



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

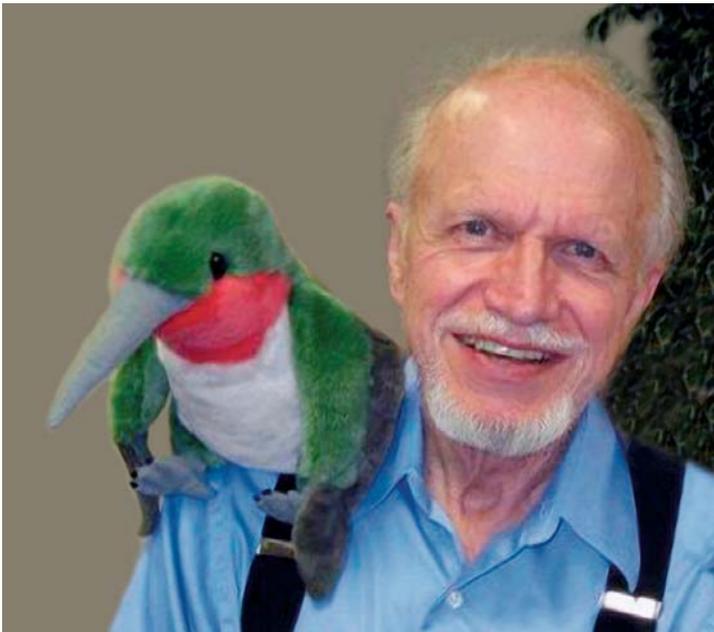
Volume 15 Issue 2

October 2013

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

Dr. H. Ross Hawkins: Hummingbirds: the Most Amazing—and Beautiful—Birds in the World

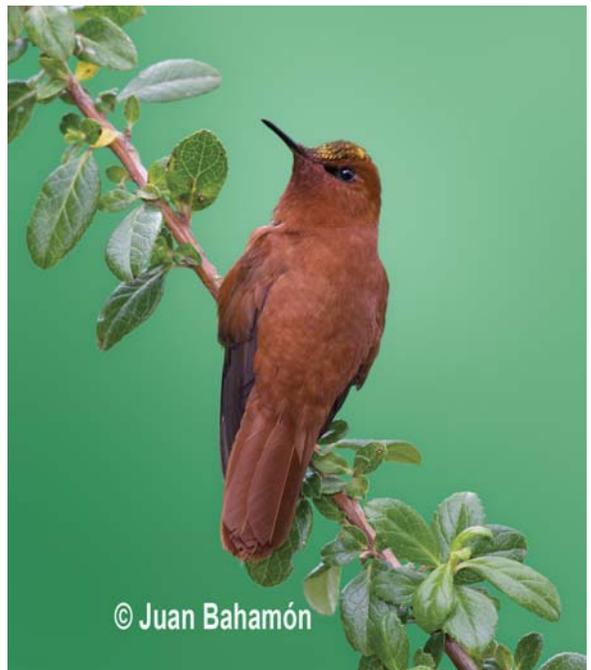
Since the summer of 1988, Dr. Ross Hawkins has had a passionate interest in hummingbirds. When he learned after studying them that no organization existed to protect any of the thirty endangered species, he founded The Hummingbird Society (1996). Since then he has devoted his life to learning more about hummingbirds, working to protect the ones at risk, and communicating their story in presentations. His knowledge of hummingbirds, leavened by his sense of humor, sets him apart as a uniquely qualified professional speaker.



Dr. H. Ross Hawkins and his Hummingbird

Hummingbirds, the most universally loved birds in the world, have a certain charisma, inspiring devotion and enthusiasm. They also are magical: their dazzling appearance and hovering flight abilities amaze us and seem to defy understanding. Dr. Ross Hawkins, Founder and Executive Director of The Hummingbird Society, presents an intimate look at these “glittering fragments of the rainbow,” as John James Audubon described them. Through images and stories he holds your attention as you begin to understand their unique relationship with flowers, their tiny amazing nests, their hovering capabilities, their unbelievable GPS-like memories, and their fearlessness of humans. Our personal encounters with hummingbirds are often memorable, and this presentation is equally so.

