



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 13 Issue 5

January, 2012

**At our next meeting.... Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at 7 p.m.  
George Wall—A Month in Kenya Africa**

George Wall started bird watching in April of 1997, when he went to Fort Morgan in Alabama to watch bird banding. It intrigued him so much, that he joined the Hummingbird Society and then the National Audubon Society. He put up lots of feeders in his backyard, a martin house, a bluebird house, he planted 15 blueberry bushes, put in a grape arbor and all attracted birds. When he moved to Arizona in 1999, he found there were a lot of birds there. He first joined Birders' Anonymous, a group of birders in Sun City, and was soon the leader of that group which he did for 8 years. When the Sonoran Audubon Society came into existence, he also joined them. In 2004, he became a board member. In September of 2005, he became the editor of the monthly newsletter and in June of 2009, became the president of the Sonoran Audubon Society. He's planned and led birding trips both short and long ones like to Alamos, Mexico. He's a staunch conservationist.



**Golden-breasted Starling—Photo by George Wall**

As a world-wide bird watcher, he's traveled around the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Nicaragua, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Guatemala and Australia.

He is extremely active in his church – The Church of the Palms in Sun City. He is the Moderator of the church, does the cooking for them, on the Finance Board, on four different committees, does ushering and is the service leader when asked.

This program is about birds, wildlife and the people in Kenya. He spent the entire month of April 2011, in Kenya where he saw 762 species of birds and 81 species of animals. He took over 1500 pictures, but only kept 400 which he deemed suitable. There are 235 pictures in this program on 119 slides.

At 75 years old, he said this was the most grueling and taxing trip he has ever taken as it was hard keeping up with the younger group. In fact, on a couple of hikes into the mountains, he had to stay behind as it was too rough for him. He missed out on another 20-30 species of birds by not taking those hikes.

Enjoy!

## **What's Happening in our Chapter**

### **By your Editor, George Wall**

Your Board met on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, with ten members. The attendees were George Wall, Tim Cullison, John Arnett, Haylie Hewitt, Karen LaFrance, Andrée Tarby, Joe Ford, Jerry Theis, Eleanor Campbell and Darnell Kirksey.

The minutes were approved and then committee reports were given.

In membership, there are 842 members of which 122 are "Friends". The membership committee mailed out "Friends" invitations to all 842 members hoping to increase our "Friends" membership and also give current "Friends" the opportunity to renew their membership. This is one of the few ways that we can raise money for our chapter.

We want to thank a Sonoran Audubon "Friend" who renewed with a \$1000.00 check. A personal thank you will be sent to this person.

The programs are set through April. A May program is still needed and the program committee is contacting prospective people to give a program. (Note: After I got home, I found that I had scheduled a program for May 2012. I had misplaced the information. All programs are set through May—see page 10).

Education/Conservation was discussed. Since our chairperson moved away, it was decided to alternate the chairperson among the members. Darnell Kirksey will host the first meeting in February. Tim Cullison will host the meeting in May.

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It was a low turnout for the December Membership Meeting held on the 11th. The ones who did show up were really entertained by the marvelous photography of Joel Pearson who presented the story of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. It was fascinating!

## **2011 Field Trips—Winter**

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**

**Arlington Valley**

**Leader: Donna Smith, 623-556-9535**  
[rms15247@cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

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. Earlier in September of this year, 57 species were seen with the best being a Wilson's Phalarope. You are also always guaranteed to spot a Burrowing Owl along the roadside.

Difficulty: 1

Meet in the parking lot of the Wildlife Zoo on Northern Ave. near the aquarium to leave at 8 a.m. Alternate meeting place is the Chevron stop and go gas station near corner of I-10 and Jackrabbit Road at about 8:15 a.m.

For those who want to, we'll be eating lunch at Waddell's on Jackrabbit Road or you can bring your own lunch.

**Saturday, January 28, 2012**

**Bush Highway—The recreation areas of Butcher Jones, Saguaro Lake, Phon D Sutton, Coon Bluff and Granite Reef**

**Leader: George Wall, 623-875-7057** [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

Always a great spot for bird watching is the entire area along Bush Highway. We can just about always see a Bald Eagle as well as some other interesting birds.

Difficulty: 1- Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 7:00 a.m. Alternate meeting spot at Denney's in Fountain Hills to leave at 8 a.m.

