
The Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Vol. 2, No. 1

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve

January/February 1998

Whitecap Foundation Makes Waves with \$72,000.00 Grant

Thanks to a \$72,000.00 grant from the Los Angeles-based Whitecap Foundation, work is already underway that will result in important habitat enhancement on your Kern River Preserve. By this time next year, Wood Ducks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Summer Tanagers will have enhanced wetlands and riparian areas to utilize. Deer and Bobcats will witness the laying of groundwork for the Preserve's first native grass restoration. And you, as Friends of the Kern River Preserve, will be able to assist in KRP Workdays to help further the enhancement of habitat or simply come and enjoy the fruits of the finished projects!

Whitecap Foundation funding specifically supports four habitat improvement projects. These four projects are part of Audubon-California's contribution to the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (RHJV) and the California Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program.

The first project, already underway, is the removal of almost a mile of dilapidated range fence along one of the Preserve's east boundaries. The new fence that is being built in its place will protect the 50-acre Mill Field riparian revegetation site from trespass grazing. This will allow the tree understory plants to establish themselves and grow unimpeded.

The second project is a 10-acre wetland enhancement in the Mill Field just to the east of the historic A. Brown Flour Mill whose architectural presence dominates the entrance to the Kern River Preserve. The Mill Field has a natural slough that was enlarged to create a series of ponds to store water to power the old mill. The mill was abandoned in 1945 and in the intervening years the control structures on the ponds fell into disrepair and the wetland values diminished. We will replace the control structures to improve our ability to manage water to increase the size of the wetlands and determine the depth and duration of inundation, thus improving wildlife habitat quality. Wildlife we expect to benefit from our actions include several species of herons, ducks, and shorebirds. We are hopeful that Tri-colored and Yellow-headed Blackbirds will once again nest at the Mill Ponds in the newly invigorated marsh habitat.

The third project is the planting of Fremont's cottonwoods on the 25-acre west end of the Colt Pasture. This site is located just west of the Preserve Headquarters. The area was cleared of native vegetation around the turn of the century. Regular disking and plowing removed all perennial native vegetation. Left fallow, this dry field is now dominated by annual grasses and weeds that have little value to wildlife. The desired vegetation for this site is native grasses and shrubs with a scattering of cottonwood trees. The establishment of trees

alone will greatly enhance this area by increasing the habitat complexity and providing roosts for hawks and other birds. To complete the native grass portion of this project, we have submitted a grant proposal to the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Wildlife Program. These projects will complete the recovery of the Colt Pasture and mark the Preserve's first native grassland restoration effort!

The fourth project is the 67-acre Sierra Field wetland enhancement located adjacent to Sierra Way just south of Prince's Pond. The Sierra Field was cleared and leveled for agriculture early in this century. Today, we are leasing this field to the Prince Ranch. We are working together to reestablish a permanent native pasture. The Prince Ranch has made extensive repairs to the water control structures that serve this field so that we can flood the field in the spring and winter months. By grazing the field in the fall and early winter, we knock down tall vegetation, then flood parts of the field to attract foraging waterfowl and wading birds.

We would like to further improve this field for wildlife and build our partnership with agriculture. First, by excavating potholes that will hold water longer into the summer, we will increase the diversity of vegetation and the availability of forage. Through fencing, we will create a livestock enclosure that we will manage for nesting and escape cover for waterfowl and other wildlife. This enclosure will also allow us to establish patches of trees to add to the diversity of the site. We intend to demonstrate that agriculture and wildlife can both benefit from this project.

The improved management capacity and restoration work accomplished through the four above-mentioned projects will greatly enhance and expand the wonderful riparian and wetland habitat of the Kern River Preserve to the benefit of wildlife and people. On behalf of Audubon-California and all of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve, we extend a sincere thank you to the Whitecap Foundation.

Kern River Preserve Workdays

You can help make the Preserve's Whitecap Foundation projects become on-the-ground reality by attending one or more Kern River Preserve Workdays during 1998. Workdays are scheduled for February 21 & 22, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 27, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 14, and December 19. Mark your calendars for the year and come join The Tree People for the February 21 & 22 tree-planting weekend! **For more information contact Reed at 760-378-2531 or email krpfriends@lightspeed.net.**

FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE

P.O. Box 833
Weldon, CA 93283
(760) 378-2531
krpfriends@lightspeed.net

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
Director of the Friends: Lynn Overtrec

Statistics (as of December 27, 1997):

Membership Numbers: 1010

Friends - 631

Supporters - 202

Pacific Flyway Patrol - 164

Raptor Circle - 7

Corporate Members - 1

Nonprofit Members - 3

School Class Members - 2

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

Congratulations, we met our previous goal of \$80,000 for FY98 budget! Our new goal is to raise \$100,000 for FY99 budget by June 30th.

