



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 11 Issue 4

December, 2009

MERRY CHRISTMAS

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 7 p.m.

John Arnett: Why are Birds Important?

If you are like many Audubon Society members, you have probably spent innumerable hours and dollars on birds – bird books, birding trips, expensive binoculars, contributions to bird-related charities, bird seed, etc. But, why? Why are birds important? Why are birds important to you, to society, to our planet as a whole? In this program, John Arnett will not answer these questions for you – only you can do that. However, he will provide you with some ideas and frameworks for you to consider as you think about the importance of birds, and will highlight some great reasons provided by many of your fellow Sonoran Audubon Society members about why they think birds are important.

In addition to being the Secretary for Sonoran Audubon Society, John is currently a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Air Force's 56th Range Management Office and is the Arizona representative in the Department of Defense Partners in Flight working group. John has a B.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation and a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, and has worked on a variety of research projects in the U.S. and South America including scrub lizard demographics and Reddish Egret nesting ecology (Florida), Swallow-tailed Kite migration (Florida and Brazil), and landscape use by Chimango Caracaras and Guinas (Chile). He is currently studying habitat use of Le Conte's Thrasher and Gray Vireo. John has been birding since he was about 10 years old and has birded much of the U.S. as well as Jamaica, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador.



John Arnett
Photo by George Wall

What's Happening in our Chapter?

By Your Editor, George Wall

The board met on November 4, 2009, and the committees gave their reports with no significant changes from last month.

I read a detailed report on the status of the acquisition of Horseshoe Ranch by Arizona Game and Fish that was submitted by Dana Warnecke. The acquisition is looking positive.

The board voted to join the Utah Wilderness Alliance with a \$25 donation.

Karen LaFrance passed out the "Bug News", a weekly newspaper covering the communities in the Agua Fria watershed. In this edition, October 21, 2009, there was an excellent front-page article explaining the Together Green project in which we received a \$5,000 grant. The article gives a nice write-up on the project, the Sonoran Audubon Society and Karen LaFrance.

Andrée Tarby and I put the finishes touches on the picnic. See the article on page 5.



IN MEMORIUM

Phyllis Kangas

Phyllis Kangas, beloved wife of Charles, died unexpectedly of legionella pneumonia on November 17, 2009. She was 70 years old.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Chuck Kangas. Chuck was instrumental in starting the Sonoran Audubon Society and was its first president. Phyllis was right there assisting and encouraging him every step of the way. She also helped edit the monthly newsletters right up through the November issue.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 4:00 p.m. at West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church located at 5904 West Cholla Avenue, Glendale 85304. A reception will follow at the church. The family requests that a contribution be made to your favorite charity in lieu of flowers.

She will be sadly missed. Rest in Peace.



2010 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.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Gilbert Water Ranch

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

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

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Call leader for meeting place and reservations.

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Chandler Veterans Oasis Park

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

The park is at the northeast corner of Lindsay and Chandler Heights Rd. in Chandler. There are several ponds, an education center with exhibits and trails that circle the various ponds which are similar to Gilbert Water Ranch. A recent visit turned up Killdeer, Black-necked Stilts, Pied-billed Grebes, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, among other species.

Difficulty: 1

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

Friday-Sunday, February 5-7, 2010

San Rafael Grasslands

Leaders: Melody Kehl & Donna Smith

623-556-9535 rms15247@cox.net

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

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

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2010 Field Trips

Call leader Donna Smith for more information and meeting places.

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Glendale Recharge Ponds

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535 rms15247@cox.net

These ponds have been a magnet for all kinds of water birds in the past year. Least Terns nested there this summer and who knows what we will find.

This will be a morning trip only. We will leave the Burger King just off 101 on Thunderbird Rd. at 8 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7, 2010

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival

Thursday, March 18, 2010

B&M/P.I.R. (where Tres Rios Festival will be held)

Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 rashooler@cox.net

This is a trip designed to look for rails, bitterns and soras. We'll be getting there just about daylight in order to call these reed dwellers out into the open.

Difficulty: 1 Morning trip only.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 5:30 a.m. or meet at the site at 6 a.m.

