



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

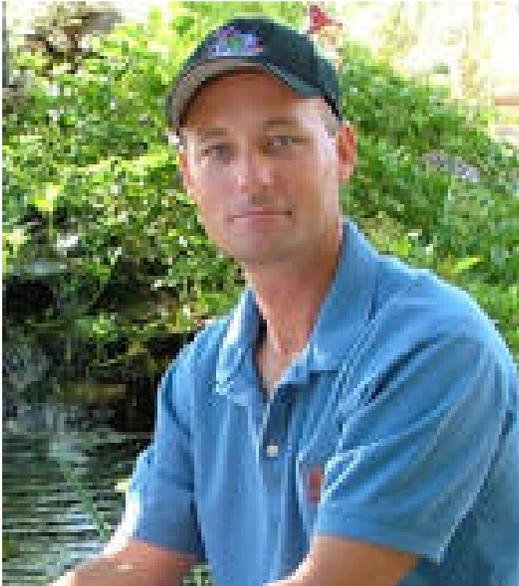
Volume 15 Issue 1

September 2013

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, September 11, 2013 , at 7 p.m.

Paul Holdeman-Birds Gone Wild: Creating Attractive Habitats in Your Own Yard

Paul Holdeman is a third-generation Arizona native. Growing up in Arizona, he has an intimate understanding of the Sonoran Southwest's climate. An avid hiker, backpacker, and camper, he spends as much time as possible enjoying the outdoors with his teenage son.



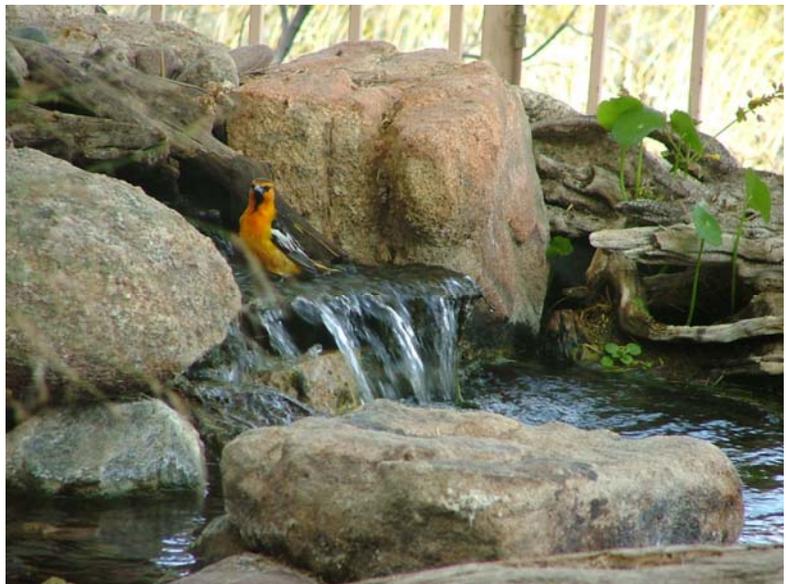
Paul Holdeman

Municipal Water Users' Association. He also attends frequent continuing education courses by other world renowned experts in ponding and rainwater harvesting. This education and enthusiasm is applied in his trade as The Pond Gnome, where his passion for organic water features and native wildlife habitats is immediately apparent in the company's work.

This program will show you how to attract birds to your backyard by creating the right water habitat.

After graduating from Cortez High school more years ago than he likes to admit, he continued on to receive his BS from ASU. He quickly discovered, however, that an office job just wasn't his cup of tea, and came to the conclusion that he belonged in a career where he could be not enclosed by four walls and a ceiling. Happily, he found a home first in the site services industry, and then in the landscape construction field. Once Paul discovered a way to imitate Mother Nature's water feature designs right down to maintaining them organically, he set out on a mission to specialize in replenishing the desert's natural oases in people's backyards.

Paul has attended numerous courses given by such institutions as the Desert Botanical Garden, the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association, and the Arizona



Bullock's Oriole

President's Corner

HELLO FROM HAYLIE:



I hope everyone had a good summer and had a chance to do some birding, either with a SAS field trip or on your own travels. I visited my mom in Ohio and saw Black Vultures, Canada Geese, Great Blue Herons, Northern Cardinals, American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, and an Indigo Bunting.

