



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 8 Issue 6

February, 2007

## At our next meeting....

**Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 7 p.m.**

**Sean Saville, National Outreach Coordinator in the Audubon D C. Policy Office will be our guest speaker.**

Sean will present Audubon's federal policy priorities with an emphasis on the exciting new opportunities for conservation in the new Congress. With the shift in power in Congress and many important committee chairs shifting to pro-environment members of Congress, there will be a new pro-conservation agenda with the leadership. This will give more opportunities for Audubon to affect positive change at the local, state and federal levels. He will talk about the collaborative efforts between the state and national levels of Audubon and some new opportunities for working together to protect birds and their habitat.



National Audubon Society Emblem



Capitol Building

This is your chance to find out what is going on behind the scenes at the higher levels and what you and I can do to assist Audubon in achieving its goals in this new environment.

## What's Happening in our Chapter?

### By Your Editor

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on January 3, 2007. Here are some of the items discussed by board members Bob McCormick, Karen LaFrance, Chuck and Loretta Richards, Dick Fogle, Andrée Tarby and Daniela Yellan.

1. The first order of business were the committee reports; however, there was nothing new to report other than the monthly financial statement.

2. Here are a few of the other items discussed at the board meeting:

A. IBA Monitoring—The monitoring for the new year is beginning. Those conducting counts should take a picture of the same area each time they do the monitoring. They also should take GPS coordinates if possible. Some of the areas still needing counters are Baseline & Meridian hilltop, Baseline & Meridian trail and Sycamore East.

B. Finalization of the retreat that will be held on January 20th at Horseshoe was discussed at length. (See the Retreat article in this newsletter).

C. The leftover calendars: Copies will be sent to the Governor, Senators, Mayors, etc.

D. General Membership Meeting hosts for the next four months are: Dick Fogle for February, Chuck Richards for March, Bob McCormick for April and George Wall for May.

At the General Membership Meeting in January, Catherine "The Herb Lady" gave a great program as the 42 people who attended can attest to. This was a good turn out when compared to some of the previous months. Let's keep it up.

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## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### **Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project**

They have 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](http://www.phoenix.gov/riosalado).

Thomas Gaskill leads bird walks on Saturday, February 3 (program # 21493) and Saturday, February 17 (program # 21494). Frank Insana leads bird walks on Sunday, February 11 (program # 21497) and Sunday, February 18 (program # 21498). All walks start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 10 a. m. Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Ave. You need to make reservations in advance by visiting <http://phoenix.gov/PARKS> and click on "classes and programs". Enter the program number listed above. You can also call 602-262-6863 and leave a voice mail.

### **Desert Botanical Garden**

Each Monday morning from now through April, 2007, 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.dbg.com](http://www.dbg.com) for further information.

### **Hassayampa River Preserve**

Here are some of the events scheduled at this lush birding habitat.

On Saturday, February 3, 2007, from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., Kathe Anderson will be teaching a basic birding class.

Hassayampa is having two more sessions of bird banding led by Anne Leight Watzek on Sunday, February 4 and Saturday, February 17 starting at 7:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, February 21, 9-10:30 a.m. there will be a program on Hummingbirds. Discover the secrets of the smallest, most dynamic bird species with Troy Corman, editor of Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas and program manager at the Non-game Branch of the Arizona Game & Fish Department.

On Saturday, February 24, 2007, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. there will be a class on Digital Photography 102 taught by award winning local photographers Dale and Debbie Keiser.

If your not into photography, there is an interpretive nature walk also on Saturday, February 24, 2007, from 8:30-10 a.m.

Reservations and fees may be required for some of the above events.

Entrance fees are \$5, TNC members \$3 and children 12 and under are free. For information or reservations call 928 684-2772 or e-mail: [bmccollum@tnc.org](mailto:bmccollum@tnc.org)

Normal visiting hours are Wednesday—Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

### **Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their Winter schedule. 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.

Bird walks for February start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2007, with Pete Moulton and Cynthia Donald; Sunday, February 11, 2007, with Cindy Marple and Troy Corman; Saturday, February 17, 2007, with Tice Supplee and Sunday, February 25, 2007, with Kathe Anderson.

