



Gambel's Tales

Merry Christmas



The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 15 Issue 4

December 2013

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, December 11, 2013 , at 7 p.m.

George Wall: Big Island of Hawaii

George Wall started bird watching in April, 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 and also a martin house. When he moved to Arizona in 1999, he found there were a lot of birds there. His NAS membership put him into the Maricopa Audubon Society; however, the meeting place was too far away. He joined Birders' Anonymous in Sun City and was soon the convener 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 of SAS. In September of 2005, he became the editor of their monthly newsletter. He was president of the Sonoran Audubon Society from 2009-2013. He's planned and led birding trips both short and long ones like to Alamos, Mexico.



Kalij Pheasant

This program is about his four trips from the years 2007-2013, to the big island of Hawaii. In it, you'll see some of the birds, flowers and just the natural beauty of the big island of Hawaii. Many of you have been to the islands. Come out and relive your own adventures.



As a world-wide birder, he's traveled around the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Nicaragua, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Panama, Guatemala and Australia. He spent all of April 2011, in Kenya, Africa, where he saw 762 species of birds and 81 species of animals. His most recent trip was to Cuba in November 2013.

He is extremely active at Church of the Palms in Sun City, where he does the cooking and anything else that is required. He has been married for 52 years.



Lava Flow from Kilauea Volcano

President's Corner

HELLO FROM HAYLIE:



I hope everyone is enjoying this great fall weather and seeing the desert green up from the rainfall. I was happy to see 2 1/2 inches of rain in my rain gauge recently.

SAS occasionally receives invitations to attend Stakeholder meetings for proposed projects that may

impact birds and wildlife. One of these projects involves the city of Goodyear and the Bureau of Reclamation. They are looking for a site for a concentrate management wetlands experiment. "Concentrate" refers to the reverse osmosis brine (salty water) that is currently being discharged into the sewer. Instead this concentrate could be used to support riparian habitat through a vertical flow wetland, where its brine content would be reduced before being discharged into the Gila River.

SAS Database Manager Tom Lazzelle attended the kick-off meeting for this project and joined the work group that will continue evaluating it.

Tom retired a few years ago from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality where he worked on the Goodyear Superfund Project for five years and the statewide Superfund program for 22 years. I thank him for both representing SAS and sharing his expertise with the committee.

Your SAS Board and Committees are hard at work as we enter my favorite time of year here in Phoenix. We're still one board member shy of a full dozen. If you have ever thought about becoming more involved with our chapter, please visit one of our board meetings and see what we do. If you have any questions, suggestions for program speakers or other ideas concerning SAS activities, I would enjoy hearing from you.

We arranged to have our annual picnic on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at Horseshoe Ranch where we held it last year. It is such a great place for birding as well as the picnic. There is a restroom and a kitchen that we can use. Put this date on your calendar.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season - I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting on December 11th!

Sonoran Audubon Society Board Meeting Synopsis

Reported by Gail Bliss, Secretary

November 6, 2013

The board members present were Gail Bliss, Dan Bohlmann, Jim Consolloy, Tim Cullison, Joe Ford, Haylie Hewitt, Darnell Kirksey, Andrea Nesbitt, and Andrée Tarby. Karen LaFrance attended as consultant. Absent Board members were John Arnett and Jerry Theis.

A total of 76 people attended the October membership meeting. It was decided to have a sign-up sheet for people to carpool to the chapter meetings.

The Field Trip chair reported that in the future, there will be two types of field trips offered; those for experienced birders and then educational walks that will help people learn how to be birders or better birders.

The Education/Conservation committee is open for new members. SAS will be hosting a table at the April 5, 2014, Has-sayampa Nature Festival between 8 am and 2 pm.

There was a brief discussion about the Board Retreat that was held in October and a review of SAS participation at the Tres Rios Fall Festival. It was viewed as a huge success. Ways to improve our presence at the festival were discussed.

