



Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Volume 13, Issue 1

 **Audubon** CALIFORNIA

Spring 2009

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."

KELSO CREEK

Partnering with philanthropic groups is always rewarding when it involves land protection. Riparian corridors are so important to wildlife and people. The Kelso Creek watershed starts high in the Piute Mountains and plunges rapidly to the floor of the Kelso Creek Valley near St. John's Pass, where it then meanders toward the South Fork Valley and eventually runs into the Kern River. While there are few years when the creek actually flows beyond the Cane Canyon area, the entire riparian corridor is in amazing contrast to the surrounding desert landscape.

At our Kelso Creek Sanctuary 15-miles up Kelso Valley Road, there are many nesting species that reach the northwestern limit of their range. Several sensitive species of plants



Kelso Creek watershed is a rare permanent stream that flows through a Mojave Desert environment.

see Kelso page 2

SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL

An exciting festival is planned for spring; some favorites will return and some new events are planned in the hope of delighting visitors. We have great keynote speakers lined up along with a new caterer who formerly was the best cook at Chilly Willies in Kernville.

The 15th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival exhibits and activities will take place the weekend of May 2-3, 2009. Bob Barnes's Kern River Valley Birding will again handle the field trips from April 29th through May 5th.

Our Friday night, May 1st, the activities kick off at the Family Life Center in Wofford Heights with keynote speakers Dr. Jason Saleeby and Ms. Zorka Foster Saleeby of CalTech. Their presentation will be an interesting presentation on the "Geology of Your Backyard; the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada." Jason and Zorka have conducted research in this area for the better part of thirty years and are conducting cutting edge research on the seismological history of the Southern Sierra and San Joaquin Valley.



Jason & Zorka Saleeby our keynote speakers stand before Taku glacier in Alaska. Photo courtesy Jason Saleeby

see Festival page 2

Calendar of Events

Check our website for special events!

KRP Friends meet 1st Friday of each month
- 1pm - 3pm at the Sprague House

KRP Work parties 3rd Saturday of each month
- 9 a.m. in winter and 8 a.m. in summer.

Sat, Apr 25, 2009 - South Fork Butterfly
Count. bbarnes@lightspeed.net

Sun, Apr 26, 2009 - Kelso Valley Butterfly
Count. bbarnes@lightspeed.net

Wed - Tue. April 29 - May 5, 2009 - KRV
Spring Nature Festival Field Trips

Fri - Sun, May 1-3, 2009 - Kern River
Valley Spring Nature Festival - keynote
dinners - exhibits

Sat, Jun 6, 2009 Sequoia National Forest
South Butterfly Count.

Sat, Jun 13, 2009 - California Amphibian &
Reptile Celebration. KRP HQ

Sat, Jul 4, 2009 Sequoia Butterfly Count.
RSVP.

Sun, Jul 5, 2009 Giant Sequoia National
Monument Butterfly Count. RSVP.

Sat, Aug 1, 2009 - 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kern
Valley Hummingbird Celebration. Kern
River Preserve HQ

Sat, Aug 1, 2009 - 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. -
Hummingbird Celebration set-up and assist
with festival.

Sat, Sept. 19, 2009 - Kern Valley Pride Day.

Sat - Sun. Sept. 26-27, 2009 - Kern Valley
Autumn Nature & Vulture Festival, Kern
River Preserve, Weldon.

Sat, Sept. 26-27, 2009 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Vulture Festival set-up booth - assist at
information booth.

For more information or to RSVP.

See our website: <http://kern.audubon.org>
email: krfriends@audubon.org

Friends of the Kern River Preserve



P.O. Box 833
Weldon, CA 93283-0833
email: krpfriends@audubon.org
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
unless otherwise noted all articles and photographs by Alison Sheehey
LAND STEWARD SEAN ROWE
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MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS..... JEFF KING

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

SPECIAL PROJECTS

BOB BARNES, VALERIE CASSITY, BILL FOSTER, MIKE
GALLAGHER, TERRY HARRIS, CHARLOTTE GOODSON, ARCHIE
LOGSDON, BUZ LUNSFORD, KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY,
CHARLES ROBINSON, JOHN SCHMITT, PAT SEAMOUNT

Kelso cont. from page 1

make their home along Kelso Creek including the Kelso Creek Monkeyflower and Pygmy Poppy. We are extremely grateful to the anonymous benefactors that have allowed us to protect so many acres of wildlands in perpetuity.

The Kelso Creek properties have mostly closed escrow with small legal issues delaying completion on two of the parcels. We expect that by summer all of the parcels will close and Audubon will then transfer the entire 601-acre property to the BLM for inclusion in the 8,190-acre Bright Star Wilderness. The wilderness is adjacent to our Kelso Creek Sanctuary and includes Kelso Peak and its associated drainages to the north, south and east. To the west, the Kelso Mountain system is contiguous with the Piute



Joshua trees are abundant throughout the Kelso Creek corridor and provide interesting contrast next to riparian habitat.

Mountains in the Sequoia National Forest.

