



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society



Volume 15 Issue 5

January 2014

**At our next meeting.... Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at 7 p.m.**

## **John Arnett—Birds & Politics of Cuba**

In general, United States citizens are prohibited from travelling to Cuba, a fascinating and controversial island nation only 90 miles from the Florida coast. However, the U.S. Department of the Treasury provides licenses to groups working in Cuba to promote a variety of goals, including the conservation of biodiversity. During April 2014, I participated in an authorized survey of Cuba's birds, along with other Americans and renowned Cuban ornithologist Arturo Kirkconnell. Though I went to Cuba to witness its amazing birds such as the endemic Cuban Trogon, Cuban Tody, and Bee Hummingbird, the smallest bird in the world, I couldn't help but become fascinated with Cuba's history, politics, propaganda, and culture. Please join me for this presentation where I weave together stories about the birds, history and politics of Cuba.

In addition to being on the Board of Directors of the Sonoran Audubon Society, John is a Wildlife Biologist with Luke Air Force Base's 56th Range Management Office and is the Arizona representative in the Department of Defense Partners in Flight working group. John has a B.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation and a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, and has worked on a variety of bird, mammal, and reptile research projects in the U.S. and South America. Currently, his focus is the ecology and conservation of Sonoran Desert birds, particularly thrashers and Gray Vireo. John has been birding since he was about 10 years old and has birded throughout much of the U.S., the Caribbean, and South America.



**President's Corner**  
**HELLO FROM HAYLIE:**



HAPPY 2014!

I hope you all had great holidays and maybe participated in a Christmas Bird Count, too. I had the opportunity to go to Bloomington, Minnesota, right before Christmas. My husband was invited there to visit the home office of his employer and I got to go along. I was hoping to see some birds there and found that the Visitor Center for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was just a few miles from our hotel. I went there one morning after a couple inches of snow had fallen the previous night.

When I walked into the Visitor Center I could see straight through to the windows overlooking the bird feeders out back. The first birds I saw were four Wild Turkeys gobbling up the spilled seed and occasionally trying to drive each other away from this perfect feasting area.

Growing up in Ohio I always enjoyed seeing Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays sitting on snow-covered branches in our yard and it was fun to see them with that backdrop again. The White-breasted Nuthatches, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Black-capped Chickadees reminded me of the birds I saw at my feeders in Spokane, Washington. A Dark-eyed Junco and a Red-bellied Woodpecker rounded out the group, along with many European Starlings and House Sparrows.

Next I watched some short videos on the National Wildlife Refuge system. I didn't know that Theodore Roosevelt established the first National Wildlife Refuge in 1903, which was Pelican Island, Florida. This was a result of the decimation of so many birds whose feathers were being used to adorn women's hats. There are now over 500 refuges in the system, with at least one in every state. Over 95 million acres have been preserved and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Minnesota Valley NWR is unique in that it's one of the few refuges located in an urban setting. Some of its 14,000 acres are only 10 minutes away from the Mall of America and the Twin Cities airport. There are 14 management units comprised of prairies, lakes, marshland, oak savannas and floodplain forests.

I took a walk behind the Visitor Center where the turkeys were still foraging. It was fun to walk in the

Snow again and hear the branches of the bare trees creaking in the wind. I only got a little taste of what this refuge has to offer for birders and I hope I get to return some day and further explore this beautiful area.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting on January 8th!

**Sonoran Audubon Society Board Meeting Synopsis**  
**Reported by Gail Bliss, Secretary**

Attendees: John Arnett, Dan Bohlmann, Jim Consolloy, Tim Cullison, Joe Ford, Haylie Hewitt, Gail Bliss, Darnell Kirksey, Andrée Tarby, Jerry Theis and guest, Tom Lazzelle. Absent: Andrea Nesbitt and Karen LaFrance, consultant.

Total membership in SAS stands at 839 on the National list with 149 also SAS Friends. There are 87 people that are Friends only.

Field trips – Dan reported that the field trip schedule is full through September first of 2014.

Programs – The programs for the membership meetings are booked through spring 2014. The Program Committee is interested in knowing if anyone has a topic they would like presented. If so, they should contact a SAS Board member.

Education/Conservation – The committee will work with the Field Trip committee to incorporate Bird-Friendly Community information into field trips.