Fund raising goal for fiscal year 1999 - \$100,000

Total to date - \$11,879

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

We would like to thank the following people for their volunteer efforts on the Preserve:

- **Sandra Wieser** for assistance with the writing of this newsletter and for reorganizing the office and lab.
- **Sandra Wieser, Bob Barnes, Mary Whitfield, Kathy & Tom Stephens, Tom & Noel O'Connor, Gary Collings, Eve Laeger, Terri Gallion, Jeff King and Murrelet Halterman** for assistance with labeling and sorting the past newsletter and appeal letters for mailing.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **Volunteer Friends Director.** Someone with experience working with MS Access to manage the Friends database and MS Word to write bi-monthly newsletter and appeal letters. Good organizational skills to receive and process donations, print out, get signatures and send out thank you letters.

- **Writers** that can contribute articles to this newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following people for their gifts to the Kern River Preserve:

- **Tulare County Audubon Society** for sharing our last newsletter with their members. TCAS has been a leader in the preservation of the environmental integrity of the Kern River watershed.
- **George Gulnac** for donation of a color computer monitor.
- **The Featherstons** for the donation of a card table and chairs.
- **James Station** for a cooked and carved turkey for the Thanksgiving With Friends dinner.
- **Robert & Donna Tollefson** for a pair of chest waders.
- **Joe Kohout** for the 1979 Ford utility van that will be sold to generate revenue for the Kern River Preserve.

FOR SALE

1979 Ford Utility Van in good condition. This van was donated by **Joe Kohout** with the intention that the revenue will be used for Preserve operations. Call **Reed** at 760-378-2531 or email krpfriends@lightspeed.net if you are interested in purchasing the van.

WISH LIST

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation of any of the following items contact the Preserve Manager:

- Dependable 35- to 50-hp farm tractor
- 3-point tractor auger
- Hip waders
- Furniture for the Visitors Center
- Riding lawnmower
- A pentium computer for the Friends
- Laser printer for a PC computer

PRESERVE EVENTS

- **January 18, March 1 & 5, May 3 & 17, 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 email him at krpfriends@lightspeed.net to confirm location and time.
- **February 21 & 22. Tree Planting Weekend.** Join Kern River Preserve Manager Reed Tollefson and volunteers from the Tree People in the planting of trees on this year's restoration sites. Work parties meet at the Preserve Headquarters. Volunteers are welcome to camp at the Headquarters and spend time exploring the Preserve. Camping facilities are rustic. Outhouses and water are available; otherwise campers should be self-contained. There will be an evening potluck and program, weather permitting. A motel list is available on request. **For**

additional details, including camping and motel information, or if you would like to make arrangements for a group work party, please contact Reed at 760-378-2531 or e-mail at krpfriends@lightspeed.net.

- **February 21 & 22, April 18, May 16, June 27, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 14, and December 19.** *Work days: 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 email krpfriends@lightspeed.net.

- **March 21.** *Workday for Friends.* Join Reed Tollefson for a special day with other members of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve. Plan to stay for our potluck dinner and slide show at the end of the day. Please RSVP by calling Reed at 760-378-2531 or e-mail at krpfriends@lightspeed.net.



- **March 28 & 29.** *2nd Annual Red-shouldered Hawk Workshop and Census.* On Saturday we will cover Red-shouldered Hawk life history, distribution, and status. We will also go over census techniques in the field and observe a nest site, if in an appropriate location. We will have a potluck at the Preserve Headquarters Saturday evening. On Sunday we will divide into small groups and census the Preserve and surrounding habitat in the Kern River Valley. We will be inviting **Floyd Bero** from Bishop, **John Schmitt** from Whittier, and **Pete Bloom** from Orange County to be guest workshop leaders. We suggest a tax-deductible donation of \$10-\$25 per person/family to be used as an honorarium for our guest leaders and to support bird conservation and research on the Kern River Preserve. For further workshop information including camping availability and a motel list, please call **Bob Barnes** at 760-378-2531 or e-mail at bbarnes@lightspeed.net.
- **April 17-27.** *Kern Valley Bioregions Pre-Festival & Festival Coast to Desert Birding Tour.* Join Bob Barnes, Audubon-California's Director of Bird Conservation, on this comprehensive birding tour conducted at the height of spring shorebird and landbird migration. The trip will start Friday evening, April 17th and conclude Monday morning April 27th in Bakersfield. Itinerary includes one night in Bakersfield, three days and three nights in Morro

