



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 6 Issue 5

January 2005

Sonoran Audubon Society's Conservation Report

Shortly after Sonoran Audubon Society (SAS) organized in 2000, a group of conservation-minded members started looking about for community projects to utilize their collective expertise and interests. The Chapter has completed two conservation projects, and is in the final stages of a third.

The first project was construction of a Butterfly/Pollinator Garden at the Desert Center at Lake Pleasant. We conducted a fund drive, did plant research, got two nurseries to contribute plants, and enlisted a Boy Scout Troop and volunteers from our chapter - to get it all done. One SAS member has taken on the task of maintenance.

The second project was creation of a Bird Check List for Arcosanti near Cordes Junction. Arcosanti is the visionary city of architect Paolo Soleri. The bird-list project grew out of SAS involvement in The Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership, which is an organization of members of the local community, plus various state and federal agencies, all involved in that area.

SAS members did several bird counts on the preserve portion of Arcosanti to form a base list. Then the Arizona Game and Fish Department was consulted about other likely birds for the area. The two were combined to create the "Arcosanti Birding List - 2002"

The most ambitious of the projects has been a two year, four season survey of the birds of the Agua Fria National Monument. SAS approached BLM, which manages the monument, to offer some volunteer help. They needed a bird survey, and we figured we could do that.

This has been a good project. The list of counters and others involved has expanded to more than 72, and includes members of Sonoran, Maricopa and Prescott Audubon Societies. We have identified more than 190 bird species, and are dreaming of 200.

(Continued on Page 2)

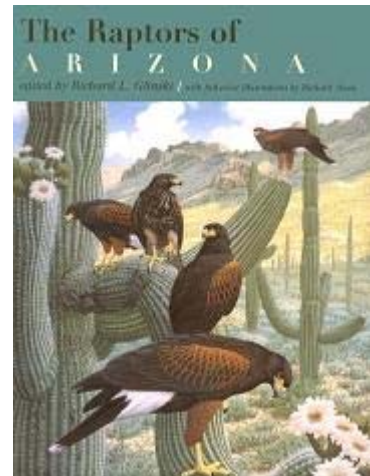
At our next meeting.... January 12, 2005

Rich Glinski, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation "Raptor Diversity of Arizona"

Arizona has the richest raptor diversity in the United States. An assortment of habitats and other special factors combine to enable forty-three species of raptors to call Arizona 'home' during at least part of their lives. The speaker this month, Rich Glinski, will present a sampling of these habitats and species.

How well do you know your raptors? Can you identify them in the field? In flight? An identification quiz will be part of the presentation.

Rich Glinski retired from the Arizona Game and Fish Department after twenty years of working with endangered species and habitats throughout Arizona. He is currently employed by Maricopa County Parks as Park Supervisor at the Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. He has authored two books on raptors, "The Raptors of Arizona" and "Birds of Prey in the American West."



(Continued from Page 1)

Conservation Report

The checklist is currently available in draft form and publication with logos and neat things are pending.

In early 2004 based on our checklist data, the Riparian Corridor portion of the monument – the Agua Fria River and its tributaries including Ash, Sycamore, Indian and Silver Creeks – was identified as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** by the Arizona Scientific Community. In June we began the seasonal on-going monitoring of the bird population (used as a measure of the health of the habitat). We are currently studying Arcosanti's lands and the grassland and juniper portions of the monument as potential additions to the IBA.

SAS responded strongly to the BLM Management Plan Alternatives document for the Agua Fria NM in 2004, opting for the minimum exploitation alternative of the plans. At the request of Audubon Arizona we are developing an IBA-based monitoring plan for the 4.5 mile long Phoenix Rio Salado Restoration project between 24th St and 19th Avenue. We hope to get this work off the ground during the Winter or Spring IBA count. SAS now has a conservation committee and we plan on keeping the chapter aware of our various new projects and hope to get more of our membership involved.

