



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 15 Issue 7

March 2014

At our next meeting.... Wednesday, March 12, 2014 , at 7 p.m.

**Dominic Sherony — Attu: End of the Earth (The Island, Birds & WW II)**



**Dominic Sherony**

applying his interests in analysis to birding questions. He has published about a dozen papers including three in ABA's *Birding* journal. He was a regional coordinator for New York State's second Breeding Bird Atlas program, is a member of the New York State Avian Records Committee, and has been a regular volunteer at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory.

Attu was the only American soil taken by the Japanese in World War II. Attu, situated in the eastern hemisphere, is the westernmost Aleutian Island off of Alaska. In the nineteenth century, the inhabitants of this lonely island suffered tragedy at the hands of the fur trappers and whalers. Attu cannot be easily visited, but in May of 2000 I spent three weeks there. This talk will discuss the history of the island, the Aleuts, the World War II battle in the Aleutians, and will show the scenery of this island throughout the seasons. I will describe our Attu birding adventure and show some of the birds we encountered during our visit.

Dominic Sherony was originally from the Chicago area; later he and his family settled in Rochester, NY. He is retired after thirty-one years as a manager and engineer at Xerox Corporation. He has been an active birder since 1971 and his birding interests include listing, bird photography, observation, being active in the local bird club and



## President's Corner: HELLO FROM HAYLIE



We are fortunate to be having great weather now for being outdoors and seeing birds. I just went with a friend to Whitewater Draw State Wildlife Area in southeastern Arizona, about a four hour drive from Phoenix. We drove through Benson and Tombstone on our way. It's worth the drive if you enjoy seeing and hearing LOTS of Sandhill Cranes, which are there this time of year enjoying the water and neighboring agricultural fields. The 1,500-acre area is a Global Important Bird Area for Sandhill Cranes and is managed by the Arizona Game & Fish Department. The habitat is Chihuahuan desert grassland.

During the last mile or so before arriving at Whitewater Draw we saw many large flocks of cranes flying toward our destination. Upon arrival we parked near the hay barn where a pair of Great Horned Owls observed us from the rafters. As we walked to the riparian area we saw a Hermit Thrush, many White-crowned Sparrows, and a Green-tailed Towhee.

The area has two ponds, two viewing platforms, and several benches along the walking path. On or near Cattail Pond we saw American Coot, Northern Shoveler, Killdeer, American Avocet, and Green-winged Teal. North of this pond is where the Sandhill Cranes were congregating, with some Snow Geese mingled in. According to the Arizona Important Birding Areas Program website the number of cranes counted in January at Whitewater Draw has risen from 4,000 in 1991 to more than 22,000 in 2008.

Near Willow Pond we saw a pair of Vermilion Flycatchers and a pair of Pyrrhuloxia. This is the same area where we saw a pair of American Bitterns last February. The water level in the pond was down quite a bit from last year, so the bitterns may have moved elsewhere.

I enjoyed visiting Whitewater Draw for the second time and I'm sure I will get back there again. The experience of seeing and hearing so many Sandhill Cranes gathered together is worth repeating.

I hope you are enjoying similar birding adventures and I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>!

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

The Board met on February 5th, and the members present were 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. John Arnett was absent.

A total of 47 people attended the January membership meeting. The Chapter has 955 members through the National organization. The chapter has 165 Friends, of whom 95 are Friends only and are not members of National Audubon.

Dan Bohlmann reported that the April 30th field trip to Mount Union and Goldwater Lake in Prescott needed to be changed to a date in May.

The Education/Conservation committee is continuing to work on brochure reprints, the Speaker's Bureau, incorporating ideas from the 2013 SAS Board retreat on how to insert information about building bird friendly communities into Chapter events, and using Constant Contact. Darnell Kirksey is continuing to work with the WRAN (Western Rivers Action Network) project. She reported there will be an important meeting March 11 where, after meeting at the Audubon Center, participants will travel to the state legislature and meet with legislators. Everyone is welcome to attend this event.

Treasurer Jim Consolloy provided the current Profit and Loss statement. We are still receiving checks from our end of year campaign.

