MORE ALEXANDER RANCH PROTECTED – FINALLY

by Reed Tollefson

In December of 2009, Audubon was able to add another 106 acres to the Kern River Preserve. This new property is the second half of the Alexander Ranch and like the first part purchased in 2007, it has excellent riparian forest, native perennial grasslands, and areas suitable for restoration to floodplain scrub. Years ago, drier areas were cleared for the cultivation of hay, and here we intend to plant native shrubs including four-winged saltbush.

This pond is on the border of the two Alexander parcels permanently protected from development in 2006 and 2009.

FESTIVALS CELEBRATE NATURE’S DIVERSITY!

For the past sixteen years, Friends of the Kern River Preserve have sponsored and become the principle planners for four nature festivals each year. Here is a brief rundown of this year’s festivals.

The 16th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival exhibits and activities will take place on Saturday May 1, 2010. Exhibits and workshop run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. An Ice Cream Social and Evening Program is offered with David Lukas author of the 2004 revised edition of “Sierra Nevada Natural History” beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the South Fork Women’s Club. Field trips will run from April 29th through May 4th.

This year we are attempting online registration which is off to a slow start. See our Saturday activities on page 9 then visit our website to sign up for the paid events.

In June we celebrate California reptiles and amphibians. The Kern River Valley and nearby mountains have many amazing reptiles. Did you know Kern County has four species of rattlesnakes: Speckled, Mojave, Sidewinder and Western (which has three subspecies)! Herpetologists are really

A participant at the 2009 reptile festival is lost in thought to the fascinating world of birds.
the host plant for our rare San Emigdio Blue Butterfly. On the native grasslands we will work with our neighboring ranch families to use grazing as a management tool.

We also captured the second half of a freshwater pond of which we acquired the first half in our first Alexander purchase. Since that time, our Turtle Team volunteers found this pond to be an important refuge for southern Pacific pond turtles, a species of special concern. The pond and the grasslands are also important to Tricolored and Kern Red-winged Blackbirds. The riparian forest on this property has majestic cottonwoods and willows that provide habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Federally Endangered), Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (State Endangered) and many other species of concern like Summer Tanagers, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler among many others.

Preserve files regarding this property and going back as far as 1983 include letters of interest as well as an offer to purchase which the owners rejected. In the early 90’s some of the owners offered to sell at a mutually agreeable price but we could not raise the funds to make the purchase. After 27 years, we finally reached price agreement with the last of the owners and with the generous support of an anonymous donor were able to buy back our offer. With this we were able to leverage additional funding to cover 10% of the land purchase plus $30,000 to invest in our Preserve stewardship endowment from a mitigation project through the Center for Lands Management.

Audubon is most pleased that we have finally succeeded in protecting the entirety of this wonderful property. It is only with the support of our members that we are able to maintain our long term efforts at land protection, stewardship and outreach in the South Fork Kern River Valley.

Festivals cont. from page 1

Passionate about these little known and seldom encountered animals. Come on out and join Buz Lunsford and his crew from HerpEcology as they showcase the reptiles and amphibians of California on June 12th.

The Hummingbird Celebration is one of our most popular festivals and will be held this year on August 7th. Come see thousands of hummingbirds zipping around frantically boosting their energy during their annual trek southward. Six species of hummingbirds can be found feeding on the preserve’s feeders in July and August; Anna’s, Black-chinned, Rufous, Allen’s, Costa’s and Calliope. We’ll have workshops on hummingbird feeding, identification, and hummingbird gardening.

Our last festival of the year celebrates the beauty of fall in the Kern River Valley and one of the west’s most impressive phenomena: Turkey Vulture migration. The Fall Nature and Vulture Festival is scheduled for September 25.
LAND PROTECTION

PROTECTING KELSO CREEK

by Reed Tollefson

In January, Audubon completed the purchase of the last two parcels needed to finalize the protection of 602 acres of riparian and desert habitat along Kelso Creek just upstream from our 156-acre Kelso Creek Sanctuary. It took a long time to close escrow but National Audubon’s real estate and legal staff worked diligently to clear up problems and complete the purchase. This purchase was funded by a private donor that prefers to remain anonymous.