The Year-end Appeal letter will be drafted by Karen with a targeted mailing date around Thanksgiving or soon after.

The Board agreed to support the WRAN (Western Rivers Action Network) letter from Sarah Luna, Arizona Audubon.

The Board passed a motion to apply for a Collaborative Funding Grant from Audubon Arizona.

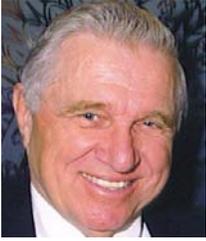
Welcome and Thank You

Sonoran Audubon Society welcomes the following new members of our chapter: Jean Arrowsmith, B J P, Don Bearl, Alice Craig, Gene Davis, Ross Dickson, Fred Dorgin, Carolyn Lewis, Gina Miller, Bob McColley, Mithu Mukherjee, Karen Ross, A. Schindler, Jeanette Socaciu, Estella Templin and Sally Thomas.

Welcome to all of you and we hope to see you at our next meeting.

If we have misspelled any of your names, we apologize. This is how they are listed at the National Audubon Society's membership page.

Editor's Comments



I was asked about the **AT** or **at** in the e-mail addresses. Scammers, advertisers, and others can't just scan your address into the "To" field of e-mails and send you unwanted trash without first changing the **AT** or **at** to an **@** sign. This takes too much time for them.

Most organizations, including the National Audubon Society, are starting to use this idea. To use any address in this newsletter, you just click on it and then "cut and paste" taking out the **AT** and inserting the **@** sign.

This is the time of year that Sonoran Audubon sends out its requests for year-end contributions. These donations are very important for your chapter, helping the Board to meet its financial obligations for insurance and other administrative costs as well as supporting programs that we offer and the effort we call Building a Bird Friendly Community. I hope that your family's year-end giving plans will continue to include the chapter.

I understand there were 76 attendees at the November meeting in which Len Boeder presented some great photography in his program. I missed this meeting because I was in Cuba trying to take pictures of my own and to count birds.

Don't forget to look for **Caleb's Corner** on our website at www.sonoranaudubon.org.

2013 Field Trips—Winter

REQUIREMENT: On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling or e-mailing the leader or contact person who will provide you updated information. The number of participants is limited on some trips. Anyone can join. If you're a birding novice, you'll get plenty of help.

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Glendale Recharge Ponds

Leader: Joe Ford 623-792-8154 lford25 AT cox.net

This area is one of the top birding spots in the West Valley and we hope to see numerous species of shorebirds and ducks, plus the usual cormorants, herons and egrets. Some passerines inhabit the adjacent canals and agricultural areas. It is not unusual to see around 50 species or more. The trail is graveled and easy walking, around a mile or so. There is no shade, so if you are sunburn prone, prepare. We'll be there one to three hours depending on the number of birds.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at McDonald's, Olive and 91st street at 7:30 a.m. for

rides, or meet at the north end of 107th going north from Camelback. There are several places to park in the area just as it makes a curve onto gravel on the south side of the six basins. Bird walk will start at 8 a.m.

Saturday, December 14, 2013

West Valley Mystery Trip

Leader: Bill Grossi

Contact: Barb Meding 623-266-1847

Barbameding AT yahoo.com

Join our leader as he leads us to some of his favorite birding spots in the West Valley. Over 100 bird species were found during the previous Tres Rios Bird Count in this area. Who knows where we'll end up or what we'll see? This trip is limited to 10 participants.

Thursday-Friday, January 9-10, 2014

San Rafael Grasslands

Leader: Melody Kehl

Contact: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247 AT Cox.net

The San Rafael Grasslands can be full of sparrows and longspurs during the winter months. During our last trip we saw Botteri's, Cassin's, Brewer's, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Baird's Sparrows. We will also look for longspurs, hawks and other birds along the way. We will stay at the Country Inn in Tucson for two nights. Melody will guide us on the 10th and we will bird the Tucson area on our own on the 9th and 11th. The trip is limited to eight people. Call Donna Smith for more information or to make a reservation.

