



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 5 Issue 1

September 2003

## Take Back Audubon – What is it all about?

Thirty one Audubon chapters around the country have signed on to the Take Back Audubon (TBA) campaign. Two of those chapters, Yuma and Maricopa, are here in Arizona. So what is it all about? In a nutshell, the movement arose from the concerns of members about recent changes that include the end of dues share for the chapters and other actions at the National board level that seemed to distance National from the rank and file membership.

Cary Meister from Yuma Audubon is on a Take Back Audubon election slate for the National Audubon board of directors. In addition to fielding an “alternative slate” of names for the board, Take Back Audubon is proposing five specific resolutions to change current NAS proxies, election process, dues share, and creation of a resolution system plus creation of a chapters congress to up-line volunteer chapter based issues and concerns.

**Dues Share:** The former chapter dues share formula has been changed. Chapters will no longer get a share of National Audubon Society (NAS) dues. The change was because of increased costs of direct mailing membership solicitations and renewals at the National level. Recognizing that this change is a real loss of revenue to the Audubon chapters, the national board has established a Chapter AdHoc Committee that is actively looking at methods to support chapters. Your board has already taken actions to assure the success and future of Sonoran Audubon Society with or without dues share from NAS. In this newsletter you will see our new Friends of Sonoran Audubon. We are asking you, our members, to help support Sonoran Audubon directly so that we can continue to deliver the monthly programs, field trips and other activities and events here in your backyard.

**NAS proxies and resolutions:** If you are a member of NAS you periodically receive a ballot in the mail. A check box on the ballot allows you to transfer your vote by “proxy” to the NAS. The manner in which proxies are actually used and what is actually allowable in NAS bylaws is unclear to many members, including this reporter! Suffice it to say that there was quite a flap over the use of proxies at the NAS board meeting here in Phoenix this winter. Proxy votes were used, perhaps inappropriately, to squelch resolutions brought to the NAS board by NAS members in attendance at the meetings. (Continued Page 2)

## At our next meeting....

Wednesday September, 10 at 6:30 p.m.

“Quail, and doves, and grouse, oh my”

By Mike Rabe

Arizona Game and Fish



Male Blue Grouse by Mike Rabe

Mike Rabe received a B.S. in biology and a M.S. in forestry from Northern Arizona University. He is currently the state-wide Small Game Biologist for Arizona Game and Fish Department. Before then, Mike worked as a Research Biologist with Arizona Game and Fish Department. He has published both scientific and popular articles on roost selection by forest bats, game survey techniques, habitat selection of Arizona bears, effects of hunting mortality on quail, and water use by desert wildlife.

Mike will discuss the natural history and biology of Gambel's, Scaled, and Montezuma Quail, as well as Mourning Doves, White-winged Doves, and Blue Grouse. This provides a diverse spectrum of Arizona birds. He will also include a game management perspective for the above species.

Mike will also point out the proliferation of each species and let us know where and when we can best observe them in their native habitat.

(Continued from Page 1)

The aftermath sentiment by members was a sense of disenfranchisement from the NAS board decision-making processes. NAS board members in turn felt they had been called upon to act on significant proposals with no time to read or prepare. What is apparent is a lack of process for members to bring forward resolutions to the NAS board.

**The Sonoran Audubon board supports the Take Back Arizona resolution titled Initiative Measures to establish such a process.**

Access to Basic Information: TBA has a resolution that would require publication of information by NAS that includes notification 10 weeks prior of the date, time and location of the annual meeting and the number of vacant board positions that are open for election. Further that NAS should publish regional contact directories that would be distributed on request. The SAS board felt that information about NAS is becoming more available daily through the existence of the Audubon Arizona State office and increasing use of the Internet. We did not choose to support a resolution that would create additional publication and mailing financial burdens on NAS. Your board feels that any difficulties in coordinating with NAS can be handled administratively rather than through resolution.

NAS board election process: Take Back Audubon has fielded a slate of eight candidates for NAS board vacancies. There are currently 9 Board Members that are regional and elected by the general NAS membership. Chuck Bragg, Santa Monica, CA. just left the NAS board as western regional representative and is running on the TBA slate. Marsha Cannon, Madison, WI. is currently president of the Wisconsin Audubon Council. John Gallagher of Clark County OH. our own Cary Meister who would be a good NAS board member, Pat Rathmussen, Leavenworth WA. Her orientation is forest practices environmental issues. Darrel Whipple of Willapa Hills in WA/OR. Jennifer Wilson-Pines of the North Shore Audubon, NY. Biographies of these candidates may be viewed at the Take Back Audubon web site <http://www.smbas.org/tba> or use your search engine and type in Take Back Audubon.

