

ARIZONA IS A BIRD-WATCHER'S DREAM STATE!

The state has its special Sonoran Desert and “backyard” birds such as Cactus Wren (the state bird), Curve-billed Thrasher, Abert’s (“A-bear’s”) Towhee, Verdin, Gambel’s Quail, White-Winged Dove, Phainopepla and Gilded Flicker. But the state’s tremendous variety of habitats makes Arizona an important stopover during spring and fall migration for many, many species of birds — from ducks to shore birds, from warblers to raptors.

In the Phoenix area’s West Valley communities, bird-watching is a rewarding pastime at all times of the year. Several easily accessible and celebrated bird-watching sites beckon, ten of which are highlighted here. For excellent in-depth information on these sites and others visit www.birderfrommaricopa.com. For volunteer-guided, bird-watching outings in the West Valley — especially in fall, winter and early spring — to which all are welcome, visit www.sonoranaudubon.com



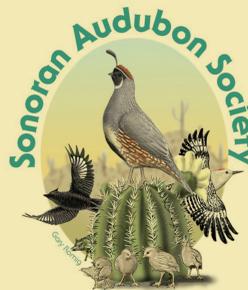
Burrowing Owl



Black-throated Sparrow



Estrella Mountain Regional Park



CAUTION: The West Valley’s climate is very, very dry relative to other parts of the country and the sun, which shines all but about sixty days of the year, can be punishing. Therefore, even in cooler winter months on the relatively easy, level trails or walks that are highlighted here, hats and water are always necessary.

Photos courtesy of Tommy De Bardeleben, Vera Markbam, George Wall, Joe Ford and Marceline Vandewater.

WEST VALLEY BIRD WATCHING



White-winged Dove



Curve-billed Thrasher

