



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 9 Issue 7

March, 2008

At our next meeting....

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Mike Quigley—Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness

Mike is currently focused on securing Wilderness designation for the Tumacacori Highlands. The Tumacacori Highlands (Tomb-a-cock-or-ee) incorporate three mountain ranges that converge to create the largest unprotected wildland in southern Arizona.



Mike Quigley

Mike holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and a Master's degree in English literature. He has worked with various private and public-sector organizations, including as a staff assistant to the Governor of Delaware, as a laboratory chemist and a medical writer for multinational corporations, as a technical writer and manager for a small software company, as a freelance multimedia software developer, and as a diplomat in Washington and abroad for the United States government (serving in the American Embassies in Dakar, Senegal, and Yaounde, Cameroun, as the Embassy's Deputy Public Affairs Officer and the Deputy Director of the American Cultural Center). Mike has been a long-time volunteer for various environmental education and conservation groups, and an advocate for science-based conservation-oriented environmental policy.

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What's Happening in our Chapter?

By Your Editor, George Wall

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on February 6, 2008.

After approval of the previous minutes, the committees gave their respective reports. Then the majority of the meeting was used for discussing the Retreat. See pages 5-6. Action items were assigned to various individuals.

The Sonoran Audubon Society is hosting the Arizona Audubon Council (AAC) meeting on April 19, 2008. John Arnett is pursuing getting the Eagle Room at the Arizona Game and Fish Department building for the meeting.

Chuck Kangas presented the slate for officers and board members.

The picnic is a go and Andrée Tarby and George Wall are handling things.

Moez Ali was scheduled to be the speaker at the February General Membership Meeting; however, due to circumstances beyond our control, the program was canceled. Business was held as usual and then George Wall gave a synopsis of his trip to Florida during the last week in January.

Winter/Spring 2008 Field Trips

An * indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

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

Saturday, March 8, 2008 **Sparrow Workshop** **Given by Tom Gaskill**

Rio Salado guide, Tom Gaskill, will share his love of sparrows and to quote Tom "Early March is ideal, since the sparrows are almost all in breeding plumage; many are singing; and they're less challenging for folks who have LBJ anxiety." Tom will share sparrow-finding and behavior tips and will have handouts with identification tips for Arizona sparrows.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the McDonalds on the NW corner of McDowell and 99th Ave. From there we'll go to the confluence of Agua Fria and Gila Rivers, at the end of Southern Ave. We will then wander west through the valley stopping for anything interesting and will end at a good sparrow spot near Gillespie Dam around 1 p.m.

Bring lunch and water. We won't be doing too much walking. Bring a scope if you have one.

Contact Barb Meding for reservations at barbara-meding@yahoo.com or call her at 623-266-1847.

Saturday & Sunday, March 15-16, 2008 **Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival** **9-4 both days—see www.tresriosnaturefestival.com**

This a two-day outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. Join us March 15-16, 2008, on the River at B&M Wildlife Area, just north of Phoenix International Raceway. This year, the set up for the booths, tents, etc. will be on the old road across the river. This means a lot more parking space.

***Thursday, March 20, 2008** **Granite Reef Dam & Area** **Leader: George Wall - 623-875-7057** gwall5@cox.net

The sites on the Salt River in Tonto National Forest always provide good habit 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 the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner

of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City to leave at 6:45 a.m. Call leader for alternate meeting place.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008 **Rio Verde - Box Bar** **Leader: Chuck 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 several types of birds including some water birds. We will be walking up and back on level ground about 1 1/2 miles over sand and some river rock. This area is in the Tonto National Forest and has a \$6 fee per vehicle.

Difficulty: 2 - Call leader for information on time and where to meet.

***Friday, April 11, 2008** **Hassayampa** **Leader: George Wall - 623-875-7057** gwall5@cox.net

This is the Nature Conservancy Preserve near Wickensburg. You never know what you might find here in the way of birds that hide in the palm trees, mesquite, cottonwoods and willows.

Difficulty 1—This is a morning trip only—we should be finished by 10:30.

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at 7:15 a.m. or you can meet the group at the Hassayampa River Preserve at 8 a.m. There is a \$5 fee for each person unless you're a Conservancy member and then it is \$3.

Saturday, April 19, 2008 **Rio Salado** **Leader: To be announced**

This is a great birding area and new birds are being found all the time.

Difficulty 1—Morning trip only.