Bay, five days and six nights in the Kern River Valley, and one-day covering birding areas in between. Birding locations to be visited include the Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Morro Bay and surrounding areas, Carrizo Plain, Butterbreit Spring, Greenhorn Mountains, Kern River Preserve, and the Kern River Valley watershed. 200-300 species of birds are expected as well as several mammal species. Limit of 3-7 participants. \$1250.00 cost includes all transportation from Bakersfield to Bakersfield, ten

nights lodging, nine days birding, all food (meals and snacks, except alcoholic beverages), leader services, Bioregions Festival registration & T-shirt, choice of any available Festival Field Trips (April 24-26) and Workshops (April 25), and a tax-deductible donation to the Kern Valley Bioregions Festival in the amount calculated after

tour expenses are deducted. Price may be pro-rated for local residents who have their own housing in the Kern River Valley or Bakersfield. Participation on a part of the tour may be available depending on demand. **Deadline for sign-ups: March 15th.** For further information, call **Bob Barnes** at 760-378-2531 or e-mail at bbarnes@lightspeed.net.

- **April 24-26.** *4th Annual Kern Valley Bioregions Festival.* Attend a weekend of birding field trips, banding demonstrations, exhibits, workshops and fun at the Bioregions Festival. Registration materials will be sent to all Friends members. Please contact the **Kernville Chamber of Commerce** at 800-350-7393 or write the **Bioregions Festival** at P.O. Box 410, Weldon, CA 93283 for more information.

CONSERVATION LINK

Please support these other organizations and their activities in the Kern Valley region. If your organization would like to post events here, please send us your newsletter.

- **March 21.** *Kerncrest Audubon Society Canebrake Ecological Reserve Field Trip.* See cottonwood riparian, Joshua tree woodland, pine and oak forests and several hundred acres of irrigated pasture. A \$2.00 donation is requested to cover insurance costs. Call field trip chair **Bob Meade** at 760-377-4451 for more information.

J.M. LONG AND JJI FOUNDATIONS GRANT VITAL FUNDS FOR KRP GENERAL OPERATIONS

Donors get excited when they see the projects that their money makes possible such as trees planted, buildings built, and acres acquired. General operations, on the other hand, are difficult to get people excited about. At the end of the year there is no specific thing one can point to and say, "I made that happen". Yet, general operations funding is vital to our Kern River Preserve. It pays for the electricity that powers our computer, lights, water pump, air compressor and arc welder. It pays for the fuel that runs our truck to town and our tractor to the back forty. It pays for every phone call, fax and e-mail to members, newspapers, vendors, game wardens, neighboring landowners, agencies and even other donors. It pays for time spent writing proposals for funding and thank you letters as well as time to lead school kids and agency partners on preserve tours. It pays for shovels, paint, road gravel, computer paper, stamps, spark plugs and stationary. This is the money that pays to protect the trees that we have planted, maintain our buildings and manage the acres we have acquired. For these reasons we sincerely thank the **J.M. Long** and **JiJi Foundations** for their generous donations of \$25,000 and \$10,000, respectively, to support this year's general operations at the Kern River Preserve.

For more information on the **Whitecap, J.M. Long, and JiJi grants**, please contact **Reed** at 760-378-2531 or e-mail at krpfriends@lightspeed.net.

AUDUBON~CALIFORNIA DEVELOPS THE KERN

Many thanks are in order to the Development Staff of Audubon~California for, literally, going throughout California in search of funds to support the Kern River Preserve and other Audubon projects in the Golden State. The grants from the **Whitecap, J.M. Long, and JiJi Foundations** and the Kern fundraising appeal of Spring, 1997, are the direct result of the efforts of the Development Department. **Dan Taylor** is State Director of Audubon California, **Dave Wheelan** is Director of Development, and **Elissa Anderman** is Director of Special Events/Projects. These three work together with staff and members to acquire funding for programs in support of Audubon~California's mission to create a "culture of

conservation" to benefit wildlife and people. Many thanks to all three of you!

