



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 15 Issue 8

April 2014

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, April 9, 2014 , at 7 p.m.

Caleb Strand — Caleb's Birds

Caleb Strand is a 14 year old homeschooler whose passion is birds and photographing them. He will be presenting a power point program at the April SAS meeting. The presentation will include his photos of the birds in Arizona with some information regarding the birds themselves and what it took to get some of the photos.

Caleb Strand is the second son of Doug and Deborah Strand. They live on Southern Ave just off Jack Rabbit Trail in Buckeye. Living in a somewhat rural area, Caleb has had many opportunities to bird his surroundings, traveling mostly by bicycle, and encountering numerous migrants and other permanent residents that frequent the local agriculture fields, canals, and borders found on the Gila River floodplain near his home. His interests include playing the piano, beginning guitar, and involvement with his "Spirit Band" at his local church. Although only involved seriously in birding the last 3 years, Caleb has the ears and eyes that bless so many of our youth. Caleb's ears are tuned to the slightest bird sound in the area, and his eyes detect the highest flying hawks. Caleb assists with the Estrella Mountain Regional Park monthly bird walks and has even led a



walk himself in an effort to interest young birders, a project proposed by Ranger Amy Roberts at Estrella. He also enters data on E-bird and assists in the Important Bird Survey Program at the Tres Rios B and M site and the upper Agua Fria at Dugas, Sycamore Creek. He spends many summer days in Happy Jack Campground on the rim with his family. Caleb has also written several articles for Sonoran Audubon Society. They can be found on their website and one of his articles was published in the monthly newsletter ("Owling at Happy Jack").

This program promises to be a "buffet" of fine photography and information

from an up-and-coming birder whose contribution to bird data in Maricopa County has benefited many. "To bird with Caleb is a rare treat, and I engage him on every field trip I can if he is available. His knowledge of bird sounds and quick eyes are almost unbelievable", said SAS board member, Joe Ford." We have a nickname for him. We call him "sensei". I learn more from him on every trip which makes me a better birder".

Come and share this evening with Caleb. You will leave richer for being there.



Caleb untangling nylon line from a Greater Roadrunner

President's Corner: HELLO FROM HAYLIE



It was nice to see many of you at our recent picnic at Horse-shoe Ranch, which George has written about elsewhere in the newsletter. I would like to use this space to offer a few thank-yous, first to George and Andrée Tarby, who led the morning bird walks.

Andrée then switched gears and fired up the grills to prepare the hamburgers and hot dogs. Thank you to those who helped out with the grill and to everyone for bringing your delicious potluck dishes. We also had generous ticket buyers for the raffle, which was organized by Jerry Theis. The \$69 we made will more than cover the cost of a new pair of binoculars, which SAS loans to our family bird walk participants.

I'm grateful for Sharon Sell and her husband Les, who handled the Hospitality duties, starting with early morning coffee and staying through the clean-up. Darnell Kirksey, Andrea Nesbitt and Tom Lazzelle also helped with the final chores.

On a non-picnic note, I would like to acknowledge our Chapter Consultant, Karen LaFrance, who applied for a National Audubon Society Collaborative Funding grant last fall. Sonoran Audubon Society has been awarded \$300 to be used for re-printing our informational bookmarks and bird lists, and for our efforts to expand and upgrade our field trips.

Hope to see you at the monthly meeting on April 9th. Don't forget to come a little early to see the display of scopes and binoculars!

Sonoran Audubon Society Board Meeting Synopsis Reported by Gail Bliss, Secretary

The Board members present were John Arnett, Gail Bliss, Dan Bohlmann, Jim Consolloy, Tim Cullison, Joe Ford, Haylie Hewitt, Darnell Kirksey, Andrea Nesbitt, Andrée Tarby, and Jerry Theis. Karen LaFrance attended as consultant and Tom Lazzelle as Database Manager.

A total of 46 people attended the February Membership meeting.

Dan reviewed the meeting of the Field Trip Committee that met on February 24th. They are working on possible trips for the end of 2014 and the start of 2015.

Karen reported on the meeting of the Education/Conservation Committee. They continued to work on items that came up at the Board Retreat and are reviewing SAS handouts and re-printing the ones that we revised. She also reported on three new Speaker Bureau topics.

SAS participation in a variety of upcoming festivals was discussed. SAS will be participating in the Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival and the Hassayampa River Festival for certain and may participate in the Glendale Community College Festival on April 18th and the San Pedro Festival on May 3rd. Audubon Arizona would like us to have a booth and do bird walks at the San Pedro Festival.