His presentations always find a welcoming reception, because hummingbirds are universally loved. Audiences of all types have applauded the entertaining and educational nature of Hawkins’ talks, which feature eye-popping hummingbird images and engaging stories about them. Consistently, his audience assessments are highly positive.



Juan Fernandez Firecrown
Photo with permission of Juan Bahamón

President's Corner

HELLO FROM HAYLIE:



It was great seeing so many of you at our September membership meeting. I would like to recognize Jackie Anderson for taking over our Bookstore duties, and Sharron Sell, who is our new Hospitality person.

Caleb Strand is another member volunteering for SAS. I believe he is our youngest Friend and is a very bright and talented birder who lives here in the West Valley. SAS is happy to announce that Caleb will be writing a series of online articles that you will be able to find in the near future on our website under the heading "Caleb's Corner." You can read his very first article elsewhere in this newsletter.

I just returned from a long weekend trip to Carlsbad, CA, to attend an insurance convention with my husband. I was wondering what I would do while he was attending the meetings and I was happy to realize that the hotel where we stayed was within walking distance of Batiquitos Lagoon. "Batiquitos" means watering hole.

The lagoon is approximately 600 acres and is an ecological reserve managed by the CA Department of Fish and Game. The walking trail is about a mile and a half long and runs along the north shore of the lagoon. It is now a beautiful area of coastal salt marsh and tidal mudflats, but it wasn't always this way.

Years of erosion and use as a landfill had taken their toll and turned the lagoon into a fresh water pond. Major dredging was done in the 1990s to restore the lagoon's access to the ocean. During the reclamation project nesting sites were created for the endangered Least Tern and Snowy Plover. Around 600 Least Tern nests and 150 young were counted there recently.

It's great to see important habitats like this one restored and preserved and to see the area thriving. As I walked past the golf course to get to the lagoon, I saw Black Phoebes and Killdeer. Great Blue Herons and Great and Snowy Egrets were wading and hunting along the shore, and I feel certain I saw a Long-Billed Curlew. My favorite sight was an Osprey eating a fish on a dead snag at the water's edge.

Thanks for letting me share this with you and I look forward to seeing you at the membership meeting on October 9th.

Sonoran Audubon Society

Board Meeting Synopsis

September 4, 2013

Attendees: Board members present: John Arnett, Dan Bohlmann, Jim Consolloy, Tim Cullison, Haylie Hewitt, Gail Bliss, Darnell Kirksey, Andrea Nesbitt, Jerry Theis, Karen LaFrance, consultant, and guest, Tom Lazzelle. Absent: Joe Ford and Andrée Tarby.

We currently have 81 members that are Friends only and 146 Friends that are also part of the 877 total report that we get from National.

Karen reported that there will be a survey of chapter members to find out how they think the Chapter is doing. Watch your e-mail in basket.

The date for next year's picnic was discussed. Hopefully, by the next newsletter, a date in March will be selected.

There are three prints and some commemorative stamps that will be auctioned at the upcoming meetings (October, November, December). So bring your checkbook – it is never too early to be thinking about your holiday shopping or upcoming birthdays and anniversaries.

It was decided that in the future, approved Board meeting minutes will be posted on the Web site and in the newsletter.

Remember the Annual Board Retreat is coming up on October 19 at the Hassayampa River Preserve. All are welcomed to attend. See write up on page 4.

Gail Bliss
Secretary

Welcome and Thank You

Since our last newsletter, we've had a lot of new members from National who either joined or transferred in from other areas. They are Mary Ruth Ansager, Mary Arthur, Gail Barrow, Carol Bergman, Alexander Boyd, Shirley Brandon, James Buis, Jeanne Butler, Jeanette Coates, Douglas Cobb, Hilda Ferba, Thomas Ferranti, Cheri Hauser, Janet Herbert, Sidney Hollander, Laura and Fred Hules, Lynn Kelly, Nancy Little, Martha Regan, C. Ripoli, Carol Seipal, Manuel Silva, Pat Smith, Diane Sprinkle, Doris Steeves, Marcia Thias and Richard Weidner.

We also have a new "Friend" - Kay F. Johnson.

Welcome to all of you.