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**

**Estrella Mountain Park**

**Leader: Joe Ford, 623-792-8154** [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)

Joe Ford does this bird walk once a month and this is your chance to join in and just see what this park has to offer. With the mesquite trees, cottonwoods and lots of shrubbery, there is always lots of birds. Down at the river, egrets and herons will show their feathers and once in a while a Belted Kingfisher flies down the river.

See the article and trip report on page 6.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the visitors center to leave at 8 a.m. or at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird Avenue to leave at 7:15 a.m. Meet George Wall there for car-pooling. Note: There is an entrance fee of \$6.00 per car.

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

**Gilbert Riparian Preserve (Water Ranch)**

**Leader: Richard Kaiser, 602-276-3312**  
[kaiserinaz@aol.com](mailto:kaiserinaz@aol.com)

Visit the Gilbert Riparian Preserve located at the SE corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads behind the Regional Library. A bird list of more than 140 species has been compiled there including more than 50 species of water/shorebirds like the Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the NE parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Alternate meeting spot is the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird

(Continued from Page 2)

## **2012 Field Trips—Winter/Spring**

**Sunday-Monday, February 26-27, 2012**

**Lake Havasu, Bill Williams River NWR and Parker Dam**

**Contact: Joe Ford, 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)**

This is a trip designed to see a lot of water birds such as ducks and loons, but there are always other birds to be seen at the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. We are getting local leaders for each day and a fee will be levied to compensate them.

Difficulty 2 – You will need some slipover **wader boots** as there are streams to cross or just wear tennis shoes if you don't mind getting them wet.

Make your own reservations—suggested is the Travel Lodge at 1-928-680-9202.

Call leader for reservations and further information as this trip will be limited to 4 cars (16 people).

**Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11, 2012**

**Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival to be held at Estrella Mountain Park (More on this later)**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Vera Markham, 623-974-1110**

**[vjmsaint@cox.net](mailto:vjmsaint@cox.net)**

Hassayampa is always a nice place to take a bird walk as you never know what you'll find. There are nice easy trails to walk around the area and also to the river.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at 7:15 a.m. or you can meet the group at the Hassayampa River Preserve at 8-8:15 a.m. There is a \$5 fee for each person unless you're a Nature Conservancy member and then it is \$3.

**Saturday, March 31, 2012**

**Annual Picnic at Horseshoe Ranch (more on this later)**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

**Red Rock State Park**

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

**[dansbohlman@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlman@prodigy.net)**

This a beautiful State Park near Sedona with Oak Creek flowing through it and lots of cottonwoods and sycamores along the creek. There are trails running along the creek, around open meadows and up to the

top of a small peak (Eagles Nest) overlooking the whole park which is a spectacular viewpoint. Within the park is a favorite nesting area of the Common Black Hawk. There are a great variety of birds that have been seen here such as great flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Red-winged Blackbirds, Blue Grosbeaks, Oregon Juncos, Spotted and Green-tailed Towhees, Lesser Goldfinches, Cardinals, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Bluebirds, Summer and Western Tanagers, Bullock's Oriole, Robins, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Scrub Jays, Swallows, Red-shafted Flickers, Hairy and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Vireos and Warblers depending on the time of year. There is a \$5 per car park entrance fee.

Difficulty: 2 Bring Lunch.

Meet at Fry's Electronics Store, 31<sup>st</sup> Ave. and Thunderbird in the parking lot on the north side of the building (N.E. corner) to leave at 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

**Mt. Ord**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425**

**[awtarby@gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)**

More on this trip later.

**Friday-Sunday, April 27-29, 2012**

**Brown Canyon Ranch & Area**

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

**[gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)**

This is a special trip that we have arranged with Buenos Aires National Wildlife Preserve. We have reserved the Brown Canyon Environmental Education Center. This is a 7 bedroom ranch house that sleeps 14 on the second floor. This means there will be room mates. It has 2 bathrooms on the upper floor and a bathroom on the bottom floor. There is a large kitchen with refrigerator and oven and a very large meeting room with a huge table to seat everyone.

This ranch house is located on a dirt road quite a distance from the paved road. A canyon wash (sometimes with water) leads up into the mountains to an archway. Birds abound especially if there is water. Not only will we bird here, but also at nearby spots like the preserve and Arivaca Lake.