The publishing of the monthly newsletter will be turned over to John Arnett in September. George Wall has been doing the newsletter since April 2005, and he is retiring.

For the upcoming elections in April, Andrée, Dan and Gail were thanked for continuing to serve. Joe and John have reached their term limits but will continue with their other tasks.

The Nominating Committee for the next election cycle was formed. John and Karen will continue to serve and Andrea Nesbitt volunteered to be the committee chair.

The chapter will be purchasing the binoculars that are needed for our outreach events such as the Girl Scout project and bird walks. Andrée Tarby will be purchasing 10 pairs for \$500.00.

Binoculars & Scopes

Have you ever wanted to check out some binoculars or scopes without the pressure to buy something right away? If so, come early to SAS's monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 9th.

At 6:15 p.m., Victor Reece, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited of Glendale, and a local Swarovski representative will be at the WVUU Church. They will have sample binoculars and scopes you can look at to get ideas for future shopping. Nothing will be available for sale that night, but it is a chance to see what's currently on the market and ask any questions you may have. Hope to see you there!



2014 Field Trips—Winter & Spring

REQUIREMENT: On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling or e-mailing the leader or contact person who will provide you updated information. The number of participants is limited on **some** trips. Anyone can join. If you're a birding novice, you'll get plenty of help.

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13, 2014

Patagonia loop

Leader: Claudia Kirchner

Contact: Barb Meding barbameding AT yahoo.com (preferred) or 623-266-1847

We will leave early for Empire-Cienega NCA near Sonoita (http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/ncarea/lascienegas.html). We will explore the grasslands for sparrows and the lush cottonwood gallery for migrants and residents including Zone-tailed and Gray Hawks. After lunch and a visit to a Black-tailed prairie dog town, we will wind through Canelo pass and Harshaw Creek Rd, making several stops. We end our day at Paton's yard in Patagonia where we will spend the night. On Sunday we plan to bird at Peña Blanca Lake. However, we will watch the birding reports and we will chase any specialties that appear in the area. This trip is limited to 2 vehicles.

Difficulty: 3 (2 long walks along a creek)

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Sycamore Creek and Canyon

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

Dansbohlmann AT prodigy.net

The south end of Sycamore Canyon is about 10 miles north of Clarkdale. At first the trail into the canyon drops down about 100 feet, but is level after that. The many trees (cottonwood, sycamore, and ash), water in the creek, and springs attract a diversity of birds. We'll look for flycatchers, warblers, swallows, woodpeckers, jays, thrushes, vireos, sparrows, and many more.

Difficulty: 2—Bring Lunch

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

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mt. Ord

Leader: Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425

Awtarby AT gmail.com

This is a perfect time of year to visit the grassland, pinyon, juniper, and ponderosa pine habitats at Mt. Ord, Maricopa County's highest birding location. We may encounter Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, Gray Vireo, Black-

-chinned Sparrow, Summer and Hepatic Tanagers, and many warblers. A high-clearance vehicle is required.

Difficulty: 2 Bring Lunch

Meet at Denny's in Fountain Hills to leave at 7 a.m.

Tuesday, May 13, 2009

East Webber Creek

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

dansbohlmann AT 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, nut-hatches, 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, 31st Ave and Thunderbird in the parking lot on the north side of the building (N.E. corner) at 7:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Cheryl Alver, Jack Baldel, Timothy Hurley, Christina Hein, Alice Hutchison, Diane Jost, David McDowell, Bill McHenry, Shelley Packhurst, Jenette Reeves, Michael Rotchford, Archie Schiavo, and Kaylynn Vancamp recently joined the Sonoran Audubon Society.

Welcome to all of you and we hope to see you at our next meeting.



Sonoran Audubon Society Ballot

The Chapter Bylaws require that an election ballot is to be included in the March newsletter. If the member is unable to attend the April meeting send this completed ballot to:

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

The following members are nominated to fill a two year term for the respective officer position:

_____ Gail Bliss, Secretary

The following members are nominated to fill a two year term as a board member for Director at Large:

_____ Andrea Nesbitt
_____ Dan Bohlmann
_____ Carol Beardmore

The following members are nominated for the Nominating Committee:

_____ Andrea Nesbitt (chair)
_____ John Arnett
_____ Karen LaFrance

Put a check mark in front of each officer and board member to indicate your approval. Also, put a check mark for the three people selected to be on the Nominating Committee. There are still two openings for Director at Large.