In the meeting with Audubon Arizona, Sarah Porter, Executive Director, requested that chapter leaders travel to Texas to attend a conference.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup>.

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.

**Tuesday, March 4, 2014**

**Chandler Veteran's Oasis Park**

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

This park was dedicated in April 2008, and continues to become a better birding spot. They have a nice education center, picnic armadas, restrooms, and scattered drinking fountains. The park includes one main lake and 5 discharge ponds. Yes, this is a water treatment facility just like the Gilbert Water Ranch. In fact, the place looks just like the Gilbert Water Ranch did about 10 years ago. There are trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. We hope to see many waterbirds and other species.

Difficulty: 1

Meet and carpool from the Burger King just west of 101 on Thunderbird at 84th Dr. Park in the Lowe's parking lot by the Burger King for a 7 a.m. departure.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 8-9, 2014**

**Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival**

**See page 6**

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**Annual Picnic & Bird Walk**

**See page 6**

**Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13, 2014**

**Patagonia loop**

**Leader: Claudia Kirchner**

**Contact: Barb Meding [barbameding AT yahoo.com](mailto:barbameding@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](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](mailto:Dansbohlmann@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, 2013**

**Mt. Ord**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425**

**[Awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:Awtarby@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.

## WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Kathe Anderson, Lawrence Bird, Philip Boddy, Kathleen Cheetham, Mary Gandolph, Dr. Sherry Loch, Gillian Mains, Vicki Minard, Maxine Penny, R. Barret Smith, Louise Steele, and Linda Wilde recently joined Sonoran Audubon Society

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





## A SPECIAL BIRDING TRIP AND FUNDRAISER FOR SONORAN AUDUBON

### The Thick-billed Parrots of Madera, Mexico Monday-Friday, September 1-5, 2014

Solipaso and the Sonoran Audubon Society are pleased to offer a unique trip to see  
Thick-billed Parrots and other species in the mountains of Chihuahua, Mexico



Thick-billed Parrot—Photo by George Wall

On September 1, 2014, we'll gather in Tucson for an orientation and dinner. We'll depart Tucson early the next morning and cross the US-Mexico border at Agua Prieta. At our first stop in Mexico we'll bird in pinyon-juniper habitat and at seasonal ponds. We'll spend our first night in Nuevo Casas Grandes. The next day we'll travel through agricultural fields to riparian habitat and oak and pinyon forests. We'll visit and picnic at the ancient Paquime cliff dwellings of Cuarenta Casas, enjoying the coolness of the pine forests. From here, we'll travel to the lumber town of Madera where we'll spend the next two nights. For our full day of birding near Madera, we'll leave early to travel to the high mesas and moist canyons of the Sierra Madre. Our main goal is to get great views of the highly-endangered and range-restricted Thick-billed Parrot! A local guide will join us while we bird within a reserve created to protect the parrot's habitat. Most of the day we'll be above 8,000', walking old logging roads through tall conifer forest reminiscent of coastal Oregon. Thick-billed Parrots are often found here in good numbers in the summer and we may see them throughout the day. We'll also look for Eared Quetzal, Russet Nightingale-Thrush, Aztec Thrush, Red-faced Warbler, Crescent-chested Warbler, Montezuma Quail and Mountain Trogon. Our last day will be spent driving back to Tucson, making a few stops along the way and arriving late afternoon.

- Trip price: \$1,250 per person, \$230 single supplement. Includes one night in Tucson, one night in Nuevo Casas Grandes and two nights in Madera. The last night in Tucson is not included, but we can arrange lodging for those who do not want to return to Phoenix that evening.
- *This is a special price for the Sonoran Audubon Society, and a percentage of the revenue will benefit Sonoran Audubon.*
- The itinerary starts in Tucson at 5:00 p.m. on the afternoon of September 1st and concludes upon return to Tucson on the afternoon of September 5th.
- Our guide will be David MacKay. David is the main guide for all Solipaso trips, he specializes in Mexico birding, and is fluent in Spanish.
- Participation is limited to 7 people.
- Transportation: We will travel in Solipaso's new 15-passenger van and make sure that everyone has a window seat, having two people for each bench seat.
- Accommodations: We stay at a Courtyard Hotel in Tucson, a nice business hotel in Nuevo Casas Grandes, and the best available hotel in Madera, Hotel Real del Bosque, a comfortable family run hotel with a restaurant.
- Meals: Food and drink is included through lunch on the last day. Snacks and drinking water are provided in the van. Alcohol is not included and should be paid for on your own.
- To book a space go to: <http://www.solipaso.com/book-a-trip> or call 1-888-383-0062 (USA & Canada)
- Also contact Barb Meding so she can arrange carpooling to/ from Tucson etc. [barbameding AT yahoo.com](mailto:barbameding@yahoo.com) (preferred) or call 623-266-1847.
- Please register by March 30, 2014.



