



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society



Volume 9 Issue 4

Season's
Greetings

December, 2007

At our next meeting....

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 7 p.m.

"Hope Takes Wings" - A Journey to Save a Species.

This program is a 56 minutes video that was shown by Audubon Arizona in the theater as a fund raiser. It's a great movie about the Whooping Crane, an endangered species. If you haven't seen this video, you are in for a treat.



Photo by John & Karen Hollingsworth/USFWS

Did you know that the Whooping Crane is the tallest bird in North America?

What's Happening in our Chapter?

By Your Editor, George Wall

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on November 7, 2007. The attendees were board members Bob McCormick, Chuck and Loretta Richards, John Arnett, Eleanor Campbell, Rich Schooler and George Wall. Barb Meding attended as a guest.

Committee Reports:

A. Membership: There are currently 628 members, 207 web viewers, 41 receive newsletters via regular mail and there are 87 Friends of SAS.

B. Education and Outreach: The second family bird walk was held on November 10, 2007. There wasn't a great attendance probably due to not quite enough advertising on the internet and in newspapers. Hopefully, this will be corrected for the next walk on December 8, 2007.

Requests for walks and the use of the booths need to be made at least a month in advance.

It was noted that the binoculars are not very good. Maybe we can get some donations from our members.

C. Field Trips: Trips have been scheduled all the way through April, 2008. The next committee meeting will be on April 3, 2008. The May trip to Portal is full.

D. Programs: Eleanor Campbell gave an update on the speakers for the coming year.

E. Conservation: No news at the present. Bob McCormick will be bringing handouts on the Gray Wolf to the general meeting.

F. Finance: Rates are lower for the new Web Host (Go-Daddy) on the Internet.

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EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

There are bird walks, nature programs and other items of interest. Their location is 2439 S. Central Ave., Phoenix. Check the website at www.phoenix.gov/riosalado.

A birders paradise awaits you just 1/2 mile south of downtown Phoenix! Discover many of the 200 species of birds that have been identified at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area as you walk along the Salt River. Participants will learn the basic skills of binocular use and bird identification before taking an easy 1-2 mile walk around the habitat. Please bring binoculars, camera, and field guides if you have them. The walks for this month are on Sunday, December 9, 2007, and Sunday, December 22, 2007.

The walks start at 8 a.m. and end at 10 a.m. Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Ave. You should make your reservation in advance by visiting <http://phoenix.gov/PARKS> and click on "classes and programs". You can also call 602-262-6863 and leave a voice mail.

Hassayampa River Preserve

Winter hours began on September 15, 2007. It's open Wednesday-Sunday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Entrance fees are \$5, TNC members \$3 and children 12 and under are free. For information call 928 684-2772 or e-mail www.bmccollum@tnc.org

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, from 8-11 a.m. there is a Birding 101 course on Basic Birding. Kathe Anderson will be giving this course.

Bird Banding for this month will be on Saturday, December 1, 2007, and Saturday, December 8, 2007. Bird banding takes place at 7 a.m. both days.



Palm Tree Pond—Photo by George Wall

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their Fall/Winter schedule. They have bird walks and other programs. Their hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The price of admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for children ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at <http://cals.arizona.edu/BTA/>



**Scenic View at Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Photo by George Wall**

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous, a group of birdwatchers, has their annual Christmas Dinner meeting on Friday, December 14, 2007, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. . This is an earlier date due to the 3rd Friday being so close to Christmas. Normally they meet on the third Friday of each month **all year around** at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City in King Hall. For further information contact George Wall at gwall5@cox.net

Estrella Mountain Park

The Sonoran Audubon Society will provide guides for Bird Walks at Estrella Mountain Park the 4th Sunday of each month through March, 2008. The walks will start at 8 a.m. The December walk will be on December 23, 2007. There is a \$6.00 entrance fee per car.

Desert Botanical Garden

Each Monday morning from now through April, 2008, there will be bird walks from 8 a.m. to approximately 10 a.m. There will be additional walks on the second Saturday of each month at the same time. They see as many as 40 birds during these walks.

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees of \$10.00 (\$9.00 seniors) apply unless you're a DBG member. Membership is \$55 a year. See their website at www.desertbotanical.org for further information.

Join the National Audubon Society

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

These fees cover membership in the National Audubon Society and a subscription to Audubon magazine. An application form for National membership may be obtained from the chapter at the regular meeting or by contacting <chuckkan@mindspring.com>.

