

President's Message



Dear SAS Friends and Supporters:

It was nice to see many of you at our September meeting. I hope you enjoyed the excellent presentation by safari guide Mat Dry. Several of you asked where to purchase Mat's book [THIS is Africa: True Tales of a Safari Guide](#); it is available at www.amazon.com. Please join us at our next meeting on October 8th to enjoy the photography of Nathaniel Smalley. Watch your e mailbox for the Constant Contact invitation.

I'm sure you have noticed the big changes to our communication methods. A committee headed by SAS' Gambel's Tales Editor John Arnett met several times this summer, along with our Webmaster, Tracy Unmacht, to redesign our website, emails, and other outreach tools. I would like to thank the following people for their hard work on this project: Board Members Carol Beardmore, Tim Cullison and Jerry Theis; and SAS Consultant, Karen LaFrance.

Our new and improved website is at <http://dev.sonoranaudubon.org> (Copy and paste into your browser if the link does not work). We especially like the new Calendar tool where we are posting upcoming events hosted by SAS and by other organizations. Please be sure to check the new online Calendar frequently.

The new website is still under construction, and we are continuing to move information from the old website to the new one. This is a perfect time for you to provide your feedback on the new website. We created an online survey; please click on this link or copy and paste into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FGCCYT7>

I hope you received SAS's first electronic Gambel's Tales newsletter last month. If you missed it, you can go to the Newsletters tab on the website and catch up. If

you aren't receiving Constant Contact emails from us, you can sign up for our mailing list through the website. There is a link at the bottom of every page that says SIGN UP FOR OUR E NEWS. Please make sure emails from SAS are not going into your Spam.

In other news, we officially elected Database Manager Tom Lazzelle to the Board last April and appreciate his continuing commitment to SAS. Carol Beardmore, Science Coordinator of USFWS Sonoran Joint Venture, was also elected to the Board and I hope you saw her great presentation on Namibia last May.

Joe Ford and John Arnett saw their Board terms end recently, but they both remain active with SAS. You will still see Joe at our monthly meetings with his wife Elise. Joe continues to lead Family Bird Walks at Estrella Mountain Regional Park on the second Saturday of the month, as well as cutting back the invasive salt cedar and maintaining the trails. He also offers walks and presentations on a variety of bird topics at White Tank Mountain and Cave Creek Regional Parks. Check out the Calendar tab on the new SAS website for Joe's events. John Arnett's Board term also ended, but he continues to help SAS as our Editor and Computer Technology guru. John will also lead two adventurous field trips in 2014/2015, and may offer an all-day eBird bootcamp.

Even with all our great Board and Committee members, there are still jobs to do and ways **YOU** can help our chapter. We are currently looking for volunteers for the following:

- 1) **Bookstore Assistant** Jackie Anderson would like to have a backup person to run the Bookstore at our meetings when she is unable to attend. Contact Haylie [haylie.hewitt \[at\] cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net)
- 2) **Hospitality Assistant** Sharron and Les Sell are doing a great job with our refreshments each month. In the unlikely event of their absence, it would be nice to have a helper who could fill in. Contact Haylie [haylie.hewitt \[at\] cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net) (I can't mention Hospitality without a quick Thank You to Kathy Wheeler for sharing her goodies with us!)
- 3) **Newsletter Contributor** Would you like to write articles for the newsletter? Contact John Arnett [treerunner \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:treerunner@yahoo.com)

- 4) **Photo/Video Editor** We hope to personalize our website with photos and videos, and we will need someone to edit the submissions and manage online photo and video accounts. Contact John Arnett [treerunner \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:treerunner[at]yahoo.com)
- 5) **Festival Volunteer** This is a fun job where you can promote SAS in the community by doing one or more of the following: lead bird walks, play our Bird Identification game with the younger crowd, sell books, give out our literature. Upcoming festival dates are February 7th and March 7th and 8th. There will be a signup sheet at the October meeting or contact Haylie [haylie.hewitt \[at\] cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt[at]cox.net)
- 6) **Board Member** We currently have an opening for one Board member. Please consider attending a Board meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the UU Church and see what we do.