Wed.—Fri., May 21-23, 2008 **Portal and Cave Creek**

The Portal and Cave Creek area is located in Southeastern Arizona. The area offers a multitude of bird habitats and views of beautiful vistas. There will be a local leader for this trip (Melody Kehl) who has led us once before. Contact: Donna Smith 623-556-9535 rms1524@cox.net for details.

Biographies of the Nominees for Officers and Directors of the Sonoran Audubon Society

- Karen LaFrance (for Vice-President): Karen has previously served as a board member for two years and then as the Vice-President for the past two years; so this will be her second term. She has been an Audubon member for six years. She has helped in setting up all of the past retreats and facilitates some of the Board's planning sessions. Karen writes grants for SAS and is liaison to Environmental Fund for Arizona, providing the paperwork and other submissions that keep Sonoran Audubon in the family of environmental organizations which receive matching funds from Federal, State and corporate fund-raising campaigns.
- Carol Schooler (for Treasurer): Carol has been a member of Sonoran Audubon Society since its inception. She was introduced to birding by her husband, Rich Schooler, when they married 18 years ago. A life-long Arizona resident, she retired recently after 44 years of service within the banking industry. She was treasurer of an employee association while with the bank and was financial secretary of her church for over 25 years. Carol also enjoys travel, reading, fly fishing and quilting.
- John Arnett (for Secretary): John volunteered to be our Secretary back in November, 2007. With his credentials, he was accepted by the board. John Arnett was born in Orlando, Florida, and spent many childhood summers in the southern Appalachians of western North Carolina. It was in these mountains that he became interested in birding around the age of 9. John has BS and MS degrees in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida and he does, in fact, bleed orange and blue. He has worked on bird and many other wildlife-related research projects in Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Brazil, and Chile. He is currently working as a wildlife biologist for Luke Air Force Base where his primary task is to inventory and monitor the natural resources of the Barry M. Goldwater Range.
- Diana Barnum (for Director at Large): Diana has been a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society for about two years as well as an attendee at Birders' Anonymous. She is a novice birder, but is extremely enthusiastic about birding and conservation. She has gone on several birding trips with both groups. Diana is a native Californian who spent her entire working career as a librarian in Salinas, California. She lived for five years in Hawaii and moved to Arizona in 1993 where she currently resides in Sun City. She says she has the time and is willing to serve.
- Chuck Richards (for Director at Large): This will be Chuck's second term as a board member. Chuck is retired after 32 years with a steel company in Cleveland in the position of manager of systems and programming. After retiring, both he and his wife joined Blackbrook Audubon in Ohio in 1996 and quickly became avid birders. Upon moving to Phoenix in 2001, they joined Sonoran Audubon and have become increasingly more active. Chuck is a member of the Field Trip Committee, Conservation Committee and Education Committee. Chuck and his wife are also active working on IBAs and as volunteers at the AZGFD Wildlife Rehab Center.
- Andrée Tarby (for Director at Large): This will be Andrée's second term as a board member. Andrée is retired but still keeps doing the accounting for her husband's business. She's been birding for over 30 years and joined the Maricopa Audubon Society in the late 1980s. When the Sonoran Audubon Society formed, she switched to them. She has been the program chairperson and has assisted in the Tres Rios Nature Festival. She has led field trips and is especially knowledgeable about California Gulch where the Five-striped Sparrow and the Buff-collared Nightjar are found. For many years, she has been a volunteer at the Desert Botanical Garden where she leads bird walks on Monday mornings.
- Ruth Ann Teff (for Director at Large): Annie, as she likes to be called, has been a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society for about two years. She's also an attendee of Birders' Anonymous. She says she doesn't have a lot of experience, but really enjoys bird watching. Annie also belongs to the Sun City Hiking Club, CCV Hikers, and the Marinette Clay Corner. She moved here from Iowa in 1996 and retired from Sunrise Mountain High School Library in March of 2006. She is an energetic and active person who now has more time to enjoy the outdoors and get involved in birding and conservation.
- George Wall (for Director at Large): This will be George's third term on the board. George has been an Audubon member for ten years and "got into birding" after he retired. He's currently the editor of the Sonoran Audubon Newsletter and loves to write. He is also on the Membership Committee, the Trip Committee, Program Committee and Education Committee. He has worked on several IBA's (Agua Fria, Tres Rios and Rio Salado). He is the current Leader of Birders' Anonymous. For those of you who don't know, Birders' Anonymous is Sonoran's sister-birding-organization on the West side. That organization predates Sonoran, and many members have dual membership with Sonoran Audubon Society. Before retiring 12 years ago, he served 30 years in the Air Force and then 12 years as a manager in a computer company.