Each year all National members in the Sonoran Audubon chapter area receive the September *Gambel's Tales* that describes major chapter activities for the year. All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* may be obtained free from the chapter website <www.sonoranaudubon.org> or by mail for \$10.00 per year. If you wish to get the newsletter by mail or to be notified when a new issue is placed on the website, please contact chuckkan@mindspring.com or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society, P O Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068. For Information or questions call 623-939-6181.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org

Arizona Audubon Web Site: www.az.audubon.org

Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:

www.desertriversaudubon.org



Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

Officers

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mcbobaz@aol.com

Vice President: Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646

klaf@cox.net

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treerunner@yahoo.com

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Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074 atarby@cox.net

George Wall 623-875-7057 gwall5@cox.net

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danielay11@earthlink.net

Committees

Programs: Eleanor Campbell, Bob McCormick and George Wall—See phone numbers and email addresses above.

Education: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639

ercamp@juno.com and Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 raschooler@peoplepc.com

Field Trips: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

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Membership: Charles Kangas 623-931-6677

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Newsletter: George Wall 623-875-7057 gwall5@cox.net

Conservation: Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451

tlazzelle@cox.net & Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646 klaf@cox.net

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Most of our members know that we sponsored and funded a Butterfly Garden at Lake Pleasant.

Here's a picture of the garden and an October letter that our president, Bob McCormick, received.

Butterfly Garden at Lake Pleasant



Hello Bob, I just wanted to report back to you on the completion of the Butterfly Garden here at the Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant. After a couple months work the garden improvements are complete! Below is a brief outline of the work and attached is a current photograph of the garden.

- The garden previously had a problem with weeds. First spending some time on removing all these weeds we then added a 2" layer of gravel to help prevent this from becoming an issue in the future.
- Loose and throughout time the flagstone pathway took an impact caused by foot traffic. Each of the flagstone pieces were removed then relayed and cemented with mud onto the ground about 2-3" above the surface. Added a new 60' long, 2' wide, by 1.5' deep drainage filled with Palomino rip rap rock 3 to 8 inches in size. This adds to the aesthetics of the garden making it look even nicer than before.

I don't know if hummingbirds and butterflies are particular about looks but I've really noticed an increased amount of these creatures back to visiting the garden! Thank you and the Sonoran Audubon Society again for funding this project. If you have time available in the near future please give me a call to come out and I would like to show you the results.

Adam Melle, Interpretive Ranger Desert Outdoor Center

The Sonoran Audubon Society is doing its part in helping the environment and beauty of our land!

FAMILY BIRD WALKS

Members of the Sonoran Audubon Society are conducting FREE monthly family-oriented bird walks at Tres Rios Wetlands in Phoenix on the 2nd Saturday morning of each month. The next walk is scheduled for Saturday, December 8, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. Join other outdoor enthusiasts on an easy hike through the desert, around the ponds and into the woods at this beautiful site. The walks will start at 8 and continue with the last one at 11 a.m.

Leaders will loan binoculars and bird guides and will introduce participants to the fun of birding in an environment ideal for attracting birds. On top of this, **there will be live raptors** furnished by Andrea Nesbitt of the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center.

Meet at the Tres Rios Wetlands Hayfields Site. The entrance to the site is located on 91st Avenue, one mile south of Broadway Road in Phoenix past the sewage treatment plant on the left just prior to the Salt River. You'll see a yellow gate and a sign to the Hayfield site. Turn in and go about 1/3 of a mile to the end of the dirt road.

Bring your own binoculars if you have them. For more information contact: Rich Schooler at (623) 930-8904 or e-mail raschooler@peoplepc.com.

At the November 10th walk, we again had only a few people show up. Hopefully, we'll have more attendance as it gets advertised more thoroughly.



Merlin—Photo by George Wall

Walks were made around the area and ponds and a total of 35 species were seen including a Sora, Least Bittern and Osprey.

Major Victory for Ecosystem Restoration Projects

Washington, DC - The U.S. Congress voted on November 8th to override the president's veto of the Water Resources Development Act, a \$23 billion piece of legislation that authorizes more than \$5.5 billion for key ecosystem restoration projects. The president issued his veto on Nov. 2, citing the bill's cost. This marks the first time Congress has overridden a veto in this Administration and only the 106th time in history.

