. Kern River Preserve. FREE

10 am - 4 pm Paiute Nuui Cunni Cultural Center (Native American) French Gulch, Wofford Heights. FREE

10:30 am - 11 am Rescuing Wild Birds. FREE

11 am - noon Gardening with Native Plants at the Kern River Preserve. FREE

Noon - 1 pm Leave No Trace - a workshop in outdoor ethics. Kern River Preserve. FREE

1pm - 1:30pm. Working with Tree-free Paper and Other Environmentally Friendly Products. KRP. FREE

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Nature Walk. Kern River Preserve. FREE

2 pm - 3 pm Mammal Track Interpretation. FREE

3 pm - 3:30 pm Feeding and Caring for Baby Birds. FREE

4pm - 8pm. Fundraising Musical Event. Kern River Preserve - Sprague Ranch House. DONATION

6 pm - 10 pm Low Country Owling. \$\$

MONDAY April 30th

5:45 am - 3 pm Butterbreed Spring & Kern Desert Oases. KRP. \$\$

6:30 am - 3 pm Kern River Valley to Kern National Wildlife Refuge via the Kern River Canyon. the Park-'N-Ride located on the north side of Hwys. 155 and 178 in Lake Isabella. \$\$

6 am - 3 pm Cottonwood-Willow Riparian, Great Basin, & Mojave Desert Spring Birding w. Bob Barnes. KRP. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Chaparral, Oak Foothill, & Mixed Conifer Spring Birding. RP. \$\$

7 am - 3 pm Kern River Valley/Southern Sierra Nevada Spring Birding. KRP. \$\$

SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL FIELD TRIPS

This year's SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL feature Thursday through Monday Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada birding and natural history field trips.

Trip Leaders: Bob Barnes, Tom Edell, Gary File, Joe Fontaine, Mary Freeman, Nick Freeman, Wes Fritz, Fred Heath, Lee Jones,

Kerncrest Audubon Society members, Fletcher Linton, Dan Lockshaw, Michael McQuerrey, Gary Potter, Roy Poucher, John Schmitt, Jeff Seay, Alison Sheehey, Steve Sosensky, Susan Steele, Lee Sutton, and Reed Tollefson.

Field Trips: Carpooling is encouraged - be sure to start the day with a full tank of gas before heading out! Participants on long field trips should pack a lunch and drinks for the day. All field trips held rain or shine.

FEES: Trip Costs: One trip - \$40, Two trips - \$75, Three or four trips - \$100, Five trips \$125. Owling trips (separate fee) - \$20.

PRE-REGISTRATION is REQUIRED by e-mail: bbarnes@lightspeed.net (Bob Barnes) or phone: 760-375-6140.

PAYMENT by cash or check will be arranged by Bob Barnes after your personalized trip planning services. Registrants contacting Bob are given priority and once contacted your space is confirmed, sending in fees without email confirmation does not confer priority. (E-mail: bbarnes@lightspeed.net)

Workshop Leaders: Marlene Hensley-Benton (FACT), Amy & Dusty Allison (Leave No Trace), Jim Lowery (EarthSkills.com), Buz Lunsford (HerpEcology), Marya Miller (CNPS), Mountain Lion Foundation, Southern Sierra Research Station, Sheri Spiegel (Audubon), Bob Steele (BobSteelePhoto.com) and Reed Tollefson (Kern River Preserve).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Weather: Weather in the Kern Valley in late April is usually spectacular (sunny, 65-80° F daytime highs), but it can be variable. On mountain trips prepare for very cool to freezing weather. For your comfort, we suggest bringing water, snacks, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, jacket for cool weather, and sturdy shoes (waterproof boots may be handy in riparian areas).

