



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 12 Issue 6

February, 2011

## At our next meeting.... Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 7 p.m. David Reesor—Birds of Bhutan

Have you ever heard of Bhutan? Do you know where it is? Well, David and Diane Reesor spent three weeks in Bhutan in April 2006. They had an incredible birding guide (Hishey Tshering) and a guide driver (Chozang Tangbi) who was an expert spotter – both residents of Bhutan.

The program is divided into two parts. One is the scenery and cultural aspect of Bhutan and the other is the birds and animals of Bhutan.

David has been interested in photography ever since he received his Brownie Hawkeye camera for his tenth birthday. His parents encouraged his interest and obligingly allowed his darkroom setup in the basement of their home. In 1992 David won the "Best Canadian Amateur" photo of the year in the Canadian international underwater photo contest. In 2007 David co-authored a book "Predator – Life and Death in the African Bush" with African safari guide Mark Ross.



Satyr Trogon—Photo from Wikipedia

Diane found her interest later in life. Both consider themselves to be very fortunate to have photographed in many of the world's special places and they both enjoy sharing their love of travel and photography.

Here are some of the places they have traveled to in pursuit of photography: South Africa, Antarctica, Azores, Baja California, Basin Island, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, England, Ethiopia, France, Galapagos Islands, Greenland, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Mongolia, Newfoundland, Panama, Peru, Scotland, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad, Tunisia and Viet Nam.



Photo from their website  
[www.reesorphotography.com](http://www.reesorphotography.com)

## What's Happening in our Chapter?

By Your Editor, George Wall

Your Board met on Wednesday, January 5, 2011, with 10 members. The following were reported or discussed:

1. The Membership Committee reported that we currently have 823 members, but 26 are getting "lapsed" letters. We have 112 Friends, but 44 have not renewed.
2. The Education Committee reported only one person showed up for the Estrella Bird Walk which was unusual. It was a shame because over 40 species were seen. We were asked to participate in the Spring Trek at the North Mountain Visitor Center and we had a choice of dates. We requested April 2nd. The next Education Committee meeting will be on January 19th.
3. Board Retreat Issues: After discussion, it was decided to pursue time-line ideas raised at the September Retreat.
4. Our treasurer reported that we had year end contributions totaling nearly \$2000. We also had nearly \$2000 designated for Horseshoe Ranch to go along with SAS commitment of \$1000.
5. There were discussions on Backyard Habitats, a storage area, job descriptions that needed either updating or written and volunteers stepped forward for General Membership meetings host through May.
6. There was a discussion on the Database Manager. It was agreed to try David Dise though May 2011, in hopes that a more streamlined database system could be established.

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At the January 2011 General Membership meeting, there were 42 attendees. Carol Beardmore gave an excellent presentation on the Alamos Bird Survey.

**Important Bird Area Dedication:** On Saturday, April 16, 2011, Prescott will have a one-day festival anchored by the dedication of the Watson Willow Ecosystem Important Bird Area (IBA) dedication. The event includes a full day of free activities for individuals and families. There will be interpretive walks at Willow and Watson Lakes and Watson Woods Preserve that highlight the riparian area's birds, plants, geology, archeology and trail system. Also, there will be a free admission to Heritage Park Zoo adjacent to Willow Lake.

For all events and activities and the times, see <http://www.cityofprescott.net> after January 28th.

## 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 at Bullard Ave. and Vineyard Rd.

**SATURDAYS:** These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be on **Saturday, February 12, 2011**. Meet at the visitor's center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The walk will last approximately 2 hours. For further information, contact Rich Schooler at 623-930-8904, [ra-schooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net).

**SUNDAYS:** These walks are held the fourth Sunday of each month. The next walk will be on **Sunday, February 27, 2011**, at 8:00 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park (Navy Area). For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 [mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at 480-948-1074 [atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net).

There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks are free of charge.

## 2011 Field Trips—Winter and Spring

**REQUIREMENT:** On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling the leader. The leader can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, some trips are limited in size.

**Saturday, February 5, 2011**  
**Rio Salado Habitat**  
**Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904**  
[raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net)

The Rio Salado Habitat is becoming a very good birding spot. More and more trees, reeds and ponds. You never know what you might find. We will bird along the Salt River and may also visit the Rio Salado area at 7th Ave. depending on time.

Difficulty: 1 - Morning only

Meet at east side of Walmart at 55th Ave. & Northern Ave. at 7 a.m. or at the site at 7:30 a.m. Max. 10 people plus the leader.