IBA NOTES

This is the first of what I hope to be a regular feature of Gambel's Tales as we try to keep the membership aware of what is going on at our Important Bird Areas and to alert you to volunteer opportunities.

Agua Fria National Monument IBA

The riparian corridor of this monument has been identified as an IBA. We will be conducting the winter monitoring counts on our three transects between January 7 and February 7, 2005. We are trying to expand coverage to gather data for possible inclusion of three areas – Arcosanti, the mesa grasslands and juniper forests – in the IBA. We will add these in January if there is sufficient interest.

Phoenix Rio Salado Restoration Project

We are working with Audubon Arizona and the City of Phoenix to put a counting project on this area between 24th Street and 19th Avenue. This will include both IBA transects and count areas to gather data for a checklist for Rio Salado and to prepare for future IBA nomination. These counts will be held on the IBA schedule. We hope to hold the first of these counts in late January or early February probably on a Sunday due to on-going construction.

Counters are welcome and needed for both projects. Contact either Dwayne Fink at:

edna.fink@asu.edu

or Josh Burns at:

josh_a_burns@yahoo.com

OPEN HOUSE

The Sonoran Audubon Society is holding an open house at the Glendale Library on Tuesday, 4 January 2005 from 6:30-8:30pm. Come anytime during these hours.

To those of you who are interested in conservation, nature and the environment, this is an invitation and a good chance to find out what the Sonoran Audubon Society is all about. Come to this open house and talk some of the officers, board members and others interested in these things. There will be displays, literature, running videos and live raptors. What an opportunity!

If you're already a member, come on out and meet some of the officers and board members and find out what is happening. At the same time, bring someone with you and introduce them to the society. If you haven't been attending the meetings, this is also a good chance to reintroduce yourself and get involved.

For further information, contact George Wall at 623-875-7057 or Dick Fogle at 623-584-3922

Wildlife Photography Workshop Saturday, January 15, 2005 Instructor: Bruce Taubert

Have you ever been disappointed with your wildlife photographs? Was the bird you photographed too dark or washed out? It does not matter if you use a digital or film camera this class will assist you in taking better and more useable photographs.

Topics will include how to use the basics of your camera, lighting, exposure, fill flash, etc. Bring your camera. Meet at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2222 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ, in the Roadrunner Room. The class will start at 1:00 PM.

If you need directions or more information, please call Bruce at 602-789-3301 or email at:

btaubert@azgfd.gov

Highlights of 2004 Tres Rios CBC

The Tres Rios Christmas Bird Count was held on Thursday, December 16. According to Troy Corman, the total number of birds seen was approximately 146 species.

Some of the more interesting birds seen during the count include the following:

Common Loon, American White Pelican, Neotropic Cormorant (42), **American Bittern**, Least Bittern (4), White-faced Ibis (200), Wood Duck, Black Vulture, Osprey (4), White-tailed Kite, Eurasian Collared-Dove (18), **Short-eared Owl**, **Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Winter Wren**, **Cassin's Vireo**, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler (3), **Black-and-White Warbler**, **Swamp Sparrow**.

The high-lighted birds are particularly good birds for both Arizona and Maricopa County.

A number of our members have indicated that they are unaware of the numerous items that are available on our web page. Take a few minutes and explore the web page and see the vast amount of information found there. Those of you without a computer can go to any library to open up the page. Ask your librarian for help if you are unsure how to accomplish this. The address for our web page is found below.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org

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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Conservation



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, and Fry's Marketplace for your generosity.

Field Trip - Estrella Park & Area

December 10, 2004

By Jack & Cathy Thompson

A group of 13 people birded Estrella Park and nearby sites. The weather was very accommodating and we shared a very good day. Participants were: George Wall, Marshall Esty, Liz Morris, George Drew, Dick Fogle, Chuck and Loretta Richards, Carol Maroney, Carolyn Modeen, Tim Cullison, Barb Meding, Cathy and Jack Thompson (leaders).