Vegetation on lands we are transferring varies from pinyon pine and juniper with large granite rock outcroppings to upland desert habitats with Joshua trees, and, of course, includes cottonwood-willow riparian habitat. The wilderness is wholly located within the BLM Jawbone-Butterbrecht Area of Critical Environmental Concern, an area set aside for cultural and wildlife values. §



Audubon's Kelso Creek Sanctuary is adjacent to the BLM's Bright Star Wilderness. It is mostly high elevation Mojave Desert habitat.

Festival cont. from page 1

On Saturday night, our amazing Bob Barnes will let the crowd in on his knowledge of birding through the seasons in a presentation on "Birding the Kern River Valley & Southern Sierra Nevada".



Bob Barnes knowledge about birds and their habitat in the Southern Sierra is unparalleled.

Saturday and Sunday, we host numerous free events at the preserve including bird walks led by Kerncrest Audubon Society volunteers, bird banding with the Southern Sierra Research Station, and information booths and exhibits located in the large, shaded front yard of Preserve Headquarters. §



Interesting dikes cut through granite along Lloyd Meadows Road near where ancient basalt and metasedimentary rocks are found.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spring Wildflowers

Every year we anxiously watch the skies for rain that will create either a massive or paltry display of annual wildflowers in the Kern River Valley. The blooming period for our wildflowers can begin deep in winter and continues all the way through autumn. Annual wildflower displays progress with late winter blooms in the valleys and late summer blooms high in the mountains. Some years the show on the Kern Valley floor begins as early as late January, but most years it is best from March through mid-April. This year the rainfall has been good enough to produce a moderate display that has already begun in the Kern River Canyon on Hwy 178.



Wildflowers are an annual rite of spring around the Kern River Valley. Depending on the bloom, KRP's Outreach Director leads multiple trips around the Kern Valley. Watch for last minute announcements via our e-newsletter.



Ten inches of snow fell on December 15th, equaling a little more than an inch of rain.

Research conducted on rainfall and wildflower blooms reveals the finest shows happen when the season records 15" or more at the Kern River weather station in Kernville. We have quite a way to go before we match that record but we are hoping for several more storms with cool but not cold weather to really soak the soil. A 10" snowfall on December 15th helped with much needed moisture. It also snowed on

Christmas Day but not enough to soak the ground. January was pretty dry, but February was a good month for rain. Beginning in January, sparse blooms were found in niches where the sun heated up the soil.

Places to look for wildflowers on the preserve are Migrant Corner trail and along Sierra Way. The Fay Creek area is another hot spot but you need to ask permission to be on this part of the preserve, so contact Ali or Reed before you head out.

Early bloomers include: Wallace's woolly sunflower and white layia are blooming well. Broad-flowered gilia,



Brown-eyed Evening Primrose is one of the first flowers to bloom in spring.

scalebud, California poppy, Brown-eyed primrose, popcorn flower, Bigelow's coreopsis, checker fiddleneck, globe gilia, spider lupine, miniature lupine, red maids, and Bishop's lotus.

As of early March at least 30 species of annual wildflowers were blooming. So, here is hoping for a wonderful wildflower year. See our wildflower page on our website for updates... <http://kern.audubon.org/wildflowers.htm>. §



Last year's wildflowers along Migrant Corner Trail were spectacular in spots. This year should be nice but less spectacular than other years. Hopefully the drought will end this year.

Special Donor Events Scheduled

We have a special class of donors that support the operations at the Preserve in a huge way each year. While we offer an invitation only event to our general membership once each year, we are now offering special tours and updates to our larger donors. If you would like to attend, please contact Alison at krpfriends@audubon.org or call 760-378-2029. §



Long-time Friend of the Kern River Preserve and volunteer bird feeder, Martine Metzenheim, enjoyed our special donor event in February.

2009 Research Projects

Are you interested in learning more about research than can be found out at our festivals? Then have we got news for you! Volunteers are welcome at many of our annual censuses and banding days including: the South Fork and Kelso Valley Butterfly Counts scheduled on April 25-26. Rare Plant Surveys that will be conducted in early March through late May. The Southern Sierra Research and EREMICO will conduct MAPS bird banding projects starting



Bigelow's monkeyflower, desert star, and pygmy poppy are searched for each spring.

in mid-May. You can also join our Spring Big Day & Summer Bird Surveys.

Watch our website for exciting opportunities to participate in citizen science or contact krpfriends@audubon.org to find out more. §

Holiday Happenings

An amazing year of fun and accomplishments was capped off at our annual Friends of the Kern River Preserve holiday potluck. In early December, 49 members of KRP Friends joined in the celebration. A wide variety of sumptuous foods were offered and a slide show of the year's activities ended another successful year for volunteers and staff. §

Pond Turtle Headstart Project Update



Pond turtle hatchlings will reach releasable size this year at which time they will be set free.

The fourth year of the pond turtle project has begun with our volunteers busy foster parenting last year's crop of hatchlings. All 31 young are doing well and have grown substantially from the time they hatched.

