



Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Volume 9, Issue 1

 Audubon CALIFORNIA

Winter/Spring 2005

Resources Legacy Fund Grant for Land Protection

by Reed Tollefson

In the fall of 2004, Audubon Kern River Preserve applied for and received a 3 million dollar grant from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation to support land protection in the Kern River watershed. We have potential projects including preserve expansions, ranch easements and wilderness in-holdings that we are working to protect. These private funds are critical to Audubon because we can use them strategically to leverage additional funds, to develop partnerships and new opportunities.



The Kern River Preserve from Migrant Corner © Reed Tollefson

This funding will help Audubon to continue a long line of conservation
see Legacy page 2

Nature Program Attracts a Crowd

by Emily Cohen

The Friends of the Kern River Preserve hosted the first of our monthly free family nature programs on February 12th. About 40 people came to see Bill Foster demonstrate the ancient art of falconry with his juvenile Red-tailed Hawk, JoJo. Bill and his wife Birdie are retired from the L.A. Zoo and live in Weldon.



The Ancient Art of Falconry © Emily Cohen

Teaching falcons to help humans hunt for food began before written history.
see Nature page 2

Audubon Turns 100

by Audubon Staff

The National Audubon Society, one of the nation's largest conservation organizations, is now 100 years old. The Kern River Preserve will celebrate Audubon's centennial throughout the year with nature walks, workshops, festivals and scientific research. We invite you to attend any or all of our events.

see Anniversary page 7

Calendar of Events

- Sat. Apr. 9 - Watershed Workshop
- Sat. Apr 23 - 2nd Annual South Fork Kern River Valley Butterfly Count
- Sat-Sun April 30-May 1 KRV Bioregions Festival
- Sat. May 14 - Bird Banding Demonstration with Ashley Sutton and Emily Cohen
- Sat. Jun 4 - 3rd Annual Sequoia National Forest Butterfly Count
- Sat. June 11 - River Walk (in the river) with Reed Tollefson
- Sat. & Sun. June 11-12: California Amphibian & Reptile Celebration
- Sat. Jul 2 - 5th Annual North Fork Kern River Valley Butterfly Count
- Sun. Jul 3 - 3rd Annual Giant Sequoia National Monument Butterfly Count
- Sat. July 9 - Native Plant Uses with Terri Gallion
- Sat. & Sun. July 30-31: KRV Hummingbird Celebration
- Sat. Aug. 13 - Summer Sun with Sandra Wieser
- Sat. Sept. 10 - Animal Tracks with Teresa Benson
- Wed. Sept. 14 - Fri. Oct. 14: KRV Turkey Vulture Watch
- Sat. Sept. 17: Kern Valley Pride Day
- Sat. & Sun. Sept. 24-25: KRV Turkey Vulture Festival.
- Sat. Oct. 8 - Nature Art with Debbie Kiggins
- Sat. Nov. 12 - Nature Photography with Dave Kurdeka
- Sat. Dec. 10 - Bluebird Boxes with Jeff King and Phil Heavin
- Sat. Dec. 31: South Fork Valley CBC: Compiler Denise LaBerteaux
- Sun. Jan. 1, 2006: Kern River Valley CBC: Compiler A Friend of the Kern River Preserve

For information email:
krpfriends@lightspeed.net

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 financial support for outreach, education, wildlife habitat protection, and land 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
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SANDRA WIESER
 MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS JEFF KING

VOLUNTEERS

MEDIA SERVICES ALISON SHEEHEY
 NATURE EVENTS EMILY COHEN
BIRD FEEDING BIRDIE FOSTER & MARYAMILLER
FESTIVAL SIGNS RON GILLENLINE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

BOB BARNES, TERESA BENSON, RON BOLYARD, ERNIE FLORES, BILL FOSTER, TERRI GALLION, PHIL HEAVIN, DEBBIE KIGGENS, JIM KIGGENS, DAVE KURDEKA, ESTEBAN OLIVARES, KATIE OLIVERAS, ASHLEY SUTTON

Legacy continued from page 1

successes in this area including: the Kern River Preserve (1,127 ac) acquired by The Nature Conservancy and now run by Audubon California; designation of eight federal wilderness areas that protect 85% of the upstream watershed; designation of 72.5 miles of Wild and Scenic River; designation of the South Fork Wildlife Area (1,200 ac) by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); acquisition of Canabrake Ecological Reserve (1,300 ac) by the Wildlife Conservation Board and California Department of Fish and Game (WCB/DFG); acquisition of the Kelso Creek Sanctuary (160 ac) by Audubon; Allen Sanctuary (492.5 acres), establishment of \$7.5 million acquisition and management fund and Memorandum of Understanding for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher by ACOE, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Department of Fish and Game and Audubon.

