



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 10 Issue 5



January, 2009

**At our next meeting.... Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7 p.m.**

## George Wall: Birding Australia



**Feeding a Rainbow Lorikeet—Photo by Roger McNeill**

George Wall only started bird watching in April, 1997, but since then he has become an avid world-wide bird watcher traveling around the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Nicaragua, Brazil, Argentina, Peru and most recently Australia.

He is a board member of the Sonoran Audubon Society, editor of their newsletter and on several committees. He was also the leader of the birding group "Birders' Anonymous" for 8 years in Sun City. Over the past few years, he has also led numerous birding trips in Arizona.

Come out and hear how he traveled with different bird guides into the wilds of Australia.

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### What's Happening in our Chapter?

**By Your Editor, George Wall**

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on December 3, 2008. The attendees were Bob McCormick, Carol Schooler, Eleanor Campbell, Chuck Richards, Rich Schooler, Andrée Tarby, and George Wall.

After review and approval of last month's minutes, the committee reports were made.

#### Committee Reports:

- A. **Membership:** Chuck Kangas received the  
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## What's Happening in our Chapter?

New data base from National Audubon. There are 599 national members and 132 "Friends" of SAS.

**B. Field Trips:** The trip committee met and scheduled trips through April 2009. The committee will meet again on April 9, 2009 to plan future trips.

**C. Programs:** A laptop computer, projector and wireless microphone were purchased when John Arnett, George Wall, Rich and Carol Schooler went very early in the morning to Best Buy on "Black Friday". The items will be used for the first time at the January meeting. This will allow us not to depend on the library for their equipment.

**D. Education:** Eight, including some children, attended the monthly family bird walk at Estrella Mountain Park. About 30-40 kids (campers) heard a talk on raptors by Andrea Nesbitt who brought a red-tailed hawk from Adobe Mountain Rehabilitation Center.

**E. Finance:** Carol Schooler reviewed the Profit and Loss detail for June through November.

**F. Conservation:** A conservation meeting was held on November 20, 2008. A lot of things were discussed and some of the plans are already in progress. See the article on Focus birds on page 4.

**Other:** Chuck Kangas and George Wall were appointed to be on the Nominating Committee.

The Board reviewed a proposed budget through 5/31/09.

Audubon Arizona sent a notice that the January-February issue of Audubon Magazine will have a four page pullout on Birding in Arizona. The Board agreed to buy 250.

There was a discussion on revising the SAS Birds of Arizona Checklist for printing since the old ones are gone. George Wall agreed to update and get the list printed.

The next Board planning retreat will be held in September of 2009 at Hassayampa River Preserve.

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### General Membership Meeting:

45 people including seven guests showed up to hear Rick Wright talk about bird watching in Bulgaria. This seems like an unusual area to go birding, but there are a lot of birds there as he proved.

The program was well received by all.

## Winter/Spring 2009 Field Trips

**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, January 10, 2009**

**Santa Cruz Flats**

**Leader: Barbara Meding 623-266-1847 [barbara-meding@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara-meding@yahoo.com)**

Many hawk species winter in southern Arizona, some in large numbers. One area for drawing these winter visitors is the Santa Cruz Flats in Pinal County located along the basin of the Santa Cruz River which flows northwest across the county towards the Gila River. Besides the hawks, you can also see Caracara, Mountain Plover and Bendire's Thrasher.

Difficulty 1 – bring lunch

Note: This trip has limited facilities.

Meet at the Sacaton rest area on Rte. 10 on the way to Casa Grande (about mile marker 182) at 7:30 a.m. If enough people sign up, there will be an alternate meeting location at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird at 6:30 a.m.

**Friday-Sunday, Jan 16-18, 2009**

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

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535 [rms15247@cox.net](mailto:rms15247@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, Ranger Kathleen Blair will lead the group. The group will stay at the Island Inn at Lake Havasu. Price per night approximately \$60.

Difficulty 2 – You will need some slipover **wader boots** as there are streams to cross.

