



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 4 Issue 3

November 2002

ARIZONA AUDUBON COUNCIL

RODEO-CHEDISKI FIRE in ARIZONA

The Arizona Audubon Council (AAC) is an organization which represents the eight Audubon Chapters located in Arizona. Its purpose is to advocate for the preservation of habitat which supports birds and other wildlife based on the best scientific data available. Like other environmental organizations, AAC was flabbergasted to hear several state and national public officials claim that environmentalists caused the Rodeo-Chediski fire. According to the allegations, environmentalists caused this fire by suing the National Forest Service which prevented logging as a method of reducing fuel loads in the forest, and as a result, the forests are overloaded with fuel. This situation was compounded by severe drought. It is the purpose of this document to establish facts and other evidence in relation to the cause(s) of this fire.

No one will argue with the facts that forests have too much fuel and that Arizona and the rest of the western United States are suffering from severe drought. However, AAC found no evidence to indicate that any environmental organization is opposed to reducing the fuel load in the forests. There are, however, differences as to how the fuel loads should be reduced. As examples, environmental organizations are particularly concerned with commercial interests which want to take the largest trees from the forests. These trees are the most commercially valuable. They are the most beneficial for birds and other wildlife, and the most aesthetically pleasing. They are also the most fire resistant trees in the forests. Furthermore, some private citizens and some public entities that live near large forests are sometimes opposed to prescribed burns because of the resulting smoke.

The argument has also been made that by reducing the number of roads through the forests, fire-fighting efforts are hampered when there is a wildfire. A study by the Pacific Biodiversity Institute found that there are more than 2,100 miles (the distance between Phoenix and Pittsburgh) of logging roads in the area covered by the Rodeo-Chediski fire.

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At our next meeting....

Wednesday November, 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Fortified Hilltop Sites in West

Central Arizona

A.D. 1100 to 1450

By Dr. David Wilcox



Dr. David Wilcox grew up in small towns near Albany, New York. In 1966, with an undergraduate degree in anthropology from Beloit College, he worked at the New York State Museum while beginning graduate school at SUNY Albany. In 1969, he transferred to the University of Arizona where he was on the staff of the University of Arizona's Grasshopper Field School. Eight years later he earned his PhD in anthropology from ASU. Dr. Wilcox came to the Museum of Northern Arizona in 1984 as a Scholar-in-Residence (jointly with Northern Arizona University). He became Associate Curator in 1984 and in 1988, became head of the Anthropology Department. He is now Senior Curator of Anthropology. Dr. Wilcox has worked extensively on the question of the social and political organization of Southwestern settlements, communities, regional systems, and most recently, macro-regional systems.

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RODEO-CHEDISKI FIRE in ARIZONA

This study also notes that in the past ten years almost 90% of wildfires have been started by people-typically on or next to a road. Moreover, this area has been logged for the past 50 years. Timber sales on both the White Mountain Apache Reservation and the National Forest have concentrated on removing the large ponderosa pine trees which are the most fire resistant trees.

There is consensus in the scientific literature that fire is a natural part of the ecosystem of forests. Ponderosa pine forests (which is the primary type of forest burned in the Rodeo-Chediski fire) naturally had frequent and "cool" burning fires. These fires rarely harmed the large, thick-barked trees or burned so many trees that the entire stand of ponderosa pines was replaced. Thus, fire suppression has been found to be a scientifically unsound practice.

Documents from the Southwest Forest Alliance which cite numerous scientific studies and surveys dating as far back as 1858 identify grazing and logging as two of the greatest threats to forest health and as factors leading to the increase in disastrous wildfires. Native grasses are "keystone species" in ponderosa pine forests. These grasses, among other things, control fire movement and prevent excessive numbers of trees from becoming established. Tree evidence reveals that regular fires in ponderosa pine forests stopped in the late 1870's. This was the same time that intensive livestock grazing began in the forests, and it predates fire suppression efforts by at least 30 years. The presence of livestock in the forests destroys the grasses and forbs. In turn, this results in a decrease in fine fuels, which then significantly reduces surface fires in ponderosa pine forests. The destruction of the grasses and forbs also allows pine seedlings to survive at rates far exceeding their normal rate. Greatly increased seedling survival has led to a markedly increased density of small trees.