The Sonoran Audubon board is not convinced that members and chapters have fully optimized the current election process that has 9 of the 36 NAS board seats filled through regional elections. We have concerns that the TBA board reform resolution may cause unintended ill consequences to NAS and therefore are withholding support for this resolution. We encourage our members to become familiar with the issues and candidates and use their voting power as NAS members.

Grassroots Empowerment: With the dissolution of NAS Regional offices NAS members and chapters lost an important forum for sharing ideas and building coalitions, and that was the regional conferences. This is a resolution directing NAS to sponsor and support congresses of Audubon chapters where there can be debate and discussion of significant issues and the formation of majority

opinions on issues that can be forwarded to the NAS board for action. The Audubon Arizona board should have joint meetings with the Arizona Audubon Council. An idea being discussed is to have the Arizona Audubon Council adopt a process for development of state Audubon priorities. Suggest maybe aligning this process with Arizona League of Conservation Voters annual summit. Toward that end, the Arizona Audubon Council and the Audubon Arizona board are having a joint meeting on the morning of October 25, 2003 at the Tres Rios meeting room. Sonoran Audubon is the host chapter for this event.

The Sonoran Audubon Society board will be sending a letter to National Audubon supporting the Take Back Audubon resolutions on Grassroots Empowerment and Initiative Measures.

By Tice Supplee, Secretary Sonoran Audubon Society

#### **Reference: Take Back Audubon Resolutions**

Dear National Audubon Board Members:

The Sonoran Audubon Society (B07) board has read and discussed the five resolutions presented by the Take Back Audubon campaign. We share some of the concerns presented in these resolutions and have elected to write you directly rather than signing on to their campaign.

Sonoran Audubon Society (SAS) had either the good fortune or misfortune to become an entity concurrent with the structural reorganization of National Audubon Society (NAS). We agonized over zip codes and dues share at too many board meetings. Although the loss of dues share has been painful and has stunted our rate of growth, SAS is embracing the new fundraising strategy to remain a viable member of the Audubon family. We applaud NAS for reconsidering initial limiting guidelines concerning chapter fundraising options. The current guidelines give SAS the financial freedom it requires to raise funds and other donations to achieve the Audubon mission in western Maricopa County, Arizona. We welcome the creation of the Chapters Ad Hoc Committee by the NAS board and want to be kept apprised of their recommendations.

We are very concerned that reorganization of NAS has created either a real or perceived break with the volunteer membership that makes Audubon such a great conservation organization. The lack of any apparent process or method for members to introduce resolutions to the NAS board concerns us. The debacle around the introduction of member resolutions that some of us observed at the Phoenix, Arizona board meeting needs to be averted in the future! We have since learned that no one seems to be clear how members can introduce resolutions for consideration of the board or if such a process even exists. (Continued Page 3)

## A message from your president...

I know that some of you might be confused by this issue of our newsletter. Many of you might not have heard of the problems between the National Audubon Society and the local chapters. I hope that the article prepared by Tice Supplee, our secretary, will help clarify that problem. I hope the letter that our Sonoran Audubon Society board is sending to National will also help you better understand the SAS board position.

One of the problems between the individual chapters and national is the huge reduction in due shares. This year might very well be the last year in which we'll receive any money from National as part of the individual member's due shares. We are doing what many of our sister chapter's are doing by offering a "Friend of Sonoran Audubon Society." A number of members are letting their membership in National lapse and simply becoming a friend of Sonoran Audubon Society. I'm not encouraging any of our members to take that action however I hope you seriously consider becoming a Friend. It's only by having many of you becoming friends that we can remain in existence.

At the business portion of our September 10 meeting a presentation of our budget and the way we expend our funds will be offered. I'm sure that many of us don't know that a major part of our expenditures is spent for insurance. Why we need insurance and what it covers will be explained in detail. I'm sure all of you will feel more comfortable with our chapter at the end of the presentation.

**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

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

**Vice-President**

**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)

Robert McCormick 602-237-3951 [mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com)

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

### 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)

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The SAS board supports the Take Back Audubon resolution to create such a process. It seems that NAS board members would feel less like the targets of a hostile take-over if a respectful process were adopted to allow an orderly presentation and discussion of member issues and action recommendations.

