



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

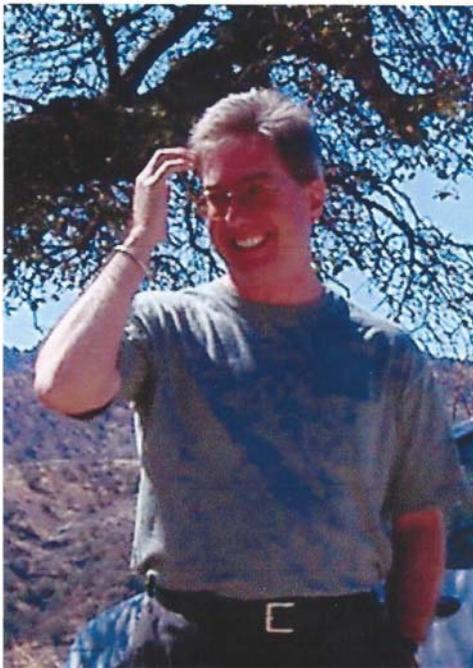
Volume 14 Issue 5

January 2013

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 7 p.m.

Mike Quigley—Arizona Desert Heritage

Mike has been working on numerous projects including public lands conservation. One of them concerns the Sonoran Desert Heritage which is a proposal for long term protection of public lands in the West Valley. The program will introduce you to what they are doing and how you can help. This plan is the single best tool for preserving quality Sonoran Desert habitat and native species, and for preserving the land as it is today for future generations.



Mike Quigley

Mike has been a long-time volunteer for various environmental education and conservation groups, and an advocate for science-based conservation-oriented environmental policy.

You'll learn a lot about this important project. I'm sure you want to protect our desert areas in Maricopa county. We have so much that should not be destroyed. Come to this program.

Mike holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and English literature (dual major) and a Master's degree in English literature from the University of Delaware. He has worked with various private and public sector organizations, including as a staff assistant to the Governor of Delaware, as a laboratory chemist and a medical writer for multinational corporations, as a technical writer and manager for a small software company, as a freelance multimedia software developer, and as a diplomat in Washington and abroad for the United States government (serving in the American Embassies in Dakar, Senegal, and Yaounde, Cameroun, as the Embassy's Deputy Public Affairs Officer and the Deputy Director of the American Cultural Center).



Gila River—Photo by George Wall

What's Happening in our Chapter

By George Wall and Karen LaFrance

There was a Board Meeting on December 5, 2012. Attending were George Wall, Tim Cullison, Haylie Hewitt, Gail Bliss, Eleanor Campbell, Jim Consolloy, Joe Ford, Darnell Kirksey, Andrée Tarby, Jerry Theis and Karen LaFrance, consultant.

The committee reports were presented. We have 764 current members after database was extensively worked on to correct errors and delete non-members. Field trips will be set through the first week in September after the next committee meeting on December 10th. Ross Hawkins of the Hummingbird Society in Sedona will be contacted to give a program. In education, the Girl Scout badge project will now be held in the North Mountain Park Visitor's Center instead of the Glendale Library. The Profit and Loss financial report shows as loss for the year, but the year end appeal should bring an improvement.

Some of the other items discussed at the Board Meeting included:

1. The Annual picnic will be on March 23, 2013, if we can get Horseshoe Ranch for the venue.
2. The price of books was raised by the sellers and we will have to compensate by raising our own prices.
3. The binoculars we have are not too good. We need to buy better ones. The Education/Conservation Committee will look into this.
4. The annual mailing for Friends membership dues and requests for new Friends was held at Karen LaFrance's home. 850 letters were stuffed, stamped and sealed by Gail Bliss, Eleanor Campbell, Karen LaFrance, Darnell Kirksey, Tom Lazzelle and George Wall.

The Trip Committee was held December 10th. It was a very successful meeting with trips scheduled through the summer. A couple of trips still had to be confirmed, but most were finalized. This committee needs more members.

The Education/Conservation Committee met on December 12th. The attendees were Eleanor Campbell, Tim Cullison, Darnell Kirksey, George Wall and Karen LaFrance. Several things were discussed that included book sales, backyard bird habitats, building a bird friendly community and Girl Scouts. Assignments were given for some of the items.

The December General Membership Meeting had 45 people that included six guests and three of them joined. Joel Pearson presented a program on the Lesser Night-hawk—a bird that is in our area, but seldom seen. It was fascinating to see the life cycle from egg to adult.