**Saturday-Sunday, February 12-13, 2011**  
**Sulphur Springs Valley Fields**  
**Leader: Barb Meding/Sheri Williamson**  
**Contact: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244**  
[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net) for reservations

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The Sulphur Springs Valley is a mixture of ranches and farm fields which attract large numbers of birds of prey, sparrows, quail, and other typical birds of the deserts and grasslands. Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area, is the "jewel in the crown" of the Sulphur Springs Valley famous for its flock of up to 22,000 Sandhill Cranes that winter there. We will leave on Saturday morning birding our way to Tombstone where we will spend the night. (You can just meet us there if you do not want to leave Saturday a.m.). On early Sunday morning we will tour the Sulphur Springs Valley, led by Sheri Williamson, co-founder of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory. We will meet Sheri at Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area around 8 a.m. After a short walk down to the willows to look for owls, we'll board SABO's bus for a tour (about 2 hours) of one of the best winter birding areas in Arizona, searching for hawks, eagles, falcons, and sparrows. We will return to Whitewater's viewing platforms in time for the return of Snow, and Ross's Geese and thousands of Sandhill Cranes. We will make some birding stops to/from Phoenix which could include Willcox, Sweetwater and areas along the San Pedro River. It all depends on timing and what is being seen.

Difficulty: 1

There is a limit of 12 participants and also a donation to SABO of \$15 per person.

**Wednesday, February 23, 2011**

**Arrowhead Ponds**

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

[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

This is trip to the ponds of the Arrowhead community on both sides of 59th Ave. south of Thunderbird Park. We will meet on the bridge over the ponds on Melinda Ave. Melinda is last traffic light on 59<sup>th</sup> Ave before you enter Thunderbird Park. Turn right on Melinda 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. There always seems to be a Black Phoebe there protecting his territory. We will next visit the duck blind just north of Melinda on the east side of 59th Ave. It has its own small parking lot surrounded with trees which usually are filled with verdins, warblers and gnatcatchers.

The lake seen from the blind has been the wintertime reunion spot for hundreds of Common Mergansers that come to the state with all the other snowbirds. Many other varieties of ducks also migrate here, along with cormorants and egrets. Finally we will visit the Arrowhead Ponds on the west side of 59th Ave. along the Arrowhead Parkway. There are always lots of Canada Geese there, a few gulls, lots of ducks and some Hooded Mergansers last year.

Difficulty: 1 - Morning only

The meeting time at the bridge on Melinda Ave will be at 8 a.m. Sun City folks can meet and car pool from the Bell Recreation Center at Hutton Ave. and Boswell at 7:30 a.m. Even though I will not meet them there, I will ask someone who calls from Sun City to meet the group.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 5-6, 2011**

**Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival at Estrella Mountain Park . See page 7.**

**Monday, March 14, 2011**

**Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

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

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

This unique state park near Superior remains a special birding and hiking area. The diverse flora and permanent water here attract many birds. There are a great many trees that are labeled and the terrain offers a great variety of habitats.

Difficulty: 1 - Bring a lunch

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird in Peoria to leave at 7 a.m. Entrance fee is \$7.50 per person

**Saturday, March 26, 2011**

**Robbins Butte (Annual Bird Walk & Picnic)**

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

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

Robbins Butte Wildlife Area (RBWA) is administered by the Arizona Game & Fish Department. We always see lots of birds. We've had trips here before including last year for the picnic. Remember, we furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs and condiments. More on this picnic later.

**Monday, April 4, 2011**

**Seven Springs**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

[rms15247@cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

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We'll take a nice drive up to Seven Springs birding along the way. At Rackensack Gulch, we will look for sparrows and maybe see a Crissal Thrasher or possibly a Sage Thrasher. Seven Springs campground has a stream with water in it and we should see a lot of birds—flycatchers, warblers, tanagers and orioles.

Difficulty: 1 - Bring a lunch.

Meet at McDonald's just off Carefree Highway taking exit 223 off Rte. 17 to leave at 7:30 a.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10, 2011**

**Madera Canyon**

**Leaders: Melody Kehl & Donna Smith**

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

Get away to Madera Canyon and see what birds are migrating through. Melody will be our leader on Sunday, April 10th. We will leave on Saturday, 9th and do some birding along the way. We will stay in Tucson for one night and come home late Sunday. More details later.

**Saturday, April 23, 2011**

**Page Springs**

**Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 [raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net)**

Page Springs is a fish hatchery where water also attracts many birds. There are Arizona Sycamore and cottonwoods surrounding the water. Bridled Titmouse is a resident and Common Black Hawks nest regularly. There is a birding trail that is part of the Page Springs Important Bird Area.

Difficulty: 1 - Bring a lunch

Meet at McDonald's just off Carefree Highway taking exit 223 off Rte. 17 to leave at 6 a.m.

