



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 10 Issue 8

April, 2009

**At our next meeting.... Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7 p.m.**

**Tim Cullison: Kittlitz's Murrelet with Alaska Wildlife**

In June-July, 2008, Tim Cullison enrolled in a summer course in Marine Ornithology given by the University of Alaska-Juneau. Tim participated in a research study on the declining Marbled Murrelet and Kittlitz's Murrelet.

He will present a Power Point presentation on his experiences as well as discuss some of the other wildlife he observed including Orca, Humpback Whale, Sea Otter, Brown Bear, Steller's Sea Lion and many Bald Eagles.

Tim Cullison, is not only a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society, but is currently handling the publicity for our programs and is also on the Education Committee.

Come out and see one of our own in what should be an exciting program.



**Kittlitz's Murrelet pictured at right**

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**What's Happening in our Chapter?**

**By Your Editor, George Wall**

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on March 4, 2009. The attendees were Bob McCormick, Karen LaFrance, John Arnett, Carol Schooler, Chuck Richards, Rich Schooler, Andrée Tarby and George Wall.

After approval of the minutes from the prior month, committee reports were made.

As of January, there were 673 National (NAS) Sonoran Audubon Society (SAS) members and 102 Friends of SAS.

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### **What's Happening in our Chapter?**

Both the 2nd Saturday and the 4th Sunday bird walks are having good attendance.

There are several upcoming events for both March and April which the Education Committee will handle.

The Yuma/Salton Sea Trip with Henry Detwiler was a success including the spotting of a LeConte's Thrasher.

Karen LaFrance proposed submitting a Together Green Innovation Grant to develop a leadership camp in Arizona.

The SAS Board retreat was scheduled for Saturday, September 5, 2009, at the Nature Conservancy's Hassayampa River Preserve meeting room if it can be reserved.

The SAS picnic is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 2009, at Robbins Butte Wildlife Area.

The Arizona Conservation Summit held in Tucson was well attended.

**Overlooked:** At the February Board Meeting, a Nominating Committee was formed. Chuck Richards, Bob McCormick and one other will be on the committee for the coming year.

**General Membership Meeting:** Because of a family emergency, Amy Leu, our scheduled speaker couldn't make it to the March meeting. As a replacement, George Wall showed a PowerPoint DVD on Exotic Birds. Forty plus people attended the meeting.

### **Spring/Summer 2009 Field Trips**

**REQUIREMENT:** On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling the leader. The leader can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, some trips are limited in size.

**Saturday, April 4, 2009**

**Madera Canyon**

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

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

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

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

Meet at the McDonald's Restaurant in Green Valley at the Continental Road exit off of I-19 at 7:00 a.m. Call the leader to confirm participation and knowledge of meeting place and time. This trip might be extended into Sunday morning.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

**Page Springs**

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

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

Page Springs is a fish hatchery where water also attracts many birds. There are also Arizona Sycamore and cottonwoods surrounding the water. Bridled Titmouse is a resident and Common Black Hawks nest regularly. There is a birding trail that is a part of the Page Springs Important Bird Area.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

Meet at McDonald's just off Carefree Highway taking Exit 223 off Rte. 17. to leave at 6:00 a.m.

**Saturday, April 25, 2009**

**Yarnell Park and Area**

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

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

Exploration of the park and side streets in tiny Yarnell in the Weaver Mountains at 4,700 ft. north of Wickenburg should reveal a variety of resident, migratory and summer nesting birds. The park has woods, a stream and a ravine where Summer Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Phainopepla and Juniper Titmouse have been seen. The Acorn Woodpecker is a resident. There could be Bullock's Oriole and warblers searching the wooded habitat for food.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only, but plan to eat in a popular local restaurant.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center, corner of Hutton Dr. and Boswell Blvd, in Sun City to leave at 6:30 a.m. OR at Wickenburg Community Center at 7:30 a.m. (Take Rte. 60 northwest to Wickenburg. Cross the bridge over the Hassayampa River and immediately turn right onto the street that takes you to the large white building and parking lot.)

**Monday, May 4, 2009**

**Fossil Creek**

**Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057**

[gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

This is an area off of Rte. 260 on the other side of Camp Verde. Fossil Creek is a unique warm-water perennial stream that flows from a complex of springs 14 miles to the Verde River.

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To reach it, you must travel a graded dirt road for several miles. Some of the 41 birds seen in April 2008, were Juniper Titmouse, Gray Flycatcher, Summer Tanager and Scott's Oriole.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 5:45 a.m.