2013 Field Trips—Fall and 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.

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Clear Creek Campground

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net

Clear Creek Campground is east of Camp Verde on Highway 260. We have stayed there many times over the years and have always noticed a large number of birds in the campground. Clear Creek flowing through the campground, a number of man-made channels running from the creek, an abundance of cottonwood and sycamore trees and other bushes attract numerous birds and wildlife. Some of the birds I've seen are Blue Grosbeaks, Cardinals, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Spotted and Green-tailed Towhees, Song Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Bullock's Oriole, Western and Summer Tanagers, Lesser Goldfinches, vireos, warblers and Scrub Jays. After we exhaust ourselves going in circles around the campground, we will try some areas near the Verde River and nearby fields on the river road that goes further south along the west side of the river.

Difficulty: 2 Bring a lunch.

We will meet at the Fry's Electronics Store at 31st Ave. and Thunderbird Ave. in the Northeast corner of the parking lot at 7 a.m. or at McDonald's at Carefree Hwy. and I17 at 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Hassayampa River Preserve

Leader: Vera Markham 623-974-1110 vjmsaint AT cox.net

Hassayampa is always a nice place to take a bird walk as you never know what you'll find. There are nice easy trails to walk around the area and also to the river.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch if you want to eat there.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at 7:00 a.m. or you can meet the group at the Hassayampa River Preserve at 8:00 a.m. There is a \$5 fee for each person unless you're a Nature Conservancy member and then it is \$3.

Saturday, November 9, 2013

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

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

We will explore four habitats; the human altered park grounds with huge gum trees and mesquite bosque: a desert scrub region with paloverde and salt bush: a riparian area along the Gila River with mud flats: twin lakes area to the east on a mitigated sand and gravel operation with two relatively large bodies of water. This trip is an easy walk of approximately a mile and a half on good trails which will take two to three hours. Species encountered will be raptors, shorebirds, warblers, woodpeckers, and gnatcatchers. Bald Eagles have been seen in these areas along as well as falcons, large flocks of ibis, vireos and Western Grebe.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the Visitors Center at 8 a.m. Note: There is a \$6 entry fee per car.

Friday-Saturday, November 15-16, 2013

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge and local areas in the Colorado River valley.

Leader: Kathe Anderson

Contact: Barb Meding

barbameding AT yahoo.com

Cibola is famous as a wintering ground for ducks, geese (Canada and Snow) and Sandhill Cranes. We will drive the two mile Goose loop and walk the Cornfield Nature Trail. We will spend the night in Blythe and will explore other areas along the Colorado River which is a migratory flyway. Who knows what we will find? In one November I found 60 species just at Cibola. This trip is limited to 8 people.

Friday, November 22, 2013.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Leader: Andrée Tarby (602-421-9425) awtarby AT gmail.com

This late fall outing will be to a favorite local site. There may be a few tardy migrants moving south or species settling in for the winter (sparrows, thrushes). A lot depends on the weather and there may or may not be any fall color left.

Difficulty: 1, but remember the hill (you can always walk around). Bring a lunch if you want to eat in the picnic area, which I intend to do. BTA also has a list of local restaurants.

Meeting places and carpools can be arranged when we know where people are coming from. We plan to be there when it opens at 8 AM. Admission is \$10 (it is a State Park!) unless you are a member or can score guess passes.

(Continued on Page 4)

Continued from page 4

2013 Field Trips—Fall and Winter

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Glendale Recharge Ponds

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

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

Difficulty: 1

Meet at McDonald's, Olive and 91st street at 7:30 a.m. for rides, or meet at the north end of 107th going north from Camelback. There are several places to park in the area just as it makes a curve onto gravel on the south side of the six basins. Bird walk will start at 8 a.m.

SAS RETREAT

Saturday, October 19, 2013, 7 a.m. until 2 p.m.

This fun retreat will be held out at Hassayampa River Preserve and is open to anyone interested in our chapter. You don't need to be a board member to attend; all are welcome.

There will be a bird walk first, and both breakfast and lunch will be provided. We'll be reviewing our past accomplishments and generating ideas for the future. It's a nice way to get to know your fellow members and help our chapter continue to grow.