Finance – During the finance portion of the meeting, the board discussed that the Chapter is still in need of binoculars (new or gently used) that can be used for various groups and activities such as the workshop for Girl Scouts. Being able to see birds through working binoculars will help increase interest in birds. Various means of financing this project were discussed.

Proposed Highway I-11- Haylie and Tice Supplee reported on the meeting they attended relating to the proposed I-11 corridor. Tice reported on Audubon concerns which includes the fact it goes right through prime IBAs (Important Bird Area) including an area of concern for the Bendire's Thrasher and undeveloped natural areas.

Silent Auction – Help is needed for the Silent Auction at the March Annual Picnic. John Arnett did it last year but will be out of town this year. The Board is looking for volunteer(s) to help with the silent auction. If you are interested in helping, please contact a board member.

Audubon Arizona - Haylie reported on the Webinar meeting with Sarah Porter and other chapter leaders. The next big event is the March 11 Western Rivers Action Day at the state capitol. Mark your calendars to attend.

## 2014 Field Trips—Winter

**REQUIREMENT:** On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling or e-mailing the leader or contact person who will provide you updated information. The number of participants is limited on **some** trips. Anyone can join. If you're a birding novice, you'll get plenty of help.

**Thursday-Saturday, January 9-11, 2014**

**San Rafael Grasslands**

**Leader: Melody Kehl**

**Contact: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

[rms15247 AT Cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

The San Rafael Grasslands in southeast AZ can be full of sparrows and longspurs during the winter. During our last trip we saw Botteri's, Cassin's, Brewer's, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Baird's Sparrows. We will also look for longspurs, hawks and other birds along the way. We will stay 2 nights at the Country Inn in Tucson. Melody will guide us on the 10th and we will bird the Tucson area on our own on the 9th and 11th. The trip is limited to 8 people. Contact Donna Smith for more information or to make a reservation.

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

**Arrowhead Ponds**

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

[Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net](mailto:Dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

This trip is to the ponds of the Arrowhead community on both sides of 59th Ave. south of Thunderbird Park. We will meet at 8 a.m. on the bridge over the ponds on Melinda Ave. Melinda Ave. is the last traffic light on 59th Ave. before you enter Thunderbird Park. Turn right on Melinda Ave. and proceed several blocks to the open area where the bridge crosses the pond. There is plenty of parking on both sides of the wide bridge. Looking south from the bridge is a large lake which usually has a few varieties of ducks, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons and maybe a few shorebirds. Looking North from the bridge is a smaller pond lined with trees on the opposite shore filled with Black-crowned Night-Herons. There are usually a few types of ducks here also. The duck blind east of 59th usually has around 200 hundred Common Mergansers and the ponds west of 59th Ave usually have different ducks, Canada Geese, and gulls.

Difficulty: 1

The meeting time at the bridge on Melinda Ave. will be at 8 a.m. Those coming from Sun City can meet and carpool from the Burger King just west of 101 on Thunderbird at 84th Drive. Park in the Lowe's parking lot by the Burger King and then leave at 7:30 a.m. The trip leader will not meet people here, but he will arrange for someone to coordinate this group.

**Friday-Sunday, February 7-9, 2014**

**Sandia Crest, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425**

[awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)

In January 2007, a SAS group went to the Albuquerque area to see the 3 species of Rosy-Finch at Sandia Crest and visit other good birding spots like the Rio Grande Nature Center. This is a repeat of that great trip. Contact Andrée Tarby for more information or to make a reservation. This trip is limited to three cars (12 people).

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

**Arlington Area**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

[rms15247 AT Cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

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. Earlier in September of this year, 57 species were seen with the best being a Wilson's Phalarope. You are nearly guaranteed to spot a Burrowing Owl along the roadside.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the parking lot of the World Wildlife Zoo on Northern Ave. near the aquarium to leave at 8 a.m. Alternate meeting place is the Chevron stop and go gas station near corner of I-10 and Jackrabbit Road at about 8:15 a.m. We will eat at a restaurant in Buckeye, or you can bring your own lunch.

