



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 5 Issue 9

May 2004

## Border Patrol Proposal Threatens Organ Pipe's Wild Landscape

### Message from the Wilderness Society

Most of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in southern Arizona is designated wilderness, free of roads and structures, and vehicular use. But the National Park Service is now considering a U.S. Border Patrol plan that would drastically alter this wild landscape. The Border Patrol proposes to build several new roads, set up permanent backcountry camps and erect 10 surveillance towers within the Monument's wilderness.

Within the wilderness of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument lies an ecosystem as diverse as it is delicate. It is home to a number of species listed as either threatened or endangered, such as the Sonoran pronghorn, peregrine falcon, brown pelican, Quitobaquito pupfish, and others. The monument supports tsaguardo and organ pipe cactuses, only found in the Sonoran Desert region.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was set aside in 1937 to protect both the cactus and the endangered Sonoran pronghorn that now number as few as 25 in the U.S. The monument and its wildness are critical to the pronghorns' survival.

The monument also shelters a wide array of other wildlife and plant species that are unique to the nation, among them the monument's namesake, the organ pipe cactus. The area's uniqueness and its rich natural diversity earned it an "International Biosphere" designation from the United Nations.

The monument also holds a number of important cultural sites for the Tohono O'odham Nation, whose ties to the place reach back thousands of years. Ninety-five percent of the park is protected as wilderness.

### A Tightening Net

Over the past decade or so, Organ Pipe National Monument and surrounding border areas have become hot spots for illegal traffic across the U.S. border with Mexico.

## At our next meeting....

May 12, 2004

### Brian Wakeling, Arizona Game and Fish: "Turkey Research and Management in Arizona"



Wild Turkey

Photo by Brian Wakeling

Brian Wakeling is currently the Big Game Management Supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He has been serving in this role for four years. Prior to that, he served for 12 years as a Research Biologist whose primary responsibilities included turkey research. Brian has studied both Gould's and Merriam's turkeys and continues to be involved in the Gould's turkey reintroduction efforts. Brian holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in wildlife management from Arizona State University.

Brian will be talking about Arizona Game and Fish department's past turkey research and management, distribution of turkeys in Arizona, discussion of Gould's and Merriam's turkeys, and surveying turkeys.

Many of our members don't know that one of our members, Bruce Palmer, was also involved with reintroducing turkeys from Mexico to Arizona.

(Continued from Page 1)

## **Border Patrol Proposal Threatens Organ Pipe's Wild Landscape**

The heavy volume of human traffic moving through the region, nearby livestock grazing and steadily encroaching development on both sides of the border have combined to weaken the Monument's ecosystem, leaving it very vulnerable to external impacts.

The National Park Service is accepting public comments on the newest chapter in the onslaught. The agency is preparing an environmental assessment for a joint Border Strategy Analysis at the behest of the U.S. Border Patrol.

### **A Thoughtful Response to a Growing Problem**

The traffic in human beings and drugs has become extremely dangerous. In response, the National Park Service has significantly increased its law enforcement presence inside the Monument and recently began construction of a 30-mile long vehicle barrier along the border. This \$17 million project will be completed in 2005. The agency designed these steps to address the problem of increased border crossings but to minimize unnecessary harm to wilderness and other resources.

The Border Patrol's new proposals differ hugely from current Park Service efforts and take no such careful pains to protect designated wilderness or other resources within the monument. Perhaps worse, they are on the table before the agencies can evaluate the steps they've already undertaken.

The Border Patrol's plan includes, but may not be limited to, four new east-west roads in the monument, essentially unlimited motorcycle and off-road-vehicle use in the wilderness, construction of two permanent backcountry camps and erection of ten watchtowers that will rise from 80 to 100 feet above the surrounding desert.

### **A Poor Way to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act!**

The combined weight of these measures will devastate the wilderness in Organ Pipe, fragment habitat, block wildlife corridors. And from one end to the other, they violate the clear language of the Wilderness Act whose 40th anniversary we mark this year. Taken together, they comprise the destruction of what is meant to be enduring wilderness to confront a temporal problem. That is dangerous for Organ Pipe National Monument and bodes ill for the rest of our National Wilderness Preservation System.