We are currently working to transfer these parcels to the Bureau of Land Management where the land will never be developed but remain open to the public for non-motorized recreation. In fact, parcels north of Piute Mountain Road or about 75% of the land will be added to the adjoining Bright Star Wilderness Area.

Audubon’s Kelso Creek Sanctuary is adjacent to the BLM’s Bright Star Wilderness. The new parcel’s will be transferred into the wilderness. Map by Sean Rowe

Brown-crested Flycatchers reach the limit of their northwestern breeding range in the South Fork Valley.

Kelso Creek’s north-south orientation makes it a very important migratory pathway for songbirds, raptors and bats as they fly through this area on their annual migrations. The properties Audubon has protected have cottonwood/willow forest, Mojave Desert scrub and very nice Joshua tree woodlands. Brown-crested Flycatcher, Great Horned Owl, Scott’s Oriole, Long-eared Owl, Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Pinyon Jay have been seen on the sanctuary along with many other species. Check out our website for plant and bird lists from this and our other Kern Valley Sanctuaries

Find the remote Kelso Creek Sanctuary about 15-miles south of the Kern River Preserve on Kelso Valley Road. It is open to the public. However, the Sanctuary can be difficult to locate and there are no formal trails but there is a walk through gate and some paths to follow. Staff, volunteers and local birding guides bring groups through the area on tours, especially on their way out to Butterbredt Springs or to see desert wildflowers in the spring.

The original Kelso Creek Sanctuary, purchased in 1999 will be retained by Audubon to continue to act as our focal point for further conservation work in the area. In fact, we are currently working to secure funding to protect several additional properties with outstanding qualities and that would further enhance the overall protection of this important area.

NEws Briefs

Stewardship

Tricolored Blackbird Habitat Project

In order to provide habitat for the Tricolored Blackbird (a species of concern) staff have begun a new stewardship project on the preserve. An old canal was rehabilitated to provide water to the native marshland that had been converted to agriculture. Staff and volunteers planted mulefat, mugwort, wild rose, stinging nettle and

The staff & volunteers planted Tricolored Blackbird habitat this winter. L-R Sandra Wieser, Don Davis, Casey Davis, Ron Gillentine, Katy Harvey and Jill Davis. Not pictured: Birdie Foster, Jeff King, Sean Rowe, Alison Sheehey, Reed Tollefson.
sandbar willow on January 16th and February 20th. The new plants are already starting to grow and we hope to see Tricolored Blackbirds occupying the area within the year. §

Green Job Training
Employers Training Resource sent four students from Bakersfield to the preserve to train with our Land Steward for four days in November. While Audubon provided some necessary training the crew helped remove fence, groom the nature trail and headquarters. We hope to provide more opportunities for interns looking to find out what green jobs are all about. §

High School Students Practice Stewardship

Fifteen high school students from Bakersfield helped with several projects last July. They cleared the shaded fire break of brush surrounding the Kern River Preserve headquarters compound. In two mornings of work the students collected and hauled dozens of loads of woody debris away from the KRP structures. This was crucial in protecting headquarters infrastructure from the threat of wildfires.

The students then removed 4,670 feet of old and no longer functional fencing. This is part of an ongoing project that is aimed at removing fences from natural areas on the preserve that no longer serve a useful purpose and can pose a significant hazard to wildlife as well as a barrier to their movements.

They also removed hundreds of feet of old irrigation line left over from former habitat restoration projects. Much of this material was still in good condition and will be reused on future projects.

Without the dedication and hard work of volunteers in programs such as those at Bakersfield area high schools, much needed work might go unfinished. It is always a pleasure to work with youth who are as motivated and hard working as these students proved to be. §

Student Conservation Association Cleans Up

Over the past five years Audubon has purchased several properties which have ranch-based dumps associated with them. This was common and accepted practice among ranchers—although in retrospect a poor choice. These eyesores have been

a project that many volunteers and staff have tackled. Through an amazing twist of fate we were able to secure the services of five very energetic people from the Student Conservation Association (SCA). From Friday through Sunday, January 22-24 this SCA crew along with our own Sean Rowe and Katy Harvey helped to fill an entire roll-off dumpster with 16-thousand pounds of garbage.

The crew hauled off non-recyclables, recycled trash and assisted with some other preserve projects over the weekend. While they didn’t finish clearing the dump they made a significant dent in ridding the preserve of this nuisance trash.