The project coordinator is now foster parenting (Bill Foster ;-)) five of the smallest young to help them from their larger

competing siblings. The hatchlings will be transferred into the secure turtle enclosure as soon as the weather warms up and the adults come out of hibernation.

The five hatchlings from 2007 will be released into the wild this spring. Last year's hatchlings will be released when they reach 90 mm and 70 grams. When the turtles hatched in October 2007, they averaged a weight of 5.4 grams. During the time they were foster parented they gained an average of 39.4 grams and then after being released to the artificial pond they gained an average of 6.1 more grams. It seems that the young, if protected, grow quickly enough to no longer be a quick snack for bullfrogs or bass within two years of hatching.

This is the last year the project is funded, so another grant will have to be secured to continue the operation. A lot has been learned about the population of Southwestern Pond Turtles over the past three years and much more can be learned. Thanks go to the foster parents for turtle team: Bill & Birdie Foster, Gordon & Chris Hancock, Darrell & Marya Barnes, and Jeff King. §

Year of Festivals Scheduled

It is amazing the diversity of life that supports four distinct

festivals each year. Spring will bring forth nature, but if you read the cover article then you should know all about it.

On June 13th, Buz Lunsford and his crew from HerpEcology will showcase the reptiles and amphibians of California again featuring our local herps. The passion for our less insulated friends is amazing and it is great to see so many animals that most would never have an opportunity to encounter in the wild.



Children love the opportunity to handle live animals.



Few people can resist the allure of brilliantly colored hummingbirds, like this male Rufous Hummingbird.

On August 1st, we will celebrate those marvelous jewels of the sky at our annual Hummingbird Celebration. The interest in hummingbirds is so widespread that interest in this festival grows each year, mostly by word of mouth.

The final festival celebrates another migration on September 26-27. The annual flight of the Turkey Vulture is featured at this festival, although the vultures only show up en masse during the festival occasionally. That is the reason for tweaking the name of the festival to showcase the beauty of autumn in the Kern River Valley while still celebrating the migration. (We actually figured out that the vultures aren't really delayed by weather but by Customs at the Canadian border... they always bring too much carrion luggage ;-).

We hope you can visit the preserve during our festivals this year. §

South Fork Middle School Students Help

By Sandra Wieser

Six students from South Fork Middle School, along with teachers Mike Lane and Melissa Vittoria, spent six weeks working at the Kern River Preserve doing community service. They are fulfilling graduation requirements under the Tucpan Community Day School program for eighth graders.



Students learn an important lesson about caring for nature. Photo by Sandra Wieser.

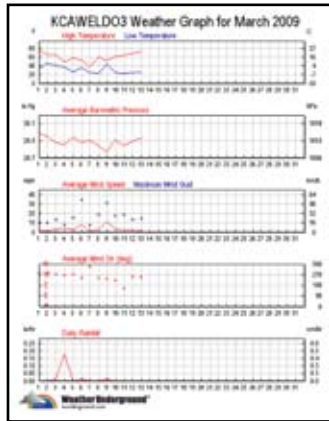
The students did trail maintenance, leaf raking and

removal of fallen branches. They also helped prepare Joshua tree seeds for planting on our upland sage restoration site.

The main compound, parking areas, and trail needed to be prepped for our upcoming Spring Nature Festival. The work is greatly appreciated by all at Kern River Preserve. We hope that the students learned something about the preserve and working for nature, and that they will be inspired to return sometime in the future. §

Weather Station

In November, a new weather station was installed at the Sprague house and went online shortly afterward. Thanks to a generous donation from the Gordon Charitable Fund, the station is able to upload 24 hours a day with a new high speed satellite that was installed in January. Look for our station on our home page and on Weather Underground (station ID KCAWELDO3). §



Binoculars Donated



We have an increasing number of children's groups that look for docent tours on the preserve, but our binocular collection was getting smaller and smaller due to breakage and some disappearing. It was timely that the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club was looking for a way to honor the memory of their long-time volunteer, Jim Clark, who passed away in

2006. The club purchased sixteen pairs of kid friendly binoculars from Eagle Optics, which generously matched the donation with an additional sixteen pair. We now have enough binoculars to allow each child from a large class to use their own pair while at the preserve. Docents teach the children how to use binoculars while learning about birds and other wildlife.

The Sierra Club has scheduled a ceremony and nature hike at the preserve on April 4th in Jim Clark's honor. §

School Groups Visit

As word gets out, the Kern River Preserve continues to grow more popular with local school and youth groups.

In November, the entire student body of South Fork Elementary School visited the preserve. While a small school, there were a total of 110 children plus teachers and chaperones. Unfortunately, the binoculars hadn't arrived so only the third grade class was



The whole South Fork School walked to the preserve on a sunny November day. A total of 110 children plus their teachers.

given a lesson in how to use binoculars and how to study birds. The whole student body then went on a hike along the nature trail accompanied by Sandra Wieser and Alison Sheehy.

Several smaller groups have visited the preserve over the past six months, and the last group actually drove all the way from Bakersfield. The first weekend in March, 30 third-grade children along with 15 parents carpooled up from Eissler School in Bakersfield to help rake leaves at the Preserve and then experience nature.