We do not dismiss the seriousness of problems along the border.

But there are less draconian, less impairing alternatives. It is very important that the Park Service hear from us as it begins to review the Border Patrol's proposals for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

\*\*\*\*\*

This article was sent to me by the Wilderness Society. Unfortunately, I received it too late to publish it in the last newsletter so there would be time for our membership to write to the monument and express their feelings about the proposal.

Many of our members have birded the monument and know what the proposal by the Boarder Patrol will do to the pristine habitat of the monument. I think we all agree that something should be done but this is the wrong approach.

### **The new Board of Directors**

We have elected a new board at the April meeting. They will assume their positions on June 1, 2004. This is the list of the new board.

#### Officers

Bob McCormick, President  
Dan Bohlmann, Vice President  
Loretta Richards, Treasurer  
Anne Durning, Secretary

#### Board members at large:

Suzanne Cash  
Dick Fogle  
Tom Jones  
Karen LaFrance  
Tom Lazzelle  
Jim Leonhardt  
Tice Supplee  
George Wall

You will notice that we now have a full slate of board members; twelve in all. Three of us are leaving the board after serving four and one half years. We are Josh Burns, Dwayne Fink and Charles Kangas. We all plan on staying active within the Sonoran Audubon Society but are looking forward to turning over our duties to the new board.

A new nominating committee was also elected at the April meeting. They are Charles Kangas, Chuck Richards and George Wall.

## A message from your president...

Page two of this newsletter list all the members of the new board of directors of the Sonoran Audubon Society. I mentioned that three of us who are leaving the board. I plan on staying active as the membership chair. Dwayne Fink and Josh Burns plan on staying active in the bird censuses in the west valley. It's been an exciting four and one half years. I think we've come a long ways since that first December planning session. Fortunately, we've had a lot of members put in a lot of hard work to make our chapter the success that it's become. At our last board retreat we started out listing the successes that we've had and the list was impressive.

The new board will be taking off where the old one left off and I think they will do a good job of moving our chapter forward. I know they will have the cooperation of all of you and I hope many of you will step forward when asked to help them.

The new year will be exciting one for me when I will have shed a number of jobs I had taken on and take on several new ones. We haven't had a membership chair for several years and it will be a challenge for me to take on that role.

We will also have a new newsletter editor and I hope many of you will help him by submitting articles. Bill Higgins is quite comfortable around computers. He told me that his only concern is having the material to put in each newsletter. I told him that I would help him get started and the articles will come to him.

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

## Join the National Audubon Society

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

These fees cover membership in the National Audubon Society and a subscription to Audubon magazine. An application form for National membership may be obtained from the chapter at the regular meeting or by contacting <[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com) or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society P O Box 8068 Glendale, AZ 85312-8068

## Sonoran Audubon Society Officers & Board Members:

### Officers

President Charles Kangas 623-931-6677

[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

Vice-President Robert McCormick 602-237-3951

[mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com)

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

Secretary Tice Supplee 602-258-7080 [tice\\_az@hotmail.com](mailto:tice_az@hotmail.com)

### Board Members at Large

Dwayne Fink 480-967-9202 [edna.fink@asu.edu](mailto:edna.fink@asu.edu)

Tom Jones 602-861-1217 [trjones@grand-canyon.edu](mailto:trjones@grand-canyon.edu)

Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451 [lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us](mailto:lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us)

Jim Leonhardt 602-938-0979 [deajimphx@cs.com](mailto:deajimphx@cs.com)

Dan Bohlmann 602-938-2881 [dans..bohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dans..bohlmann@prodigy.net)

## Committee Contacts

Programs Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074 [atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net)

Education Any volunteers?

Field Trips Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639

[ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

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

Hospitality Jim Leonhardt 602-938-0979 [deajimphx@cs.com](mailto:deajimphx@cs.com)

Membership Dwayne Fink 480-967-9202 [edna.fink@asu.edu](mailto:edna.fink@asu.edu)

Newsletter Charles Kangas 623-931-6677

[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

Publicity Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451

[Lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us](mailto:Lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us)



The above sign was prepared by Jak Keyser, one of our talented members, and will be displayed at our meeting refreshment table:

Thank you Trader Joe's, and Fry's Marketplace for your generosity.