There is limit of 14 people and we currently have 8 signed up. The cost for renting is \$560 for the two nights. This means if we get 14 people (which I anticipate easily), the cost will be \$40 for the two nights plus your travel costs. You have to bring your own linens for your bed or a sleeping bag, towel, and any other toilet necessities. We chip for the suppers (usually spaghetti/meatballs, salad and dessert one night and hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans and dessert the next). You bring your own food for breakfast and lunches.



## **Jaguar in Arizona**

### **Excerpts from the Internet**

TUCSON -- The sightings of two jaguars in southern Arizona mark the first time the elusive and rare animals have been seen in the southwest U.S. since one was illegally trapped and then died in 2009 -- signs that the animals are occasionally moving into their historic range from northern Mexico and may actually live here full-time.

A sighting on Nov. 19 was confirmed through photographs, according to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. A federal helicopter pilot also spotted a big cat loping down a forested hillside in June in a sighting that has been deemed credible but unconfirmed.

The male cat was treed by a hunter's dogs on Nov. 19 in Cochise County, well north of the U.S.-Mexico border, Game and Fish spokesman Mark Hart said Thursday. Mountain-lion hunter Donnie Fenn called game officials, then took photographs of the 200-pound cat in a mesquite tree. He was able to take more than 80 pictures of the Jaguar while it was up on the tree. He also got some video of the Jaguar as it retreated from the group, after they had all backed away. During a Nov. 23 press conference in Tucson, he described how the roaring and snarling animal fought off his hunting dogs.

The jaguar is the largest cat native to the Western hemisphere and lives primarily in Mexico, Central and South America, but it's known to roam in southern Arizona and New Mexico. Jaguars were thought to have been eliminated in the U.S. by 1990 until two were spotted in 1996 in southern Arizona.

"The Arizona Game and Fish Department thinks this is thrilling, extraordinary and significant, but there are scientists who would contend, and we have to respect their opinion, that what's really needed is to see a female or cubs or something that suggests there's a breeding population," Hart said.

"These are such cryptic animals that it's quite likely that there are other animals that just haven't been seen," said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. "And we look forward to the day when there's confirmed jaguar kittens back in the United States as well."

"We certainly have no plans of capturing or collaring the Jaguar. That would only take place if the public and conservation groups led us in that direction," said Eric Gardner, the branch chief of the non-game branch of Arizona Game and Fish.

Officials declined to release the exact location of this Jaguar sighting to protect the safety of the animal.



**Photo from Wikipedia**

## The Albino Hummingbird

You may have read the story or seen the pictures via e-mail or on the internet, but for those who haven't, this is for you.

All of us bird watchers and amateur photographers are always hoping to catch a rare bird or an amazing picture in our lens. Seldom does it happen, but it did for 15-year-old Marlin Shank.

While walking in a park in Staunton, Virginia, he saw a hummingbird flitting among the flowers. Using his Canon EOS1D Mark 4 with a 600ml F4 lens, he snapped a series of pictures (one shown below). It was only when he showed the pictures to his dad that he found out it was an extremely rare albino Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Its unusual pink eyes, feet and beak are caused by blood vessels exposed because of the bird's lack of melanin - a chemical that normally gives feathers their color.



**Albino Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Albino birds are rare for a number of reasons. Their pale coloring makes them more visible targets for predators, and their feathers are weaker than those with pigment, and so more likely to break during migration. White birds may also have other genetic anomalies that make them more susceptible to disease or quirks of their environment.

Marlin's 46-year-old father who runs Nature Friend magazine, added: "It is a great achievement for Marlin to be able to say he captured such a rare event. He is a very promising photographer".

Marlin's quick reflexes have allowed the whole world to see this beautiful bird.

## Financial Report—June - November, 2010

By Haylie Hewitt

### INCOME:

#### Direct Public Support

Friends of SAS	214.18
National Audubon Dues Share	<u>000.00</u>
<b>Total Direct Public Support</b>	<b>214.18</b>

#### Indirect Public Support

Environmental Fund of Arizona	478.23
<b>Total Indirect Public Support</b>	<b>478.23</b>

#### Investments

Interest Income	6.36
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>6.36</b>

#### Other Types of Income

Calendar Sales	112.00
Education Com.—Books and Tees	211.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>30.00</u>
<b>Total Other Types of Income</b>	<b>353.00</b>

**TOTAL INCOME** **1,051.77**

### EXPENSE:

Board Retreat	324.39
Calendar Purchase	40.00
Chapter Operations	1,155.58
Education Committee (Books, etc.)	52.02
Field Trip Guide Fees	100.00
Furniture & Equipment	130.09
Hospitality	97.64
Liability Insurance	265.00
Mileage Reimbursement	228.00
Newsletter	103.31
SAS Outside Memberships	50.00
Speakers	200.00
Webmaster/Web Hosting	310.41

**TOTAL EXPENSE** **3,811.94**

**NET INCOME** **- 2,760.17**

Even though we have a negative income during this period, we don't have the National Audubon Society dues share in yet or the total Environmental Fund money from Arizona yet. This income should get us close to even.



## FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA

Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

Estrella Mountain Park is located on the south side of the Gila River in Goodyear on Vineyard Rd near Bullard Ave. There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks are free of charge.

These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be on **Saturday, January 14, 2012.** Meet at the visitor's center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The walk will last approximately 2 hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net).

Leader Joe Ford's Report on the December 10, 2011, bird walk:

Five brave souls endured the 40 degree temperatures and moved through the mesquite bosque and around eucalyptus trees, braved the dog track filled with canine competitors, and endured young scouts screaming in the play area; all in an effort to survey the passerines and other species that might grace our visions. The parking lot was as void of life today as it was full of our feathered friends at this time last month. (one birder offered the observation that no irrigation had taken place overnight and perhaps for a couple of days, and that could have been a factor contributing to the lack of bird activity). In fact, the cool temperatures seemed to have deterred all activity the first 30 minutes.

Things did pick up as the sun cleared the eastern horizon and began its efforts to instill warmth into everyone and every bird, and bird presence increased, especially at the river, where leveling of the area at the eastern boundary of the park provided expansive views of mountain west and water bodies south and east and an unimpeded view in all directions. River water levels were up, thus negating mudflat habitat, which is always an inducement for dowitchers, sandpipers, stilts and avocets.

We started at 8 a.m. and finished by 10:30 a.m. It turned out to be a great day.

Here is a list of the 40 species observed or heard: Mallard (h), Northern Shoveler (male and female), Green-winged Teal (small flock), Ring-necked Duck, Gambel's Quail, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis (flock of 12 flew overhead, great look), Osprey, Northern Harrier (2 in flight), Red-tailed Hawk, Sora (h), American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird (5-10), Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Raven, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow (flock), Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle and House Finch.

### Have You Got a Story? I'm still asking!

We are planning on having a program in April 2012, featuring you—our members. All you have to do is submit a true story of how you got into bird watching or a personal reminiscence of something that happened to you while bird watching or just some pictures and we'll do the rest. If you have a short video of a backyard with birds, we can add that. We hope you have some pictures that we could also include in the presentation. **So far, we've only got 5 entries. We need a lot more than that.** Send them to Darnell Kirksey at [dkirk38338@aol.com](mailto:dkirk38338@aol.com) or Haylie Hewitt at [haylie.hewitt@cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net).

They will review the entries (hopefully a lot) and chose the ones that would interest us most in the April meeting. They may even take a video of you. This is your chance to help make a program that you star in. **Please participate!**

### Thank You

We have 10 new Sonoran Audubon Society members who joined the National Audubon Society or transferred into our area which automatically makes them a member of our chapter. The new members are Margaret Carlson, Deborah Coyle, Barbara Delanoyde, Tanya Denning, Phyllis Kelly, Marion McGhee, Sharon Pombrio, Daniel Schler, Tracy Sereda and Nancy Wadsworth.

We hope you can make it to one of our meetings.

The drive is currently on to have "Friends" renew and also we've invited all of our chapter members to become a "Friend" which helps our chapter financially.

## The White-naped Swift

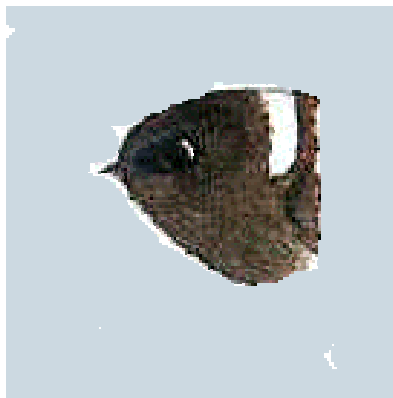
By Dr. Jerry Theis

Many birds are appropriately named, such as woodpeckers, tree-creepers and bee-eaters. However, none is more appropriately named than the swifts! Swift is defined as “moving or capable of moving with great speed or velocity”. The swifts are a family, *Apodidae*, of highly aerial birds. They are superficially similar to swallows, but are actually not closely related to passerine species at all. Swifts are in the separate order Apodiformes, which they share with only hummingbirds. The resemblance between swifts and swallows is due to convergent evolution, reflecting similar life styles based on catching insects in flight. The Greek word *apous* means “without feet”, since swifts have very short legs and never settle voluntarily on the ground, clinging instead to vertical surfaces. There are 17 species in the genus *Apus*, of the total of 102 swift species.

