



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 7 Issue 6

February, 2006

At our next meeting....

Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 7pm

Hank & Priscilla Brodkin: "Butterflies of Arizona"



Priscilla and Hank Brodkin live in Carr Canyon in the bird and butterfly rich Huachuca Mountains of Arizona. Their special love of the tropical birds and butterflies have taken them on trips to many places around the world including sub-Saharan Africa, China, Australia, and New Guinea. They have visited many of the countries of Central and South America including twenty trips to different parts of the Amazon Basin.

In 1992 they became interested in observing and photo-

graphing butterflies. They are founding Directors of the Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association (SEABA) Arizona's only chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association). They have led and co-led many butterfly field trips in Arizona and in Sonora, Mexico.

Priscilla's butterfly slide presentations have been given to a multitude of organizations including the Lepidopterist's Society, several Arizona chapters of the Audubon Society, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Ramsey Canyon Preserve, the Tucson and Phoenix Botanical Gardens, Elderhostel groups, and at numerous birding and nature festivals in Arizona, California, Texas and New Mexico. She was an instructor at the 30th Institute of Desert Ecology in 2000.

The Brodkins have co-authored "Butterflies of Arizona - a Photographic Guide" with Bob Stewart and Hank is currently working with Richard Bailowitz on a butterfly finding guide for Arizona.

Priscilla's talk, BUTTERFLYING FOR BIRDERS, will illustrate how Arizona birders can use their skills to study butterflies. The families of butterflies will be shown and basic butterfly biology will also be discussed.

Sonoran Audubon Planning

By Karen LaFrance

Once a year, your Board of Directors "retreats" to a nice place where there are early morning birds to contemplate the important matters that must be attended to for the year. In 2005, the Board retreated on November 19th to Has-sayampa Preserve. While subjects were wide-ranging, the birding was slow so we were able to focus on Membership Services, Important Bird Areas organizing and scheduling. Several ideas were put in the "parking lot" to be discussed later. We decided that an ad hoc planning group would be convened to consider these topics and whether they have any support within the chapter to pursue. The "parked" ideas included: the opportunity of seeking environmental

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Sonoran Audubon Planning

mitigation funds for important habitat restoration projects, connections with Eco-Tourism, Partnering with other groups, Planned Giving, the Sonoran Joint Venture, Children's Programs, Scholarships, Things to Sell and a Photo Contest Plan.

I am seeking members of SAS who have an interest in one or more of these topics to volunteer to attend ONE meeting of the planning group. The meeting will be in March or April 2006 and I will schedule it to accommodate volunteers' schedules and locations as much as possible. We netted one volunteer at the last full membership meeting and a couple of additional folks from your Board will be attending too. I really hope that you will join us! For questions, please call me at 602-788-9646 or message me on e mail at klaf@cox.net. Thanks!

What's Happening?

By Your Editor

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7pm on January 4, 2006. Here are some of the items discussed by board members Bob McCormick, President, Suzanne Cash, Karen LaFrance, Dick Fogle, George Wall, Daniela Yellan, Loretta Richards, Alvin and Arlene Scheuer. Also present were Tice Supplee and Chuck Richards.

1. Some committee reports were made.

A. **Membership:** SAS picked up 27 new members through National Audubon, but has dropped 30. The committee will send a letter to the 30 drops.

B. **Field Trip:** Some changes in times and places to note in the February newsletter. There will be a trip committee meeting on 9 February.

C. **Conservation:** Tom Lazzelle and Karen LaFrance will co-chair and call a meeting in February.

2. Bob McCormick reported that he had Job Descriptions for the board and Committee Chairs.

3. The subject of proxy voting was brought up. One of the questions was whether it could be done by electronic means. This is OK per bylaws.

4. The nominating committee was discussed. The former committee consisting of Anne Durning, Duane Fink, Ann

McDermott and Chuck Kangas will sit as the committee this year.

5. Important Bird Areas was discussed. A full written status report is due to the Game & Fish and will be prepared by Josh Burns and Tice Supplee.

6. There was a discussion on low Membership turnout at the general meetings. Bob McCormick and Karen LaFrance were assigned to meet with the Membership Committee to convey the ideas generated at the Board retreat on the "care and feeding" of the membership. In addition, the Board will be investigating the possibility of engaging a data management person to maintain the membership database.