The JiJi Foundation

The Seattle-based JiJi Foundation supports environmental projects, particularly environmental education, on the West Coast. JiJi Foundation Board Members Alan Harper and Carol Baird live in the Bay Area. They are avid supporters of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. They have started the California Institute of Biodiversity. Through the Institute, Carol has taken the lead in developing an amazing interactive computer program called "CAL Alive." "CAL Alive" is being made available as a dynamic educational tool to schools and individuals throughout California. For more information on this worthwhile project, call the California Institute of Biodiversity at 510-444-6629 and ask for Carol or Alan. Or, contact **Bob Barnes**, Audubon~California's Director of Bird Conservation, at 760-378-2531 or e-mail at bbarnes@lightspeed.net.

Once again, Carol Baird and Alan Harper, thank you for your support of the Kern River Preserve and all your other efforts on behalf of a quality California natural environment.

To reach our Development Department call Audubon~California's headquarters in Sacramento at 916-481-5332 or e-mail **Dan Taylor** at dtaylor@audubon.org or **Dave Wheelan** at dwheelan@audubon.org.

CONGRATULATIONS! WE REACHED OUR \$80,000 GOAL!

We have reached our goal to raise \$80,000 to operate the Kern River Preserve during its first fiscal year! As part of our lease agreement with The Nature Conservancy, it was our responsibility to raise the funds necessary to manage the Kern River Preserve during this fiscal year. With that accomplished, we continue to be in good standing to receive the gift of the Kern River Preserve in September 1998.

Our Friends membership has now topped 1000! It is critical for the Friends to continue to support the Kern River Preserve as we look towards raising next year's funds prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year this coming July 1st. We are setting next year's budget higher than this year's in order to expand our projects on the Kern. Our goal for fiscal year 1999 is \$100,000. We have already raised nearly \$12,000 towards that goal.

THANKSGIVING WITH FRIENDS

Our first annual "Thanksgiving with Friends" was held at the Preserve on Saturday, November 22nd to say "Thank You" to the Friends of the Kern River Preserve. Local market, **James Station**, donated the cooked and carved turkey, while the Preserve provided vegetarian options and drinks. Guests brought side dishes and desserts.

Participants included **Mary Ann Henry, Jennie Babcock & Dan Christensen, Jim & Eleanor Campbell, Johnnie & Fanya Price, Sean Rowe & Katy Harvey, Sandra Wieser, Gary Collings & Lynn Overtree, Mary Whitfield, Reed & Miko Tollefson, and Bob Barnes.**

KERN RIVER PRESERVE MEETS US FOREST SERVICE CHALLENGE

In August, the Kern River Preserve accepted a challenge from the Sequoia National Forest to match a grant to provide water sources for wildlife. A partnership was established in which Audubon contributed \$3000 worth of fencing to protect water sources for wildlife on the Preserve and the Forest Service contributed \$3000 to Audubon to hire long-time Preserve volunteer and on-call employee, **Gary Collings**, to inspect and

repair 24 wildlife water guzzlers in the surrounding Forest Service lands.

"Guzzlers", as they are locally called, are man-made structures that collect either rainwater or spring water in a container that is available to small wildlife. Large wildlife, such as bears, are also attracted to the guzzlers, but cause damage to the structures. **Gary** is making such repairs, photo documenting, and using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to record the exact location of each guzzler for mapping and easy locating in the future.

The Kern River Preserve appreciates the support from the **Sequoia National Forest** that it has received over the years. In addition, **Auburn-California** appreciates the warm welcome it has received from the Forest.

FOUR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS SUPPORT THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE!

The **Laguna Hills Audubon Society** is not only our first organization to become a Friend of the Kern River Preserve, it set a standard that we challenge other organizations to meet. Chapter events organizer, **Betse Surace** and president, **Rose Ackerman** presented a \$1500 check to **Lynn Overtree** for the Kern River Preserve at their November chapter meeting.

"The support for the Kern River Preserve from Audubon members statewide has been phenomenal! Their commitment to conservation is a tremendous inspiration.", says Friends Director, **Lynn Overtree**. "I think my jaw dropped quite unprofessionally when I opened the envelope and discovered the \$1500 donation."