Part of creating a more informed general membership is to sponsor and promote grassroots events and information sharing. The loss of the regional Audubon conferences has been a great misfortune. Members no longer have easy ways to meet and greet with Audubon staff in a sharing setting like the regional conferences. The SAS board endorses the grassroots empowerment resolution presented by Take Back Audubon as a great step in the direction of establishing meaningful communication and linkage between membership chapters and the NAS board and staff.

Sincerely,

Charles Kangas, President

Sonoran Audubon Society

cc: Ruth Russell, National Audubon Board Member

Sam Campana, Exe. Director Audubon Arizona

Al Anderson, Chairman, Arizona Audubon Council

Sonoran Audubon Society Board

Lynn Tennefloss, Vice President of State Programs



## South Rim of the Grand Canyon Saturday July 26, 2003

By Ann McDermott

### The Simplest Things

Sometimes it's the simplest things that can bring about the most remarkable changes. Bruce Palmer, head of the Condor Reintroduction Program, reminded us of that on a recent field trip he and his wife led to the Grand Canyon.

We had remarkably few other species at the canyon--twelve, counting the condors. But we sure did get great views of that majestic king of the canyon. The cove off the backyard of Bright Angel Lodge is a favorite choice for condors roosting for the night. We were there at 4:30 PM as the first young condor straggler arrived and perched on a rock ledge cantilevered in space below Lookout Studio. Within a half hour a great kettle, a gathering, of ravens, turkey vultures and condors arrived. Seeing all these black feathered canyon residents together emphasized the size of the condors. The giants of the air came gliding with feet extended to slow their descent, flexing flight feathers to direct their course. They were so close we could see their feathers quivering in the winds they rode, straining to support the twenty pound weight of the bird.

The condors' pink-orange crops showed they had been feeding, probably on a big-horned sheep carcass rangers had spotted them on earlier. Bruce explained that food is still provided by the Reintroduction Program, still-born calves, as a general rule. It is food the condor caretakers know is not contaminated with lead from hunters' bullets. The lead shot ammunition is ingested by the condors as they feed and remains in their system long enough to poison them. Condors are good at what they do. What they do is locate and consume dead animal matter, primarily large game, the same game hunters are hunting. There is no way the researchers can keep the condors from eating carcasses felled by hunters.

Every six months each one of the free-flying condors in Arizona and California's release programs has to be recaptured and retested for lead. Those highly enough contaminated have to be chelated through a series of injections which the condors hate. It hurts. It hurts the scientists too: one had his chin split open by a thrashing condor beak and another broke his tooth while trying to handle a condor that chose noncompliance. Bruce explained that the birds, with a wing-span of nine feet, are an amazing combination of strength and fragility. They are powerfully muscled, but their bones are air-filled, as all bird bones are, so they are brittle and easily broken if not handled very carefully. A condor on the run from the needle is apt to be making any kind of handling as difficult as it can. "Condor reintroduction can never be successful as long as hunters still use lead shot ammunition," Bruce stated. Fortunately most ammunition producers are willing to consider making non-lead alternatives available when they are aware of the problem.

Negotiations are ongoing. It's simple, and absolutely vital to condor survival in nature. Last year three condors were hatched in the wild. Condors are nest-bound for the first six months of life. Six months, just learning the ropes of flying and then, at six months, they fledge. Flight training begins. The fledglings will remain with their parents another six months, just learning the ropes of flying and condor acculturation. While nestlings, their parents bring them food daily. Instinctively, the parent condors also bring pieces of material scattered around the carcass at the feeding site. Normally, this is comprised of bits of bone from the carcass. This too is fed to the young condors, providing minerals for their developing bones. Unfortunately, adult condors pick up other small items as well, like broken glass and bottle tops. The bottle tops are made of nickel. All three of last year's nestlings died between five and six months of age. Necropsies showed one had twelve bottle caps in its stomach and intestines and they all died of zinc toxicity.

Bruce also told us that several people from the program had reached an unsuccessful Condor nest on one of the cliffs which he pointed out to us. It was about four or five feet high and went back about thirty or forty feet into the cliff. When they examined the cave they found that Condors had nested in the same cave three or four hundred years ago. They were able to determine that from the bones and refuse they found in the cave. Isn't it remarkable that the new Condors picked the very same cave that had been used previously by one of their distant ancestors?