**This a list of the current members of “Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society” :**

Barbara Barnes	Frances Baughman
Wade & Pat Beall	Harold & Ruth Behle
Dan Bohlmann	Michael Boornyas
Marian Bound	Josh Burns
Sam Campana	Eleanor Campbell
Joe Carter	Suzanne Cash
Matt & Tillie Chew	Al Dieterie
David & Joy Dolhancyk	David Domokos
Bill & Mary Draxler	George Drew
Patricia Dyer	Marjorie Eckman
Marshall Esty	Phillip Evanstock
Dwayne Fink	Steven & Joanne Ferguson
Dick Fogle	Stanley & Judith Getch
June Gordier	William Grossi
Bill & Edythe Higgins	Kathleen Hobbs
Bets Hobin	Maryann Hovan
Olin & Sharon James	Ian Jeffrey
Edgar & Barbara Jeter	Charles Kangas
Jak Keyser	Darnell Kirksey
Kira Kremer	Tyler & Katrina Kokjohn
Karen LaFrance	Jeanne Lamont
Col Bruno Larsen	Tom Lazzelle
Jim & Dea Leonhardt	Nancy London
Patricia Lopez	Vera Markham
Robert McCormick	Ann McDermott
Jayne McNeill	Janice Milano
William Muir	David & Mary Ellen Miller
Glenn Modeen	Andrea Nesbitt
John Nichol	Ione Piles
Jenise Porter	Debbi Radford
Bea Raymond	Jerry & Doris Rankin
Nancy Reed	Gillian Rice
Charles Richard	Charles & Loretta Richards
Elizabeth Roberts	Richard & Carol Schooler
Cheryl Scott	Ronald & Pat Sigler
Jay & Diana Singer	Diane Stuart
Tice Supplee	Jack & Catherine Thompson
Lorraine Thompson	Jerry Van Wyngarden
George & Maria Wall	Lewis Weeton
Jeanette Winters	Albert & Nancy Woods
Daniela Yellan	Stuart Zink

I wish to thank each of you for your support which allowed the Sonoran Audubon Society to go forward despite the cut in dues shares by the National Audubon Society.

When I published the list of Friends of SAS in the October newsletter we had 24 Friends, we now have 82. It's never to late to become a Friend of SAS!

**Page and the Glen Canyon Christmas Bird Count**

by Ann McDermott

I decided to do a CBC I'd never done before, so when I saw the listing in November's Sonoran Audubon newsletter for Glen Canyon, with John Spence as compiler, I contacted him to volunteer for the Page-area Christmas Bird Count. I explained that, coming from the Phoenix area, I was a "winter weenie" and that freezing to death was my primary fear. He said there were three groups of birders who went out, one by land, river and lake. The lake was birded from a boat with a heated cabin, the land was traversed in heated cars, but the river was by boat and would be cold. I chose the lake.

The scenery around Page and Lake Powell is pretty spectacular any time of year, but with the surrounding plateaus and Navajo Mountain dusted with snow, it was really stunning for the January 5th count.

Motel rates were really reasonable too. It's the "off season" for visitors to the lake, so winter is a great time to take advantage of the lack of crowds, low prices and gorgeous scenery. Just bring your long johns. Temperatures ranged from the high teens to the high 30's, so I never took mine off.

Except to shower--which I did have to do after falling into the mud and muck of the shoreline while trying to exit over the bow of the boat to bird on land. Due to the multiple layers of clothing I had on in my attempt to stay warm, I felt like the Pillsbury Dough Boy whenever I tried to move.

Agility was minimal and I proved it. I was embarrassed, had a scraped elbow, but was otherwise unscathed. Any scientist doing erosion studies in Antelope Canyon before the next runoff will be surprised to find that mud from the lake has somehow found its way back upstream. Not much of a mystery, really, as I emptied my coat pocket there the following day.

The cold temperatures were more than offset by the warm hospitality of the folks participating in the Christmas Bird Count. In the lake crew, Jesse Granet captained the boat, Brenda Russell was commander-in-chief, Vivian Firlien recorded the count information, with Gerry Nealon, Cynthia Adams and I assisting as look-outs. They were all very knowledgeable about the lake, river and Page, as well as birds. Their helpful information on sights to see before leaving Page the next day netted me the opportunity to visit Horseshoe Bend and Lower Antelope Canyon.

