



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 7 Issue 3

November 2005

IBA NEWS

By Josh Burns

We are about to complete the work plan for our Department of Game and Fish ABCI grant. This grant will cover travel expenses for teams monitoring both the Agua Fria National Monument and Lower Gila River Ecosystem Important Bird Areas. Our time in the field will be major match for this \$3,600 grant. The work plan will also serve as SAS's general plan for the next few years of IBA monitoring. The work plan and schedule are too large to include here so I will send you a copy if you contact me at josh_a_burns@yahoo.com.

The Agua Fria National Monument IBA

SAS work at Agua Fria will continue as it has been for the last year and a half. Teams work three 2.0 kilometer line transects along the riparian corridor on a seasonal schedule. Tice Supplee, Bob McCormick and Walt Anderson of the Prescott Audubon Society are team leaders. These data will also be used to update the checklist SAS prepared for the monument. Our next counts at AFNM will be in January 2006.

The Lower Gila River Ecosystem IBA

SAS's new project is monitoring at this IBA which reaches from Tres Rios to the old US-80 bridge below the site of Gillespie Dam. One of our goals here is to coordinate the effort with Game and Fish and the City of Phoenix to insure maximum value of the surveys. We have met with representatives and worked out a set of six monitoring sites and procedures.

Daniela Yellan will lead a team at the Tres Rios Hayfield area censusing waterfowl and counting land birds and others. Bob McCormick's team will cover two locations at the B&M site near PIR – a dawn and evening count of

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At our next meeting November 9, 2005

JAMEY DRISCOLL: "The Management of the Southwestern Bald Eagle in Arizona"

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has a comprehensive Bald Eagle Management Program to identify the threats affecting the population and implement management to counteract those threats. A large component to implementing a successful management program is educating the public on the necessity of the programs that may affect recreation. On November 9, 2005, Jamey Driscoll, Arizona Game and Fish Department's Bald Eagle Management Coordinator will give an overview of the Arizona Bald Eagle population, and the Department's effort to help ensure bald eagles remain in Arizona for future generations to enjoy.



Jamey Driscoll is the Bald Eagle Management Coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. A graduate of Purdue University in 1991, Jamey began his career working as a summer intern on Arizona bald eagles in 1988 and 1989. In 1989, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service sent Jamey to Alaska to study bald eagles after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. In 1990, Jamey was hired by Pacific Gas and Electric to study the habitat use of bald eagles along the Pit River in northern California. Jamey was hired by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 1991 where he has banded over 200 nestling bald eagles, trapped adults, and rescued nestlings in life-threatening

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JAMEY DRISCOLL

situations. Jamey became coordinator of the states Bald Eagle Management Program in 1999, overseeing management of the species. During his tenure with AGFD, he has also worked on studies of osprey, golden eagles, and northern goshawks.



What's Happening? By Your Editor

At the last board meeting, 5 October, 2005, many items were discussed.

1. The Sonoran Audubon Society will have a booth at the Rio Salado opening on November 5th.

2. The yearly "Retreat" where we brainstorm, strategize and plan the agenda for the Sonoran Audubon Society for the coming year, is going to be held in the main meeting room at the Hassayampa River Preserve on November 19th starting at 8:00 am. We really hope there are some members who are interested in "getting involved". If you are one of these please attend as we need your help. There will be a bird walk at 7:00 am prior to the meeting.

3. The Important Bird Areas (IBA's) were thoroughly discussed. This will be one of the major projects that the SAS will undertake. Volunteers are urgently needed. (See separate article on this subject)

4. We urgently need a hospitality chairperson. This is not a difficult job and Chuck Kangas will assist any volunteer(s) in getting started.

5. Tice Supplee sent a letter to Fish & Wildlife against delisting the pygmy owl.

6. The committees made their reports.

a. Chuck Kangas of the Membership Committee reported that there are 608 members, with 150 newsletter web viewers and 38 who receive the newsletter by mail.

b. The Field Trip Committee has trips planned through May.

c. Daniela Yellan of the Program Committee reported that she has lined up all programs for the year except one and she expects it to be finalized shortly.