7. Other things at the meeting: Dick Fogle & George Wall brought the items they purchased for the use by leaders on the IBA count teams in accordance with the AZFGD contract. Karen LaFrance will moderate a future meeting concerning a list of issue that the Board put in the "parking lot" for an ad hoc group to meet on. See the article starting on page one.

The General Membership meeting was held on January 11th and Shawneen Finnegan gave a program on "Desert Plovers and Peep Primer". The attendance was just great with double that of the December meeting. Several sign-up sheets were passed around for future doings and meetings.

Arizona Game and Fish presented Tice Supplee the Conservationist of the Year Award for 2005 at the Commission's Annual Awards Banquet on Jan 21, 2006.

Alvin and Arlene Scheuer had a very nice article about them along with pictures in the Arizona Republic on January 19th. It was an article about birding in their back yard and their association with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Josh Burns submitted an extensive IBA monitoring report that included Graphics (pictures) and Spreadsheets to the Board and others as of January 16th.

Dick Fogle and George Wall went on an Elderhostel trip to San Diego and Baja California (Mexico) for 8 days in January. They traveled almost 600 miles into the Baja area and managed to see a few life birds.

There were 3 local trips by members during January. One was led by Dean and Joan Luehrs to Arlington Valley, one to Thunderbird Park led by Carolyn Modeen and another led by Dick Fogle to Estrella Park and P.I.R. area. Check them out under Trip Reports on our website.

Book Review

By Nancy Kroening

ON THE WING: To the Edge of the Earth With the Peregrine Falcon by Alan Tennant, 2004, Alfred A. Knopf

Alan Tennant treats readers to a great flying adventure following a tundra falcon (falcon peregrinus tundrius) north to Alaska and then other falcons south to Belize in a small plane piloted by fearless old-time war pilot, George Vose. First, Tennant has to catch a falcon and attach a transmitter. Just how DO you catch a bird that can fly over 50 miles per hour?

Many of Tennant's descriptions of bird characteristics trigger multiple readings. Example: "Unlike that of mammals, avian muscle isn't laced with lipids; birds' gas tanks are the flat pockets of yellow suet deposited along their breastbones, in the lateral hollows of their necks, and in their wing pits."

Readers won't want to miss the Epilogue which contains surprising information about how wildlife takes advantage of Man's creations.

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

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Refreshments donated by

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The above sign was prepared by Jak Keyser, one of our talented members, and will be displayed at our meeting refreshment table: Thank you Trader Joe's

Thank You Letter

By John Flicker

(Sent to the Editor by Audubon Arizona)

I want to thank each of you for helping to make our Centennial year so successful. This was a year of unprecedented challenges. Ever time, you came through for Audubon and for conservation.

Nowhere was that more true than in our public policy advocacy programs. At the beginning of this year, nearly everyone in Washington DC assumed that Congress and the White House would finally succeed in gutting the Endangered Species Act and opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Everyone, that is, except Audubon and a coalition of other organizations that never gave up, despite the odds. Together, we rallied a nationwide grassroots campaign that the combined efforts of the White House, the Congressional leadership, Senator Stevens, and Congressman Pombo could not outmaneuver. As a result, the Endangered Species Act remains intact, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge remains safe.

We achieved even more public policy successes at the state and local levels. For example, in North Carolina we prevented the Navy from building a military landing base next to a critically important National Wildlife Refuge. And in Hawaii, we prevented the Waimea Valley from being turned over to a private developer. We advanced our long-term ecosystem conservation strategies in places like the Everglades, the Mississippi River and Long Island Sound. There are far too many examples to name them all.

This was a landmark year for Audubon Centers. We received some of our largest grants ever and made significant progress at many Centers including the Columbus Audubon Center in Ohio, Mitchell Lake, Trinity Forest and Dogwood Canyon Audubon Centers in Texas, Nina Mason Pulliam Audubon Center in Arizona, Commerce City Audubon Center in Colorado, Spring Creek Audubon Center in Nebraska, Greenwich Audubon Center in Connecticut, the Wildcat Glades Audubon Center in Missouri, Seward Park Audubon Center in Washington, and Montezuma Audubon Center in New York.