NatureFest Volunteers & Steering Committee: Steve Kenton, Bill & Birdie Foster, Reed Tollefson, Jeff King, Ellen Schafhauser, Ron Gillentine, Sandra Wieser, Darrell and Marya Barnes, Ron Wermuth, Bob Barnes, Chuck White, Wendy Rannals, John and Rhonda Stallone, Jennie Cox, Gordon & Chris Hancock, Judy Hyatt, Kernville Chamber, Steve Anderson, Bob Lowe, Buz Lunsford, Brenda Burnett, Dave Ogden, Justin Schuetz, Nancy Ivey, Charlotte Goodson, Sheri Spiegel, Scott Yoo, Valerie Cassity, Allyn Amsk, Dolly Ogawa, Marsha Smith, Lee Sutton, Alison Sheehey

A big thank you to all of the 2007 Festival Sponsors: Audubon-California (Kern River Preserve), EK Schafhauser Photography, Friends of the Kern River Preserve, Herp-Ecology, Kern River Courier, KernCrest Audubon Society, Kern River Valley Revitalization, Inc., Kern Valley Sun, Mountain & River Adventures, Nature Alley, Rossback & Sons, Southern Sierra Research Center, USDA- Forest Service - Sequoia National Forest, TLH (Turn-left Here), Valley Wild

Schedule of Events: Check the website for changes or additional events between now and the Spring Nature Festival weekend.



For more information see the Spring Nature Festival Website: <http://kern.audubon.org/bioregion.htm>
Email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net
Message phone: 760-378-3044

Spring NatureFest cont. from page 1

the capable leader of the field trips and other registrations. Judy Hyatt pays the bills after Sandra Wieser does all of the accounting and registrations. Christine and Gordon Hancock are the dinner coordinators. Ellen Schafhauser and Bob Lowe are heading up the new photo contest. Marsha Smith and the staff of the Kern Valley Sun are running the new children's coloring contest. Dolly Ogawa and Allyn Amsk are putting together the new children's essay contest.

The following is a list of many of the people who are volunteering their time and the sections they help manage: Steve Kenton - USPS special cancellation; Bill & Birdie Foster - Friends of the Kern River Preserve; Reed



Over 30 field trips are offered during the Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival

Tollefson - Audubon, KRP coordinator, trip leader; Jeff King - parking and facilities coordinator; Ellen Schafhauser - Photo Contest; Ron Gillentine - signs, DFG, Sunday announcer and moral support to coordinator; Sandra Wieser - festival registrar and Friends of KRP booth coordinator; Darrell and Marya Barnes - Friends of KRP, CNPS and native plant workshop; Ron Wermuth - Native blessing and Indian community liaison; Bob Barnes - coordinator all paid activities, emcee dinners, field trip coordinator, festival promoter, field trip leader; Chuck White - faith and environment coordinator, dinner committee member; Wendy Rannals - Circle park activities coordinator, Sequoia National Forest liaison, Sequoia National Forest workshop and booth coordinator; John and Rhonda Stallone - River and Mtn 99 trash clean-up; Jennie Cox - dinner committee; Gordon & Chris Hancock - Friends of the Kern River Preserve; Judy Hyatt - KRVR liaison, festival treasurer; Steve Anderson - Sequoia National Forest liaison; Bob Lowe - Photo contest committee; Buz Lunsford - Herpetological display KRP, workshop leader; Brenda Burnett - Kerncrest Audubon, Maturango Museum booth; Dave Ogden - concert coordinator, musician; Justin Schuetz - Southern Sierra Research station bird banding coordinator; Nancy Ivey - Mother Earth; Charlotte Goodson - children's activities Kern River Preserve; Sheri Spiegal - Audubon, treefree paper workshop; Scott Yoo - DFG; Valerie Cassity - PR; Dolly Ogawa - essay contest; Allyn Amsk; Marsha Smith - children's coloring contest; Lee Sutton - beginning birding trips; Alison Sheehey - festival coordinator, Saturday keynote speaker, field trip leader. This list omits most of our workshop leaders and field trip leaders, because there just isn't room to fit them in this article.

