



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 14 Issue 8

April 2013

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, April 10, 2013 , at 7 p.m.

Thomas Gaskill-Jays, Nutcrackers and Pines

Tom Gaskill grew up in central Massachusetts, where he started working in wild bird conservation projects at the age of ten. Since then, he's birded on five continents (he's still waiting on Australia and Antarctica), including 48 U.S. states. He eventually earned a PhD in philosophy from Vanderbilt University and spent many years in academia. Wherever he has gone, his binoculars went with him. Since moving back to Arizona, he has been a volunteer at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area since it opened, guided numerous field trips for local Audubon chapters, and assisted with many research programs, and now teaches birding classes at the Desert Botanical Garden.



Pinyon Jay

Arizona is rich in jays and nutcrackers. This program explores their diversity, intelligence, and evolutionary history, including some recent developments and difficulties in understanding the dynamic speciation of jays. Special attention is given to the co-evolution of pines and nutcrackers, and of pinyon pines and Pinyon Jays, and the importance of these birds to the health of our forests.



Pinyon Pine Cone

This is not the first program Tom has presented to our Chapter. His other programs Birds of Egypt and India were well attended. This program shows us something on our own turf.



Clark's Nutcracker

What's Happening in our Chapter

By George Wall

There was a Board Meeting on March 6, 2013, and the attendees were George Wall, Tim Cullison, Haylie Hewitt, Gail Bliss, John Arnett, Jim Consolloy, Joe Ford, Darnell Kirksey, Andrée Tarby, and Karen LaFrance, consultant.

After approval of the minutes, committee reports were given. Changes weren't significant enough to mention.

The Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival was discussed. It was arranged to have the tent, chairs, tables and books picked up from storage at Darnell Kirksey's garage and brought to the festival for set up.

Gail Bliss talked about the position descriptions and who was responsible for submitting them.

The main portion of the meeting was spent on the silent auction and raffle prizes that were brought in. Starting bids for the auction and prices for the raffle items were suggested.

The Education/Conservation Committee meeting was held on March 7, 2013. Four of the proposed Building Our Bird-Friendly Community handouts were sent to the printer to be printed and be available for the Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival, membership meeting and the Hassayampa Festival. The Speakers Bureau project was worked on.

The March general membership meeting was held on the 13th and Michelle Wiznitzer gave a very fast paced program on bird photographs taken in Arizona. It was really well presented and enjoyed by all. There were 45 attendees including at least three people from a Sun City West photography club.

Western Rivers Action Network (WRAN)

Audubon is taking a major step to address the threats to our western rivers. They're launching the Western Rivers Action Network, a coalition to advocate for our rivers and the bird species that depend on them.

Sarah Luna, a conservation professional, will be reaching out to Audubon members to get your input on how to make WRAN a success and to find out how it can support your chapter's riparian conservation work.

There are many opportunities for volunteer advocates! Contact them to find out more. Email riosalado@audubon.org or Sarah Porter at sporter@audubon.org.

2013 Field Trips—Spring

REQUIREMENT: On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling the leader or the contact person. They can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, **some** trips are limited in size. Anyone can do these trips and if a novice, you'll get plenty of help.

Saturday, April 6, 2013

Robbins Butte

Leader: Bob McCormick

Car Pool contact: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

Robbins Butte is a Wildlife Area administered by the AZ Game and Fish Dept. Here we will meet Ryan Sutter who is the new manager. In the past, we have had two picnics at this location as well as a couple of bird walks. No telling what you might see. In the past we have seen Bald Eagles, Sage Sparrows and a Great Horned Owl perched on the Butte.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch

For car pooling, meet at Denny's on W. side of Litchfield Rd. just N. of I-10. If we leave there by 7:30, we will be at Robbins Butte by 8 a.m.

Directions: Get on 101 and head towards I10. Take the exit for Los Angeles. Take I10 several miles and get off at exit 112 which is Hwy 85. Robbins Butte is exactly 7 miles from I-10 on Hwy. 85. It is on the right hand side of the road and there will be a sign just before the dirt road. The dirt road runs about two miles to the Ranger's house.

Thursday-Sunday, April 18-21, 2013

Aravaipa Ranch near Dudleyville

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

This trip is a three night stay at a private ranch. There are 55 acres of land with a continuous flowing creek. The ranch house is amid a pecan orchard surround by cottonwoods. There are trails galore. This is a perfect place and a perfect time for lots of birds.