At the regular membership meeting, 12 October, an "Above and Beyond" award certificate was presented to Andrée Tarby. Last year, she used her own money to purchase items to give to program speakers even though we had authorized money to the Program Committee for expenses.

In other news around the area or of special note, Hassayampa is now open. See the schedule in another short article on page 5.

SOMETHING TO COO ABOUT

Taken from an article sent to the editor

Widespread: There are 400 million Mourning Doves in the continental United States. The dove is one of the 10 most abundant birds in the United States and the number 1 in Arizona.

Hunted: It is classified as a game bird in 40 states and is the most widespread and abundant game bird in North America. About 18 million were taken by hunters in 2003.

"Morning" Dove: The bird is most active between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Breeding: The Mourning Dove almost always lays clutches of two eggs and may produce five to six clutches per year in flimsy nests constructed in trees or shrubs.

Unusual: Pigeons and doves, are the only North American birds capable of drinking without raising their heads. They drink up to 15% of their body weight each day.

YES, YOU MAY BE SEEING EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES!

By Nancy Kroening

The October 2005 edition of Arivaca's Connection newspaper contains a report by Bill and Connie Sparks of the BBB Ranch. They are seeing Eurasian Collared Doves, which are an Asian species "imported into the Bahamas during the 1970s when a supplier was unable to fill an order of Ringed Turtle Doves and sent Eurasian Collared Doves instead."

My Kaufman birding guide shows these "new" doves as being in the southeastern states. Sibley shows a small area on the coast of California as well as the southeastern area. The new Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas of 2005 indicates that they came into Arizona around 2000 and were seen breeding in Eagar and are probable in several counties including Maricopa.

George Wall reports that he saw this species in the Arlington area on two field trips and in other areas on other field trips.

Identification is not hard. The field markings are distinct (See Sibley field guide—large version), The birds are about the size of a White-Winged Dove, but much lighter in color. Like the White-Winged Dove, it displays a beautiful banded fan-tail when landing but the black collar is what really identifies them.

This is one more bird to look for in our gardens, parks, and surrounding wild areas.

Join the National Audubon Society

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

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

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

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Refreshments donated by

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

ARIZONA (& VICINITY) CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE [2005-2006]

The National Audubon Society has conducted Christmas bird counts since 1900. Volunteers from across North America and beyond take to the field during one calendar day between December 14 and January 5 to record every bird species and individual bird encountered within a designated 15-mile diameter circle. These records now comprise an extensive ornithological database that enables monitoring of winter bird populations and the overall health of the environment.

Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. Many counts hold a compilation dinner at the end of the day where results are tabulated and stories shared. A \$5.00 participation fee defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the overall count results. Help is needed on most of these counts, so find one that interests you and contact the compiler for more information.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
12/14	We	Pipe Spring Nat. Monument	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	andrea_bornemeier@nps.gov
12/14	We	Salt-Verde Rivers	Kurt Radamaker	480-837-2446	kurtrad@mexicobirding.com
12/16	Fr	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251	bonnie_swarbrick@fws.gov
12/16	Fr	Phoenix-Tres Rios	Daniela Yellan	602-942-7791	danielay11@earthlink.net
12/17	Sa	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Curt McCasland	520-387-6483	curtis_mccasland@fws.gov
12/17	Sa	Avra Valley	George Montgomery	520-682-8530	gmontgomery@desertmuseum.org
12/17	Sa	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Henry Detwiler	928-343-8363	henrydetwiler@earthlink.net
12/17	Sa	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	elaimorr@npgcable.com
12/17	Sa	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetrogon@comcast.net
12/17	Sa	Puerto Penasco, Sonora, MX	Steve Ganley	480-830-5538	sganley@cox.net
12/17	Sa	Santa Catalina Mountains	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	bates@u.arizona.edu
12/17	Sa	Timber Mesa	Jimmy Videle	928-537-5144	moonrise@wmonline.com
12/18	Su	Camp Verde	Anita MacFarlane	928-282-4063	ajmac@sedona.net
12/18	Su	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-925-5567	duerksen@msn.com
12/18	Su	Patagonia	Thomas Army	520-394-0146	tarny@theriver.com
12/18	Su	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	mourast@saic.com
12/18	Su	Tucson Valley	Susan Birky	520-743-9390	sbirky@mindspring.com
12/21	We	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	tomoff@northlink.com
12/26	Mo	Superior	Cynthia Donald	480-283-4515	planres@earthlink.net
12/27	Tu	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado@cox.net
12/28	We	Green Valley-Madera Canyon	Reid Freeman	520-625-9895	wallcreeper@cox.net
12/28	We	Havasú NWR	Norma Miller	520-578-1399	n8urnut@comcast.net
12/29	Th	Bill Williams Delta	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair@fws.gov
12/30	Fr	Dudleyville	Tracy McCarthey	602-451-4179	tmccarthey@msn.com
12/30	Fr	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayampacbc@hotmail.com
12/31	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Terry Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows@nau.edu
12/31	Sa	Peloncillo Mountains, NM	Alan Craig	520-558-2220	narca@vtc.net
12/31	Sa	Sierra Pinta-Cabeza Prieta NWR	David Griffin	505-382-2080	djg1@zianet.com
1/1	Su	Elfrida	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
1/1	Su	Portal	Larry Gates	520-558-1020	hummers@vtc.net
1/1	Su	Sedona	Dottie Hook	928-204-1894	dothook1@aol.com
1/2	Mo	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber@cox.net
1/3	Tu	Saint David	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
1/4	We	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence@nps.gov
1/4	We	Jerome	Betsy Feinberg	928-203-0676	betsyfpub101@catharon.com

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IBA

birds flying by from the B&M hill and a transect along the old nature trail there. We have not as yet set up teams for the other sites: more flyby counts near Jackie Meck Lake and at Robbins Butte and a census at the Arlington WMA when renovation of the ponds there is complete. Information on listed species in the IBA will be provided by Game and Fish from their surveys.

For the moment we hope to use Christmas Bird Count data for the relevant areas to serve as the winter IBA count. The regular cycle of counts at this IBA will begin next Spring (see the calendar). SAS is trying to set up monitoring teams large enough not to require constant effort by all members. All participants are welcome and will receive travel reimbursement.

Both leaders and counters are needed at all sites, if you are interested please contact me, Josh Burns, at the above e-mail address, or Dwayne Fink at edna.fink@asu.edu or Tice Supplee at tsupplee@audubon.org.

RIO SALADO AUDUBON CENTER

Overlooking the restored and revitalized Salt River, the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center will be an important nature and conservation resource for greater Phoenix as well as 36 elementary schools and 14 high schools located within 20 minutes of the Center. The Center's strategic location in the multicultural heart of the city will provide hands-on nature education and experiences in a riparian habitat rich with animal and plant life.

We need Sonoran Audubon Society to help us make this an exciting, richly environmental opportunity for kids, families, chapter members AND birds, wildlife, and riparian desert habitat!

Research shows that direct experience in nature is the single most important factor in developing conservation values among young people. The central focus of Audubon's mission is the human experience of wildlife in natural settings, enhanced by science classes and projects, hikes, family adventures, and conservation programs, designed to engender a conservation ethic and to provide life-long learning opportunities. Audubon Arizona is committed to bringing high quality nature experiences into the urban environment.

The Rio Salado Audubon Center will bring to greater Phoenix:

1. An environmentally integrated (green) building available to the public for nature education and community events.

2. Adjacent wetlands, outdoor spaces, gardens and interpretive trails to enhance the Center's programs and visitor experience at the Rio Salado habitat restoration.

