



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 12 Issue 5



January, 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at 7 p.m. Carol Beardmore—Alamos Bird Survey Expedition

Carol Beardmore has a B.S. from Kansas State University in Wildlife Biology-1974, and an M.S. from Texas A & M University in Avian Ecology-1994. Her thesis was on Golden-cheeked Warblers. She worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources then moved to Texas where she was hired by the Fish and Wildlife Service in Austin, TX in 1991. While in the Austin job Partners in Flight was formed. In 1996 she left Austin for Phoenix to become the Western Coordinator of PIF. In 2002 she became the Science Coordinator of the Sonoran Joint Venture. She's also on the Board of Directors for Western Field Ornithologists. The job with the Sonoran Joint Venture allows for much work across the border into northwestern Mexico.



Carol Beardmore

Carol explains the Alamos expedition: "The Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) and the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) jointly coordinated a bird monitoring expedition to the Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Sierra de Alamos y Río Cuchujaqui Biosphere Reserve in southern Sonora, Mexico, from June 27-July 3, 2010. The objective of this expedition was to use the collective expertise of WFO members and SJV participants to collect and record natural history information and baseline monitoring data on birds of conservation interest in the APFF. The data will be compiled, analyzed and published with our Mexican partners and participants as co-authors, and all publications and data will be shared with the Reserve. We will also be presenting the results of our data-gathering expedition at the October 2010 WFO Annual Meeting in Palm Desert, California. Our ultimate goal is to analyze and publish the results of the data collection in the Western Field Ornithologists' journal, *Western Birds*."



Rusty Sparrow and Spotted Wren—Photos by Dave Krueper



John Arnett compiling—Photo by Tim Burr

What's Happening in our Chapter?

By Your Editor, George Wall

Your Board met on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, with eleven members. Dick Fogle chaired the meeting.

After the committee reports, Karen LaFrance gave a briefing on the Audubon Round Up held November 11-14, 2010.

Rich Schooler, who had a table at the Sonoran Desert National Monument 10th Anniversary held on December 4th in Yuma, gave a report.

At the General Membership meeting on December 8th, Bob McCormick reported on the progress of the Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival.

Walter Thurber talked about and requested volunteers for the Christmas Bird Counts starting December 14th.

Most importantly of all, Karen LaFrance and Eleanor Campbell were presented with small Christmas trees by Carol Schooler for the work the two had accomplished with the Audubon Round Up.

Tice Supplee informed the attendees about the IBA training on January 21-22, 2011.

Rick Taylor presented his program on Mexican Marauders. He also had copies of his latest book Birds of South-eastern Arizona available at a good price.

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, January 8, 2010**. 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, raschooler@cox.net.

SUNDAYS: These walks are held the fourth Sunday of each month. The next walk will be on **Sunday, January 23, 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 or Andrée Tarby at 480-948-1074 atarby@cox.net.

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

What can you see at the Estrella Mountain Park?

On the December 11, 2010, Estrella bird walk, they saw the following 39 species in the order listed: Northern Harrier, Rock Wren, White-crowned Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Mourning Dove, Gambel's Quail, Say's Phoebe, European Starling, Gila Woodpecker, House Finch, Great-tailed Grackle, Anna's Hummingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrow, Gilded Flicker, Crissal Thrasher, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Common Moorhen, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Marsh Wren (h), Sora, Black Phoebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Belted Kingfisher, Great Egret, Snowy Egret and Song Sparrow.

Why don't you come out and see what you can see? You might be surprised at what you'll find.

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.

Thursday, January 13, 2011

Gilbert Water Ranch

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

The Gilbert Water Ranch is one of the Valley's better winter birding places. The ponds attract large numbers of ducks and shorebirds. There are many common permanent valley birds, plus lots of other winter migrants. The trails are well maintained, graveled and level. Fifty plus birds are usually seen or heard on trips to this site.

Difficulty: 1 - Morning only

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird in Peoria to leave at 7 a.m.

