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**Spring has Sprung!!!**  
**Plan a visit to the**  
**Kern River Preserve!**

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*Friends*  
*of the*  
*Kern River Preserve*

Vol. Two No. Two

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Second Quarter 1998

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**SOUTH FORK KERN RIVER WILLOW FLYCATCHERS TO BENEFIT FROM \$3.8 MILLION**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has allocated 3.8 million dollars for the protection and management of the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and its habitat along the South Fork Kern River. This allocation is the result of an agreement between the ACOE and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). It has been made to compensate for the negative impact on Willow Flycatcher nesting and foraging habitat when it is inundated by high water levels in Isabella Reservoir. The maximum flooding of habitat takes place in late spring and early summer, just after the flycatchers arrive from their long spring flight north from Latin America. The Army Corps wishes to protect, enhance, develop, and support management of Willow Flycatcher habitat outside the reservoir high water line. By performing mitigation measures upstream, the Corps and water authorities hope to more freely manage the water levels inside the reservoir boundaries.

We are very interested in the ACOE/FWS agreement because the west boundary of the Kern River Preserve is just upstream from the high water line of Isabella Reservoir and we already manage significant portions of our lands for Willow Flycatchers. In fact, Willow Flycatchers have benefitted from nearly two decades of restoration and management efforts that have promoted the development of many acres of new habitat at the Kern River Preserve. As a result, many more of these rare birds nest on the Preserve than any other location in the Kern River Valley.

See **\$3.8 Million** on page 2

**WHITECAP FOUNDATION GRANT UPDATE**

The lead article in our last Friends' newsletter thanked the Whitecap Foundation for making a generous grant to the Kern River Preserve for four wetland habitat enhancement projects (Please see the January newsletter for a more detailed description of each project.). We are happy to report to you that great progress has been made towards the completion of the four projects since implementation began at the turn of the new year.

**Project #1—Mill Field:** The removal of dilapidated fence along one of the Preserve's east boundaries is complete. A new fence has been erected in its place. You can readily observe a portion of this new fence at the east end of the Nature Trail. At that location, you can look on both sides of the fence and observe the diverse wildlife usage of both the ungrazed land of the Preserve and the grazed land of the active neighboring ranch. The successful completion of this project means that a large area of the 1100-acre Preserve, including the 50 acre Mill Field riparian revegetation site, is now protected from trespass grazing. This will allow tree understory plants to grow unimpeded. Thank you Whitecap Foundation.

See *Whitecap Update* on page 2

**PRESERVE MID-YEAR APPEAL SET FOR MAY**

Our mid-year appeal to raise funds to support Audubon California's Kern River Preserve will be mailed to you this May. We ask you for money to support us two times a year: once in the form of a spring appeal and again in November when we ask you to renew your membership in the Friends of the Kern

River Preserve.

Audubon California took over management of the Kern River Preserve in February, 1997. Between April and

See *Mid-Year Appeal* on page 2

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FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE

P.O. Box 833  
Weldon, CA 93283  
(760) 378-2531  
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The Kern River Preserve is managed by Audubon~California for the preservation of California's largest contiguous cottonwood-willow riparian forest and the wildlife it supports. The Friends of the Kern River Preserve is a membership organization that provides financial support for the Preserve. Your support is critical to the success of the Kern River Preserve. Please consider making a donation by filling out the attached form and mailing it to the Friends.

Preserve Manager ..... Reed Tollefson  
Director of Kern Valley Outreach ..... Bob Barnes  
Newsletter Production ..... Michael Henstra  
Newsletter Contributors Sandra Wieser and Tom O'Connor

Statistics (as of February 15, 1998):  
Membership Numbers ..... 1086  
Friends ..... 657  
Supporters ..... 229  
Pacific Flyway Patrol ..... 174  
Raptor Circle ..... 13  
Corporate Members ..... 1  
Nonprofit Members ..... 10  
School Class Members ..... 2

Special Projects (Whitecap Foundation) ..... \$72,000

Fund raising goal for fiscal year 1998..... \$80,000

**Total to date ..... \$49,985**

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**\$3.8 Million continued**

Audubon California's Kern River Preserve is looking forward to cooperating with federal, state, and local agencies, private landowners, urban & agricultural water users, and others to ensure that the \$3.8 million dollar allocation is used to maximize benefit to Willow Flycatchers while better maximizing other management options for Isabella Reservoir. We will update you as this significant allocation is implemented through on the ground projects.

**Whitecap Update continued**

**Project #2**—Mill Field: Culverts and control structures have been purchased and are waiting to be installed to

help realize enhancement of the 10-acre wetland found in the Mill Field just to the east of the historic A. Brown Flour Mill.