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Arrowhead Ponds

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net

This is a trip to the ponds of the Arrowhead community on both sides of 59th Ave. south of Thunderbird Park. We will meet at 8 a.m. on the bridge over the ponds on Melinda Ave. Melinda Ave. is the last traffic light on 59th Ave. before you enter Thunderbird Park. Turn right on Melinda Ave. and proceed several blocks to the open area where the bridge crosses the pond. There is plenty of parking on both sides of the wide bridge. Looking south from the bridge is a large lake which usually has a few varieties of ducks, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons and maybe a few shorebirds. Looking North from the bridge is a smaller pond lined with trees on the opposite shore filled with Black-crowned Night-Herons. There are usually a few types of ducks here also. The duck blind east of 59th usually has around 200 hundred Common Mergansers and the ponds west of 59th Ave usually have different ducks, Canada Geese, and Gulls.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

2013 Field Trips—Winter

Difficulty: 1

The meeting time at the bridge on Melinda Ave. will be at 8 a.m. Those coming from Sun City can meet and carpool from the Burger King just west of 101 on Thunderbird at 84th Drive. Park in the Lowe’s parking lot by the Burger King and then leave at 7:30 a.m. The trip leader will not meet people here, but he will arrange for someone to coordinate this group.

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Arlington Area

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

[rms15247 AT 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 nearly guaranteed to spot a Burrowing Owl along the roadside.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the parking lot of the World 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. We’ eat at a restaurant in Buckeye, or you can bring your own lunch.

Wednesday, February 22, 2014

Flagstaff Lakes

Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425

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

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Chandler Veteran’s Oasis Park

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

This park was dedicated in April 2008, and I have been there a couple of times since then and each time it was a better birding spot. They have a nice education center, picnic armadas, restrooms and even drinking fountains here and there. There is one main lake and 5 discharge ponds. Yes, this is a water treatment facility just like the Gilbert Water Ranch. In fact, the place looks just like the Gilbert Water Ranch did about 10 years ago. There are trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. Should be lots of water birds and others.

Difficulty: 1

Meet and car pool from the Burger King just west of 101 on Thunderbird at 84th Dr. Park in the Lowe’s parking lot by the Burger King and then leave at 7 a.m.

Financial Report-June-August 2013

By Jim Consolloy

INCOME:

Direct Public Support

Friends of SAS	122.17
National Audubon Dues Share	<u>000.00</u>
Total Direct Public Support	122.17

Indirect Public Support

Environmental Fund of Arizona	<u>790.08</u>
Total Indirect Public Support	790.08

Investments

Interest Income	<u>.63</u>
Total Investments	.63

Other Types of Income

Edu. Comm.—Books and Tees	2,500.00
Field Trip Guide Fees Collected	3,742.54
Miscellaneous Revenue	268.00
Newsletter Paid Postage	10.00
Speakers’ Bureau	50.00
Total Other Types of Income	6,570.54

TOTAL INCOME 7,483.42

EXPENSE:

Chapter Operations	35.00
Consultant Fee	825.00
Education Committee	500.00
Field Trip Guide Fees	800.00
All Mileage Reimbursements	354.82
Training/Education	325.00
Webmaster/Web Hosting	150.00

TOTAL EXPENSE 2,989.82

NET INCOME 4,493.60

Note: The above figures are for the summer months which are without printing and postage costs.



Birding at the San Diego Botanic Garden - November 14, 2013

By Jackie Anderson

Are your eyes beginning to glaze over as the egrets and herons and terns dance across the horizon? Are the sandpipers and skimmers and scoters all starting to look alike? If so, and you are on a beach near San Diego, California, why not take a break from the ocean to do some inland birding.