In a 1911 study, the author, Theodore Woolsey, Jr. stated, "it is after logging that the damage from fires is greatest, on account of the inflammable and unburned slash." (In Suckling). Not only does logging typically focus on the large, most fire-resistant ponderosa pines, it also leaves behind huge amounts of tree tops, unused limbs, and small trees which are a sizable source of forest fuels. When fires encounter slash piles, the fires flair and become very hot. Chittenden in 1905 observed, "When the cut has been heavy and the resulting debris correspondingly large, all the difficulties of fire fighting are proportionally increased. All kinds of waste material left in the woods supply food for the flames, but the leaving of large, unlopped softwood tops on the ground adds enormously to the fury of a brush fire and greatly prolongs the length of time that slash remains a menace to its own and surrounding areas....Fires on cut-over lands usually kill all standing timber left on the area burned, as well as all the young growth." (In Suckling).

According to written testimony by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) to the House of Representatives subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, Committee on Resources on June 29, 1999, another factor contributing to the risk of catastrophic wildfires is fire suppression. "Fuels are accumulating, in large part, because for decades the agency [National Forest Service] has suppressed fire in forests where frequent, low-intensity fires historically removed such accumulations." (p. 2). This same testimony indicates that "reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfires does not appear to be a high priority for the Forest Service." (p. 5) The document points out that reducing the threat of wildfires is not emphasized in either the National Forest Service's natural resource agenda or in its strategic plan. Nor were top-level management personnel working on a fuel reduction strategy.

The facts and evidence demonstrate that the causes of catastrophic wildfires are multiple and complex. Thus, blaming environmentalists or any other single group, is an overly simplistic response to a complex situation. AAC recommends that all stakeholders need to expend their energies on developing and implementing wise resolutions to this very complex matter.

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"Fortified Hilltop Sites in West Central Arizona, A.D. 1100 to 1450"

He has published extensively - articles, book chapters, monographs. Some topics have been prehistoric Puebloan household organization; the entry of Athapaskan speakers to the Southwest; the architecture of the Casa Grande; the site structure of Snaketown (Hohokam); the archaeology of the greater Flagstaff area; the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition of 1886-1889; and his work on the architecture of Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, and the interpretation of the archaeology of Chaco Canyon and other great house sites that give indications of their political structure. The latter ideas are among the most controversial he has worked on. Dr. Wilcox's current research involves ceramic analysis in the Flagstaff area with the Verde Valley Archeological Society; research on warfare in central Arizona and making maps of the political geography of the entire Southwest from AD 1200 to 1600; and a history of archaeology for the Journal of the Southwest. Dr. Wilcox's wife, Susan, is Curator of Collections at the Pioneer's History Museum in Flagstaff.

Dr. Wilcox will speak on the subject of hilltop sites in Arizona. Studies of line-of-site relationships among these sites indicate that they were all linked in a vast communication system in the AD1100 to 1250 period. Around AD 1250 this system was abandoned and a new one took its place. Dr. Wilcox will offer explanations for these changes. His talk will highlight the sites on the Agua Fria drainage.

A message from your president...

Last month's president's message was almost entirely about the Hassayampa issue. In this month's newsletter you will find a report of the September meeting on the Hassayampa Preserve in Wickenburg by Regina Rodgers. There were a large number of Audubon members present including those from both the Sonoran Audubon Society and the Maricopa Audubon Society,

Several weeks ago I received a letter from Steven McCormick asking me to renew my membership in the Nature Conservancy. You can read my reply to him on this page. I was particularly upset with his remark in his P.S. where he said that "The Nature Conservancy is working to save special places around the world forever." The underlining was his.

Please look at the Christmas Count list on page 5. Josh Burns and Daniela Yellan want to invite any of you who are able to participate on their counts to give them a call. There can't be too many birders on a Christmas Count. Also, you don't have to worry about your bird identification skills. The beginners will be assigned with a more experienced birder.