As of March 26th, we have 74 volunteers and staff working on many aspects of the festival, yet more are needed. If you would like to help support the festival by donating your time, please contact your Festival Coordinator - Alison Sheehey at (760) 378-2029 or email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net.

For those interested in attending the festival see page 7 for the full schedule (as of late March). §

Southwestern Pond Turtle Project!!!!



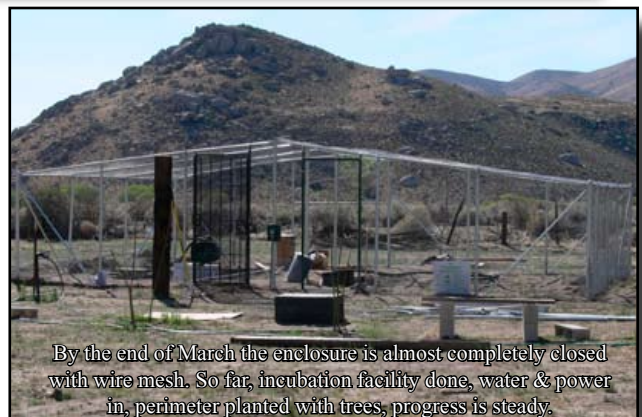
Bill Foster and along with the many of the turtle team staked out the turtle ponds in November



Reed, Bill, Bob, and Darrell trenched the water and electricity to the enclosure in November



In early March the framing posts were set in the ground



By the end of March the enclosure is almost completely closed with wire mesh. So far, incubation facility done, water & power in, perimeter planted with trees, progress is steady.

THANK YOU DONORS & NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter 160 people and organizations have generously sent in much needed donations. As of this year the entire Kern River Preserve outreach budget comes from your donations. If your name is missing or misspelled please let us know. We enjoy providing recognition to our wonderful friends. Your privacy matters, if you prefer to remain anonymous, please check the box on your donation form.

FREMONT COTTONWOOD (\$1000-\$2499)

Lucy Clark Chana Cortez
Bruce Garlinger & Denise LaBerteaux
Daniel Portway Bob & Susan Steele

GRAY FOX (\$500-\$999)

Frank & Janice Delfino Scott Rosenlieb
Mel & Bev Rubin Joann Conard & Dan Walker

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (\$250-\$499)

Robert Brewer Ernie & Nancy Flores
Cal & Letty French Carol & Joseph Halterman
John & Jane Johnson Dave Kurdeka
Peg Smith & Chuck Peck Peter Watkins

GREAT BLUE HERON (\$100-\$249)

Dana Adams George & Judy Beaty
Jim & Karen Clarke (SeaChest) Ogden Dave
Ronald Davis Margo & Melissa DeGrosse
William Ditzler Deborah Farson
Richard & Susan Fields Eleanor Fraser
Janice & Richard Graves John & Hermi Hiatt

Sidney Tice & CleoBell Heiple-Tice

Jane Hicks Vic Hostetter
Gerald & Caryl Kay Gerald Koch
Jeffery Martin Diane Mitchell
Michael Nelligan Roger Pasarow
Arthur Peck & Victoria Peasley David Pettitt
Pat Seamount & Mike Gallagher Mark Sapsford
Rob Schlising Maggie Seely
Vern & Beaujourn Shull Nana Simone
J. H. Smith Clint Stallings
Daniel & Sandra Szymanski John Tobin
Suzanne Eiseman & Bruce Terzes Pete Woodman & Susan Moore
Doug, Janine & Lindsay Wilson & Jamie Uyehara

BOBCAT (\$50-\$99)

William Barclay Jan Beeler
Patricia Brown & Robert Berry William Brabender
Debra Campbell Wingerden Jim & Shirley Davis
Elizabeth Donnelly John Dukat
Vince Eckhart Leslie Lynne Flint
Pauline Fong Bugs & Joe Fontaine
Sara Lee Gershon Frank Gibson
Golden State Surplus Charlotte & Don Goodson
Dorothy Gould Ellene & Noel Gravelle
Helen Green Kirsten Holmquist
Herbert & Debra Holt Mrs. Lee Hughes