Hope to see you there! RSVP to Haylie Hewitt: 623-581-1180 [haylie.hewitt AT cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net)

West Valley Birding Brochure: Now Available! by Karen LaFrance

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

FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

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

Join the Sonoran Audubon Society for an easy two hour hike in the park and along the Gila river. Over 150 different species have been observed at the park. We have a Saturday and Sunday walk each month. Bring water and your own binoculars and books if you have them though a limited number will be available. Rain cancels the walks.

SATURDAYS: These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be **October 12th**. Meet at the visitors center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. The walk will last approximately two hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25 AT cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net).

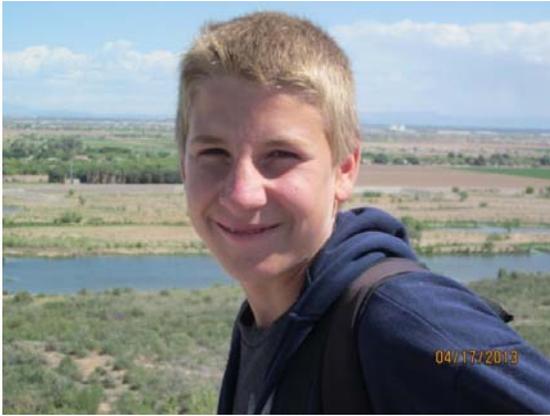
SUNDAYS: These walks are held on the fourth Sunday of the month. The first one after the summer break will be on **October 27, 2013** starting at 8.00 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park—the Navy North Parking Lot. For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 [mcbobaz AT aoi.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aoi.com) or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 [awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com).

The bird walk held on September 14th and led by Joe Ford, attracted seventeen birders (members of Cub Scout Pack 64 from Phoenix, birders from Mesa, Avondale, Sun City, and Surprise). They walked the park, the trail along the Gila River, and ended up at the two mitigated lakes at the east end of the BLM area, itself east of Estrella Regional Mountain Park.

The real tragedy in this area at this time of year is a river without much water. The first pools were encountered at the east end of the BLM area, and thankfully the lakes were full. However, little shoreline with mudflats was available for "peeps" and plovers. The bottom line is without much water available in the river birds are going to be limited.

Keith and Lindsay Story from Mesa were very helpful with their sharp eyes and a great spotting scope finding birds.

Highlights were the two warbler species (Nashville and Wilson's) seen quite clearly and most likely on their way south, several Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, a Green-tailed Towhee and an Osprey.



Caleb Strand

Hi, my name is Caleb Strand. I am a fourteen year old homeschooler and live in the West Valley near Buckeye, Arizona. There are a lot of canals and agricultural fields near my home, and this setting has provided me many opportunities to see birds, especially in the winter. I have been interested in birds since I was seven years old and began bird-watching seriously when I was eleven. It has become my hobby and passion and I hope to have a career involving birds in some way. My other hobbies include music and photography. I have been playing the piano for 4 years and am also involved in a small band. I have also photographed around 200 different bird species. I look forward to providing you with "Caleb's Corner" on a monthly basis. It is my desire that you enjoy reading this column and I am thankful for having the opportunity to bring it to you.

Caleb's Corner: The Screeching Great Horned Owls of Happy Jack Campground, Arizona

By Caleb Strand

Every weekend this summer my family and I camped at an RV Park called Happy Jack Lodge up on the Mogollon Rim. Its location is on Lake Mary Road (FR3) just north of mile marker 292. My favorite thing to do there is bird-watching as much as possible.

One of the highlights this year happened while we were sitting around our campfire. I heard a loud, bird like, screeching noise in the distance. I wondered what was making that sound until one night, around 9 p.m., I went to do some photography with a friend and fellow camper, Mr. Jimmy, who is 28 years old and is a professional photographer. We went down by the lodge entrance and heard the same screeching again. Shining my flashlight up into one of the tall pine trees I saw the red eye shine of what looked like an owl.

Walking up to the owl-shaped bird, I thought that it could be a stray Barn Owl from down in the valley. The closer I got, I realized the bird was too big to be a Barn Owl. That's when the thought of a Great Horned Owl popped into my mind, but it was making a screeching sound, not hooting which I would expect.



Great Horned Owl by Caleb Strand

The owl was big, and had a brownish chest with a white streak going through the middle, and it had ear tufts. These observations led me to think Great Horned Owl. While I continued to shine my flashlight in one direction I realized that there were more screeching sounds all around.