Our group spotted nearly 40 species. Numbers of species and individuals were way down because the lake levels are so low. Nevertheless, the Bald Eagles numbered a dozen and four Golden were seen too. We also had an Osprey. Late afternoon we watched two Bald Eagles snatching something from the lake waters, dropping it, then recovering it in some sort of game of tag.

(Continued on Page 5)

Continued from Page 4

### **Page and the Glen Canyon Christmas Bird Count**

Small birds in the sage, tamarisk and tumbleweed of the coast included White-crowned sparrows, Sage sparrows, and hordes of American Pipits and Horned Lark, being periodically hunted by Northern Harriers. I also enjoyed seeing winter-plummaged American Goldfinches, as Lessers are my usual fare.

I thoroughly enjoyed my short trip to Page and the opportunity to take part in the Christmas Bird Count there. I recommend it to anyone considering it next year. You just can't beat the hospitality, the scenery, or the free boat ride around Lake Powell. When else is THAT going to happen?

### **INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY COUNT**

Remember the count which was included in the April issue of the newsletter. It will be on May 8 and Sonoran Audubon has selected to begin a regular series of seasonal bird counts along the Gila River from Tres Rios to Gillespie Dam.

Contact Dwayne Fink (edna.fink@asu.edu), Josh Burns (josh\_a\_burns@yahoo.com) or Bill Higgins (bill\_higgins\_tempe@msn.com) for further information and to sign up. It should be fun and the weather should be better than the winter Christmas Counts.

### **Spring and Summer 2004 Field Trips**

#### **Sonoran Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on all outings!**

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

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

**Saturday, May 8, 2004**

**East Webber Creek Trail**

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

**dans..bohlmann@prodigy.net**

Because of the recent forest fire that covered the East Webber Creek trail area described in the April newsletter, it's not known if the trip will be on this exact trail. It is closed at press time.

However, the leader will conduct a trip in similar habitat along Tonto Creek east of Payson if it's not open. There will be several stops in the Ponderosa Pine forest at Tonto Creek Campground, the Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery and Christopher Creek Campground. Bird species should include vireos, warblers, chickadees, nuthatches, flycatchers, woodpeckers and Townsend's Solitaire.

Difficulty: 2 Bring lunch.

Meet at Fry's Electronics Store, 31<sup>st</sup> Ave. and Thunderbird (southeast corner) in the parking lot on the north side of the building near Thunderbird Road at 6:30 a.m.

**Friday, May 14, 2004**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Carolyn Modeen 623-972-6273**

**cmodeen@juno.com**

Springtime at the Nature Conservancy's Hassayampa River Preserve near Wickenburg always brings a lively, colorful assortment of bird species to observe. Over 230 species have been recorded nesting or migrating along this riparian area where cottonwoods and willows surround running water and a pond. Red-shouldered Hawks have nested here for several years. Vermilion Flycatcher, Hooded Orioles, and Anna's Hummingbirds are regulars and at this time of year Hutton's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler and other warblers can be seen. The Preserve has provided a nesting habitat for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

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

Donation to the Nature Conservancy is \$5.00 per person.

**Saturday, May 15, 2004**

**Wildflowers and Plants of Agua Fria Monument**

**Leaders:**

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

**Bruce Palmer 623 582-6757 palmerbc@cox.net**

Members of Sonoran Audubon Society have spent innumerable hours counting birds at the newly-designated huge national monument. Systematic study and reporting have resulted in making the site an Important Bird Area. However, on this field trip, veteran naturalists will lead an investigation of the flora of the monument. Depending on rainfall this season, look forward to discovering the abundance of flowers and plant life in general in this exciting living desert.

Call leaders for meeting time and place and details.

(Continued on Page 6)

Continued from Page 5

**Friday-Sunday, May 21-23, 2004**

**Sierra Vista Area**

**Leader: Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677**  
[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

Sierra Vista will be the starting point for excursions to various birding sites that draw people from around the world to Southeast Arizona. There are many canyons to explore: Garden, Miller, Ramsey, Scheelite and more. Former SAS members, Joe Woodley and his wife Jo Ann, who have moved to Hereford (southeast of Sierra Vista) will lead the group on Saturday.