This is an ideal place to bird with two miles of trails. If you don't feel like birding, there are plenty of other things to do. They have several programs on birding and digital photography. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>

### **Birders' Anonymous**

Birders' Anonymous, a group of birdwatchers, has their monthly meeting from 10—11:30 a.m. 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. Their next meeting will be on February 16, 2007, and Mike Rabe, a Migratory Game Supervisor will present a PowerPoint program on Migratory Game Birds of Arizona.

For further information contact George Wall at [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

### **Friends of Audubon Arizona**

Sometime in the near future, there will be a new chapter of the National Audubon Society and probably be named the Desert Rivers Audubon Society. Check out their website at [www.desertriversau\\_dubon.org](http://www.desertriversau_dubon.org) for some of their planned trips and events.

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## 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](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)

Arizona Audubon Web Site: [www.az.audubon.org](http://www.az.audubon.org)

Friends of Audubon Arizona Web Site:

[www.desertriversaudubon.org](http://www.desertriversaudubon.org)



and

## KARL'S BAKERY



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## **What's Happening in our Chapter?**

The "Retreat" was held on January 20, 2007. It was supposed to be held at Horseshoe Ranch; however, the weather prevented this from happening since the dirt road to the ranch was almost impassable. Instead, a last minute meeting place was provided at Sportsmen's Warehouse in Phoenix.

The facilitator was Renee Wilcox of Arizona Game & Fish. The attendees were Eleanor Campbell, Suzanne Cash, Dick Fogle, Frank Insana, Chuck Kangas, Karen LaFrance, Tom Lazzelle, Bob McCormick, Chuck & Loretta Richards, Rich Schooler, Tice Suplee, Andreé Tarby, George Wall and Daniela Yellan. Mike Harrison who is a member of the Portland Audubon Society attended as a guest of Tom Lazzelle.

Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of their association with the Sonoran Audubon Society.

A "celebration" was held for all the things that were accomplished in 2006. These included, but were not limited to, 38 IBA surveys completed, the success of the annual picnic, Burrowing Owl Project, a SAS phone number, number and quality of field trips, Members Survey and many letters or money to support such things as Proposition 106. It was a great year.

The facilitator then opened the floor to main topics of discussion. Some of these were Outreach, Education, Membership and Publicity. The group then divided into four teams to discuss and further introduce ideas on these and other topics. Once this was completed, a spokesperson for each of the groups presented their ideas and thoughts.

The last portion of the "Retreat" was dedicated to how to conduct IBA surveys, some of the areas involved and further planning for continuing this effort which is one of the main goals and commitment of the Sonoran Audubon Society.

The "Retreat" adjourned with a idea to continuing discussions, propose realistic targets and goals and the implementation of these at future board meetings.

There were other members of the Sonoran Audubon Society who wanted to attend, but due to other commitments couldn't make it. Hopefully, when they are called upon to help out in the implementation of some of these ideas, goals, projects, etc., they will step forward and assist.

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## **EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY**

### **Maricopa Audubon Society**

Alvin and Arlene Scheuer of the Sonoran Audubon Society are showing their program on "Nesting Roadrunners" at the Maricopa Audubon meeting on February 6, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Desert Botanical Gardens. You can check out Maricopa Audubon Society scheduled trips and events at their website [www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)

### **Phoenix Zoo**

There's a Nature event at the zoo Thursday, February 15, 2007, from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Join them for an evening that focuses on the important role that nature plays in our lives, especially for our children. Journalist Richard Louv discusses what he calls "nature-deficit" disorder and the need to reconnect our children with the outdoors.

This special nature-based evening is for the whole family. Start off your evening with a relaxing stroll along the Tropics Trail. Then children can join the education staff for an evening of nature-based activities while adults enjoy a lecture from Richard Louv.

For more information or to purchase tickets please call the reservations department at 602.914.4333. Seating is limited and this is an outside event, please dress appropriately.