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

**Thursday, January 29, 2009**

**Southern Avenue and Area**

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

You never know what you are going to see on this trip as there are fields and ponds. It should be a good time for some ducks and shorebirds. You'll always see the ever present Eurasian Collared Dove and some raptors.  
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## Winter/Spring 2008-9 Field Trips

Difficulty 1 – However, it is about a 2 mile walk around the dirt road to the ponds and back.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 8 a.m.

**Saturday, February 7, 2009**

**Lake Pleasant Pipeline Trail**

**Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244 [dans-bohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dans-bohlmann@prodigy.net)**

Lake Pleasant has some nice trails that wander through the desert landscape and down to the water. This is a chance for a nice walk, pleasant scenery and some desert and water birds.

Difficulty 1 – Morning trip only

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot on Hutton Drive near Boswell in Sun City to leave at 8 a.m. There is an entrance fee of \$5 per car.

**Friday – Sunday, February 20-22, 2009**

**Yuma and the Salton Sea with Henry Detwiler**

**Coordinator: Chuck Richards 623-594-6554 [crichards15@cox.net](mailto:crichards15@cox.net)**

The limit of 15 people for the trip has been reached. There is a [waiting list](#).

**Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7, 2009**

**Tres Rios Nature Festival**

There will be more on this later.

**Thursday, March 19, 2009**

**Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

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

This location near Superior is an excellent birding area that has all types of trees and fauna. It also has permanent running water that is attracting more and more varieties of birds. Usually you'll see 40-50 species.

Difficulty 1 – Bring a lunch

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot on Hutton Drive near Boswell in Sun City to leave at 6 a.m. There is an entrance fee of \$7.50 per person.

**Thursday, March 26, 2009**

**B&M/P.I.R. (where Tres Rios Festival was held)**

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

This is a trip designed to look for rails, bitterns and soras. We'll be getting there just about daylight in order to call these reed dwellers out into the open.

Difficulty 1 – Morning trip only

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 5:30 a.m. or meet at the site at 6 a.m.

**Saturday, April 4, 2009**

**Madera Canyon**

**Leader: Richard Kaiser 602 276-3312**

**[rkaiserinaz@aol.com](mailto:rkaiserinaz@aol.com)**

Situated in the Coronado National Forest in southern Arizona, this is one of the nation's top birding areas. The habitat varies from the grasslands of Florida Canyon to a heavily wooded area above the 5,000 foot level. We will be looking for birds from parking areas at the famous Proctor Road, Bog Springs and Santa Rita Lodge feeders. Species we will look for include Painted Redstart, Arizona Woodpecker, Yellow-eyed Junco, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Elegant Trogon.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

Contact the leader to confirm the expected meeting place at the intersection of Continental Road with Madera Canyon Road, and the meeting time of 7:00 a.m. This trip might be extended into Sunday morning.

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

**Page Springs**

**Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904**

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

Page Springs is a fish hatchery where water also attracts many birds. There are also 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 a part of the Page Springs Important Bird Area.

Difficulty: 1- Bring a Lunch.

Meet at McDonald's just off of I-17 in Carefree to leave at 6 a.m.

**Saturday, April 25, 2009**

**Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson**

**Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639**

**[ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)**

The Sweetwater Wetlands is a water treatment area just off I-10 (Prince Rd. Exit) near Tucson. This is an excellent nature site developed for viewing birds. Paths around the many ponds are well maintained and easy to walk on. You can sometimes see Sora and Virginia Rail. Many rarities show up there and there should be warblers at this time of year.

Difficulty: 1 Lunch at nearby fast food restaurant.

Meet at the Burger King just off 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 6:00 a.m. or at the Sacaton rest area on Rte. 10 at 7:00 a.m.

## **SAS Focus on Common Birds in Decline**

**By Bob McCormick**

The Sonoran Audubon Society has been studying ways that we can shift our conservation focus to the drastic decline in numbers of birds that once were common here in Arizona. For instance, the Verdin population has declined by over 65% in the last 40 years.