Searching with my light I found 5 other adult Great Horned Owls up in the large pine trees. They flew back and forth in search of food, one grabbing what looked to be a large moth. As we were watching one owl, another owl flew up with a chipmunk in its beak. I continued to photograph and observe the owls for a couple of hours.

Since that night I've gone back to that spot every weekend and brought other campers to watch the owls. The campers were fascinated and seemed to appreciate the awesome wonder of the owls just as much as I did. Later, my curiosity led me to research the screeching (so different from the normal hooting sound) and I found that usually the screeching is from juveniles. Although many of the owls were not juveniles that were screeching, there may have been some juveniles that we did not see. The juveniles may have been using the screech to beg for food.

The Great Horned Owl is a common year-round resident in Arizona. They are a common species at several elevations. In my birding trips I have found Great Horned Owls in cottonwoods, sycamores, pines and even salt cedar. I have also seen and photographed one at Estrella Regional Mountain Park during one of Sonoran Audubon Society's monthly bird walks. The photo below is from that bird walk.

I look forward to next year at Happy Jack, eagerly anticipating other birds that will catch my eye and the images that will enter the lens of my camera.

Book Review by Jackie Anderson

From “Shotgun Ornithology” to “Field-glass Fraternity”

Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding by Scott Weidensaul

“They often sit upon our Chimneys in Summer, there being then no Fire in them, and sing the whole Evening and most part of the Night.” So wrote John Lawson about the Mocking-Bird in 1709. He also wrote about hummingbirds describing their eggs as being “the Bigness of Pease.” These and other facts are packed into the latest book by Scott Weidensaul, *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*. With a talent for storytelling, he entertains us with tales of the bird mythology of the Native Americans, allows us to travel with the early naturalists like Lawson and Mark Catesby, gives us a taste of the rivalry between Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon, and then brings us round to the modern birders such as Roger Tory Peterson, David Sibley, and Ken Kauffman.

Weidensaul outlines the hazards of being a naturalist when the process of preserving specimens included using arsenic which led to the deaths of both John Cassin and John Townsend, where the whiskey preserving a collection of snakes and lizards was apt to be drunk by the workmen thus ruining the specimens, and where there was a high risk of having your work plagiarized.

Along the way we learn that a good ornithologist also needed to be a good shot, because collecting was the only way to study birds closely. Even the Christmas Bird Count began as a contest to see who could shoot the most wildlife in one day. Those who wanted to study birds by looking at them alive, were at first called “opera glass fiends.” Once better optics came along, Peterson’s “field-glass fraternity” began to grow. Today birding as a hobby has now become “almost cool.”

Of course this has led to competitive birding, listing, big years and the World Series of Birding, first held in 1984 in New Jersey. In the last chapters Weidensaul muses over where birding is going philosophically, and urges us to slow down and “take a path where the thrill of the sport is tempered by the celebration of the creature that makes it all possible.”

Sonoran Audubon’s 2014 Important Bird Area Schedule

If you would like to participate in a count, contact the area leader for the date, time and carpool information. We would love to have your help. Beginners encouraged!

Salt and Gila Rivers IBA - Census Surveys (4 counts)

November (mid-November), January (mid-January), March (mid-March), April (mid-April)

Area Leaders

Tres Rios (Census & Area Search)	- CLOSED -
Jackie Meck’s Lake (Census)	Bob McCormick mcbobaz AT aol.com
Arlington WA (Census)	Haylie Hewitt haylie.hewitt AT cox.net
Robbins Butte (Census)	Andrée Tarby atarby AT gmail.com
B&M WA (Area Search)	Joe Ford lford25 AT cox.net

Agua Fria Riparian IBA – (2 counts each) – 1 transect & 1 point count

Transects: Late April or Early May, Mid July (optional)

Point counts: Late May, Late August (Grasslands only and optional)

Area Leaders

Horseshoe Ford	Bob McCormick	mcbobaz AT aol.com
Sycamore East	Joe Ford	lford25 AT cox.net
Sycamore West	Andrée Tarby	atarby AT gmail.com
Perry Mesa Grasslands	Bob McCormick	mcbobaz AT aol.com