**Project #3**—Colt Pasture: The 25-acre west end of the Colt Pasture located just west of Preserve Headquarters has been planted with several clumps of Fremont cottonwoods and mulefat. Prior to planting, installation of an extensive drip irrigation system and auguring of holes took place. The Los Angeles based Tree People and several local volunteers helped make this impressive restoration become reality. Raptor Circle Volunteers Jeff King and Sandra Wieser head up the day-to-day maintenance and irrigation of this newest of the Preserve's restoration sites. Wildlife have already benefitted. Anna's Hummingbirds and Western Bluebirds began using the newly planted trees within days of the completion of planting. To view this site and see how it is already being used by wildlife, walk westward from the parking lot at Headquarters along the dirt ranch road. You will come to the first of several "clumps" in a few hundred yards. Thanks again to the Whitecap Foundation and our many volunteers for the success of the Colt Field project.

**Project #4**—Sierra Field: The 67-acre wetland enhancement of the Sierra Field described in the last newsletter is in the planning stages. Completion is scheduled for this fall. We will keep you up to date as this project unfolds.

These four Whitecap Foundation funded projects are part of Audubon California's contribution to California Partners In Flight's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program and its Riparian Habitat Joint Venture. The South Fork Kern River is one of four Flagship Projects of the RHJV and one of the first ten Globally Important Bird Areas to be designated in the United States.

**Mid-Year Appeal continued**

June, 1997, over 900 of you generously donated \$48,000 in response to the April Kern appeal sent out from Audubon California's State Headquarters in Sacramento. The \$48,000+ was applied to operations covering the last half of the last fiscal year that ended June 30, 1997. Basically, that amount equaled the cost of managing the Preserve for six months.

Since the formal start of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve in September we have been gifted with a one-time \$25,000 start-up grant from the J. M. Long Foundation and \$10,000 from the JiJi Foundation. New members, Audubon Chapters, other organizations, and *(continued on next page)*

## Mid-Year Appeal *continued*

business sponsors have donated an additional \$15,000. In addition, we received a \$72,000 grant from the Whitecap Foundation for habitat restoration and enhancement.

By hiring Bob Barnes as State Director of Bird Conservation Programs, Audubon California has made an additional financial commitment to the Kern. Bob is funded by the State Office Budget, not the Kern River Preserve's. Bob lives on the Preserve and has been assigned to spend 1/3 of his time working on outreach on behalf of the Kern River Preserve and the Kern River Valley. Community outreach, PR development, greatly expanded field program offerings for Friends' members and guests, and production of the Bioregions & Turkey Vulture Festival Registration Programs are among Bob's contributions thus far.

Money raised from the May appeal will cover final expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998. If this year's upcoming spring appeal results in your donations equaling, or surpassing, last year's spring appeal, we will have several thousand dollars "in the bank" for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1998.

We are very hopeful that you will be able to respond to our May appeal at a level equal to or above your very generous donations last April. With the two hundred new members that have joined the original nine hundred since September, we are very hopeful of realizing over \$50,000. Regardless of the level of support you give in response to our May appeal, we wish to sincerely thank you for the support you have given us in the last twelve months. We truly couldn't have done it without you.

### ***SOME REASONS FOR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE***

What strikes us first and foremost is that the Kern River Preserve is a tangible piece of ground with proven benefits for people and wildlife. Our 1100 acres are part of a Globally Important Bird Area. They form part of one of four Flagship Projects of the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture. Our preserve supports one of the largest populations of the Federally Endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher anywhere, the State's largest population of Summer Tanagers, and one of two of the State's largest populations of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In addition, we are at the heart of the State's largest diversity of plants and butterflies. If you are looking for superlatives, we are at the heart of North America's most diverse mammal region (over 115 species) north of southern Mexico.

The Kern River Preserve is recognized as being at the forefront of habitat restoration. Preserve Manager Reed Tollefson's forte is restoration ecology. He has written a riparian habitat restoration manual and is often consulted by others beginning riparian restoration projects. The Preserve has provided areas of study for Dr. Stephen Laymon and co-workers to conduct very important research comparing vegetation structure and bird use of natural forest and restoration sites. The research conducted by Dr. Laymon on the Preserve is leading edge.

We pride ourselves on being people friendly and support that pride by being open to visitors from dawn to dusk every day of the year. Take a look at our schedule of events, we have many excellent on-going projects, workdays, festivals and workshops for our members. We have been awarded \$72,000 and have applied for an additional \$40,000 in special project money that target wetland and native grass restoration on our preserve. We are forming a Visitor Center Task Force and are pursuing support for planning.

But, the only way for KRP to provide outreach opportunities and to pursue special project money to restore habitat is if the general operations for KRP are funded. General Operations buys everything from barbed wire to stationary. It pays the phone bill, the electric bill, the diesel bill, and the manager's salary. You can't run a preserve without the basics. After taking care of the basics, we can spend time moving the Preserve forward by restoring damaged habitat, expanding the Preserve, and creating a culture of conservation. We have hundreds of acres of excellent wetlands and riparian forest that must be protected, thousands of acres of agricultural land that must be conserved, and tens of thousands of people that must be educated. Anything less is unacceptable.