Pomona Valley Audubon Society has enrolled as a Friend of the Kern River Preserve with a generous \$500 donation. This donation is the latest in a long line of actions on the part of **PVAS** in support of the Kern River Preserve. They have conducted field trips to the Kern River watershed and have given 1000s of dollars of monetary support for research projects over the years. Thanks **PVAS** for your consistent support. Come visit us again and often.

We appreciate the broad range of support we have received demonstrated by the membership of two local organizations that are not Audubon chapters. We welcome and thank the **Oasis Garden Club** in Ridgecrest and the **Tule River Conservancy** in Tulare County for their continued support of the Kern River Preserve.

SCHOOL CLASSES BECOME FRIENDS!

School classes are invited to become members of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve at the Pacific Flyway Patrol level. **Portola Hills Elementary**, from Orange County, was the first school to have a class become a member of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve. We welcome and thank **Miss Blake's Second Grade Class**.

The second class to join was **Mrs. Morgan's Junior High Class** from **South Fork School**, right here in Weldon. Mrs. Morgan's class has donated many hours at the Preserve and

intends to take over maintenance responsibilities for the Nature Trail. We welcome and thank **Mrs. Morgan's Junior High Class**.

CORPORATE MEMBERS DEMONSTRATE LOCAL SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDS

The **Kern Valley Sun**, our local newspaper, joined the Friends of the Kern River Preserve in December. The staff at the **Sun** have done an excellent job through the years of getting the Preserve's message to the local community. We welcome the **Kern Valley Sun** to our membership and appreciate their support of the Preserve.

James Station, a market in the nearby town of Southlake, donated a cooked and carved turkey to the Thanksgiving With Friends. To show our appreciation for their support, we have made **James Station** a corporate member of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve. Welcome and thank you.

VOLUNTEERS BECOME MEMBERS

It is no surprise to us who work at the Kern River Preserve to discover that **Jeff King**, **Bob Barnes**, **Terri Gallion** and **Sandra Wieser** are qualified to become members of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve, based on their volunteer hours. Thank you and welcome!

These people have been avid supporters of the Kern River Preserve for years. **Jeff King** has been involved in all forms of maintenance projects on the Preserve. Come visit the hummingbird garden at the bird feeder to see an example of his fine work. **Bob Barnes**, a founder of the Kern River Preserve, has volunteered at the Preserve since its inception in 1981. He spent most of 1997 living and volunteering here. During the year, he worked on many outreach projects including the motel list which has a checklist of features available at each motel in the Kern Valley, including which motels have bird feeders and wildlife gardens. **Terri Gallion** has been one of the few that we can always depend upon to lead nature walks for school classes and the festivals. We have also been greatly blessed for her beautiful writing skills, a sample of which was our lead article for the last newsletter. **Sandra Wieser** is there to fill any gap that needs to be filled. She helps with the festivals, with administration, with yard maintenance and the Friends. Please read her article in this newsletter is an example of the endless contributions Sandra makes to the Kern River Preserve.

We sincerely thank all our volunteers.

*We will be
remembered
more for what
we preserve
than what we
create.*

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 bi-monthly 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.