This was a great opportunity to expose an appreciative crowd of short people to the magic of nature and bird watching. We look forward to seeing more children at the preserve learning about nature. §

More Grinnell Transects will Happen

The last round of Grinnell resurveys will take place beginning in May of this year by the UC Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Drs. Karen and Kevin Rowe will use the Sprague House as their base of operations while they complete the field surveys. It has been a privilege to assist in this important project that is helping to quantify the effects of Global Warming on California's vertebrate species. §



The Grinnell Team returns to trap small mammals. Last year we learned that the preserve's Desert Wood Rat is the recently described Bryant's Wood Rat. (Both the Bryant's and Desert Wood Rat are found at Kelso Creek Sanctuary.)

Butterflies of the Kern River Preserve

While the diversity of birds are well known on the Preserve, less well known are the other species. There are 53 species of butterflies that have been recorded on the Preserve. Recently, a new Kern River Preserve webpage was created with photos of most species of butterflies. Here is the list of butterflies that have been seen on the Preserve and their host plants if you would like to attract some of these species to your yard.

Common Name

Anise Swallowtail
Western Tiger Swallowtail

Host Plant

carrot family
cottonwood, ash,
willow, alder,



Western Tiger Swallowtail



Checkered White



Tailed Copper



San Emigdio Blue



Mylitta Crescent



Mourning Cloak



West Coast Lady



California Sister



Propertius Duskywing



Northern White Skipper

Becker's White bladderpod, prince's plume, mustard
Checkered White mustard
Cabbage White cabbage, nasturtium, watercress, mustards
Sara Orange-tip rock cress, mustards
Orange Sulphur alfalfa, legumes
Tailed Copper gooseberry
Great Copper dock
Purplish Copper dock, knotweed
Great Purple Hairstreak mistletoe
California Hairstreak willows
Sylvan Hairstreak willows
Hedgerow Hairstreak buckbrush
Gray Hairstreak legumes, mallows
Marine Blue legumes
Western Pygmy-Blue saltbush, lambsquarters
Inyo Mountains Blue buckwheat
Ceraunus Blue legumes
San Emigdio Blue four-wing saltbush
Acmon Blue buckwheats, legumes
Field Crescent asters
Mylitta Crescent thistles
Olancha Checkerspot snowberry, penstemon, paintbrush
Satyr Angewing nettle
California Tortoiseshell buckbrush
Mourning Cloak elm, cottonwood, birch, willow, hackberry
Milbert's Tortoiseshell nettle
American Painted Lady *Anaphalis, Antennaria, Gnaphalium*
Painted Lady thistle, mallow, fiddleneck
West Coast Lady mallow
Red Admiral nettles, *Boehmeria, Parietaria*
Common Buckeye plantain, snapdragon, monkeyflower
Lorquin's Admiral willows, poplar, chokecherry
California Sister oaks
California Ringlet grass
Monarch milkweed
Queen milkweed
Arizona Hammock Skipper Jamaica dogwood, pongam
Propertius Duskywing oaks
Mournful Duskywing oaks
Funereal Duskywing legumes
White Checkered-Skipper mallow
Northern White Skipper mallow
Fiery Skipper Bermuda grass
Alkali Skipper (Eunus Skipper) saltgrass
Juba Skipper grass
Western Branded Skipper grass



Sandhill Skipper

Sachem (Field Skipper) crab grass, Bermuda grass
Sandhill Skipper saltgrass, Bermuda grass
Woodland Skipper grass
Umber Skipper grass
Eufala Skipper Bermuda grass, Johnson grass

Nesting Birds on the Kern River Preserve

Summer is the best time to visit the Kern River Preserve, and not just for the extralimital species of birds that nest there but for the overall diversity of breeding species. Of the 104 species that have nested on the Preserve, at least 53 species nest within the forest and include 36 fairly common species listed below along with a brief description of the type of nest.

- American Kestrel – natural or man-made cavities
- American Robin – grass & mud nest in vegetation
- Anna's Hummingbird – plant down & spider web nest decorated with lichen above ground
- Ash-throated Flycatcher – grass & herb filled cavity
- Bewick's Wren – sticks & leaves in cavity
- Black-chinned Hummingbird – off-white plant down & web nest in tree or shrub
- Black Phoebe – mud nest on vertical surface (buildings, cliffs, bridges)
- Blue Grosbeak – compact cup of vegetation in low trees or bushes
- Brown-headed Cowbird – lays eggs in nests of other birds
- Bullock's Oriole – pendulous woven pouch of many materials hung from a tree branch
- Bushtit – web & vegetation woven pocket hung from branches
- California Quail – hollow or scrape of grass on ground
- Cliff Swallow – mud nest on vertical surface (buildings, cliffs, bridges)
- Common Raven – cliffs, trees, poles – stick nest
- Downy Woodpecker – wood chips in tree cavity
- Great Blue Heron – stick platform in colonial rookery
- Great Horned Owl – old stick nests or on rocky ledges
- House Finch – large nest of grass, twigs in many places
- House Wren – twig base filled with grass in cavity
- Lark Sparrow – bare depression on ground lined with grass
- Lazuli Bunting – grass cup secured in shrub
- Mourning Dove – loose platform of sticks & grass in tree or on ground