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Tres Rios Wetlands—Hayfield Site

Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904

We will bird the Tres Rios Hayfield site and the new wetlands/ponds west of 91st Ave., at least from the road. (I will attempt to get access to the new wetlands, but am not certain about that yet). This will be a morning only trip. Maximum of 10 people plus the leader.

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Difficulty: 1

Meet at 107th Ave. and Thunderbird Rd. at 7 a.m. or at the site at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 5, 2011

Rio Salado Habitat

Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904

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 for reservations

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, 2010

Arrowhead Ponds

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

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 59th 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 sea 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
(more later)**

Monday, March 14, 2011

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

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.

(Continued from Page 3)

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 Bid Walk & Picnic)

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057 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

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

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

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

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. With Clear Creek flowing through the campground, a number of man-made channels running from the creek, and 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@vahoo.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

This is a two night trip and 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.

Tres Rios Christmas Count **Article and photos by George Wall**

Chuck Kangas was the leader of one of the Christmas Bird Counts in the Tres Rios area that included Pebble Creek over in Goodyear. Along with Chuck were Dan Bohlmann and myself. I have counted in this area many times over the years and each year there are more houses and commercial businesses. There are hardly no open fields. Our counts were mainly in the trees and ponds of housing developments. We saw 47 species which is a far cry from what I saw several years ago. We did see three Greater Roadrunners and one is pictured below.



There was a nice write up on the Christmas Bird Counts in the December 25th edition of the Arizona Republic in the Northwest Valley section. Troy Corman and Walter Thurber were quoted.

Thank You

At the end of November, we sent out a letter to encourage people to renew or become "Friends" of the Sonoran Audubon Society as well as asking for help with purchasing Horseshoe Ranch. The following members took advantage of this year end request.

Herb Andrews, Diane Barnum, Gary Berlin, Matt & Tillie Chew, Gail Bliss, Barbara Bornyasz, David Bradford, Eleanor Campbell, Tim Cullison, Jeffrey Deutsch, Floyd & Susan Dianeth, Joy Dingley, Mary Jo & Bill Draxler, George Drew, Earl Edris, Philip Evanstock, JoAnne Fergusson, Joe & Elise Ford, Jed Fulkerson, M. Melba Garrett, Martin & Linda Gutowski, John & Judi Heath, Haylie Hewitt, Frank Insana, Sam Insana, Richard & Karen Kaiser, Chuck Kangas, Max A. Kelley, Darnell Kirksey, Jeane Kirsch, Bruno & Virginia Larsen, Marilyn Lauterbach, Ver Markham, Jeffrey Maxcy, Ann McDermott, Barbara Meding, Lynn Miller, Glenn & Carolyn Modeen, John Nichol, Jody Pelusi, Jerry & Doris Rankin, Charles P. Richard, Charles & Loretta Richards, Elisabeth P. Roberts, Barbara Sakshaug, Cheryl Scott, Carol Sharplin, B.J. Shortridge, Donna Smith, Phylis Smith, Jerry Theis, Bertha Voie, George Wall, Don Witter and Nancy Woods.

If you donated in the last days of December, I've got to get this in to the publisher. I will recognize you in February's edition.

Rio Negro Drought **Submitted by George Wall**

A severe drought has pushed river levels in Brazil's Amazon region to record lows, leaving isolated communities dependent on emergency aid and thousands of boats stranded on parched riverbeds.

A Brazilian crosses the muddy bottom of the Rio Negro, a major tributary to the Amazon river, in the city of Manaus, on October 26, 2010.

There are a lot of rivers that flow into the Amazon and this is one of the largest. It is a sad shame to see this happening not only in Brazil, but all over South American. I have traveled down some of these rivers including the Rio Negro and enjoyed their majestic beauty. In some areas like the one pictured, there is no beauty.

Our rivers here in Arizona are getting to be the same way.