Audubon Arizona hopes to be an evening sponsor with an exhibit table all day and highlighted in the program. If you go, don't hesitate to say hello to them and tell them you're from the Sonoran Audubon Society.

## **I Need Articles for the Newsletter**

Have you seen some unusual bird in your backyard or on a trip?

Have you gone on a birding vacation trip?

Do you have a story about nature or birding that others might enjoy?

This is your newsletter and we can make it a lot better if some of you would submit some articles and pictures. Just send them to [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

## Striking New Bird Discovered

By Lauren Dake, AP (October 9, 2006)

BOGOTA, Colombia - A colorful new bird has been discovered in a previously unexplored Andean cloud forest, spurring efforts to protect the area, conservation groups said Monday.

The bright yellow and red-crowned Yarigues Brush-finch was named for the indigenous tribe that once inhabited the mountainous area where it was discovered. Supposedly, the tribe committed mass suicide to avoid slavery by the Spanish conquistadors.

For conservationists the discovery of the species came at a crucial time - the government has decided to set aside 500 acres of the pristine cloud forest where the bird lives to create a national park.

"The bird was discovered in what is the last remnants of cloud forest in that region," Camila Gomez, of the Colombia conservation group ProAves, said on Monday. "There are still lots of undiscovered flora and fauna species that live in the area."



**Yarigues Brush-finch**

The small bird can be distinguished from its closest relative - the yellow-breasted brush finch - by its solid black back and the lack of white marks on its wings.

"There are about two to three new birds found in the world every year," Thomas Donegan, the British half of an Anglo-Colombian research duo who discovered the bird in January 2004, told The Associated Press on Monday. "It's a very rare event."

To access the bird's isolated habitat, Donegan and partner Blanca Huertas regularly hiked 12 hours into the nearly impenetrable jungle, depending on helicopters to drop off supplies at mountain peaks

10,000 feet above sea level.

"We first went to Yarigues about three years ago," Donegan said. "It's a huge patch of isolated forest that no one knew about, not even in Colombia."

The new finch, the size of a fist, is native to Colombia's eastern Andean range and considered by its discoverers to be near threatened and in need of close monitoring to prevent it from becoming endangered.

One of the two birds caught by the team was released unharmed after they took pictures and DNA samples, while the other died in captivity.

Donegan said this was one of the first time researchers were able to confirm a new bird without having to kill it.

The last new bird discovery in Colombia was a Tapaculos species found in the south last year.

With as many as 1,865 different species, Colombia has long been considered a bird watchers' paradise, albeit a risky one because of the country's four-decade-old civil war.

## Can I Stump You?



**What bird is this?**

January's Answer: Purple-headed Glossy Starling.

Only one person e-mailed me with the correct answer and that was Vera Markham. Come on, I know that there are some birders out there who like to do a little research.

## Tasmanian Birding

By Roger McNeill

I recently received a four page Tasmanian trip report from Roger McNeill whose mother Jane McNeill belongs to the Sonoran Audubon Society as well as Birders' Anonymous. I know both of them quite well. I took the liberty of shortening his trip report. – George Wall

On January 1, 2007, my wife Megan, Mom (Jane McNeill) and I headed down to Tasmania, the land of Errol Flynn, for birding and exploration. Tasmania holds 12 endemics and a number of endemic subspecies besides the other Australian birds.



Jane McNeill in Australia

Selecting the birding area was easy, Bruny Island. It holds all the endemic species in a Cape Cod like atmosphere. There are wonderful vistas, drives, cafés, and of course wildlife. We managed to find all the endemics in less than two days of easy birding and ticked off all the other hoped for regional specialties. In addition to the endemics; Tasmanian Native-Hen, Green Rosella, Forty-spotted Pardalote, Tasmanian Scrubwren, Scrubtit, Tasmanian Thornbill, Yellow Wattlebird, Yellow-throated Honeyeater, Strong-billed Honeyeater, Black-headed Honeyeater, Dusky Robin and Black Currawong, we had fantastic looks at other regional specialties like the Pink Robin, Swift Parrot, Blue-winged Parrot, Olive Whistler and Hooded Plover.