We'll bring food for the three nights and the participants will bring their own breakfasts and lunches. There is a huge kitchen with all the facilities needed to cook anything. The ranch house has three bathrooms and seven bedrooms all completely furnished with towels and bed linens and pillows. The rooms hold anywhere from 2 – 5 people. This trip is limited to 18 people and no more than 5 vehicles that are high clearance. Cost will be \$105 per person total for the 3 nights plus cost for food and for gas if you're riding with someone. **This trip is currently full.**

Difficulty: 1

Instructions, room assignments, car pooling and directions were given to the participants.

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2013 Field Trips-Spring

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mt. Ord

Leader: Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425

awtarby@gmail.com

This is a perfect time of year to go to Mt. Ord for birds. There are grassland, pinyon, juniper, and ponderosa pine habitats. Mt. Ord is the highest bird habitat in Maricopa County. We may encounter Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, Gray Vireo, Black-chinned Sparrow, and many warblers as well as Summer and Hepatic Tanagers. A high-clearance vehicle is required.

Difficulty: 2 Bring a lunch

Meet at Denny's in Fountain Hills to leave at 7 a.m.

Saturday, June 15, 2013

New River Nature Preserve

Leader: Bob McCormick

mcbobaz@aol.com

Have you ever driven North on I-17 and wondered what that slender band of green is off to the East just past New River? Deeded to the Desert Foothills Land Trust in 1994, the New River Nature Preserve is a 20.8-acre habitat open during daylight hours to hikers and people on bikes or horseback. Bedrock comes to the surface here bringing with it the ground water that allows a mix of fan palms, willows, mesquite, native walnuts, cottonwood, gum and sycamore trees to thrive on the perennial spring waters. Lucy's warblers, Bell's Vireos, woodpeckers, cuckoos, Common Black-Hawks and several types of frogs have been seen on previous trips.

Difficulty 1 Bring a lunch

For car pooling, meet at the Bell Road Park and Ride lot on the SW corner of Bell and I-17. We will leave at 6:45 a.m. to arrive on site by 7:30 a.m.

Directions: From Phoenix, exit I-17 (exit 232) and take frontage road North roughly 2.2 miles (the road turns to dirt after 1 mile, but it's passable by sedan) to a 3-way junction where there's a row of mailboxes and a street sign reading Coyote Pass/Old Stage Road. You can park across from the mailboxes. There's room for about 3-4 cars. Do not block the private driveways in the area. From here, walk the dirt road straight ahead for about 0.1 mile, there will be a New River Preserve sign and a gate.

Friday-Saturday, June 21-22, 2013

Bender Springs and Area

Leader: John Arnett 623-695-0953

treerunner@yahoo.com

Our destination is a small, scenic canyon in the Bender

Springs Public Use Area of the Barry M. Goldwater Range East, managed by the US Air Force. We will travel through a unit of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, where we may also do some birding. There are other well-known birding opportunities near Gila Bend, and between the Phoenix metro area and Gila Bend, where the group may want to bird either on Friday or Saturday.

Focus: We will visit a small breeding population of Varied Buntings at one of Maricopa County's more reliable locations for this species. Other good birds are possible such as Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, (Desert) Purple Martin, hummingbirds, and late-season migrants. We may do some exploring in search of Rufous-winged Sparrows in the Vekol Valley.

Itinerary: Friday, the group will carpool to the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field (GBAFAF), where all participants will watch a visitor safety video (it's actually entertaining) and then receive a Visitor Use Permit good for one year. The group should arrive at the GBAFAF at 4 p.m. (1600) to watch the video. Friday night the group can stay and eat dinner at the Best Western Space Age Lodge in the town of Gila Bend. We will have a very early Saturday morning departure from Gila Bend. We will drive East on I10 to the Vekol Valley Road exit, then head south and southwest to our destination. We may encounter law enforcement personnel during this part of the trip. Upon arrival at the Bender Springs canyon, we will bird on foot on a gravel road, which is steep in places, and we may walk through the well-vegetated and rocky bottom of the canyon itself. After we have birded the canyon, we may bird other locations in the Sonoran Desert National Monument as we make our way back to Gila Bend.

Difficult: 4-5 Bring breakfast, lunch and snacks for Saturday; however, there are several fast food places in Gila Bend where we can grab an early breakfast and coffee.

Notice: Heat, undocumented aliens and drug trafficking are a possibility to encounter as well as challenging hiking.