Speaking of the Board, the Chapter's Annual Retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, November 1st at the TNC Hassayampa River Preserve**. The Annual Retreat is an important and fun day of discussion and creative thinking about our chapter's goals, priorities, and plans for the future. All SAS Friends are invited to attend. The exact details will be available soon, but tentatively we expect to begin with an optional bird walk at 8:00 a.m. and to conclude the meeting around 2:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are provided by SAS. Here is more info on the venue:

Hassayampa River Preserve
49614 Hwy 60/89 (milepost 114)
Wickenburg, AZ 85390
<http://www.nature.org/hassayampa>

If you would like to attend the Retreat, please sign up at the October meeting or contact Haylie [haylie.hewitt \[at\] cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt[at]cox.net).

I hope you will be able to share your time and talents with SAS this year and I thank you for your ongoing support.

See you in October,

Haylie Hewitt

President, Sonoran Audubon Society

Sonoran Audubon Invitation: A Special Bird Walk on October 25th!!

By Karen LaFrance, SAS Consultant

Many years ago, Sonoran Audubon became a Founding Sponsor of the Tres Rios Nature Festival in Avondale. SAS' Super Volunteer—Bob McCormick—participated on the first planning committee, really putting his shoulder to it! The festival has turned into the big, annual, community-wide event which SAS envisioned. Bob still volunteers with the City of Avondale to grow the Tres Rios Nature Festival a true community institution.

On Saturday, October 25 2014, a Volunteer Clean Up work day will take place at the site of the Tres Rios Nature Festival near Phoenix International Raceway. Instead of a day-long Fall Event, "Make A Difference Day" will help prepare for the big annual event in March 2015.

Sonoran Auduboners are invited to participate in a special, guided Bird Walk by Sonoran Audubon's "McBob" at 7:00 AM prior to breakfast and the gathering of work groups.

Says Bob: "At 9:00 AM anyone on the Bird Walk will be "released", (hm, ha...like a bird? comments Gambel's Tales!), to go to work with the volunteer groups. If you are on the Bird Walk, you may help me with trash pick up along the way."

The birding should be pretty good, he told Gambel's Tales.

The volunteer groups will be painting, doing trash pick up, tire collections, trail building and maintenance and installation of signs and other projects. The Wish List of contributed items for the day includes Paint (multiple gallons of Grey Paint), brushes, rollers, pans, shovels, brooms, gloves and rakes for trail building, trash bags, rubber gloves and trash pickers for clean up crews. If you have any of this stuff, let Bob know (e mail below).

Bob tells Gambel's Tales that volunteers need to sign up to lend a hand; he would like to know directly if you want to go birding with him that day at mcbobaz@aol.com.

Here is the flyer for Make a Difference Day: <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b8f2cb4fffe76d42746728bed&id=de87db0651&e=ddac05276a>

Click on the above or copy the whole thing and paste it into your browser. The flyer has a write up on Make a Difference Day and also hot links to the volunteer sign up which is in a website called "Goose Bump". Gambel's Tales applauds the use of this appropriately-named web site assist!

New Audubon Study: Global Warming Threatens Arizona Bird Species By Karen LaFrance

Global warming is challenging 314 of 588 bird species studied in National Audubon's new report entitled "Climate and the Birds." To reach their conclusions, Audubon scientists analyzed 30 years of data from Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys. No habitat in Arizona will provide automatic safe havens for our birds; from deserts, grasslands and riparian areas to higher elevation habitats, Arizona's "canaries in the coal mine" will be impacted. Arizona birds that are threatened include the western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, currently recommended to be listed as an endangered species, Mountain Chickadees, Pinyon Jays, Western Tanagers, Burrowing Owls, Lark Buntings, and longspurs among others. A hotter and drier desert may result in declines of the Joshua Tree and Saguaro Cactus, iconic desert plants, for example, that are homes for nesting Elf Owls and Gilded Flickers which could disappear from our deserts and backyards. Go to this site for a short video on the study: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN2-a82_3mg#t=28 and to <http://climate.audubon.org> for complete information on "Climate and the Birds". For further information contact: **Tice Supplee, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Arizona Tel 602-468-6470 x109 tsupplee@audubon.org.**