Black-chinned Hummingbird nest



Mourning Dove nest



Cliff Swallow nests



Common Raven nest



Bullock's Oriole nest

Northern Flicker – cavity in tree, fencepost, utility pole

Nuttall's Woodpecker – in tree cavity

Oak Titmouse – cavity filled with vegetation

Red-shouldered Hawk – stick & twig nest in trees

Red-tailed Hawk – stick & twig nest in trees or rock crevices

Song Sparrow – cup of grass & leaves on ground

Spotted Towhee – ground nest of leaves, bark, grass

Summer Tanager – shallow cup of vegetation far out on tree limb

Tree Swallow – cavity lined with grass & feathers

Western Bluebird – cavity filled with grasses & forbs

Western Scrub-Jay – platform of twigs & grass in trees or shrubs

Western Wood-Pewee – shallow cup of fibers attached to fork in branch

White-breasted Nuthatch – cavity lined with bark, twigs, grass

Yellow Warbler – in crotch of tree woven nest of milkweed & grass §



Black Phoebe nest



Brewer's Blackbird nest

Help Compete in the Birdiest Inland County Competition



Sooty Grouse is found only in one small area of Kern County, any hiker/birders up to the challenge of finding this species during the Birdiest County Competition?

This fun annual competition is one of many reasons to take part in the annual Spring Nature Festival. For the past six years we have participated in America's Birdiest Inland County Competition, winning the past five years. During the annual event birders catalog all of the species they see over a 24 hour period. Bob Barnes heads up the tallying of all Kern County records. §

Flora and Fauna of Kelso Creek Sanctuary

Audubon has two focus areas in the Kern River Valley; the South Fork Kern River and the Kelso Creek Valleys. With a 15-mile trek



Kelso Creek Sanctuary protects a riparian corridor that is surrounded by high Mojave Desert vegetation which abuts the Bright Star Wilderness.

involved in visiting the Kelso Creek Sanctuary and even further to other properties recently protected by Audubon, the data we have on the flora and fauna is understandably less complete than what we have for our main sanctuary. Eve Laeger performed plant surveys several years ago, and with recent discoveries the list is now 156-species. Staff at the Preserve will be conducting more surveys this summer to add to the variety of plants and animals along this very critical sanctuary where desert and montane habitats meet along this unique riparian corridor. Find the entire checklist on our website at: http://kern.audubon.org/flora_kelso_creek.htm. §

Let Your Legacy Live on at KRP

What better place to leave a legacy for our planet than on the Kern River Preserve? A simple note in your will allow long-term support for Outreach and Education, Land Protection, Research and Land Stewardship. It's easy! To help the Kern River Preserve protect this land in perpetuity, just have the following language added to your will:

"I bequeath \$_____ (or _____% of my residuary estate) to the National Audubon Society, Inc., a not-for-profit environmental conservation organization, located at 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. This bequest shall be applied to Audubon's programs at the Kern River Preserve in the State of California."

Please consult an estate planner for legal advice. Planned giving is one of the most powerful ways for an individual or family to help create a lasting benefit for the wildlife, the land and the people who love this Preserve. §

Upland Restoration on Sprague Ranch

Work continues on the upland restoration site, now managed by our Land Steward, Sean Rowe. Four staff and three volunteers spent four hours on

February 21st planting a variety of desert natives. This included four-winged saltbush, Joshua tree, silver cholla, beavertail, Jimsonweed, Calabazilla, narrowleaf goldenbush, and Acton's encelia.



Sean Rowe, Reed Tollefson, and Birdie Foster discuss how to spread four-wing saltbush and Joshua tree seed.

The crew broadcast seed over freshly-disked soil and planted seedlings in an experiment to see how irrigated versus non-irrigated plantings will do. The best results for the least labor intensive practice will be repeated until the entire field is restored to an upland habitat. §

Tough Times

While the economy is tough on all people, it is especially hard on non-profits. Audubon is no exception and has had to cut budgets and lay off some valuable employees. While staff at the Preserve are secure for this fiscal year, we are unsure of the coming years. If you have an opportunity to support your Preserve, we hope you will consider a gift, an annuity, or naming the Preserve as a beneficiary in your will. Thanks. §

ONLINE DONATIONS

Did you know you can donate to the Kern River Preserve without using a stamp or writing a check? Our online donation page is found at:

<https://loon.audubon.org/payment/donate/CAKERN.html>

Donations made online not only save time and paper; the funds are immediately credited to the Kern River Preserve's account. Thanks to you the Kern River Preserve continues to thrive. §



THANK YOU DONORS & NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter 88 people and organizations have generously sent in much needed donations. If your name is missing or misspelled please let us know. Your privacy matters, please let us know if you prefer to remain anonymous.