Audubon staff and volunteers have made great progress on these dumps since we purchased the property. Tons of steel has been recycled including wire, broken equipment, and appliance. Fertilizer, pesticides, used oils and hundreds of tires have been hauled to the appropriate waste facility. Open agricultural wells have been closed and fuel storage tanks have been removed. What was/is left is largely nuisance trash and plenty of it. We look to continue working with our staff and volunteers to finish up.

The SCA is a national, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. They are funded through cost-share agreements with their resource management partners, individual donors, foundations, and corporate sponsors. SCA provides college and high school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in virtually every field imaginable, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems and teaching environmental education at Washington, D.C.’s Urban Tree House. We thank our amazing SCA crew: Jamie, Allison, Daniel, Alexandra, and Chris for their hard work and hope they can return to help on a more fun project in the future. §

Restoration Site Improvement Project

In the next few months you might notice some changes around some of our park-like restoration sites. After 20 years of growth we are starting a project to improve the habitat with
Bird and Wildlife Deathtraps - Open Vertical Pipes

by Reed Tollefson

Open top vertical pipes are a hazard to birds, lizards, small mammals and other wildlife that get into these pipes and are unable to get out. Birds looking for nest cavities, animals escaping from predators or lizards just scampering into open pipes are frequently trapped. This leads to a miserable death from starvation and exposure, which is completely unnecessary.

Last fall on a property adjacent to the Kern River Preserve, a 20 foot tall by 8 inch diameter vent tube on an abandoned irrigation system rusted and fell over. When Audubon stewardship staff picked up the pipe they were shocked to find inside a 7 foot long, black mass composed entirely of decomposed carcasses of hundreds of dead birds and animals including kestrels, flickers, bluebirds and fence lizards. The date etched into the concrete at the base of this vent pipe showed that it had been in place for over 50 years. All that time animals had been silently suffering and dying in this trap as unsuspecting people went about their business nearby.

After learning about this problem, Kern River Preserve staff started seeing open topped pipes all over the landscape on our Preserve and on neighboring lands. We were disgusted by the senseless loss of life in pipes as small as 1 inch and up to 10 inches in diameter. We immediately began to remove, cap or screen open topped pipes found on our preserve as well as neighboring properties – there is still a lot of work to do.

Solar and Wind Energy on the Preserve

Thanks to a generous donation from the Wilderness Land Trust of equipment; the preserve installed a wind-powered...
A philanthropic foundation. Participants of the Southern Sierra partnership include Audubon California, The Nature Conservancy, Tejon Ranch Conservancy, Sierra Business Council and Sequoia Riverlands Trust as well as several government agencies.

Another year of plantings are planned on KRP’s Sprague addition upland restoration site. This experimental project is trying different methods of restoring desert vegetation. There are also riparian and marshland restoration projects ongoing. Restoration projects are done with plants found only within the South Fork Valley in order to keep the genetic purity of the region. Why, because many plants even within Kern County, evolve to grow in specific soils, or within the microclimates of the South Fork Valley.

Each season; our land steward team have been gathering seed from Kern River Preserve native plants including four-winged saltbush, Joshua tree, silver cholla, beavertail, Jimsonweed, Calabazilla, narrowleaf goldenbush, Fremont cottonwood, red willow, sandbar willow, mulefat, mugwort, wild rose, and Acton’s encelia.

The Kern River Preserve was one of the first large scale restoration efforts and pioneered many of the planting methods. These efforts are now emulated throughout the country and we hope to develop all types of restoration methods as lands that have been denuded are restored to their native glory.

Southern Sierra Partnership – Conservation Action Planning

For the past year staff of the Kern River Preserve has been working with many conservation partners trying to figure out how to respond to the usual threats to wildlands along with the compounding effects of global climate change. As with any shift in the natural environment, climate change may cause species’ reductions or increases in range, breeding success, and total population size. There are two teams working on mapping threats in the Southern Sierra from Fresno County down to the Tehachapi’s. The teams are working to use climate change models and predictions to revise conservation action plans for the Southern Sierra Nevada.

The impacts of immense wind and solar energy developments and other emerging conservation issues in the region are also being considered. This effort will attempt to set precedents for conservation planning and is supported by a grant from a philanthropic foundation.