### ***WHAT CAN FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE DO TO HELP?***

- Respond with your proven generosity to our May fund appeal.
- If you have time, volunteer at KRP.
- If you have a friend, get them to join the Friends.
- If you know a millionaire give them our number.
- Most of all, if you have a chance, come visit the Preserve this spring and summer.

## **AUDUBON CHAPTERS CONTINUE STRONG SUPPORT**

Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society joins a long list of Audubon California Chapters in providing meaningful support to the Kern River Preserve. Preserve Manager Reed Tollefson and Raptor Circle Volunteer Tom O'Connor were presented with three pairs of high quality binoculars and three bird watering stations by the Santa Monica Bay Chapter at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Southern California Audubon Council held in Malibu. Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society joins the following Audubon Chapters from up and down California who have made major contributions to the Friends of the Kern River Preserve during our first six months: Eastern Sierra, Kern, Kerncrest, Laguna Hills, Lake Almanor, Mount Diablo, Ohlone (Hayward/Fremont), Pomona Valley, Tulare County, and Ventura. Many, many thanks to you all.

Note: An added bonus resulting from the Malibu meeting was that most of those present bought the beautiful and improved Kern River Preserve T-shirt featuring the work of internationally known bird artist Keith Hansen of Bolinas. For those of you who have not seen the artwork gracing the T-shirt it consists of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and male Summer Tanager sitting on a Fremont cottonwood branch with leaves that transitions into a red willow branch upon which sits a Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. For those of you familiar with this T-shirt, we believe we have dramatically improved it by greatly enlarging and upgrading the reproduction quality of Keith's artwork.

## **4-H TO DEVELOP AG/WILDLIFE TRAIL FOR KERN RIVER PRESERVE**

On January 31<sup>st</sup> eight 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade members of the Kern Valley 4-H Club accompanied local teacher Mary Ann Morgan on a visit to the Kern River Preserve. The purpose of the visit was to start planning for a new trail for use by visitors to the Preserve. 4-H programs teach members about agricultural practices, animal husbandry, and wildlife appreciation. Upon completion, the trail will interpret how the integration of wildlife and agriculture can occur for mutual benefit. Project activities will include development and placement of trail markers and signs, interactive activities, bridges, and a trail maintenance program. Mary Ann has applied for funding to pay for materials needed to complete this project.

The new trail route is ideally suited for the wildlife and agriculture theme. After you turn off of Hwy. 178 at Milepost 57 next to the large Audubon California Kern River Preserve sign, you proceed on our entrance road for a little over an 1/8 of a mile to the actual boundary

of the Preserve which is marked by a dense canopy of trees. This area has been named the Slough Channel by Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo biologists. About 150 feet along the driveway through the Slough Channel the Prince Irrigation Ditch passes under the road from roughly east to west. Just over the ditch a maintenance "road" runs westward paralleling the ditch all the way to the west boundary of the Preserve at the Hafenfeld Ranch. The intersection of the entrance road and maintenance "road" marks the start of the new trail route. The route runs alongside the agricultural watercourse, through riparian forest, adjacent to cattail marshes, through open fields, and into the Meadow Field restoration site. All this way the trail runs next to the active agricultural fields of the Prince Ranch to the south.

A possible scenario for the future is the tying in of the west end of this new trail with the west end of the ranch road that runs west from the Headquarters' parking lot. This would be accomplished by building a 1/4 mile long boardwalk across the Slough Channel at our western boundary. But, that's another project for a later time.

Meanwhile, thank you very much to Mary Ann Morgan and her 4-H youth for undertaking the dynamic and worthwhile Slough Channel trail project integrating agriculture and wildlife.

## **MORE INTEGRATION OF AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE**

The environmental and agricultural communities have already come together on a project in the Kern River Valley. Our neighbor to the west, Bruce Hafenfeld, recently entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS purchased a Conservation Easement from the Hafenfeld Ranch to

*See More Integration on page 5*

## **LYNN OVERTREE AND GARY COLLINGS MOVE TO MANAGE 5,000-ACRE BIG SUR RANCH**

Former Kern River Preserve Assistant Manager and Friends' Director Lynn Overtree has taken a position managing a 5,000-acre ranch overlooking the Big Sur Coast of Monterey County. Gary Collings, who, along with Lynn, pioneered captive breeding of Western pond turtles, joins Lynn as co-manager. Their charge and goal is to manage the ranch to integrate wildlife habitat improvements into the ranch. They will supervise

wildlife inventories, develop restoration plans, and implement recommendations. Among the projects is one aimed at extensive native grass restoration.