Marilyn Jones Robert Krase
Penelope LePome Leslie Long
Ara Marderosian La Dona Matthews
Patricia Moore Tadd & Debbie Ottman
Jeannette Papp Jeannie & Rich Pelletreau
Harry Pollack (Conservation Partners)
John & Janette Quinley Jean & Terry Ronneberg
James & Phyllis Ross Sally Spotts
Rhonda & John Stallone (Mountain & River Adventures)
Joan Sunderland William Taylor
Michael Kemer Thomson Don Toms
Deborah Tyler John Waines
David & Debbie Giles Warren Deb & John Wilson
Leslie Wood Stefanie Yurus

CALIFORNIA QUAIL (Family) (\$40-\$49)

Pat & Christine Dauwalder Phil & Pat Gordon
Susan Hunt Joan Powell

RACCOON (\$25-\$39)

Bob Battagin Norfleet Blaine
Sheila Braden Morton & Ann Brown
Michael & Rita Carey Jeanne Charles
Emily Cohen & Phil Heavin Ed Ehmke
Beverly & Don Foster Don Gallup
Catherine Gamble John Griffiss
Louise Hallberg Constance Haseltine
Mary Lou Hill Bert & Alice Katzung
Michael Kazeef Chloe Kennedy
Paul Klahr Billie Mangold
Barbara Mansfield Mary Merriman
Neil & Jeanne Nutter Nicholas Roth
Barbara Smith Nick Spain
Tim Strohane Mark & Leila Sutherland
Lee & Shirley Sutton Robin Winslow-Smith
James & Jewelie Wolfe Rocio & Tim Zajic

IN KIND DONATIONS

Mary Freeland Ron Gillentine
Bob Showers

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Dollie Goodner from Carol Coulter
In memory of Donald Moore from Tyler & Susan Cartier
In memory of Donald Moore from Sally Errecart
In memory of Donald Moore from Charlotte & Don Goodson
In memory of Donald Moore from Christopher Moore
In memory of Donald Moore from Betty, Stephanie, Greg Thomas
In memory of Donald Moore from Alan & Joan Woodman
In memory of Piute from Chana Cortez
In memory of Piute from Jack & Cecelia Quinn

BEQUESTS

From the estate of Robert Linden

MATCHING GIFTS

Yum! Brands \$



Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Membership / Renewal Application



Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Fax: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Check for change of address / email / information

Application for: New Member Renewal Gift In Memory

_____ \$ 5,000 Summer Tanager	_____ \$100 Great Blue Heron
_____ \$ 2,500 Black Bear	_____ \$50 Bobcat
_____ \$ 1,000 Fremont Cottonwood	_____ \$40 California Quail (Family)
_____ \$ 500 Gray Fox	_____ \$25 Raccoon
_____ \$ 250 Willow Flycatcher	Total \$ _____

Anonymous Donation
 Web Newsletter Only

Please Send Information on:

Planned Giving / Bequests
 Volunteer Opportunities

All members in the Raccoon and above categories receive our newsletter. New members in the \$100 Great Blue Heron and above level are eligible to receive a KRP Friends T-shirt. Donations in the Gray Fox and above categories receive lifetime membership. Please be sure to indicate size if you WISH to receive a t-shirt. Extra T-shirts available for \$15 (\$10 members) plus \$2.50 shipping.

small ♦ medium ♦ large ♦ XL ♦ XXL

Please make checks payable to : **NAS / KRP Friends**

Mail to: *Friends of the Kern River Preserve* • P. O. Box 833 • Weldon, CA 93283-0833

VII II

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you live in or visit the Kern River Valley? Would you like to help feed the birds, help plant and maintain the hummingbird garden, do special construction projects, or help with the trail projects? Contact us or see our scheduled volunteer workdays. §