Audubon has lobbied for passage of WRDA for five years and urged the congressional override because of the bill's funding to key Audubon priorities like the Everglades, the Great Lakes, coastal Louisiana, and the Mississippi River.

"In today's historic veto override, Congress has kept its promise to restore America's Everglades and made an historic national commitment to the protection of more of America's most sensitive and valuable ecosystems, including the Gulf Coast, the Mississippi River, and the Great Lakes," said April Gromnicki, Audubon's Director of Ecosystem Restoration. "If there is a cause that merits a historic vote such as this, it's fitting that the cause be to restore some of our most special places before they are lost forever."

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What's Happening in our Chapter?

Other Items of Discussion:

A. The date for our annual retreat will need to be changed from January 19th to possibly February 2, 2008, due to the AAC meeting being on the same date.

B. Ten of the 2008 calendars will be given to Hassayampa and one to the library.

C. There are a few typos that should be corrected on the next printing of the Bird List. Also, it should have a statement on it indicating that it is the Arizona State Bird List.

At the General Membership Meeting, Charles Enos requested volunteers for the Gila River Reservation-bird count to be held on December 1, 2007. Walter Thurber also requested assistance in several Christmas Bird Counts. Sign up sheets were passed around.

Bob Winterfield gave an informative presentation on Birding in Florida.

This was one of our larger gathering. I counted about 50, but only 24 signed the attendance sheets.

Treasurers Report—November 12, 2007

Sonoran Audubon Society	Budget	To Date
	2007-2008	11/12/2007
Income	\$12,525	\$ 3,350.73
SAS Dues Return	2,000	1,896.73
Chapter Sources	10,525	845.00
Projects	--	609.00
Expenditures	\$12,525	\$5,162.59
Fund Raising Activities	200	272.00
Committees	6,750	85.40
Projects	1,300	3,475.62
Chapter Operations	3,875	1,135.27
Insurance	375	335.00
Quest Phone	500	194.30
Assets & Liabilities		
Total Cash		\$13,064.28
Encumbered Funds		2,189.67
Clear Funds		\$10,874.61

This report is submitted for publication three times per year as required in the Chapter By-Laws and by acts of the Board. Any questions, including requests for more details, please contact Treasurer, Loretta Richards at caricards@nowonline.net

A Message From Your Membership Chair

Last month I wrote an article for the Gambel's Tales in which I described what a bargain it is to be a member of the National Audubon Society. This month I want to tell our membership the history and importance of Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society.

When we started the formation of our chapter we literally had to pass the hat to collect money to stay in existence. We received no start up money from National. National still doesn't help new chapters with financial aid. We were told that if we had a state office we could receive aid from that office, but at that point in time Audubon Arizona didn't exist.

We managed to receive enough money from our members to stay alive. Then National had a budget crunch. They reduced the dues shares they send back to the local chapters. When I contacted National and asked them why they just didn't increase the dues so they could continue paying us the same amount to the local chapters I was advised that the local chapters should contact its members to raise more funds. Individual chapters came up with the idea for a "Friend Membership". We had enough members who became Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society to continue to operate. Many of us are members of National and also Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society. Your Membership Chair is a Friend in three different chapters besides being a member of National.

It's still extremely important to receive money from our "Friends". Some of you aren't aware that the Friend membership is a one year membership. We continue to need the money we receive from our Friend's membership to pay for many of the projects with which our chapter is presently involved. At the present time out of a chapter membership of 628, there are 90 Friends .

I urge all our members to become Friend's of the Sonoran Audubon Society so we have the funds to become a driving environmental force in the West Valley.

Chuck Kangas, SAS Membership Chair

FRIENDS OF SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society provide financial support for the chapter and its activities. As a friend, you have all the privileges of a full member in the chapter and all monies received goes into our chapter. However, this does not make you a member of the National Audubon Society and so you do not receive their magazine.