Some of the other birds seen were Musk Lorikeet, Forest Raven, Spur-winged Plover, Galah, Australian Magpie, Pacific Black Duck, Brush Wattlebird, New Holland Honeyeater, Pacific Gull, Australian Oystercatcher, Superb Fairy-wren, Brush Bronzewing, Silveryeye, Grey Fantail, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Grey Butcherbird, Dusky Woodswallow, Flame Robin, Scarlet Robin, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Richards' Pipit, Little Blue

Penguin, Short-tailed Shearwater, Bassian Thrush, Crescent-chested Honeyeater, and a Pallid Cuckoo.

Wouldn't you know, we even saw an assortment of introduced species like the blackbird, goldfinch and greenfinch.

We also saw some other wildlife like the Tasmanian Pademelon (a miniature Wallaby), Bennett's Wallaby, Echidna, Brush-tailed Possum, Eastern Quoll and Long-nosed Potoroos. I also had a close encounter with a Tiger Snake, one of the more poisonous snakes of Australia.

All in all, it was a great trip as we saw over 50 species.

## Horseshoe Crab Harvest Banned

By Molly Murray, The News Journal

Posted Tuesday, November 21, 2006

In Delaware, State environmental Secretary John Hughes late Monday imposed a two-year ban on the harvest of all horseshoe crabs. It takes effect Dec. 11.

Hughes said he had little choice but to impose the ban. One concern, he said, is to protect the crabs. Another is to **protect the Red Knot**, a migratory shorebird with a declining population that depends on the crab eggs during spring migration through Delaware Bay.

"The red knot is at risk," Hughes said. "And the only thing in the world we can do is make certain that every egg from every female horseshoe crab that spawns on our beaches is fertilized."

Many conservationists believe that a decline in horseshoe crab populations and egg density on the beaches has had a direct impact on the decline of the red knot, a robin-sized shorebird that migrates from the southern tip of South America each spring to reach Arctic breeding grounds.

Flocks of migrating shorebirds hunt for the eggs of spawning horseshoe crabs in Mispillion Harbor at Slaughter Beach. A ban on the crab will help the birds.

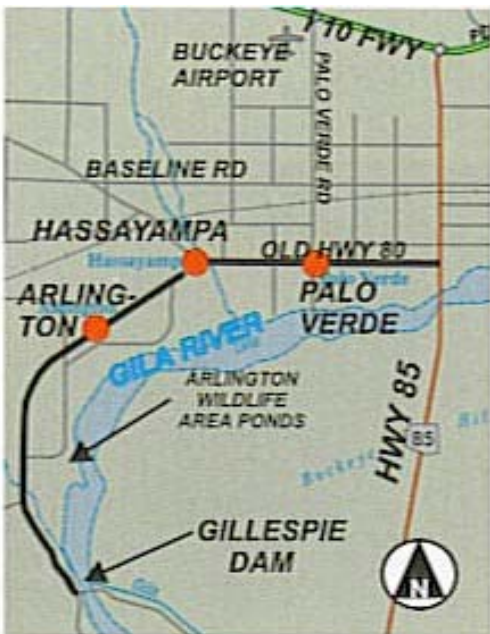
## BIRDING SPOTS

By George Wall

This is the fifth in a series about birding spots in and around our area. For those of you who go birding, you've probably been there; however, there may be a few that haven't or you may be a new birder. This month's spot is:

**Arlington Valley:** Arlington Valley is west of Phoenix and south of Arlington. With its fields, ponds, canals, an old dam, and a desert butte, the area provides a variety of habitats to search for birds. This area includes the Arlington Ponds that are considered a State Wildlife Area under the Arizona Game & Fish Department (they are dry at times and the road is not paved), fields on Old US 80, the Robbins Butte area, Powers Butte at Salome & Baseline Rd. and the old Gillespie Dam that is part of Maricopa County. Don't go into the areas marked **Private Property**. The ponds on Lower River Rd. are not accessible due to Private Property; however, you can use a scope from a distance to view the ponds. Recently (Jan. '07) a Trumpeter Swan was seen in this area.