When you examine the natural values of this area, it is easy to see why there is such broad based support for our protection efforts. The South Fork Kern River Watershed (SFKRW) supports the finest and largest remnant of Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest documented by the California Natural Diversity Database. It has been recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area and is one of the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture's Flagship Projects. The area provides critical habitat to 30% of California's population of Federally Endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The Kern also

supports significant populations of rare species including Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Pond Turtle, Alkali Mariposa Lily as well as many other riparian obligate species.

We are very thankful for hard work of our many partners as well as this generous financial support from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation which are vital to our land protection efforts in the Kern River Watershed. §

Nature continued from page 1

It was an important sport of royalty before firearms and in medieval times your royal rank defined the kind of falcon you could use. The Queen of England still has a royal falconer and the sport is still popular in the Middle East.

Today, falconry is more of a hobby and less prevalent than it used to be. However, it has been increasing in popularity some in recent years. When Bill first started working with falcons in the late 50's he had to make his own equipment because none was available. Today construction of falconry equipment is a fine art made by craftspeople all over the world.



Red-tailed Hawk
 © Nature Ali

JoJo hatched in April and will gradually lose and grow back all of her feathers (molt) in May. She will not be able to hunt during that time and her coloring and pattern will completely change. JoJo was not used to having so many people around so she was a little shy with us but she flew up and came back to Bill's hand several times. Having a falcon is not like having a pet; they are wild animals with all of their characteristic instincts. Red-tailed Hawks are suborned but calm and JoJo demonstrated that for us. American Kestrels, Harris Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Goshawks, Prairie Falcons, and Merlins are also used for falconry in the U.S.

Falconers have to have a state and federal license, a hunting license, and do an apprenticeship before they can have a bird. Red-tailed Hawks are very common and easy to see in the Kern River Valley. They hunt over open fields and are beneficial to us because they eat mostly rodents (gophers, mice, rats).

Our next family nature event will be on Saturday April 9 from 9 to 11am. This event will teach about what a watershed is and its value to everyday life. This is a free, all ages event and everyone is welcome (kids under 13 accompanied by an adult). Some snacks will be provided but bring your own drinks and snacks for the kids.

Please dress for the weather and bring sunscreen and bug spray just in case. If you are bringing a group of 10 or more please contact Emily in advance at 378-3345 or outside@sierranet.us. See page 5 for the full schedule. §

KRP BRIEFS

A Years Worth of Festivals in the Planning Stages

Check out page 6 for the schedule for this year's Bioregions Festival. Planning has been ongoing for a few months now, and just from our webpage alone, several events are already sold out.

Our three other festivals are in the planning stages as well, if you would like to volunteer please email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net. In order to save paper and expense we are no longer printing schedules. For more detailed information look on our website: <http://kern.audubon.org> §

Kern Valley Bioregions Festival

The value of the Kern River Watershed is undeniably great. How a little 15 square mile area can be home to such wonder and diversity is beyond the scope of most, but those of us who have had the opportunity in years past to celebrate the bioregions with us know all too well how special this area is. It is of little wonder that hundreds flock to hear our speakers, visit the vendors at Circle Park and fill our field trips.

But it is the value of our volunteers that make the whole festival happen. Next time you visit, there are thanks that you might want to give.

Sandra Wieser is our most invaluable unsung hero during all festivals. She acts as the registrar of all trips, treasurer of the festivals and leader of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve Booths. Sandra is helped by Birdie Foster who every few days goes down to the preserve and picks up the list of registrants, she then emails all to confirm their trips. Birdie also is tireless in feeding the birds at the preserve and also runs the Friends of the Kern River Preserve booth at Circle Park.

Phil and Phyllis Allin have organized our dinners for years and run our raffles. Each year Phyllis asks local businesses and festival vendors to provide prizes for the raffle and silent auction. The dinners run so seamlessly because of their tremendous effort.

For the past several years John Schmitt has taken time out of his busy schedule to design the t-shirt for the festivals. Not only does he create unique works of art, but also leads field trips that always fill up first.

Jeff King has run many of the behind the scenes aspects of the festivals from making signs, to cleaning up the nature trails, to directing traffic. The Kern River Preserve could not support such traffic without Jeff's skill.

Ron Gillentine has changed the look of the festivals with the beautiful, professional signs he designs and puts up before each festival. All of the new signs at the Kern River Preserve are a result of Ron's dedication to making the festivals and the preserve look clean and professional.