Restoration on KRP’s Sprague Addition

We plan on installing the solar pump on the Sprague Restoration site this spring. This new pump will provide water to the various restoration projects and the turtle headstart project on KRP’s Sprague addition.

Last summer two additional solar pumps, panels and a holding tank were purchased with a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service - Partners for Wildlife Program in order to provide water to wildlife. One of the new pumps replaced a dirty gas powered pump that filled a small pond in the Palmer restoration site.

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Learn how the Kern River Preserve restores forests and uplands. (hiking along a flat trail)

Saturday, May 1 - 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.– Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival

Saturday, June 5 – Proper Fire Clearance by the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council

Saturday, July 3 – Kern River Valley Geology – Ernie Anderson

Saturday, August 7 - 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Kern Valley Hummingbird Celebration

Saturday, September 4 – Southern Pacific Pond Turtle – Darrell Barnes. Learn about the preserve’s efforts to help head-start this native species of concern.

Saturday, October 2 - Plein Air (in the open air) Watercolor Workshop (for adults only) - Learn how to paint in the field with Pat Seamount - for plein air painting bring watercolor paper, paints, brushes, water, a cup, towel, trash bag, and field chair. Tips: 1. Wear neutral colored clothing (creams, beiges) rather than white or bright colors so they don’t reflect onto your painting. 2. Bring a camera to record the scene in case you need to finish the painting after you leave the field site. (minimal walking)

Saturday, November 6 - History, culture and language of the Tubatulabal

Saturday, December 4 - Geocaching – How to use GPS and the game of geocaching

Dress for the weather including a hat, long sleeves, shoes, and or a coat. All activities will be outdoors so, don’t forget water, sunscreen and bug spray. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the preserve after the program if you like. There are picnic tables and port-a-potties. NOTE: The preserve is a pack in/pack out facility. There is no potable water or garbage facilities available.

For more information on Monthly Events call (760) 378-2029. Kids 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult. If you are bringing a group of 10 or more, please RSVP.

Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution. It might seem rather bothersome at first to keep track of sightings on more than just a short list, but when you see your life list broken down by site, city, county, state, region and country it becomes really useful! You can also use ebird to find out about what is expected in an area and what is extremely uncommon. Your records of sightings are exceptionally important to fill in the blanks and show the whole picture of bird diversity.

The Kern River Preserve has many subsets listed on ebird as hotspots. You can find out what birds have been seen in the South Fork Valley by exploring the ebird data. It is a great way to add your data to the scientific record and to keep track of your life list!

Find ebird at http://ebird.org and for California birding only go to http://ebird.org/content/ca

Spring Migration

Spring migration in the southern Sierra Nevada begins in February and peaks around the third week in May. It is a busy time of year... the hills green, the birds sing, the wildflowers pop and bless the earth with a palate of amazing color. Here are some neotropical migrants that appear each spring along with their recorded arrival date range.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - May 22 – Jun 9
Vaux’s Swift - Apr 14
Black-chinned Hummingbird - Mar 19 - Apr 16
Rufous Hummingbird - Feb 19 - Mar 23
Willow Flycatcher – May 12-16
Dusky Flycatcher – Apr 10-20
Gray Flycatcher – Apr 8-19
Vermilion Flycatcher – Mar 26- Apr 3
Ash-throated Flycatcher – Apr 10-17
Western Kingbird - Mar 16-26
Cassin’s Vireo – Apr 8-10
Warbling Vireo – Apr 6-18
Tree Swallow - Feb 14 – Mar 01
House Wren – Mar 18-27
Orange-crowned Warbler - Mar 29 – Apr 4
Nashville Warbler – Apr 10-17
Yellow Warbler - Mar 30 – Apr 15
Black-throated Gray Warbler – Apr 2-17
Common Yellowthroat - Mar 23 - Apr 3
Wilson’s Warbler – Mar 31 – Apr 17
Summer Tanager - Apr 26 – May 4
Western Tanager - Apr 18
Brewer’s Sparrow – Mar 30 - Apr 15
is to buy from certified growers. For information on where to find certified shade-grown coffees check out the Migratory Bird Center at the Smithsonian Institute website. http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/

Will El Nino Provide a Great Spring Wildflower Season?