No doubt the highlight of the day was seeing a pair of Crissal Thrashers tearing up the ground 30 yards away from us and out in the open. The markings were very easy to identify since they were in so plain of view.

The following 54 species were identified:

Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Common Goldeneye, Gadwall, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Common Moorhen, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Inca Dove, Gambel's Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Abert's Towhee, Gila Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Greater Roadrunner, Loggerhead Shrike, Great-tailed Grackle, Costa's Hummingbird, Rock Wren, Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Verdin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, White-crowned Sparrow, House Sparrow and European Starling.

Field Trip - McCormick Ranch Lake and Pavilion Ponds

November 30, 2004

By George Wall

It was a nice clear brisk morning when George Wall (leader), Bob Cirillo, Marshall Esty, Gerry Horton and Ian Jeffrey headed out for a joint Birders' Anonymous/Sonoran Audubon Society birding trip. We had to fight the morning traffic, but after an hour we arrived at the Pavilion Ponds where we met up with Randy Schilling. At the Pavilion Ponds, we saw our first 24 birds. We then went to a couple of stops on McCormick Ranch Lake where we saw 16 additional species. Then on the way home we made a quick stop at Thunderbird Park where we picked up an additional 5 species. All total 45 species were seen.

They were Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Ruddy Duck, Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Harris's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Gambel's Quail, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, American Pipit, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, American Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Abert's Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Great-tailed Grackle.

Field Trip - Arcosanti

November 29, 2004

By Dwayne Fink

It was supposed to be a pleasant bird-hike along that stretch of the Agua Fria River which winds around the Arcosanti castle on the cliffs up by Cordes Junction. This was to have been a visit to an old friend to those of us who had worked on the Arcosanti Bird List prepared by Sonoran Audubon birders a couple years ago, and a chance to show off a rich bird habitat to any newbies.

But on the day prior, a low sliced through Arizona on high winds, dropping the mercury to the bottom of the tube, with talk of snow in the high country. This leader contemplated scrapping the plans, and opting instead for something close-in and of short duration.

However, Monday morning (29 November) was clear and calm - just cold. Everyone showed up in their woolies and parkas, and were eager for an Arizona Arctic Adventure. So the seven of us loaded up and headed north - past our good friend the Agua Fria National Monument - to Arcosanti, where the river actually flows above ground continuously for a mile or two.

Birding was slow at the start, but picked up when the sun reached its warm fingers down into the canyon. We birded the river above Arcosanti, picking up birds like American Pipit, several Red-shafted Flickers, a Great Horned Owl (for the lucky few), Western Bluebirds - checking out the mistletoe, Rock Wrens and others. We then stopped at Arcosanti for a warm drink and a sweet, and some bird talk. After that, we went down to the fields and gardens to the south, below the major structures, where we picked up such birds as

(Continued on Page 7)

Winter and Spring 2004-2005 Field Trips

Sonoran Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on all outings!

Please organize your own carpool, consolidate vehicles at meeting places, and/or contact leaders for carpooling assistance. Field Trips are rated in difficulty levels one, the easiest, to five, the most difficult. It is recommended that passengers reimburse drivers at an agreed rate.

REMINDERS: Don't forget water, sunscreen, hats and insect repellent. Wear neutral colors.

Saturday, January 8, 2005

Badger Springs

Leader: Chuck Richards 623 594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

We will plan to cover the parking area down to the river and return. Then, we will follow a wash lined with cottonwood trees. Sparrows and Wrens will be seen along with an assortment of winter birds common to the region. In January '04 there were three Crissal Thrashers on the trail to the river. The following month, a Golden Crowned Sparrow was observed in the same area. If there has been rain, expect to find some water on either trail. The trail down to the river is gradual but some walking over rocks may be needed.

Meet at Denny's just W of I-17 at Bell(SW corner) to leave at 7:00 a.m. There is a large parking lot to drop off excess cars. We'll carpool from there. PLEASE CALL LEADER to register.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only, no facilities.