<p>Raptor Circle (\$1,000+)</p> <p>Laguna Hills Audubon Society Dan Portway</p> <p>Pacific Flyway Patrol (\$100 - \$999)</p> <p>Dr. John & Dorothy Almklov Pomona Valley Audubon Society Kathleen L. Barry Mr. & Mrs. George Beaty Miss Blake & Students Karen Clarke James Collier Mr. & Mrs. Steven Conner Frank & Janice Delfino Judy Fiskin Elizabeth Forgey Joanna Frawley Jo Frazier Irene & Frank Heath Mary Ann Henry Charlene Little Elizabeth Massie Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meade Terri & Ed Middlemiss Erling G. Olson Peg Smith & Chuck Peck The Raylent Trust Susan & Bob Steele Tom & Kathy Stephens John R. Tobin Maurice Zeff</p> <p>Supporters (\$50 - \$99)</p> <p>Michael L. Alda Tom & Jeanne Anderson Dorothea A. Anton John W. Beardsley</p>	<p>Robin Briscoe John F. Copp Dr. Eleanor Fraser Michael Henstra Michele Hoffman Andrew & Sasha Honig Patty & Zach Jacobson Kern Valley Sun Marian Kirkpatrick Eve Laeger Mr. & Mrs. George Lesino Carol Littleton Diane Mitchell Barbara Nelson Bill & Naomi Norris Claudia Owen Roger J. Pasarow Karen Phillips Charlotte Pofeldt Barbara Porter Ronald Barklow & Viola Saima-Barklow Robert & Julia Small Richard D. Smith Clinton Stallings Marcia D. Tittle Robert & Donna Tollefson Reed, Mary & Miko Tollefson Arch Warne</p> <p>Friends (\$20 - \$49)</p> <p>Ann Armstrong Sharon Bowen Diane Bright Beverly Brock Dorothy & John Burnstrom Richard Campbell Nancy L. Cook Daniel Cooper Eunice Corn Darryl R. Daniels</p>	<p>Eileen Dietz Millie Diffenbaugh Claus Engelhardt Joe Engler Jerry Finlinson Oasis Garden Club Denise LaBerteaux & Bruce Garlinger Barbara Garris Christena Geyer Walt & Kim Glowski Janice & Richard Graves Helen A. Green Kathryn & Ken Green Mary Griffin James Hancock Monte C. Harper Dave Harvey Elizabeth A. Heflin Judy Long & Anke Hodenpjl Vic Hostetter Joan Humphrey Michele Kraft Robert Krase Donna McKenna Daniel M. Popper Linda Redman Barbara Reifel Leslie & Joan Reynolds Donna Rodriguez Edwin B. Royce Lee Rupel Daryl & Carolyn Rutherford Joan Samara Dave Shuford Lowell Sykes Georgette Theotig Greg Thomsen Tule River Conservancy Doug Wilson & Jamie Uyehara Robert "Roy" van de Hoek G.N. Van Essen V.T. Wallhood</p>	<p>Mary Ellen Warters Lois Watson Ralph & Rosalie Webb Doug & Elaine White William Whiteside Andrew & Marion Wong Alan & Joan Woodman Clarita Woodworth</p> <p>Volunteer Members</p> <p>Terri Gallion Jeff King Mrs. Morgan & Students Sandra Wieser</p> <p>Foundation Donors</p> <p>JiJi Foundation J.M. Long Foundation Whitcap Foundation</p> <p>Corporate Donors</p> <p>James Station Market Kern Valley Sun</p> <p>School Class Donors</p> <p>Miss Blake & Students Mrs. Morgan & Students</p> <p>Organizational Donors</p> <p>Laguna Hills Audubon Society Oasis Garden Club Pomona Valley Audubon Society Tule River Conservancy</p>
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**FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY~CALIFORNIA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

2.1

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Fax: _____
City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

_____ \$1000 Raptor Circle
_____ \$100 Pacific Flyway Patrol
_____ \$Other

_____ \$50 Supporter
_____ \$20 Friend

_____ Please send me information on planned giving
_____ Please send me information on volunteer opportunities

**All members receive this bi-monthly newsletter
Supporters and above receive a large T-shirt
(please indicate if you want a different size or no shirt)**

**Please Make Checks Payable to:
NAS/Friends of the Kern River Preserve**

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

THE J. M. LONG FOUNDATION

The Walnut Creek-based J. M. Long Foundation has given significant financial support to the National Audubon Society in California for nearly two decades. Thanks to careful planning this support will never end.

Joseph M. Long, of Long's Drugs fame, gave Audubon \$1 million to purchase 780-acre Chrisman Island located at the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers off of Hwy. 132 west of Modesto. The oak woodland on Chrisman Island supports numerous wildlife including a rookery of 250 pairs of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets. The 780 acres is now the cornerstone of the new San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge which serves as the primary wintering grounds for the endangered Aleutian Canada Goose. The refuge is growing and is approved for an eventual 10,300-acres. Audubon has put the \$1 million made from the sale of Chrisman Island to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service into a revolving fund to continue habitat acquisitions and improvements throughout California thus insuring that the legacy left by Joseph M. Long will bear fruit in perpetuity.

In the late 1980s, Joe Long gave then Western Regional Vice-President Glenn Olson a \$100,000.00 challenge match for Glenn's April Bird-A-Thon. Glenn met the challenge raising \$230,000.00 to benefit Audubon's California programs!

In 1994, the Long Foundation gave a \$25,000.00 grant to launch Audubon's California River of Birds Campaign which allowed Audubon to take the lead in the creation of the present California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture and the California Important Bird Areas Program.

Now, the Foundation has given a one-time \$25,000.00 grant to help establish Audubon-California as the permanent manager and eventual owner of the Kern River Preserve as of September 1998.