Non-Sonoran Audubon members who receive this newsletter, please ignore this ballot.

Your name and address

This ballot is in accordance with the Bylaws of the Sonoran Audubon Society.

Desert Fables: Bedtime Stories for the Child Within

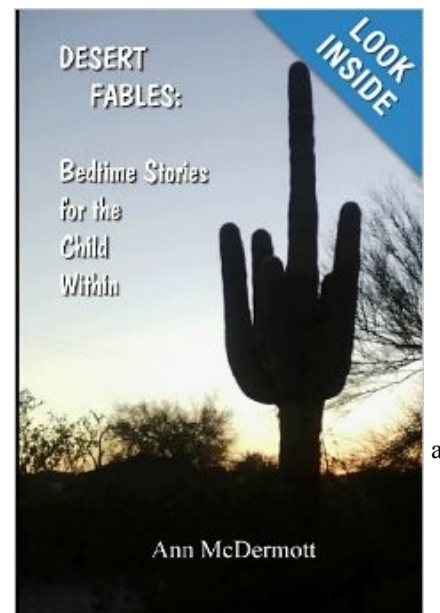
Submitted by George Wall

Ann McDermott has been a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society and Birders' Anonymous for many years. I knew she was working on a book during that time and I've had the pleasure of hearing her read some of her stories and I know some of you have heard her too. A lot of these stories deal with birds and other wildlife.

She finally finished her book on Desert Fables and it is available in both paperback and kindle format at www.amazon.com. The following is what is said at that website:

"Take this book of bedtime stories that feature the desert and it's creatures to read to your little ones or read to the child within. You will enjoy 125 short stories that include: How Red-tails Learned to Dance, Owl Trumps Hawk, The Adoption of Regal Horned Lizard, A Black-headed Grosbeak's Motherly Advice. Take one or two stories night before bedtime. Adults need bedtime stories too. The child within needs the pleasure, and the adult needs reminding. Who am I? The child knows. The adult must remember. Remember."

I haven't endorsed anything like this in the past, but this is an exception.



FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

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

Join the Sonoran Audubon Society for easy two-hour hikes in the park and along the Gila River. Over 150 different species have been observed at the park. We have a Saturday and a 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 **April 12, 2014**. Meet at the visitor center parking lot at 8:00 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 next walk will be on **April 27, 2014** 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 Bird Walk held at Estrella Mountain Regional Park on 3/8/2014, reported by Joe Ford



The Participants—Photo by Joe Ford

The temperature was already 61 degrees when 11 participants started the walk and was 75 when it was over. The group consisting of some locals as well as some Canadians. A real treat for everyone were Giovanni and Ira, a couple of our young beginning bird watchers. The leaders were Joe Ford and Paul Doucette.

Once again, we were able to go into the riparian area and the east lakes along with mesquite bosque, eucalyptus giants area, and the desert scrub region, four specific habitats in all. The riparian and lakes area had been closed to our trips for the last two months due to safety concerns due to hunting in the area.

Last year we had more swallows and four different species, but so far this year only the Northern Rough-winged Swallow. There were no blackbird species and only a Great-tailed Grackle. We did see a Peregrine Falcon, but no Bald Eagle.

Here are the 51 species seen or heard: Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk (one perched and two soaring), Peregrine Falcon, Sora (h), American Coot, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner (heard mating call), Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, European Starling, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Lark Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal (h), Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch and House Sparrow.

CARE CENTERS FOR BIRDS

Fallen Feathers

Handles & cares for all birds
9532 W Cielo Grande, Peoria
Jody Kieran
623-533-2348 or
623-566-5302

Wild at Heart

Raptors only
31840 N 45th St.
Cave Creek
480-595-5047

WildWing Rehab

Specializing in humming-
birds, songbirds & others
Paul & Gloria Halesworth
480-893-6660

Liberty Wildlife

All wildlife
Located in Scottsdale
480-998-5550

Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center

Cares for all
wildlife. At I-17 &
Pinnacle Peak
623-582-9806

Nature Girl- Vera Markham

Submitted by Jackie Anderson

When I went to interview Vera, I was greeted by Rusty, her peach-colored poodle. He showed me who was boss and then settled down at our feet while Vera told me about her life. She said besides being a dog lover, she is a true “nature girl” and collects about anything from nature. On her table were various seashells and rocks she had collected over the years, but more important were the thousands of pictures on her computer.