They have seen Botteri's and Grasshopper Sparrow on their fence, Lucifer's Hummingbird at their feeder and a Scaled Quail family in their backyard.

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area along the San Pedro River is close by. Depending on the participants there will be a search for the Buff-breasted Flycatcher or the Flame-colored Tanager.

On Sunday the group will meet Arne Moorhouse and bird the environs of Whitewater Draw farther East in the Sulphur Springs Valley where it's possible to see Ferruginous Hawks and grassland flocks. The next stop will be Leslie Canyon, a riparian area, to look for nesting Swainson's Hawks and Bendire's Thrasher.

Make reservations at a nearby motel of your choice. Call the leader to register and arrange carpooling.

Difficulty: 3, If we hike up to see the Spotted Owl.

**Friday-Monday, June 4-7, 2004**

**Cave Creek Canyon/Portal**

**Leader: Chuck Kangas 623 931-6677**  
[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

Cave Creek Canyon located in the Chiricahua Mountains of Southeastern Arizona offers a multitude of bird habitats as well as magnificent views of beautiful vistas and imposing, colorful canyon walls. The Elegant Trogon nests along Cave Creek regularly. Grace's, Virginia's and Black-throated Gray Warblers and Painted Redstart are sure to be seen. Arizona Woodpecker is common. Blue-throated and Magnificent Hummingbirds should be present along with several vireos and flycatchers. The Elf owl and Western Screech will certainly be heard and possibly seen.

Besides the many national forest trails and campgrounds to explore there are private residents who welcome visitors to their backyards to view birds. This spot offers a range of ecological communities from desert and grassland through pine/oak woodlands, pinion/juniper, and cottonwood riparian areas—each providing a unique habitat for birds. Make reservations at Portal Peak Lodge (520 558-2223) at \$75.00 per night for a standard unit double occupancy or Cave Creek Ranch (520 558-2334)

at \$115.00 per night for a housekeeping unit of various sizes. Call George Wall (623 875-7057), Trip Coordinator, to register and for further information.

[\(WALLABY@worldnet.att.net\)](mailto:WALLABY@worldnet.att.net)

A trip schedule for the three night, four day event will be provided to participants later.

Difficulty: 2

**Tuesday, June 15, 2004**

**Stoneman Lake**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623 556-9535**  
[rms15247@cs.com](mailto:rms15247@cs.com)

Stoneman Lake, situated in the Coconino National Forest, is northeast of Camp Verde off Route 17. Here birds of the Ponderosa Pine forest: Red Crossbill, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee and Northern Goshawk are residents. Gambel Oak woodland, wooded drainage and natural springs offer habitat for Pinyon Jay and Acorn Woodpeckers which are in abundance.

The group will look for Lewis's and Three-toed Woodpecker in a burned-out area and for warblers nesting at this high elevation. Picnic area and toilets are available.

Difficulty: 2 Bring lunch and water.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center, Boswell and Hutton Dr., one block south of Bell Rd. in Sun City to leave at 6:30 a.m. OR at the parking area at the southeast corner of Carefree Highway and Rte. 17 at 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 19, 2004**

**Page Springs Fish Hatchery**

**Leader: John Delventhal 928 634-2966**

Page Springs Fish Hatchery run by Arizona Game and Fish Department is a riparian area with Arizona Sycamore and cottonwoods surrounding the water. Bridled Titmouse is a resident and Common Black Hawks nest regularly. There is a new birding trail, a part of the Page Springs Important Bird Area, traversing through flat marshland to Oak Creek to investigate. The trip will start and end early to avoid the heat of midday at this time of year. Call Eleanor Campbell (623 977-7639) to register and arrange carpooling

Difficulty: 2

**Saturday, July 10, 2004 Yarnell Park & environs**

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

This trip will be an exploration of the tiny town of Yarnell situated in Yavapai County between Phoenix and Prescott in the Weaver Mountains at 4,700 feet. There is a community park with woods and creek..