A perfect place to start is the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas, CA. I happened to be in San Diego last week, so I took the short drive up I-5 to the garden. Before I left, I printed a bird list from the garden's website. When I arrived, it was a pleasant surprise to find out that my Desert Botanical Garden membership gave me free entrance to the garden through the reciprocal gardens program.

As I stepped out of the car in the parking lot, I was greeted by a Yellow-rumped Warbler in the tree directly in front of the car. I checked to make sure it was the Audubon's form before starting down the trail into the core of the garden. As I made my way to the children's garden, I saw a flash of yellow. I had heard more yellow-rumps, so I was surprised to see the yellow and black stripes of the Townsend's Warbler when I looked closer.

At the center of the Children's garden I was delighted to see a giant tree house complete with rope bridges and winding stairs. I decided to take a break from birding to let my inner child go as I climbed up and down the stairs, and in and out all the secret hiding places in the tree.

Next I climbed up more stairs that passed next to a long waterfall. At the top of the stairs a group of American Crows began to sound worried at my presence. Further on was a tower overlooking scrub land, where a Western Scrub-jay showed up and stopped for a few minutes so that I could examine him with my binoculars.



Western Scrub-Jay—Photo by George Wall

Then it was on to the Bamboo Forest. I quickly got my binoculars on a Song Sparrow singing loudly from a mass of reeds. All around the garden I had been hearing hummingbirds chatter and flit overhead, and I thought I saw a familiar Anna's Hummingbird. As I left the bamboo forest, I spied another hummingbird sitting in a small tree. I looked closely and was startled by the orange-rusty color of his back and head. From my list I saw that Allen's Hummingbirds nest in this garden, so I looked that up in my field guide. He looked just like the picture!

Behind the parking lot I explored the native plant garden, and found the bushes full of Bushtits and yellow-rumps. Several California Quail crossed my path as I left and walked back to my car. As I was driving out a Spotted Towhee popped out on a bush by the road as if to wave me goodbye.

I saw two life-birds that afternoon, the Allen's Hummingbird and the California Quail. It was a pleasant and rejuvenating two hours. It was just what I needed before heading back to the ocean and all those birds of the sea and shore!

<http://www.sdbgarden.org/>



California Quail—Photo by George Wall

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 water and your own binoculars and books if you have them though a limited number will be available. Rain cancels the walks.

SATURDAYS: These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be **December 14th**. Meet at the visitors center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The walk will last approximately two hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25 AT cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net).

SUNDAYS: These walks are held on the fourth Sunday of the month. The next walk will be on **December 28, 2013**, starting at 8.00 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park—the Navy North Parking Lot. For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 [mcbobaz AT aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 [awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com).

The Bird Walk held at Estrella Mountain Regional Park on 11/9/13 as reported by Joe Ford

The temperature was a cool 55 degrees when the group started, but the low 80s when finished. There were 23 attendees including the three leaders Joe Legander, Caleb Strand and Joe Ford, hailing from Buckeye, Mesa, Sun City, North Phoenix, Netherlands, Italy and Canada.

The species numbers were influenced by several factors. Among those were the activity with the area as a large cross-country race was being held, a group of girl scouts were in camp and the major factor was the continued lack of water, both in the Gila River channel, which remained dry except for a few pools. The lake areas on the east end of the trail along the river were moderately full and provided some waterfowl, but not like in the past.

The 41 species seen or heard were the American Widgeon, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Green-winged Teal, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis (large flock) Virginia Rail (h), Sora (h), Common Gallinule, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle, American Coot, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker (h), Northern Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Marsh Wren, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow (h), White-crowned Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle and House Finch.

West Valley Birding Brochure: Now Available!

by Karen LaFrance

Sonoran Audubon Society teamed up with Tommy De Bardeleben, a birder with extensive experience documenting birds in Maricopa County, and a local advertising agency to produce a four-color brochure that highlights bird-watching spots in the West Valley. You may find this brochure in your favorite visitor's center or library or you may look for the PDF version on the Sonoran Audubon website (www.sonoranaudubon.org).