FREMONT COTTONWOOD (\$1000-\$2499)

Dan Walker & JoAnn Conard
 Roberta Piazza-Gordon & Josh Gordon
 Margery Nicolson
 In Memory of Jim Clark from Kern-Kaweah Chapter Sierra Club
 Alison Sheehy

GRAY FOX (\$500-\$999)

Ernie & Nancy Flores
 Daniel Portway
 Scott Rosenlieb
 Mel & Beverly Rubin

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (\$250-\$499)

Chana Cortez
 The Estate of Robert Linden
 John & Jane Johnson
 Barbara Mansfield
 Stephen & Beth Robie

Daniel and Sandra Szymanski

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

Tom & Jeanne Anderson
 Dr. John and Judge Joan L. Baker
 Kathleen Barry
 Greg & Marie Dunford
 Elizabeth Queatham & Vince Eckhart
 Scott Frazer
 Golden State Surplus
 Bruce Garlinger and Denise LaBerteaux
 Diane Mitchell
 Peg Smith & Chuck Peck
 Robert and Mary Phillips
 Rudnick Estates Trust
 Vern & Beaujour Shull
 In Memory of Jim Clark from Georgette Theotig
 Robert & Donna Tollefson
 Doug, Janine & Lindsay Wilson and Jamie Uyehara
 William and Juliette Wheeler
 Cori Ong & Dawit Zeleke

BOBCAT (\$50-\$99)

Keith & Helen Andrews
 Bob Battagin
 Dorothy Bolt
 Mark, Charlotte, & Grant Campbell
 Sara Lee Gershon
 Alfred & Kitty Hill
 Maatje Scherpenisse & Gerard Kroon
 John & Christine Lewis
 Robert & Bernice Meade
 Martha Pickering O'Neal
 Bill & Barbara Reifel
 Jean and Terry Ronneberg
 Carl and Anna Schorsch
 Deborah Tyler
 Robin Winslow-Smith

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

Christine Cormack & Pat Dauwalder
 Mary Lou Hill
 Rocio and Tim Zajic

RACCOON (\$25-\$39)

Ernie & Vera Anderson
 Eunice Corn
 David Foster
 Donna Gould
 Georgann Meadows
 Alan & Charlotte Paulsen
 Bob Stewart
 Larry Thompson
 Oasis Garden Club of IWV §

Thomas Duque

Sherry Gaskin

John & Hermi Hiatt

Cathy Rose

Rob Schlising

Clint Stallings

Hilary Winslow

Glenn Baker

Jan Beeler

Dr. Patricia Brown

Robert Larkin Coon

Helen Green

Ara Marderosian

Sonia & Lee Penny

W. & Betty Stephens

Neil & Jeanne Nutter

William Berger

Randy Derhammer

Phil and Pat Gordon

Nancy Harris

Ellen Nichols

Nicholas Roth

Pamela Stones

Cherry Trumbull



15th Annual Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival

Wednesday, April 29 - Tuesday, May 5

Friday & Saturday evening dinner and programs: Family Life Center, Wofford Heights.

Saturday and Sunday: Audubon's Kern River Preserve, Weldon: bird walks, demonstrations, workshops, exhibits, and children's activities.

Website: <http://kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>

The festival offers many special programs on Birding, Bird Research, Children's Activities, Land preservation and restoration, Raptors, Reptiles and Wildflowers.

SCHEDULE OF FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

RSVP to Bob Barnes: bbarnes@lightspeed.net for all fee-based birding trips and workshops and pay fee to your leader on the morning of the trip, Send Bob the dates you will be at the festival and your top CHOICES for field trips. He will give personal trip planning services based upon your dates of attendance. Trust his judgement on which trips are best if you are wanting to see certain species. Please visit the festival website for full details. **NOTE: trips sell out quickly please number trip choices: 1st, 2nd, 3rd.**

RSVP for dinners or to ask questions about all other activities email: krpfriends@audubon.org. Mail t-shirt and dinner fees to KRVR-Nature Fest, P.O. Box 833, Weldon, CA 93283

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, April 27-April 29

Inyo/Mono Pre-Festival Trip. FEE \$225

DAILY TRIPS - WEDNESDAY - MONDAY

5am/6am-4pm/6pm, Butterbrecht Spring & East Kern Desert Oases. FEE \$40

5am/6am-4pm/6pm, Butterbrecht Spring & Piute Mountains. FEE \$40

6am-4pm/6pm, Greenhorn Mountains Transect. FEE: \$40

6am-4pm/6pm, Kern River Valley & Southern Sierra Nevada. FEE: \$40

6am-4pm/6pm, Mojave Desert & Great Basin. FEE: \$40

6:30am-4pm/6pm, San Joaquin Valley & Greenhorn Mountains. FEE: \$40

FRIDAY, May 1st

6:30am-4pm/5pm, Little Lake & Owens Lake. FEE: \$40

5 pm - 6:30 pm. Dinner: Mexican Fiesta Location: Family Life Center, Panorama & Sycamore, Wofford Heights. 6:30 pm-7:45 pm - Evening Program. \$10 for program only.