Lynn and Gary have left the Kern River Preserve in body, but not in spirit, after many years of labor on behalf of people and wildlife. Lynn started International Migratory Bird Day activities at the Preserve that were expanded by Karen Phillips, Steve Laymon, and others into the present day Kern Valley Bioregions Festival. She was also the Chair of the 1997 Kern Valley Turkey Vulture Festival. As was alluded to earlier, she started the Friends of the Kern River Preserve and this newsletter and was the first Director of the Friends. As an employee of The Nature Conservancy, she directed the process that led to the transition of management of the Kern River Preserve to the National Audubon Society, California, in February, 1997.

Gary pioneered the Western Pond Turtle Headstart Program that was one of the first and most successful efforts at captive rearing of this rare species. He also used his strong practical skills to build and repair fences, structures, and equipment essential to KRP operations.

It is with the highest regard and respect that we wish Gary Collings and Lynn Overtree the best in their new endeavor!

### **More Integration** *continued*

protect and enhance 93 acres of river bottom, freshwater marsh, and pasture. This easement will ensure that this land will be managed permanently for agricultural and wildlife values. NRCS also provided money to plant several thousand trees to widen a riparian strip to make it more hospitable for Southwestern Willow Flycatchers (WIFLs). Since this subspecies of flycatcher is Federally Endangered, Mr. Hafenfeld, understandably, required legal assurances that should WIFLs occupy the enhanced habitat in no way would their presence impede his agricultural practices on the remaining 160 acres of his ranch. The planting consisted of 10 acres of Fremont cottonwoods, willows, and mulefat placed along a natural slough. Fencing will keep cattle out of the planted area for three years to allow the young trees to get started.

To further benefit wildlife, a seasonal pond was constructed and the Kern Valley Habitat Club built and placed Wood Duck nest boxes. Within a day of the filling, a flock of over 80 Mallards was using the new

pond. Within a few weeks, Virginia Rails & Soras were calling from the newly established marsh, four species of swallows were foraging for insects over the pond, and Red-winged Blackbirds were setting up breeding territories. Clearly, the Conservation Easement and accompanying habitat enhancement work is already benefitting wildlife.

The Hafenfeld project involved many people who have helped out at the Kern River Preserve over the years. Preserve Manager Reed Tollefson provided technical expertise and personal labor. Breck McAlexander supervised the project. Jeff King and Sandra Wieser planted and maintained thousands of trees. In addition, efforts by many volunteers contributed to the completion of this project including Kern Valley school children who will grow up along with their new forest. Congratulations on a job well done.

Finally, we would like to thank the Hafenfeld family for taking this bold step to integrate agriculture and wildlife. Their decision provides a model that other Valley ranchers may choose to follow. We hope that they will be pleased with their decision to grant a Conservation Easement as they look back in the years to come.

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!**

### ***RECOGNITION OF RAPTOR CIRCLE VOLUNTEERS***

**Mike Henstra:** Mike's list of accomplishments on behalf of the Kern River Preserve over the last few weeks is very impressive. He has repaired and upgraded two computers, a 386 and a 486, bringing them into the Modern Age. Mike has provided computer training for staff and volunteers. He is a phone call away when computer questions come up. But, more importantly, he seems to always have the correct and most efficient answers.

That is not all. In addition to being a computer whiz, Mike is an accomplished videographer, pilot, electrician, mechanic, efficiency expert, and big thinker. All of these talents have already been put to use or are scheduled to be put to use on behalf of the Preserve in the next few weeks. He has installed phone lines, jacks, and telephones and fax machines. He has fixed problems with Preserve vehicles. Mike has secured a team of planners to help draft conceptual plans for the future state-of-the-art Visitor Center. He formatted this issue of the Friends Newsletter and offered many constructive comments on its content. We must stop talking about Mike Henstra now or this whole newsletter would be filled with descriptions of his prodigious

work of the last few weeks in support of the Kern River Preserve. What can we really say to you Mike except . . . THANKS!!!!

**Jeff King:** Another Raptor Circle Volunteer is Jeff King. Jeff takes the lead on or helps with habitat enhancement, irrigation installation and repair, electrical work, mechanical work, painting, and general Preserve maintenance. He constructed the hummingbird garden found near the start of the Nature Trail. Jeff just put up eight Bluebird nest boxes that were almost immediately occupied by several pairs of Western Bluebirds. He is very clever at improvising. Jeff recently built a fence post puller and several other contraptions that have made several hard tasks easier. He is there when newsletter mailing parties are held. Like Mike, he is an incredibly versatile, consistent, and effective volunteer. Thanks, Jeff, for your many, many hours, days, and months of volunteer work on behalf of the Kern River Preserve. We appreciate you in ways that no paragraph in a newsletter could ever do justice. Let us just say that the preceding words serve as a very small token of the appreciation that we have for you. Thanks, Jeff.