Friday, January 14, 2005

Gilbert Water Ranch

Leader: Dwayne Fink 480-967-9202

edna.fink@asu.edu

This is a trip to one of Dwayne Fink's favorite birding spots in the valley, the Gilbert Water Ranch, located at the SE corner Guadalupe Rd and Greenfield Rd (go east on Superstition Freeway (US 60), then south to Guadalupe Rd. Park south side of library Start time: 8:30 a.m. We'll bird until noon. West-siders may car pool from Birders' Anonymous Site # 2 (Parking lot of Sun Bowl at 107th Ave) at 7:30 a.m. Expect wintering ducks and migrating shore birds.

Friday-Sunday January 21-23, 2005

Sierra Vista, White Water Draw and Willcox with Arne Morehouse

Contact: Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677

chuckkan@mindspring.com

People who have done this trip before have found out that the hotels in Sierra Vista can fill up fast. We will try to stay at the Best Western on Fry Blvd in Sierra Vista. The rates are reasonable and include a good breakfast. Make

your reservations early.

We will leave the Phoenix area Friday morning and bird the Sierra Vista area. We will have a picnic lunch in Sierra Vista. Sunday morning we will drive to White Water Draw and meet Arne. Those of us who went on the sparrow workshop several years ago remember what a wonderful time we had with Arne showing all his favorite places to bird in the surrounding area. Who can forget the field full of Ferruginous Hawks.

We'll decide what area we want to bird on Sunday morning before heading back to Phoenix.

Difficulty: 1

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

White Tank Mountains Regional Park/Happy Trails Pond

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cs.com

White Tank Mountain Regional Park has a variety of easy, well kept trails where desert birds abound. Cactus and Rock Wrens, several varieties of sparrows, Curve-billed and Bendire's Thrashers and Canyon Towhees are residents. This trip will begin with a stop at the Happy Trails Pond at Cotton and Bell Rd on the way to the White Tanks. Hopefully there will be some ducks at this time of year as well as Vermilion Flycatchers. Last year an Eurasian Wigeon was present. Maybe we will be lucky and it will have returned. Then on to the White Tanks Regional Park, where we'll walk some of the easier trails.

There is a \$5.00 per car entrance fee.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City. Leave at 7:30 am

Difficulty: 1-2 (walking several easy trails) Morning only

Friday, February 4, 2005

Arlington Valley

Leaders: Dean and Joan Luehrs 623- 875-1016

luehrs1@mindspring.com

Arlington Valley, west of Phoenix and south of Arlington, with its fields, several ponds, canals, a dam, and a desert butte offer a variety of habitats to search for birds. At this time of year there should be flocks of blackbirds, ibis, and egrets feeding in the fields. On the last trip to the area 61 species were seen including seven Burrowing Owls and a good mixture of sandpipers and other shorebirds. White Pelicans have always been seen.

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

Difficulty: 1 (very little walking; some birding from the car) Bring lunch.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Winter and Spring 2004-2005 Field Trips

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Thunderbird Park Area

Leader: Carolyn Modeen 623-972-6273

ctmodeen@juno.com

This area contains a large pond to view water birds such as ducks, herons and egrets as well as a desert area of the park itself where you can see Cactus Wrens and other desert birds. At this time of year, should see 30 or more species of birds. Meet at Bell Recreation Center parking lot at Hutton and Boswell, Sun City; leave at 7:00 AM.

Difficulty: 1 (very little walking) Morning only.

Wednesday February 23, 2005

Page Springs Area

Leader: John Delventhal

Contact: Chuck Richards 623- 594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

John is the former Vice President of Sonoran Audubon and now lives in Cornville north of Cottonwood on Oak Creek. We will be birding on trails near his home in the morning. There is a good chance we will see a Bald Eagle. There are picnic tables available for lunch. After lunch, those who wish may continue birding at Page Springs and Montezuma Well. We will meet behind Denny's at the corner of I-17 and Bell Rd. (SW corner) and will be leaving at 6:30 a.m. There is ample room to park excess cars. We will need to hold the group to 20, so please register with the contact person.