I hope some of you respond to Carol Cross' appeal for volunteers. I'm sure she'd be happy to hear from you.

Incidentally, the picture of the rattlesnake in October's newsletter was identified by our board member, Tom Jones as a Black-tailed Rattlesnake and not a Mohave Rattlesnake. No one called me pointing out the error.

SAS Web Site: 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, Gambel's Tales, may be obtained free from the chapter website <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>. 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.

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Letter to Nature Conservancy by Charles Kangas

Steven J, McCormick
4245 North Fairfax Drive
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Arlington, VA 22203-1606

Dear Mr. McCormick,

I just received your letter entitled Good News from The Nature Conservancy! In your letter you asked me to renew my membership in Nature Conservancy. Also, in your P.S. you say: "The Nature Conservancy is working to save special places around the world, forever." I hope you realize that this is not a true statement. I am specifically referring to a sale that Nature Conservancy is making on a portion of the Hassayampa Preserve in Wickenburg Arizona.

Here is a portion of a message I sent to

Pat Graham, Arizona State Director
The Nature Conservancy
1510 E. Fort Lowell Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Dear Pat:

We met at the meeting at Wickenburg Saturday, September 18. I am currently the president of the Sonoran Audubon Society. I think you should know that all the birders from my society and the general area are terribly upset about Nature Conservancy's decision to sell the 35 acres to the Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

(Continued on Page 4)

Wickenburg Meeting on the Hassayampa River Preserve

By Regina Rodgers

The meeting about the Hassayampa River Preserve land sale was held Sept. 28 at the Wickenburg Community Center. About 100 people were in attendance. My estimate is that the opponents & proponents were about evenly divided. The proponents were mainly Museum volunteers & supporters, Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce and Wickenburg residents in general. The opponents were environmentalists, birders, HRP volunteers, and many members of the Nature Conservancy. Pat Graham, TNC AZ State Director spoke but told us little in the way of specifics. The Director of the Desert Caballeros Western Museum did tell us some specifics.

The reason that the Museum wants an outdoor facility is so that they can create a living history museum. They will demonstrate 4 areas: ranching, mining, tourism in the form of a dude ranch, and Native American life. To demonstrate these areas they plan to recreate a Hohokam site with agriculture, a Yavapai encampment with 1 or 2 pit houses with agriculture, and restore the Brill Ranch home (now the Visitor Center), and other associated Brill Ranch buildings, and demonstrate European-style agriculture representative of what was used on the Brill Ranch. The Museum Director estimated that of the approximately 35 acres that they are buying, 5 acres will be agriculture. I understood him to say that the European-style agriculture would be where the mesquite bosque is now (on the Mesquite Meander Trail). Also on the Mesquite Meander trail, you can still see a concrete foundation. This is where the Brill Ranch had a structure for raising carp. The Museum Director also mentioned this as something to be restored.

The Brill Ranch had livestock. I asked for a definition of livestock. TNC said that might include cattle, horses, goats, sheep, pigs, goats, turkeys, and chickens. I asked if the livestock would ALWAYS be corralled. TNC said: "Negotiations are not finished".

We were told that at Palm Lake: no motorized vehicles, no commercial use, no mining, and no removal of vegetation around the lake.

TNC said: "We are not making any money on this deal". They said that there would be a savings in off-loading the visitor services. Access to riparian areas by birders was asked about. TNC said: "Discussions of access are not finished".

Concerns were raised about the amount of foot traffic through the area, the noise, etc. with respect to birding. Concerns were voiced about TNC not communicating well with its members. Concerns were raised about the livestock attracting cowbirds which parasitize the endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher, as well as many other species which nest at HRP.

The Chairman of the AZ State Board of Directors for TNC said that the Board had not seen the details of this sale. He said that we should all keep an "open mind". Then he emphatically said that this was a win-win situation, etc. Sounded to me like his mind was already made up even though he said he had not seen the details.

At the close of the meeting, Pat Graham, TNC State Director, said that comments would be received until Oct. 15. TNC will hold an Open House at the Preserve to address the comments. Pat Graham said that the proposed sale will NOT be brought before the AZ State Board of Directors on Oct. 18.