A special thanks goes to the Joseph M. Long Foundation for its generosity in support of California's natural environment through the efforts of the National Audubon Society.

WHERE DID ALL THE VULTURES GO?

by Sandra Wieser

This is the question some people may have asked at last September's Kern Valley Turkey Vulture Festival. Like people, vultures can be waylaid by the weather. A storm, earlier in the week, caused a delay in their arrival to the Kern Valley.

The largest recorded migration of Turkey Vultures (approximately 30,000 each year) passes over the Kern River Preserve each fall on their way south to their winter homes. The Kern River Research Center has been counting the birds from a point south of the Preserve in Kelso Valley.

Unlike people, vultures do not wear watches nor do they navigate using sophisticated computer guidance systems. They have their own built-in systems perfected over millions of years. They come and go on their own schedules, quite unpredictably.

Here are some examples. Near the time of the Turkey Vulture Festival, one Kern River Research Center volunteer reported over 600 vultures that missed the count site by passing over to the east. Another day, we saw few vultures at the count site. Yet, when we were leaving, they came streaming in by the hundreds. Days later I was driving through Lake Isabella. There, over the town, was a huge kettle of vultures, what a spectacle!

So, where ever you are, look up. You never know what you will see. Vultures are following their own rules of migration which include such factors as weather. But, each fall we are guaranteed to have a migration of vultures and the Turkey Vulture Festival to celebrate that migration. Please plan to attend the 4th Annual Turkey Vulture Festival on September 26 & 27 1998. See you there.

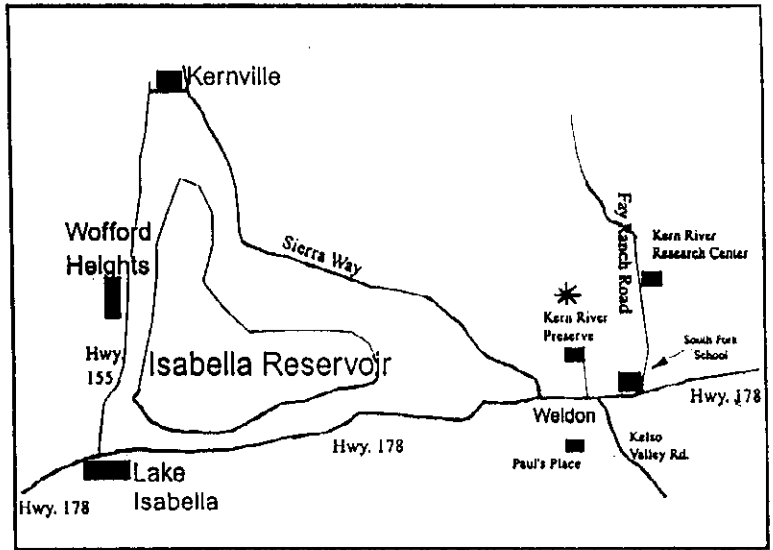
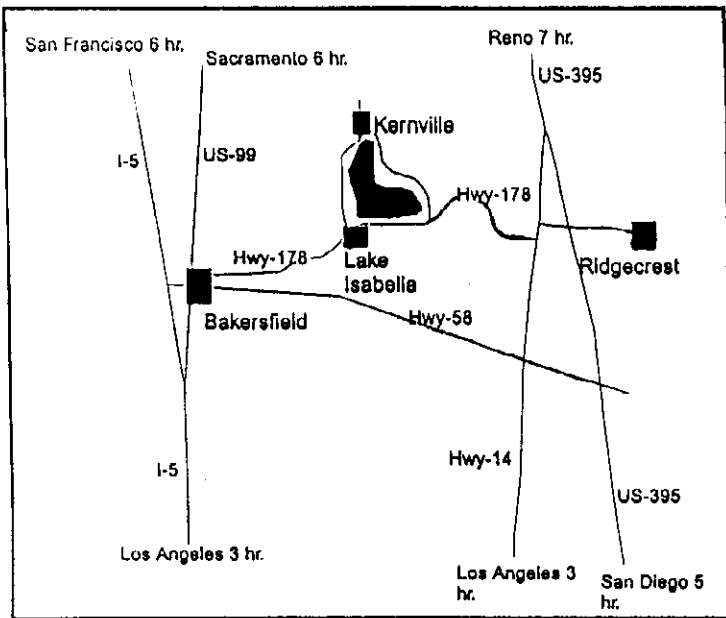
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