Owls of the Kern River Valley and southern Sierra Nevada. © John Schmitt

And then our out of town leaders who volunteer each year to show our guests the times of their live's. This year Michael McQuerrey is leading the trips to Butterbredt Springs and one of the beginning owl trips. Bob Barnes is returning to lead the Saturday trip to Canebrake and Sunday's all day Kern Valley birding trip followed by the final owling trip of the weekend.

Each year Kelly Richers, Joe Fontaine, Ron Bolyard, Bob Steele, Steve Kenton, Emily Cohen, Ashley Sutton, Buz Lunsford, Charlotte Goodson, Gary Potter, and Carol Wermuth donate their time to entertain and educate our visitors.

It takes so many people and organizations to pull off these events each year, Without the dedication of the volunteers of the Kern Valley Festivals, and the employees of the Sequoia National Forest, none of this would happen.

Thank you to you all! §

Kern Valley Pride Day

Friends of the Kern River Preserve showed their pride at KRV Pride Day, part of National Public Lands Day. The second-place win for the 11 volunteers of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve was a big win for the environment. Our efforts hauled 156 bags of trash out of the Kern Valley. §

KRV Turkey Vulture Watch & Festival

Another successful festival is one for the record books. Over the four day festival 577 people enjoyed visiting the preserve. The festival was a hit with the crowd as hundreds of people enjoyed the entertainment for hours this year instead of the few minutes spent in the past.

Of course the vulture festival is about vultures and they certainly obliged. The 7664 vultures counted over the four-day festival was the second highest total during a festival weekend. Vultures accommodated visitors by roosting in and around HQ, making the drop-ins and lift-offs fun for everyone in attendance. We look forward to seeing our visitors, vulture and human, again for next year's festival on Sept 24-25, 2005. §

Bob Barnes Migrates to a New Life

After 10 years as an employee of Audubon, Bob Barnes has begun a new life pursuing his dream of building a culture of conservation. While employed with Audubon, Bob helped to develop a strong relationship with the local business community, chapters, and volunteers. Bob's history in conservation is over 30 years long and demonstrates his visionary ideals that made him so effective in helping many individuals see the big picture.

Bob's work on the Kern Valley nature festivals and his promotion of the Kern River Preserve will live on as a testament to his hours of hard work writing articles and contacting people from all over the world. Tirelessly leading field trips, filling feeders, writing articles, answering numerous phone calls and emails, and going to meeting after meeting are just a few of the many activities that make Bob's shoes so hard to fill.

Thank you Bob for all of your hard work and we wish you success in all of your endeavors and for your Valley Wild. §

Kelso Fence

by Reed Tollefson

Over the last fall/winter Kern River Preserve partnered with the Bureau of Land Management to protect and enhance riparian areas on public lands along Kelso Creek. BLM provided funding to Audubon Kern River Preserve and we contracted with the Southern Sierra Research Station, who provided hard working fence builders including Ashley Sutton, Adolphe Tetssekoua, Jeff King, Dan Ramos and Phil Heavin. The crew did a great job constructing 10,285 feet of range fence to prevent trespass by livestock and off-highway vehicles.



Kelso Creek Fence
© Reed Tollefson



Livestock trampling at rocky point riparian area
© Reed Tollefson

This will help the willow and cottonwoods to increase for the benefit of a wide variety of wildlife. About 0.41 miles of creek bed at Rocky Point and 0.85 miles of creek just south of

Audubon's Kelso Creek Sanctuary, for a total of about 20 acres of riparian habitat will be enhanced by this project. The habitat near Rock Point has a great deal of potential and will be especially nice after a year or two of rest. We installed pedestrian "walk-throughs" so the areas are still open to the public for compatible uses including birding, education and nature observation. We appreciate being able to coordinate with the staff from the BLM office in Ridgecrest and adjoining livestock allotment operator, Richard Rudnick, to enhance this riparian area.

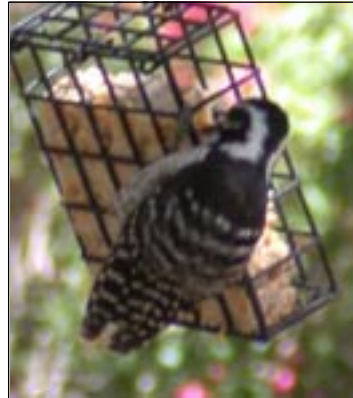


A healthy understory after fencing allowed for seasonal grazing © Reed Tollefson

Feeding Birds at the Kern River Preserve

by Birdie Foster

On January 1, 2005 I, along with five other volunteers, started helping feed the birds at the KRP. I get to be the lead person (which means, if there's a problem, call Birdie).