Sonoran Audubon Society Election Ballot

The Chapter by-laws require that an election ballot is to be included in the March newsletter. Elections are scheduled in April . If the member is unable to attend the April meeting send this completed ballot to:

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

The following members are nominated to fill a two year term for the respective officer position:

_____ Karen LaFrance—Vice-President _____ Carol Schooler—Treasurer _____ John Arnett—Secretary

The following members are nominated to fill the five positions for a two year term as a board member at large:

____ Diana Barnum ____ Chuck Richards ____ Andrée Tarby ____ Ruth Ann Teff ____ George Wall

Put a check mark in front of each prospective officer and board member to indicate your approval.

This ballot is in accordance with the Bylaws of the Sonoran Audubon Society and should be made available to as many members as possible.

Treasurers Report—February 9, 2008

Sonoran Audubon Society	Budget	To Date
	2007-2008	2/9/08
Income	\$12,525	\$ 6,660.21
SAS Dues Return	2,000	2,842.75
Chapter Sources	10,525	3,013.46
Projects	--	804.00
Expenditures	\$12,525	\$6,236.35
Fund Raising Activities	200	272.00
Committees	6,750	612.81
Projects	1,300	3,475.62
Chapter Operations	3,875	1,561.95
Insurance	375	335.00
Quest Phone	500	313.97
Assets & Liabilities		
Total Cash		\$14,757.89
Encumbered Funds		1,666.28
Clear Funds		\$13,091.61

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

Sonoran Audubon Society Retreat

By George Wall

A Retreat was held on Saturday, February 2, 2008, at the Hassayampa River Preserve. This was open to all interested people. The attendees were John Arnett, Eleanor Campbell, Suzanne Cash, Tim Cullison, Chuck Kangas, Bob McCormick, Barb Meding, Rich and Carol Schooler, Donna Smith, Andrée Tarby, George Wall and led by moderator Karen LaFrance.



Some of the group: In back left to right are Suzanne Cash, Eleanor Campbell and Andrée Tarby. Around table left to right are Carol Schooler, Chuck Kangas, Bob McCormick, Karen LaFrance, John Arnett and Tim Cullison.

The group looked at the goals set at the previous Retreat and reviewed what was accomplished. They then gathered into two groups with the first group concentrating on membership, trips, programs, hospitality and publicity while the second group mainly focused on education. They then prepared plans for the coming year. During the session, a pot-luck lunch was enjoyed by all thanks to the work of Eleanor Campbell.

Some of the vital points of the first group were:

1. Ways to increase membership/friends enrollment since this has remained at a status quo of around 600.
 - a. Post flyers for monthly meetings in logical places like libraries, parks, etc.
 - b. Increase Newsletter distribution at events and recreational hubs.
 - c. Continue publicity in local newspapers.
2. Ways to get more of our membership/friends involved in committee work.
 - a. Know your Committees: A monthly focus on committees just prior to meetings.
 - b. Check box on sign-in sheet concerning involvement.
 - c. Review and mine the membership, trip and IBA sign-in sheets.
 - d. One on one contact with members/friends to try and get them involved.
 - e. Questionnaire post card.
 - f. Pre-meeting dinner maybe with speaker.
 - g. After meeting coffee.
3. Ideas concerning other subjects:
 - a. Cross Chapter coordination in programs and field trips.
 - b. Newsletter page changes giving priority to subjects concerning our chapter.
 - c. Other types of trips like butterflies and flowers.

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Sonoran Audubon Society Retreat

4. Needs:

- a. Membership Data Base Manager.
- b. Callers to contact membership
- c. Hospitality assistance
- d. Field Trip leaders
- e. Park Program helpers
- f. Membership/friends name tags.

Some of the vital points of the second group were:

1. The Education Committee which formed since the last retreat was well on their way with their booth for their bird walks and events, shirt sales promoting SAS, and various attractions at the booth like live raptors provided by Andrea Nesbitt of Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center. They have several activities scheduled in the near future – monthly bird walks at Tres Rios, Tres Rios Festival booth (March 15-16), Game and Fish Expo booth (March 28-30) and a booth at Hassayampa River Preserve for International Bird Day (May 10).