2013 Field Trips—Winter

REQUIREMENT: On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling the leader or the contact person. They can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, **some** trips are limited in size. Anyone can do these trips and if a novice, you'll get plenty of help.

Friday, January 4, 2013

Glendale Recharge Ponds

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

This is a repeat of the November 7, 2012, trip, but there should be more wintering ducks. The Glendale Recharge Ponds are included in the top 10 birding spots in Maricopa County. These six basins (two or three may have water) have been beacons for migrants and winter residents. Many rarities show up from time to time including gull species, grebes, terns, raptors, ducks and shorebirds. Once, there was a Roseate Spoonbill. You never know what may show up at this site.

Difficulty: 1 Morning trip only

Meet at the east end of the basins at 8 a.m. Take the west 101 to Camelback in Glendale, turn west to 107th Avenue (light), turn north until you hit gravel, then go east to end of the road. If you want to car pool meet at McDonald's on the southeast corner of Olive and 91st Ave. just off of 101 at 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Santa Cruz flats

Leader: Claudia Kirscher

Contact: Barb Meding 623-266-1847

barbameding@yahoo.com

Our first stop will be the Dave White Golf Course in Casa Grande before exploring the agricultural fields in Santa Cruz flats. This is a reliable place for wintering raptors including Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and hopefully Crested Caracara. We will scope the sod farm areas for Mountain Plover and the fields for Horned Larks, Meadowlarks, Bendire's Thrasher, and Sage, Vesper, Lincoln's, Brewer's, Song and Savannah Sparrows. On one January trip we had over 50 species. There are no facilities in the flats so bring water and a scope if you have one. This trip is limited to three cars.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch

Call the contact for the meeting place and other info.

Friday-Sunday, February 8-10, 2013

San Rafael Grasslands

Leader: Melody Kehl

Contact: Donna Smith, 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

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2013 Field Trips

The Valley's beautiful wide-open high grasslands are best known for wintering raptors, pipits, sparrows and longspurs. Located east of Patagonia, the valley is the headwaters for the Santa Cruz River. In the winter, Savannah, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows are common, less common are Baird's and flocks of Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs.

Melody Kehl will be our leader on Saturday for the valley. We will leave Friday for the Country Inn in Tucson and bird Sweetwater on the way down. We will be close to Madera Canyon and we can bird there on Sunday morning before heading back home. There is a limit of eight people.

Difficulty: 1

Call the contact for the meeting place and other info.

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Estrella Regional Mountain Park

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

Estrella Mountain Regional Park is located on the south side of the Gila River in Goodyear at Bullard Ave. and Vineyard Rd. There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park

This is a two hour hike in the park and along the Gila river discovering the bird life of the park. Between the river habitat, the mesquite bosque, the near by farm fields, and the turf area, over 150 different species have been observed.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the Visitors Center parking lot at 8 a.m.

Thursday, March 21, 2013

East Verde River and Tonto National Bridge

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

The East Verde Rive has lots of Sycamore and Cottonwood trees that line it, lots of water and thus lots of birds. This is a great birding area that has the potential for variety of warblers, vireos, woodpeckers, flycatchers, phoebes, swallows, etc. The Tonto National Bridge is a unique area that presents different habitats in the same small place. The bridge itself is more like a tunnel that Pine Creek flows through. These two areas should produce lots of birds.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch

Meet at Fry's Electronics Store, 31st Ave and Thunderbird in the parking lot on the north side of the building (N.E. corner) at 7 a.m.

FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA

Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

Estrella Mountain Regional Park is located on the south side of the Gila River in Goodyear at Bullard Ave. and Vineyard Rd. There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks are free of charge.

Join the Sonoran Audubon Society for an easy two hour hike in the park and along the Gila river discovering the bird life of Estrella Park. Between the river habitat, the mesquite bosque, the near by farm fields, and the turf area, over 150 different species have been observed. We have two walks each month —Saturday and Sunday. Bring your own binoculars and books if you have them, a limited number will be available if you don't. Rain cancels event.

SATURDAYS: These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. the next walk will be on **January 12, 2013**. Meet at the visitors center parking lot at 8 a.m. The walk will last approximately two hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 lford25@cox.net.

SUNDAYS: These walks are held on the fourth Sunday of the month. The next one will be on **January 27, 2013**, starting at 8 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park—the Navy Area. For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 mcbo-baz@aol.com or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 aw-tarby@gmail.com.