**Saturday, March 8, 2014**

**Chandler Veteran's Oasis Park**

**George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)**

This park was dedicated in April 2008, and continues to become a better birding spot. They have a nice education center, picnic armadas, restrooms and even drinking fountains here and there. There is one main lake and 5 discharge ponds. Yes, this is a water treatment facility just like the Gilbert Water Ranch. In fact, the place looks just like the Gilbert Water Ranch did about 10 years ago. There are trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. Should be lots of water birds and others.

Difficulty: 1

Meet and carpool from the Burger King just west of 101 on Thunderbird at 84th Dr. Park in the Lowe's parking lot by the Burger King and then leave at 7 a.m.

## SPECIAL BIRDING TRIP

### The Thick-billed Parrots of Madera, Mexico Monday-Friday, September 1-5, 2014

Solipaso and the Sonoran Audubon Society are pleased to offer a great, short trip to see the Thick-billed Parrots and other Montane species in the mountains of Chihuahua, Mexico.



Thick-billed Parrot

On September 1, 2014, we'll gather in Tucson for a trip orientation and dinner. We'll depart Tucson early the next morning and head to the US-Mexico border, crossing at Agua Prieta. Once in Mexico, we'll stop to bird the pinyon-juniper habitat and some seasonal ponds, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Our first night is spent in Nuevo Casas Grandes. The following day, we make our way from the agricultural fields, through riparian habitat and oak and pinyon forests. We'll visit the ancient Paquime cliff dwellings of Cuarenta Casas and enjoy a picnic lunch at this little visited ruins site, enjoying the coolness of the pine forests. From here, we make our way to the lumber town of Madera, where we'll spend the next two nights. For our full day of birding in Madera, we'll be up early to travel to the high mesas and moist canyons of the Sierra Madre. Our big goal for the day is to get great views of the highly endangered and range-restricted Thick-billed Parrot! We'll bird within a Reserve that has been created to protect the parrot's habitat and we'll be accompanied by a local guide. Most of the day we'll be above 8000', walking old logging roads through habitat that will remind you more of coastal Oregon than northern Mexico! There is a fantastic diversity of pine species here that grow to substantial heights. Thick-billed Parrots are generally found here in high numbers in the summer, and we will most likely be seeing them throughout the day. This area is also an excellent place to find the late-nesting Eared Quetzal and other birds including Russet Nightingale-Thrush, Aztec Thrush, Red-faced Warbler, Crescent-chested Warbler, Montezuma Quail and Mountain Trogon. Our last day will be spent driving back to Tucson, making a few stops along the way and arriving late afternoon.

- The trip starts in Tucson at 5:00 p.m. on the afternoon of September 1st and ends on the afternoon of September 5th in Tucson.
- This trip will be limited to 7 people.
- Guides: David MacKay is the main guide for all Solipaso trips. He is fluent in Spanish and specializes in Mexico birding trips.
- Transportation: We will travel in Solipaso's new 15 passenger van for our trips and make sure that everyone has a window seat, having two people for each bench seat.
- Accommodations: We stay at a Courtyard Hotel in Tucson, a nice business hotel in Nuevo Casas Grandes and the best available hotel in Madera, Hotel Real del Bosque, a simple but comfortable family run place with a restaurant.
- Meals: All food and drink is included through lunch on the last day. In the van(s), we always have snacks and drinking water. Alcohol is not included and can be paid for separately.
- Trip price: \$1250 per person /\$230 single supplement. Includes one night in Tucson, one night in Nuevo Casas Grandes and two nights in Madera. The last night in Tucson is not included, but we can help arrange lodging for those that do not want to return to Phoenix that evening. This is a special price for the Sonoran Audubon Society and a percentage of the trip price will go to benefit Sonoran Audubon.
- To book a space go to: <http://www.solipaso.com/book-a-trip> or call 1-888-383-0062 (USA & Canada)
- Also contact Barb Meding so she can help arrange carpooling to/from Tucson etc. [barbameding@yahoo.com](mailto:barbameding@yahoo.com) (preferred) or call 623-266-1847
- Please register by March 30, 2014



## **FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK**

**Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society**

Estrella Mountain Regional Park is located in Goodyear on the south side of the Gila River at Bullard Ave. and Vineyard Rd. There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park.

Join the Sonoran Audubon Society for an easy two-hour hike in the park and along the Gila River. Over 150 different species have been observed at the park. We have a Saturday and a Sunday walk each month. Bring water and your own binoculars and books if you have them though a limited number will be available. Rain cancels the walks.