What to bring: Official photographic identification (a driver license) in order to enter a US Air Force installation and in order to receive a Visitor Use Permit, plenty of water, good hiking footwear, sunscreen, wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, appropriate clothing for birding in Arizona in mid-May, binoculars, camera and an adventurous spirit.

Friday-Saturday, June 28-29, 2013

Owling above Tucson

Leader: Melody Kehl

Contact: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

We'll bird the mountains between 3 and 6 p.m. Then a Lasagna dinner will be furnished for \$7.50 each prior to looking for the Elf Owl, Western and Whiskered Screech Owls, Flammulated Owl, Poorwill and Whippoorwill. This trip is limited to 7 people, but it is not filled yet.

FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA

Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

Estrella Mountain Regional Park is located on the south side of the Gila River in Goodyear at Bullard Ave. and Vineyard Rd. There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park.

Join the Sonoran Audubon Society for an easy two hour hike in the park and along the Gila river. Over 150 different species have been observed at the park. We have a Saturday and Sunday walk each month. Bring your own binoculars and books if you have them, a limited number will be available.

SATURDAYS: These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be **April 13, 2013**. Meet at the visitors center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. The walk will last approximately two hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 lford25@cox.net.

SUNDAYS: These walks are held on the fourth Sunday of the month. The next one will be on **April 28, 2013**, starting at 8 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park—the Navy Area. For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 mcbobaz@aol.com or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 awtarby@gmail.com.

Welcome and Thank You

Since our last newsletter, more people joined the National Audubon Society that live in our designated area. This automatically makes all of them a member of our chapter. These members are Lorene Barry, Colleen Beestman, Ernest Bergeson, Phyllis Burns, Elaine Caves, Lis & Dennis Cook, Judie Dally, Laura Doherty, W. Dube, Ralph Flores, Ed Gerkey, Elizabeth Hammett, Judy Hill, Betty Huff, Colleen Justice, Pamela Kavanaugh, Clifford Leahy, Eleanore O'Grady, Robert Pearson, Maryann Peckler, Olivia Perdue, William Ruhl, Christine Sanchez, Marie Smith, John Sochko, Anthony Torres, and Nancy Wright.

We've also got a new "Friend" and she is Rosemary Abrami.

Welcome All!

Sonoran Audubon Society Ballot

The Chapter Bylaws require that an election ballot be available to members. If the member is unable to attend the April meeting send this completed ballot to: Sonoran Audubon Society, P.O. Box 8068, Glendale AZ, 85312-8068

The following members are nominated to fill a two year term for the respective officer position:

- _____ Haylie Hewitt, President
- _____ Jim Consolloy, Treasurer
- _____ Tim Cullison, Vice-President

The following members are nominated to fill a two year term as a board member for Director at Large:

- _____ Darnell Kirksey
- _____ Andrée Tarby
- _____ Dr. Jerry Theis

The following people were selected and need to be voted on for the coming year's Nominating Committee:

- _____ John Arnett _____ Karen LaFrance

Put a check mark in front of each officer and board member to indicate your approval. Also, put a check mark for the two people selected to be on the Nominating Committee. There are three openings for officers and three openings for Director at Large.

Non Sonoran Audubon members who receive this newsletter, please ignore this ballot.

Your name and address _____

This ballot is in accordance with the Bylaws of the Sonoran Audubon Society. The people elected will take office June 1, 2013.

What Makes a Backyard Bird Habitat

By George Wall

The last thing I'm going to talk about in this series of Backyard Bird Habitats is feeding birds and bird feeders. I always get a lot of questions on both subjects by phone, e-mails and in person. Over the years, I have learned a lot. This is a two part article with conclusion in the May newsletter.

Some areas that have Home Owners Associations (HOAs), have restrictions on feeding birds. For example, Sun City has this ordinance in their bylaws: The prohibition of "keeping" certain fowl/animals shall include the feeding of birds and any other animals/wild life of any kind, which advertently or inadvertently results in the feeding and/or presence of pigeons. Pigeons are naturally drawn to feed that is put out on the ground, in large feeders and quail or bird feed blocks; so this could be a problem for many yards if neighbors complain. There are a few answers to this problem: (1) Use such small feeders that pigeons can't get to the food. Have plants under the feeders so that they can't even get to the spilled food. (2) Get to know your neighbors and see if they have any objections because if no one complains, there should be no problem from an HOA. (3) Only put a little bit of feed out at first so as to not draw a flock of pigeons. If just a few show up, chase them out by throwing rocks at them, yelling, etc. It might take a month or two, but in time, they'll stay away and perhaps, you can maybe increase the amount of feed. (4) The drastic way is to have a wall built around your backyard and then you can usually keep the pigeons out one way or another - enough said. I had a wall built, not because of the pigeons, but I wanted to keep the rabbits out. Now I have the best of both worlds and I throw feed on the ground and use all types of feeders. Naturally, if you have no HOA, there is no problem. If you only feed hummingbirds, you'll also have no problem with pigeons.