My sister lives near my mom and knew there was a juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk in the vicinity of the woods and field near my mom's house. We heard it screaming away while doing some yard work one muggy evening. I wasn't much of a birdwatcher growing up, so it was great to go back and see things with my new "birder's eyes."

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of Sonoran Audubon Society. I look forward to seeing you at our September 11th meeting.

What's Happening in our Chapter

By George Wall

There were two Board Meetings held during the summer—one in June and one in August.

First off, it must be noted that Haylie Hewitt has stepped up to the plate and hit a home run since she took office on June first. She's used her tremendous gift of persuasion to add two more Board members—Dan Bohlmann and Andrea Nesbitt (see article on right) and Jackie Anderson is taking over the Bookstore from Eleanor Campbell.

Our membership currently stands at 876 with 146 of them supporting as Friends.

The Trip Committee met during the summer and reported that a schedule has been developed through October and into November.

A tentative date of March 22, 2014, has been suggested for the next picnic.

Karen LaFrance provided a detailed report of her experiences at the National Audubon Conference. See page 5 for details.

Good news from the church, we can store our hospitality

supplies in the kitchen area. This will make it easy for a Hospitality Chairperson.

The last General Membership Meeting before the summer break was held on May 8, 2013. David Dise gave an excellent program on Brown Canyon and that area of Arizona. The SAS Board members are especially grateful to the 33 loyal members who came to hear this presentation in a month where many folks understandably leave the Valley for cooler places.

New Board Members

Reported by Haylie Hewitt

SAS is pleased to have two new members join our Board this summer:

Dan Bohlmann was born in Sharon, CT, and moved to Arizona at the age of one. He has been birding since he was 6 or 7, thanks to the encouragement of his mother. Dan has been a member of SAS since its early days and was elected to the Board in 2003 and served as Vice President from 2004-2006. After a career as a software engineer, Dan is now retired and enjoys hiking, racquetball, traveling and spending time with his grandchildren, as well as chairing our Field Trip committee.

Andrea Nesbitt was born in W. Allis, WI, and moved to Arizona in 1985. Birding caught her interest after she saw a spotted towhee on a trip to Big Sur in 1995. Andrea was a personal lines underwriting specialist before retiring in 1998. One week after retiring, she began volunteering at Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center. She now holds education permits from both US Fish and Wildlife and Arizona Game & Fish, which allow her to exhibit rehabilitated birds at public events. You may have seen her with a Merlin she brought to show us before a SAS meeting last spring.

Karen Kaiser

Sadly, we've had a death of one of our members. Richard Kaiser's wife Karen died suddenly and unexpectedly on July 28, 2013. Richard and Karen have been coming to a lot of our membership meetings for quite a number of years. Richard has led a few birding trips for us in the past and Karen often came along. They both went on the Alamos, Mexico, trip from April 16-23, 2010, with SAS and they also did a lot of traveling around the United States, always with binoculars handy. Karen and Richard had many dogs and cats over the years, volunteered at the Arizona Humane Society, as well as the Phoenix Zoo. Karen's true love in Arizona was in southeastern Arizona, especially the Chiricahuas, for its mountains, trees, and birds. Her love of nature, animals and people will be missed.

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, September 5, 2013

Locket Meadow

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

[Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net](mailto:DansbohlmannATprodigy.net)

Locket Meadow is a beautiful meadow in the area between the five peaks that make up the San Francisco Peaks. There is a small pond that attracts some high altitude birds along with the fir, spruce and aspen forest that surrounds the meadow. The elevation is 8600 ft. and it is reached by a gravel road that can be driven by any passenger car. We will be walking around the level meadow and campgrounds for about a mile and up the trail for 1/4th mile, taking it very easy because of the altitude. There will be the normal forest birds and because of the high altitude sapsuckers, Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Red Crossbills there.

Difficulty: 2 Bring a Lunch.

Meet at Fry's Electronics parking lot at the SE corner of 31st Ave and Thunderbird. We will leave at 7:00 a.m.