This year there was one condor hatched in Arizona. The Reintroduction Program has attempted to clean up the cliffs below the nest site and at the feeding sites to try to keep trash from being delivered to the chick by its instinct-driven parents. Time will tell how successful they've been. The chick is only a few months old now and it's still too early to know. But people have been coming to the canyon for a hundred years now. A hundred years of trash. "The moral of that story?" asked Chris Palmer, Bruce's wife. "Pick up your trash." Today's and yesterday's, when you come across it. But at least start with your own, today.

### Membership Committee

Sonoran Audubon needs to contact all of our membership this fall to explain the new membership structure, and brag about our chapter a little to the new members.

You don't have to be a member of the Membership Committee to assist us.

If you can help with this, please call me, Dwayne Fink at 480-967-9202 or [edna.fink@asu.edu](mailto:edna.fink@asu.edu)

## **Fall and Winter 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, September 13**

##### **Jackie Meck Lake, Buckeye**

**Leader: Daniela Yellan 602-942-7791**

**dyellan@aol.com**

Explore this rich habitat 'lake' at the confluence of the Agua Fria and Gila Rivers, near Estrella Mountain Park.

This is part of the Buckeye Water District Conservation Area. This is an opportunity to hopefully see many species of waterfowl, as well as possible migrants along the canal.

Call leader for time and meeting location. Scopes will be very helpful. Time permitting, we may have the chance to explore other nearby birding areas.

Difficulty 1. Morning only. Limit 10

#### **Wednesday, September 17**

##### **Seven Springs and Camp Creek**

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

**ercamp@juno.com**

Explore these riparian areas in the Tonto National Forest where shade and water provided good habitat for many Townsend's Solitaires and Red-naped Sapsuckers last year. Hermit Thrush, Sage Thrasher, Scrub Jay, Black-eared Bushtit, Tree Swallow and Canyon Towhee were also seen.

Difficulty: 2 (one long hill down to Camp Creek) Bring Lunch. Call leader for meeting time and place. Entrance fee: \$4.00 per car.

#### **Saturday, September 27**

##### **Pinal Mountains**

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

**chuckkan@mindspring.com**

This is a trip in the mountains south of Globe. Fall migration being under way it's possible to see many of the fall warblers in addition to many of the species we drive all the way to Flagstaff to observe. It's the closest area to Phoenix to get to the high country. The Aspens might be starting to turn.

Difficulty: 2 Bring Lunch. Call leader for meeting time and place

#### **Wednesday, October 1**

##### **Page Springs and Montezuma Well**

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

Montezuma Well is a natural body of water fed by an eternal spring and is surrounded by cottonwoods and desert scrub. Indian ruins and canals add to the geologically fascinating habitat. Page Springs is a fish hatchery where water also attracts many birds. Look for wintering ducks, wrens, Western Bluebird, Spotted Towhee, Loggerhead Shrike and Bridled Titmouse.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch. Call leader for meeting time and place.

#### **Tuesday, October 14**

##### **Estrella Mt. Park and Gila River**

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

**WALLABY@worldnet.att.net**

This regional park and nearby river located near Good-year off I-10 is an excellent birding area with easy walking. Over 100 species have been recorded here during the year. Last year, on almost the same date, 42 species were recorded.

Difficulty: 1 Morning Only LEAVE at 7:30 a.m. from Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City OR meet later at the corner of Estrella Parkway and Vinyard by the bridge overlooking the Gila River. Entrance fee: \$5.00 per car.

#### **Friday, October 24**

##### **Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Lorraine Thompson 623-546-2103**

The Nature Conservancy's Preserve on the Hassayampa River near Wickenburg is open to the public again and is always a premier birding spot. Red-shouldered Hawks and the endangered Willow Flycatcher have nested here for several years. The hawks should be here but the flycatcher already migrated. We should start to see the wintering species at the Preserve.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only, but bring a lunch if you want to enjoy the picnic area later.

Meet at the parking lot of the Preserve located on Route 60 about three miles southeast of Wickenburg, about 50 miles west of Phoenix at 8:00 a.m. Call leader to register.

The Nature Conservancy requests a donation of \$5.00 per person.

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**Saturday, November 8**

**Arlington Valley**

**Leaders: Joan and Dean Luehrs 623 875-1016  
luehrs1@mindspring.com**

Arlington Valley west of Phoenix and south of Arlington with its fields, ponds, canals, a dam, and a desert butte provides a variety of habitats to search for birds. On the North American Spring Migration bird count in May, 2003, a White Ibis was seen amidst the Great Egrets. Swallows, blackbirds, raptors and sparrows should be prevalent.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave., Sun City, at 7:00 a.m.