In Science, we added over 200 sites to our list of designated Important Bird Areas. The Great Backyard Bird Count attracted over 100,000 participants, and we are hoping for record participation in this year's 106th annual Christmas Bird Count. And Audubon Arkansas is organizing and leading volunteer teams searching for additional sightings of the Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

We were proud to publish six outstanding issues of Audubon Magazine this year. And the Centennial Audubon Medal Gala honoring the Rockefeller family was Audubon's most successful dinner event ever.

Our strategy to achieve conservation results by protecting birds and engaging people continues to succeed. With focused advocacy, more Centers, stronger relationships with Chapters, world-class citizen science, increased web usage, and growing financial support, we are positioned for even more success as we begin our second century.

You made all of this possible through your hard work, teamwork, dedication and generosity. Thank you!

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Rio Salado

The Rio Salado Habitat now have programs scheduled on most Saturdays and Sundays. Visit their website at www.phoenix.gov/riosalado. They have bird walks, nature programs and other items of interest. Their location is 2439 S. Central Ave., Phoenix.

Hassayampa River Preserve

The Hassayampa River Preserve has 4 programs scheduled in February.

Sunday, 5 February from 11-noon there's the Gold Rush Days Presidents walk—a guided walk through the Preserve's lush riparian habitat. Light refreshments served.

Sunday, 11 February from 9-11 a.m. there's a program entitled Urban Wildlife. Explore the human dimensions of living with wildlife in urban setting with AZ Game & Fish Urban Wildlife Specialist Joe Yarchin and learn how fables have humanized urban wildlife with local author Ann McDermott.

Saturday, 25 February from 8-11 a.m. there will be a class entitled Birding 101. Learn birding basics with Kathe Anderson, Director of the Adult Birding Program at the Gilbert Riparian Institute. Includes a short walk to practice birding skills.

Saturday, 25 February from 8:30-10 a.m. For those of you who are already birders, there is an Interpretive Nature Walk led by an experienced naturalist.

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EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Nature Treks & Passages

This is a professional organization based in Tucson, but they'll have 2 birding/cultural trips leaving from the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden and going to Mato Ortiz in Mexico. The dates are Feb. 10-12 & April 28-30, 2006. If you are interested, check out their website at www.naturetreks.net.

IBA NEWS

Written by Josh Burns and submitted by Tice Supplee

The following are excerpts from a report to the AGFD for the ABCI grant.

Lower Salt-Gila River Ecosystem IBA sites. The remaining sites on this IBA will be made active as quickly as teams can be recruited and trained for them. Monitoring of the Arlington WMA site will be postponed until completion of restoration work there.

Agua Fria National Monument IBA Sites. During the winter 2004-2005 flooding of Sycamore Creek, large boulders were moved into the upper end of the Sycamore West Transect, rendering this area inaccessible. We plan to move the 2.0-kilometer transect downstream about one-half mile to include more of the mature riparian forest along the creek there and to eliminate the access problem. This move is being negotiated with the EZ Ranch landowner as some of the forest is on private property.

Expansion of the Agua Fria National Monument IBA. SAS has long wanted to include the uplands of the monument in the IBA but has found the data collection requirements daunting. Our current plan is to coordinate surveys in the areas of critical habitat for the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope (birthing areas) near Joe's Hill in the mesa grasslands. Survey areas and protocols are being worked out with BLM.

A second part of this effort is to restart the automobile transect across the monument eastward from the Kelton (Box Bar) Ranch.

DID YOU KNOW

By George Wall

That there are more different species of warblers in the U.S. than any other type of bird? There are 51 species in Sibley's. If you counted all in the New World, there would be 115 species. There are also 18 genera

Warblers, correctly called wood-warblers, are mainly insect eating small songbirds. They are generally found in woodlands, forests or dense brush. Their size range mostly from 4 1/2 inches like the Tennessee Warbler to 6" like the Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush and Louisiana Waterthrush (all in the warbler family). The biggest of them all however, is the Yellow-breasted Chat at 7 1/2 inches.



Yellow-breasted Chat—Photo by Dan Sudia

Nest building is done by the female and the nest material is very similar to hummingbirds. It consists of plant downs, bark, grasses, spider webs and any other fine material that they might find.

Warbler eggs are usually pale white with variable spotting. The number of eggs in a clutch range from 2 to as much as 8 and one clutch a season is normal. Incubation takes anywhere from 11-13 days.