**Tom O'Connor:** Tom joins Mike and Jeff as one of the Preserve's highly valued Raptor Circle Volunteers. Tom is here virtually every day lending his accounting skills. Tom collects and processes Preserve checks, keeps up the mailing lists, enters new members into our computer data base, and keeps track of inventory and various accounts. Tom is a recent arrival to the Kern Valley. He lives in Weldon with his wife Noel. Born and raised in California's Napa Valley, Tom earned a Bachelor's Degree from San Francisco State College. Tom retired from UCLA in August 1997. He and his wife are members of Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains Restoration Trust, The Nature Conservancy, California Native Plant Society, and the National Audubon Society. Tom, please read our expressions of appreciation to Mike and Jeff in the preceding recognitions. They apply to you as well. Your consistent and giving support is noticed and appreciated. We are so glad that you have chosen to gift your talents to the Kern River Preserve. Thanks, Tom.

**Sandra Wieser:** Sandra is the last of our four current individual Raptor Circle Volunteers (we welcome others to join our super quartet) to be recognized in this issue of the Friends' newsletter. She has been volunteering at the Kern River Preserve since 1992. With the departure of Lynn Overtree, Sandra has assumed greater responsibility in the Friends. But, that is only the beginning of her Preserve volunteer resume.

Sandra has worked on habitat restoration, irrigation layout and maintenance, hummingbird gardens, trail upkeep, and all other manner of general Preserve maintenance. She served on last year's Turkey Vulture Festival organizing committee. She is currently a committee member for this year's Bioregions Festival. Her chief Festival responsibility has been to pick up mail, process registrations including field trip sign-ups, and mailing of confirmation postcards to registrants. Sandra keeps the Kernville Chamber of Commerce updated on the space availability on field trips so they can give callers the latest Festival information.

Sandra was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. She joined the Navy in 1968 where she received her Associate Degree. Sandra retired in 1987 and moved to the Kern Valley in 1991. During her 20 years in the service, she had plenty of opportunities to travel and learn about wildlife in many parts of the world. Sandra is a member of the Sierra Club (she was outings chair and newsletter editor for the Chesapeake Bay Group in Norfolk, VA), The Nature Conservancy, and several other organizations. As with Tom, Jeff, and Mike, words fail us when we want to truly express our appreciation of Sandra's contributions. Once again, we end with a simple . . . Thanks, Sandra.

**Tree People:** Our featured Raptor Circle Volunteer Organization this newsletter is the Los Angeles based Tree People. Tree People has provided hundreds of people who have donated hundreds of hours of labor on Preserve habitat restoration projects over the last several years. Most recently Tree People provided dozens of fun and hard working volunteers to help with our Whitecap Restoration Projects during workdays conducted February 28-29 and March 28-29. Working in blustering wind and drizzling rain, they planted several hundred Fremont cottonwoods and clumps of mulefat trees. The dedicated Tree People membership is a great example of how volunteer labor can help us to make the most out of our special project dollars. A special thanks goes to Tree People's Mehmet McMillan who arranges for and coordinates the organization's volunteers for Kern River Preserve habitat restoration and enhancement workdays. Thanks, Mehmet. Thanks, Tree People!

### ***BOY SCOUTS DO GREAT DEEDS***

David Foster of Ridgecrest chose the Kern River Preserve as the location to meet his requirement for his Eagle Scout project. Are we glad he chose us. David organized and supervised several fellow Scouts and adults on work conducted Saturday, March 21 that resulted in several improvements on the Preserve. They

prepared and planted the hummingbird flower bed in the Preserve Headquarters' front yard, built and installed a twelve foot long bench placed to allow seated observation of the hummingbird feeder next to the shed housing the Preserve's solar water heater, oiled four existing benches and a sign along the Nature Trail, and painted the entire Nature Trail boardwalk with no-slip paint. WOW! What a day's work. Thanks to David Foster and his assistants: David Foster, David Barnes, Bob Foster, Joanne Foster, Sara Foster, Jeff King, Mike Lundwall, Marissa, Christopher Marshall, Dan Mulder, Tom O'Connor, B. Paulson, and Sandra Wieser.

### **MORE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

**Summit High School:** A big thank you to **Jennie Babcock** and her students for conducting a water analysis project. Samples were taken from the South Fork of the Kern River and Fay Creek which is located on the north side of the Preserve. They passed inspection.

Not all work on the preserve is glamorous, but the need for maintenance never ceases. Summit High School students also raked leaves and spent considerable time grooming the grounds at Preserve Headquarters.

**Noel O'Connor:** Noel has been helping with our mailings and many other jobs for the Friends. (That poppy seed cake at our last mailing party was delicious). Thank you for your help and welcome to the Kern Valley.

### **MORE THANKS**

**Dave Kurdeka** and **Ken Amster:** Thanks Dave and Ken for helping with the Preserve's year round water monitoring program. It is very important for us to understand the hydrological functions underlying the Preserve. The results from the water monitoring program gives us information that is a critical part of understanding the Preserve's hydrology.