Welcome and Thank You

Since our last newsletter, more people joined or rejoined the National Audubon Society that live in our designated area. This automatically makes all of them a member of our chapter. These members are Sue Bozarth, Judith Castiano, Marian Clark, Margaret Clyde, Kim Cohen, Belinda Collins-Hopkins, Angela Decesarò, Carl Dillon, Velia Fernandez, Sherry Fulcher, Rich Glinski, Nolan Greene, Colleen Gusler, Holly Hunter, Brian Jacobs, Gloria Joiner, Michael Kraemer, Rachel Maclas, Rebecca Maestas, James Pagan, Eunice Plax, Dan Pollard, George Poste and Linda Thompson.

We've also had an influx of "Friends" who are either new or have been absent for awhile. They are: Laurie Allen, Dean Ammons, Jacklyn Anderson, Diana Barnum, Glenn Bennett, Gerry Berger, Len Boeder, Judith Burke, Edward and Margaret Dempsey, Jeffrey Deutsch, Pat Dutrack, Patricia Fowler, Kathy Heyman, Carolyn Gordon-Loebig, Jan Milhizer, Rich and Susan Miller, Suzie Nelson, Joan Pierson, Lisa Wright-Rios, Richard Roberts, Carol Sharplin, Carol Teguns, Courtney Waterbury and Cindy Zoliner.

Welcome All!

What Makes a Backyard Bird Habitat?

By George Wall

We are going to continue showing you various type of backyards in this and future editions of the newsletter like the one by Karen LaFrance on the next two pages. The more types we show you, the more ideas you'll have to make a backyard bird friendly habitat.

One of the things that make a backyard bird habitat that we really haven't covered as thoroughly as we should is food. There are two types of food—natural and bought.

Natural foods are what is growing in your yard or can be growing in your yard. One of these natural foods is fruit. A lot of birds eat fruit. Some of the larger birds that regularly eat fruit and are in West Valley are Black-headed Grosbeaks, Curve-billed Thrashers, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Mockingbirds, Gila Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, American Robins, and if you're lucky, orioles. Small birds like finches also eat fruit to supplement their diet.

Just about every type of fruit attracts these birds. These fruits include berries (Hackberry, Blackberry, and Chokeberry just to name a few), various type grapes, and then there are the fruit trees – citrus, pears, apples, figs and so on.

Fruit trees also attract insects that will be an important food source for flycatchers, warblers, hummingbirds and even more bird species.

Other natural foods are from seed plants like marigolds, sunflowers, Black-eyed Susans, Baja Fairy Duster and various cone-flowers.

For hummingbirds, there are numerous flowering plants like the honeysuckle.

There are numerous types of boughten food. There are suet, hummingbird nectar, compressed seeds in blocks or shapes, even mealworms and, of course, the bags of various types of seeds.

The best choice of seed that attract the most birds is sunflower. There are two types of sunflower seeds—striped which have a hard shell and black oil which have a thin shell. More birds will go for the black oil. Of course, the hulled seeds really do the trick but are expensive. Another good seed is the thistle which will attract goldfinch as well as some other birds.

When you start buying mixed seed there are two types—the common bird seed mix and the premium and there is a great difference.

The common mix has a lot of filler which doesn't feed the bird at all and sometimes just stays on the ground. This filler is red millet, red milo and sometimes wheat. If you're going to buy the common mix, add some cracked corn and more sunflower seeds.

If you're going to buy, premium mix is what you should buy. This mix will usually contain black oil sunflower seeds, white millet, cracked corn, thistle and perhaps safflower seeds.

I personally like to mix my own seeds up. I buy bags of the various better seeds and mix them including adding cracked corn.

The same goes for suet. There are all kinds of recipes for suet on the Internet and they are not hard to make. Have fun!