Difficulty: 1, with the exception of an optional walk down at Montezuma Well.

March 18-20 , 2005

Salton Sea, California & Yuma, Arizona with Henry Detwiler

Contact: Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677

chuckkan@mindspring.com

This will be a three day trip. We will drive to Yuma on March 18, bird the Yuma hot spots and spend the night there at the Comfort Inn in Yuma. There is a wide selection of motels in Yuma but make your reservations early. On March 19 we will drive to Salton Sea and spend the day birding the area, returning to Yuma for the night. On March 20, we will again bird the area around Yuma, then drive back to Phoenix.

Henry Detwiler is an extremely accomplished tour leader and there will be a charge of \$ 20.00 per person. Those of you who haven't been to the Salton Sea will have a pleasant surprise. Thousands of water birds winter in Salton Sea, with many other birds in the surrounding area. Henry will bring us to some of his favorite birding spots around Yuma. Call Chuck to secure a place on the trip, as it should fill up fast.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave just south of Peoria Ave in Sun City. Leave at 8:00 am.

Difficulty 2

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

Estrella Mountain Park/El Mirage Ponds

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

wallaby@worldnet.att.net

This regional park is an excellent birding area with easy walking. Over 100 species have been recorded at various times in this area. Afterwards, a quick trip to the El Mirage ponds should produce some water & shore birds.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Avenue just south of Peoria Avenue in Sun City at 7:00 AM,

Difficulty: 1 (some easy walking) Morning only

Saturday March 26, 2004

Hassayampa River Preserve

Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

One of our favorite place to bird. At this time of year we should have the first of the migrating species and the last of the winter residents. A good time to check out the preserve. The Preserve has been the nesting site for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Red-shouldered Hawk Meet at the south east corner or the Bell Recreation Center Parking lot. At 7:00 AM.

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.

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

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Pinal Airport Pecan Grove/Sweetwater (Tucson Area)

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cs.com

The Pinal Airport Pecan Grove on the way to Sweetwater is a nice location for hawks and woodpeckers in the scarred cottonwoods. Warblers and other birds may be seen in a few pecan trees still standing. The Sweetwater Wastewater Treatment Plant has designed an area with birders in mind. A nice easy walk around the ponds on very nice paths will provide an abundance of birds and waterfowl. 40-70 species can be seen on this trip.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave just south of Peoria Ave in Sun City. Leave at 6:30 am

Difficulty: 1 (easy walking) All day, bring a lunch

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Sycamore Creek

Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623 977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Sycamore Creek meanders on both sides of dual highway Rte. 87 going Northeast toward Payson.

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Winter and Spring 2004-2005 Field Trips

At Bushnell Tanks there is a grove of old sycamores and running water where orioles, tanagers, vireos and flycatchers may be seen. Walking along old Rte. 87 where it has been closed except for local traffic expect to see Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings and warblers there. On the last trip to the area the group was treated to a flock of Lark Sparrows and Western Kingbirds. The Common Black-Hawk nests here.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center at Boswell and Hutton Dr. one block south of Bell Rd. in Sun City to leave at 6:30 a.m. or call the leader to arrange a meeting place farther East.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch

Saturday-Sunday, April 30-May 1, 2005

Roosevelt Lake and the Sierra Anchas

Leader: Troy Corman 602-482-6187

aplomado@cox.net

This weekend car camping trip is scheduled for the peak period for spring migration of birds in Gila County, so you never know what we might encounter. We will visit many habitats and elevations in search of a great diversity of birds. This includes water birds at Roosevelt Lake and birds of the desert, riparian woodlands, and cool mountain forests. Since this is an overnight camping trip, we may also try our luck with detecting nocturnal owls and nightjars. This field trip may include some strenuous mountain trail hiking, and higher clearance vehicles may be needed in a few areas. Please note this is a joint trip with Maricopa Audubon and space is limited to only 15 participants, roughly evenly distributed between the two Societies. Car pooling is required. Call leader for reservations and additional information.