Spring is a blessing filled with all kinds of joy. Join us for a walk on Sunday March 21st at 8 a.m. California wildflowers are one of the most spectacular miracles of spring. We are looking forward to another amazing display of flowers and hope to share their discovery with old friends and new.

The track along the South Fork Kern River starting at the Sierra Way bridge - "Migrant Corner" can have a diverse mix of annual wildflowers Here are some to name but a few thistle, sage, red maids, popcorn flower, brown-eyed primrose, fiddleneck, owl's clover, California poppy, cream cups, floriferous monkeyflower, and lacy phacelia.

Wildlife Encounters on the Kern River Preserve

- American Black Bear

by Reed Tollefson

On November 10, while doing stewardship work on Audubon’s Sprague Addition Sean Rowe and Jeff King saw this black bear ambling through the fields. It was moving from the riparian forest along the South Fork Valley toward Fay Canyon which leads up to the Kern Plateau. This helps to shows how protecting the river forest and connections to the surrounding public lands allows wildlife to move

American Black Bear live around and amongst us. Learning to wildlife proof your homes helps all wildlife live in peace with humans.
Protecting wildlife movement corridors within the Southern Sierra Nevada will help wildlife meet their daily needs as well as improve their ability to respond to the stresses caused by future development and climate change.

Black bear are known to wake up during their winter sleep and move around but it is likely that this bear is heading to a place to resume its winter rest. From tracks and scat, we know that bears are common on the Kern River Preserve in the spring, summer and fall but they are very shy of people and seldom seen.

Celebrating our Friends

A great year of fun and accomplishments was capped off at our annual Friends of the Kern River Preserve holiday potluck. In early December, 46 members of KRP Friends joined in the celebration. The amazing talents of our friends was shared with great food with this year’s slide showing showcasing 5 slides from each of our guests year of activities! We appreciate all of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve so much, we hope for another successful year for volunteers and staff. Our donors keep the doors open so to speak while our volunteers have provided so much to the preserve over the past several years. Thanks go to some of our top volunteers including Birdie Foster, Bill Foster, Marya Miller, Darrell Barnes, Chris Hancock, Gordon Hancock, Don Davis, Jill Davis, Casey Davis, and Julie Rowe.

Pond Turtle Headstart Project Update

The fifth year of the pond turtle project has begun. Even though we lack funding, our volunteers have committed to keeping the program going one more year. In summer 2009, 11 hatchlings were released back to the wild. Another 26 young are planned to be released this year and the 8 hatchlings from last year will be allowed to grown one more season before being released. Hatchlings are released when they reach 90 mm and 70 grams.

With the grant over, last year the project went unfunded. A lot has been learned about the population of Southern Pacific Pond Turtles over the past four years but much more can be learned. Thanks go to the turtle team Bill & Birdie Foster, Gordon & Chris Hancock, Darrell & Marya Barnes and the final year’s foster parent Jeff King.

Geocaching on the Preserve

How many of you own a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) device? There is a fun treasure hunting game where people use GPS devices in a competitive nature as an excuse to get outside and enjoy nature. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share the experience online.

Recently some local geocachers asked if they could place some caches on the preserve in the public areas. A traditional cache is filled with swag (approximately 10 desirable items but of little value) and is hidden by the cache owner for other Geocachers to find. It is a Geocaching rule that that if a finder takes something he will leave something. For many Geocachers the value in the cache lies in the search rather than in the value of the swag and they prefer to take nothing and leave nothing.

So if you want to play the game, search www.geocaching.com for birdland, birdland1 and birdland2 around these coordinates N 35° 40.323 W 118° 18.118. Be sure to sign the guestbook in the Visitor Center while you are here so we know how many people are playing the game.

2009 South Fork School Visit

In November, the entire student body of South Fork Elementary School visited the preserve. While a small school, there were a total of 110 children plus teachers and chaperones. The donated binoculars in memory of Jim Clark were used by the entire 3rd /4th combo and 4th grade classes. Sandra Wieser led the kindergarten and 1st grade classes on a hike while Reed Tollefson took the 2nd and 3rd grade classes to another part of the preserve. We really enjoy this annual visit of our local school children and look forward to their visits more often once the new visitors’ center is built.
Mammals of Audubon’s Kern River Preserve

There are 49 species of mammals that have been found on the Kern River Preserve, yet few have been seen by visitors. Why? Because mammals are mostly nocturnal, meaning they are active at night. Below you will find 35 photos of species seen on the preserve. Missing species are among the 12 bats or 20 rodents that are found on the preserve.