(We have no information on the open house as of the publication date of this newsletter. Editor)

(Continued from Page 3)

Letter to Nature Conservancy by Charles Kangas

I know that you've only held your position for a year but you've stepped into a firestorm. It appears that almost all of the birders from our area, including me, are planning on taking the following actions when the property is sold:

- Terminate their membership in the Nature Conservancy
- Remove Nature Conservancy from their wills
- Destroy their Nature Conservancy credit cards

I think the National Nature Conservancy probably thinks this is "small potatoes" but I think this is a very divisive issue for Arizona. I've been reading e-mails from across the state and from New Mexico and beyond. It appears that there is very little support from birders for the Nature Conservancy position.

Mr. McCormick, are you aware of this sale? I think you should be. If you did you wouldn't make the statement you said in your P.S. The members from Arizona thought the Hassayampa Preserve would last forever !

This is from another message I sent to Pat Graham:

"COWBOYS are one of America's most cherished mythical figures, symbols of frontier courage, independence, and rugged masculinity. Ironically, cowboys have long since become just the opposite-pro-establishment employees of large corporate land owners who depend on handouts from the government to keep their ranches profitable, while cloaking themselves in a bankrupt Wild West mythology to sway public opinion in their favor. At the turn of the millennium, the last vestiges of the tired cowboy myth are propping up a cattle-ranching industry that is destroying one of the most extraordinary and unique birthrights of the American people: the public lands of the West." This is from: <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/>

It's one of the things that really bothers me about the Desert Caballeros Western Museum. It perpetuates that myth and I feel that now The Nature Conservancy is part of the perpetuation.

Mr. McCormick, I hope to hear from you concerning the sale of the Nature Conservancy property to the Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

S/S Charles Kangas

ARIZONA (& VICINITY) CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SCHEDULE [2002-2003]

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 encountered within a designated 15-mile diameter circle. These records now comprise an extensive database that helps to monitor 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. A \$5.00 participation fee defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the 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	Sa	Atascosa Highlands	Ken Kertell	520-327-3822	kkertell@swca.com
12/14	Sa	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	elaimorr@earthlink.net
12/14	Sa	Puerto Penasco, Sonora, MX	Steve Ganley	480-830-5538	sganley4@cox.net
12/14	Sa	Santa Catalina Mountains	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	batesr@u.arizona.edu
12/14	Sa	Timber Mesa	Jimmy Videle	928-537-5144	moonrise@wmonline.com1
12/15	Su	Jerome	Gary Romig	928-639-1516	gromig@sedona.net
12/15	Su	Tucson Valley	Susan Birky	520-743-9390	sbirky@mindspring.com
12/16	Mo	Bill Williams Delta	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair@fws.gov
12/17	Tu	Phoenix-Tres Rios	Daniela Yellan	602-942-7791	dyellan@aol.com
12/19	Th	Salt-Verde Rivers	Josh Burns	602-468-3002	josh_a_burns@yahoo.com
12/21	Sa	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayampacbc@hotmail.com
12/21	Sa	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Henry Detwiler	928-783-9468	detwiler@southwestbirders.com
12/21	Sa	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetrogon@aol.com
12/21	Sa	Pipe Spring Nat. Monument	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	andrea_bornemeier@nps.gov
12/21	Sa	Sedona	Dottie Hook	928-204-1894	dothook@sedona.net
12/27	Fr	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado@cox.net
12/28	Sa	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	David Griffin	619-445-9302	desertrat@ivwnet.com
12/28	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Russell Balda	928-526-2865	russell.balda@nau.edu
12/28	Sa	Green Valley-Madera Can	Matt Gable	520-578-2139	sparrowhawk@opus1.com
12/28	Sa	Havasu NWR	Norma Miller	520-578-1399	n8rnut@earthlink.net
12/28	Sa	Portal	Arnold Moorhouse	520-364-3178	
12/28	Sa	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	mourast@saic.com
12/28	Sa	Saint Johns	Brian Heap	928-337-4865	brian@wmonline.com
12/29	Su	Peloncillo Mountains, NM	Alan Craig	520-558-2220	narca@vtc.net
12/30	Mo	Camp Verde	Carl & Ruth Breitmaier	928-282-1041	caru@cybertrails.com
12/30	Mo	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber@cox.net
12/30	Mo	Sierra Pinta-Cabeza Prieta	David Griffin	619-445-9302	desertrat@ivwnet.com
1/1	We	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-636-6944	duerksen@msn.com
1/3	Fr	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251	bonnie_swarbrick@fws.gov
1/3	Fr	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence@nps.gov
1/4	Sa	Baviácora, Sonora, MX	Arnold Moorhouse	520-364-3178	
1/4	Sa	Dudleyville	Tracy McCarthey	602-973-0881	tmccarthey@msn.com