**Friday, November 14**

**Sweetwater Water Facility, Tucson**

**Leader: George Wall 623 875-7057  
WALLABY@worldnet.att.net**

Sweetwater Treatment area is just off I-10 (Prince Rd. Exit) near Tucson. This is an excellent nature site developed for viewing birds. Paths around the many ponds are well maintained and easy to walk on. At this time last year 47 species were seen including the Sora and Virginia Rail. Many rarities regularly show up at Sweetwater.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch (Return about 2:00 p.m.)

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave., Sun City to LEAVE at 6:30 a.m. or meet at the first rest stop on I-10, Sacaton at 7:30 a.m.

**Saturday, November 22**

**Prescott Forest and Lakes**

**Leader: Jim Morgan 928-778-1041  
kingbird@cableone.net**

Explore Watson Woods Conservation Area and the lakes in Prescott's unique Granite Dells. Check the pine/juniper forest for Pygmy Nuthatch, Band-tailed pigeon and woodpeckers. Last fall a Common Goldeneye was seen along with many other wintering waterfowl at a wastewater treatment center.

Meet at Denny's Restaurant at the corner of Gail Gardner Road and Iron Springs Road, Prescott at 8:00 AM

Difficulty: 1 Morning only, but plan to enjoy lunch at one of Prescott's local restaurants.

Call leader to register.

**Saturday, December 6**

**Thunderbird Park, Glendale**

**Leader: Carolyn Modeen 623 972-6273  
ctmodeen@juno.com**

Thunderbird Park has a formal bird blind adjacent to a pond where Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser and Ruddy Ducks congregate in large numbers in winter. Black-crowned Night Herons are residents. There is also desert environment to explore for gnatcatchers and thrashers.

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

**Friday, December 12**

**Tres Rios Wetlands**

**Leader: Vera Markham 623 974-1110  
markhamv@msn.com**

Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands Project located at the 91st Ave. Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Salt River is a haven for many bird species. The habitats include open water, running stream, marsh, desert and woodland which provide a good environment at any time of year for ducks, shorebirds, and migrating passerines.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 7:30 AM.

**Mark your Calendars!**

A trip to the South Rio Grand Valley is in the planning stage. We will be flying to Harlingen, Texas which has numerous good motels. We'll be going to Padre Island, Brownsville, and Falcon Dam among other stops.

The dates are April 27 until May 4, 2004. This trip had been previously done by the Maricopa Audubon Chapter. Those people who went on one or both of the trips can tell you what a wonderful time they had. Since this is the height of the migration season we should have an impressive trip list.

Brush Freeman, one of Texas' top birders has agreed to lead the trip and we are looking forward to going. The trip is already almost filled, so don't delay. Call Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677 or George Wall 623 875-7057 to assure saving a spot.



**A Summer Evening With Audubon.... September 22!**

Come join the Audubon Society, for a summer night after work - at the Indigo Bistro in Phoenix, AZ.

(Yes, it's still summer in Phoenix in September)

Meet the Sonoran Audubon Society Board members and Judd Klement, the Regional Coordinator of Public Policy for the National Audubon Society in an informal setting.

Come out after work, after your workout, or after class and meet new people, as well as find out more about what the Sonoran Audubon Society is doing locally and hear what Judd Klement has to say about national issues with regards to protecting and enjoying our precious outdoors and conservation agenda for 108th Congress.

**When:**

September 22, 2003 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Where:**

Indigo Bistro  
Sheraton Crescent Hotel  
2620 W Dunlap Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85021  
(appetizers will be served)

**If you have any questions please contact:**

Judd Klement at 415-999-9563 or [jklement@audubon.org](mailto:jklement@audubon.org)

Or

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

## A Weekend in the White Mountain, June 20-21 2003

By Daniela Yellan

Just when the heat in the Valley was becoming more than unbearable, I ran away to take part in the Campout sponsored by the White Mountain Audubon Society. This event takes place annually the third weekend of June, this year from the 20th to the 22nd. The very enthusiastic and friendly hosts this year were Jimmy and Lorraine Videle.