Care Centers for Birds

Fallen Feathers

Handles & 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

Liberty Wildlife

All wildlife
Located in Scottsdale
480-998-5550

Sonoran Audubon Annual Planning Retreat

By Karen LaFrance

Photo creation by George Wall

Attendees at the Annual Planning retreat on October 19, 2013 were Jackie Anderson, John Arnett, Gail Bliss, Dan Bohlmann, Jim Consolloy, Tim Cullison, Joe Ford, Haylie Hewitt, Darnell Kirksey, Tom Lazzelle, Andrea Nesbitt, Donna Smith, Tice Supplee, Andree Tarby, Jerry Theis, George Wall and Karen LaFrance (facilitator).

The purpose of SAS' Board planning session is to celebrate advancement on strategic goals and special recognitions for the chapter, then to prepare for the next year's priority action items. These are usually in service to the greater vision and mission that Sonoran Audubon has prepared previously and published on its website.

This year, SAS determined to ask its members for input through Survey Monkey. 39 of the chapter's members and supporters responded. Respondents mostly self-identified as "intermediate" birders. Most respondents want SAS to be a conservation organization as well as a group that promotes the joy of bird watching. Most folks who responded are aware of SAS initiatives and indicated an interest in several of SAS committees (but not Programs or Hospitality!). Finally, amongst respondents, most stated they give to SAS in the range of "0-\$25 per year".

From this information, the Board Planning sessions were structured. Participants celebrated the publications from the Education and Conservation Committee including the Six Bookmarks on Building a Bird Friendly Community and the full color brochure on West Valley Birding hotspots. Participants worked on a "what if" exercise entitled "Building a Bird Friendly Community Through Field Trips", and improvements in communications from the chapter to its members and supporters. Finally, a role play illustrated techniques for thanking contributors and maintaining the enthusiastic contributions track record of the chapter through its "Friends."

This year, look for enhanced Bird Watching Trips, some focused on educational sites and experiences, others designed for the more advanced birders. Look also for more Speakers' Bureau opportunities and E-Mail Newsletters every other month through Constant Contact. Finally, look for the continuation of the chapter's popular monthly programs that enhance learning about birds and bird habitat and celebrate our world-wide travelers' experiences.



Pictured bottom row L-R are Andrée Tarby, Tice Supplee, John Arnett, Haylie Hewitt and Tom Lazzelle. Standing L-R are Jackie Anderson, Karen LaFrance, Joe Ford, Gail Bliss, Donna Smith, Darnell Kirksey, Jerry Theis, Jim Consolloy, Dan Bohlmann, Andrea Nesbitt, Tim Cullison and George Wall.

TRES RIOS FESTIVAL

Reported by Bob McCormick and Andrea Nesbitt

Photos by Joe Neely

The Tres Rios Fall Festival was held on a beautiful sunny Saturday the 26th of October. The Festival, which is held at the Baseline and Meridian Wildlife Area in Southern Avondale, has all kinds of outdoor entertainment including live music, canoeing, fishing, food, and a multitude of booths that provide various information and activities, all located right on the Gila River.

The Sonoran Audubon Society has participated since the Festival's inception. Our booth which provides educational materials, games, and Field Guides was staffed by Jacklyn Anderson and Nancy Newkirk. Tom Hildebrandt, Andre Tarby, Joe Ford, Caleb Strand and Bob McCormick led one to two-mile birding hikes throughout the day. New this year, Andrea Nesbitt brought out her Great Horned Owl and Merlin, which drew large crowds. It was especially fun to watch Sparky the Owl eye the dogs that attended the festival. It seemed to take special interest in the smaller dogs for some reason. See the information below from Andrea on the two birds below on this page.

The festival was a great success with an estimated 3000 attendees. We estimate that over 100 festival patrons went on our bird hikes which lead the participants through a portion of the wildlife area viewing the various plants, animals, and birds that were encountered. Loaner binoculars were provided to those who didn't bring their own. 41 bird species were observed during the day with highlights being Black Vultures, White Pelicans, Western Grebes, and a Red-napped Sapsucker.