Fall 2002 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

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.

Tuesday, November 5

Thunderbird Park, Glendale

Leader: George Nation 623 362-2392

This is a good in-town site to see desert birds such as thrashers, gnatcatchers and wrens. The pond annually hosts Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Lesser Scaups, Redheads and Ruddy Ducks.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only. Call leader for time and meeting place.

Friday, November 8

Hassayampa River Preserve

Leader: Lorraine Thompson 623 546-2103

The Nature Conservancy's Preserve on the Hassayampa River in Wickenburg is always a premier birding spot. Red-shouldered Hawks have nested there for several years. Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-napped Sapsucker, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker can usually be seen.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only. Call leader for the time to meet at the Preserve on Route 60 about three miles southeast of Wickenburg, about 50 miles west of Phoenix.

Saturday, November 16

Prescott Forests and Lakes

Leader: Ken Larsen 928 443-5778

Explore Watson Woods Conservation Area and lakes in Prescott's unique Granite Dells. Look for resident pygmy nuthatch, woodpeckers, and hawks plus a variety of wintering ducks.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only. Meet at Denny's Restaurant in Ponderosa Plaza at the corner of Gail Gardner Way and Iron Springs Rd., Prescott at 8:00 a.m. Call leader to register.

Tuesday, November 19

Estrella Mt. Park and Gila River

Leader: George Wall 623 875-7057

WALLABY@worldnet.att.net

This extensive regional park southwest of the Valley provides good habitat for resident and wintering birds of the desert and hills. The Gray Flycatcher has often wintered here. Nearby, the Gila River is refuge to many ducks, egrets, and shorebirds.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Spotting Scope. Morning only.

This is a combined trip with Birders' Anonymous. Meet at Sun Bowl, 107th Ave., just south of Peoria Ave., Sun City, at 7:30 a.m.

Friday, November 22

Vulture Peak, Wickenburg

Leader: Ann McDermott 623-584-3088

Combine a hike with bird watching away from visible Civilization. This trail ascends an isolated peak home to Black-throated Sparrow, Canyon Wren and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Black Vultures are often present.

Difficulty 4+ Bring lunch. Wear hiking boots. Call leader for time and place.

The Month of December is Christmas Count Time!

Check over page 5 for the various Christmas Counts. I was with several people on the Tres Rios count last year who had never been on a previous count. They had a wonderful time.

Saturday, January 11, 2003

Montezuma Well

Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623 977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Montezuma Well about 90 miles north of Phoenix is a natural body of water fed by an eternal spring surrounded by desert scrub. Ancient Indians channeled the water for irrigation and lush riparian vegetation grows around the canals. American Widgeon winters here. Resident wrens, sparrows, and thrashers are prevalent. The entire scenic site is geologically and historically fascinating.

Difficulty: 2 (A steep climb to Indian ruins is optional.)

Bring Lunch.

Call leader for time and meeting place.

Friday, January 19, 2003
Bosque del Apache, New Mexico
Leader: Bob Bradley
azbradley@earthlink.net

The highlights of a visit to this national wildlife refuge will be thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese with some Ross' Geese to compare at close range. There is a chance to see the American Bittern and Swamp Sparrow (which the leader, coming from Colorado to do this for us, will try to "nail down" ahead) as well as many waterfowl and raptors.

You'll look for higher elevation woodpeckers and finches at Water Canyon nearby and unusual birds at Socorro. A Varied Thrush was seen here recently.