At our retreat in September and a few other meetings, we selected the birds that we would like to focus on, what we wanted to do and who our audience would be. Here are the birds selected and the month an article will appear about it in our newsletter. Verdin (JAN), Cactus Wren (FEB), Yuma Clapper Rail (MAR), Gilded Flicker/Elf Owl (APR), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (MAY), Costa's Hummingbird (SEP), Burrowing Owl (Owl- O-Ween), Black-throated Sparrow (NOV) and Phainopepla (DEC). Each article will focus on one of our birds of concern and include a conservation issue that affects bird populations in AZ.

We've already changed our Friends Contribution levels to reflect some of the "Focus" birds name. Instead of Gambel's Quail, it's now Verdin (\$20 to \$49.99), Seniors is now Burrowing Owl (\$15 to \$49.99, Zone-tailed Hawk is now Cactus Wren (\$50 to \$99.99) and Desert Bald Eagle is now Gilded Flicker (\$100 or more per year). We will also emphasize target birds on field trips and keep count. A one page checklist of the focus birds will soon be on our website. We will keep track of counts in a small database for reporting purposes. We also encourage all our members to count target birds and enter data into [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

By next fall we plan on producing a Tri-fold brochure featuring all 10 of our watch-list birds. This brochure will include a small photo of each bird, its habitat, threats, conservation information, population decline numbers, what you can do to help, and bird specific information such as not removing mistletoe from trees that are healthy.

Postcards and bookmarks will also be produced for distribution to nurseries, conservation organizations and others who are concerned with our declining bird populations.

Looking forward, we would also like to produce additional brochures that will be available to developers, homeowner associations, community planning organizations, landscape designers, landscape maintenance companies, government agencies, and anyone else who is involved changing habitat throughout the state. These brochures will emphasize that producing quality habitat can be as easy as replacing die-offs with native plants. Other information will include not trimming certain plants during nesting season, providing cover, suggested plants, and that cactus belong in our neighborhoods.

The information in the above brochure can also be presented at planning meetings, homeowner associations, re-zoning meetings and even to our congressmen.

If this sounds of interest to you, we can use your help by taking photos of the "Focus" birds, providing ideas or even speaking at the above mentioned places. Any help will be appreciated – get involved!

### **Photo contest**

The Sonoran Audubon Society in conjunction with our new focus on Arizona's Common Birds in Decline has started a photo contest. Winner's photos will be used in the brochures, postcards, and bookmarks that we will be producing over the next few months. All photos submitted will be used in power-point presentations before our general meetings.

The birds: Phainopepla, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Yuma Clapper Rail, Gilded Flicker, Elf Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Costa's Hummingbird, Burrowing Owl and Black-throated Sparrow.

Rules are simple: Please try to limit the photo size to 1 Meg. Photos that have to be scanned may have a reduction in image quality. Please respect all local, state, and federal laws in obtaining your photos.

The board will select all winning photos. There is a potential of three winners for each bird. If you desire your photo to be left as is, please let us know, otherwise, we reserve the right to crop the photo to fit the media selected.

Submit photos with your name to [mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) (or mail to Bob McCormick P.O. Box 674 Laveen AZ 85339) with the words **Photo Contest** in the heading. Deadline is April 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.



## Verdins in Your Yard?

By Betina Bickel

In some of the harshest desert environments, a tiny bird flits energetically through the thorny vegetation and loudly whistles its insistent song. Verdins have been able to adapt to the severe conditions of desert life, but unfortunately the 2007 Audubon Common Birds in Decline Report shows a 65% decline in Verdin populations since 1967, probably due to habitat loss to urban sprawl.

Verdins are a permanent resident of the Sonoran Desert and other southwestern desert environments. Their range extends from southern California east to southwest Texas, with highest breeding densities reported in southern Arizona. Favored habitat is mesquite bosques and thorny vegetation lining washes, but they may be present wherever native thorny desert scrub persists. They are acrobatic and energetic feeders, working through the thorny vegetation to glean insects (their primary food) from plant surfaces. They also supplement their diet with fruit and nectar. Unlike hummingbirds, they don't probe flowers for nectar, but instead slit the base of flowers to obtain nectar.