Agua Fria Riparian IBA – Area Searches

Late April, Late August

Perry Mesa Grasslands (3 sites)	Bob McCormick	mcbobaz AT aol.com
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The Bee Hummingbird

By Dr. Jerry Theis

I visited Cuba in 2002 and easily saw the Cuban Emerald, a widely distributed endemic hummingbird. In March of this year, as I flew from Phoenix to Charlotte, to Cancun and on to Havana, I had a lot of time to think about my quest to see the smallest bird in the world, the Bee Hummingbird. The Bee Hummingbird inhabits woodland, swampland, coastal forests, mountain valleys, shrubbery and gardens, occasionally in fairly open country, but generally requires mature growth with thick tangles of lianas, rich in epiphytes, in lowland areas. It prefers the nectar of Aloe, Hibiscus and especially *Solandra grandiflora* (Chalice Vine, Cup of Gold Vine), a vine with large ornamental flowers with a high sucrose concentration, as well as insects. This hummingbird is endemic to Cuba and formerly was also found on the Isla de la Juventud.



Bee Hummingbird—Photo from Softpedia.com

We walked a forest road in Zapata where we were told that a Bee Hummingbird frequented several clumps of flowering bushes. This hummingbird may visit 1500 flowers in one day. After a short while, bingo, a Bee Hummingbird, a female, hovered and landed. What a relief. I had finally seen the world's smallest bird. WRONG! The female of this species is slightly longer than the male (2.4 inches to 2.17 inches). Several days later, in Bermeja, a local rancher, whose property included banks of tiny white flowers, yelled "male." Indeed, a male was perched at the tip of a fruit tree. We were able to study its beauty as it moved from tree top to power line to tree top. NOW I had seen the world's smallest bird!

A male Bee Hummingbird has a straight, dull black bill. It's head and throat are fiery red, its iridescent gorget with elongated lateral plumes. The rest of the upper parts are bluish and the rest of the under parts are mostly greyish-white, with a slightly concave tail. The female has green upper parts, whitish under parts, with a rounded tail, with white tips to the outer tail feathers. Most hummingbirds are 6-12 cm in size and have a body mass of around 2.5-6.5 g. The Reddish Hermit and the Bee Hummingbird each weigh less than 2 g, which is less than the weight of a penny. Be-

cause of its small size, it is often mistaken for a honey bee, hence its common name. Bee Hummingbirds can fly up to twenty hours nonstop, flapping their wings eighty times per second, or 25-30 MPH. The Bee Hummingbird's heart rate is 1200 times per minute, the second fastest heart rate recorded in an animal, second only to the Asian Shrew. The Bee Hummingbird has fewer feathers than any other bird.

The nest of the Bee Hummingbird is made of dried plant fibers with a soft inner layer of plant wool, decorated by lichens and partly concealed by overhanging leaves, about 1 inch in diameter. Nests have been built on single clothespins! The two eggs are 11 x 8 mm in size and are incubated for 21-22 days. The chicks, dark-red in color, leave the nest at 18 days. Bee Hummingbirds emit a long, quite high pitched twitter, as well as low warbling notes.

The Bee Hummingbird was formerly common and widespread, but is now less common and localized. Their principal threat is habitat loss. Large parts of Cuba's natural vegetation have been converted to agricultural uses. Additionally, the Bee Hummingbird is preyed upon by birds of prey, frogs, fish and tropical spiders.

Having seen the Ostrich in Kenya in 1997, I now had seen the largest and smallest birds in the world. Now if I could just see the approximately 9998 bird species in between!

To see a video taken in Cuba by John Arnett, one of our members, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mLceYV6vmA>.

Loggerhead Shrike

From various sources on the Internet

Photos by George Wall

Loggerhead Shrikes are found only in North America. They breed in open country, including grasslands and shrub-steppe areas, where there are scattered trees, tall shrubs, fence posts, utility wires, or other lookout posts. need large territories and thus are found only in low densities.