**SATURDAYS:** These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be **January 11, 2014**. Meet at the visitor center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The walk will last approximately two hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25 AT cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net).

**SUNDAYS:** These walks are held on the fourth Sunday of the month. The next walk will be on **January 26, 2014** starting at 8.00 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park—the Navy North Parking Lot. For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 [mcbobaz AT aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 [awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com).

### **The Bird Walk held at Estrella Mountain Regional Park on 12/14/2013 as reported by Joe Ford**

The temperature was a cold 46 degrees at the start of the walk and was 58 when we finished. There were 12 participants that included New York natives, Alberta, Canada, residents and locals. The leaders were Caleb Strand and Joe Ford, and they were assisted by Vera Markham and Paul Doucette.

The trip was pleasant, but the presence of the hunter element certainly reduced the number of birds. The Gila River was as full as I have seen it for several months, but the usual flotillas of ducks and waders were just not present as the hunters had flushed most of the would-be winter residents.

The 48 species seen or heard (h) were Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, American White Pelican (3 in flight), Neotropic Cormorant, Great Egret (4 in flight), White-faced Ibis, (12 in Flight), Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Sora (h), Common Gallinule, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Gilded Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Marsh Wren (h), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (h), Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat (h), Abert's Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow (h), White-crowned Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle and House Finch.

## **WELCOME AND THANK YOU**

Sonoran Audubon Society welcomes the following new members of our chapter: Lee and Mary Arnold, Wayne Barkley, Patricia Clark, Patricia Consolloy, Judie Daily, Carl Dillon, Donna Flaherty, Paulette Griffith, Sheryl Guterl, Jeff Hostetler, Mary Humphreys, H. Kammermann, John Menard, Elizabeth Morris, Denise Olds, Shannon Perry, Virginia Phipps, Douglas Plattenberger, Teresita Santos, Brian Shea, Christine Taylor, Harriet Thurstic, Jane Vogel, Rosemary Wilson and Carl Young.

Welcome to all of you and we hope to see you at our next meeting. If we have misspelled any of your names, we apologize.

## **CARE CENTERS FOR BIRDS**

<b><u>Fallen Feathers</u></b> Handles & cares for all birds 9532 W. Cielo Grande, Peoria Jodie Kieran 623-533-2348 623-566-5302	<b><u>Adobe Mtn. Wildlife Center</u></b> Cares for all wildlife including birds I-17 & Pinnacle Peak 623-582-9806	<b><u>Wild At Heart</u></b> Raptors only 31840 N. 45th St. Cave Creek 480-595-5047	<b><u>Liberty Wildlife</u></b> All wildlife Located in Scottsdale 480-998-5550
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## Road Scholar

By George Wall

When I was recently in Cuba on a bird survey trip, a group of us were talking about where we had birded and the organizations that provided the trips. During our conversation two names that consistently came up were Elderhostel and Road Scholar.

“Aren’t they the same?” one person exclaimed.

And that is true. Elderhostel was founded in 1975 by Marty Knowlton, a world traveler who passed away in 2009, and David Bianco, former director of residential life at the University of New Hampshire. During his travels, Knowlton saw people very active in their later lives after retirement, traveling and learning. When he shared his experiences with Bianco, Bianco said, “This campus ought not to be having a youth hostel, it ought to be having an elder hostel,” and the name and the program was born. In late 1975, five colleges and universities joined to offer the first Elderhostel programs to 220 participants and by 1980, there were 20,000 participants. Today, the programs are offered in every state in the U.S. and 150 different countries. What an achievement.

But wait, what about Road Scholar?

In 2004, Elderhostel launched Road Scholar, a new series of adventurous, experiential learning programs. Then in 2010, Elderhostel renamed its programs Road Scholar. Now when you get the publication with the name Road Scholar and it says on the bottom of the front page “Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel”. So they are the same.

Back in December of 2004, I was looking for a place to go on a birding trip and a friend told me “take a look at Elderhostel.” I had never thought of Elderhostel although I had heard the name mentioned. He must have sent my name and address in because I received the Elderhostel publication a few weeks later. When I looked at it, I saw travel to all parts of the world along with educational programs. I found a couple of birding trips that interested me, but I wanted to go with someone. I had gone on several short trips with Dick Fogle, a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society and a good friend at the time, so I decided to ask him and he agreed.