Peruvian Thick-knee

By Dr. Jerry Theis

The Peruvian Thick-knee is a species of bird in the Burhinidae family. It is found in Chile, Ecuador, and Peru. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry shrubland, subtropical or tropical seasonally wet or flooded lowland grassland, and pastureland. It feeds on small insects and grains. Thick-knees are a small family of 9 species of terrestrial waders (other names are "Stone-curlews" or "Dikkops.") Species include Water Dikkop, Spotted Dikkop, Senegal Dikkop, Stone-Curlew, Bush Thick-knee, Beach Thick-knee, Great Thick-knee, Peruvian Thick-knee and Double-striped Thick-knee. Some are very much nocturnal species, hiding under bushes by day, while other species are often found diurnally, standing around little mud holes or along slow moving rivers. At one time the Burhinidae were considered related to Bustards but recent biochemical and structural evidence shows that they are a distinct group of waders. Some species are migratory but most are resident birds, moving in response to dry or wet conditions. All thick-knees are silent by day but become very vocal after dark with loud, wailing calls or accelerating series of "cur-lee" calls that die away into the night air.

The Peruvian Thick-knee, one of two species in the New World, is known locally as "huerequeque," a transliteration of its calls. The remaining New World species is the Double-striped Thick-knee, ranging from E. Mexico to N. Brazil (the record of this species near Yuma in 1991 was discounted as a wild bird after it was found to have been transported into the state). The Peruvian Thick-knee has a large head and very large eyes (for night feeding), and, as the name suggests, thick "knees" on its long legs. The head has a pale supercilium with a thick black stripe above and the bill is pale with a dark tip. All the members of this family are social birds and can sometimes be found in flocks of a dozen or so. During the day, one encounters them generally standing motionless, and often inconspicuously due to their cryptic coloration blending in with dirt clods. They are difficult to spot.

I was on a Chupaflor Nature Tours expedition in June, 2010 to Peru. The previous day our guide Lucho's truck broke down, stranding us on a desolate mountain for 7 hrs. I was now riding in Lucho's backup jeep as we headed to his "guaranteed" area for thick-knee sightings. Near San Pedro, just outside of Lima, I spotted a group of motionless figures in a field as we sped by. I yelled, Lucho braked, and we pulled off. The figures were a flock of 28 Peruvian Thick-knees. Lucho was happy but somewhat chagrined because he wanted to find them for me!

Because of their behavior, it is not very dramatic to see a thick-knee. Their world begins mostly after dark, when they move about on their very THIN legs.

The photo at the right is by Roger Ahlman

You can see more pictures of the Peruvian Thick-knee at his photo gallery at http://www.pbase.com/ahlman/peru_waders&page=2 which he so kindly allowed me to use for this article.



Penelope the Osprey

Excerpted from a Cornell Lab of Ornithology article dated Oct 28, 2010

On a clear morning in early September 2008, a three-month-old female Osprey named Penelope pushed off from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and flew, alone, 2,700 miles to French Guiana in 13 days. She touched down in coastal Maryland and North Carolina for three days, lazed along the Bahamas for four, then blew through the Dominican Republic in 29 hours. At dusk she launched out over the Caribbean, flying all night and the next day to a tiny island off the coast of Venezuela. A week later she was exploring rainforest rivers in French Guiana, her home for the next 18 months.

Twenty years ago we couldn't imagine the extraordinary trips that these fish-eating raptors take routinely. We occasionally glimpsed them at hawk watches, or very rarely recovered their leg bands when they died en route. Now researchers can strap a 0.75-ounce, solar-powered satellite transmitter onto the back of an Osprey and know the bird's location, within a few hundred yards, for the next two to three years. A few dozen Ospreys each year wear these tiny backpacks.

After 10 years and more than 150 tracked Ospreys, this project—the brainchild of Mark Martell at Minnesota Audubon and Rob Bierregaard at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte—is providing much-needed data revealing migrational differences among Ospreys and helping pin down where threats to Ospreys lie.