### **TREE-MEND-US DONATION!!!**

We would like to thank Kern Valley's **Tree-Mend-Us Tree Service** for donating over \$600 of labor and expertise to remove hazardous trees from the yard at Kern River Preserve Headquarters. Thanks to owner **Sharon Thompson**, husband and business partner **Jeff Thompson**, **Bob**, **Chris**, **Dan**, **Don**, **Earl**, **Jackie**, and **Mike** for your excellent work, creativity, and spirit of fun. By the way, we've tried out the "throne" and footrest that you fashioned out of the Fremont cottonwood stump many times since you left at the end of your workday. It is exquisitely comfortable. Come back soon and often to personally enjoy your fine work. Thanks, again. What

can we say? You are just **Tree-Mend-Us**.

### **ADVANCED APOLOGY**

There are so many people to thank for their contributions to the Kern River Preserve that we are afraid that we have inadvertently left someone out of our acknowledgments. Please let us know if we have not acknowledged you properly. We would like to give you the credit you deserve at the next opportunity.

## **PRESERVE EVENTS**

- **May 5 & 12, July 5 & 19, September 6 & 20, November 1 & 8—Mailing Parties.** Join us to stuff, label and sort mailings for the Friends of the Kern River Preserve. Informal slide shows will follow the work. **Please contact Reed at 760-378-2531 or e-mail him at [krpfriends@lightspeed.net](mailto:krpfriends@lightspeed.net) to confirm location and time.**
- **April 18, May 16, June 27, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 14, and December 19—Workdays: General Preserve Maintenance.** You can help with Preserve projects by attending one or more Kern River Preserve Workdays during 1998. Be prepared for extremes of weather. Mark your calendars for the year. **For information contact Reed at 760-378-2531 or e-mail him at [krpfriends@lightspeed.net](mailto:krpfriends@lightspeed.net).**
- **April 24-26—4th Annual Kern Valley Bioregions Festival.** Attend a weekend full of field trips, workshops, exhibits, and fun. Registration materials have been sent to all Friends. **Please contact the Kernville C of C at 800-350-7393 if you have not received the official Festival Program.**
- **May 1-4, 8-10, 16-17, 22-25, 29-31, June 5-8, 12-15, 26-29, July 17-20—Southern Sierra/Kern River Watershed Birding Field Trips** with Bob Barnes. **Donation: \$20. For more information, please call Bob at 760-378-3044 or e-mail at [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net).**
- **May 16-17—Willow Flycatcher Workshop at the Kern River Preserve.** Saturday workshop followed by Sunday morning census techniques in the field. A few spaces have been kindly reserved for lay people. This means a special

opportunity to learn about this species from four experts from Arizona and California. **\$100. Contact Mary Whitfield (P: 760-378-2402, e-mail: [wifl@lightspeed.net](mailto:wifl@lightspeed.net)) for more information.**

- **May 18—Red-shouldered Hawk Workshop and Census: Part II** with Pete Bloom. We are honored to have Pete take time from his busy field season to lead this workshop. As a follow-up to the census information gathered at the March 28–29 Red-shouldered Hawk workshop led by Floyd Bero, Pete and his co-workers will show you, in the field, how they capture, band, and release adult and hatching year birds. The information gathered from the captured birds will help determine 1998 breeding season adult condition and nest productivity on the Kern River Preserve. This 8-hour workshop includes a one-hour slide and lecture presentation by Pete. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Red-shouldered Hawks and raptors in general, from one of America's top raptor biologists. **Donation: \$35 (Friends: \$15). For details/agenda, please contact Bob Barnes at PO Box 953, Weldon, CA 93283 (P: 760-378-3044; e-mail: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net)).**
- **June 13–14—"yellow" Warbler Workshop.** Numbers of Yellow Warblers have increased dramatically at the Preserve the last few years. A Yellow Warbler census is desired to try to get an idea of how many of these strikingly beautiful birds use the Preserve and environs as their breeding season home. Sat. am, bird walk; Sat. pm, workshop. Sun. am, census of Yellow Warbler and attendant Yellowthroats and Chats. The "yellow" warblers to be covered at the Saturday afternoon workshop are Orange-crowned, Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's, and Yellow-breasted Chat. **Field Leader:** Reed Tollefson. **Workshop Leader:** John Wilson. **Donation: \$20 (\$10 for Friends' members).** For an agenda, **contact Bob Barnes, PO Box 953, Weldon, CA 93283 (P:760-378-3044; e-mail: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net)).**
- **June 19-22—Friends' Southern Sierra/Kern River Watershed Birding Field Trip** with Bob Barnes. Join Bob for one, two, three, or four days at his favorite time of year for birding the Kern River watershed. Limit: 15 people. **Donation: \$20 (Free for Friends' members). Contact**

**Bob (P: 760-378-3044; e-mail: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net)) for more information.**

- **July 10–13—South Fork Kern Field Trip Leaders' Field Workshop** with Bob Barnes and many more. Birding, motels, restaurants, forums, guest speakers and leaders; everything you need to know to conduct or enjoy your own field trip(s) to the Southern Sierra/Kern River watershed. Non-commercial and commercial field trip leaders and guests are welcome for one, two, three, or four days. Lots of fun and prizes. **FREE. Please contact Bob at PO Box 953, Weldon, CA 93283, or Phone: 760-378-3044, or e-mail: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net) for more details on this unique workshop.**

