



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 4 Issue 9

May 2003

## Open Letter

By Don Hoffman

### Director Arizona Wilderness Coalition

On Friday, April 11, the Bush Administration's Department of the Interior announced a court settlement that will remove administrative protection from millions of acres of wilderness quality lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and preclude the agency from protecting wilderness values in future management and planning decisions. We view this dangerous settlement to be among the most damaging anti-environmental moves by Secretary Norton and the Bush Administration. Reached behind closed doors, this reversal of long-standing policies poses an immediate and serious threat to tens of millions of acres of wilderness-quality land nationwide, including over 2 million acres in Arizona.

Professional land managers of the BLM have long-recognized that the 1970s and 1980s era inventories under which Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) were inventoried and protected overlooked important wilderness-quality lands. For this reason, BLM developed and implemented a Wilderness Inventory Handbook (HB 6310-1), consistent with legal mandate, to guide future agency inventories as part of land management planning. It ensured that public lands were responsibly managed to provide for a wide range of multiple uses including not just mining, oil development, recreation, grazing, and wildlife habitat, but wilderness as well. This Handbook also provided opportunities for citizen input into the identification of these lands and how they should be managed.

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The BLM inventory and planning process is a stellar example of democracy in action. It gives every American a voice in how our public lands are managed.

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## At our next meeting....

Wednesday May, 14 at 6:30 p.m.

"Politics is for the Birds"

By Judd Klement

Regional Coordinator

National Audubon Society - Public Policy



"From Hawksbills to Senate Bills"

Don't miss our next meeting when Judd Klement, Regional Grassroots Coordinator for Audubon's Public Policy office, explains how a marine biologist working on sea turtles came to work for Audubon.

Judd will give Sonoran Audubon a "Sea Turtle 101" presentation showing pictures of his work in places like Costa Rica, Antigua, Dominica and the east coast. Come see and hear how sea turtles, like the Hawksbill, nest and learn about his adventures working the beaches at night. He then will tell us how his travels led him to Audubon and inform us about what Audubon is doing for conservation on a policy level and how important everyone is to the legislative process.

Judd has worked for Audubon's public policy office in Washington D.C. for two years as a grassroots coordinator. He helps inform people about federal policy issues like the Clean Water Act, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, funding for National Wildlife Refuges and Neomigratory birds.

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### **"Politics is for the Birds"**

He will show us all of the free tools that Audubon offers and how to get involved with the legislative process and make a difference... because remember... birds can't vote but you can!

Judd brings a strong science and marine biology background, as well as political trade association experience to the Audubon Grassroots Department, headquartered in Washington D.C. He has spent a significant amount of time working with endangered species aboard hopper dredges on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico, and has also conducted research and conservation efforts with Leatherback and Hawksbill sea turtles in the Caribbean and Central America.

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### **Letter By Don Hoffman**

Without its guidance, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) would not have been able to develop the comprehensive data its dedicated volunteers gathered and compiled into nine proposals for the BLM that include 70 distinct areas, covering nearly 2 million acres of Arizona's natural heritage. Special places like Ironwood Forest National Monument and the habitat that protects the habitat for last viable population of bighorn sheep in Pima County; Agua Fria's verdant canyon and winding river; the spires of Saddle Mountain; and the windswept grandeur of Grand Canyon-Parashant that buffers important wildlife corridors around the Grand Canyon.

In a settlement of a court case filed by the State of Utah, the Department of the Interior has agreed to rescind the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, which would preclude the identification and interim protection of additional wilderness-suitable lands, and remove any protections for lands that have already been recognized pursuant to it as possessing wilderness characteristics. This draconian reversal of policy by the Bush Administration discourages BLM consideration of wilderness values, but also eliminates opportunities for the citizens of Arizona to identify and protect wilderness qualities.

Wilderness is a bedrock value for Arizona's residents. Each year millions visitors enjoy protected and unprotected wildlands in this remarkable state. Wilderness is important to our economy and to the quality of life that Arizonans enjoy. Dedicated activists and volunteers have spent thousands of hours identifying roadless areas and inventorying wilderness characteristics on lands managed by BLM. Clearly there is strong citizen support for wilderness in our state.