A female Nuttall's Woodpecker enjoys some suet. © Nature Ali

Reed Tollefson, the Preserve Manager, needed an estimate of what it will cost to feed the birds all year. The numbers are astonishing:

Black thistle seed (nyger) to feed the tiny birds like lesser goldfinch: 480 pounds = \$510

Sugar to make hummingbird food: To fill 15 quart feeders daily for 7 days = 50 pounds of sugar. We will be feeding hummers

for 12 weeks. That's 600 pounds of sugar and comes to \$240!

The other food we buy is wild bird seed, chicken scratch and suet cakes. The suet cakes are put out during the winter months when insects are hard to come by. The wild bird seed and chicken scratch are put out year round except when the Western Willow Flycatcher and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo are nesting on the Preserve. We don't want to encourage any birds that might prey on the nests. The chicken scratch is scattered along the beginning of the Nature Trail so our visitors get to see birds practically underfoot.



Hummingbirds at feeder
© Nature Ali

The total cost for all this food for the birds comes to \$813!

What about the value of our wonderful volunteers. Here is how it was explained to me: 365 days x 1 hour x \$15 = \$5475!

What do I, a volunteer bird feeder, get out of this: The enjoyment of watching the birds coming to feed and a warm feeling for doing a good thing.

NOTE: We received a "Bird Feeder Alert" from the California Department of Fish and Game. They are encouraging northern California residents to remove bird feeders for at least one month to help slow an outbreak of *Salmonellosis*, a disease affecting pine siskins that spend the winter in our area. We are stopping thistle feeding at the KRP for at least one month for this reason. §

Resources Legacy Fund Foundation Grant for Outreach Programs

by Reed Tollefson

In our vision we see a vibrant and healthy river forest with associated marshes and wet meadows nourished by a natural

see Outreach page 7



Outside Family Events for Kids of all Ages

Everyone Welcome

Second Saturday of every month - 9 to 11 am - at the Kern River Preserve

Hooray for Raptors

February 12 Learn about the ancient art of falconry and see it in action.
Leader: Bill Foster

Spring is Here

March 12 Wondering what all those pretty flowers popping up everywhere are called? Come on a spring wildflower hike. Bring binoculars if you have them.
Leader: Alison Sheehey



What in the world is a Watershed?

April 9 Did you know that you are in a watershed right now? Come learn what a watershed is, how they work, why they are important, how people affect watersheds, and what we can do to protect them

Hear a Bird's Heartbeat

May 14 Drop by and watch birds being netted, weighed, identified, tagged and released. A great opportunity to see a bird up close and observe the wonders of life on the wing.
Leader: Ashley Sutton

Roving the river Saturday



June 11 Roll up your pants and get wet! We will walk through the south fork Kern River while looking for the many plants and animals that live there. Bring shoes and socks to get wet and wear long pants and sleeves for brush protection.
Leader: Reed Tollefson

Traditional uses of Native plants

July 9 See how our native plants were used traditionally for food and medicine. *Leader: Terri Gallion*

Our Sun, up close

August 13 It's SOOO HOT, come learn about the astronomy of our sun, why we need it, and some of the techniques animals use to beat the heat.
Leader: Sandra Wieser

Making Tracks



September 10 Investigate the many signs left behind by wandering wildlife including footprints, scrapes, and other clues.
Leader: Teresa Benson

Art in Nature

October 8 Make a beautiful dreamcatcher using materials from nature that we'll collect while taking a short nature walk. Small children (5 to 8) will need assistance from a parent or older sibling.
Leader: Debbie Kiggins

Fun with a Camera and Nature

November 12 Dave will demonstrate the basics, go over some tricks for capturing better images, and show you some cool stuff around the Preserve. Bring your camera (digital or print).
Leader: Dave Kurdeka



Build your own Bluebird Box

December 10 Yes, those beautiful blue birds raise their kids in boxes. Come see how you can attract them to your yard. Donations will be accepted for building supplies.
Leaders: Jeff King and Phil Heavin

Dress for the weather including a hat, long sleeves, and/or a coat. All activities will be outdoors so don't forget your water, sunscreen, and bug spray. Some snacks will be provided but please bring your own drinks and snacks for the kids.

For more information on any of these events contact Emily at outside@sierranet.us or 760-378-3345.