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

## Spring and Summer 2004 Field Trips

The Shrine of St. Joseph of the Mountains offers a peaceful spot with a short trail and a riparian area to look for birds. It's possible to see Summer Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bridled Titmouse, Hooded Oriole and warblers.

Difficulty: 1 Eat lunch in Yarnell

Meet at Bell Recreation Center, Boswell and Hutton Dr., one block south of Bell Rd. in Sun City to leave at 6:30 a.m. OR at the Mobil Station just off Grand Ave. opposite Sunrise Blvd. which enters Sun City Grand nine miles west of Sun City 20 minutes later.

**Monday, July 19, 2004**

**Flagstaff Arboretum**

**Leader: George Wall 623 875-7057**

[WALLABY@worldnet.att.net](mailto:WALLABY@worldnet.att.net)

The Arboretum at Flagstaff, nestled within the Ponderosa Pine forest at 7,150 feet, is home to 2,500 species of high level plants. Over 100 species of birds have been sighted there where the landscape includes open fields, woods and a pond. Last year at this time the group saw Virginia's Warbler, Cordilleran Flycatchers with fledglings, Western Bluebirds, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Western Kingbirds among others.

Difficulty: 1 Bring lunch.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center, Boswell and Hutton Dr., one block south of Bell Rd. In Sun City to leave at 6:00 a.m.

Some of us are going a day early on Sunday spending the night in Flagstaff and hooking up with the rest of the group on Monday at the Flagstaff Arboretum. If you're interested in doing that call Chuck Kangas at 623-931-6677 so he can let you know the Sunday schedule.

**Saturday, August 7, 2004**

**Jackie Meck Lake & PIR**

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

[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

Explore this rich habitat at the confluence of the Agua Fria and Gila Rivers near Estrella Mountain Park. The 'lake' is part of the Buckeye Water District Conservation Area. There is a Great Blue Heron rookery and a Great Horned Owl was spotted on the field trip there in the fall.

The old road beside Phoenix International Raceway offers access to the river where cormorants, kingfishers, ducks, grebes, and ospreys are usually seen.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to leave at 6:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, August 17, 2004**

**Mt. Ord & Sycamore Creek**

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

[ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

Leaving the Phoenix area on Rte. 87 and traveling Northeast toward Payson there is a change of elevation and, subsequently, ecological zones. Bird habitats change from desert, to riparian to pine and fir forest. There is a potential for seeing orioles, flycatchers, and warblers in the sycamores along Sycamore Creek. Mt. Ord summit can be reached on a narrow dirt road where large pines offer home to Scott's Orioles, Gray Vireos, Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Olive Warblers.

Difficulty: 1 Bring lunch.

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

**Saturday, August 28, 2004**

**Madera Canyon**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby 480 948-1074**

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

Situated in the Coronado National Forest Madera Canyon is one of Arizona's birding hot spots. Birds can be seen in various habitats. There is a 'sometimes' stream where the Elegant Trogon has nested and where the Arizona Woodpecker can be seen. Several hummingbirds: Broad-billed, Magnificent, Black-chinned, Blue-throated are usually seen. Acorn Woodpeckers are abundant and the tiny Elf Owl is a resident.

Difficulty: 1 Bring lunch.

Call leader for meeting place and time. This trip might very well be extended to include Sunday with a stay overnight either in the cabins at Madera or a motel in the area. If you would like to go on the trip call the leader as soon as possible so you can make your reservations.

\*\*\*\*\*

As always there will be a full slate of fall field trips in the September newsletter which will be out at the end of August. Remember this is the last newsletter until then.

If you have any suggestions for a field trip call Eleanor Campbell at 623-977-7639. I know there are a number of you who can lead field trips. You don't have to be an expert birder to lead a trip. I've always said that the main duty of a trip leader is to bring the group to the area selected and see that no one gets lost.

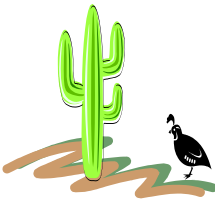
## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street  
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection) Time: 6:30 p.m.**

May 12, 2004      Brian Wakeling, Arizona Game and Fish: "Turkey Research and Management in  
Arizona"

The fall programs will be in the September newsletter which will be out the end of August.

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



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