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Washington Park/East Verde River

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602 938-8244

dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

This trip will include driving the Houston Mesa Road out of Payson which turns off of Highway 87 just a little ways north of town. It is paved for a short ways and then is a gravel and dirt road from then on. It runs for about ten miles heading north toward the Mogollon Rim. About half way to the Rim it runs alongside the East Verde river and then crosses it twice as well as another creek. There are lots of Sycamore and Cottonwood trees that line the river, lots of water and thus lots of birds. This is a great birding area that has the potential for variety of warblers, vireos, woodpeckers, flycatchers, phoebes, swallows and kingbirds. Also seen in this area are Western Tanagers, Summer Tanagers, Western Bluebirds, Bullock's Orioles, and a lot of birds that I haven't listed. We will stop at all the creek and river crossings as well as other places that look like they will be

promising bird spots. I chose to do this trip during the week because on weekends the crossings are filled with fisherman, swimmers, picnickers and people also – too much noise for the birds to endure. After we stop at the crossings, we will go on to the little cabin community of Washington Park and take small sections of trails that follow creeks under the Rim in a small loop of under a mile which is heavily shaded by pines, oaks and maples. We should pick up a number of typical forest birds such as nuthatches, chickadees, titmouse and creepers and who knows what else.

Difficulty: 3 Bring a Lunch.

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

Janos/Ejido San Pedro Christmas Bird Count

You are invited to participate in a Christmas Bird Count in Chihuahua, Mexico, on January 1, 2010. If you are interested, please contact the count's coordinator, David Mehlman, dmehلمان@tnc.org. The count headquarters will be Rancho El Uno (an active cattle ranch, now known as the Reserva Ecologica El Uno) near the Ejido of San Pedro, municipality of Janos, Chihuahua. The town of Janos is within a municipality of the same name, in the extreme northwest of Chihuahua, near the borders of Sonora and Arizona. In the 2005 census, the town reported a population of 2,567, with 10,794 in the municipality as a whole. Primary habitats within the count circle are high elevation Chihuahuan grassland and grassland desert (*sparrows!*), riparian, agriculture, and oak chaparral-covered hillsides. Evening temperatures are cold, daytime temperatures are cool but pleasant.

Most participants will want to arrive on Wednesday, December 30, to gain familiarity with the area, and will leave on Saturday, January 2. Lodging and dinners will be provided for about \$25 per night. However, lodging is limited and must be coordinated in advance with David Mehlman. Bring breakfast and lunch, and there is kitchen space. The standard \$5/person Christmas Bird Count fee will go to National Audubon. If you have other questions and are interested in carpooling options, please contact John Arnett 623-695-0953, treerunner@yahoo.com.

Mistletoe and Phainopeplas

By Bettina Bickel

This time of year the tops of many mesquites and other desert trees are adorned with elegant and beautiful Phainopeplas. The Phainopeplas are guarding mistletoe berries, one of their favored food sources in the Sonoran desert.

Phainopeplas are the only species of silky flycatcher to be found in the United States, where they winter primarily in the Sonoran Desert. After their arrival in November, both males and females establish territories in the ribbons of vegetation lining desert washes. Here they gorge on the berries of mistletoe, a parasitic plant that performs its own photosynthesis but sends roots into the branches of mesquites and other trees to obtain many nutrients. Phainopeplas help to disperse the mistletoe seeds, as the Phainopeplas' sticky droppings are deposited on new tree branches with the mistletoe seeds intact. Phainopeplas also eat insects, which they obtain in flycatcher form by sallying from their high perches.

In January Phainopeplas begin performing courtship flight displays in large assemblages, and in February the males begin building nests. The nest is a shallow bowl of twigs and other vegetation along with collected spider web material. Females may help with the completion of the nest, and lay two or three eggs in March. Both parents incubate the eggs, and both help feed the nestlings a diet of crushed berries and insects. Hatching is timed so as to take advantage of the remaining mistletoe berries and the increased insect populations that occur as the spring bloom period begins in the desert.



Photo by Dave Bixler

After raising their brood, most Phainopeplas depart the Sonoran desert in May and travel to cooler and moister woodlands in California, Arizona, southern Nevada and Utah, New Mexico, and west Texas. Here they feed on a variety of berries and insects, and a second summer nesting period occurs.

Loss of mesquite bosques is an ongoing threat to Phainopeplas populations in Arizona. Phainopeplas also remind us of the importance of all species in healthy natural ecosystems, even those such as mistletoe that may have been labeled as pests or undesirable parasites.

FOR YOUR INFO

The Sonoran Audubon Society Saturday Family Bird Walk will be Saturday, December 12, 2009. The bird walks are held the second Saturday of each month continuing through April at the Estrella Mountain Park located at Bullard Avenue and Vineyard Road. The bird walk will begin at 8 a.m. and last about 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Meet at the Visitors Center parking lot. There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks are otherwise free of charge. For further information contact Rich Schooler at 623-930-8904.