KRP WISH LIST

- Desperate NEED Medium Farm Tractor, Cat. III 3-point hitch
- Flatbed Trailer suitable for hauling a tractor or automobile
- New Economy 4x4 pick-up
- New Hybrid Multi-passenger 4x4 vehicle
- Professional Large Paper Laser Color Copier
- Sturdy Trail Benches

KEYSTONE SPECIES

Our membership categories characterize keystone species that rely on intact ecosystems to survive. Our goal is to provide long-term sanctuary for these species through outright acquisition of habitat or conservation easements along the entire South Fork Kern River watershed. Although most of the property will not be owned by Audubon, staff of the Kern River Preserve are integral to the success of protection efforts by government agencies and other private organizations.

Supporting the Friends of the Kern River Preserve by becoming a keystone donor allows these important efforts to continue. Without you, none of this critical work can continue... Please unlock the potential of the Kern River Preserve by becoming a member at the highest monetary level you can comfortably afford. §

KEYSTONE SPECIES

GREAT BLUE HERON

Ardia herodias



Great-blue Heron

With long gawky legs and a croaking voice, Great Blue Herons are one of the more distinctive species of the riparian forest. These year-round residents prefer relatively remote places to rear their young.

Great Blue Herons have a six foot wingspan and stand almost 4 feet tall. Often mistaken for cranes, these herons are easy to tell apart as they fold their necks when flying giving them a hunchbacked appearance. During breeding season the black crown stripe is accented by two or more trailing feathers. Look around Isabella Reservoir to spot a lone heron hunting for fish and insects along the shore line or see them out in a field looking for a vole or gopher meal. The heron is mostly solitary in winter but come spring they flock together to form nesting rookeries deep within the South Fork's forest.

A friend in the Great Blue Heron category helps to support many facets of the programs at the Kern River Preserve. All donations are appreciated and really make a big difference to the protection and outreach efforts along the South Fork Kern River. §



Friends of the Kern River Preserve

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**UPCOMING EVENTS...
DON'T MISS!**

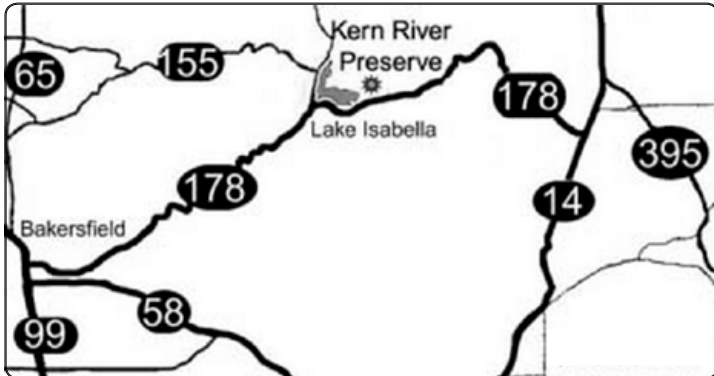
April 21
Earth Day / Work Day

April 26-30
KRV Spring Nature Festival

July 14
California Amphibian & Reptile

**Check the Calendar of Events
for upcoming work days**

Please note the date of expiration on your mailing label. If it says "exp" then this will be your last issue (if this is in error please contact us right away). We appreciate your support in the past and hope you consider renewing your membership soon. Thank you.



The Kern River Preserve is located 1.1 miles east of the intersection of State Highway 178 and Sierra Way in Weldon, Kern County, California.

Driving time from:

- Los Angeles.....3.5 hours
- San Diego.....5.5 hours
- San Francisco.....6.5 hours
- Reno.....7.5 hours

Call Cal Trans for current road conditions: **1 (800) 427-7623**
1 (800) gas-road

For further information about the



*Friends of
the Kern
River Preserve*

Email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net
or visit our website:
<http://kern.audubon.org>