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**Notice:** To receive the 1998 Kern Valley Vulture Festival Program pick one up at this April's Bioregions Festival or, after April 26th, phone: Kernville Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-350-7393, or e-mail: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net), or write:

**Vulture Festival**  
PO Box 410  
Weldon, CA 93283

- **July 18–19—Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Workshop** with Stephen Laymon, Ph.D. Steve has been studying Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the Kern River Preserve and environs for well over a decade. He knows their local haunts and habits better than anybody. At this workshop you will learn about Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Steve's work in the field. Many other species of birds will be seen during the course of the weekend. **Fee: \$100 (Friends: \$70)** includes Friends' membership, T-shirt, and a donation to support Steve's 1998 field season work. **Please contact Bob at PO Box 953, Weldon, CA 93283, or P: 760-378-3044, or e-mail: [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net) for more details on this workshop conducted by Steve Laymon, the authority on the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo.**
- **September 18–28—Kern Valley Turkey Vulture Pre-Festival & Festival Coast to Desert Fall Migration Birding Tour** with Bob Barnes and local experts. These dates coincide with the height of fall bird migration in

California. 200–250 bird species expected, including pelagic and near shore seabirds, shorebirds, and Neotropical migrant landbirds (including Eastern vagrants). Kern National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Mendota State Wildlife Management Area, Grasslands Ecological Area (San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex, & Los Banos State WMA, O’Neill Forebay), Central Coast Birding Trail (Monterey, Big Sur, Morro Bay, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Padres National Forest, Carrizo Plain), southern Sierra Nevada, eastern Kern County desert oases, and Audubon California’s Kern River Preserve. **Trip limit: 5–7 participants** (3 spaces already reserved; 2–4 spaces remain). **Fee: \$125 per day** inclusive (lodging, meals, transportation, leadership, Festival fees/trips & T-shirt, tax-deductible contribution after expenses). **Deadline for sign-ups: ASAP 2–4 spaces left. For information, call Bob Barnes at 760–378–3044 or e-mail at [bbarnes@lightspeed.net](mailto:bbarnes@lightspeed.net).**

- **September 25–28—Kern Valley Turkey Vulture Festival.** The Vulture Festival is a celebration of Turkey Vultures at the height of their fall migration through the Kern River Valley. At last year’s festival, 866 Turkey Vultures passed over on Saturday and 966 on Sunday. The highlight was late Sunday afternoon when over 3,700 vultures came into roost for the night! During the full fall census, taken between 1 September and 20 October, 28,589 Turkey Vultures were counted passing over a single point five miles south of Audubon California’s Kern River Preserve. The magnitude of this migration over this southern Sierra count site is the largest known in North America north of Mexico!

## There’s more!

Our late September festival dates also correspond with what is historically one of the finest weekends for observing fall landbird migration in California. In addition to the presence of many western migrants attractive to eastern birders, there are excellent chances for observing eastern rarities at nearby desert oases. Birds are not the only attraction. The area is home to over half the known butterfly species in the state, almost a third of the flora of California, and the highest diversity of mammals recorded in North America north of southern Mexico (over 115 species)!

If you even think you might be able to attend the TV Festival, make your accommodation reservations ASAP. This event is becoming VERY popular and local motels fill up in a hurry. Be sure to include a visit to the Preserve.

# THANK YOU DONORS!!!

Your donation is critical to the success of the Kern River Preserve. The Friends of the Kern River Preserve is a membership organization formed to provide support for Audubon~California's newest preserve.

We want the Friends of the Kern River Preserve to meet your needs as well as the Preserve's. We recognize that your labor is as important as your dollars, so we have provided a way that you can become a member through the accumulation of your volunteer hours. Within a given year, if you work 15 hours you become a Friend, for 30 hours you become a supporter, for 50 hours you become a Pacific Flyway Patrol member and for 100 hours you become a Raptor Circle member.

We would like to invite non-profit organizations, businesses and school classes to become members at the Pacific Flyway Patrol level or higher. These members will have the opportunity to use the Preserve headquarters for a field trip and receive a two-hour guided tour along the Nature Trail.

We plan to have quarterly workdays with potluck dinners for Friends of the Kern River Preserve. You will receive this quarterly newsletter to keep you up-to-date on our progress. And we have a T-shirt for our Supporter members and above.

Friends of the Kern River Preserve membership is based on a calendar year. Each member will receive a renewal notice in November of each year (unless you joined after October 1st). Those who join mid-year will receive all previous newsletters for that year. We have chosen this method to simplify our bookkeeping and save on administrative costs. We hope it will work well for you also.

We sincerely thank the following people for their contributions to the Kern River Preserve. We regret any omissions or misspellings.