Loggerhead Shrike

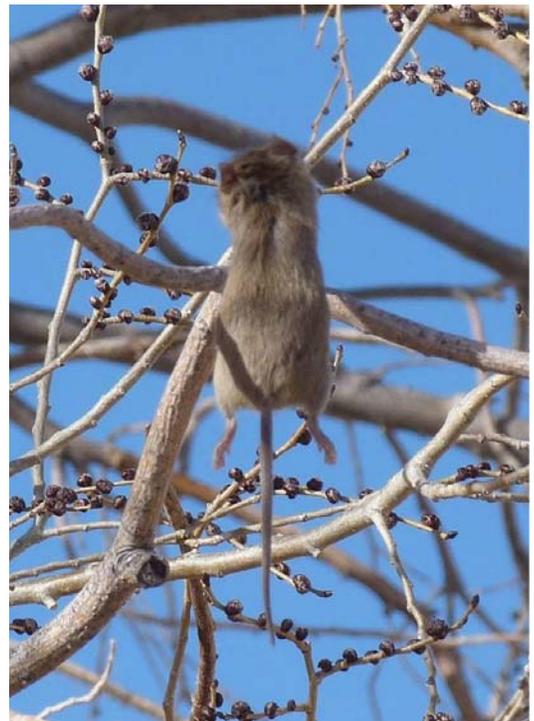
The Loggerhead Shrike is predominantly an insect-eater, especially in the summer when it feeds largely on grasshoppers. It also occasionally eats small lizards, rodents, and small birds. According to AZ Game and Fish Department biologists, one of the small birds that they prefer is Le Conte's Thrasher's nestlings. This is bad news for the thrasher which is a rarer bird than the shrike. They hunt them by watching from high perches, then flying swiftly down after the prey. Shrikes use their hooked bills to break the necks of vertebrate prey. Because their feet are not large or strong enough to hold prey, shrikes find a crotch in a tree, a thorn, or barbed wire to hang their prey on while they eat. Prey may be left on such a site for later consumption.

Loggerhead Shrikes nest in dense, thorny trees or shrubs, brush-piles, and even tumbleweeds. During courtship, the male makes short display flights and feeds the female. Both sexes help find the nest site and gather materials, but the female builds the nest, which is a bulky cup of twigs, grass, weeds, and bark lined with rootlets, hair, and feathers. The female incubates 5-6 eggs for 15-17 days, and then broods the young for the first 4-5 days after they hatch. The male brings food to the female and the young during this time. After this initial

period, both parents feed the young, which leave the nest at 17-20 days and start to fly about a week later. The parents continue to feed and tend the young for another 3-4 weeks.

Loggerhead Shrikes winter primarily in the southern U.S. Many of them winter in the Central Valley of California, and also along the Texas coast.

The numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes have declined across North America, for reasons that are not well understood. The decline has been extreme in the northeastern US, and they are considered extirpated from New England. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently list it as a species of concern.



Lunch!

The photos used in this article were taken at the Cochise Lakes - sewage ponds on the edge of Willcox, AZ.

New Bird Species

Cambodian Tailorbird

Excerpts of this article and picture were taken from the website www.orientalbirdclub.org.

A team of scientists with the Wildlife Conservation Society, BirdLife International, and other groups have discovered a new species of bird with distinct plumage and a loud call living not in some remote jungle, but in a capital city of 1.5 million people.

Called the Cambodian Tailorbird *Orthotomus chaktomuk*, the previously undescribed species was found in Cambodia's urbanized capital Phnom Penh and several other locations just outside of the city including a construction site. It is one of only two bird species found solely in Cambodia.

The small grey bird with a rufous cap and black throat lives in dense, humid lowland scrub in Phnom Penh and other sites in the floodplain. Its scientific name 'chaktomuk' is an old Khmer word meaning four-faces, perfectly describing where the bird is found: the area centered in Phnom Penh where the Tonle Sap, Mekong and Bassac Rivers come together.

Only tiny fragments of floodplain scrub remain in Phnom Penh, but larger areas persist just outside the city limits where the Cambodian Tailorbird is abundant. The authors say that the bird's habitat is declining and recommend that the species is classified as Near Threatened under the IUCN's Red List. Agricultural and urban expansion could further affect the bird and its habitat. However, the bird occurs in Baray Bengal Florican Conservation Area, where WCS is working with local communities and the Forestry Administration to protect the Bengal Florican and other threatened birds.