**Friday, May 6, 2011**

**Clear Creek Campground**

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

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

Clear Creek Campground is east of Camp Verde on Highway 260. We have stayed there many times over the years and have always noticed a large number of birds in the campground. Clear Creek flowing through the campground, a number of man-made channels running from the creek, an abundance of Cottonwood and Sycamore Trees and other bushes attract numerous birds and wildlife. Some of the birds I've seen are Blue Grosbeaks, Cardinals, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Spotted and Green-tailed Towhees, Song

Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Bullock's Oriole, Western and Summer Tanagers, Lesser Goldfinches, vireos, warblers and Scrub Jays. After we exhaust ourselves going in circles around the campground, we will try some areas near the Verde River and nearby fields on the river road that goes further south along the west side of the river.

Difficulty: 2 - Bring a lunch.

We will meet at the Fry's Electronics Store at 31st Ave. and Thunderbird Ave. in the Northeast corner of the parking lot at 7 a.m.

**Monday, May 16, 2011**

**Prescott Area**

**Leader: Kathe Anderson**

**Contact: Barbara Meding 623-266-1847**

**[barbarameding@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarameding@yahoo.com)**

More on this trip later.

**Friday-Sunday, May 27-29, 2011**

**St. David/California Gulch**

**Leaders: Melody Kehl & Donna Smith**

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

This is a two night trip coming back on Sunday.

We'll be birding along the way. We'll probably stay in Tombstone which is central to the birding areas of St. David and California Gulch. We'll bird St. David first and hope to see the White-tailed Kites. Next we'll bird California Gulch to see the Five-striped Sparrows and the Buff-collared Nightjar.

There will be more on this trip later.

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### **Maricopa Audubon Society Trips**

**February 6-7, 2011**

**Salton Sea, California**

**Leader: Kathe Anderson [kathe.coot@cox.net](mailto:kathe.coot@cox.net)**

This is a two day trip to the Salton Sea, but we'll stop at Cibola National Wildlife Refuge on the Colorado River before heading on to the Salton Sea. We'll stay overnight in Calipatria. Limited to 8 people. Contact the leader.

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**Saddle Mountain Appreciation Day: Saturday, February 26, 2011, 8 a.m.—2 p.m.** The Friends of Saddle Mountain invite the public to join them at this appreciation day. There will be exhibits, demonstrations, hikes, food & refreshments, door prizes and giveaways. Free Parking. See their website at [www.fosmaz.org](http://www.fosmaz.org).

## The Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21, 2011

The 14th annual [Great Backyard Bird Count](http://www.birdcount.org) (GBBC) is coming up February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and is open to bird watchers of all ages and skill levels. Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. The GBBC is a joint project of the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org) and the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.cornell.edu/ornithology) with Canadian partner [Bird Studies Canada](http://www.birdstudiescanada.com).

The 2010 GBBC was another record-breaker with more than 97,300 bird checklists submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada. These volunteers found connecting with nature to be great fun.

"I enjoy being outdoors and birding is a source of relaxation and stress relief!" wrote one participant. "Looking and listening for birds forces me to focus on the environment around me at a higher level of intensity, and notice things I might otherwise miss."

From reports of rare species to large-scale tracking of bird movements, the GBBC provides insight into the lives of bird populations.

### A few highlights from the 2010 GBBC:

- A massive roost of nearly 1.5 million American Robins was reported in St. Petersburg, Florida. Will they be back in 2011?
- The invasive Eurasian Collared-Dove keeps expanding its range. It was reported in 39 states and provinces during the 2010 GBBC. Where will this hardy dove show up next?
- Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers during the last count, possibly because of warmer temperatures and earlier migration. Will that pattern hold true again for GBBC 2011?

Mid-February is chosen as the time for the Great Backyard Bird Count because it offers a good picture of the birds typically found throughout the winter months. It also coincides with migration for some species, such as the Sandhill Crane. That window of transition affords an opportunity to detect changes in timing for northward migration.



Black-headed Grosbeak—Photo by Vera Markham

GBBC participant surveys have shown that people really enjoy exploring the data and say they learn more about their local birds. "I looked at data with my 9-year-old son to help him learn about birds in our area," wrote one parent. "We talked about migration, bird flyways and compared bird counts for our area (coastal South Carolina) with where his cousins live (Wisconsin and Alabama). We found out our area has a much greater variety of birds in February than either of the other two."

Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website's [photo gallery](#). All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

House Finch—Photo by George Wall

## White-winged Guan

By Dr. Jerry Theis

It was June, 2010, and I was on a Chupaflor Nature Tour near Quebrada Limon, in northwest Peru, when we suddenly left the main road and stopped at a rural dwelling, replete with turkeys, ducks, and chickens. A young peruvian male hopped in the vehicle and acted as a navigator as we drove on a winding, hilly, dirt road for hours until we reached a tiny village in the foothills. Tents were assembled on the local soccer field/cow pasture, a few snacks were consumed, and "to bed" we went. All this was in preparation for an early morning endeavor, the chance to see the rare White-winged Guan, on a trek to be led by several of the local villagers.

The White-winged Guan is a large bird, similar in appearance to a turkey, with a thin neck and small head. This bird has dark brown plumage with white primaries. It has an extensive, bare red throat, a blue bill with black tip, and purple facial skin around the eye. Its voice is a very deep, hoarse och..och..och sound. This bird is critically endangered due to a severe loss of suitable habitat (cleared for agriculture, timber, charcoal, firewood and woodcrafts), and is also hunted for food. The current population is estimated to be only 250 individuals, and is extremely fragmented in distribution.

John O'Neill, with his good friend Gustavo del Solar R., in September 1977 made the first sightings of the White-winged Guan in exactly 100 years! The White-winged Guan had been last seen in 1877 in mangroves in northern Peru. Historically, the species was probably well distributed across the Tumbesian dry forest. Recent surveys have found guans in 22 different localities. They inhabit dry wooded slopes and ravines. They favor valleys with small streams and dry deciduous forest with dense cover and little human disturbance. They feed on plant materials, including agricultural crops such as beans and the fruit of coffee plants.

This species survives in Lambayeque, Cajamarca, and Piura in northwest Peru. It is part of a very successful, active captive breeding program. We were very fortunate to see 12 White-winged Guans, in flight (showing the white-wing) and perching. We also saw several up-close in breeding pens. It is one of the most coveted Peruvian endemics.

I too was lucky enough to see a White-winged Guan on my trip to northern Peru on August 30, 2003, when I journeyed there with Roger McNeill and two other hard-core birders. G. Wall



White-winged Guan—photo by Nick Athanas from Antpitta.com

## Thank You

Here are some more members who joined or rejoined our chapter in response to the year end request: Sam Campana, Suzanne Cash, David and Mary Ann Dise, Robert Gregg, Kathleen Hobbs, Gerry Horton, Stephen & Maryann Hovan, Carole Anne Kinney, Karen LaFrance, Cheryl Laude, Lois Lorenz, Charlotte Mars, Bob McCormick, Andrea Nesbitt, Richard Nevius, Elizabeth Roberts, Rich & Carol Schooler, Paul Soame, Andrée Tarby, Ruth Ann Teff, Don Witter and Rosemary Zanter.

Even though the year end has passed, keep the renewals coming in. We need you.

## **TRES RIOS NATURE AND EARTH FESTIVAL**

**Dates : March 5-6, 2011 Times: 9:00 - 4:00 Both Days - FREE ADMISSION!**

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival is an annual two-day outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage, ecology, history and wildlife of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers! It is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a beautiful spring day in Arizona and learn something about the place we call home.

### **Tours and Educational Programs:**

Educational programs and tours will be offered throughout the weekend. From displays of our famous venomous reptiles, canoe trips looking for wildlife and birds, fishing clinics, to hikes to Petroglyphs – there is something for everyone!

### **Children's Activities:**

An extensive children's area will have hands-on crafts, live animals, up-close encounters with critters, educational displays, storytelling and more!

### **Wildlife Enthusiasts and Bird Watchers:**

The Festival offers in-depth classes on identifying those tricky sparrows, the impressive wetland birds, tips on wildlife photography and our region's unique Southwestern avifauna. There will also be **bird walks**.

### **Fun, Food and Entertainment:**

Vendors of local favorites to whet the appetite and entertainment to delight the senses!

### **To reach the Estrella Mountain Regional Park:**

From central Phoenix, take I-10 west to Estrella Parkway exit, travel south to Vineyard Ave. , turn east on Vineyard Ave. to the Estrella Mountain Regional Park entrance on the south side.

See the website at [www.tresriosnaturefestival.com](http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com) for all the activities, vendors, etc.

## **WORLD OF BIRDS**

Dominic Sherony will be giving a program on The World of Birds in three sessions as part of the Sun City Grand Learning program. Sessions are 1.5 hours each and will take place on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. on February 10, 17, and 24. The program is open to the public and on-line registration is available by clicking <http://www.grandlearning.org/> and creating yourself an account if you don't yet have one. The World of Birds class has an associated \$15 registration fee which can be paid on-line with a credit card. Otherwise, arrangements can be made to pay at the first session or by visiting or calling the Sun City Grand Learning office (623) 546-7521, or (623) 546-7470.