We view this decision by the Department of Interior as a one-sided give-away to mining, oil, and other development and one that damages the interests of hikers, campers, hunters, anglers and others who take advantage of the many family recreational opportunities that BLM wilderness-quality lands provide in our state. Because of the disastrous implications of this short-sighted policy change on lands in our state, we respectfully request for you to issue a statement condemning this action.

Please write a letter to the Department of Interior and ask that for the Bush Administration to reinstate and fully comply with its obligations under the law to fairly consider the wilderness resources and their many multiple use benefits as an integral part of planning for the public lands, as carried out under the specific guidance of the wilderness inventory handbook. . If there is any information you need to do this, please do not hesitate to call Don Hoffman at 928-339-4426 or Chuck Kangas at 623-931-6677.

### **Phoenix International Raceway**

By Dwayne Fink

According to an article in the Arizona Republic (20 Apr 2003, D2), Phoenix International Raceway wants to greatly expand the number of events held there each year, and wants the public to pay for improvements to the roads serving the facility.

Presently, four major racing events are held at PIR each year. Bryan Sperber, the president of PIR, did not specify the number of events he is contemplating, but remarked favorably that a similar raceway in New York had had 10 races in 14 weeks. That is either a race or getting ready for one every week for nearly four months. Probably four months is the window of opportunity, weather wise, for New York. In Arizona we have year-round racing weather. You get the picture.

Chances are, birds and birders, or others who use the area for recreation or any purpose other than racing will just have to go elsewhere. The noise and crush of racing will blight maybe five to 10 miles of the river, and make life miserable for people living in the entire area. This is sobering considering how much money has gone into restoring the river habitat, and protecting Holly Acres from flooding.

The article states that "Sperber has enlisted Governor Janet Napolitano to find state funding to make road improvements around the track ---". Some of us still remember the details regarding the funding of the bridge across the Gila River at 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue. And I thought that Arizona was so short of money this year that we had to give up the Heritage Fund.

## A message from your president...

This is again the end of another Sonoran Audubon season - no more general meeting until September. Of course, we have a very interesting meeting coming up on May 14 with Judd Klement. We also have some business to conduct. We have to vote on confirming the by-laws which the board modified. We also need to vote on our new nominating committee and be saying good by to our old committee which consisted of George and Maria Wall and Eleanor Campbell. The nominations from the floor of our last general meeting for the new committee were Ann McDermott and Daniela Yellan.

Although most of you will be off for the summer our board and committees will continue meeting and working. The board will need to meet to plan next year's activities. The Field Trip Committee will meet to plan next fall's field trips. The Program Committee will meet to plan the programs for the fall. They'll select the speakers and contact them to confirm their dates.

A major issue for the board will be Chapter membership. The National Audubon Society is sharing less and less of the members due share with our chapter. A number of members wish to let the membership in national expire and just be members of the Sonoran Audubon Society. This is one of the changes in the by-laws you'll be voting on. Previously to be a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society it was necessary to also be a member of National. If approved that will no longer be the case. We would have to come up with distinctive SAS membership identification cards. We may also have to determine what the dues will be.

**SAS Web Site: [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)**

## Join Sonoran Audubon Society.....

New Adult or Family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and Students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for Students and Seniors: \$15.00

Mailed Newsletter subscription : \$8.00

Fee includes membership in the National Audubon and your local Sonoran Audubon Societies, and a subscription to the Audubon magazine. Your check should be made payable to the National Audubon Society, along with the membership form, preferably obtained from the Sonoran Audubon Society and containing our chapter ID number B07.

The Sonoran Chapter newsletter, Gabel's Tales, may be obtained free from the chapter website <[www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)>, or by subscribing for a mailed hard copy. Web site recipients will be notified when each newsletter is posted if the chapter has your e-mail address. Send your membership name and e-mail address to <[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)>. If subscribing for a hard copy, send check (\$8.00), made payable to the Sonoran Audubon Society, to Sonoran Audubon Society, P.O. Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068. Please include your address, and telephone number.