Alcatraz—photo by George Wall

money, especially if you want to learn more about birds, culture, and interesting facts about your destination. In fact, I just booked a Road Scholar trip next year for Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.roadscholar.org>.

We decided on a trip to Point Reyes in California from September 26 to October 9, 2005. Not only did we see 121 bird species, we were provided with some wonderful educational programs on bird behavior. We also stopped at Hawk Hill that overlooks Alcatraz.

Dick and I took another Elderhostel trip the following year to San Diego and then south 600 miles into Baja, California. It was another great trip.

Road Scholar (Elderhostel) trips are really worth the



Male and Female Wood Ducks—Photo by George Wall

## Northern (Black-necked) Screamer

By Dr. Jerry Theis

I saw the Southern (Crested) Screamer in 2006 in the Pantanal region of Brazil and the Horned Screamer in the Imataca Reserve in Venezuela in 2009, so in November 2013 I was on a mission to see the third and last screamer, the Northern (Black-necked) Screamer, on a Rockjumper tour to Colombia. The screamers are a small clade of birds, formerly thought to be most closely related to the Galliformes because of their similar bills, but they are instead more closely related to the Magpie Goose. The three screamers occur only in South America, ranging from Chota to Pija. The screamers are exceptional within the living birds in lacking uncinat processes in their ribs, the structures between ribs that provide stability. They are large, bulky birds, with a small downy head, long legs and large feet, which are partially webbed. They have large spurs on their wings which are used in fights over mates and territorial disputes. The spurs can break off in the breast of other screamers and are regularly renewed. Unlike ducks, they have a partial moult and are able to fly throughout the year. They live in open areas and marshes with some grass and feed on water plants. The Southern Screamer is considered a pest as it raids crops and competes with farm birds for food.



Photo from Wikipedia

The Northern Screamer is classified by IUCN as Near Threatened due to habitat destruction and increased intensification of agriculture. They are infrequently hunted due to their spongy-textured flesh and numerous air-sacs. However, they are domesticated because of their unfussy diet and watchdog capability due to their loud *kleer-a-ruk*, *cherio* bugled call, among the loudest of all bird sounds.

We saw and heard several other Northern Screamers in the coastal Magdalena Valley of Colombia. In spite of their large size (35 in.), they fly very well, are very good swimmers, and can walk on aquatic vegetation. Such a bizarre bird is always worth screaming about.

Having been raised on a farm, I was particularly interested in the Colombian cattle. The Normandy cattle grazed in the cold upper Andean valleys while the Zebu and Gyr breeds inhabited the hot, humid lowlands. The Gyr, native to India, are large, chocolate-brown cattle with long, droopy ears. We passed several farms with Gyr cattle and I watched as the farmers tied each cow, hobbled the back legs, and milked by hand, the milk being poured into metal cans to be picked up by small pickup trucks and taken to country creameries. We stopped by a farm where the milking was being done just adjacent to the road. As I watched the milking process, one of our participants mentioned something about a peculiar-appearing duck in the nearby marsh. The guide and I looked up and yelled "Northern Screamer!"

The Northern Screamer is confined to marshy lowlands of northern Colombia and extreme NW Venezuela. It resembles the Southern Screamer but has a much thicker black neck band. It has bare orbital skin and reddish-pink legs. It's crown is gray, the throat and sides of the head are white; otherwise it is dark gray, the upperparts darker and glossed green. Like other screamers, it is a rather sedate bird, generally observed singly or in small groups, often perched in bushes or trees within a marsh.



Photo by Diego Calderon

## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

Audubon's Birds 'n Beer is being offered on January 16th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. This event is held every third Thursday of the month and is sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery. Proceeds from beer sales go to Audubon Arizona. Local professionals will present a program and give you a refreshing way to learn about Arizona birds and other wildlife.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix and their regular hours except for special events are Tuesday-Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail [riosalado AT audubon.org](mailto:riosalado@audubon.org) for more information about their programs and events.

### Birders Anonymous

Birders Anonymous holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month from October through May starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. Vera Markham will project some of her best bird photographs on the movie screen at their January meeting.