**Thursday, May 21, 2009**

**East Webber Creek**

**Leader: Dan Bohlman 602-938-8244**

[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

This is one of the most beautiful places under the Mogollon Rim. There is a trail that leads out of the Geronimo Boy Scout Camp and follows the stream into a canyon that slices into the Rim. It is unusual in that there are firs and spruce growing at this low elevation (6000 to 6500 ft.) due to the shade provided by the canyon walls and all the water in the East Webber Creek due to springs feeding it. There are all kinds of forest birds attracted by the trees and water – Chickadees, Titmouse, Nuthatches, Flycatchers, Robins, Jays, Woodpeckers, Vireos, warblers and much more. There is also a small lake there at the Boy Scout Camp and open grassy areas that attract other types of birds. The trail into East Webber Creek goes for around three miles. We will go for about 2 miles and then return by the same route. Those that don't want to go that far can just sit down and relax and listen to the gurgling water and wait for the group to return.

Difficulty: 3 Bring a lunch.

Meet at Fry's Electronics Store, 31<sup>st</sup> Ave and Thunderbird in the parking lot on the north side of the building (N.E. corner) at 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 6, 2009**

**Flagstaff Arboretum/Kachina Wetlands**

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

We will bird Raymond Park and the Kachina Wetlands first. Afterwards, we'll go to the Flagstaff Arboretum that is nestled within the Ponderosa Pine forest at 7,150 feet. Over 100 species of birds have been seen there at one time or another.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 5:30 a.m. or meet at Raymond Park at 7:30 a.m. Directions to Raymond Park: Get off at Exit 333 from I17, cross under I17 and make almost an immediate right and the park is at that corner on the left.

**Wednesday, June 17, 2009**

**Stoneman Lake**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

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

Stoneman Lake is northeast of Camp Verde off of I17 and is one of several spring-fed mountain lakes on the Mogollon Plateau and located 36 miles south of Flagstaff and 125 miles north of Phoenix. Take Interstate 17 to the Stoneman Lake Exit #306, and follow the clearly marked signs. Red Crossbill, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee and Northern Goshawk are residents. Pinyon Jay and Acorn Woodpeckers are in abundance. The group will also look for Lewis's and Three-toed Woodpecker in a burned-out area and for warblers nesting at this high elevation. Picnic area and toilets are available.

Difficulty: 2 Bring lunch and water.

Meet at the Burger King just west of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 6:00 a.m. OR at McDonald's just off Carefree Highway taking Exit 223 off Rte. 17 at 6:30 a.m.

**Friday-Monday, October 2-5, 2009**

**San Diego Pelagic & Land Birding**

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

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

Join us for a combination pelagic and land birding trip to San Diego in October. We will be doing a one day pelagic trip out of San Diego. The cost of the pelagic trip is \$55 and the trip last approximately 10 to 11 hours. The boat, the Grande, is an 85 footer with several restroom facilities and food service. The trip is sponsored by the Buena Vista Audubon Society and will have five experienced guides on board. Some of the birds expected are: Pink-footed, Sooty, and Black-vented Shearwaters; Leach's and Black Storm-Petrels; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Arctic Tern; Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets; and Red-necked Phalaropes. Possible species include: Flesh-footed Shearwater; Blue-footed and Masked Boobies; Northern Fulmar; Xantus' and Craveri's Murrelets; Least, Ashy and Wilson's Storm-Petrels; and Sabine's Gull. Additionally, several sea mammals are likely.

The land birding portion of the trip will be on Sunday October 4 to areas around San Diego to look for Southern California specialties and shorebirds. We will develop the exact land birding itinerary as we get closer to the trip date. We may also possibly make a side trip either going or coming to look for White-headed Woodpecker and other montane species, if the interest is there. Several of the people that have expressed interest in this trip have birded the San Diego area in the past, so we do not plan to hire a local guide for the land birding portion.

We will be staying at an older motel adjacent to the Point Loma Sport Fishing Marina where the pelagic trip originates from. We have blocked eight rooms for the group; however, you will be responsible for making your own room reservations and pelagic trip reservations. It is recommended that the pelagic trip reservations be made by mid-July as this is a very popular trip.

The trip will be limited to 16 people. If you are interested, please contact the leader.