## Sonoran Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

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**Treasurer** Josh Burns 602-468-3002 [josh\\_a\\_burns@yahoo.com](mailto:josh_a_burns@yahoo.com)

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## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SPRING COUNT OF THE AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

By Dwayne Fink and Josh Burns

The spring 2003 count of the Agua Fria National Monument by Sonoran Audubon is nearly completed. By the end of count period a total of at least 15 site areas will have been counted by about 30 birders. At this writing at least two sites remain to be counted.

Our preliminary results are exciting - we have seen 106 species so far this spring and this number does not include 26 of the species seen last spring. Of species seen, 23 are new to the Spring Count and 7 to the monument including Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Black-necked Stilt, Costa's Hummingbird and Cinnamon Teal.

The importance of the monument as critical bird habitat is underscored by the presence of three probably nesting pairs of Zone-tailed Hawks as well as 28 other species courting and/or nesting.

But the counts have provided us with more than just data useful in the conservation of birds through the Important Bird Area program. Participants have had a great birding experience. This experience is more exciting because we are among the first ever to bird at the monument. Counting in the various seasons has given us a new understanding of the cycle of both birdlife and a still-living river and its beauty.

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## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SPRING COUNT OF THE AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

We will try to have a final report on the Spring Count at the May General Meeting on the 14th. We also have some information on where to bird at the monument. We hope that all birders will report their numbers to us to as to continue to improve our data base. There is a fieldtrip to the monument on May 3rd; on this trip we will look at the mid-level riparian south of Bloody Basin Road.

There will be a summer count period to get more nesting information, including that of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (twelve territorial birds seen last July) and maybe some other yet undocumented birds. You will be getting the details in the September newsletter.

### Coachwhip Chaos

By Ann McDermott

A female hummingbird zipped about in the bottlebrush tree. Nearby, house sparrows fluttered nervously, then fled their perches in an oleander tree. The hummingbird just wouldn't quit. Her nervous--no, frantic movements could not be explained. I continued to watch her mysterious behavior from my second story window overlooking the two trees which seemed to be inspiring her demented darting. Did she have a nest nearby?

Then I saw the source of the hummer's anxiety. A red coachwhip glided through the oleander branches, crossing effortlessly into the bottle brush tree, tree-climbing as silkily as fog flows inland from the sea. I went to the balcony for a closer look.

Reddish above--lighter, almost white below--a good four feet of snake lay across branches only two feet below me. I could easily see black spotting on its flanks, near the head. Its color was pretty solid, no striping of any sort that ran the length of its body. It did, however, have brown cross-striping, barely noticeable against the brown-pink of its dorsal scaling. Its handsome head had the apparently smiling jaw line common to many snakes. Its tail was patterned beautifully. It seemed to be braided, thus the name coachwhip. Reptilian eyes met mine and we both knew we'd been spotted.

After allowing me a good three minutes of observation time, the snake decided that between me and the hummingbird, its cover was blown; further stealth was ridiculous, so it may as well go practice its fine art of hunting elsewhere.

It made a U-turn, slithered back into the oleander, down the trunk to the floor of the courtyard, then out the gate to open country. Now the hummingbird ceased her antics. She did not have a nest in the trees, at least not that I could find, but she did not want this invader perched in her tree. While the sparrows fled the hunting grounds, little Ms. Hummingbird stayed to point out the danger to any newcomers and harass the snake. Between the two of us, it was convinced to move along.

The liquid movement of the snake moving through the trees was incredible. Once before I'd seen Coachwhips in a tree. Two had climbed a mesquite and were mating. Since the process can take several hours, it seemed a little precarious to have chosen a mesquite tree for the occasion, but their entwining dance was most beautifully orchestrated in their leafy abode. They seemed as comfortable in the tree as any passerine.

With a diet of eggs and birds, the coachwhip's ease in scaling trees is explained. While earthbound, it can also find food, however, as small rodents round out its meal plan. If startled, Coachwhips escape down the holes of small rodents. Small rodents just can't win. Venomless, this graceful hunter is capable of lightning speed. Once caught, its prey is swallowed alive. Hunting is done by day. Unlike most other desert snakes, the coachwhip can tolerate higher, daytime temperatures, so it's diurnal in lifestyle, moderating its body temperature by moving between sunny and shady spots.