Two Arizona sites have just received Global Important Bird Area (IBA) designations: the Chiricahua Mountains in the southeastern corner of the state and Anderson Mesa, nine miles southeast of Flagstaff in the Coconino National Forest. Global IBA recognition was given by BirdLife International, an alliance of conservation organizations working in more than 100 countries and territories that, together, are the leading authority on the status of birds and their habitats.

In summer 2010, the National Audubon Society will open the historic Audubon Camp on Maine's Hog Island for four ornithology sessions. Camp director Dr. Steve Kress has lined up some of the best ornithologists in the country - Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, and Scott Weidensaul - to teach in June during the traditional camp programs. Additionally, the camp will host two totally new sessions in cooperation with [Exploritas \(formerly Elderhostel\)](#) where participants will work on active seabird nesting islands to census gulls, eiders and cormorants, and later to help restore habitat on Eastern Egg Rock for endangered and threatened Terns.

Contact: Pete Salmansohn, (607) 257-7308, psalmansohn@audubon.org

ANNUAL PICNIC/BIRD WALK

By George Wall

The picnic was a smashing success. We had 35 people show up out of the original 52 who signed up for the picnic. Based on previous years, this was about average and I want to thank those who did participate.

The bird walk took place between 8 and 11 a.m. There were 23 of us that included Phil Smith, the resident ranger for Arizona Game and Fish. We saw a total of 43 species that were seen or heard both on the walk and at other times during the picnic. They were: Gambel's Quail, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Gilded Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Lark, Verdin, Rock Wren, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Crissal Thrasher, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Sage Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, House Finch and House Sparrow. The picture shown below was taken by Phil Smith while on the walk.



After the walk, the grill was lit and the cooking began. I want to give credit to Andrée Tarby who really prepared a lot of the condiments and the set up for the picnic. Bob McCormick did all the cooking on the grill and did a fantastic job. Along with the hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, deserts and other items, no one went hungry.

A free raffle was held and Richard Kaiser won the big item – a telescope and stand for it.

People started leaving about 1:30 and everything was over by 2 p.m.

First Row L-R: Haylie Hewitt, Donna Smith, Barb Meding, Joe Ford, Richard & Karen Kaiser, Second Row L-R: Rosemary Zanter, Anne Durning, Jesse Cuiltly, Cheri Laude, Joe Emmons, Carol Sharplin, Joyce Eggert Third Row L-R: Darnell Kirksey, Bob McCormick, Gail Bonneville, Paul Soame, Martha Emmons, George Wall, Sharon & Les Sell and Jerry Theis.



Photos
by
George
Wall



Karen LaFrance, Vice-President of the Sonoran Audubon Society in Glendale, AZ, Recognized for Leadership in Conservation

New York, NY, November 19, 2009 A Phoenix, Arizona, woman is the recipient of a national fellowship designed to advance the work of individuals with outstanding leadership potential in conservation fields.

Karen LaFrance is one of 40 individuals nationwide selected as a 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellow. The *TogetherGreen* Fellowship, sponsored by National Audubon Society with Toyota, offers specialized training in conservation planning, the chance to work and share best practices with gifted conservation professionals and assistance with project outreach and evaluation. Each Fellow receives \$10,000 to facilitate a community-focused project to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy.

LaFrance is the Vice President of the Sonoran Audubon Society in Glendale, Arizona where she has been active since 2004 and is responsible for strategic conservation planning, grant writing and contracts.

For her fellowship, Karen will organize and hold a Leadership Development Summit with Arizona's nine Audubon groups which are based in the Phoenix Metro Area, Tucson, Sierra Vista, Prescott, Flagstaff, the White Mountains and Yuma. This meeting will help other chapters improve their conservation efforts through collaborative community involvement methods and nonprofit strategic planning, operational and management best practices.

Over the long term, the project will support a network of Audubon leaders in Arizona who are concerned for the staying power of their Audubon groups to engage new and diverse audiences and to help protect key wildlife or bird habitat and water resources.

"The Audubon Chapters in our state, with their long history of enthusiasm for birds and their interest in preserving natural habitat, are a backbone of conservation efforts here. Their volunteer leaders have said that they want to prepare their organizations to carry on into the future and to engage actively in conservation efforts that make a difference," said LaFrance.