Warblers are really migratory. In bird books, you'll notice that the Yellow Warbler range from Alaska way down into Mexico. Sub-species exist in other areas further south. I even found them in the Galapagos Islands

Birders have found that many warblers are very hard to identify. Not only because a lot of them are very similar in appearance, but they never sit still long enough to get good looks at all their markings.

Without a doubt, at least in my mind, they are truly some of the most beautiful of all birds in America.

Sonoran Audubon Society Treasure's Report—Jan. 13, 2006
Provided by Loretta Richards

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Income	\$9,600	\$4,015.05
NAS Dues Return	1,000	2,032.75
Chapter Sources	8,600	1,932.30
Projects	—	50.00
ABCI Grant (IBA)	4,200	—
Expenditures	\$9,600	\$3,375.52
Fund Raising Activities	200	—
Committees	2,480	1,204.82
Projects (Including ABCI Grant, IBA)	4,700	1,208.07
Chapter Operations	1,845	787.63
Insurance	375	375.00
Assets & Liabilities		
Total Cash		\$14,803.34
Encumbered Funds		1,111.16
Clear Funds		13,692.18

This report is submitted for publication three times per year as required in the Chapter By-Laws and by acts of the Boards. Any questions, including requests for more details, may be submitted to the Treasure, Loretta Richards, at carichards@nowonline.net

Great Backyard Bird Count

By George Wall

On February 17-20, 2006, the 9th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count will be held in North America. This is an event that everyone of all ages and skill levels can participate in. There's no fee or registration required. You can count anywhere—backyard, park and even a refuge.

What do you need to do? First off, check out the website at www.birdsource.org/gbbc as this will give you all the particulars. Once you count the birds, you just need to report them on the website.

Tens of thousands of people will be outside or looking through their windows counting birds during the designated days. You can count every day or just one day for 15 minutes or more.

You can even review the results and see the lists and maps online that will be continually updated throughout the count. Join in and enjoy!

What is Digiscoping?

By Dick Fogle

How often have you used your camera to take pictures of birds? I think many of us birders who like pictures have tried it, but most of the time with little success. The reason, of course, is that the bird is usually too far away for a good picture. In the past, to take good pictures, you needed a sophisticated camera and high powered lens costing a lot of money. Since most everyone is buying digital cameras, Digiscoping is the answer.

Digiscoping is the art of shooting photos via your digital camera through a spotting scope either yours or someone else's in your group. It is not the ideal way, but one that gives you great results. It basically involves attaching an adapter if it's your scope (best method) or holding a digital camera to the eyepiece of someone else's scope. The telescope magnifies the subject image usually in the range of 20-60x for the camera. The result, a nice large picture—but it takes practice. If you're interested give a call to Dick Fogle at 623-584-3922.

PRONOUNCED BÛRD

By Kurt Radamaker & Michael A. Patten

This is a continuation of last month's article of pronouncing some of the names of birds using the "moo-goo-gai-pan" method where the phonetic pronunciation of a syllable is spelled out and where syllables are separated by dashes. The syllable on which the stress falls is capitalized (e.g., PLO-ver).

BECARD

BECK-erd or buh-KARD (e.g. Rose-throated Becard) "Becard" is the French derivative meaning "large bill"

BENDIRE'S

BEN-die-ers (e.g., Bendire's Thrasher). Charles Emil Bendire (1836-97) collected birds in the American West while serving as an officer in the U.S. Army. Dr. Elliot Coues named this species in Bendire's Honor.

BERYLLINE

BEAR-uh-lin, BEAR-uh-line, or BEAR-uh-leen (e.g., Berylline Hummingbird) "Berylline" is an adjective derived from the precious Stone beryl, usually green, but also blue, rose, white or golden and both opaque and translucent.

BEWICK'S

BUICKS (like the car) (e.g., Bewick's Wren). Thomas Buick (1754-1828) was an English author and wood engraver who wrote and illustrated a History of British birds. John James Audubon, a friend of his, named this wren after him.

Backyard Hummer

By Nancy Britt

We, Michael and Nancy Britt, live in Anthem and have a very nice backyard with several trees and bushes. I (Nancy) love birds and I'm always watching them. Over the week of Christmas and up until New Year's, I observed a male and female Costa's Hummingbird. The male was usually in our Golden Wattle Tree (*Acacia Saligna*) and periodically came swooping out over the yard. The female would come just about every morning at 10:30 a.m to sit and sing in our Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia*).