What makes a mammal? There are two characteristics that are truly found only in mammals – fur and mammary (milk producing) glands. Some mammals lay eggs, some mammals fly, and some mammals are active during the day.

Look around and see which mammals you can see during the day... if you look in a mirror you will see a mammal every time. Look in the field as you enter the preserve... large non-native mammals browse on grass. Near dawn or dusk other mammals can be seen in the field as well. Some are large, some are medium sized, and some are very tiny.

Not all species represented with photos

PHOTOS NOT TO SCALE
Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival

SCHEDULE OF FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, May 1st

6am-1pm. SOUTH FORK VALLEY BIRDING. Fee: $30
6am-1pm. EASTERN SIERRA BIRDING. Fee: $30
6am-1pm. KERN RIVER VALLEY BIRDING. Fee: $30
6am-1pm. MOJAVE DESERT BIRDING. Fee: $30
9am-3pm. KERN VALLEY BUTTERFLIES. Fee: $30
9am-11am. Kern River Preserve Bird Walk. FREE.
9am-11am. Habitat Enhancements and Stewardship at the Kern River Preserve. FREE.
10am-10:30am. Southwestern Pond Turtle Headstart Program. FREE
10am-11:30am. Musical Entertainment. DONATION
10am-4pm. Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival Postal Station
10am-4pm. Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve. Nature crafts, storytelling. FREE
10:30am-11am. Bird Feeding Workshop. FREE
11am-noon. Native Plant Gardening Workshop. FREE
11:30am-1pm. Musical Entertainment. DONATION
Noon-1pm. Native American use of Native Plants. FREE
1pm-noon Basic Bird Identification. FREE
1pm-2:30pm. Musical Entertainment. DONATION
2pm-3pm. Nature Walk. FREE
2:30pm-3pm. Musical Entertainment. DONATION
6:30pm-8:30pm. - Ice Cream Social. Highlights of the 2010 Nature Festival: Bird Sightings

PROGRAM: David Lukas - Author/Naturalist. $10 for program only.

SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL FIELD TRIPS

Thursday April 29th through Tuesday May 1st – not all trips offered all days – check festival website for details. Most fee trips $40 unless otherwise noted

THANK YOU DONORS & NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter 204 people and organizations have generously sent in much needed donations. If your name is missing or misspelled please let us know. Your privacy matters, please let us know if you prefer to remain anonymous. Please notice your expiration date and renew so that the progress on the preserve can continue.

GOLDEN EAGLE ($10,000+)
The Estate of Colette Thorndike

SUMMER TANAGER ($5000-$9999)
Renewable Resources Group

BLACK BEAR ($2500-$4999)
Bob Barnes

FREMONT COTTONWOOD ($1000-$2499)
Pomona Valley Audubon Society
Lucy Clark in Memory of Johnny Clark
Dan Walker & JoAnn Conard Estate of Robert Linden
Margery Nicolson Daniel Portway
Mel & Beverly Rubin Bob & Susan Steele

GRAY FOX ($500-$999)
Kerncrest Audubon Society Aletha Benson
Sarah & David Bottjer Frank Delfino
Ernie & Nancy Flores Dave Kurdeka
Candice Rogers Scott Rosenlieb
Steve & Mary Ellen Spradlin Robert & Donna Tollefson

WILLOW FLYCATCHER ($250-$499)
John Newman & Linda Adams Chana Cortez
Judy Colson & Richard Bruns Cal & Letty French
Bruce Terzes & Suzanne Eiseman Jane Hicks
Carol & Joseph Halterman

GREAT BLUE HERON ($100-$249)
Irene Adam Alden & Joan Nash
Tom & Jeanne Anderson Ern Portway
Elizabeth Babcock Maggie Seely
Joyce Bartlett
Janet Beeler William Bouton
Mimi Brown Geraldine Brown
Howie Newman & Susan Cameron Camp James