Kids age 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult. If you are bringing a group of ten or more people, please contact Emily in advance. Sponsored by the *Friends of the Kern River Preserve*

11th Annual Kern Valley Bioregions Festival At a Glance

FRIDAY April 29th

8pm-10pm **Beginning Owling**. Trip Limit. \$15.

FULLMOON NEW IN 2005!!! 6:30pm-Conclusion, **Owling the Bioregions Field Workshop** Trip limit: 4 participants per trip leader. \$75.

SATURDAY, April 30th

FULLMOON 4:30am-1:30pm **Birding Butterbredt Spring** with Michael McQuerrey. Carpool. Trip limit. \$25

7am-Noon **Bird Banding Demonstration at Kern River Preserve**. Led by Ashley Sutton. DONATION.

7am-12:30pm **Kern River Valley Spring Birding**. Carpool. Trip limit. \$20

7 am-12:30pm **Birding the Canebrake Ecological Reserve**. Trip limit. \$20

7am-4pm **Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles**, Kern River Preserve. Educational presentations throughout the day by Herp-Ecology. DONATION.

7am-4pm **Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve**. Bird banding, beginning birding (binoculars provided), live snakes & frogs, nature crafts, storytelling. DONATION.

FULLMOON NEW IN 2005!!! 7am-4:30pm - **Birding the Bioregions with John Schmitt**. Trip Limit. Fee: \$35.

NEW IN 2005!!! 8am-1:30pm. **Hike to Packsaddle Cave**. Trip Limit. Fee: \$15.

9am-10:45am **Rocks & Minerals of the World**, Kern Valley Museum. FREE (Donations welcome).

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

9am-11am **Kern River Preserve Beginning Birding & Bird Banding Demonstration**. DONATION.

10am-4pm **Kern River Fish Hatchery**. FREE.

10am-4pm **Kern Valley Museum**. FREE.

10am-4pm **Sequoia Studios Fine Art Gallery and Preserve Store OPEN HOUSE**. FREE.

10am-4pm **Paiute Nuui Cunni Cultural Center** (Native American). Open House. Located south of Kernville in the French Gulch Campground. FREE (Donations welcome).

10am-5pm **FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS**, Circle Park, Kernville. FREE (Donations welcome).

10am-5pm **Official United States Postal Service Bioregions Festival Postal Station**, Circle Park, Kernville.

11am-Noon **An Introduction to Global Positioning Systems (GPS)**. DONATION

1pm-4pm **Digital Photography for Nature Photographers at Sequoia Studios**. \$15

5pm-7pm **Catered Dinner provided by the Wofford Heights**

Elks Lodge. Limit 125 people \$20

NEW IN 2005!!! The Southern Sierra Nevada: Ecological Crossroads and Rare Plant Hotspot with Fletcher Linton.

6:30pm-Conclusion, **Owling the Bioregions Field Workshop**. Carpool. Trip limit: 4 participants per trip leader. \$75.

SUNDAY, May 1st

4:30am-1:30pm **Birding Butterbredt Spring** with Michael McQuerrey. Carpool. Trip limit. \$25

6am-Noon or up to 5 pm **Birding the Southern San Joaquin Valley** with Gary Potter. Carpool. Trip limit. \$20 (Half day), \$30 (Full day).

FULLMOON 7 am-Noon or 6 pm **Kern River Valley Spring Birding with Bob Barnes**. Trip limit: \$30

7 am-12:30pm **Birding the Canebrake Ecological Reserve**. Carpool. Trip limit. \$20

7am-12:30pm **Kern River Valley Spring Birding**. Carpool. Trip limit. \$20

7am-2pm **Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve**. Bird banding, beginning birding (binoculars provided), live snakes & frogs. DONATION.

7am-2pm **Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles**, Kern River Preserve. Educational presentations throughout the day by Herp-Ecology. DONATION.

7am-5pm **FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS**, Kern River Preserve, Weldon: FREE (Donations welcome).

7am-5pm **Nature Tour of the Bioregions**. Carpool. Trip Limit: \$25.

7:30am-Noon **Bird Photography Field Workshop with Bob Steele**. Workshop Limit. 8 participants. \$25

8 am-Noon **Hillsides in Bloom**. Carpool. Trip Limit: \$15

9am-11am **Kern River Preserve Beginning Birding**. DONATION.

10am-Noon **Traditional Uses of Native Plants** with Carol Wermuth. Trip limit: DONATION.