## TRES RIOS NATURE & EARTH FESTIVAL

The Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival was held March 7-8, 2009, at the B&M Wildlife Area located at Avondale Blvd. and the Gila River. The Sonoran Audubon Society had a booth and also led several birding and nature tours.

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all of those who showed up to help staff the booth and help on the bird walks as well as other things. These people were John Arnett, Tina Bickel, Marian Bound, Eleanor Campbell, Dick Fogle, Joe Ford, Richard & Karen Kaiser, Chuck Kangas, Tom Lazzelle, Bob McCormick, Lynn Miller, Charles & Loretta Richards, Rich & Carol Schooler, Andrée Tarby and George Wall. If I missed anyone, I apologize.

The early morning bird walk at 7:30 a.m. produced 30 species of birds including an Osprey dive bombing a Bald Eagle. You couldn't ask for more than that.

The regular tours that started at 9 a.m. didn't produce as many birds but everyone seemed to enjoy the walks.

At the Sonoran Audubon Society booth, it was kind of quiet in the mornings, but active in the afternoon. Besides handing out information on our society, \$250 plus in books were sold. Fantastic!



Picture from the early morning birding tour led by Bob McCormick, Andrée Tarby and George Wall

### Photo contest & Focus Birds

The Sonoran Audubon Society is focusing on Arizona's Common Birds in Decline and has a photo contest going until April 30th. Winners' photos will be used in the brochures, bookmarks, etc., that we will be producing over the next few months.

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

Rules are simple: Please try to limit the photo size to 1 Meg. Photos that have to be scanned may have a reduction in image quality. Please respect all local, state, and federal laws in obtaining your photos. Submit photos with your name to [mcbo-baz@aol.com](mailto:mcbo-baz@aol.com) (or mail to Bob McCormick P.O. Box 674 Laveen AZ 85339) with the words **Photo Contest** in the heading.

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

## Life in the Saguaros

By Bettina Bickel

Our iconic saguaros seem to have personalities of their own. Most project an image of stately elegance, while others seem whimsical or even comical. Whatever their “personality”, saguaros are a vital part of the Sonoran desert ecosystem. Without them, the Sonoran desert would not provide extensive habitat for cavity nesting birds, including two of our focus birds: the gilded flicker and the elf owl.

Gilded flickers are one of the desert’s primary cavity nesters, excavating nest chambers in saguaros that are later used by a multitude of creatures. Their range in the United States is limited almost exclusively to Arizona’s Sonoran desert and cottonwood/willow riparian areas, where they are permanent residents. Nesting begins in early April, as nest holes are excavated in a tall saguaro (at least 16 feet tall) or cottonwood. While gilded flickers rely on saguaros for nesting habitat, like other flickers, they are ant specialists and are often seen feeding on the ground. They can extend their tongue up to five inches into ant holes!

Elf owls are one of the many secondary cavity nesters who rely on the nest cavities excavated by flickers. Their range in the United States is also limited almost exclusively to Arizona, where they inhabit saguaro forests and riparian mountain canyons. Male elf owls begin arriving in March to establish nesting territories, with females arriving later to choose a male and his territory. Elf owls are not big on interior decorating, and use the nest cavity “as is”, without adding any nesting material. The male stays busy feeding the female as she incubates the eggs, and continues to feed the female and young in the nest for about two weeks. Elf owls are primarily insectivorous, but the tiny owls are fierce enough to tackle even scorpions.

The National Audubon Society Watchlist includes both gilded flickers (red status) and elf owls (yellow status) due to their limited range and loss of habitat within their range. Conserving the Sonoran desert and its large cacti are priorities for ensuring the future of these species. Humans destroy habitat with suburban sprawl. Invasive tamarisk chokes out native cottonwoods (and cavity nesting habitat) in riparian areas. But one of the most dangerous threats is invasive grasses, such as red brome, fountain grass, and buffleggrass, which promote an unnatural fire regime in the Sonoran desert.

Plants such as saguaros evolved without fire, since historically sparse fuels have limited fire to very small areas of the Sonoran desert. Saguaros (and other Sonoran desert plants such as palo verdes) are very susceptible to fire, and usually do not survive it. But dense mats of buffleggrass promote fires, after which buffleggrass can quickly regenerate even more profusely than before, only

to choke out native plants and continue the deadly fire cycle.