Thursday-Saturday, September 12-14, 2013

San Jacinto Mountains and Morongo Canyon

Leader: Kathe Anderson

Contact: Barb Meding

[barbameding AT yahoo.com](mailto:barbamedingATyahoo.com)

We'll leave early on Thursday and make a birding stop near the Colorado River (probably Mayflower Park, N of Blythe) before continuing to San Jacinto Mountains near Palm Springs, CA. We will bird at Lake Hemet on our way to the mountain town of Idyllwild where we will spend 2 nights. Friday, we'll explore the area near the top of the mountain, including a nature center and a couple of other parks. Early Saturday we'll head down the mountain to Morongo Canyon Preserve (an IBA area) and explore that area for a couple of hours before returning to Phoenix. We hope to get a good mix of mountain birds and migrants. This trip is limited to 8 participants and because we have to make motel reservations, the earlier you register the better.

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Clear Creek Campground

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

[Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net](mailto:DansbohlmannATprodigy.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 camp-

ground. 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](mailto:vjmsaintATcox.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.

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](mailto:barbamedingATyahoo.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.

Welcome and Thank You

Since May 2013, Sonoran Audubon gained many new members who joined through National Audubon. They are Donna Abraham, Perry Ball, Diane BarrEden Barton, Connie Beckvall, Gary Bedford, Jon Behnicke, Linda Berg, Carol Bergers, Georgian Bicego, Fred Birkendahl, Julie Bordelon, Don Brown, James Buis, Kieth Burrows, Sally Buxton, Patricia Cade, Peachie Carey, Marela Christensen, Audie Dame, Laura Davis, Cheryl Dodson, Pedro Doural, Bette Dwinell, Julissa Dufault, Kathryn Ea, Gregory Feldner, Deborah Fry, Stanley Giza, Elizabeth Glynn, Beverly Gore, Evelyn Havlik, Phyllis Hawn, Janet Herbert, Heinz Hofmann, Joanne Holek, Janet Howsam, Margaret Hull, Dorothy Jedy-nak, Howard Jones, Violet Kirk, Ronald Klemm, Jean Lehner, Alma Lemcke, Marge Lenenberg, John Logan, Gerry Lusk, Charles Martz, Elaine Mauldin, Roberta McCool, Marsha Middleton, Linda Miller, Joann Miller, Norma Mimm, June Moore, Joan Murray, The Newman Family, Ann Nimlos, Janet Norby, John O'Donnell, Marjorie O'Halloran, Eileen Oswald, Maurice Phipps, Lowell Plank, Jane Reinhold, Kathy Roman, Norma Rosen, Ann Sampson, Peter Schmaltz, Sue Schmidt, Cheryl Scott, James Seymour, Maerle Shankland, Constance Sherman, Ronald Sigler, Quin Simpson, Gina Staley, Miriam Stankus, Joyce Story, Julie Strohmeier, Elenor Swanson, Linda Swift, Irene Teisbert, Bob Tendick, Malcolm Thomas, Ann Turrie, Sheila Waits, Liz Waters, Madonna Watson, Jeanne Wedig, Pat Wellert, Kenyon Williamson, Nancy Wilson, Opal Jean Willoughby, Mildred Winemiller and Sterling Wood.

Also since May 2013, Rick and Judy Cooper, Victoria Johnson, Claudia Kirscher and Caleb Strand became Friends of Sonoran Audubon.

Welcome to all of you.

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.

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 **September 14, 2013**. 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 aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 [awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com).

The August 10th walk had nine people and they turned up 40 species of birds including Western Grebes, Peregrine Falcon, Clapper Rail, Sora, Greater Roadrunner, Red-naped Sapsucker, Western Kingbird and the Black-tailed and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

WANTED: REFRESHMENT WRANGLER/HOSPITALITY HELPER

We've had some good news from our friends at West Valley U.U. Church. They are giving us storage space at the church for our hospitality supplies, so almost everything needed is already there on site. What we need now are some volunteers to bring a few munchies (store-bought is fine) and make coffee. You would need to arrive shortly before our 6:30 p.m. social time before the membership meetings.