10am-2pm **Butterflies of the Kern River Valley** with Kelly Richers. Carpool. Trip Limit: \$15

10am-3pm **Wildlife Art Gallery Open House**, Wofford Heights. Rich Pelletreau's Wildlife Gallery & Studio in Wofford Heights. FREE

10am-4pm **Kern River Fish Hatchery**. FREE

10am-4pm **Kern Valley Museum**. FREE

1pm-2pm **Sequoia Studios SPEAKERS FORUM**, 21129 Hwy. 178, Weldon. Owls of the Bioregions. Limit. \$10

7pm-9pm **Beginning Owling with Bob Barnes**. Trip Limit. \$15.



Kelso Creek
Monkeyflower
© Nature Ali

Outreach continued from page 4

free flowing river. We see this supported by an intact watershed where public and private lands, soil and water resources, and plants and animals are protected and compatible ranching and other land use is practiced. We see an enlightened community that understands the importance of, and actively supports, the protection and good stewardship of these valuable natural resources.

The Outreach Program at Audubon California's

Kern River Preserve is working to promote this understanding and thus develop public support for this natural wonder. We provide opportunities for thousands of school children, eco-tourists, scientists and general nature enthusiast to experience and enjoy one of Kern County's natural treasures. In 2004, we hosted over 7,000 visitors providing educational and recreational opportunities, and the demand is growing.

The "Friends of the Kern River Preserve" is building grass roots support for our mission. In 2004, our membership generated \$35,000 in to support for outreach programs. This is growing each year and is an important part of our annual budget. Based upon our vision, our modest programs and growing grass roots support, Kern River Preserve applied for and received a grant of \$150,000 from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation. Audubon is very thankful for this generous support which we are working to use to build our staff capacity, better serve our community and to grow our outreach program.

We hope our supporters recognize that every new membership, visitor well served or volunteer hour helps us to build our program and leverage funding like this grant. §

Lost & Found

Occasionally we find some things after our festivals or just out on the nature trail. The following list is of items have accumulated over the past few seasons. If you recognize any of your lost items please describe what you lost and send \$5 for shipping and we will return them ASAP.

- 6 pairs of sunglasses
- "Whitewater World Cup Hat"
- Brown "Puma" Hat
- 2 Water Bottles
- Belt or headband with pins attached
- Tapestry Hat
- Wool Gloves
- Digital Camera
- Pocket Knife



Birders from Taiwan visit the Kern River Preserve © Reed Tollefson

Briefs continued from page 3

Christmas Bird Counts

The two Kern Valley Christmas Bird Counts were held New Year's weekend. Ninety-four species were observed on the South Fork CBC. The Kern Valley Count tallied 118 species. The montane species were hard to come by this year as the snow kept them silent.

Many Friends of the Kern River Preserve participated in the Kern Valley counts and enjoyed a beautiful weekend that stayed dry until the last birder was safely inside enjoying the sumptuous compilation dinner prepared by our friend Ron Gilentine. We thank all of the wonderful volunteers, who spend the day in the field volunteering their time and money to help document winter bird distribution. §

Anniversary continued from page 1

What was the reason for an Audubon organization in the first place? In response to the plunder and subsequent decimation of plume bird colonies, several local bird societies agreed to take aggressive action and form a united front to protect birds and their habitat throughout the nation. On January 5, 1905 they officially incorporated to form the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals, later shortened to the National Audubon Society.

During its first several years, the fledgling Audubon organization racked up an impressive list of accomplishments, including passage of the Audubon Plumage Law (1910), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918), and establishment of its first two bird sanctuaries (1924): the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary near the president's former home in Oyster Bay, New York, and the Paul J. Rainey Sanctuary in coastal Louisiana. The Kern River Preserve became an Audubon Sanctuary in late 1997.

Audubon continues to take up the torch for avian conservation, monitoring bird populations and sounding alarm bells about hazards like DDT, fighting for clean air and water, and providing environmental education to Americans through Audubon magazine, Audubon Adventures, and our network of chapters and nature centers. Protection of species such as the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and 92 other nesting species is one of the Kern River Preserve's top priorities.



A side benefit of the Kern River Preserve conservation efforts is the community benefits by having the large riparian forest act as a natural pollution device. The roots of the trees absorb pollution from runoff and help clean our water. The stabilized lake level allows for infrastructure improvements, such as trails, parks, and campgrounds right at the water's edge. The leaves of the trees help filter air pollution and help keep our air clean. Of course our dramatic number of not just bird species but other fauna and flora, attract tourists from all over the world. §

THANK YOU DONORS & NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter 192 people and organizations have generously sent in much needed donations. As of this year the entire Kern River Preserve budget comes from your donations. If your name is missing or misspelled please let us know. We enjoy providing recognition to our wonderful friends. A special thank you to all of our anonymous donors. Your privacy matters, if you prefer to remain anonymous please state that on your donation form.