So, let's talk about hummingbird feeders in the first part of this article and there are several types. If you look on the internet, you'll find hundreds of different feeders \$10 and up. What should I choose?

1. Use a glass feeder. Many of the feeders you see are made of some form of plastic. The plastic ones tend to not last as long, stain easily, and are **hard to clean**.
3. Use a small one and this way you don't use as much nectar and they are easier to clean.
4. Use one that birds such as finches, sparrows and others can't hold onto and tip the nectar out.
5. Use one that several hummingbirds can feed at the same time.
6. If you have ants in your yard, get one that prevents ants from getting to the nectar. These can be included as part of the feeder or bought separately. See this site for guards <http://www.bird-house-bath.com/hummingbird-feeder-moats-guards.html>.
7. Try not to use a feeder that has yellow on it. Bees are attracted to yellow.



I could go on and on about feeders and tips, but two of the best sites I have found on hummingbird tips is at these addresses <http://www.birdwatchers.com/debtips.html> and <http://birding.about.com/od/birdfeeders/a/hummerfeeders.htm>.

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival—Part I

By Jackie Anderson

It was a cloudy morning as I made the thirty minute drive from my north Phoenix home to the Tres Rios Birding and Nature Festival. I exited I-10 and headed South to the Base and Meridian Wildlife Area where the festival was located. A few rays of sun broke through the clouds as I arrived at my destination. The mist rising up from the river seemed to glow, making the place look like a magical fairyland. Indeed, a mysterious kingdom lies in the shadow of the grandstand of the Phoenix International Raceway. Within a few miles of each other, three rivers converge at this place. The Salt River, the Gila River and the Agua Fria River all come together here which explains the name “Tres Rios.”

Parking was \$3.00 but all the activities in the festival were free. It was my first time attending this event, so I stopped at the visitor’s booth and asked directions to the Sonoran Audubon Booth. At the booth, I helped with a little set-up and then it was off to the first bird walk of the day. The walk took us under the bridge and around the riparian areas where we saw Marsh Wrens, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Yellow-Rumped Warblers. Some of the water birds we saw were American Coots, Ring-necked Ducks, American White Pelicans, Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. A Belted Kingfisher generated a lot of excitement when he flew up into the trees and began making a lot of noise. As we turned to walk back, an Ash-throated Flycatcher was spotted and caused quite a stir among the birders.

Back at the booth where I had volunteered, people were starting to come in. I tried to interest a family in the Bird Identification game, but they told me they were on a mission to climb the rock wall and promised to come back later. I watched the kids make a beeline toward the giant rock-climbing wall in the center of the festival. True to their word, they came back later, played the Bird ID game and even joined a bird walk.

Behind our booth, was a children’s area where some of the activities were face painting, decorating cupcakes and fishing in the river. I talked to a boy who was fishing and asked him what he thought he might catch. “I don’t know; I just like fishing,” he said. Fallen Feathers also had a booth there with a wide variety of rescue birds on display. I was able to get a close look at a Turkey Vulture and Red-tailed Hawk. Up on the main avenue of booths, Arizona Fish and Game also had birds and other animals to look at. I especially liked the close-up look I had of the Peregrine Falcon. Because of that, I think I will be able to identify that bird much better now. There were some mammals on display including a Black-tailed Prairie Dog. Across the way Fish and Game also had a table of rattlesnakes and one Gila monster.

At the north end of the festival was a stage where a couple young country girls were singing to the crowd. Various entertainers were scheduled throughout the day. Since it was a cold day, I also wanted to check out the food booths to see if they sold hot chocolate. Yes, both coffee and hot chocolate were available! There were booths selling fry bread, kettle corn, tamales and barbecue. The somewhat irreverent names of the barbecue offerings were quite entertaining. There was “Death by Swine” (pork wrapped in bacon), “Son of a Oinker” (pork on a stick), and “Bad Mother Kluckers,” (chicken kabobs).