Verdins build nests for roosting as well as raising young. The nest is a small oval conglomeration of sticks and twigs with a side entrance leading to an interior chamber lined with feathers or fur. Preferred nesting sites are a few feet above ground in the thorny branches of desert trees such as paloverde, acacia, or mesquite. The female incubates an average of four eggs for 13-17 days. The young leave the nest after 17-21 days, after which the male may assume full care if the female is beginning a second clutch.

You can observe the nesting process in your urban or suburban yard and help stem the Verdin's population decline by planting natives! As Tice Supplee, Audubon Arizona's Director of Bird Conservation, points out in her article "The Last Verdin", Verdins can nest in developed areas if enough native vegetation is present. Besides providing habitat for Verdins and other native birds, native landscaping can also significantly reduce water and synthetic chemical use.

Native trees such as paloverde, hackberry, ironwood, and mesquite provide a place for foraging as well as nesting. Last spring a pair of Verdins began nesting in my ironwood tree; unfortunately, a mourning dove soon usurped their nest by moving in and incubating her own clutch on the Verdins' roof! Verdins will also enjoy native nectar producing plants, such as chuparosa.

### What you can do:

Plant native! Arizona Game and Fish Department has a great source for information on native landscaping for desert wildlife at [www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/landscaping\\_desert\\_wildlife.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/landscaping_desert_wildlife.shtml)

Encourage others! Talk to neighbors about native landscaping, and if you belong to a HOA, be an advocate for native desert landscaping.



Verdin—Photo by Vera Markham



Verdin Nest—Photo by George Wall

## Mexico Trip

By Vera Markham

As a treat for myself, on November 10-15, 2008, I went on a post-Rio Grande Valley Nature Birding Festival trip. There were 20 of us and we started out from Harlingen, Texas, heading down to Tamaulipas, Mexico and staying in the city of Ciudad Mante. It was the first time that I went to a tropical area other than Florida. The weather was hot and humid and very buggy, but this had to be tolerated for how could I complain when I added 42 new life birds on my Mexico bird list! What an exciting event to say the least.

Our goal was to bird around Mante and then to bird in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve on the third day of our trip. The reserve, established in 1985, is an unspoiled stretch of rainforest of 356,442 acres. I was impressed with a tremendous amount of colorful, exotic butterflies inhabiting this area. I have to admit that there were more butterflies than birds. We had four experienced leaders, two of whom knew the butterfly species quite well. They used an ipod-type "tape" to call in the birds. Most of the birds were cooperative.

My favorite life birds on this trip were the Elegant Euphonia, which I felt was the most colorful, with gorgeous colors of black, blue, and orange; the Bronzed-winged Woodpecker, with beautiful green shades of color, with scaly-like "plate-like" feathers on its throat, chest, and belly; Blue-crowned Motmot; the Boat-billed Heron, the most unusual and whimsical looking; great looks of the Mottled Owl; Rufous-capped Warbler; Golden-browed Warbler; White-winged Tanager; Yellow-winged Tanager; Blue-gray Tanager; handsome Crimson-collared Grosbeak; and great close looks of the Ivory-billed Woodcreeper.

What was very enjoyable was a small boat trip down the Rio Frio where we had great looks of the Roadside Hawk, Amazon Kingfisher and Sungrebe. We saw all the species of kingfishers (that we are most familiar with) on this trip so apart from the Amazon, we saw the Belted, Ringed, and Green. I just loved the kingfishers.

The biggest surprise was on the next to the last day, we saw the large Montezuma Oropendola. What a treat.....a very big long beak on a strange-looking bird!

The photo I took of the Plain Chachalaca was the easiest to photograph for it was very tame - more like a domesticated pet...so much so that one of our participants hand-fed it some crackers. Normally though, the Plain Chachalaca is usually seen in groups high in trees and they make a sound that can carry for many miles. It is one of the noisiest birds of any forest.