Coachwhips can attain eight feet in length, but most are around four to five, making the one in my tree a typical specimen. If caught, a coachwhip makes a terrible pet. It will never stop biting the hand that feeds it, or attempt to. It just refuses to be tamed.

On the other side of the courtyard, a mourning dove incubates two eggs she's settled into a flimsy nest of crisscrossed sticks twelve feet high in another bottlebrush tree. My grandson and I are keeping an eye on her progress. We're marking the days until the eggs hatch. I'll bet she was sweating bullets watching the hummingbird pester the prowling coachwhip out of the courtyard. Sweating bullets!

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Ann McDermott is a regular contributor to our newsletter. I hope all of you enjoy her articles as much as your editor.

## **Spring and Summer 2003 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. Sonoran Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on all outings!

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. Avoid bright colors. Wear sturdy walking shoes**

**Saturday May 3, 2003**

**Agua Fria National Monument**

**Leader: Josh Burns 602-468-3002**

**josh\_a\_burns@yahoo.com**

SAS has adopted the new Agua Fria National Monument and has initiated a number of projects that reflect a focus on the Agua Fria River. Volunteers have nearly completed a bird list for Arcosanti which lies in the monument. Others are working with BLM to create an ongoing seasonal and distribution checklist for the entire monument with four major bird counts scheduled. To see some of the monument and learn more about the area birds, join our society's treasurer, who has been involved in saving the varied habitat, on this field trip.

Difficulty: 2+ Contact leader for meeting time and place.

**Friday May 16, 2003**

**Camp Verde State Park/Verde River**

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

**rms15247@cs.com**

Visit the Verde River area during spring migration. Explore Camp Verde Park where there are lots of trees and birds. Last year the leader found a nest of Common Black Hawks there.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch.

This is a Birders Anonymous and Sonoran Audubon combined trip. Meet at Bell Recreation Center, corner of Boswell and Hutton Dr., Sun City, to leave at 6:30 a.m. OR call leader to meet enroute.

**Friday May 30-Sunday June 1, 2003**

**Grey Feathers Lodge**

**Silver City, New Mexico**

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

**ercamp@juno.com**

Grey Feathers Lodge, a "Birder's Paradise," is nestled on the side of a mountain in the heart of the Gila Wilderness, 24 miles north of Silver City, New Mexico, at 6000 feet.

The group field trips will begin Saturday morning with a visit to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and stops at Gila Hot Springs and recreation areas. The rest of the weekend itinerary will include, among others, stops at Lake Roberts, Bear Canyon Lake, campgrounds in the Gila National Forest and, of course, exploration of the Grey Feathers Bird Sanctuary. The leader will research birding sites the week prior to the weekend and plan a varied itinerary. Please call her if there are questions.

**Saturday June 14, 2003**

**Agua Fria National Monument**

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

**chuckkan@mindspring.com**

This is a continuing bird census of the Agua Fria Monument. The primary purpose of this trip is to find pairs of breeding birds. There will be a special effort to locate breeding pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. The Cuckoo usually doesn't arrive on its breeding grounds until the end of May. It's probably our latest arriving breeding bird. If any Cuckoos are found on the May field trip we will search out those areas. Otherwise, we'll go to the areas where they were found last July. Because the weather will be very hot at the monument at this time of year, we'll want to meet at about 5:30 AM so we can arrive at the monument at around 6:00 AM. Call the leader for the meeting place.

**Monday June 16, 2003**

**P.I.R. and El Mirage Pond**

**Leader: Marshall Esty 623- 977-1637**

**mne@juno.com**

The marshes near noisy Phoenix International Raceway still provide refuge for shore and water birds. Walk on the old road to PIR to look for resident Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, egrets, ducks and nesting warblers. Look for raptors and field birds enroute to the ephemeral El Mirage Pond.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

This is a combined Birders Anonymous and Sonoran Audubon trip. Meet at Sun Bowl Parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 6:30 a.m.