Festival Bird List: Belted Kingfisher, American Coot, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Loggerhead Shrike, Marsh Wren, Song Sparrow, Great Egret, Western Kingbird, Verdin, Osprey, House Finch, Black Phoebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Rock Pigeon, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Killdeer, Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Common Yellowthroat, Great-tailed Grackle, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Anna's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, White-faced Ibis, Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Black Vulture, Spotted Sandpiper, Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, Gila Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Least Bittern, Abert's Towhee, and Spotted Towhee.

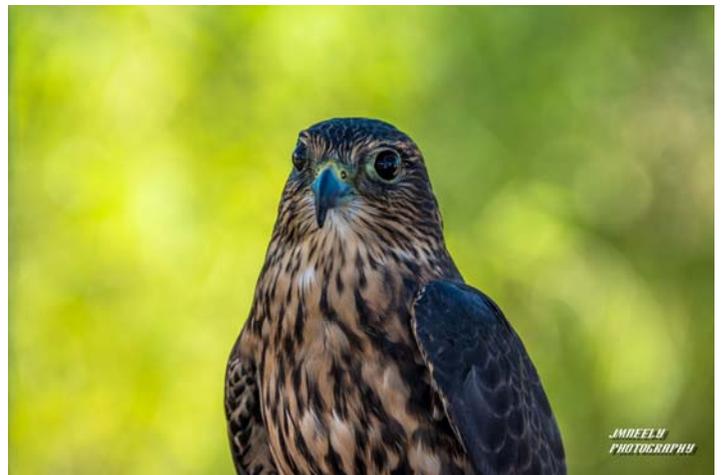
The Spring Festival is scheduled for March 8-9, 2014.

Sparky, a male Great Horned Owl, was found in an APS Substation in Northwest Phoenix in April of 1999. He had been electrocuted and part of his left wing had to be amputated. He also suffered trauma to his left eye and after repeated treatments, it became necessary to remove his left lens due to a cataract. Sparky is a favorite at educational programs and visitors enjoy getting up close and personal with him. He is used with the permission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Sparky, the Great Horned Owl

Mystic the Merlin was found at a Mesa school in December, of 2003, with a right wing injury. She was deemed un-releasable and became an education bird. Because Merlins are migratory and not too common in Arizona, she is very popular at birding festivals. Unless perched, Merlins are hard to spot in the field as they are fast movers. She is a small falcon, slightly larger than an American Kestrel but weighs twice as much. Like the Kestrels, Merlins are sexually dimorphic. She is indeed a diva.



Mystic, the Merlin

ARIZONA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE (2013 - 2014)

By Walter Thurber

The National Audubon Society has conducted Christmas bird counts since 1900. Volunteers from throughout the Western Hemisphere go afield during one calendar day between December 14 and January 5 to record every bird species and individual bird encountered within a designated 15-mile diameter circle. These records now comprise an extensive ornithological database that enables monitoring of winter bird populations and the overall health of the environment.

Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. Many counts hold a compilation dinner at the end of the day where results are tabulated and stories shared. There is no longer a participation fee. Help is needed on most of these counts, so find one or more of interest to you and contact the compiler for information.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
12/14	Sa	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Kim Veverka	520-387-4987	kim_veveka at fws.gov
12/14	Sa	Avra Valley	Mary Lou Cole	520-578-0114	birdingnana at msn.com
12/14	Sa	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Henry Detwiler	928-247-3098	henrydetwiler at earthlink.net
12/14	Sa	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	morrall.em at gmail.com
12/14	Sa	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetrogon at comcast.net
12/14	Sa	Santa Catalina Mtns	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	batesd at cox.net
12/14	Sa	Timber Mesa	Mary Ellen Bittorf	928-367-2462	mcbitt30 at cableone.net
12/15	Su	Grand Canyon	Brian Gatlin	928-638-7968	brian_gatlin at nps.gov
12/15	Su	Jerome	Julie Wills	928-300-9775	jwills282 at hotmail.com
12/15	Su	Saint David	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom at sabo.org
12/15	Su	Tucson Valley	Rich Hoyer	520-325-5310	birdernaturalist at me.com
12/16	Mo	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-925-5567	duerksen at msn.com
12/16	Mo	Pipe Spring NM	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	andrea_bornemeier at nps.gov
12/16	Mo	Salt Verde River	Kurt Radamaker	480-837-2446	kurtrad at mexicobirding.com
12/18	We	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	ctomoff at prescott.edu
12/19	Th	Patagonia	Abbie Zeltzer	520-604-6320	amindajar at gmail.com
12/20	Fr	Elfrida	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom at sabo.org
12/20	Fr	Phoenix-Tres Rios	David Powell	602-441-5508	vireo at vireos.com
12/21	Sa	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	tedmouras at mindspring.com
12/22	Su	Atascosa Highlands	Jake Mohlmann	610-390-2424	mohlmann2 at yahoo.com
12/22	Su	Camp Verde	Bea Cooley	928-526-5069	bea.cooley at gmail.com
12/22	Su	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayampacbc at yahoo.com
12/26	Th	Superior	Cynthia Donald	480-283-4515	planres at earthlink.net
12/28	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Terry Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows at nau.edu
12/28	Sa	Green Valley-Mad. Can.	Clark Blake	520-625-1015	mdblake at nas.com
12/28	Sa	Portal	Jackie Lewis	520-558-2287	winjac12 at vtc.net
12/29	Su	Bill Williams Delta	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair at fws.gov
12/30	Mo	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado at cox.net
12/30	Mo	Havasu NWR	DeeDee DeLorenzo	928-758-2707	poncho at citlink.net
1/2	Th	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber at cox.net
1/4	Sa	Appleton-Whittell	Robert Weissler	520-234-1792	weissler at aves.org
1/4	Sa	Dudleyville	Doug Jenness	520-909-1529	d_jenness at hotmail.com
1/4	Sa	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence at nps.gov
1/4	Sa	Payson	Dave Hallock	928-474-9475	eldoradh at rmi.net
1/4	Sa	Sedona	Rich Armstrong	928-282-3675	richarmstrong at q.com
1/5	Su	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251,x101	bonnie_swarbrick at fws.gov

Nearby New Mexico Count

12/29	Su	Peloncillo Mountains	Nicholas Pederson	505-417-8665	npederson83 at gmail.com
-------	----	----------------------	-------------------	--------------	--------------------------

Issued 10/13/13

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat



Audubon's Birds 'n Beer is being offered on December 19th 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 and is sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery. Proceeds from beer sales 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. Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail [riosalado AT audubon.org](mailto:riosalado@audubon.org) 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. Instead of the usual meeting, there will be a Christmas Party on Friday, December 20th, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Please bring a covered dish or desert and enjoy the fellowship along with entertainment by George Wall. There will be lots of door prizes.

There will be a field trip on Friday, December 6th, to the Glendale Recharge Ponds led by Vera Markham. They leave from the Church of the Palms in Sun City at 7:30 a.m.

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

Hassayampa River Preserve

Anne Leight has bird banding programs on Sunday, December 8th, at 7 a.m. and Saturday, December 14th, at 7:00 a.m. Newcomers are welcome; however, if you want to help bird band, you must contact Anne Leight at [bir-dannabelle AT hotmail.com](mailto:bir-dannabelle@hotmail.com).

Want to build a birdhouse? On Sunday, December 29th, from 10 a.m. until noon you can build your own birdhouse and learn what birds might live in it. Then take an easy walk along a trail to spot birds that might use your birdhouse. The materials are provided.