**Plain Chachalaca**  
Photo by Vera Markham

The accommodations at the Hotel Mante and the food were pretty decent (considering the fact that I'm not that fond of Mexican food) so all things considered, I would recommend this trip for anyone interested in seeing tropical birds below our border.

## FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA

Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

Estrella Mountain Park is located just on the south side the Gila River in Goodyear at Bullard Avenue and Vineyard Road. This riparian area consists of exposed shorelines, mature trees, the occasional marsh surrounded by desert scrub hillsides and in the park itself, many mesquite, palms and other trees. This diverse habitat lures an impressive variety of birds.

**SATURDAYS:** These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be on Saturday, January 10, 2009. Meet at the new visitor parking lot at 8 a.m. There will be live raptors for viewing. The walk will last approximately 2 hours. For further information, contact Rich Schooler at 623-930-8904, [rschooler@cox.net](mailto:rschooler@cox.net).

**SUNDAYS:** These walks are held the fourth Sunday of each month. The next walk will be on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 8 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park. For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952, [mcbo-baz@aol.com](mailto:mcbo-baz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at [atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net).

There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks and loaner binoculars are otherwise free of charge. Dress warmly at this time of year.

**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**June 1 - December 18, 2008**

**INCOME:**

Friends Membership Dues & PP Postage	\$ 1,655
Grant-NAS for AV Equipment	835
NAS Dues Share	2,018
Environmental Fund of AZ	1,231
Interest Income	42
Book, Shirts & Calendar Sales	631
	\$ 6,412

**EXPENDITURES:**

Calendar Purchase	\$ 225
Chapter Misc. Operating Expense	380
Education Committee	100
Equipment (AV)	993
Hospitality	77
Insurance	265
Membership Committee	169
ABCI Mileage	746 *
Newsletter	645
Programs	518
Telephone	61
Tres Rios Nature Festival	500
Website	646
	\$ 5,325

**Cash Assets**

Checking Account	\$4,907
Savings Account	\$8,460

\*Mileage expense paid from prior year's ABCI grant.

**Hummingbird Plants**

By George Wall

A few years ago I decided to make my backyard a haven for hummingbirds and it has paid off. I planted an ocotillo, an autumn sage, Mexican honeysuckle, some lantana, a superb penstemon and several red yuccas. Today, I have nice large plants and the hummingbirds seek them. I even have a Costa's Hummingbird that stays all year. I also supplement the flowers with a few feeders which helps when the flowers are not in bloom.

The large sage and honeysuckle also provide needed cover when predators are around.



**My Backyard**

## **EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY**

### **Birders' Anonymous**

Birders' Anonymous, a group of bird-watchers, has their next meeting on Friday, January 16, 2009, starting at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City.

Kathy Sullivan will be coming in from Flagstaff and giving a program on California Condors. If you missed the program she gave in October to the Sonoran Audubon Society, you certainly want to see this. Everyone is welcome.

George Wall will be leading a birding trip to Estrella Mountain Park on Thursday, January 22, 2009. Contact him at 623-875-7057 or [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net) for further information.

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

### **Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project**

A birders paradise awaits you just 1/2 mile south of downtown Phoenix! Discover many of the 200 species of birds that have been identified at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area as you walk along the Salt River.

The bird walk for this month is on Saturday, January 3, 2009, led by Tom Gaskill. The walk is from 7:30-9:30 a.m. (Course ID #52830). Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Ave.

You need to make your reservation in advance by visiting <http://phoenix.gov/PARKS> and click on Classes and Programs and enter the course number. You can also call 602-262-6863 and leave a voice mail. Note: All of the courses above including the bird walk have a cost of \$5 for adults, \$1 for youths and seniors,

### **Desert Botanical Garden**

Every Monday and the second Saturday of each month, there is a bird walk starting at 8 a.m.

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees of \$15.00 (\$13.50 seniors) apply unless you're a DBG member. Membership is \$55 a year.

See their website at [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org) for further information.