THE FRIENDS

I would like to become a Friend of the Sonoran Audubon Society or continue to be a friend. Friends can contribute at four levels (Please indicate your choice of level):

- Gambel's Quail** \$20.00 to \$49.99 per year
- Gambel's Quail Seniors** rate is \$15.00 to \$49.99 per year
- Zone-tailed Hawk** \$50.00 to \$99.00 per year
- Desert Bald Eagle** \$100.00 or more per year

All friends contributions are fully tax-deductible

RECEIVING GAMBEL'S TALES

Gambel's Tales is the newsletter of the chapter, published monthly from September through May. The newsletter is available via the Internet at www.sonoranaudubon.org and we encourage chapter members and friends to use this service. There are some who don't have internet service or just can't read the newsletter in its form. If this is the case, you may want to receive the Sonoran Audubon Society Newsletter via regular mail. The cost for mailing the newsletter is \$10.00 per year.

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter via regular mail. My \$10.00 is enclosed

Total amount enclosed for a Friend \$_____

Total Enclosed \$_____

Send to Sonoran Audubon Society, P.O. Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068

ARIZONA (& VICINITY) CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE [2007-2008]

The National Audubon Society has conducted Christmas bird counts since 1900. Volunteers from across North America and beyond take to the field during one calendar day between December 14 and January 5 to record every bird species and individual bird encountered within a designated 15-mile diameter circle. These records now comprise an extensive ornithological database that enables monitoring of winter bird populations and the overall health of the environment.

Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. Many counts hold a compilation dinner at the end of the day where results are tabulated and stories shared. A \$5.00 participation fee defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the overall count results. Help is needed on most of these counts, so find one that interests you and contact the compiler for more information.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
12/14	Fr	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251	bonnie_swarbrick@fws.gov
12/14	Fr	Pipe Spring Nat. Monument	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	andrea_bornemeier@nps.gov
12/14	Fr	Salt-Verde Rivers	Kurt Radamaker	480-837-2446	kurtrad@mexicobirding.com
12/15	Sa	Avra Valley	Mary Lou Cole	520-578-0114	birdingnana@msn.com
12/15	Sa	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Henry Detwiler	928-210-6474	henrydetwiler@earthlink.net
12/15	Sa	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	elaimorr@npgcable.com
12/15	Sa	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetrogon@comcast.net
12/15	Sa	Payson	Dave Hallock	928-474-9475	eldoradh@rmi.net
12/15	Sa	Santa Catalina Mountains	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	batesr@u.arizona.edu
12/15	Sa	Timber Mesa	Jimmy Videle	928-337-2466	moonrise@wmonline.com
12/16	Su	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-925-5567	duerksen@msn.com
12/16	Su	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayampacbc@hotmail.com
12/16	Su	Jerome-Cottonwood	Betsy Feinberg	928-203-0676	betsyfpub101@catharon.com
12/16	Su	Tucson Valley	Larry Liese	520-743-3520	larryliese@prodigy.net
12/17	Mo	Elfrida	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
12/19	We	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	tomoff@northlink.com
12/20	Th	Phoenix-Tres Rios	David Powell	602-441-5508	vireo@vireos.com
12/21	Fr	Saint David	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
12/22	Sa	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Curt McCasland	520-387-4992	curtis_mccasland@fws.gov
12/22	Sa	Patagonia	Abbie Zeltzer	520-394-2921	azeltzer@theriver.com
12/27	Th	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado@cox.net
12/28	Fr	Green Valley-Madera Canyon	Reid Freeman	520-625-9895	wallcreeper@cox.net
12/28	Fr	Havasu NWR	Norma Miller	520-578-1399	n8urnut@comcast.net
			DeeDee DeLorenzo	928-758-2707	poncho@citlink.net
12/29	Sa	Bill Williams River NWR	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair@fws.gov
12/29	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Terry Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows@nau.edu
12/29	Sa	Portal	Larry Gates	520-558-1020	hummers@vtc.net
12/29	Sa	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	tedmourast@mindspring.com
12/29	Sa	Sierra Pinta-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Curt McCasland	520-387-4992	curtis_mccasland@fws.gov
12/30	Su	Sedona	Dottie Hook	928-204-1894	dottiehook1@aol.com
1/2	We	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber@cox.net
1/3	Th	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence@nps.gov
1/4	Fr	Superior	Cynthia Donald	480-283-4515	planres@earthlink.net
1/5	Sa	Appleton-Whittell	Robert Weissler	520-803-0794	wissler@aves.org
1/5	Sa	Camp Verde	Anita MacFarlane	928-282-4063	ajmac@sedona.net
			Betsy Feinberg	928-203-0676	betsyfpub101@catharon.com
1/5	Sa	Dudleyville	Doug Jenness	520-909-1529	d_jenness@hotmail.com

Other Nearby Counts

12/15	Sa	Puerto Penasco, Sonora, MX	Steve Ganley	480-830-5538	sganley@cox.net
12/30	Su	Peloncillo Mountains, NM	Tony Godfrey	520-558-3350	kingbird@vtc.net

If you want to see the various sites on a map, Maricopa Audubon has the info. Go to www.maricopaaudubon.org

Winter/Spring 2007-8 Field Trips

An * indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

REQUIREMENT: On all trips, make reservations by calling or e-mailing the leader. The leader can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, some trips are limited in size.