Vera is an expert photographer. Her father was always a very good photographer and it rubbed off on her. She began digital photography in 2003 with a four megapixel camera. Today she has several point and shoot cameras and four DSLR’s which she uses frequently to take the many pictures of birds, flowers and just about anything else found in nature.



Vera was born across the pond in England in a suburb of London, but her father moved her to Ontario, Canada when she was six years old. They moved around a lot until they finally settled in Long Island, New York. She said she moved so much as a child and adult, that her last move to Sun City was about the 15th move she had made in her life.

In 1969, she graduated from Newtown High School in Queens, New York. She was able to graduate with a commercial diploma which gave her training in secretarial work. This enabled her to get a job for Consolidated Edison, first as a department secretary, and later as an executive secretary for one of the vice presidents of the company.

In 1973 she joined the Linnaean Society of New York, a prestigious club that holds public lectures on ornithology, natural science and conservation. As a child her parents had given her an old bird field guide and binoculars that sparked an interest in birds, but it wasn’t until she joined the LSNY that she officially became a real

birder. Her favorite bird is the Lilac-breasted Roller, which she has only seen in a zoo and hopes to see in the wild of Africa someday. Some of her favorite birding spots are the Salton Sea and, of course, Gilbert Water Ranch.

In 2002 she moved to Arizona and joined Birders Anonymous, a local Sun City bird club. This led to her joining the Sonoran Audubon Society about six years ago. She has led several field trips, including one to the Hassayampa River Preserve.

In the middle of our discussion, Vera casually mentioned that she reads palms. “Would you read my palm?” I asked as I held out my hand. She intently looked closely at my palm, and carefully prodded it a little. Then she proceeded to tell me about my life. I not only was going to live a long life but I was a worrier and had a strict parent as a child. Everything was eerily true or had a good possibility of being true in the future! I had always wanted my palm read, and I was happy to have it done by a true professional.

After this surprising revelation, Vera told me that she is interested in the humane welfare and conservation of wild birds and animals, homeless pets, factory farm animals, and laboratory animals. She has been a member or made donations to the National Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, PETA, Humane Society of the United States, Humane Farming Association, AZ Humane Society, HALO Animal Rescue, ASPCA, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

We continued to look at her pictures during the interview. I was especially impressed with the different photographs of the variations in color of the Mariposa Lily that she had captured on Mt. Ord last year. Although birds and wildflowers are her favorite subjects, she also likes to photograph insects, other critters, and landscapes. Hopefully she will share some of her pictures with us at one of the SAS meetings. Vera is a wonderful asset to the SAS!



**Bald Eagle eating an American Coot
Photo by Vera Markham**

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival, March 8-9, 2014

Reported by Bob McCormick

Photos on this page by Vera Markham

The 2014 Spring Tres Rios Earth and Nature Festival was a great success and, with the wonderful weather, it was possibly the most attended festival yet. While the early morning birding trips were lightly attended, the trips during regular festival hours were very popular. It is estimated that we took out well over 200 people on bird walks. It always amazes me when a young person of about eight or so can pick up a pair of binoculars and tell you every bird they see. This year, we were asked to give talks between the musical acts on stage and Joe Ford did a wonderful job interacting with the enthusiastic crowd. It's great to see the schedule of events with Sonoran Audubon prominently listed! Our booth was also a popular stopping place with the new bookmarks being a great hit. The Bird Anatomy game was also popular with children and adults alike. Prizes included plastic bugs and dinosaurs and Disney themed toys including one of "Tinkle Bell" as a boy of about four exclaimed.



Gila River Wetlands



Immature Bald Eagle

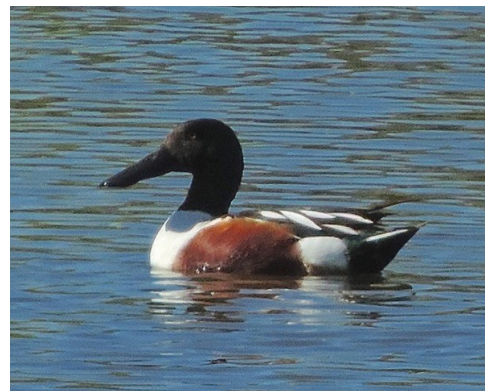
Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Rough-legged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Verdin, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Thanks to the following SAS folks for helping out at the booth and leading trips: Andre Tarby, Joe Ford, Sam Insana, Ann McDermott, Jackie Anderson, Ruth & Dave Kennedy, Haylie Hewitt, Bob McCormick.