**The Great White Mountain Audubon**

**Campout 2003**

**Friday June 20th- Sunday June 22nd**

**White Mountain Audubon**

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## Spring and Summer 2003 Field Trips

It's about great birds, great company and a lot of fun! The campsite will be at Burnt Mill Springs. From Pinetop, take Highway 260 east about 25 miles to Forest Road 117, which is signed (you'll pass Hon-Dah, and the Sunrise Ski Area turnoff). Possible changes may occur due to fire danger. The cost will be \$20 per vehicle for the weekend. We have room for both RVs and tents, and there are accommodations in Greer, Pinetop, or Follow the bird silhouettes north for about 8 miles to the campsite.

### Registration:

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged! Send your pre-registration no later than **June 9th**. Please send your name, mailing address and email or phone number (required), and if you plan to tent, RV, or stay in a local motel along with your check made out to White Mountain Audubon, Inc. to Jimmy Videle, HC 65 Box 527026, Concho, AZ 85924. Once we have received your check, we'll send you a map and a confirmation number for your vehicle. You can contact us for further information at (928) 337-2466 or email at [moonrise@wmonline.com](mailto:moonrise@wmonline.com)

### Thursday-Saturday July 10-12, 2003

#### Flagstaff

**Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623 977-7639**  
[ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

This get-away in "under-birded" Flagstaff area is a joint Birders' Anonymous and SAS trip. It will include a tour of Kachina Wetlands led by expert birder, author, and past president of Northern Arizona, Frank Brandt, on Friday morning.

There will be a visit to Northern Arizona University Museum to look for chickadees, nuthatches, orioles and nesting warblers along the nature trail and an exploration of The Arboretum Saturday morning. Other nearby sites included in this two night event will be checked out by the leader. Call her for more information.

This trip is filling up fast. Please call Eleanor to reserve a place on the trip.

### Thursday July 17, 2003

#### Thunderbird Park and Area

**Leader: Marshall Esty 623- 977-1637**  
[mne@juno.com](mailto:mne@juno.com)

This is a trip to see the breeding birds at Thunderbird Park and the nearby ponds.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

This is a Birders Anonymous and Sonoran Audubon combined trip. Meet at Bell Recreation Center, corner of Boswell and Hutton Dr., Sun City, to leave at 6:30 a.m. OR call leader to meet enroute.

### Saturday , July 19, 2003

#### Agua Fria National Monument

**Leader: Josh Burns 602-468-3002**

[josh\\_a\\_burns@yahoo.com](mailto:josh_a_burns@yahoo.com)

See the remarks on the June 14 field trip. This is part of the ongoing bird census of the Agua Fria Monument. We will primarily looking for breeding pairs of birds. Of course, If Chuck Kangas finds any Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the June field trip we will try to relocate them and also find any extra pairs. Twelve territorial birds seen last July and we hope to increase that count. We will always be trying to find breeding birds which we haven't seen previously.

As Chuck mentioned in his field trip notes in June, because the weather will be very hot at the monument at this time of year, we'll want to meet at about 5:30 AM so we can arrive at the monument at around 6:00 AM. Call the leader for the meeting place.

### Saturday July 26, 2003

#### South Rim of the Grand Canyon

**Leader: Bruce Palmer**

**623-582-6757**

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

California Condors are nesting at the Grand Canyon! Join us at the south rim of the Grand Canyon where we will be able to observe the cave where the condors are nesting. Anticipating a successful hatching by mid May, the condor chick should be about three months old. The parents care for the chick for about six months until the chick is old enough to make its first flight. We will be joined by field biologists from the reintroduction program and see the telemetry equipment used in tracking the bird's movements.

- Our ultimate meeting place will be in Grand Canyon Village at Bright Angel Lodge at the back entrance at 10:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Bruce by at least July 22 to arrange for transportation
- Difficulty: 2.
- Bring Lunch.

This is a repeat of last years trip to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. A number of people told us that they were very sorry they didn't make the 2002 trip.

The plan is to began the trip early Saturday morning at the Glendale library, but a number of us will be staying in Flagstaff the night before and also Saturday evening.

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## Spring and Summer 2003 Field Trips

Bruce Palmer, the trip leader, and his wife, Chris, will drive the remaining participants early Saturday, meeting the rest of us in Flagstaff. However, please call Bruce to reserve a place on the trip and let him know your transportation plans.