## **Raptor Circle (\$1,000+)**

Robert G. Schonholtz

## **Pacific Flyway Patrol (\$100-\$999)**

Mt. Diablo Audubon  
Santa Monica Bay Audubon  
Ventura Audubon  
Sheryl H. Bernstein  
Freda A. Campbell  
Richard S. Cimino  
Soozie Eisenman  
& Bruce Terzes  
Ernest Flores  
& Nancy Oliver

Joe & Carol Halterman  
John D. Kemper  
Larry T. Lee  
Noraine J. Meng  
Lynn Overtree  
& Gary Collins  
Sarita Simone  
Betty Stephens  
Ann Williams  
Evan Wilson & Jan Stern

## **Supporters (\$50 - \$99)**

Lake Almanor Audubon  
Eastern Sierra Audubon  
Ohlone Audubon  
Pat & Bob Brown-Berry  
Debra Campbell-Wingerden  
Kemper Carlsen  
& John Neiger  
Lucy Clark  
Ronilee Clark  
& Brian Arnold  
Louise J. Daniel  
Bugs & Joe Fontaine  
Sally Gaines-Kattlemann  
Lynn Hemink  
Barbara & Lakshman Iyer  
Wendy L'Herault  
Gary A. Lindquist  
Martine Metzenheim  
Burt & Margaret Mills  
Bruce & Julie Morrow  
Debra Newton  
Chris & Carol Rush  
Dr. Richard Svihla

## **Friends (\$20 - \$49)**

Gordon Black  
Sheila Braden  
Michael Clark  
Carol Coulter  
James Davis  
Ohlone Audubon  
Mt Diablo Audubon  
Pomona Valley Audubon  
Santa Monica Bay Audubon  
Tulare County Audubon  
Ventura Audubon

## **Volunteer Members**

### **Raptor Circle Volunteer (100+ hours)**

Mike Henstra  
Jeff King

Oasis Garden Club  
Tom O'Connor  
Summit High School  
Tree People  
Sandra Wieser

**Pacific Flyway Volunteer  
(50+ hours)**

Terri Gallion  
Mrs. Morgan & Students  
Tree-Mend-Us Tree Service  
Lawrence & Kathlyn Day  
Merle Dvorak  
Laura Huntington  
Ridgely Keeley  
Michael Gallagher  
Charlotte & Don Goodson  
Dorothy Gould  
George & Kathleen Gulnac  
Bill & Ruby Jenkins  
Lee Jones  
Chrisy McGuire  
Pat McMonagle  
Vita Mones  
Kerncrest Audubon  
Laguna Hills Audubon  
Lake Almanor Audubon  
Ohlone Audubon  
Mt Diablo Audubon  
Pomona Valley Audubon  
Santa Monica Bay Audubon  
Tulare County Audubon  
Ventura Audubon

***FOR SALE***

This could be for you! A 1979 Ford Utility Van in good condition. Joe Kohout donated this van with the intention that the proceeds from it's sale will be used for Preserve operations. Call Reed at 760-378-2531 or e-mail [krpfriends@lightspeed.net](mailto:krpfriends@lightspeed.net) if you are interested in purchasing the van.

***WISH LIST***

If you have any of the following items on our "Wish List" or would like to make a tax-deductible donation of any kind to the Kern River Preserve, contact Reed at the Preserve by calling 760-378-2531 or e-mail [krpfriends@lightspeed.net](mailto:krpfriends@lightspeed.net):

- **Dependable 35 to 50 horsepower farm tractor**—there is always something on a 1100+ acre preserve that needs the power of a good tractor. If you have one or know someone who may be willing to consider a donation, please let us know.
- **3-point tractor auger**—we have lots of trees to plant!
- **Furniture for the Visitors Center**—we'll take just about anything.
- **Heavy duty lawnmower**—self-propelled if possible.

**Please** call if you can help!

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**FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY~CALIFORNIA  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Application for:  New Member  Renewal

- \$1000 Raptor Circle
- \$100 Pacific Flyway Patrol
- Please send me information on planned giving
- Please send me information on volunteer opportunities

- \$50 Supporter
- \$20 Friend
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution \$
- All members receive this quarterly newsletter
- New Supporters and above receive a KRPFriends T-Shirt  
(please indicate size or if you wish no shirt)
- Small  Medium  Large  XL  XXL  None

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**Please Make Checks Payable to: Mail to: Friends of the Kern River Preserve  
NAS/Friends of the Kern River Preserve P.O. Box 833, Weldon, CA 93283**

.....(please cut here and return with remittance).....

For further information about the Friends of the Kern River Preserve, call (760) 378-2531 or e-mail  
krpfriends@lightspeed.net

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**National Audubon Society~California  
Friends of the Kern River Preserve  
P.O. Box 833  
Weldon, CA 93283**

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**SECOND QUARTER 1998 NEWSLETTER**

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