There were 57 different booths at the festival, including the Sonoran Audubon, Desert Rivers Audubon, Arizona Fish and Game, Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center, and Fallen Feathers. To the east of the main thoroughfare, was an area with canoes and paddle boards available to use free of charge. I could see several groups making their way in boats down the river. There was also an area for archery at the far south of the festival. However, the biggest attraction was the birds. All morning long birds were flying over our heads, and every once in a while someone would call out “Osprey overhead” or “Sora down by the pond.” Egrets, herons and swallows were common sightings.



Photo by George Wall

The morning was over too soon, and it was time for me to leave. I looked down at the scene as I drove over the bridge. I glimpsed a couple of canoes floating in the river, several kids fishing, a group of birders standing at attention with binoculars held up, and a few white tents peeking up between the trees and water. Next year, I hope to stay longer and maybe bring some of my grandchildren along. After all isn’t that what such festivals are for, helping the next generation to find a connection with nature?

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival—Part II

By Bob McCormick (Coordinator for the Sonoran Audubon Society)

The Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival is now history and what a Festival it was. Saturday was overcast and not too busy but the birding was great with 54 species seen that first day. Almost everyone got to see the Bald Eagle flyover. The Ospreys helped out by flying overhead with fresh catches frequently and White Pelicans were seen all day long. Sunday began with clear skies and the sun shining bright thru the mist rising off the lake. Folks began showing up well before the 9 a.m. start time and soon a record crowd was on hand. Early on we ran out of booth prizes and a trip had to be made to re-supply. The hike booth turned out to be so popular that groups were taken out every half hour instead of every hour. At one point we had four tours out at once. Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets made dramatic scenes in the bright sunshine against the bright blue sky. Two Common Gallinules made a spectacle of themselves by having a fight and kicking each other in the face and a White-faced Ibis waded in the pond next to the tour tent for everyone to see.



Ruth & David Kennedy at SAS Booth

2013 Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival Bird List - 71 species seen or heard: Gadwall, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Green-wing Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Neotropic Cormorant, Green Heron,

Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Virginia Rail (h), Sora, American Coot, Common Gallinule (Moorhen), Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Barn Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gila Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Marsh Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Abert's Towhee, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.



Bullock's Oriole—Photo by Caleb Strand



Sora—Photo by George Wall

We would like to thank those who helped. Without you this Festival would not be such a great success!

Booth Volunteers were Jackie Anderson, Marshall Esty, Karen Kaiser, David & Ruth Kennedy, Nancy Newkirk, Chuck & Loretta Richards, and Rosemary Zanter.

Hikes were led by Joe Ford, Tom Hildebrandt, Steve Hirsch, Sam Insana, Richard Kaiser, Bob McCormick, Caleb Strand (13 years old), Andrée Tarby, and George Wall.

On Saturday, there were 10 tours with an average of 5 people. On Sunday, there were 23 tours with an average of 7 people. It is estimated that there 211 people who went on bird walks.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The Sonoran Audubon Society's Annual Picnic was held on March 23rd. It was a roaring success with 55 in attendance.

You don't want to miss the May newsletter, there will be a story and several pictures and who knows, you might be pictured.

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

Audubon's Birds 'n Beer, is being offered on April 18th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. This event is held every third Thursday of the month sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery. Proceeds from the sale of beer go to Audubon Arizona. Local professionals will present a program and give you a refreshing way to learn about Arizona birds and other wildlife.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix and their regular hours except for special events are Tuesday-Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. E-mail riosalado@audubon.org, or call 602-468-6470 for more information about their programs and events.

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month from October through May starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. The next meeting is on April 19, 2013. Gerry Horton will chair a program on "Bird Parenting". The birding trip will be to Lake Pleasant and Castle Hot Springs on April 9th led by Jim Consolloy. Meet at the church parking lot to leave at 7 a.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings and trips.

For further information on Birders' Anonymous meetings, programs and trips contact Marshall Esty at 623-977-1637 mne@juno.com or Shirley Fackelman at shirleyfackelman@yahoo.com. Better yet, come to the meeting.

Hassayampa River Preserve

Anne Leight has bird banding programs on Sunday, April 7th at 6 a.m. and on Sunday, April 21st at 6:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome; however, if you want to help bird band, you must contact Anne Leight at birdannabelle@hotmail.com.

There will be an Interpretive Tour on Saturday, April 27th from 8:30-10 a.m. Enjoy an easy paced walk along the trails with a docent to catch sight of resident and migratory birds.

Hassayampa is having its Nature Festival again this year. It will be held Saturday, April 6, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Sonoran Audubon Society will have a table there again this year.