***Thursday, December 6, 2007**

Hassayampa

Leader: Carolyn Modeen 623-972-6273

ctmodeen@juno.com

Enjoy a wonderful outing at this outstanding Nature Conservancy Preserve near Wickenburg. This location always yields numerous species of birds, often including a surprise or two. Over 230 species have been recorded nesting or migrating along this riparian area where cottonwoods and willows surround running water and a pond. Meet at Site #1, Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at around 7:15 AM or you can meet the group at the Hassayampa River Preserve at 8:00 AM. There is a \$5 donation to the preserve for each person. Difficulty: 1 This is a morning trip only, but you may want bring your lunch just in case the birding is good. There are nice picnic tables where you can eat and watch birds.

Saturday, January 5, 2008

Southern Ave. Pond

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535 rms15247@cox.net

This is a morning trip only. There are 2 ponds located off Southern Road. Last year some odd waterfowl turned up – A Barrow's Goldeneye and a Cackling Goose. Call leader for details.

***Tuesday, January 15, 2008**

P.I.R and Area

Leader: George Wall – 623-875-7057 gwall5@cox.net

The marshes near the Phoenix International Raceway still provide refuge for shore and water birds. Walk on the old road to PIR to look for resident Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, egrets, ducks and others. Look for raptors and field birds enroute to the ephemeral El Mirage Pond, if it's still there. Difficulty: 1 Morning only. Meet at Sun Bowl Parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 6:45 a.m.

Tues., Wed. & Thur. - January 22-24, 2008

Rocky Point, Mexico

Leaders: Rich Schooler - 623-930-8904

raschooler@peoplepc.com, **Chuck Richards 623-594-6554** carichards@nowonline.net & **Dick Fogle - 623-584-3922** rfogle@yahoo.com

You want to see a lot of Shore Birds? Then you want to go on this trip to Mexico. You'll need a passport if you want to come back. Call a leader for details.

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

Pebble Creek Ponds

Leader: Barb Meding – 623-266-1847

Join us for Ducks and lunch on January 30th. No – not ducks for lunch!

We will explore the ponds of Pebble Creek for wintering ducks. In the past there have been grebes, herons, 10 species of ducks, and of course local land birds.

We will be driving from spot to spot with very little walking. Afterwards, if you wish, we can have lunch at Toscana's, a nice restaurant in Pebble Creek.

Meet at 9 a.m. and bring a scope if you have one. Pebble Creek is located north of I-10 on Pebble Creek Parkway (Between Litchfield road and Highway 303). Contact the leader Barb Meding for further instructions to the meeting place.

Friday, February 8, 2008

Salome Road

Leader: Eleanor Campbell - 623-977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Search for several species of thrashers and gnatcatchers known to be found in this desert habitat west of Phoenix. A variety of sparrows, raptors and other field birds should be seen.

Difficulty: 1 Call leader for meeting place and time.

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Arlington Area

Leader yet to be determined

Arlington Valley west of Phoenix and south of Arlington with its fields, ponds, canals, a dam, and a desert butte provides a variety of habitats to search for birds. On the North American Spring Migration bird count in May, 2003, a White Ibis was seen amidst the Great Egrets. swallows, blackbirds, raptors and sparrows.

Difficulty: 1

***Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

Tres Rios

Rich Schooler - 623-930-8904

raschooler@peoplepc.com

The Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands Project located at the 91st Ave. Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Salt River is a haven for many bird species. The habitats include open water, running stream, marsh, desert and woodland which provide a good environment at

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Fall 2007 Field Trips

any time of year for ducks, shorebirds, and migrating passerines.

Difficulty: 1, morning only. Call leader for time and meeting place.