On January 6, I kept seeing the female coming to the Feather Tree (*Lysiloma*) in our front yard right by our gate. On January 7, I finally went out to investigate and there she was with this beautiful nest that she was putting the finishing touches on. One time when she

left the nest, the two of us observed 2 tiny eggs in it. We weren't spending a lot of time in the front yard, so we hadn't witnessed any earlier nesting activity.



The female continued to work on the nest while she was incubating, adding more down as the days went by. The male was still being seen once in awhile in the back yard but never in the front yard. Then one day in mid January, there was a male swooping in big arcs in front of the house. It was moving so fast though, that I couldn't even tell what species of male hummer it was. Was this the mate? Possibly!

The eggs hatched on Sunday, January 22, probably in the very early morning. I found three halves of egg shells fairly close to the nest around 10am.



We continued to photograph daily as the babies were getting larger and more feathered, and all seems well!

The top photo of her was taken prior to hatching. The lower photo of the babies was taken on day 2.

Editor's Note: Nancy Britt, after reading the SAS Newsletter on-line, contacted Tom Lazzelle who in turn contacted me and the story developed from there.

If you want to know some fascinating facts about hummingbirds, read the article I wrote back in the April 2005 SAS Newsletter entitled "Did You Know".

Fall/Winter 2005-6 Field Trips

Saturday, February 11, 2006

Gilbert Water Ranch

Leaders: Chuck & Loretta Richards (623) 594-6554
carichards@nowonline.net

The Gilbert Water Ranch is one of the Valley's better winter birding places. The ponds attract large numbers of ducks and shore birds. There are many common permanent valley birds, plus lots of other winter migrants.

The trails are well maintained, graveled and level. 50 birds were seen or heard on last year's trip to this site.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Meet at Lowe's parking lot on Thunderbird just west of 83rd Ave. by the Burger King. There is lots of parking available. We plan to leave at 7:00 A.M.

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Robbins Butte

Leaders: Bob McCormick 602-237-3951 and park ranger Phil Smith
mcbobaz@aol.com

Robbins Butte is a Wildlife Area administered by the AZ Game & Fish Dept. This area hasn't been visited by our group of birders in a long time; so it's an unknown area as to what we'll find. Occasionally there are Sandhill Cranes and a White-tailed Kite is possible. Expect to see lots of hawks.

Difficulty: 1

Carpool will leave from Denny's 1 block N. of I-10 on Litchfield Park Rd at 7 a.m. or meet us at the pond just east of Robbins Butte at 7:30 a.m.. The pond is 100 feet east of the locked gate (very easy to find).

***Thursday, February 23, 2006**

Tres Rios Wetlands

Leader: Eleanor Campbell (623) 977-7639
ercamp@juno.com

This constructed wetland complex on the Salt River at the 91st Ave. Waste Water Treatment Plant in Phoenix ranks among the best places to find birds in the area. Black-crowned Night Herons, Green Herons and Great Blue Herons are often seen in numbers. At this time of year Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Common Goldeneye have been present. The Osprey is always sighted and there should be a variety of shorebirds including Greater Yellowlegs, Black-necked Stilt, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Expect to see egrets and passerines also.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to leave at 7:00 a.m. or call the leader to arrange a meeting place further east.

Saturday, March 4, 2006

Granite Reef/Coon's Bluff

Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922
rpfogle@yahoo.com

The last March trip to this area produced 52 species. These areas are located on the Salt River in the Tonto National Forest and provide good habitats for ducks, herons, hawks and Bald Eagles. The mesquite riparian area is home to woodpeckers, juncos and the Vermilion Flycatcher.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. Leave at 7:00 AM. Call leader for directions for meeting farther east and for details.

Saturday-Sunday, March 11-12, 2006
Tres Rios Nature Festival

***Tuesday, March 21, 2006**

Hassayampa River Preserve

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

This is one of our favorite spots to bird at this time of year—the start of the migration. Last year at this same time, we saw over 30 species including Lucy's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and the prize of the day a Lawrence's Goldfinch.

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.