Financial Report-June - November, 2012

By Haylie Hewitt

INCOME:

Direct Public Support

Friends of SAS	365.57
National Audubon Dues Share	<u>000.00</u>
Total Direct Public Support	365.57

Indirect Public Support

Environmental Fund of Arizona	<u>790.67</u>
Total Indirect Public Support	790.67

Investments

Interest Income	<u>4.30</u>
Total Investments	4.30

Other Types of Income

AZ Game & Fish Funding	2,500.00
Edu. Comm.—Books and Tees	90.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>268.00</u>
Total Other Types of Income	2,858.00

TOTAL INCOME **4,018.54**

EXPENSE:

Chapter Operations	1,157.96
Consultant Fee	1,650.00
Hospitality	49.55
Liability Insurance	265.00
All Mileage Reimbursements	1,485.58
Newsletter expense & Printing	455.26
SAS Outside Memberships	640.00
Speakers	140.00
Webmaster/Web Hosting	308.88

TOTAL EXPENSE **6,152.23**

NET INCOME **- 2,133.69**

Even though we have a negative income during this period, we don't have the National Audubon Society dues share in yet. Also, we are hoping to receive some year end dues from our friends during December and January.

My One-Quarter Acre for the Birds

By Karen LaFrance

Photos by George Wall

My One-Quarter Acre in Northeast Phoenix lies adjacent to the northern unit of the Phoenix Mountains Preserve, a swath of Sonoran Desert remnant that snakes through the City from Thunderbird Rd. south to Lincoln/Glendale Aves. On the Preserve, any reasonably inviting backyard habitat will attract all the Sonoran Desert avian varieties.

When first I glimpsed the One-Quarter Acre in 1995, I had already been to the Desert Botanical Garden and had learned “xeriscape” and hints of what Kendall Kroesen calls “Natural Landscaping” for backyards in a desert environment. I thought: “Oh no, this property is not landscaped correctly--it’s Florida!” There was a lemon tree, a gardenia bush with mistletoe, an orchid tree, seven palms, substantial grassy areas that had been mowed like golf course greens and a huge African Sumac tree that sprouted babies everywhere in the lawns. Wrong and water-hungry as it was, the property acted as an oasis attracting a large variety of birds....

In summer 1998, I took the pickax to ALL the grass and low plantings in front. I then bought commercially one nursery-raised Foothills Palo Verde and a small Ironwood Tree. Splurging, I ordered a twelve foot Saguaro with arms for a spotlight plant. Back to DBG for Members’ Plant Sale, I spent \$60.00 and came home with two smallish bare root Saguaro. I planted a second Palo Verde for “accent”, bought at Bashas’ in a gallon container for \$30.00. I left the palms and the Norwegian Pine Tree for shade and birds. Only the Pine gets watered along with an old Bouganvillea next to the house but EVERYTHING new has grown significantly.

In 2002, I had a professional demolish “Florida” and design the backyard with more climatologically-appropriate plants. I wasn’t particular whether Sonoran or not, but I wanted to reduce the water guzzling and yet attract as many birds as possible. Several volunteer desert bushes were thriving without water already--Brittle Bushes, Creosotes, a few little cacti, Desert Marigolds, etc. As shown in the picture, the redesigned backyard sported three Palo Brea trees and additional “accents” including Hummingbird Bushes. I left the orchid tree for shade and the birds on the east side of the house. There is drip irrigation on these plantings. The whole demolition and renovation cost \$10,000.

Maintenance-wise, water usage and costs have been reduced. I do trim the Palo Verdes and Palo Breas up away from the pool, but I do not “top off” any plantings, ever. About every two years, I have “the guys” do major trimming. Each year, of course, the palms are trimmed of their horrid seeds for about \$200--AFTER the orioles and Cactus Wrens have had their young. I leave the leaf litter for little critter habitat to attract ground-foragers. Bird seed feeders decades ago closed up shop; I have one, well-tended, hummer feeder and regular water sources.



Karen LaFrance in right side of her front yard

Between 1995 and the present, I have identified 86 species in, or in the airspace over, my yard. All the desert dwellers abound; the yard has “trapped” ALL the Western warblers--usually in multiple numbers-- and this spring a bright male Hooded Warbler. Many “unusuals” have come by too. The signature Saguaro is an apartment building where Gila Woodpeckers and Starlings raise their young together in separate holes. The Gambel’s Quail have young in the yard and I have NEVER found their eggs! A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers have brought off young for the past two years in my habitat which, I guess, appears to them as a little stream in the woods. And, if you see me around, ask me about the mammals and reptiles of my One-Quarter Acre....

This is pure delight, in the middle of urban Phoenix, to have nourished a space that works so well for our native desert birds.



Left side of the front yard

(Continued from Page 4)

My One-Quarter Acre for the Birds

By Karen LaFrance

Photos by George Wall



Backyard and Panoramic View

Spotlight on Karen LaFrance as reported by Eleanor Campbell

Karen LaFrance, a long-time Audubon member, joined Sonoran Audubon about ten years ago. She was the Board's Vice President for four years and a Director-at-Large after that.