This same dense habitat is what kept the bird hidden for so long. Lead author Simon Mahood of WCS began investigating the new species when co-author Ashish John, also of WCS, took photographs of what was first thought to be a similar, coastal species of tailorbird at a construction site on the edge of Phnom Penh. The bird in the photographs initially defied identification. Further investigation revealed that it was an entirely unknown species.



Cambodian Tailorbird—Photo by James Eaton

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

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

Audubon's Birds 'n Beer, is being offered on October 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 AT audubon.org](mailto:riosalado@audubon.org) for more information about their programs and events.

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month from October through May starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. Gerry Horton will do a Power Point presentation at the October 18, 2013, meeting.

The field trip for October will be led by Marshall Esty to Melinda Lane and Thunderbird Park. Leave from the Church of the Palms in Sun City at 7:45 a.m.

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



Anne Leight has bird banding programs on Sunday, October 13th at 6:30 a.m. and the 20th at 7:00 a.m. Newcomers are welcome; however, if you want to help bird band, you must contact Anne Leight at [birdannabelle AT hotmail.com](mailto:birdannabelle@hotmail.com).

There is a bird walk on Saturday, October 19th. Take a walk with the preserves youngest birding expert and discover how fun bird can be.

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.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

How about going on a bird walk with Kathe Anderson. Learn to identify resident birds and look for exotic seasonal migrants on a two-hour walk starting from the Visitor Center and included with \$10 daily admission. Cindy Marple leads the walk Oct. 13, Troy Corman Oct. 19, Richard Ditch & Anne Leight Oct. 27. Read Arboretum bird checklist reports

Desert Botanical Garden

Each week on Mondays there is a bird walk. The bird walks for October will be starting at 7 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.

AZFO 7th Annual Meeting **Sierra Vista, October 4-6, 2013**

If you enjoy observing, surveying, or conducting research on Arizona's birds, please attend the Arizona Field Ornithologists (AZFO) annual state meeting at Cochise College in Sierra Vista. This year's theme is "The Lesser Known Southeastern Arizona". On Friday afternoon and Sunday morning there will be birding trips led by excellent guides. The meeting on Saturday will conclude with a banquet highlighted by Dr. Janet Ruth's presentation "Grassland Birds: 15 years of winter, summer, and migration research in southeastern Arizona." Visit the AZFO website www.azfo.org for more details and meeting registration information.

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

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



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:

October 9, 2013: Ross Hawkins— “Hummingbirds: The most amazing—and beautiful—birds in the world”

November 13, 2013: Len Boeder—His Best Bird Pictures

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

January 8, 2014: John Arnett—Cuba

February 12, 2014: David and Diane Reesor—Brazil

March 12, 2014: Dominic Sherony—Attu

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

Saturday, October 19, 2013, 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. - Sonoran Audubon Society Retreat at Hassayampa River Preserve.

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

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[haylie.hewitt AT cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net)

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

Treasurer: Jim Consolloy 609-439-8851 [jconsolloy AT gmail.com](mailto:jconsolloy@gmail.com)

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

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

Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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Database Manager: Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451
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Bookstore: Jackie Anderson: 623-516-8120
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Upper Agua Fria Watershed Project: Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360 [klaf40 AT gmail.com](mailto:klaf40@gmail.com)

Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society provide the principal financial support for the chapter and its activities. SAS operates with a minimum overhead (chapter administration and insurance) in order to make revenues go as far as possible. All Friends contributions are fully tax-deductible.

THE FRIENDS

I would like to become a Friend of the Sonoran Audubon Society. Indicate your choice of level:

- Verdin (Adult)** \$20.00 to \$49.99 per year
- Burrowing Owl (Seniors 65+)** rate \$15.00 to \$49.99 per year
- Cactus Wren** \$50.00 to \$99.99 per year
- Gilded Flicker** \$100.00 or more per year
- Student** \$10.00
- Newsletter via USPS** \$10.00

NAME(S) _____

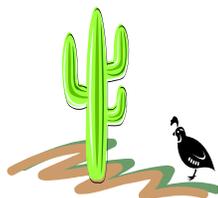
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Send to **SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY, P O Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**



Sonoran Audubon Society

P.O. Box 8068

Glendale, AZ 85312-8068