2. A strong focus for the next Retreat:

- a. Contact youth groups like the scouts.
- b. Workshops for experienced birders.
- c. Develop display materials.
- e. Continue publicity efforts.

3. Some ideas, advice or needs:

- a. Obtain more volunteers
- b. Bird related stickers on candy give aways.
- c. Interesting reports of Bird Walks at monthly meetings
- d. Greet signs and name tags.
- e. Emphasize hospitality.

Other than the group focus, other things were discussed like IBA's and conservation.

Before and after the Retreat, there were bird walks around the trails at Hassayampa. Here's a list of the 42 species of birds seen or heard: Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Coot, Gambel's Quail, Mourning Dove, White-winged Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, White-throated Swift, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Phainopepla, Rock Wren, House Wren, Canyon Wren, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bridled Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Verdin, Common Raven, House Sparrow, Plumbeous Vireo, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) and Northern Cardinal.



Great Horned Owl & Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) - Photos by George Wall

THE SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC

FOR THE



Will be held Sunday, March 30, 2008, from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. at Thunderbird Park which is located just off of 59th Ave. just past Melinda Lane in Glendale. This is a free event and open to all Sonoran Audubon Society members/friends and their guests.

The Sonoran Audubon Society will furnish the main items - hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, condiments, drinks, plates, etc.

It would be nice if families brought a side dish like baked beans, salad or a dessert.

To facilitate how much food is needed, you need to register for this event by using the sign-up sheet at the front table at the General Membership meeting. You can also call George Wall at 623-875-7057 or email him at gwall5@cox.net and let him know how many will be attending.

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

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

Hassayampa River Preserve

There will be an interpretative nature walk on Saturday, March 29, 2008, from 8:30-10 a.m. This is just one of the many programs they have during the month.

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

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their Winter schedule. Admission of \$7.50 for adults, \$3 ages 5-12 includes guided bird walks. 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 on Friday, March 21, 2008, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. At this month's meeting, Barbie Hart will be giving a program on the Camp Verde Birding and Nature Festival that will be held April 24-27, 2008.

They meet on the third Friday of each month **all year around** at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City in King Hall. For further information contact George Wall at gwall5@cox.net

Estrella Mountain Park

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

Desert Botanical Garden

Each Monday morning from now through April, 2008, there will be bird walks from 8 a.m. to approximately 10 a.m. 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.org for further information.

FAMILY BIRD WALKS

Members of the Sonoran Audubon Society are conducting FREE monthly family-oriented bird walks at Tres Rios Wetlands in Phoenix on the 2nd Saturday morning of each month. The next walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. Join other outdoor enthusiasts on an easy hike through the desert, around the ponds and into the woods at this beautiful site. The walks will start at 8 and continue with the last one at 11 a.m.

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

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

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



Darnell Kirksey and Eleanor Campbell
Photo by George Wall

Besides family bird walks at Tres Rios, the Education Committee sets up tables for the Sonoran Audubon Society wherever they are needed. Here is the setup at Hassayampa River Preserve on February 23, 2008.

Join the National Audubon Society

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

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

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

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org

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

Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:

www.desertriversaudubon.org



Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

Officers

President: Robert McCormick 602-237-3951

mcbobaz@aol.com

Vice President: Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646

klaf@cox.net

Treasurer: Loretta Richards 623-594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953

treerunner@yahoo.com

Board Members— Directors at Large

Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639 ercamp@juno.com

Suzanne Cash 602-942-0727 roxiep@msn.com

Chuck Richards 623-594-6554 carichards@nowonline.net

Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 raschooler@peoplepc.com

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

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

Daniela Yellan 602-942-7791

danielay11@earthlink.net

Committees

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

Education: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639

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

raschooler@peoplepc.com

Field Trips: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Finance, Treasurer: Loretta Richards 623-594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

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

Publicity: Tim Cullison: 602-863-9744

timcullisonaz@aol.com

Membership: Charles Kangas 623-931-6677

chuckkan@mindspring.com

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

Conservation: Tina Bickel tbickel@ecoisp.com

Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

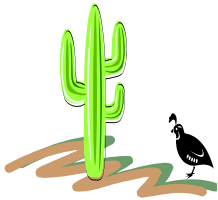
**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection) Time: 6:30 p.m. for socializing and
7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program**

March 12, 2008—Mike Quigley: Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness

April 9, 2008—Rich Ockenfels: South African Adventure

May 7, 2008—Rob Smith: Global Warming

Other Dates of Interest: March 5, 2008, 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

Glendale, AZ 85312-8068