BLESSING: Tubatulabal of the Kern River Valley: Betsy Johnson & Samantha Riding Red-Horse

Highlights of the 2009 Nature Festival: Bird Sightings

YOUTH BIRDING: Impressions of Liam Huber - 11-year old birder from Chico, CA - Life list 514 birds

PROGRAM: Geology of Your Backyard: the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada by Dr. Jason and Zorka Saleeby.

6pm-Conclusion, Owling – Inquire

SATURDAY, May 2nd

5am-Conclusion, TRIP BD: Birders' Big Day. Fee \$40

5am/6am-3pm/5pm, Galileo Hill-Silver Saddle Resort. FEE: \$40

6am-11:30am/1pm, Canebrake Ecological Reserve. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, Chimney Peak. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, Fay Ranch Road. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, Inyokern – Le Conte's Thrasher & Much More. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, Isabella Reservoir. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, Kelso Creek Sanctuary. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, Kern River Preserve Headquarters. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, Migrant Corner Trail & Prince's Pond. FEE: \$30

6am-11:30am/1pm, South Fork Wildlife Area. FEE: \$30

7am-10am. Basic Bird Photography Workshop. FEE \$30

7am-Noon. Bird Banding Demonstration. FREE

8am-1:30pm, Southern Sierra Geology. FEE \$40

9am-3pm. Kern River Valley Spring Butterflies. FEE: \$20

9 am - 10 am. Falconry Workshop. FREE

9am-11am, Kern River Preserve Bird Walk. DONATION.

9am-11am. Habitat Enhancements and Stewardship at the Kern River Preserve. DONATION.

10 am - 10:30 am. Southwestern Pond Turtle Demonstration. FREE

10am-11:30am. Musical Entertainment. Lost Hills with Archie Logsdon. FREE

10 am - 4 pm. Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival Postal Station.

10am - 4pm. Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve. Charlotte Goodson Nature crafts, storytelling. FREE

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

10:30 am - 11 am. Bird Feeding Workshop. FREE

11 am - noon. Native Plant Gardening Workshop. FREE

11:30am-1pm. Musical Entertainment: "Out of the Blue"

Noon - 1pm. Basic Bird Identification. FREE
 1pm-2:30pm. Musical Entertainment. Robbie & the Pipers
 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm. Nature Walk. FREE
 2:30pm-closing. Musical Entertainment. Jam Session with a variety of local artists. FREE
 3pm-5pm. Advanced Bird Photography Workshop. FEE \$30
 5 pm - 6:30 pm. Dinner: Oven Baked Teriyaki Chicken, (vegetarian dish: eggplant). Location: Family Life Center, Panorama & Sycamore, Wofford Heights. Fee \$20
 Musical Entertainment: "Out of the Blue"
 6:30 pm-7:45pm - Highlights of the 2009 Nature Festival: Bird Sightings
 PROGRAM: Bob Barnes - "Birding the Kern River Valley & Southern Sierra Nevada". \$10 for program only.
 6pm-Conclusion, Owling – Inquire

SUNDAY, May 3rd

5am-3pm, Galileo Hill-Silver Saddle Resort. FEE: \$40
 6am-1pm, Canebrake Ecological Reserve. FEE: \$30
 6am-1pm, Chimney Peak. FEE: \$30
 6am-1pm, Fay Ranch Road. FEE: \$30
 6am-1pm, Inyokern – Le Conte’s Thrasher. FEE: \$30
 6am-11:30am/1pm, Isabella Reservoir. FEE: \$30
 6am-11:30am/1pm, Kelso Creek Sanctuary. FEE: \$30
 6am-11:30am/1pm, Birding Kern River Preserve. FEE: \$30
 6am-11:30am/1pm, Migrant Corner Trail & Prince’s Pond. FEE: \$30
 6am-11:30am/1pm, South Fork Wildlife Area. FEE: \$30
 7am-Noon. Bird Banding Demonstration. FREE
 8am-11am. Chimney Peak-Long Valley-Kennedy Meadows Geology Trip. FEE: \$30
 9 am - 10 am. Falconry Workshop. FREE
 9am-11am, Kern River Preserve Bird. DONATION.
 9am-3pm. Kern River Valley Spring Butterflies. FEE: \$20
 10am - 10:30am. Southwestern Pond Turtle Demonstration.
 10am-11:30am. Musical Entertainment. "Lost Hills"
 10am - 4pm. Children’s Activities at the Kern River Preserve. Nature crafts, storytelling. FREE
 10am - 4pm. Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles. FREE
 10:30am - 11am. Bird Feeding Workshop. FREE
 11am - noon. Native Plant Gardening Workshop. FREE
 11:30am - 1 pm. Musical Entertainment: Jill Egland & Friends. FREE
 Noon - 2pm. Native American use of Native Plants. FREE
 Noon - 1pm. Basic Bird Identification. FREE
 1pm-2:30pm. Musical Entertainment. Robbie & the Pipers
 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Nature Walk. FREE