Her interest in birds began as a youngster in New York State where her mother pointed them out. She did Christmas Bird Counts in Pennsylvania in 1980 with her FIRST binoculars and became a veteran bird counter. As a member of the Pittsburgh Audubon chapter she first learned of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and visited its Sapsucker Woods with her new binoculars.

Karen graduated from Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts with a BA degree in History. She has an MA degree from the University of Nebraska and an MA in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh.

Her dedication to conservation and the environment continues with her commitment to the Agua Fria Partnership where she has been instrumental in educating its members about the watershed issues of the area.

She contributes her skills in bird counting with participation in a Long Term Ecological Research Project initiated at ASU covering all of Maricopa County. Three years ago she was awarded a prestigious Together Green Grant sponsored by National Audubon and Toyota. With these funds she organized the first Western Audubon Roundup held at nearby Saguaro Lake Ranch. Audubon members came from several Western states for the extensive Learning Conference to share, network and benefit from excellent conservation-oriented speakers.

YRARF

By Dr. Jerry Theis

Are any of you familiar with the initials YRARF? Well, read on. It stands for Yellow Rail and Rice Festival. This event occurs annually and was initiated by Louisiana rice farmers Kevin and Shirley Berken and Louisiana State University ornithologists Donna Dittmann and Steve Cardiff (reportedly over a bottle or two of wine). This festival is intended to bring birders and rice farmers together during Louisiana's second rice harvest, making Yellow Rail searching a more reliable endeavor and giving individuals the opportunity to see rice harvesting operations up close.

Yellow Rails breed in grassy marches, boggy swales, and in damp fields in Canada and certain areas of the upper Midwestern states of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin; however, they winter on the gulf coast from Texas to the tip of Florida and then on over to the east coast up through the Carolinas.

The Yellow Rails are always uncommon and secretive and are small (slightly over seven inches). Adults have brown upperparts streaked with black, a yellowish-brown breast, a light belly and barred flanks. The short thick dark bill turns yellow in males during the breeding season. The feathers on the back are edged with white. There is a yellow brown band over the eye and the legs are greenish-yellow. In flight, it shows a distinctive large white wing patch on the trailing edge of each wing. The familiar call, heard chiefly in breeding season, sounds like tapping two pebbles together.



Yellow Rail—photo from Wikipedia

stationed at field sites to help identify rail species as they flush (King, Sora, Virginia and Yellow Rails all winter here). Views of flying rails are often better from the sidelines than from on the combine, as the birds quickly dive for cover. The YRARF was a wonderful experience and truly does bring rice farmers and birders together to realize the importance of the areas “working wetlands.” This year’s event drew the maximum 125 participants from 27 states and three additional countries, including Kuwait. Each participant was given a bag of rice, provided by local farmers Jimmy Hoppe and the Falcon Rice Mill, at a dinner featuring Cajun foods such as gumbo and jambalaya.

If you desire to see a Yellow Rail at this festival, all you need is binoculars and tall rubber boots!

The Louisiana Cajun country is one of the primary rice-growing regions in the U.S. and it is where many birds winter including waterfowl, wrens, sparrows, blackbirds, and Yellow Rails! The chance of seeing a Yellow Rail is perhaps better here than anywhere else, as the rice combines flush the birds as they collect the *lagniappe* (extra) autumn crop.

I had witnessed rice harvesting in Thailand and in several South American countries, all done by hand, but I had never experienced mechanized rice harvesting. In October, 2012, I attended the 4th annual YRARF and I did see Yellow Rails, both from the combine and from the sidelines, along with three other rail species. Each morning we departed the community of Jennings, Louisiana, and met at the Thornwell Warehouse Association building, near a rice-drying facility, and from there we caravanned to rice fields that were dry enough to harvest.

We each had a daily field pass, numbered in order of payment received, allowing us to ride the combines. Facilitators were



Rice Harvester Combine—Photo by David Larson

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

Audubon's Birds 'n Beer, is being offered on January 17th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. This event is held every third Thursday of the month sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery. Proceeds from the sale of beer go to Audubon Arizona. Local professionals will present a program and give you a refreshing way to learn about Arizona birds and other wildlife.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix and their regular hours except for special events are Tuesday-Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail riosalado@audubon.org for more information about their programs and events.