The 54 species over the two day festival were Canada Goose, Gadwall, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl,



Ash-throated Flycatcher



Northern Shoveler

2014 Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival Pictures

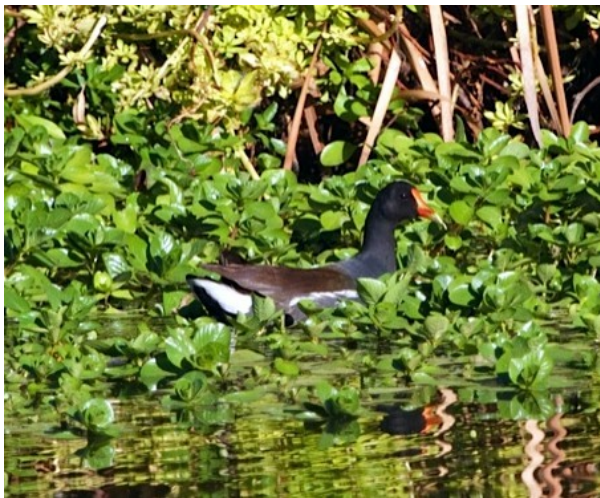
Photos on this page by David Kennedy



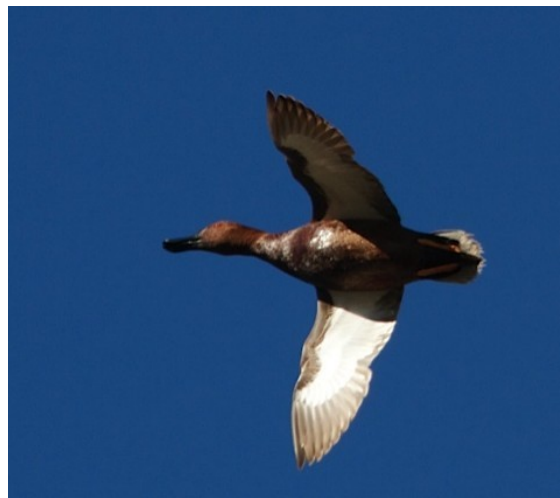
Haylie Hewitt and Bob McCormick in Sonoran Audubon's Booth



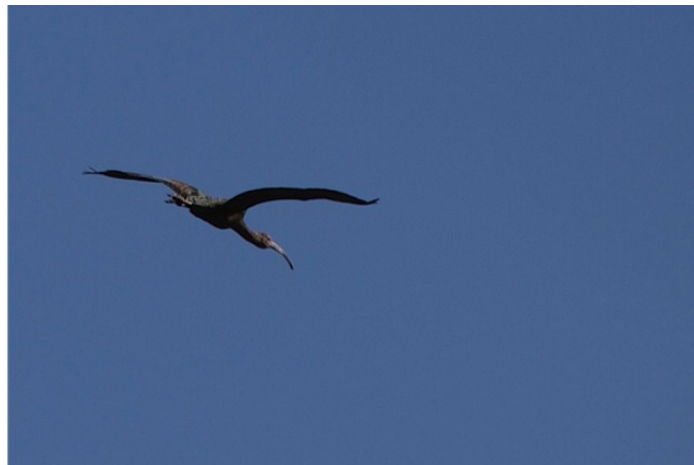
Group ready for bird hike



Common Gallinule



Cinnamon Teal



White-faced Ibis

The Sonoran Audubon Society's 7th Annual Picnic, March 22, 2014, at Horseshoe Ranch

It was a beautiful morning as the cars started rolling into Horseshoe Ranch at 7:30 a.m. for the bird walk scheduled for 8 a.m. A very large group of birders showed up. Luckily two different walks were scheduled - one to the Silver Creek area which required transportation by high clearance vehicles and the other in the local area. It took a while to determine who wanted to go where, but it was finally sorted out.

Four vehicles with 16 birders headed for Silver Creek. The participants were Dan Bohlmann, Pat Calascibett, Brian Collins, Joe Emmons, April and Kathy Heyman, Sam Insana, David and Ruth Kennedy, Nancy Lewis, Vera Markham, Les and Sharon Sell, and George Wall (leader). They walked a total of 3 miles in the 2 hour walk through desert shrub and along the creek lined by cottonwood trees and lush grass. They saw a total of 22 species of birds with the best one being a Hooded Oriole flitting about in a very large tree. Everyone got very good looks at this beautiful bird.