Hassayampa is open mid-September through mid-May Wednesday-Sunday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and mid-May through mid-September Friday-Sunday 7-11 a.m. Entrance fees are

\$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Members fee is \$3.00.

Gilbert Water Ranch

2013 Feathered Friends Festival will be held Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Over 30 booths will host wild-life exhibitors and educational activities including games and crafts about insects, plants, water, reptiles, birds, and more. There will be food, music, birding experiences, and tours of the preserve as well. All ages are welcome and the event is free to the public!

Take highway 60 to Greenfield Road. Turn right and drive S. on Greenfield for 1.5 miles. Turn east (left) on Guadalupe. The entrance to the parking lot for the Water Ranch is the third driveway on the right. See their website at <http://sites.google.com/site/birdsofthegilbertwaterranch/>

Desert Botanical Garden

Each week on Mondays there is a bird walk. The bird walks for April will be starting at 8 a.m.

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students. DBG Membership is \$65 a year (\$75 for Families). When special events are held, the entry fee could be higher. See their website at www.dbg.org for further information.

Arizona Field Ornithologists

See their website at www.Azfo.org for more details.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Learn to identify resident birds and seasonal migrants on bird walks guided by Cynthia Donald & Pete Moulton on April 6th, Marceline VandeWater & Kathe Anderson on April 14th, Cynthia Donald & Pete Moulton on April 20th, and Joanne Barr leads the final 8:30 a.m. bird walk of the spring on April 28th.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum opens at 8:00 a.m. \$9.00 for adults, \$4.50 for ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>.

Festivals/Expos

San Pedro River EcoFest April 13, 2013, from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. You need to register by contacting Tice Supplee at tsupplee@audubon.org or calling her at 602-468-6470 extension 106. There will be bird walks and exhibitor booths.

13th Annual Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival April 25-8, 2013, held at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood. Many of the events are sold out, so hurry. See their website at www.birdyverde.org.

Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

Location: West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale — Time: 6:30 p.m. for socializing and 7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program.

Upcoming Schedule:

April 10, 2013: Thomas Gaskill—Jays, Nutcrackers and Pines

May 8, 2013: David Dise—Brown Canyon & Area Adventure

September 11, 2013: Paul Holdeman—Birds Gone

Wild: Creating Attractive Habitats in Your Own Yard

October 9, 2013: Ross Hawkins—Hummingbirds Galore

November 13, 2013: Len Boeder—His Best Bird Pictures

December 11, 2013: George Wall—Puerto Rico

January 8, 2014: John Arnett—Cuba

February 12, 2014: David and Diane Reesor—Brazil

Other Dates of Interest: April 3, 2013, 7 p.m. Monthly Board Meeting at above location. Members are invited to attend as guests.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org
Audubon Arizona Web Site: www.az.audubon.org
Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site: www.desertriversaudubon.org
Maricopa Audubon Web Site: www.maricopaaudubon.org
Arizona Field Ornithologists: www.azfo.org
National Audubon: <http://audubon.org/>



7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale and located near 75th Avenue behind Mimi's Café and next to the Souper Salad.

Ph: 623-773-3000—Website:
<http://Glendale.wbu.com>

Care Centers for Birds

Fallen Feathers
Handles and cares for all birds
9532 W. Cielo Grande, Peoria
Jodie Kieran 623-533-2348
623-566-5302

Adobe Mtn. Wildlife Center
Cares for all wildlife including birds
I-17 & Pinnacle Peak
623-582-9806

Wild At Heart
Raptors only
31840 N. 45th St.
Cave Creek
480-595-5047

Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

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Jerry Theis 623-878-6258 jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com

Committees

Programs: Darnell Kirksey, Jerry Theis and George Wall—See phone numbers and e-mail addresses above.

Education/Conservation: Currently meeting every month; contact Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360 klaf40@gmail.com.

Field Trips: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244
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Database Manager: Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451
tlazzelle@cox.net

Newsletter: George Wall 623-875-7057 gwall5@cox.net

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Project: Karen LaFrance
602-809-3360 klaf40@gmail.com

Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society provide the principal financial support for the chapter and its activities. SAS operates with a minimum overhead (chapter administration and insurance) in order to make revenues go as far as possible. All Friends contributions are fully tax-deductible.

THE FRIENDS

I would like to become a Friend of the Sonoran Audubon Society. Indicate your choice of level:

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Sonoran Audubon Society

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