2:30pm-closing. Musical Entertainment. Jam Session with a variety of local artists. FREE

MONDAY, May 4

5:45am-4pm/6pm, Target Species / Target Trips. FEE: \$40
 6:30am-3pm/5pm, San Joaquin Valley/Tulare Lake Basin via the Kern River Canyon. FEE: \$40
 7:00am-5pm, Naturalist Bonanza with Nature Ali. FEE: \$40

TUESDAY, May 5

5:45am-4pm/6pm, Target Species / Target Trips. FEE: \$40
 TUESDAY-FRIDAY, May 5-8

Central Coast & Santa Cruz Island Post-Festival Trip. FEE: \$292

SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL FIELD TRIPS

LODGINGS become very crowded in the Kern River Valley by late April. Be sure to make your reservations sooner rather than later so you have a comfortable place to stay each night during the Nature Festival. Click here for local inns.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Weather in the Kern Valley in late April / early May 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).

Fees/Registration: There is no general entrance fee to attend the Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival. All fees go to support the Festival and are not refundable. Vendor fees are 10% of net or \$100 whichever is lower for booths selling merchandise at the Kern River Preserve.

Make dinner & t-shirt Checks to: "KRVR–Nature Fest" and trip & workshop checks to: Bob Barnes & Associates

Check the website for schedule changes or additions between now and the Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival weekend.. <http://kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>

NAME(s) _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: ____ Zip +4: _____
Phone (____) _____	E-mail: _____
FEE FIELD TRIP	
Friday Dinner:	# People _____
Saturday Dinner:	# People _____
Total Trip Fees: \$ _____	
Nature Festival T-shirt - \$20 each (\$5 shipping) - please circle size - S M L XL XXL (\$22 each)	
# t-shirts x \$20 =	\$ _____
Additional Festival Donation	\$ _____
Total Amount	\$ _____



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 \$20 (\$15 members) plus \$5.00 shipping.
 small ♦ medium ♦ large ♦ XL ♦ XXL (\$22 each)

Please make checks payable to : **NAS / KRP Friends**
 or donate online: <https://loon.audubon.org/payment/donate/CAKERN.html>

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

V13 11

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 to volunteer - srowe@audubon.org §

KRP WISH LIST

CAN YOU HELP US?

We NEED a new tractor so we can mow our trail without threat of more breakdowns and parts that cannot be found. What we need is a Medium Farm Tractor, Category III with a 3-point hitch. We also need a flatbed Trailer suitable for hauling a tractor or automobile.



Another item the preserve needs is a Heavy Duty Woodchipper to grind up tree limbs, weeds and organic debris to help maintain and reduce fire hazard around the Preserve.

Our Buildings

Both the current Visitor's Center and the Audubon House at Sprague Ranch need new roofing and wiring.

For the planet

The staff is requested to attend many out of town meetings and needs an economy car for these travels. §

KEYSTONE SPECIES



Summer Tanager

SUMMER TANAGER *Piranga rubra*

A new level was added since we started the keystone series, the most colorful nesting bird on the preserve. This flying neon tomato is a lesson in how closely green and red are on the color spectrum. It is not hard to see flying from tree to tree but once it lands, it can be tough to pick out.

Arriving at the preserve in late April, the red male begins to set up a territory right away. The female is completely yellow but quite attractive in her own right. Both birds will brood and then raise the young in a grass nest. The riparian forest at the Kern River Preserve provides a smorgasbord of caterpillars in our "organic" bug nursery.

Audubon's Kern River Preserve protects the habitat of 104 nesting birds. The Kern River Preserve would enjoy having more Summer Tanagers in our forest and among our friends. Consider supporting the birds at the preserve through a gift. §



Audubon CALIFORNIA

Friends of the Kern River Preserve

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS... DON'T MISS!

Every third Saturday work parties

April 25, 2009

South Fork Butterfly Count

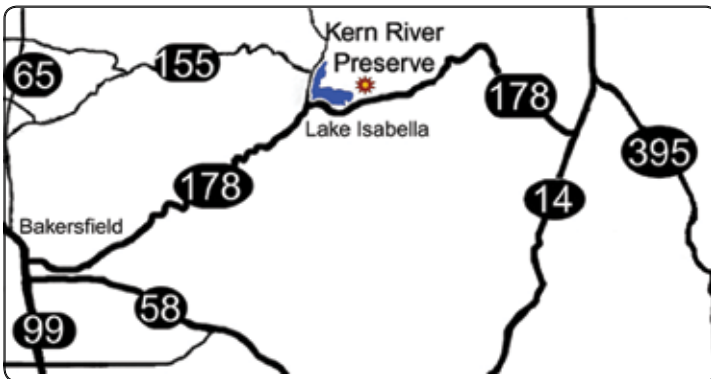
April 29 - May 5, 2009

Kern River Valley Spring Nature
Festival

June 13, 2009

California Amphibian & Reptile
Celebration

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

Current road conditions: 1 (800) 427-7623 [1 (800) gas-road]

For further information about the



Friends of the Kern River Preserve

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