Swifts are the most aerial of birds. Larger species are among the fastest fliers in the animal kingdom, with the White-throated Needletail having been reported flying at up to 169 km/h. Many have a characteristic shape, with a short forked tail and very long swept-back wings that resemble a crescent or boomerang. Some are heavy-looking, but their flight is twinkling, with sailing between spurts, wings often stiffly bowed. Some species display a flicking action quite different from swallows. The nest of many species is glued to a vertical surface with saliva, although some species nest in dry sand in caves. Both parents assist in raising the young.

In Feb, 2010, I was in Mexico with Chupaflor Nature Tours and I had inquired about the chances of seeing the White-naped Swift, the largest swift species, along with the Purple Needletail (10 inches). I was told that it was infrequently seen but I kept my eyes to the sky while sipping a cold drink at Daniel’s Hotel & Restaurant near Copala, Mexico. I soon saw distant birds circling a radio tower but their size was difficult to determine. However, when a Kestrel joined the group and all the birds were the SAME SIZE, I knew what I was looking at. I called everyone out and we all viewed a flock of White-naped Swifts. We viewed them on four consecutive days feeding high above Copala and we additionally saw a flock of 60 birds along the new Cuota Highway, south of La Concordia, Mexico.

The White-naped Swift is blackish with a white half-collar on the nape only (difficult to see from below). The tail lacks the notch of the White-Collared Swift. The White-naped Swift occurs only in Mexico, in the mountains of western and central parts from Sinaloa to Chiapas. It’s habitat is highland canyons, deep river gorges, pine-oak forests, tropical deciduous forests, and second-growth scrub, but large flocks may descend to sea level. This is a gregarious species, often including 200 individuals. They call only when in a group, sounding like cree-cree-cree. They often ascend to great heights to feed on beetles, bees, and flying ants.



Drawing



Flock of White-naped Swifts—Photo taken in Cuernavaca, Mexico by Bjorn Anderson

In most bird species, feet are a necessity for either perching or catching prey. Swifts prove that a bird can live “without feet” if it has superlative flying abilities.



## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

Audubon's latest program, Birds 'n Beer, offers local professionals a fun and refreshing way to learn about Arizona birds and other wildlife while networking with fellow nature-lovers. Once a month, professionals from all over the Valley come to the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center to enjoy a cold Four Peaks brew while enjoying an enlightening and lively presentation on Arizona nature.

Stop into the Audubon Center every third Thursday of the month, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. for this popular event. Generously sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix. Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail [riosalado@audubon.org](mailto:riosalado@audubon.org) for more information about their programs and events.

### Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting on Friday, January 20, 2012, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. The program will be on birding festivals presented by Gerry Horton.

The bird walk for the month will be on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 to the Melinda Lane area. Marshall Esty will lead.

For further information on Birders' Anonymous, special meeting places and program, contact Marshall Esty at 623-977-1637 or at [mne@juno.com](mailto:mne@juno.com) or Shirley Fackelman at [shirleyfackelman@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleyfackelman@yahoo.com)

### Hassayampa River Preserve

Anne Leight will have a bird banding sessions on Saturday, January 7th and the 21st both starting at 7:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome; however, if you want to help bird band, you must contact Anne Leight at [birdannabelle@hotmail.com](mailto:birdannabelle@hotmail.com)

Interpretive Bird walk—Saturday, January 28, 2012, from 8:30-10 a.m.

Bird Journaling—Sunday, January 29, 2012, from 9-10:30 a.m. Kathe Anderson will give you some pointers and lead you on an easy walk along the trails to practice your skills.

The preserve 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. Nature Conservancy members fee is \$3.00.

### Riparian Preserve at Gilbert Water Ranch

Each month there are family bird walks. The next one is December 10, 2011, starting at 8 a.m.