BLACK BEAR (\$5000-\$9999)

Dan Portway

FREMONT COTTONWOOD (\$1000-\$4999)

Roger & Barbara Coley Bob & Susan Steele

GRAY FOX (\$500-\$999)

Sarah & David Bottjer Henry Lunsford

GREAT BLUE HERON (\$100-\$499)

Tom & Debbi Adams	Eastern Sierra Audubon
Laguna Hills Audubon Society	Elizabeth Babcock
Marion & James Baird	George & Judy Beaty
Aletha S. Benson	John Birsner
Robert Brewer	Deborah Brusco
David Campbell	Frank & Janice Delfino
W. R. & Judith Ditzler	Peggy & Nelson Duckwald
Claus Engelhardt	Rich & Susan Fields
Lisa Fimiani	Ernie & Nancy Flores
David A. Fong	Bill & Birdie Foster
Cal & Letty French	Ron Harton
Sidney Tice & CleoBell Heiple-Tice	
Richard Jimenez	Dave Kurdeka
Eve Laeger	John Bailey & Carol Littleton
Jeff Martin	Martine & Richard Metzenheim
Duane Nelson	Rose Rabinov & Dave Ogden
Frances Oliver	Charles E. Parker, M.D.
Peg Smith & Chuck Peck	Kathleen Rush
Richard Schmitt	Douglas Sherk
Clint Stallings	Tom & Kathy Stephens
Daniel L. Szymanski	John Tobin
Doug, Jamie, Janine & Lindsay Uyehara	

BOBCAT (Supporter) (\$50-\$99)

Dorothea Ann Anton	Bob Barnes
Dorothy Bolt	Ron & Ginnie Bottorff
William Bouton	William Brabender
Michelle Brodie	Richard Bruns
Norm & Chris Byrd	Jim & Eleanor Campbell
Debra Campbell-Wingerden	Jane Cassity
Lucy Clark	Cheryl Cox
Jennie & Jim Cox	Margo DeGrosse
Melissa DeGrosse	Linda Diaz
John Dukat	Michael & Judith Golub
Charlotte & Don Goodson	Kirsten Holmquist
Andy & Sasha Honig	Vic Hostetter
Doris Hughes	Elgian & Dona Hurley
Paul Klahr	Michael Klinkenberg
Arthur Langton	Larry & Karen Lee
John & Christine Lewis	Irv & Edie Logan
Nobuko B. McClure	John & Susan Mills

Donald & Patricia Moore
 Melissa & Sally Palmer
 Rich Pelletreau Wildlife Gallery
 Barbara W. Porter
 Frankie Jo Rintoul
 Michael B. Stone
 Geraldine Tessman
 Jim White
 Charles & Carole Williams

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

Tom & Jeanne Anderson	Andy & Teresa Benson
Barbara Berilla	Barbara Burke
Thomas Byrd	Pat & Christine Dauwalder
Greg & Marie Dunford	Merle Dvorak
Brian & Janice Elliott	Claus & Connie Engelhardt
Dorothy Gould	Noel & Ellene Gravelle
Donald Gray	Jerry & Caryl Kay
Ken & Brenda Kyle	Susan & Jerre Murphy
Rob & Nancy Robinson	Paul & Shirley Seevers
Charles & Patricia Stearns	Ashley Sutton
Monica Wyatt	

RACCOON (Friend) (\$25-\$39)

Robert J. Anderson	Robert & Kathryn Mitchell Ball
Sarah Barga	Betty Berteaux
Sheila Braden	Thomas Byrd
Elaine Charkowski	Carol Jean Coulter
Desert Planters of Ridgecrest	Ruth DuBall
Don & Margaret Emery	Judy Fiskin
Rosemary Flamion	Robert A. Frescura
Gretchen Gillfillan	Phil & Pat Gordon
Helen Green	Ann Hannon
Monte & Enid Harper	Phil & Emily Heavin
Elizabeth Ann Heflin	David Shields & Lee Hulquist
Susan Hunt	Ron Hyatt
Lodema & Bill James	Paul Johanson
Aaron Jungbluth	Paula & Michael Kazeef
John Kemper	Chloe Kennedy
Billie Mangold	Jane Manning
Elizabeth Massie	Janine McCabe
Christy McGuire	Donna McKenna
Daniel Meyer	Bettie Montague
Oasis Garden Club of IWV	Alan & Charlotte Paulsen
Joan B. Reynolds	H.T. & Marguerite Richter
Jack Shaw	Nancy Siepel
Sarita Simone	Mark E. Sutherland
Burr Toohey	Susan Trabing
Richard & Joan Wayman	Janet Westbrook
Robin Winslow-Smith	John C. & Takako Yeakley
Lawrence Wedeen	James & Jewel Wolfe
Roger Zachary	Rocio & Tim Zajic