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at around 7:00 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.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

New River Preserve

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

This is a new area to bird and hopefully, it will provide us
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Fall/Winter 2005-6 Field Trips

With several nice migrants at this time of year. There are a few palm, walnut, cottonwood as well as the usual mesquite trees. Last year at this time when I first checked it out, we saw several Bullock's Orioles and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and I only spent a half hour there. Who knows what we'll find on this trip.

Difficulty: 1 - Morning only with about a 1mile walk

Note: This is a rough road and does require a high clearance vehicle for car-pooling.

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot (near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City) to leave at 7:00AM. Call for alternate meeting place.

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Box Bar-Tonto National Forest

Leaders: Chuck and Loretta Richards

623-594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

Box Bar is an area along the floodplain of the Verde River just northeast of Rio Verde. There are cottonwoods, willows and tamarisk along the banks of the river. We should see spring migration warblers, tanagers and sparrows as well as some water birds. We will be walking up and back on level ground about a total of one mile over sand and some river rock. Wear sturdy shoes. Last fall, we spotted a Black-throated Blue Warbler. This area is in the Tonto National Forest and has a \$4 fee per vehicle.

Morning only.

Meet at Denny's just W of I-17 at Bell (SW corner) to leave at 6:00 a.m. There is a large parking lot to drop off excess cars. We'll carpool from there. Those who want to meet at Box Bar can call the leader for directions.

NOTE: There was a trip scheduled for the Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival on 27-30 April, but due to lack of interest, this was cancelled on our part. Another trip to another area will be forthcoming.

Saturday, May 6, 2006

Yarnell City Park

Leader: Donna Smith (23-556-9535)

rms15247@cox.net

Yarnell is a charming town in the Weaver Mountains that welcomes birders. It is northeast of Wickenburg on State Route 89. This is high desert valley at 4,780

feet. The park has restrooms and picnic tables with well cared for trails. There is a nice restaurant in town where some of us will have lunch. The rest can have a picnic lunch in the park.

Birds that have been seen are nesting juniper titmouse, acorn woodpecker, all three towhees, warblers, vireos, and orioles.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at Wickenburg Community Center at 7AM. As you travel northwest on Highway 60 entering Wickenburg, you will cross the bridge over the Hassayampa River. Turn right immediately after the bridge, The road goes around a bend and you will see a large white building and parking lot on the right. It's a short but scenic drive up the mountain to Yarnell.

Saturday, May 13, 2006

Sycamore Creek and Canyon

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

The south end of Sycamore Canyon is located about 10 miles north of Clarkdale. The trail into the canyon drops down about 100 ft at first and is level from then on. There are lots of trees (Cottonwoods, Sycamores and Ash) and water in the creek and several springs. Usually there are lots of birds due to all the water year round. I've seen Kingbirds, Flycatchers, Warblers, Phoebes, Swallows, Woodpeckers, Jays, Titmice, Wrens, Bluebirds, Vireos, Robins, Sparrows, Waxwings and Gnatcatchers.

Difficulty: 2—Bring Lunch

Meet at Fry's Electronics parking lot at the SE corner of 31st Ave and Thunderbird. We will leave at 7:00 a.m.

Friday-Monday, May 26-29, 2006

Sierra Vista

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Sierra Vista will be the starting point for excursions to various birding sites. There are many canyons to explore: Garden, Miller, Ramsey and more. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area along the San Pedro River is close by. On Saturday, we'll be led by professional birder Stuart Heally who lives in the area. At this same time frame in 2004, 95 species were seen including the Elegant Trogon and an Elf Owl. Who knows what will be in store for us in one of the best birding areas in S.E. Arizona.

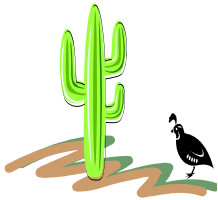
Please call the leader to get on the list for this trip as the limit for is 16 people. She will then provide you with more information as the time approaches.

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.**

February 8, 2006	Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin: "Butterflies of Arizona"
March 8, 2006	Bob Brister: "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness"
April 12, 2006	Scotty Johnson: "From Leopold to Carson: Saving the Endangered Species Act"
May 10, 2006	Andy Holycross: "Herps of Arizona"

Other Dates of Interest: February 1, 2006 at 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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Glendale, AZ 85312-8068