LaFrance has degrees from Mount Holyoke College and the University of Nebraska, and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh. She has had a career in private sector neighborhood economic development with an emphasis on nonprofit start up and management.

"Karen is the kind of person who can make a real difference in the health of our environment and the quality of our future," said Audubon President John Flicker. "Each of our *TogetherGreen* Fellows demonstrates exceptional conservation understanding and commitment, combined with tremendous potential to inspire and lead others. Together, they represent the talented and diverse leadership communities will need to tackle the huge challenges and opportunities confronting us now and in the years to come."

A distinguished advisory committee - composed of conservation professionals and experts in environmental education, communications, outreach, and conservation planning - selected the fellowship beneficiaries from a competitive pool of scores of highly qualified individuals. Qualified applicants must have at least six years of experience in conservation education or policy as demonstrated through current and past work experience, academic studies related to conservation, and/or volunteer work. Candidates must have a passion for conservation, the desire to learn and grow, and demonstrate a proven ability in reaching previously unengaged audiences.

Half of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows come from within Audubon's far-reaching national network of State offices and local Audubon chapters and half channel their conservation efforts through other organizations.

"We must engage the best and brightest leaders representing the broadest and most diverse communities in this country to solve our ever more complex conservation challenges," said Diane Wood, President, National Environmental Education Foundation. "*TogetherGreen* is a creative program that uncovers such leaders, nurtures their talents, supports their dedication to conservation and holds them up to inspire others to follow."

About Together Green

Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to build the promise of a greener, healthier future through innovation, leadership and volunteerism. To date, 80 environmental leaders-half from within Audubon and half from outside organizations-have received *TogetherGreen* Fellowships to protect land, water, and energy resources nationwide. For more information, visit www.togethergreen.org.

Great Backyard Bird Count Highlights

Dynamic Changes in Where Birds Are

Submitted by Eleanor Campbell

Each year the Great Backyard Bird Count provides the most detailed real-time snapshot of bird distribution across North America, and we can see how birds are responding to changing weather patterns, available food sources, and other factors.

This year's GBBC featured two invasions: voracious Pine Siskins and a whole new crop of citizen-science participants. Bird watchers shattered last year's record by submitting more than 93,000 checklists during the event held in February. Participants also identified 619 species, 11,550,200 individual birds, and sent in thousands of stunning bird images for the GBBC photo contest. The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.

One of the big stories from the count this year was the massive numbers of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills found over much of the eastern United States. These feisty little birds moved southward because of seed crop failures in their usual wintering grounds in the boreal forests of Canada. GBBC counters reported 279,469 Pine Siskins on 18,528 checklists compared to the previous high of 38,977 birds on 4,069 checklists in 2005.

The GBBC continues to show declines in some common birds, especially grassland and shrubland species. Loggerhead Shrike numbers are down, and although numbers of Northern Bobwhites and Eastern Meadowlarks were both up slightly from last year, they are still being reported in fewer numbers than they were in 2004. These GBBC trends are only preliminary views of what may be going on with these populations, and they must continue to be monitored to get a true long-term view of how these birds are faring.

Species reported for the first time included two oceanic species: Pink-footed Shearwater and Xantus's Murrelet, both in California. Other first timers included Baird's Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Blackpoll Warbler. Two rare Mexican species appeared on GBBC checklists from Arizona: the first Sinaloa Wren ever found north of the border, and a Blue Mockingbird.

For more detailed summary of 2009 results visit the GBBC web site at www.birdcount.org. Here you can find exact counts of each species in a particular state or town.

The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 12-15, 2010.

(The article above was compiled from releases issued by the National Audubon Society.)

Red-legged Seriema

By Jerry Theis

The Red-legged Seriema is found in Central and Eastern Brazil to Bolivia, Paraguay and Central Argentina. This slender, long-legged bird occurs in tropical and subtropical grasslands. It hunts small animals such as insects, frogs, mice, rats, and snakes, as well as eating plant material. With its long, powerful legs, it is a fast runner and rarely flies. In its appearance and behavior, the Red-legged Seriema is the South America equivalent of the Secretary Bird of Africa.

This species of Seriema has, obviously, red legs. The head (with a tufted, disheveled crest) and back are grayish, flecked with brown, and the belly is whitish. The Red-legged Seriema is usually heard before it is seen, its voice a repeated strident laughter, often leading to immediate pair duets.