### **Hassayampa River Preserve**

There is an Interpretive Nature Walk on Saturday, January 31, 2009, from 8:30-10 a.m. This is an easy walk along the trails to catch sight of migratory and resident birds as well as other wildlife.

For those into bird banding and want to help set up the

nets, etc., the dates are Saturday, January 10, 2009 starting at 7 a.m. and Saturday, January 31, 2009, starting at 7:30 a.m. **However**, you must contact Anne Leight at [ALeigh@syntellect.com](mailto:ALeigh@syntellect.com) at least two days beforehand.

Entrance fees are \$5, TNC members \$3 and children 12 and under are free. For information call 928 684-2772 or e-mail [www.bmccollum@tnc.org](mailto:www.bmccollum@tnc.org).

### **Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their winter schedule from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. except during special programs. Admission of \$7.50 for adults, \$3 ages 5-12.

For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>.

### **Festivals**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings Over Willcox Sandhill Crane Celebration – January 14-18, 2009.**

Tours and Seminars focus on: Sandhill Cranes – thousands up close and personal, Raptors and Winter Sparrows, Geology, Southwest History and Archeology, Mining, Ranching and Farming, Beginning and Advanced Birding, Wildlife Photography, Astronomy, Bats and Reptiles, Free Seminars, Trade Fair and Silent Auction and noted ornithologist Dr. Paul Johnsgard is the Banquet speaker. Willcox, Arizona. 800-200-2272 or [www.wingsoverwillcox.com](http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com)

#### **Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7, 2009**

##### **Tres Rios Nature Festival**

There will be more on this later.

#### **13th Annual San Diego Birding Festival—March 5-8, 2009, at the Marina Village.**

The keynote speaker will be David Sibley. He will also lead a trip. <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm>

#### **Yuma Birding & Nature Festival**

**April 15-19, 2009**

Where the Colorado River meets the Sonoran Desert, there's a rare mix of habitats and wildlife watching opportunities. Festival features trips into Mexico, to Salton Sea in California, and more. We're on the Colorado River flyway, nearly 400 species of birds live or visit here each year.

Contact: Yuma Visitor's Bureau, 202 South First Avenue, Suite 202, Yuma, AZ 85364 800-293-0071



### 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 only a percentage of the money goes to our chapter; however, you get the National Audubon Society Magazine. Some people choose to do both. See our website for the applicable forms.

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* may be obtained free from the chapter website <[www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)> or by mail for \$10.00 per year. If you wish to get the newsletter by mail or to be notified when a new issue is placed on the website, please contact [chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com) or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society, P O Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068.

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.desertiversaudubon.org](http://www.desertiversaudubon.org)  
Maricopa Audubon Web Site: [www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)



### Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

#### Officers

President: Robert McCormick 602-237-3951

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Vice President: Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646

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

Treasurer: Carol Schooler 623-930-8904

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

Chuck Richards 623-594-6554 [crichards15@cox.net](mailto:crichards15@cox.net)

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

Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074 [atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net)

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

#### Committees

Programs: Eleanor Campbell and George Wall—See phone numbers and e-mail addresses above.

Education: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904

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

Field Trips: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

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

Hospitality: Diana Barnum 623-215-3400 [didibar@cox.net](mailto:didibar@cox.net)

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Conservation: Tina Bickel [tbickel08@gmail.com](mailto:tbickel08@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street  
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection) Time: 6:30 p.m. for socializing and  
7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program**

**January 14, 2009 —George Wall: Birding Australia**

**February 11, 2009—Moez Ali: Birds of Kenya**

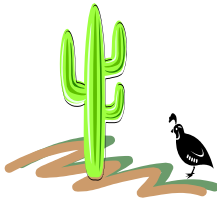
**March 11, 2009—Amy & Tim Leu: Feathered Hearts**

**April 8, 2009—Tim Cullison—Kittlitz's Murrelet with Alaska Wildlife**

**May 13, 2009—Speaker from the Arizona Riparian Council**



**Other Dates of Interest:** January 7, 2009 7 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room – all SAS members welcome.



**Sonoran Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 8068**

**Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**