Paquime Indian Ruins—Photo by George Wall

## 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 **March 8, 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 **March 23, 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 2/8/2014, reported by Joe Ford

The temperature was a pleasant 54 degrees when we began our bird walk. Thirteen participants from Arizona, North Dakota, New York, Iowa, and Canada joined park ranger Amy Roberts and walk leaders Joe Ford and Caleb Strand.

The presence of several Boy Scout troops and continuing safety concerns at the riparian BLM land restricted our birding to the desert scrub to the west and north of the nature center. The highlight was capturing an impaired Greater Roadrunner, removing string that encumbered the bird, and releasing it back to the wild. We saw the following 26 species: Gambel's Quail, Neotropical and Double-crested Cormorants in flight, White-faced Ibis in flight over the river, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle and House Finch.



### 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

## Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival

### Baseline Meridian Wildlife Area

**Saturday-Sunday, March 8-9, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**The event and activities are free**

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival is an annual two-day outdoor event promoting the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history, and culture of the Gila River drainage, which brings together the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers. It is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a beautiful spring day outdoors and learn about the place we call home.

#### Activities Include:

**Canoe Excursions**

**Early Birding Tours 7:30-9 a.m.** (Pre-register by e-mail to McBobAZ AT aol.com or phone to 602-237-3951)

**Regular Birding Tours beginning at 9:30**

**Fishing Clinic**

**Fashion Show:** Recycling Fashion Show for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade

**Stage Entertainment daily**

**Directions:** From central Phoenix, take I-10 west to Avondale Blvd./115 Ave. exit. Travel south on Avondale Blvd./115th Ave. towards Phoenix International Raceway. You'll see the parking area on left.

See the website at <http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com> for more info and detailed maps.

## THE SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY'S SEVENTH ANNUAL PICNIC



**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**Horseshoe Ranch**



Join us for a Bird Walk from 8 to 10 a.m. Regular festivities go from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Sonoran Audubon provides free hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and water. Please bring a side dish.

There will be a raffle and great camaraderie.

There are restroom facilities.

**Directions:** Take I-17 towards Flagstaff. Take exit 259 (Bloody Basin Road, a well-established dirt road) and bear right for approximately 5 miles. The ranch's gate entrance is on the left and will be well marked.

**Reservations Needed:** You must contact Haylie Hewitt at 623-581-1180 or [haylie.hewitt AT cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net).

This is a free event and is open to all who are interested in birds and fellowship. You do not have to be a SAS member to attend. Fifty-five people participated last year, let's make the 2014 picnic even bigger.

**What to Bring:** A dish to share for the potluck. If you can, a lawn chair (there are a limited number on hand).



## Life in our City Parks

By Joel Pearson

It's all about the life in our city parks. There are many wonderful birds that live there. Recently I had at least 50 Common Ravens lift off from the ground only a couple hundred feet ahead of me! I didn't know they were there. They obviously are aware of possible threats even while hidden by bursage and Creosote Bush while communing on the ground. It was impressive to watch that many large black birds lift off right in front of me! I have seen raven pairs of grab talons and spiral madly on their way to the ground. They break contact just before crashing. That is most likely a courtship ritual. I don't know what they are doing on the ground, however. I've seen them in groups on the ground several times before only, not in such a large group! I know lizards are plentiful. That may be part of their ground work. I can't see what 50 birds could be doing in an area approximately 50 X 100 feet, however.