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month from October through May starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. The next meeting on January 18, 2013, will be a video on birds.

There is a birding trip scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2013, to Thunderbird Park. Meet at the Church of the Palms parking lot in Sun City to leave at 8 a.m.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings and trips.

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

Hassayampa River Preserve

Anne Leight has bird banding programs on Saturday, January 5th and on Sunday, January 20th at 7:00 a.m. Newcomers are welcome; however, if you want to help bird band, you must contact Anne Leight at birdannabelle@hotmail.com.

There will be an Interpretive Tour on Saturday, January 26th from 8:30-10 a.m. Enjoy an easy paced walk along the trails with a docent to catch sight of resident and migratory birds.

Backyard Birding Program on Sunday, January 27th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Explore this hobby and learn techniques that will help you identify birds. Class includes an easy walk along the trails.

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

Gilbert Water Ranch

This is one of the best places in the valley to bird watch. There are nice easy trails that you can walk that take you around numerous ponds. There is also a nice visitor center.

Take highway 60 to Greenfield Road. Turn right 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 their website at <http://sites.google.com/site/birdsofthegilbertwaterranch/>

Desert Botanical Garden

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

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students. DBG Membership is \$65 a year (\$75 for Families). When special events are held, the entry fee could be higher. See their website at www.dbg.org for further information.

Arizona Field Ornithologists

See their website at www.Azfo.org for more details.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Learn to identify resident birds and seasonal migrants on a two-hour walk guided by Mark Ochs and Joanne Barr on New Year's Day, January 1st, starting at 8:30 a.m. in the visitor center breezeway. Joanne returns Sunday, January 6th to lead a walk at 8:30 am.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum opens at 8:00 a.m. \$9.00 for adults, \$4.50 for ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>.

Festivals

Wings Over Willcox in Willcox, AZ

January 16-20, 2013, is their birding and nature festival. Tour for birds, geology, local history, & botany. Free seminars, free nature expo with live animals, wildlife art, crafts, children's activities. Keynote speaker at the banquet is Kenn Kaufman.

Wings Over Willcox is celebrating its 20th anniversary. For more information got to their website at <http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com>.



Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

Location: West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church,
corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in

Glendale — Time: 6:30 p.m. for socializing and
7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program.

Upcoming Schedule:

January 9, 2012: Mike Quigley-Arizona Desert
Heritage

February 13, 2013: David & Dianne Reesor—
Antarctica

March 13, 2013: Michelle Wiznitzer—Arizona Birding
from a Non-birder

April 10, 2013: Thomas Gaskill—Jays, Nutcrackers
and Pines

May 8, 2013: David Dise/George Wall—Brown
Canyon & Area Adventure

October 9, 2013: Ross Hawkins—Hummingbirds
Galore

Other Dates of Interest: January 2, 2013, 7 p.m.
Monthly Board Meeting at above location. Members are
invited to attend as guests.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org
Audubon Arizona Web Site: www.az.audubon.org
Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:
www.desertriversaudubon.org
Maricopa Audubon Web Site:
www.maricopaaudubon.org
Arizona Field Ornithologists: www.azfo.org
National Audubon: <http://audubon.org/>



7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale and located near 75th Avenue behind
Mimi's Café and next to the Souper Salad.

Ph: 623-773-3000—Website: <http://Glendale.wbu.com>

Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

Officers

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

Vice President: Tim Cullison 602-863-9744

timcullisonaz@aol.com

Treasurer: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180

haylie.hewitt@cox.net

Secretary: Gail Bliss 623-877-3317 gmbliiss@juno.com

Board Members— Directors at Large

John Arnett 623-695-0953 treerunner@yahoo.com

Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639 ercamp@juno.com

Jim Consolloy 609-439-8851 jconsolloy@gmail.com

Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 lford25@cox.net

Darnell Kirksey 602-938-6174 dkirk38338@aol.com

Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425 awtarby@gmail.com

Jerry Theis 623-878-6528 jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com

Committees

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

Education/Conservation: Currently meeting every other
month; call Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360.

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@centurylink.net

Database Managers: George Wall 623-875-7057
gwall5@cox.net and Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451
tlazzelle@cox.net

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

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Project: Karen LaFrance 602-
809-3360 klaf40@gmail.com

Care Centers for Birds

Fallen Feathers

Handles and cares for all birds
9532 W. Cielo Grande, Peoria
Jodie Kieran 623-533-2348
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