- 49 - November 8, 2003 - Sandhill Crane
- 52 - February 19, 2004 - American White Pelican
- 61 - September 18, 2004 - Pectoral Sandpiper
- 70 - February 4, 2005 - White-tailed Kite
- 60 - January 14, 2006 - Long-billed Curlew
- 49—January 18, 2007—Sage Sparrow



The above map was taken from Mike Rupp's excellent book entitled "Birds-Eye Guide to 101 Birding Sites in Phoenix" which is a must have book for local birders.

As you can see by the map, the Arlington Valley area is easily accessible via I10.



Photos by Dick Fogle

## Great Backyard Bird Count

During February 16-19, 2007, people of all ages, from beginners to experts, are invited to join this event that spans all of the United States and Canada. Participants can take part wherever they are - at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges. Observers simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, and enter their tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

Participants who want to hone their bird watching skills can learn more from the Great Backyard Bird Count web site, which offers identification tips and access to photos, sounds, maps, and natural history information on more than 500 bird species. People can also submit photos to an online gallery showcasing the dazzling array of winter birds found during the GBBC. Competitions add another element of fun, including a photo contest, rankings for most numerous birds, and the coveted "checklist champ" title for towns, states, and provinces with the highest participation.

## Winter 2007 Field Trips

An \* indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

**\*Friday, February 2, 2007**

**Tres Rios**

**Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057**

[gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

The Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands Project located on the 91st Ave. is a haven for many bird species. The habitats include open water ponds, running stream, marsh, desert and woodland which provide a good environment at any time of year for ducks, shorebirds, and migrating passerines.

Difficulty: 1- Morning only.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to leave at 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday, February 17, 2007**

**Sod Farms & Pecan Grove**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074**

[atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net)

This trip will explore the agricultural fields and sod farm west of I-10 and south of Casa Grande. We will be looking for Mountain Plover as well as wintering raptors. This area has regularly produced falcons and good looks at hawks.

Difficulty 1: Bring a lunch and water.

We will carpool from both the east and west sides of town and meet at 7:30 at the first Rest Area on I-10 south of Phoenix. Please contact the leader to find out who else is going from your area.

**Saturday, February 24, 2007**

**Gilbert Water Ranch**

**Leaders: Chuck & Loretta Richards 623- 594-6554**

[carichards@nowonline.net](mailto: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. There have been a number of sightings of the female Streaked-back Oriole again this year. You can check this out [www.birdingonthenet](http://www.birdingonthenet) and see what else has been spotted.

The trails are well maintained, graveled and level. There are picnic benches for those who wish to bring a lunch. 50 plus birds are usually seen or heard on trips to this site.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Meet at Lowe's parking lot on Thunderbird just west of 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave. by the Burger King. There is lots of parking available. We plan to leave at 6:30 a.m.

**Saturday, March 3, 2007**

**Robbins Butte**

**Leader: Bob McCormick 602-237-3951**

[mcboaz@aol.com](mailto:mcboaz@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. Phil Smith, the Ranger at Robbins Butte will be assisting on this trip.

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, March 8, 2007**

**Granite Reef/Coon's Bluff**

**Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057**

[gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

These sites on the Salt River in Tonto National Forest always provide good habitat for ducks, herons, hawks and Bald Eagles.

The mesquite forest is home to wrens, woodpeckers, phoebes, juncos, and sparrows as well as flycatchers--even in Winter.

Difficulty: 1 Bring lunch.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center Parking Lot on Hutton Drive near corner of Boswell in Sun City to LEAVE at 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 17-18, 2007**

**Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival**

This two-day outdoor event will focus on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. It will be held on the River at Baseline Meridian Wildlife Area, just north of Phoenix International Raceway.

The times for this event are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free. For more information, see [www.tresriosnaturefestival.com](http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com).