Male Greater Roadrunner—Photo by Joel Pearson

park as male roadrunners call out their plaintive notes to attract the female. It is for this reason, and my desire to know what happened to the two youngsters from last Summer, that I want to believe that these youngsters are the two siblings whose early bond is still unbroken. I like to think that maybe later this year or even the next they will start their own families and carry on the life story of Greater Roadrunners.

This picture of the two nestlings was taken August 8, 2013.



Young Greater Roadrunners—Photo by Joel Pearson

On January 15th a pair of Greater Roadrunners out hunting for breakfast provided opportunities for video as well as still photos. Why they hunt together is not clear. It could be that they are a mating pair and are simply beginning the bonding process that so many of the other birds are doing right now. Spring is almost upon us and soon all the birds will be building their nests. The Gila Woodpecker and Gilded Flicker have both begun digging out hollows in Saguaro all the while talking to each other. Although mating instincts may be the explanation for this hunting pair, it is my fantasy that these two are the roadrunner siblings photographed in August of last year. I don't normally see roadrunners in competition for mating partners for several more weeks. At that time there is a lot of hooting that can be heard in the

## **THE PASSENGER PIGEON'S EXTINCTION: LESSONS FROM THE PAST FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

**Dr. Stanley Temple**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm  
Phoenix College, Dome Conference Room  
3110 N. 10th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85013**



### **Biographies of the Nominees for Officers and Directors at Large of the Sonoran Audubon Society**

**The selections below were nominated by the Nominating Committee**

**The election will be held at the SAS Meeting on April 9, 2014**

**Gail Bliss** nominated for Secretary: If elected, this will be Gail's second term as Secretary. Gail has been attending Sonoran Audubon meetings for over seven years and is also a member of National Audubon. She switched careers and graduated from Arizona State University earning an MS in Hazardous Materials Management. For 17 years, she worked for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in the Pollution Prevention Unit and is now retired. She has been interested in the environment and birds throughout her life. She ushers at the Herberger Theater and walks dogs at the Sun Valley Animal Shelter. She also is a member and supporter of various environmental organizations including the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and Environmental Defense Fund. She has volunteered on two Earthwatch Expeditions, one to Oregon and one to Mexico working with plants both times. Her other traveling includes trips to Alaska, Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the Caribbean and Galapagos. She has previously been council secretary for a church.

**Dan Bohlmann** nominated for Director at Large: Dan was appointed to the Board in 2013, is the Chair of our Field Trip committee, and now seeks election for a 2-year term. He 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.

**Andrea Nesbitt** nominated for Director at Large: Andrea was appointed to the Board in 2013 and now seeks election for a 2-year term. She 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. Andrea holds education permits from US Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game & Fish Department that allow her to exhibit rehabilitated birds at public events. You may have seen Andrea with a Merlin or other birds of prey she has brought to SAS meetings.



## Vermilion Cardinal

By Dr. Jerry Theis

In the dictionary, vermillion means “of a vivid red to reddish-orange color.” The color was widely used in the art and decoration of ancient Rome, in the illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages, in the paintings of the Renaissance, and in the art and lacquer-ware of China. In November, 2013, with Rockjumper Birding Tours in Colombia, I was fortunate to see the Vermilion Cardinal, whose name appears redundant from a chromatic perspective. It is found only in Colombia and Venezuela and is also known as the Venezuelan Cardinal. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical dry shrub-land. It is the most southerly member of the genus *Cardinalis*. The family *Cardinalidae* includes passerine birds found in North and South America. They are robust, seed-eating birds with strong bills, ranging in size from the diminutive Orange-breasted Bunting to the Black-headed Saltator. They are typically associated with open woodland. The sexes usually are strongly dimorphic.