Eighteen people, representing several Audubon Societies from around the State, participated. Most chose to camp, a few preferred the comforts of a nearby motel. The camping spot, located off a well-maintained dirt road, FR 117, near the Sunrise area, was idyllic and secluded. The meadow had a running spring as well as a pond, providing ample opportunities to observe both the birds and the many colorful butterflies that came to the water. The many stands of trees around the area were home to several breeding species. Even as I was just setting up my tent I discovered that Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were busily feeding young in the trees above and near my tent. The lush greenery and colorful flowers around the camp area provided a welcome relief from the suffering brown, dry vegetation of home.

The weather in the evening was nippy, and I was more than happy to bundle up in my tent. In the morning the temperature read 47 degrees, quite a change from the sweltering heat from which I was so glad to escape.

Because of a constant wind most of the weekend, we did not get several of our target species. However no one seemed to mind, because we were able to spend a lot of time enjoying the several species breeding in the area. One of the favorites was a family of Williamson's Sapsuckers, mom, dad and several youngsters. This group kept us entertained the entire weekend.

On Saturday most of us piled into the van provided by our hosts and headed to Winema Wildlife Area, an area acquired by Arizona Game and Fish for the water rights and to protect native fish. The birding there is outstanding due to the variety of vegetation and lovely riparian area. Located in a canyon of the Little Colorado River, Junipers and grasses cover the canyon sides. Walnut trees, wild rose, wild grape, and many other shrubs grow at the canyon and field edges. The species observed by the group on the road to Winema and at Winema included Mountain Bluebird, Horned Lark, American Kestrel, Western Meadowlark,

Yellow-breasted Chat, Cliff Swallow, Lesser Goldfinch, Bleak-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Flicker, Golden Eagle, and others.

Next we headed to try our luck at finding some of the montane species at Camp Montlure, a private church camp. The area was beautiful, the hike refreshing, but due to the rather high winds the birds made themselves very scarce, and we felt lucky to see a House Wren and hear a Canyon Wren. Several attempts to get a glimpse of the American Dipper there and at several other spots in the area proved to be futile.

On Saturday evening, by an imaginary campfire, two speakers from the Apache-Sitgraves National Forest gave interesting and thought-provoking talks. One presented the state of grazing in the area. The other discussed the different approaches to fire management and control in the area focusing especially on the Rodeo-Chedeski fire. The only few sparks that flew were created by the differences of opinions among us.

On Sunday morning we had another walk around the camp area, which is close to Burnt Mills Spring. Once more due to the wind, the birds were difficult to spot. We did manage Western Bluebird, Western Tanager, Dark-eyed Junco, Pigmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, Chipping Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Robin, among others.

Prong-horned Antelope were yet another highlight of the weekend, especially one neonate and his mother standing in the middle of a very large field. All of us hoped the baby would not become lunch for the Golden Eagle soaring above.

I would like to extend special thanks to Jimmy and Lorraine for such a wonderful experience. I highly recommend this trip to everyone, campers and non-campers alike. I so enjoyed the area I returned in August. However, due to the stormy weather, camped with my dog at the Motel 6 in Show Low. The White Mountain Audubon Society has invaluable extensive information on its website on birding in the area, making it easy for me not only to return to some of the spots I had visited on the weekend, but to explore several other fantastic, breathtaking locations.

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For several years someone from our chapter has joined the White Mountain Audubon Society on their annual White Mountain Field Trip. They all were impressed and raved about the area just as Daniela did.

-CJK

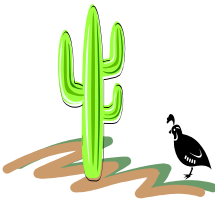
## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

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

September 10, 2003	Mike Rabe, Arizona Game & Fish , "Doves, Quail and Grouse , Oh! My!"
October 8, 2003	Jennifer MacKay, Operator with Dave MacKay of Solipaso Tours, "Birds and Natural History of Northwestern Mexico"
November 12, 2003	Wendy Hodgeson, of The Desert Botanical Gardens, "Flora of the Arizona Trail"
December 10, 2003	Bruce Taubert, Arizona Game & Fish, "Birding in Africa"
January 14, 2004	TBA
February 11, 2004	Tom Jones, Grand Canyon University, "Mired in the Mud: A Look at Neotropic Rainforest Amphibians and Reptiles".
March 10, 2004	Bill Branam, Audubon Ranch Manager, "Your Audubon Ranch - Grassland Research."
April 14, 2004	TBA
May 12, 2004	Brian Wakeling, Arizona Game and Fish: "Turkey Research and Management in Arizona"

### Other Dates of Interest:

September 3, 2003 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**