On Saturday, December 28th, from 8:30-10 a.m. there will be an Interpretive Tour in an easy-paced walk along the trails with a docent to catch sight of resident and migrating birds and other wildlife surprises.

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. Fee for members of the Nature Conservancy is \$3.00.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

How about going on a bird walk with Richard Ditch on December 7th? Learn to identify resident birds and look for seasonal migrants on a two-hour walk starting from the Visitor Center and included with \$10 daily admission.

Desert Botanical Garden

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

See their website at www.dbg.org for further information on admission prices and special events.

AZFO Christmas Bird Count Workshops **Multiple locations, December 7, 2013**

If you enjoy participating in Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts and would like to learn a few bird counting skills, you are welcome to attend one of Arizona Field Ornithologists' workshops on December 7. Workshops will be at Phoenix, led by Troy Corman, Tucson, and Flagstaff. Visit the AZFO website www.azfo.org for more details as they become available.

Gila River Indian Community Bird Count

Charles Enos is assisting with a bird count that is performed every year on the reservation. It is Saturday, December 7th, which is prior to the Christmas Bird Count that starts later in the month. Contact him at [caenos AT gilanet.net](mailto:caenos@gilanet.net) if you want to participate.

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:

December 11, 2013: George Wall—Big Island of Hawaii

January 8, 2014: John Arnett—Birds & Politics of Cuba

February 12, 2014: David and Diane Reesor—Brazil

March 12, 2014: Dominic Sherony—Attu

April 9, 2014: Caleb's Birds—Joe Ford and Caleb Strand

May 14, 2014: Namibia—Carol Beardmore

Other Dates of Interest: December 4, 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>

Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

Officers

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

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

Treasurer: Jim Consolloy 609-439-8251 [jconsolloy AT gmail.com](mailto:jconsolloy@gmail.com)

Secretary: Gail Bliss 623-877-3317 [gmbliiss AT juno.com](mailto:gmbliiss@juno.com)

Board Members—Directors at Large

John Arnett 623-695-0953 [treerunner AT yahoo.com](mailto:treerunner@yahoo.com)

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

Darnell Kirksey 602-938-6174 [dkirk38338 AT aol.com](mailto:dkirk38338@aol.com)

Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425 [awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)

Jerry Theis 623-878-6258 [jerry.theis AT bannerhealth.com](mailto:jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com)

Andrea Nesbitt 602-993-3375 [andreaes AT cox.net](mailto:andreaes@cox.net)

Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

[Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net](mailto:Dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

Committees

Programs: Darnell Kirksey, Jerry Theis and George Wall.
See phone numbers and e-mail addresses on this page.

Education/Conservation: Currently meeting every month;
contact Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360 [klaf40 AT gmail.com](mailto:klaf40@gmail.com)

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

Hospitality: Sharron Sell 623-388-3836 [lnsell59 AT q.com](mailto:lnsell59@q.com)

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

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

Database Manager: Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451
[tlazzelle AT cox.net](mailto:tlazzelle@cox.net)

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

Bookstore: Jackie Anderson: 623-516-8120
[Jacklynruth AT gmail.com](mailto:Jacklynruth@gmail.com)

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Project: Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360 [klaf40 AT gmail.com](mailto: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:

- Verdin (Adult)** \$25.00 to \$49.99 per year
- Burrowing Owl (Seniors 65+)** rate \$20.00 to \$49.99 per year
- Cactus Wren** \$50.00 to \$99.99 per year
- Gilded Flicker** \$100.00 or more per year
- Student** \$15.00
- Newsletter via USPS** \$15.00

NAME(S) _____

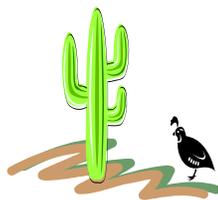
ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE AND ZIPCODE _____

PHONE: _____

E-mail _____

Send to **SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY, P O Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**



Sonoran Audubon Society

P.O. Box 8068

Glendale, AZ 85312-8068