Course description: Birds are one of the most diverse, observable and interesting life forms on earth. This course is an overview that will explore the life of birds, their diversity, and briefly touch on their archaeological history. In the hope of presenting a broad view of this subject, many topics will be covered including breeding, song, migration, plumage, feeding, flight and others.

Classes will be held in the Chaparral Center. Directions are found on the website above.

## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

1. A stream stroll every Sunday from 10-11 a.m.
2. Saturday bird walks free of charge.
3. Arizona Animal Encounters—2nd Saturday of every month at 11 a.m.
4. Beginning Birder Classes.

For any of the above, contact the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix. Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail [rio-salado@audubon.org](mailto:rio-salado@audubon.org). for more information about their programs and events.

### Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting on Friday, February 18, 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 Backyard Bird Count.

The field trip for the month will be on Wednesday, February 9th to Granite Reef Dam and area.

For further information on Birders' Anonymous contact Marshall Esty at 623-977-1637 or at [mne@juno.com](mailto:mne@juno.com).

### Hassayampa River Preserve

Bird Banding: Saturday, February 5th and 12th, 2011, starting at 7 a.m. Newcomers welcome. However, if you want to help band, you must contact Anne Leight at [bir-dannabelle@hotmail.com](mailto:bir-dannabelle@hotmail.com) at least two days beforehand.

The preserve is open mid-May through mid-September Friday - Sunday 7-11 a.m. and mid-September through mid-May Wednesday-Sunday 8 a.m.– 5 p.m.. Entrance fees are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Members fee is \$3.00.

### Gilbert Water Ranch

Audubon Family Walks - Desert Rivers Audubon leads bird walks for beginners and families on the third Saturday of each month, through April, running from 8 a.m. until noon. Free, no registration required. 260 species of birds have been recorded at this great place.

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. See <http://sites.google.com/site/birdsofthegilbertwaterranch/>

### Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Bird walks starting at 8:30 a.m. Leaders scheduled are

### Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Richard Ditch, February 5, Troy Corman and Kathe Anderson February 13, Pete Moulton and Cynthia Donald February 19, Cathy Wise and Cindy Marple February 27. However, these could change. Go to their website or call.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum opens at 8:00 a.m. \$7.50 for adults, \$3 for ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>

### Arizona Field Ornithologists

See their website at [www.azfo.org](http://www.azfo.org).

### Desert Botanical Garden

Every Monday, October-April at 8 a.m. join expert birders for a morning bird walk along the Garden trails. Everyone is welcome, including first-time birders. Wear a hat, sunscreen and comfortable shoes, and bring binoculars if available.

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees of \$15.00 (\$13.50 seniors) apply unless you're a DBG member. Membership is \$75 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.

### Festivals:

**Tres Rios Nature Festival.** Saturday-Sunday, March 5-6, 2011, at Estrella Mountain Park. See page 5.

**2011 San Diego Bird Festival.** The 15th annual festival will be held March 3-6, 2011, at the Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay. The keynote speaker will be Peter Harrison widely considered the world's foremost authority on seabirds. There will also be a pre-festival event (Baja California overnight trip) March 1-2, 2011. See their website at <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm>.

**Hassayampa Nature Preserve Festival.** Saturday, April 16, 2011. There will be walks, talks and vendors. More on this later. See their website at <http://www.nature.org/hassayampa>

**Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival.** The festival will again be held at the Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, AZ, from April 28 to May 1, 2011. The guest speaker will be David Sibley who has written numerous books. For more information, see the website at <http://www.birdyverde.org>.

### 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 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:

#### Officers

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

Vice President: Dick Fogle: 623-584-3922

[rfogle@yahoo.com](mailto:rfogle@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Carol Schooler 623-930-8904

[raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net)

Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953

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#### Board Members— Directors at Large

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

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#### Committees

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

Education: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904

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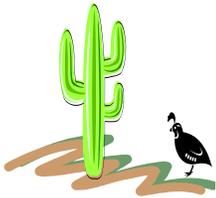
## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**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.

### Tentative Schedule for the Year:

**February 9, 2011: David Reesor—Birds of Bhutan**  
**March 9, 2011: George Wall—Costa Rica and Nicaragua**  
**April 13, 2011: Amy Leu—Feathered Hearts (live birds)**  
**May 11, 2011: Joe Ford—The Wonder of Plants and Flowers**

**Other Dates of Interest:** February 2, 2011, 7 p.m. Board Meeting at West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale. – all SAS members, friends and guests welcome.



**Sonoran Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 8068**  
**Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**