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## Winter/Spring 2007 Field Trips

An \* indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

**Thursday, March 29, 2007**

**The Narrows of Oak Creek Canyon**

**Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244**

[dansbolhmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbolhmann@prodigy.net)

This is a little known section of Oak Creek that has a trail called the Huckaby that leaves a parking lot 1.8 miles up Schnebly Hill Road. It heads north along the east side of the creek. This section starts out in Pine and Juniper country above Oak Creek Canyon and then drops down next to the creek where it is heavily shaded in Sycamore, Cottonwood and Ash trees and has lots of flowing water and ponds that naturally attracts lots of birds. In this area I've seen Blue Grosbeaks, Summer & Western Tanagers, Warblers, Vireos, Bullocks Orioles, Western Bluebirds, Swallows, Lesser Goldfinches, Townsend's Solitaires, Plain & Bridled Titmouse, Flycatchers, Black & Say's Phoebe, Hairy Woodpecker, and Scrub Jays.

Difficulty: 2

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

**Tuesday, April 3, 2007**

**Lower Oak Creek Important Bird Area**

**Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639**

[ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

Officially designated, Lower Oak Creek Important Bird Area includes Page Springs Fish Hatchery and a birding trail that traverses through marshland to Oak Creek southwest of Sedona.

This riparian corridor (cottonwood/willow/sycamore and mesquite/hackberry bosque) supports a broad diversity of bird species. Exploration of woods, ponds and grassland at this time of year should be ornithologically rewarding.

Lucy's Warbler and Bell's Vireo breed here. Migrants such as Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Virginia's Warbler pass through. Cavity nesting species seen here in abundance are: American Kestrel, Bridled Titmouse, Brown-crested Flycatcher and Violet-green Swallow. Notable rare species also occur such as Common Black-Hawk and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Difficulty: 1 All Day Trip. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks.

Meet to LEAVE at 5:30 a.m. at Bell Recreation Center, corner of Hutton Dr. and Boswell Blvd., in Sun City OR at 6:00 a.m. at McDonald's just east of Rte. 17 on the north side of Carefree Highway (Exit 223).

Please call the leader to register and confirm meeting place.

**\*Wednesday, April 11, 2007**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922**

[rpfogle@yahoo.com](mailto:rpfogle@yahoo.com)

Over 230 species have been recorded nesting or migrating along this riparian area where cottonwoods and willows surround running water and a pond. Trails traverse mesquite thickets and cottonwood stands. There are river overlooks where a variety of species are seen at The Nature Conservancy's preserve near Wickenburg. Anna's Hummingbirds are regulars.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only (A picnic area is available for lunching after the trip.)

Meet at the south east corner of the Bell Recreation Center Parking lot near corner of Boswell on Hutton to leave at 7:00 a.m..

Also, you can meet at the Hassayampa River Preserve on Route 60 about 3 miles southeast of Wickenburg, about 45 miles west of Glendale at 8:00 a.m. Donation to The Nature Conservancy is \$5 per person unless you're a Conservancy member and then it is \$3.00.

**Saturday, April 21, 2007**

**Jackie Meek Lake**

**Leader: Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677**

[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

Explore this rich habitat 'lake' at the confluence of the Agua Fria and Gila Rivers, near Estrella Mountain Park. This is part of the Buckeye Water District Conservation Area. This is an opportunity to hopefully see many species of waterfowl, as well as possible migrants along the canal. There is a Great Blue Heron rookery and a Great Horned Owl was spotted on the field trip there in the fall.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 7:00 a.m.

The March Newsletter will list more field trips scheduled for April and May.

## 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**

February 14, 2007

Sean Saville—National Outreach Coordinator

March 14, 2007

Rich Ockenfels—Pronghorn Antelopes

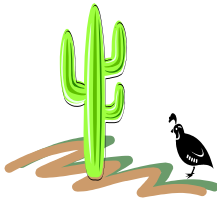
April 11, 2007

Bill Grossi—Birding in Peru

May 9, 2007

Andy Holycross—More Snakes

**Other Dates of Interest** February 7, 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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**Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**

**Ph: 623-939-6181**