Wingerden Jane Cassity Debra Campbell-Eric
Greg Campbell

Carson

Jim & Karen Clarke James & Judith Collier
W. R. & Judith Ditzler Thomas Duque
Gary M. File Bill & Birdie Foster
Eleanor Fraser Jim & Sylvia Gallagher
Catherine Gamble Tullio Giudici
John McLeod Griffiss Chris Hargrove
John Harris John & Hermi Hiatt
Andy and Sasha Honig Susan Jayne Hotchkiss

Elgian Hurley in memory of Dona L. Hurley
Howard King & Paul Klahr Arthur Langton
Jack & Joan Lowe Alan McGie
Michael McQuerrey Warren & Marge Minner
Arthur & Jean Morley Linda Oberholtzer
Dave Ogden Richard O’Neil
Jeanette Papp Carol Paquette
Chuck Peck Maria Polite
Let Your Legacy Live on at KRP - Endow the Long-term Protection of the Kern

A recent gift from the estate of Colette Thorndike was partially put into the long-term endowment fund with some of the funds helping to pay for long deferred maintenance. The buildings at the Kern River Preserve have been given a new lease on life by her generous gift.

What better place to leave a legacy for our planet than on the Kern River Preserve? A simple note in your will allows you to make a lasting impact on the future of the Kern River Preserve. Consider making a bequest in your will to establish or add to an endowment fund.

Let your legacy live on at KRP - endow the long-term protection of the Kern.
Friends of the Kern River Preserve

Membership / Renewal Application

Name: _________________________________________  Phone: _____________________________
Address: _______________________________________   Fax: _______________________________
City: __________________________________________   State: ___________  Zip: _______________
Email:  ________________________________________

☐ Check for change of address / email / information

Volunteer Opportunities

All members in the Raccoon and above categories receive our newsletter. New members in the $100 Great Blue Heron and above level are eligible to receive a KRP Friends T-shirt. Donations in the Gray Fox and above categories receive lifetime membership. Please be sure to indicate size if you WISH to receive a t-shirt. Extra T-shirts available for $20 ($15 members) plus $5.00 shipping.

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

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

Anonymous Donation
☐ Web Newsletter Only
☐ Please Send Information on:
☐ Planned Giving / Bequests
☐ Volunteer Opportunities

Application for:
☐ New Member
☐ Renewal
☐ Gift
☐ In Memory
☐ $ 5,000 Summer Tanager
☐ $100 Great Blue Heron
☐ $ 2,500 Black Bear
☐ $50 Bobcat
☐ $ 1,000 Fremont Cottonwood
☐ $40 California Quail (Family)
☐ $ 500 Gray Fox
☐ $25 Raccoon
☐ $ 250 Willow Flycatcher

Total $__________

KRP WISH LIST - Volunteer Opportunities

Do you live in or visit the Kern River Valley? Would you like to help feed the birds, help plant and maintain the hummingbird garden, do special construction projects, or help with the trail projects?

Contact Sean to volunteer - srowe@audubon.org

CAN YOU HELP US?

We NEED a new tractor so we can mow our trail without threat of breakdowns and parts that cannot be found.

What we need is a Medium Farm Tractor, Category III with a 3-point hitch. We also need a flatbed Trailer suitable for hauling a tractor or automobile.

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

Online Donations

Last year was an amazing year with many friends giving above and beyond their normal donations, this really helped as many friends missed the opportunity to support the preserve last year. We really thank all of our donors and hope those of you receiving this newsletter for the last time will renew. Did you know you can donate to the Kern River Preserve without using a stamp or writing a check? Our online donation page is found at: https://loon.audubon.org/payment/donate/CAKERN.html

Donations made online not only save time and paper; the funds are immediately credited to the Kern River Preserve’s account.

Support for Outreach and Education, Land Protection, Research and Land Stewardship. It’s easy! To help the Kern River Preserve protect this land in perpetuity, just have the following language added to your will:

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

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS...

DON’T MISS!

Every third Saturday work parties

April 3, 2010
Stewardship Stroll

April 24-25, 2010
South Fork/Kelso Valley Butterfly Counts

May 1, 2010
Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival

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

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

Driving time from:
Los Angeles ..................................................... 3.5 hours
San Diego ........................................................ 5.5 hours
San Francisco .................................................. 6.5 hours
Reno ............................................................7.5 hours

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

For further information about the

Friends of the Kern River Preserve

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