For example, like many adolescents, juvenile Ospreys wander, loiter, and even get lost, crossing open ocean when they don't have to. Adults fly faster and more direct routes, more sure of where they're headed.

Cuba and Hispaniola are key migration hubs for eastern Ospreys hopscotching across the Caribbean. In fall these migrants funnel down the Florida peninsula, hop to Cuba, then move east across Haiti and the Dominican Republic. From there they clear the rest of the Caribbean to wind up in South America. Western Ospreys don't migrate as far, and spend less time crossing ocean. They winter in Central America.



Sadly, we've also learned that Ospreys are still shot during migration and on their wintering grounds. Fish ponds are often a lethal magnet: Ospreys find what must seem like a great food resource, and fish-farmers retaliate. Efforts are

now under way to work with farmers to curb these losses.

Male Ospreys forage for their mates and young on the breeding grounds. By tagging males in the Massachusetts nesting colony I study, we are learning where they forage and what fish they target, information that helps protect fish and their spawning grounds.

Ospreys wear their satellite backpacks easily and the units are designed to drop off in 2–3 years. The burden is light, and the information gained helps focus conservation efforts where they are most needed. Tens of thousands of North American Ospreys migrate to the tropics each fall; we want to make sure that they return to continue their journeys in the years ahead.

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

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

Arizona Animal Encounters—2nd Saturday of every month at 11 a.m.

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting on Friday, January 21, 2011, 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 is entitled "Birdsites on the Computer" presented by Ann McDermott. The field trip is on Thursday, January 27, 2011, to Thunderbird Park led by Carolyn Modeen..

For further information on Birders' Anonymous contact Marshall Esty at 623-977-1637 or at mne@juno.com.

Hassayampa River Preserve

There will be a program on raptors presented by Rich Gliniski on Saturday, January 14, 2011, from 9-10:30 a.m.

Bird Banding: Sunday, January 9th and Saturday January 15th, starting at 7 a.m. Newcomers welcome. However, if you want to help band, you must contact Anne Leight at birdannabelle@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

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.

Desert Botanical Garden

Every Monday and second Saturday, 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 for further information.

Festivals:

Wings over Willcox. The 18th annual Wings over Willcox will be held from January 12-16, 2011. There will be a free Nature Expo with live animals, free seminars on birding and more, many tours and a banquet featuring a keynote speaker. Online registration available at www.wingsoverwillcox.com. Call 1-800-200-2272 to receive a brochure.

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival. Saturday-Sunday, March 5-6, 2011. Times and place will be announced later.

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>.

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> or by mail for \$10.00 per year.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org
Arizona Audubon 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

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
Vice President: Dick Fogle: 623-584-3922
rpfogle@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Carol Schooler 623-930-8904
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Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953
treerunner@yahoo.com

Board Members— Directors at Large

Eleanor Campbell: 623-977-7639 ercamp@juno.com
Tim Cullison: 602-863-9744 timcullisonaz@aol.com
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Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 raschooler@cox.net
Jerry Theis 623-878-6528 jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com

Committees

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

Education: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904
raschooler@cox.net

Field Trips: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244
dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

Hospitality: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180
haylie.hewitt@cox.net

Publicity: Tim Cullison: 602-863-9744
timcullisonaz@aol.com

Membership: Charles Kangas 623-931-6677
chuckkan@mindspring.com

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

Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

Location: West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale — **Time:** 6:30 p.m. for socializing and 7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program.

Tentative Schedule for the Year:

January 12, 2011: Carol Beardmore—Alamos Bird Survey Expedition

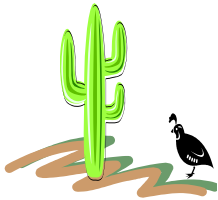
February 9, 2011: David Reesor—Birds of Bhutan

March 9, 2011: George Wall—Costa Rica and Nicaragua

April 14, 2011: Amy Leu—Feathered Hearts (live birds)

May 11, 2011: Joe Ford—The Wonder of Plants and Flowers

Other Dates of Interest: January 5, 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