This is a simple, but necessary, job. Many members enjoy a nice snack and visiting time. Please let me know if you would be willing to help out. Thanks! Haylie Hewitt [haylie.hewitt AT cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net) 623-581-1180



The National Audubon Chapters Convention—July 12-15, 2013

Report by Karen LaFrance, SAS Member and Consultant

The SAS Board of Directors provided a partial scholarship for me to attend the National Audubon Chapters Convention at Skamania Lodge in Washington state. This gathering of chapter representatives was the first national meeting in over ten years. About 600 persons attended, with four-fifths of the attendees from Audubon Chapters and the remainder National Audubon staff and Board members.



On behalf of the Chapter, I attended a Workshop on Building Your Bird Friendly Community “in the Field”, meaning through the Field Trips Program, several mini-workshops on fund-raising, a very interesting workshop on board and chapter development, a report on the Central Flyway projects (Arizona is “in” National Audubon’s Central Flyway for purposes of working with migrant birds) and several plenary sessions with NAS President David Yarnold and panels of experts. I had the opportunity to have breakfast with our representative on the NAS Board--Joy Hester from Houston Audubon--some may remember her because she attended Audubon Round Up in 2011--and to meet and greet the other attendees from Arizona (six of our nine chapters were represented).

The Convention took place on July 12, 13 and 14, 2013. On July 12 and July 15, NAS and host Audubon Chapter in Portland hosted Volunteer Projects and Day-long Bird Finding trips around Washington/Oregon. Skamania Lodge is in the Columbia River Gorge about 60 miles east of Portland. The rugged mountain scenery on either side of the river was very picturesque. Go to <http://www.audubonconvention.org> for some more great photos of the setting by paging into the photos section.



SAS members Dusty Lovelace, Anne Durning and Karen LaFrance

Of note is Mr. Yarnold’s and National Audubon’s perspective about the importance of chapters. National recognizes that the chapters and their members are its “grass roots”--its people--and therefore the source of NAS’ influence as a national conservation organization of consequence. Thus National wants to encourage, support and augment chapters where it can. At the Convention, chapters and chapter leaders who had accomplished noteworthy conservation efforts received awards and accolades.

Attendees urged that there be follow up regional meetings and every so often again a national get-together. It was truly an important step in bringing all of us Auduboners along together in support of birds, bird habitat and conservation generally. I am very glad to have attended.

SAS RETREAT

Saturday, October 19, 2013, 7 a.m. till around 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)

Why did the chicken cross the road?

By Dr. Jerry Theis

Why did the chicken cross the road? Gallinaceous birds (chicken-like) have a strong presence in SE Asia, and pheasants were a high priority of ours when I visited Thailand in Jan-Feb, 2012, with Fieldguides Birding Tours. Even though Mrs. Hume's Pheasant had been seen on less than 20% of their previous trips, we decided to attempt our luck. This pheasant is far more shy and difficult to observe than the Silver Pheasant and the Siamese Fireback, both of which we saw with little effort.

To have any chance of seeing Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, one must be at the desired location at dawn, as the pheasant leaves its roost and moves down to its feeding grounds. Our first attempt in Doi Angkhang, in the far north, at 7 a.m. yielded nothing, so we were there again the second morning, sitting quietly in our vans, watching for any movement on the sparsely forested slope. Suddenly, we saw movement, and as our hearts raced, a CAT came into view, thereafter named Mrs. Hume's cat. Not only were we disappointed that it wasn't the pheasant, but we were concerned that the cat would prevent the pheasant from crossing the road.

Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, also known as Hume's Pheasant or Bar-tailed Pheasant, is a large forest pheasant with a grayish brown head, bare red facial skin, chestnut brown plumage, yellowish bill, white wing bars and metallic blue neck feathers. The male has a long grayish white tail, barred black and brown. This rare and little known pheasant is found throughout forested habitats in China, India, Myanmar, and Thailand. Its preferred habitat is forested mountain areas (mainly oak and mixed oak/pine), grass and scrub at 4000-10,000 feet elevation. Its diet consists mainly of vegetation matters (pellets, seeds, greens and live food). The female lays three to twelve creamy white eggs in a nest of leaves, twigs and feathers. This pheasant is considered near threatened due to ongoing habitat loss, fragmented populations and being hunted for food.