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Judy Cain from Carol Jean Coulter
 In memory of Marilyn Beth Carroll from Carol Jean Coulter
 In memory of Barbara Maxwell from Lodema & Bill James,
 Susan M. Parker, Frankie Jo Rintoul, Claus & Connie Engelhardt
 In memory of her mother, Johnny Clark from Lucy Clark



Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Membership / Renewal Application



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

Application for: <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift	
_____ \$10,000 Golden Eagle	_____ \$100 Great Blue Heron
_____ \$ 5,000 Black Bear	_____ \$50 Bobcat (Supporter)
_____ \$ 1,000 Fremont Cottonwood	_____ \$40 California Quail (Family)
_____ \$ 500 Gray Fox	_____ \$25 Raccoon (Friend)
\$ _____ other	Total \$ _____

Anonymous Donation
 Please send me information on planned giving / bequests.
 Please send me information on volunteer opportunities.
 Web subscription only (paperless)

All members in the Raccoon and above categories receive our newsletter. New members in the \$50 Bobcat 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 are available for \$15 (\$10 for members) plus \$2.50 shipping.
 small ♦ medium ♦ large ♦ XL ♦ XXL [\$18.50 (\$13.50 for members)]

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

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

v9 11

IN HONOR OF

From friends to Priscilla Summers to honor her service to the Dixie National Forest

Midge & John Folger, Eva Marie Gaskin and Karen Ritchie donated to honor the marriage of Emily Cohen & Phil Heavin. Emily is one of the Friends star volunteers. She is the coordinator of the monthly nature events. Both Phil and Emily work for the Southern Sierra Research Station as ornithological researchers.

A special acknowledgement from Leslie Flint to honor Robin Smith's birthday. Robin has traveled all over the world in search of adventure, beautiful landscapes and birds. Among her goals in life is to visit every continent (Australia is the only one left) and every state in the US (she claims she stands on her head when she visits a new state!). One of her favorite places is the Kern River Preserve and one of her favorite people is Bob Barnes.

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 protection and education efforts by becoming a member at the highest monetary level you can comfortably afford.

American Black Bear

The Black Bear - *Ursus americanus* - is the largest top

predator in the Kern River Valley. Black Bears are omnivorous predators that enjoy a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, nuts and grasses, as well as meat. Encountering a Black Bear on the preserve is rare but their calling card is frequently found.

If the Friends of the Kern River Preserve had twenty members in the Black Bear category then the entire Outreach and Education program for the preserve would be fully-funded.

Longtime Friend of the Kern River Preserve, Daniel Portway became our first Black Bear donor. He donated \$1000 to our general fund and \$4000 to our special endowment fund with the Kern County Community Foundation.





Friends of the Kern River Preserve

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

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**Upcoming Events...
Don't Miss!**

April 9, 2005

What is a Watershed?

April 30 - May 1

11th Annual Kern River Valley
Bioregions Festival

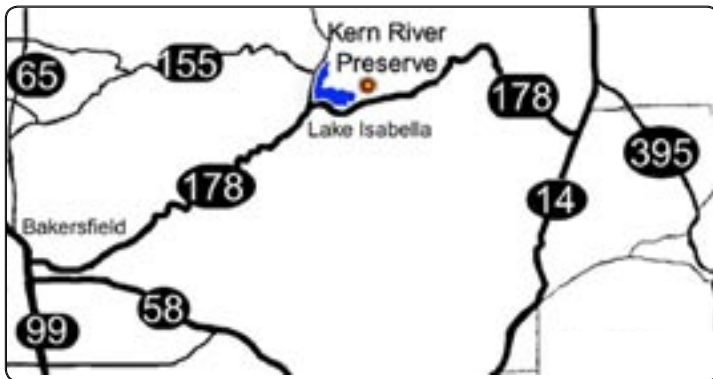
May 14, 2005

Hear a Bird's Heartbeat

June 4, 2005

3rd Annual Sequoia National
Forest Butterfly Count

Please note the date of expiration on your mailing label. If it says "exp" then this will be your last issue. 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

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

For further information about the



*Friends of
the Kern
River Preserve*

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