3. Interactive programs for school children that supplement school science curricula and foster a culture of conservation.

4. Hands-on experiences for families that are science-based, fun, and bring nature into the urban environment.

5. A permanent home for Sonoran and Maricopa chapters to bird watch, adopt the Rio Salado IBA, and meet for programs, monthly gatherings, chapter meetings.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SATURDAY, November 5th, TO DEDICATE THE FIVE-MILE, \$100 MILLION RESTORED HABITAT OF THE RIO SALADO PRESERVE, on Central Avenue and the Salt River. Program begins at 9am; the Nature Festival from 10-2pm.

Please come – please volunteer – please come for a tour even before the project opens!

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE EVENTS

Reported by Bernadine McCollum

Nov 5th: There will be a slide presentation about Arizona snakes entitled "Close Encounters of the Reptilian Kind". Kids and parents from 10-12 and adults from 1-3pm.

Nov 12th: Earth oven bread making followed by a potluck luncheon. Times to be announced later via email message.

Nov 19th: There will be a program entitled "The Language of Nature" from 9-11 am. Increase your ability to see, hear and sense the natural environment.

Nov 26th: There will be a guided interpretive walk from 8:30-10 am with an experienced docent.

Dec 10th: A Local author, Martha Maxton, will discuss her new book, "The Real Roadrunner". This will be held from 9-10:30 am.

Dec 17th: There will be a guided interpretive walk from 8:30-10 am with an experienced docent.

Fall/Winter 2005-6 Field Trips

All field trips are open to anyone who has an interest in nature. This especially includes members of the Maricopa Audubon Society and Birders' Anonymous. The Maricopa Audubon Society has its own website and its list of field trips at www.maricopaaudubon.org and I feel sure we'd be welcome on their trips. Birders' Anonymous trips are included below along with the SAS field trips and are denoted by an asterisk (*).

***Thursday, November 10, 2005**

McCormick Ranch Lake & Pavilion Ponds

Leader Richard Fogle 623-584-3922

rpfogle@yahoo.com

McCormick Ranch is in North Scottsdale and has several lakes and ponds with grassy areas and trees in which to look for birds. The same holds true for the Pavilion Ponds. There are always wintering ducks scurrying around in the water. Last year at approximately the same time, 40 species of birds were seen.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot (Hutton Drive near Boswell) in Sun City to leave at 7:00 a.m. or call the leader for alternate meeting place.

Saturday, November 19, 2005

Red Rock Road & Pecan Grove

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cs.com

The pecan grove, along the lower Santa Cruz River, is known as a fall migrant trap and anything may be possible. Birds that have been seen there include Lewis's Woodpecker, Vermillion Flycatcher, thrashers, doves, Pyrrhuloxia and Burrowing Owls along the road.

Difficulty: 1

We will meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City at 7am. and at the Denny's at the corner of I-10 and Litchfield Rd. at approximately 7:00 a.m. Bring a lunch.

Monday-Thursday, Nov 28-Dec 1, 2005

Bosque del Apache, New Mexico

Leaders: Richard Fogle 623-584-3922

rpfogle@yahoo.com & **Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

rms15247@cs.com

This is a national wildlife refuge where you'll be able to see thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese with a few Ross' Geese thrown in to compare to at close range. There are always lots waterfowl and raptors at this marvelous place. We last visited this area in January 2003 and we saw 89 species.

Call the leaders to get your name on the list and any necessary information.

***Tuesday, December 6, 2005**

Tres Rios: Hayfield & Cobblestone areas

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

wallaby@worldnet.att.net

You're always going to see a lot of birds at these two areas right next to each other. At an earlier outing in August of this year, 43 species were seen including the Least Bittern, Sora, and lots of Green Herons. This time of the year, there should be several ducks on the ponds.

Difficulty: 1 – easy flat walking trails

Leave at 7:30 a.m. from the Sun Bowl parking lot (107th Ave just south of Peoria in Sun City); so be there a few minutes early for car-pooling.