The Gilbert Water Ranch is located on the SE corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads in Gilbert, Arizona. From the Superstition Freeway (US 60) exit at Greenfield Road 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. For more information, see their website at <http://www.riparianinstitute.org/>

### Boyce Thompson Arboretum

On January 12, 2011, there will be a Bird Sit With Rick Wright from New Jersey and Darlene Smyth from Tucson starting at 8:30 a.m. Enjoy great birds and great company on this ultimate relaxed bird walk. We'll spend most of our time actually sitting at an inviting spot in the Demonstration Gardens, letting the park's impressive variety of winter visitors come to us.

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/>

### Desert Botanical Garden

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees of \$18.00 (\$15.00 seniors) apply unless you're a DBG member. Membership is \$65-100 a year. When special events are held, the entry fee could be higher. See their website at [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org) for further information.

**Birds in the Garden.** This is a year-round activity every Monday and second Saturday, October through April starting at 8 a.m. and then every Monday, May through September starting at 7 a.m.

Our own Andrée Tarby leads the walk along the Garden trails. Everyone is welcome, including first-time birders. Wear a hat, sunscreen and comfortable shoes, and bring binoculars if available.

### Festivals

**Wings Over Willcox Birding Festival, Willcox, AZ January 11-15, 2012.** There will be field trips to surrounding areas, plus natural history and local history tours. Nature expo with live animals; free seminars on birds & more. Keynote speaker: Ted Floyd, ABA editor of Birding magazine, and Smithsonian bird field guide author. For information call 1-800-200-2272. On line registration at [www.wingsoverwillcox.com](http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com).



## Join the Sonoran Audubon Society

This can be done in two ways: become a “Friend” of the Sonoran Audubon Society or join the National Audubon Society. The difference is as a “friend” all the money goes to our chapter. As a National member, you still become a member of our chapter, but less money goes to us; however, you get the National Audubon Society Magazine. Some people choose to do both. See our website for the applicable forms.

Adult or family membership: \$20.00  
Seniors (60 and up): \$15.00  
Students Under 18: \$10.00

All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* are free from the chapter website <[www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)> or by mail for \$10.00 per year.

SAS Web Site: [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)  
Arizona Audubon Web Site: [www.az.audubon.org](http://www.az.audubon.org)  
Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:  
[www.desertriversaudubon.org](http://www.desertriversaudubon.org)  
Maricopa Audubon Web Site:  
[www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)  
Arizona Field Ornithologists: [www.azfo.org](http://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 Super 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:

### Officers

President: George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)  
Vice President: Tim Cullison 602-863-9744  
[timcullisonaz@aol.com](mailto:timcullisonaz@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180  
[haylie.hewitt@cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net)  
Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953  
[treerunner@yahoo.com](mailto:treerunner@yahoo.com)

### Board Members— Directors at Large

Eleanor Campbell: 623-977-7639 [ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)  
Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)  
Darnell Kirksey 602-938-6174 [dkirk38338@aol.com](mailto:dkirk38338@aol.com)  
Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646 [klaf@cox.net](mailto:klaf@cox.net)  
Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425 [awtarby@gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)  
Jerry Theis 623-878-6528 [jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com](mailto:jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com)

### Committees

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

Education/Conservation: Many of the Board Members are alternating hosting this committee.

Field Trips: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244  
[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

Hospitality: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180  
[haylie.hewitt@cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net)

Publicity: Tim Cullison: 602-863-9744  
[timcullisonaz@aol.com](mailto:timcullisonaz@aol.com)

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

Database Manager: Lauren Bosch 520-603-3652  
[lmsfreebird@aol.com](mailto:lmsfreebird@aol.com)

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Community Planning Project:  
Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646 [klaf@cox.net](mailto:klaf@cox.net)

Newsletter: George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

## 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.

### Scheduled Programs:

**January 11, 2012: George Wall—A Month in Kenya, Africa**

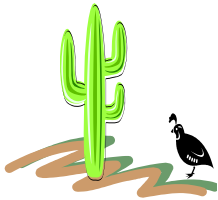
**February 8, 2012: Kendall Kroesen—Gardening for Birds**

**March 14, 2012—David and Diane Reesor—Australia**

**April 11, 2012: Members—Adventures in Bird Watching**

**May 9, 2012—Tom Gaskill—Egypt**

**Other Dates of Interest:** January 4, 2012, at 7 p.m. there will be a Board Meeting at the West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale.



**Sonoran Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 8068**

**Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**