The other group of 17 birders walked around the local area, which included a pond. The participants were Gail Bliss, Jim and Trish Consolloy, Susan Corless, Peggy Cullen, Martha Emmons, Gary and Janis Johnson, Tom Lazzelle, Nancy Mac, six ASU students, and Andrée Tarby (leader). The pond produced some waterfowl species - Mallard, Ring-necked Duck and Bufflehead.



The Picnic by George Wall

While the two groups did their birding, the ones who didn't go out actually saw more birds (24) by the picnic area than the two groups saw. The ones who stayed or came in later for the BBQ were Suzanne Cash, Tim Cullison, Darnell Kirksey, Prisilla Machay, Lynn Miller, Chuck and Loretta Richards, Rich and Carol Schooler and Jerry Theis. Altogether 44 species of birds were seen or heard during the day.

Eight people left, including the ASU students, before the BBQ, leaving 35 to eat all the food that included grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats. After eating, Jerry Theis held the raffle. The tickets were 6 for \$5 and there were some very nice items on the

table for lucky winners to choose from. The first winner was Gail Bliss who chose a very nice framed bird photograph.

Haylie Hewitt, the Board, and committee members did a great job in planning , making the picnic a success.



Rufous-crowned Sparrow by David Kennedy



Hooded Oriole by Vera Markham

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Rio Salado Audubon Center

Audubon Arizona's Birds 'n Beer is being offered on March 20, 2014, 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 and is sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery. Proceeds from beer sales 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 at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix. 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 holds monthly meetings 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. On April 18, George Wall will show his PowerPoint program on Cuba.

Jim Consolloy will lead a birding trip on Wednesday, April 16th to the Lake Pleasant area. Leave from the Church of the Palms in Sun City at 7:00 a.m.

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

Desert Botanical Garden

DBG holds bird walks each Monday. Bird walks in March will start at 8 a.m.

See their website at www.dbg.org for further information on admission prices and special events.

Hassayampa River Preserve Nature Festival

Saturday, April 5, 8 a.m.—2 p.m. Guided nature and bird walks, live animals including birds and snakes, crafts, conservation ideas, and other events. The Sonoran Audubon Society will have an outreach table.

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. Fee for members of the Nature Conservancy is \$3.00.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Bird walks start at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays and the second and fourth Sundays each month. Richard Ditch leads the first walk in April on the 5th. This is followed by Anne Leight and Nathan Williams on the 13th, Kathe Anderson on the 19th and once again Anne Leight and Nathan Williams on the 27th.

BTA's guided bird walks are included with daily admission of \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 5-12. For more information visit <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>.

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival

Thursday-Sunday, April 24-27, 2014. This is a yearly event with all the things a birding and nature festival can offer. The keynote speaker will be Greg Miller from the movie "The Big Year". Visit www.birdyverde.org.

San Pedro River Festival

Saturday, May 3, 2014, at Winkelman Flats Public Park. Bird walks start at 7 a.m., plus live animals, vendors, a kids' zone and local food. This park is located East of Highway 77/177 junction on the Gila River in Winkelman. The Sonoran Audubon Society hopes to have an outreach table there.

2014 Southwest Wings Spring Fling

Sierra Vista, AZ, May 7 through May 10, 2014. On-line registration and other details at www.swwings.org. A Summer Festival will be on the first weekend in August. If you have any questions, need assistance or want to receive future notifications, please contact Gordon at [swwings2014 AT gmail.com](mailto:swwings2014@gmail.com).

Arizona Field Ornithologists Annual Meeting

AZFO's 8th annual meeting will be Friday-Sunday, October 3-5, 2014, at the Bullion Plaza Auditorium in Miami, AZ. Visit www.azfo.org for more details.



Lesser Goldfinch by George Wall

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.

Programs:

April 9, 2014: Joe Ford and Caleb Strand—Caleb's Birds

May 14, 2014: Carol Beardmore — Namibia

Meeting of the Board of Directors:

April 2, 2014, 7 p.m. Monthly SAS Board Meeting at the
WVUU Church. SAS members are invited to attend as
guests.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Sonoran Audubon www.sonoranaudubon.org

Audubon Arizona www.az.audubon.org

Desert Rivers Audubon www.desertriversaudubon.org

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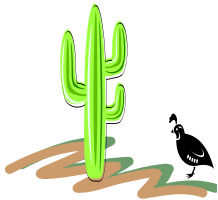
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