George Wall will lead a birding trip on Wednesday, January 29th, to Estrella Regional Mountain Park. Leave from the Church of the Palms in Sun City at 7:30 a.m. There is a \$6 per car fee for the park.

For further information on Birders Anonymous meetings, programs and trips contact Marshall Esty at 623-977-1637 [mne AT juno.com](mailto:mne@juno.com) or Shirley Fackelman at [shirleyfackelman AT yahoo.com](mailto:shirleyfackelman@yahoo.com). Better yet, come to the meeting.



### Hassayampa River Preserve

On Sunday, January 19, 2014, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. you can explore the hobby of birding and learn techniques that will help you identify the birds you spot in your own backyard. Class includes an easy walk along the trails led by Kathe Anderson, professional bird tour leader.

Hassayampa is open mid-September through mid-May, Wednesday-Sunday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and mid-May through mid-September Friday-Sunday 7-11 a.m. Entrance fees are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Fee for members of The Nature Conservancy is \$3.00.

### Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Want something to do on New Year's Day? How about a bird walk? Learn to identify resident birds and look for seasonal migrants during a two-hour walk starting at the BTA Visitor Center breezeway at 8:30 am. This walk is part of Arizona's First Day Hikes held at many of Arizona State Parks on January 1, 2014.

Guided BTA bird walks are included with daily admission of \$10 for adults, and \$5 for ages 5-12.

### Desert Botanical Garden

DBG holds bird walks each Monday. Bird walks in January will start at 8 a.m.

See their website at [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org) for further information on admission prices and special events.

### Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival

The 21st edition of this popular festival will be Wednesday-Sunday, January 15-19, 2014. Keynote speaker is Bill Thomson III, Editor/co-publisher of "Bird Watcher's Digest." Free seminars, nature expos, guided tours on birding, history, geology, wine tasting and more. To register go to [www.wingsoverwillcox.com](http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com).

## The Holiday Spirit

Reported by Sam Insana

On December 15, 2013, my son Frank and I participated in the Christmas Bird Count at the south rim of the Grand Canyon. During the count day we saw two adult Bald Eagles and one juvenile. According to Brian Gatlin, the National Park Ranger who headed up the count, this was the first time a Bald Eagle had been seen during the CBC at the Grand Canyon. Frank took this amazing picture of one of the adult eagles. The remarkable thing was that there was a raven and an eagle on the same tree limb for the entire time we observed and they both seemed at rest and peaceful, in line with the holiday spirit. This was a Merry Christmas!



## CALENDAR OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Location: West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church,  
corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale

Time: 6:30 p.m. for socializing and 7 p.m. for the start of  
the meeting and program.

### Upcoming Schedule:

**January 8, 2014:** John Arnett—Birds & Politics of Cuba

**February 12, 2014:** David and Diane Reesor—Brazil

**March 12, 2014:** Dominic Sherony—Attu

**April 9, 2014:** Joe Ford and Caleb Strand—Caleb's Birds

**May 14, 2014:** Carol Beardmore — Namibia

## USEFUL WEBSITES

Sonoran Audubon [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)

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

Desert Rivers Audubon [www.desertiversaudubon.org](http://www.desertiversaudubon.org)

Maricopa Audubon [www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)

Arizona Field Ornithologists [www.azfo.org](http://www.azfo.org)

National Audubon <http://audubon.org/>



7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale, located near 75th Avenue  
behind Mimi's Café and next to Souper Salad.

Ph: 623-773-3000—Website: <http://Glendale.wbu.com>

## OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

### Officers

President: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180  
[haylie.hewitt AT cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net)

Vice President: Tim Cullison 602-863-9744  
[timcullisonaz AT aol.com](mailto:timcullisonaz@aol.com)

Treasurer: Jim Consolloy 609-439-8251  
[jconsolloy AT gmail.com](mailto:jconsolloy@gmail.com)

Secretary: Gail Bliss 623-877-3317 [gmbless AT junio.com](mailto:gmbless@junio.com)

### Board Members— Directors at Large

John Arnett 623-695-0953 [treerunner AT yahoo.com](mailto:treerunner@yahoo.com)

Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

[Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net](mailto:Dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

Andrea Nesbitt 602-993-3375 [andreas AT cox.net](mailto:andreas@cox.net)

Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25 AT cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)

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