The name of this pheasant commemorates Mary Ann Grindall Hume, wife of the British naturalist in India, Allan Octavian Hume. He married Mary in 1853 and she died in 1890. Allan Octavian Hume (1829-1912) was a civil servant, political reformer and amateur ornithologist and horticulturist in British India. He has been called "The father of Indian Ornithology." He authored "The Game Birds of India." A number of animals and birds are named after Hume, including Hume's Leaf-warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*) and the Manipur Bush Rat (*Hadromys humei*).



Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, also known as Hume's Pheasant or Bar-tailed Pheasant

After what seemed an interminable wait, a leader and I saw movement on the slope and a beautiful male Mrs. Hume's Pheasant appeared from the forest and strolled across the road in front of us. So, why did the chicken cross the road? To be seen by our group and be voted the top bird of our trip. Incidentally, it was not seen in 2013.

Feathers and Fun - My First Experience at Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival

By Jackie Anderson

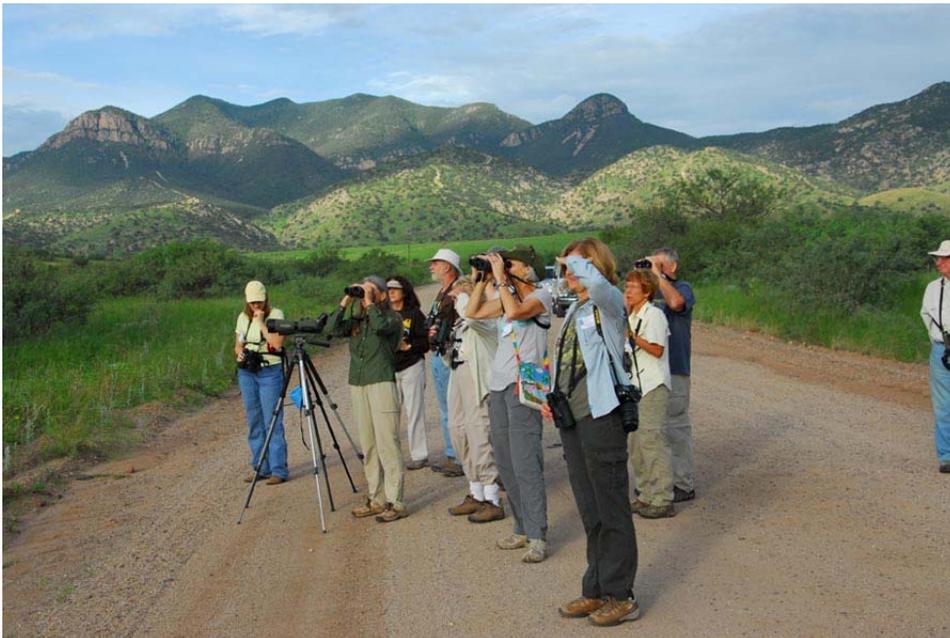
On July 31, 2013, I drove to Sierra Vista, AZ, from North Phoenix. I was on a mission to spend two days at Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival in Sierra Vista. I checked into my hotel loaded down with a steel water bottle (Yay, no plastic here!) and a bag of pamphlets. Since my field trip wasn't scheduled until the next morning, I checked out the list of free classes and decided to catch Homer Hansen's class on grassland birds. Taking one of Homer's classes is a great way to get ready for intense birding. I also had time to check the more than 35 vendors and exhibitors which included Liberty Wildlife, Tucson Audubon Society and the Gray Hawk Nature Center.

Then I decided to venture out into something new with Priscilla Brodtkin's butterfly class. After hearing about swallowtails and sulphurs, whites and blues, hairstreaks and snouts, ladies and buckeyes, I decided metalmarks were my favorite!

The highlight of the evening was the hummingbird class taught by Scott Weidensaul author of *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds* as well as many other books.

The next morning I joined Scott again along with Sandy Anderson on our "Huachuca Specialties" tour. Sandy runs the Gray Hawk Nature Center on the San Pedro River, where she educates school children on the wonders of nature. <http://www.grayhawknaturecenter.org/>. Although reptiles are her speciality, Sandy is also an expert on birds. So along with Scott who has a quick eye for the birds, we were ready for a great day of birding and adventure. We traveled to Fort Huachuca, and after the guards checked our photo identification we were allowed on the Fort.

