



Audubon California expands habitat protection

Title As part of its ongoing effort to protect important bird habitat in Kern County, Audubon California (BirdLife Partner in the US) has purchased 120 hectares of land along the Kelso Creek. This acquisition brings the total to more than 240 hectares that Audubon California has purchased in the last 12 months in the Kelso Creek drainage. The area is an important migratory route for raptors, vultures and songbirds moving from the Mojave Desert into the southern Sierra Nevada. The land is arid but includes streamside willow habitat, important for a number of species such as Nuttall's Woodpecker *Picoides nutallii* and California Thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum*.