Bruce will have a large van so most if not all the participants will be able to travel in one vehicle to the canyon.

Bruce, who works for the Fish and Wildlife Service, is the national coordinator for the California Condor recovery program. This proves to be advantageous in several different ways. The condors all have attached radio transmitters and Bruce will have a receiver, which will be attached to a parabolic antenna so he can tell when we are approaching a condor. He will also be able to tell us the age, sex, and identification number of each bird. Bruce also will have a Condor Recovering placard for his vehicle which will allow us to drive into areas of the park that are closed to the general public's private vehicles.

Ask any of the people who went on his trip last year to find out what an exciting trip this is.

### **Saturday & Sunday August 2 and 3, 2003 California Gulch and Southern Arizona**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby**  
480-948-1074

This is a repeat of a very successful trip that Andrée Tarby led last year. We saw almost all of the target birds we went to see, including the Five-striped Sparrow, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Varied Bunting, and the Botteri's Sparrow. I believe all the target birds were seen through the scope, so all of us had good looks at them.

The plan is to drive to Nogales and spend the night leaving very early Saturday morning. Some of us will plan to see some birds on Friday on our way down to Nogales.

We go along some very rough roads so 4-wheel drive vehicles are necessary. We hope to have enough 4-wheel drive vehicles to put in extra people who might want to drive their own cars. It's only the last few miles where 4-wheel drive vehicles are necessary.

Call Andrée Tarby for details of the trip and she'll also try to arrange for car pooling.

**Thursday August 14, 2003**

### **Mystery Trip**

**Leader: Marshall Esty 623- 977-1637**

**mne@juno.com**

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Marshall is keeping this trip a secret. I think he wants to wait and see what unusual birds might show up in the area. When I was the field trip chairman for the Tucson Audubon Society we called it "leader's choice".

This is a combined Birders Anonymous and Sonoran Audubon trip. Meet at Sun Bowl Parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 6:30 a.m.

**Saturday August 23, 2003**

### **Sonoita, Patagonia, Gardner Canyon , & Kino Springs**

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

**chuckkan@mindspring.com**

Eleanor Campbell and Tom Lazzelle led this trip last year. Eleanor stayed at the Sonoita Inn: [www.sonoitainn.com](http://www.sonoitainn.com) It is at the crossroads of Rtes. 82 & 83, Sonoita, AZ Phone: 520 455-5935 . e-mail: [info@sonoitainn.com](mailto:info@sonoitainn.com) She said it was a little pricey but a wonderful place to stay. My wife, Phyllis and I are planning to stay at the Inn. There is also a very good restaurant in Sonoita.

This trip will have to be played by ear. Eleanor said that last year it got very hot in the afternoon and they tried to cram everything into one day. My plan is to drive down Friday stopping at Gardner Canyon on the way to Sonoita to see the singing Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows. We'll get a very early start Saturday morning and bird until it gets hot. That should be about 10:00 or 11:00 AM. If it isn't too hot at that time we'll continue birding. If anyone shows an interest in birding the whole weekend we can arrange to spend Saturday night in Sonoita.

There should be some of the usual target birds including the Grey Hawk, Thick-billed Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Varied Bunting, Rose-throated Becard, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Dusky-capped and Ash-throated Flycatchers among others. We will make a stop at the Patton's to check out their feeders and should see many different hummingbirds.

I've been birding in this area for many years and I'm usually not disappointed. Of course, I'll be monitoring the bird alerts on the Internet to see if any rarity shows up in the area.

Tom Lazzelle knew of several other places to bird in the area and I'll get with him before I leave to find their locations.

This should be a fun trip. Make sure you call me so I'll know how many people to expect.

## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street  
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection)**

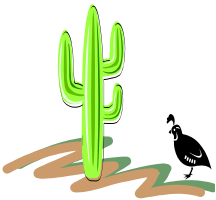
**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

May 14, 2003

Judd Klement , Regional Coordinator , National Audubon Society - Public Policy,  
"Politics is for the Birds"

### **Other Dates of Interest:**

May 7, 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**