We started the day hunting for a Botteri's Sparrow in the grasslands. Sandy was as quick as Annie Oakley with her scope so that we all had time to get a glimpse of the bird. We were surprised by a Great Horned Owl sitting in a far mesquite tree. We then headed up to Sawmill Canyon where I heard a distant Elegant Trogon calling, but we never saw one. We got a good look at a Northern Pygmy-Owl, quietly sitting in a close tree. Once we started walking, the Yellow-eyed Juncos started falling from the trees. Then a Buff-breasted Flycatcher landed long enough for me to see its soft buffy breast. Not to be outdone, a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher spent several minutes on a sunny branch posing to the oohs and ahhs of the birders. As we were leaving the canyon, a Montezuma Quail flew up from the side of the path and surprised and thrilled the group. It was a lifer for most of us. The afternoon ended with a stop at a Harris' Hawk's nest complete with two juvenile birds who didn't seem a bit concerned with all the eyes staring at them. Their parents had built their nest in a busy church parking lot, after all.



This picture was taken of the Huachuca Specialties tour—I am in the blue shirt shading my eyes

We arrived back at about 4 p.m. I had a few hours to shop at the exhibits and grab dinner in town before I had to be back for Owls of Huachuca Mountains led by Bill Radke. We were able to spot a family of Western Screech-Owls at night. Trying out the night vision binoculars was an eery experience. (I think I have to have a pair of those!)

After 13 hours of birding, I was ready to get to bed that night. I had to drive back to Phoenix the next day. I had seen 71 species of birds just on the two field trips I attended, and I added five life birds to my list. It was so much fun, that I hope to stay for the whole weekend next year.

My Little Bit of Heaven

Article and Photos by Walter Thurber

My backyard is dear to my heart and it's a little bit of heaven to my wife and me. The established habitat is in the backyard. We have lived here 22 years and we had a formal backyard until 2003, at which time we had the water feature built (pond) and began adding bird friendly plants. Over 75 yard birds have been here, including the Chestnut-sided Warbler, two or three White-throated Sparrows, a couple of Clay-colored Sparrows and a Hermit Warbler. Eurasian Collared-Dove and Rosy-faced Lovebirds first appeared in 2008. A Cooper's Hawk is a regular visitor during the non-breeding season. We have never had a Rock Pigeon here, except as a flyover.

Regarding backyard plantings, we kept the olive tree, two of the four Mexican fan palms and several pyracantha that were here when we moved in. The velvet mesquite in the SE corner came up from seed after an earlier one blew down in a monsoon storm. Some plants we have added include hophbush, chuparosa, fairy duster, brittlebush, flattop buckwheat, pomegranate, penstemon, coral yucca, little leaf cordia, four wing saltbush, desert hackberry (three, along the east wall) and several varieties of cacti. The two ocotillos died out but the dead plants still serve as perches.

We just eliminated the large lawn area in the front yard and went with Xeriscape. The project was completed a few weeks ago and so it looks rather barren. There are four new trees—foothills palo verde, sweet acacia and two cascalote—plus various mostly native plants. We kept the desert willow and the Indian fig plants in the east side yard. We have just five feet of land on the west side but we did add a couple of jojoba to supplement the established cassia as screening from the next door neighbor. There is a large oleander tree over the driveway, also dating back to when we came here.



Backyard Pond Area



Backyard



Backyard



Backyard



East Side of House



Front Yard

Editor's Note: Walter Thurber is a member of the Maricopa Audubon Society as well as our Sonoran Audubon Society as a "Friend" and has attended our meetings several times. He is the Christmas Bird Count Scheduler and I have gone to him for many years to get the schedule for our website and the newsletter. He also does a lot of Important Bird Area (IBA) work and for a few years he helped Vera Markham and me do the bird count at the Arlington Wildlife Area Ponds. Most recently, the Arizona Field Ornithologist organization (AZFO) asked him to be their regional coordinator for the South-Central Region (Maricopa County, plus Pinal County west of Casa Grande and north of the Gila River) and he accepted. He is currently catching up on the seasonal reports for them right now.

The World of Peeps

From website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Birds love the water's edge, but birds are sometimes stubbornly hard to identify. Take these two birds, for instance. They are little sandpipers often called "peeps" - but is this one species or two?