Saturday, January 14, 2006

Arlington Valley

Leaders: Dean and Joan Luehrs (623) 875-1016

dluehrs@cox.net

Arlington Valley, west of Phoenix and south of Arlington, with its fields, ponds, canals, a dam and a desert butte offers a variety of habitats to search for birds. At this time of year there could be flocks of blackbirds, ibis and egrets feeding in the fields. Last year a White-tailed Kite and a Bendire's Thrasher were seen. A Prairie Falcon and Swainson's Hawks were among the 70 species sighted. Eurasian Collared-doves seem to have become "locals." There should be a good mixture of sandpipers and other shorebirds present.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just South of Peoria Ave .in Sun City at 7:30 a.m.

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

***Wednesday, January 18, 2006**

Thunderbird Park Area

Leader: Carolyn Modeen 623-972-6273

ctmodeen@juno.com

This area contains a large pond to view water birds and another area to view desert birds. At this time of year, we should see 30 or more species of birds. Meet at Bell Recreation Center parking lot at Hutton & Boswell, Sun City to leave at 7:00 AM.

Difficulty: 1 (very little walking) Morning only

Saturday, Jan 28, 2006

Estrella Park, P.I.R. area

Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922

rpfogle@yahoo.com

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Fall/Winter 2005-6 Field Trips

This regional park is a fine birding area with easy walking and the P.I.R. area has always been a good spot for birding. Last year at this time, 31 species were seen. Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave just south of Peoria Ave in Sun City to leave at 7:00 AM.

Difficulty: 1 (some easy walking) Morning only

Saturday, February 11, 2006 Gilbert Water Ranch

Leaders: Chuck and Loretta Richards (623) 594-6554
Carichards@nowonline.net

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

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

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Meet at Lowe's parking lot on Thunderbird just west of 83rd Ave. by the Burger King. There is lots of parking available. We plan to leave at 7:30 A.M.

Saturday, February 18, 2006 Robbins Butte

Leader: Will be listed later

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.

Meeting place will be listed later.

***Thursday, February 23, 2006**

Tres Rios Wetlands

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

This constructed wetland complex on the Salt River at the 91st Ave. Waste Water Treatment Plant in Phoenix ranks among the best places to find birds in the area. Black-crowned Night Herons, Green Herons and Great Blue Herons are often seen in numbers. At this time of year Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal,

Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Common Goldeneye have been present. The Osprey is always sighted and there should be a variety of shorebirds including Greater Yellowlegs, Black-necked Stilt, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Expect to see egrets and passerines also.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

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

**Saturday, March 4, 2006
Granite Reef/Coon's Bluff**
Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922
rpfogle@yahoo.com

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

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch

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

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

**Tuesday, March 21, 2006
Hassayampa River Preserve**
Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057
wallaby@worldnet.att.net

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

Meet at Site #1, Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at around 7:00 AM or you can meet the group at the Hassayampa River Preserve at 8:00 AM. There is a \$5 donation to the preserve for each person.

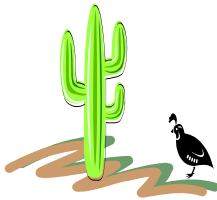
Difficulty: 1 This is a morning trip only, but you may want bring your lunch just in case the birding is good. There are nice picnic tables where you can eat and watch birds.

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.**

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| November 9, 2005 | Jamey Driscoll, Wildlife Specialist, Bald Eagle biologist, Arizona Game & Fish Department:
“The Management of the Southwestern Bald Eagle in Arizona” |
| December 14, 2005 | David Pearson, Ph.D. Arizona State University: “Why are there more bird species some
places than others?” |
| January 11, 2005 | Shawneen Finnegan
Desert Plover and Peep Primer: “Shorebirds in Arizona” |

Other Dates of Interest: November 2, 2005 at 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room.
All SAS members welcome.



Sonoran Audubon Society
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