After we birded the Santa Marta mountain area and before returning to Bogota, we visited Los Flamencos National Park in the Guajira Peninsula. Our target bird was the Vermilion Cardinal, common in this dry thorn habitat but challenging to observe because it is a skulker and does not join raucous mixed flocks. It has a bi-tonal stoutly pointed bill, pale gray above, yellowish below. The male is entirely bright rosy red; the back, wings, and tail edged dusky, and has a long, pointed crest. The female's head is pale gray with a long rosy red crest; upperparts pale brownish gray; below ochraceous buff. The song of the Vermilion Cardinal is much like our Northern Cardinal, but slower and sweeter, and it doesn't sing as persistently as the Northern Cardinal. Even though the Vermilion Cardinal likes to sit on the top of a thorny tree, often *Acacia*, for panoramic surveillance, they can be shy and hard to see. A glimpse of red in the desert is likely to be this species. This cardinal holds its crest quite vertical. No other species in this desert has such a thick bill and long red crest. Its “ramrod” straight posture when singing and long vertical crest impart a commanding appearance. It does not occur in areas with even slightly higher rainfall than found in hot dry Acacian woodland and other low xerophytic vegetation.

The Vermilion Cardinal population is suspected to be in decline owing to trapping pressure for the cage-bird trade.

In all the world, there are only three bird species with Vermilion in their name and I have been fortunate to see them all. They include this cardinal, the Vermilion Tanager, seen in Peru in 2010, and of course, our Vermilion Flycatcher.



Photo taken from Wikipedia on the Internet

## **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 March 21st, Vera Markham will show the 2nd in a series of her best bird photographs.

Marshall Esty will lead a birding trip on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, to the Tres Rios area. Leave from the Church of the Palms in Sun City at 7:45 a.m.

For further information on Birders Anonymous meetings, programs and trips contact Marshall Esty at 623-977-1637 [mne AT juno.com](mailto:mne@juno.com) or Shirley Fackelman at [shirleyfackelman AT 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](http://www.dbg.org) for further information on admission prices and special events.

### **Hassayampa River Preserve**

Enjoy an easy-paced bird walk with master bird bander Anne Leight on Saturday, March 1, 2014, from 8:30-11 a.m.

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.

### **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.

### **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.

On March 1st join avian experts Troy Corman and Kathe Anderson; Anne Leight returns March 9th; join Justin Jones on March 15th. For more information visit <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>.

BTA's guided bird walks are included with daily admission of \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 5-12.

### **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](http://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. Details to be announced.

### **2014 Southwest Wings Spring Fling**

Sierra Vista, AZ, May 7 through May 10, 2014. On-line registration and other details at [www.swwings.org](http://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](http://www.azfo.org) for more details.

## 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:

**March 12, 2014:** Dominic Sherony—Attu: End of the  
Earth (The Island, Birds & WWII)

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

**May 14, 2014:** Carol Beardmore — Namibia

### Meeting of the Board of Directors:

**March 5, 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](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)

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

Desert Rivers Audubon [www.desertriversaudubon.org](http://www.desertriversaudubon.org)

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

Arizona Field Ornithologists [www.azfo.org](http://www.azfo.org)

National Audubon <http://audubon.org/>



7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale, located near 75th Avenue  
behind Mimi's Café and next to Souper Salad.

623-773-3000  
<http://Glendale.wbu.com>

## OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

### Officers

President: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180  
[haylie.hewitt AT cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@cox.net)

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

Treasurer: Jim Consolloy 609-439-8251  
[jconsolloy AT gmail.com](mailto:jconsolloy@gmail.com)

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

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Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425 [awtarby AT gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)

Jerry Theis 623-878-6258 [jerry.theis AT bannerhealth.com](mailto:jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com)

### Committees

Programs: Darnell Kirksey, Jerry Theis and George Wall  
623-875-7057 [gwall5 AT cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

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

Field Trips: Dan Bohlmann

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

Publicity: Tim Cullison

Membership: George Wall

Database Manager: Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451  
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Newsletter Editor: John Arnett

Newsletter Publisher: George Wall

Bookstore: Jackie Anderson: 623-516-8120  
[Jacklynruth AT gmail.com](mailto:Jacklynruth@gmail.com)

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Project: Karen LaFrance



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 tax-deductible depending on your individual tax status.

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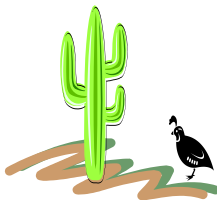
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**P.O. Box 8068**

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