In contrast to the rapid regeneration of invasive grasses such as buffleggrass, consider the life cycle of the saguaro. A saguaro seedling must sprout underneath a nurse plant, where it is protected from some of the extremes of sun and cold. It must escape becoming a snack for some hungry creature. Then, in order for significant numbers of seedlings to survive, there must be a period of several consecutive mild and wet winters. After ten years, the little saguaro may be a couple of inches high, and may attain a height of two feet after 30 years. Only after 50 to 100 years will it be large enough to begin sprouting arms.

Saguaros provide nesting habitat, food, and shelter for a multitude of desert creatures. These magnificent saguaro forests, which can take a century or more to recover, can be destroyed almost instantly by buffleggrass and other invasives. Learn more by visiting National Audubon’s Watchlist online, and to find out more about invasive species in the Sonoran desert check [www.desertmuseum.org/invasives](http://www.desertmuseum.org/invasives).



Elf Owl—Photo by Tom Cheknis

## Capuchinbird

By Jerry Theis

In February, 2009, I went on a tour with Chupaflor Nature Tours out of Albuquerque, N.M. to Venezuela. It was there that I saw the unusual Capuchinbird—sometimes called the Calfbird.

The Capuchinbird is a member of the Cotinga family, arboreal forest or forest-edge dwellers, most of whom eat at least some fruit. The Cotinga family includes some of the most beautiful as well as some of the most bizarre birds in the New World. The Capuchinbird is a large, curious-looking bird with a bobtail and heavy bill. It is mainly cinnamon brown in color and has long feathers that can be raised and puffed out like "tail-lights" during displays. Its song is reminiscent of a distant chainsaw, emitted as the bird pulls itself up to the erect position on a branch. Other members of the Cotinga family that we observed were White and Bearded Bellbirds, Golden-breasted and Handsome Fruiteaters, and Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. In addition to cotingas, other specialty birds we observed included Scissor-tailed Hummingbird (endemic to the Paria Peninsula), Horned Screamer (17 seen), Scarlet-horned Manakin (doing it's moonwalk on a branch), as well as fledgling and adult Harpy Eagles!



As you can tell by the birds seen, it was a great trip.

Capuchinbird—Internet Public Photo

## Treasurer's Report

Year-To-Date — June '08 – February '09

### INCOME:

Collaborate Funding (NAS)	\$ 835.00
Friends of SAS	1,940.00
National Audubon Dues Share	2,052.75
Environmental Fund of Arizona	1,296.53
Book, Calendar, Tee Sales	861.00
Newsletter Mailing Fees	130.00
Savings Interest	55.97

### EXPENSE:

Calendar Purchase	\$ 225.00
Chapter Operations	379.67
Education Committee (Books, etc.)	365.26
Equipment Purchases (Laptop, projector, etc.)	1,595.92
Hospitality	77.44
Insurance	265.00
Membership Committee	497.37
Newsletter	681.13
Printing	352.30
Speakers/Guides	1,116.98
Telephone (Service discontinued)	60.68
Tres Rios Nature Festival	500.00
Webmaster/Web Hosting	916.38

### Current Liquid Assets:

Checking	\$3,439.92
Savings	\$8,474.09

## YUMA TRIP —February 20-22, 2009

By Chuck Richards

The group arrived at the Wetlands Park in Yuma at noon on Friday where we had a picnic lunch. We then proceeded to bird two areas south of Yuma before checking in at the motel. Early Saturday morning we met with Henry Detwiler, our guide for Saturday and Sunday morning, and drove to the Salton Sea. There we searched for target birds (Lesser Black-backed Gull, Yellow-footed Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull and Sprague's Pipit) but only got the Glaucous-winged Gull and Sprague's Pipit. The other two were elusive. Sunday morning we again birded with Henry north and east of Yuma. Rails and Le-Conte's Thrasher were our targets and we got them. The weather all weekend was great as were our group - Tom Lazzelle, Joy Dolhanczyk, Dan Bohlmann, Rich Schooler, Nancy Woods, Lorraine Thompson, George Drew, Dick Fogle, George Wall, Carol Sharplin, Vera Markham, Donna Smith, Andrée Tarby and Loretta and Chuck Richards. A special thanks to Henry Detwiler for a fine job as our guide. As a final count, we saw or heard 98 species. See the trip report on the web page.



Happy birders L-R: Tom Lazzelle, Henry Detwiler (leader), George Drew, Dan Bohlmann, Andrée Tarby, Dick Fogle, Nancy Woods, Lorraine Thompson, Carol Sharplin, Joy Dolhanczyk, Donna Smith, Loretta & Chuck Richards and Rich Schooler.

## FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA

Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

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

**SATURDAYS:** These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be on Saturday, April 11, 2009. Meet at the new visitor's center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. There will be live raptors for viewing. The walk will last approximately 2 hours. For further information, contact Rich Schooler at 623-930-8904, [raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net).

It was another excellent turnout for the February bird walk as nine people showed up to participate. 32 species of birds were seen including a Gray Flycatcher.

**SUNDAYS:** These walks are held the fourth Sunday of each month. The next walk will be on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park. For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 [mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at 480-948-1074 [atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net).

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

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

### **Birders' Anonymous**

Birders' Anonymous, a group of bird-watchers, has their next meeting on Friday, April 17, 2009, starting at 10 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City.

The program for this month will be a DVD on the Lesser Prairie-Chickens in New Mexico and the preservation of their high plains grassland habitat.

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

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

The city of Phoenix will be hosting a Migratory Bird Day event on Saturday, April 4, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, 2439 S. Central Ave. It's **FREE** fun for the entire family. There will be games, crafts, live birds, bird walks, butterfly tagging and much, much more.

On Saturday, April 11, 2009, bird guide Thomas Gaskill will lead a "Warbler" walk. This is the time of the year that warblers migrate. The walk is from 7:30-9:30 a.m. (Course ID #52820). Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Ave.

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

### **Desert Botanical Garden**

Every Monday and the second Saturday of each month, there is a bird walk starting at 8:00 a.m.

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

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

### **Hassayampa River Preserve**

On April 11, 2009, there is a Nature Fest. This is a day of outdoor fun for the entire family. Highlights include non-venomous snakes, live birds of prey, hourly nature walks, crafts for kids and much more. Adults \$5, kids are free.

There is an Interpretive Nature Walk on Saturday, April 25, 2009, from 8:30-10 a.m. This is an easy walk along the trails to catch sight of migratory and resident birds as well as other wildlife.

For those into bird banding and want to help set up the nets, etc., the dates are Saturday, April 4, 2009. and Saturday, April 25, 2009, starting at 6:30 a.m. **However**, you must contact Anne Leight at [ALEight@syntellect.com](mailto:ALEight@syntellect.com) at least two days beforehand.

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

### **Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

There will be guided bird walks April 4, 12, 18 and 26 from 8:30—11:00 a.m. led by Cindy Marple and Cindy West on April 4, Troy Corman on April 12, Donald Pete Moulton and Marceline Vanderwater on April 18 and then Vera Walters and Kathe Anderson on April 26.

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

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

### **Festivals**

#### **Yuma Birding & Nature Festival April 15-19, 2009**

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

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

#### **Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival April 23-26, 2009**

The Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival provides a unique recreational experience to anyone interested in the natural world and fosters awareness of the importance of habitat for the enrichment of all life in the Verde Valley. The festival will be held at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, Arizona.

See their website at <http://birdyverde.org>.

#### **Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival August 5-9, 2009**

This festival will be held in Sierra Vista, Arizona at the Windemere Hotel. For more info, go to their website at <http://www.swwings.org>.



### Join the Sonoran Audubon Society

This can be done in two ways: become a friend of the Sonoran Audubon Society or join the National Audubon Society. The difference is as a “friend” all the money goes to our chapter. As a National member, you still become a member of our chapter, but only a percentage of the money goes to our chapter; however, you get the National Audubon Society Magazine. Some people choose to do both. See our website for the applicable forms.

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* may be obtained free from the chapter website

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

SAS Web Site: [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)

Arizona Audubon Web Site: [www.az.audubon.org](http://www.az.audubon.org)

Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:

[www.desertiversaudubon.org](http://www.desertiversaudubon.org)

Maricopa Audubon Web Site:

[www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)



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

#### Officers

President: Robert McCormick 602-237-3951

[mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com)

Vice President: Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646

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

Treasurer: Carol Schooler 623-930-8904

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

Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953

[treerunner@yahoo.com](mailto:treerunner@yahoo.com)

#### Board Members— Directors at Large

Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639 [ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

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

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

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

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

#### Committees

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

Education: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904

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

Field Trips: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

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

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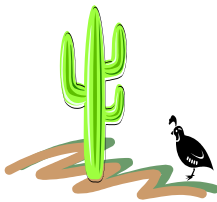
## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

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

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

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

**Other Dates of Interest:** April 1, 2009 7 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in small meeting room – all SAS members welcome.



**Sonoran Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 8068**

**Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**