Difficulty: 1

Meeting time and place will be listed next month.

Saturday, January 18 OR Sunday, Jan. 19, 2003
Wings Over Willcox
Leader: Bill Grossi
onasa@earthlink.net

Join an all day tour, "Plovers, Longspurs and Others," at the annual Birding Festival held in Willcox, Arizona. You'll visit grassland feeders around Sunsites and Chochise Stronghold Campground then drive through agricultural habitats looking for plovers, raptors, and whatever is there. Whitewater Draw should offer cranes, waterfowl, sparrows, buntings and the possibility of three quail species. Montezuma's Quail was there last year.

Use the Festival website: www.wingsoverwillcox.com for details and a complete schedule of Festival Events.

Save These Dates:
March 17-31, 2003
Oaxaca, Mexico
Leader: David MacKay
Contact: Daniela Yellan for more information
at:dyellan@aol.com 602-942-7791

For the second year we are excited to team up with High Lonesome Eco Tours to offer this very special tour to the Mexican state of Oaxaca! No other trip to Oaxaca offers such a range of habitats and opportunities to see this many species

The pace of our trip is relatively relaxed, but unlike some other tours that emphasize the city and valley of Oaxaca, we will be doing a fair bit of moving to get us to the wide variety of habitats available in the outlying regions of the state. To help lesson the chore of changing hotels, we have given ourselves multiple nights in the various locations.

None of the birding areas that we will visit on this trip will require anything more than casual walking, however there will be periods when we are walking for upwards of two miles at a leisurely pace, which may mean being on your feet for extended periods of time. There will be a couple of optional walks that are on steeper terrain; however the footing is never poor. Although we will be making frequent stops to look for birds, there will be some extended periods of driving. All participants should be comfortable, willing and able to occupy any seat in the vehicle for periods of up to two hours and a time. Our route will be taking us through some very remote areas with very limited facilities on numerous occasions during the tour.

Whether you are an experienced birder looking to add some Mexican endemics to your life list or a beginner who wants add a couple of hundred new birds to your list, our birding tour to Oaxaca has everything to make it your Mexican birding trip of a life time!

Tour Highlights-

- Small group size of 16 maximum with a minimum of two guides
- Tours led by bi-lingual long time Mexico resident and bird guide
- A full two week tour in covers more habitats and see more birds
- Downtown hotel location in Oaxaca City for easy access to local sites
- Excellent variation of wonderful food at local restaurants throughout the trip
- Upwards of 40 Mexican endemics are possible along our route
- 370 species were seen on the spring 2002 tour
- Group flight offered from Phoenix, Arizona at reduced cost
- Tour dates were determined to coincide with the most optimal bird activity
- Visits to the most important archeological sites are included in the tour

Contact: Daniela Yellan for more information at:dyellan@aol.com 602-942-7791. She can supply you with a day by day trip itinerary and a bird checklist of those birds seen on the 2002 trip.

The tour price is \$2650.00 per person, and is all inclusive of meals, rooms, ground transportation and guides starting with dinner on the first night in Oaxaca City, through dinner on the last night in Oaxaca City.

For a more complete trip description see October's newsletter.

Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

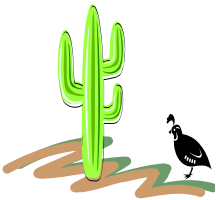
**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection)**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Nov 13, 2002	David Wilcox "Fortified Hilltop Sites in West Central Arizona, A.D. 1100 to 1450"
Dec 11, 2002	Shawneen Finnegan "The Magic of Cape May"
Jan 8, 2003	Southwest Forest Alliance "Old Growth Forever"
Feb 12, 2003	Rand Hubbell and Terry Gerber "An Overview of the Maricopa County Park System, With a Focus on Lake Pleasant"
Mar 12, 2003	Sandy Anderson, Director, Gray Hawk Nature Center "The San Pedro River-Avian Paradise"
Apr 9, 2003	TBA
May 14, 2003	TBA

Other Dates of Interest:

Nov 6, 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library. All SAS members welcome.



Sonoran Audubon Society

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