I heard, and saw, several Red-legged Seriemas during a Wings trip in November, 2005, near San Lorenzo, Argentina, as well as in Mato Grosso, Brazil in 2006 on another tour. This bird is as spectacular as it is unusual! The photo at right was taken from www.wikipedia.org, the free encyclopedia on the internet.



DECEMBER 2009 MEETING

Our monthly meeting had the greatest turnout since I can remember. Over 65 people attended to see Kenneth "Tuk" Jacobson and the Bald Eagle brought in by Liberty Wildlife. The photo was taken at the meeting.



Photo by Scott Madaras

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Christmas Bird Count Schedule

See www.sonoranaudubon.org under projects.

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous, a group of bird-watchers, has their annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 18, 2009, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City.

The field trip for the month will be on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, to Hassayampa River Preserve.

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

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 \$75 a year. When special events are held, the entry fee could be higher.

See their website at www.dbg.org for further information.

Audubon Arizona

The "Gifts From Nature" is to be held Friday-Saturday, December 11-12, 2009, at the Cattle Creek Arts Compound, 6105 N. Cattle Track Road in Scottsdale, AZ.

Times are Friday from 4-10 p.m. (This is VIP night) which has a \$25 entrance fee and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. (open to the public) with a suggested entrance fee of \$4.

Hassayampa River Preserve

Bird Walk: Saturday, December 19, 2009, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Bird Banding: Saturdays, December 5th and 19th starting at 7 a.m. **However**, you must contact Anne Leight at ALeigh@syntellect.com at least two days beforehand.

Entry Fees: \$5, TNC members \$3, kids 12 and under are admitted free.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Sunday, Dec. 6, Boyce Thompson Arboretum presents an 8:30 a.m. guided bird walk lead by Scottsdale author/photographer Jim Burns. This will be followed by an 11 a.m. "Birds of India" lecture by Anand Arya - an avid bird photographer and coordinator of the Delhi Bird Group.

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/>.

Maricopa Audubon Field Trips

Saturday, December 19 Veterans Oasis Park. The urban wildlife habitats at Veterans Oasis Park are becoming a haven for a variety of wildlife, especially birds and insects. This guided walk explores the plants and animals of the park's desert and wetland habitats. Bring binoculars, water, good walking shoes, and a hat. The walks are not fast-paced, and the terrain is easy. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome! There is a suggested \$5 donation for the Chandler Environmental Education Center. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the Environmental Education Center. Done by 11:30 a.m. No reservations required.

Difficulty: 1.

Leader: Laurie Nessel. For more information and details go to www.maricopaaudubon.org

Festivals

Wings Over Willcox, January 13-17, 2010. See www.wingsoverwillcox.com.

Tres Rios Earth and Nature Festival, March 6-7, 2010. See www.tresriosnaturefestival.com.

Yuma Birding and Nature Festival, March 6-7, 2010. See www.yumabirding.com.

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival, April 22-25, 2010. See www.birdyverde.org.

Join the Sonoran Audubon Society

This can be done in two ways: become a friend of the Sonoran Audubon Society or join the National Audubon Society. The difference is as a “friend” all the money goes to our chapter. As a National member, you still become a member of our chapter, but 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> 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 or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society, P O Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068.

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



Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

Officers

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

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klaf@cox.net

Treasurer: Carol Schooler 623-930-8904

raschooler@cox.net

Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953

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Chuck Richards 623-594-6554 crichards15@cox.net

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

Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074 atarby@cox.net

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

Committees

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

Education: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904

raschooler@cox.net

Field Trips: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Hospitality:

Publicity: Tim Cullison: 602-863-9744

timcullisonaz@aol.com

Membership: Charles Kangas 623-931-6677

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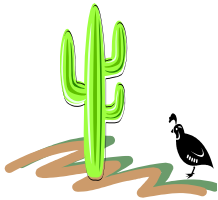
Newsletter: George Wall 623-875-7057 gwall5@cox.net

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.**

**December 9, 2009: John Arnett—Why are Birds Important?
January 13, 2010: George Wall—Birding in Galapagos Islands/Ecuador
February 10, 2010: Dominic Sherony—Color in Birds
March 10, 2010: Amanda Moors—Spotted Owl
April 14, 2010: Tice Supplee—Adventures in Africa
May 12, 2010: Program yet to be determined**

Other Dates of Interest: December 2, 2009, 7 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in small meeting room – all SAS members, friends and guests welcome.



**Sonoran Audubon Society
P.O. Box 8068
Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**