Plan now for this trip as space will be limited to 12 participants: **Portal and Cave Creek** in SE Arizona on **May 21-23, 2008**, (Wednesday-Friday), there will be a local leader for this trip (Melody Kehl) who has led us once before). - Contact: Donna Smith 623-556-9535 rms1524@cox.net for details. **Note: Trip is full, but there is a waiting list.**

The Portal and Cave Creek area is located in Southeastern Arizona. The area offers a multitude of bird habitats as well as magnificent views of beautiful vistas. The Elegant Trogon nests along Cave Creek regularly. Grace's, Virginia's and Black-throated Gray Warblers and Painted Redstart may be seen. The Arizona Woodpecker is common. The Magnificent Hummingbird as well as several other species of hummers should be present along with several vireos and flycatchers. The Elf owl and Western Screech will certainly be heard and possibly seen. Besides the many national forest trails and campgrounds to explore there are private residents who welcome visitors to their backyards to view birds and they have put up feeders just for this purpose. This spot offers a range of ecological communities from desert and grassland through pine/oak woodlands, pinion/juniper, and cottonwood riparian areas—each providing a unique habitat for birds.

On our last trip to this area in June 2004, we saw 97 species. Check out the trip report on our website.

BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVALS

Wings over Willcox January 17-20, 2008 – Willcox, AZ

This festival combines adventure, entertainment and education to provide a fun-filled weekend of birding pleasure for the novice, expert or curious. From the rugged peaks of the Dos Cabezas Mountains to Middle March Pass of the Dragoon Mountains, nature is one of southeastern Arizona's greatest attractions. The Sulphur Springs Valley, which lies between these two mountain ranges, is home to a great variety of plant and animal life. It is this diversity that draws nearly 500 species of birds to Cochise County. Every year, thousands of nature enthusiasts from around the world

come to the valley to enjoy this wonderful attraction. The Magic Circle of Cochise, which begins and ends in Willcox, offers the birding enthusiast the opportunity to visit some of the best birding attractions in southeastern Arizona. See their website at www.wingsoverwillcox.com

San Diego Bird Festival February 6-11, 2008 - Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay, Calif.

The San Diego Audubon Society is sponsoring the 12th San Diego Bird Festival. Our banquet keynote speaker will be Kenn Kaufman, photographer and author. We have added several new trips and workshops and are repeating our most popular events. For further details see the website www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest

Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival March 15-16, 2008 – B&M area by Phoenix International Raceway (P.I.R.)

This festival is a two-day outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. Join us March 15-16, 2008, on the River at B&M Wildlife Area, just north of Phoenix International Raceway. Discover a world of wildlife, history and culture in your own back yard! See the website at www.tresriosnaturefestival.com

Yuma Birding and Nature Festival April 16-20, 2008

Yuma hosts the Yuma Birding and Nature Festival. You can bird by boat along the Colorado River, bird in nearby Mexico and view the many delightful migrants to be found this time of year in the Yuma area. There's even a dunes trip guaranteed to round up some fascinating reptiles and insects. See Website at www.yumabirding.org

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival April 24-27, 2008 - Dead Horse State Park

Despite its distinctive name, Dead Horse Ranch is situated amidst an abundance of life along the Verde River. A six-mile reach of the river is known as the Verde River Greenway. Its unique ecosystem, the Cottonwood / Willow riparian gallery forest, is one of less than 20 such riparian zones in the world. Life along the river changes with the seasons, giving visitors a glimpse of the numerous species of raptors, neotropical migrants, resident songbirds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. See the website at www.birdyverde.org

Festival of the Hummingbirds May, 2008 - Tucson

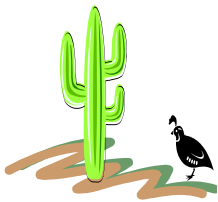
Southwest Birding and Nature Festival August, 2008 – Sierra Vista

Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection) Time: 6:30 p.m. for socializing and
7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program**

December 12, 2007—"Hope Takes Wings" DVD Video
January 9, 2008—Rob Fergus (NAS): Common Birds in Decline
February 13, 2008—Moez Ali: Birds of Kenya
March 12, 2008—Mike Quigley: Sky Island Conference
April 9, 2008—Rich Ockenfels: South African Adventure
May 14, 2008—Rob Smith: Global Warming

Other Dates of Interest December 5, 2007, 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room. All SAS members welcome.



Sonoran Audubon Society
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