The one on the left is a Least Sandpiper and is the smallest of the small sandpipers known as "peeps"—not much bigger than a sparrow. They have distinctive yellow-green legs and a high-pitched *creep* call. Look for them on edges of mudflats or marshes, where they walk with a hunched posture and probe for little crustaceans, insects, and other invertebrates. This common but declining shorebird migrates thousands of miles between its Arctic breeding grounds and wintering grounds as far south as Chile and Brazil.

The one on the right is the Western Sandpiper. Although it has a rather restricted breeding range in western Alaska, the Western Sandpiper is one of the most abundant shorebirds in North America. It's a small sandpiper with a short neck, moderately long bill with slight droop, and moderately long legs. There's a black center of rump and tail and black legs. Its back is gray-brown with some reddish. Chest usually only lightly marked. In breeding plumage it has chestnut on back, crown, and back of face. A short webbing between the toes is hard to see.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is doing an identification program on shorebirds. Check out their website at www.birds.cornell.edu.

Care Centers for Birds

Fallen Feathers
Handles and cares for all birds
9532 W Cielo Grande, Peoria
Jodie Kieran 623-533-2348
Or 623-586-5302

Adobe Mtn. Wildlife Center
Cares for all wildlife including birds
I-17 and 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 September 19th 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. The next meeting is on October 18, 2013.

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 yahoo.com](mailto:shirleyfackelman@yahoo.com). Better yet, come to the meeting.

Hassayampa River Preserve

Anne Leight has bird banding programs on Sunday, September 8th at 6 a.m. and the 22nd at 6:30 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).

Birding Basics class on Sunday, September 22nd from 9-11 a.m. Learn what makes birds so special and why watching them can be so much fun. Take an easy walk to see which birds you can spot.

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



Special Event Bye - Bye Buzzards" September 21, Saturday, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Boyce Thompson Arboretum. It opens at 7:00 a.m. on "Buzzard Day" -- one

hour earlier than usual for this month so early-bird visitors may join our staff and volunteers for a chance to see the Turkey Vultures perched on the magma cliffs in the center of the Arboretum for the first hour or so after sunrise.

ASU Professor Dave Pearson is the special guest for the morning, and will be stationed near the Desert Legume Garden talking about TVs from about 7:00 am until 8:30 a.m. Then he will lead a bird walk around the grounds in search of other BTA birds, mammals and critters.

Desert Botanical Garden

Each week on Mondays there is a bird walk. The bird walks for September 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 plan to attend the Arizona Field Ornithologists (AZFO) annual state meeting. This year it will be held at Cochise College at 901 North Colombo Ave. in Sierra Vista. Both members and nonmembers are invited to attend this enjoyable and educational gathering.

The meeting will focus on the theme of the "Lesser Known Southeastern Arizona", both during the Saturday session and the Saturday evening dinner and program. Dr. Janet Ruth, the featured speaker at the dinner, will address the topic, "Grassland Birds: 15 years of winter, summer, and migration research in southeastern Arizona." Dr. Ruth is a Research Ornithologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and is located at the Arid Lands Field Station in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her current research focuses on the ecology of semidesert grassland birds and she has been working (winter or summer) in southeastern Arizona since 1999. The Saturday session will feature presentations on changing bird status and field research in Arizona, plus reports and future plans for the many AZFO activities. We encourage anyone interested in giving a 15-minute oral or a poster presentation on original avian research, surveys or other pertinent Arizona endeavors to visit our [Call for Papers and Posters](#) announcement for more details.

On Friday afternoon and Sunday morning you can participate in mini-field expeditions to birding areas in less birded areas of southeastern Arizona. More details and meeting registration information (as it becomes available) can be found on the AZFO website at www.azfo.org.

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:

September 11, 2013: Paul Holdeman—Birds Gone Wild: Creating Attractive Habitats in Your Own Yard

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: September 4, 2013, 7 p.m. Monthly Board Meeting at above location. Members are invited to attend as guests.

Saturday, October 19, 2013, Annual Retreat (see page 5).

Saturday, October 26, 2013, Tres Rios Fall Festival at B&M Wildlife Area

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org
Audubon Arizona Web Site: www.az.audubon.org
Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site: www.desertiversaudubon.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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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)

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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

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