Difficulty: 3

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Granite Reef Dam/Coon Bluff

Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922

rfogle@qwest.net

These sites on the Salt River in the Tonto National Forest are good habitats for ducks, herons, hawks and Bald Eagles. The mesquite riparian area is also home to a variety of birds.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center parking lot on Hutton Dr near Boswell for car-pooling. Leave at 7:00 AM. Call leader for directions on meeting farther east and for details.

Difficulty 1 – Easy trails. Bring Lunch & spotting scope if available.

Friday May 6, 2005

Box Canyon

Leader Nancy London 928-684-5530

55407@w3az.net

Box Canyon is a high-walled canyon of the Hassayampa River located about 12 miles northeast of Wickenburg. Because of the drought there has been little or no water in recent years. But if the current rains continue, then by May we may have to walk through some water. Wear old tennis shoes and bring a change of shoes and socks to leave in the vehicles. Also bring a backpack with lunch and water. We should be back in Wickenburg by 2 p.m. The road to the trailhead is passable by a regular car, if it hasn't rained the day before.

On the drive to the Canyon we will see the usual resident desert birds, but in the Canyon we can expect to see riparian birds, residents and migrants. We will surely hear calling Canyon Wrens. The likely birds at the Box are the same as at the Hassayampa River Preserve, if we have a rainy fall/winter

Meet at 8:00 am at the Wickenburg Community Center: as you travel northwest on Hwy. 60 entering Wickenburg you will cross the bridge over the Hassayampa, turn right immediately after the bridge and you will be looking at a large white building and surrounding parking lot.

Difficulty: 2

Tuesday-Thursday, May 24-26, 2005

Springerville, Arizona

Leaders: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922

& George Wall 623-875-7057

The migration should be in full swing at this time of year in Springerville and in that area are numerous birding spots. Here are some of the places we'll visit: (1) Becker Lake where a pair of Bald Eagles has been seen. (2) Weima Wildlife Area managed by the Arizona Game and Fish has 2 easy walking trails along the Little Colorado River through cottonwoods and reeds. Warblers and other birds should be numerous. (3) Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area with a loop trail that goes by McKay Reservoir. Bluebirds, Juncos and other birds should be plentiful. This is also Antelope and deer country and hopefully we'll see some.

We'll be staying in the Best Western at 128 N. Main in Eager which is right next to Springerville. The price for seniors 55 and older is \$67.50 non-seniors is \$75.00

Difficulty 1 – Easy trails.

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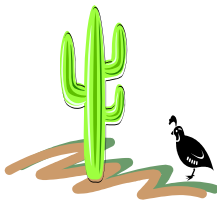
Red-tailed Hawk, a hundred-plus Western Meadowlarks, American Goldfinch, Phainopepla, and watched a Loggerhead Shrike impale a big beetle on a thorn bush - and proceed to rip it apart - beetle wrappings flying every where. Birders were: Carol Maroney, George Wall, Josh Burns, Tim Cullison, Dick Fogle, Chuck Kangas and Dwayne Fink, leader. It was a good trip - which officially ended around a big table in the back of the Red Rock Café.

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.**

January 12, 2005	Rich Glinski, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation: "Raptor Diversity of Arizona"
February 9, 2005	Caroll and Betty McCormick: "Peace Corps in Panama"
March 9, 2005	Kurt Radamaker: "Birding in Baja California"
April 13, 2005	Carol Beardmore, US Fish and Wildlife Service: "Sonoran Joint Venture"
May 11, 2005	Terry Stevens,: "Second Chance: Wildlife Rescue and Rehab"

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



Sonoran Audubon Society
P.O. Box 8068
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