At our next meeting…. Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Andrée Tarby: Australia Adventures

Andrée Tarby started bird watching while growing up in California where her family had hummingbird and tray feeders in the yard. Her first bird walk was as a scout in the 1950’s. She continued her birding after she moved to Missouri and Colorado and finally here in 1983. By that time, she was able to recognize numerous species of birds.

She joined the Maricopa Audubon Society in the late 1980s. When the Sonoran Audubon Society formed, she switched to them. She has been the program chairperson, assisted in the Tres Rios Nature Festival, helped plan the annual picnics and numerous other things. She has led field trips and is especially knowledgeable about California Gulch where the Five-striped Sparrow and the Buff-collared Nightjar are found. For many years, she has been a volunteer at the Desert Botanical Garden where she leads bird walks on Monday mornings. She is currently serving out her second term on the Sonoran Audubon Society’s Board of Directors.

She has traveled to many areas of the United States, Canada and Mexico, as well as to Belize and Ecuador including the Galapagos Islands. Her trip to Australia was a fulfillment of several years of dreaming and planning.
(Continued from Page 1)

What’s Happening in our Chapter?

out as many of our attendees work and wouldn’t be able to make the meetings if they started an hour earlier. The board is currently looking at alternative meeting sites. Our May board meeting will be held at the West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale. This is one of the prospective sites for our General Membership meetings.

Karen LaFrance gave an update on the Audubon Council Roundup of Chapters. She has traveled a lot talking to the Audubon Chapters in Arizona, New Mexico and other states in the western area getting their input in to what they want to see in “Hog Island West” (a final name has yet to be determined). This project entails planning, creating and administrating a camp in Arizona for interested Audubon leaders and members.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was discussed and training for the monitoring of them will be held June 14-16 at Verde Valley.

On the Together Green project, the Agua Fria Steering Group has set two community planning sessions one in May and one in June.

Our next Retreat is scheduled for September 25, 2010.

At the General Membership Meeting, elections were held. Elected were Dick Fogle, Vice-President; John Arnett, Secretary (2nd term); Carol Schooler, Treasurer (2nd term); Karen LaFrance, Joe Ford and Haylie Hewitt were elected as Directors at Large. These elected officers and board members take effect on June 1, 2010.

An election was also held for the Nominating Committee for next year’s election. Elected were Karen LaFrance, Andrea Nesbitt and Tom Lazzelle.

The Sonoran Audubon Society has been very active in the past weeks. Dick Fogle and I manned a SAS booth at the Glendale Green Festival on March 27th. On April 10th, we had a table at the International Migratory Bird Day 2010 held at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center where Richard Kaiser and Joe Ford led birding trips (40 people were led on these trips) while Dick Fogle manned a telescope for viewing and I manned the table. Eleanor Campbell and Haylie Hewitt manned a table at the Nature Fest held at the Hassayampa River Preserve on April 17th. On May 1, 2010, Tim Cullison will be manning a table at the 3rd Girls for a Green Planet Environmental Fair which the Girl Scouts attend.

The Gifts From Nature collections and payments is over. Thanks to Tim Cullison, $1,000 was added to our coffers.

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.

Thursday, May 20, 2010
Tonto Natural Bridge State Park
Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244
dansbohlmann@prodigy.com

This is a unique area that presents different habitats in the same small place. The bridge itself is more like a tunnel that Pine Creek flows through. On the south end of the bridge you are looking down at what appears to be a large cave entrance 300 ft high covered with travertine. Water from a spring above trickles down through the travertine and drips like rain 300ft to the stream below. Violet Green Swallows are swirling around the tunnel entrance and flying in and out from their nests on the walls above the cave. The canyon walls south of the tunnel are desert terrain covered with prickly pear and ring with the sound of Canyon and Rock Wrens. The stream in the canyon is lined with cottonwoods that usually have a number of different types of warblers singing their melodic songs. The other north end of the bridge can be seen from several overlooks from above and a trail goes down the canyon wall using stairs to the creek bed. There is another spring here that comes down the side of the canyon forming a very lush garden of ferns. This area is so lush that it usually attracts all kinds of birds. Then there is the open fields area around the old lodge and parking lots that are lined with trees and attract woodpeckers, king birds, robins, flycatchers, Summer and Western Tanagers, Western Bluebirds and Cardinals.

Difficulty: 2 Bring 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.

Monday, May 24, 2010
Christopher Creek
Leader: Kathe Anderson
Contact: Barb Meding 623-266-1847
barbameding@yahoo.com

Join experienced birding leader Kathe Anderson as we explore Christopher Creek which is 22 miles east of Payson. We will bird the creek area in town, possibly a subdivision nearby and in the campground where we will have a picnic lunch. This is a great birding area and we will be looking for warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks and other neotropic migrants, as well as native residents.
2010 Field Trips

Difficulty: 1-2  Bring a lunch and water. Limit 2 vehicles, 8 or 9 persons total.

Meet the leaders at the Denny’s on Shea Blvd. in Fountain Hills at 5:40 a.m. Return to Fountain Hills around 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday, June 8-11, 2010
Springerville and Area
Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057
gwall5@cox.net

The migration should be in full swing at this time of year in Springerville and in that area are numerous birding spots. Here are some of the places we’ll visit: (1) Becker Lake where a pair of Bald Eagles has been seen. (2) Weima Wildlife Area managed by the Arizona Game and Fish has two easy walking trails along the Little Colorado River through cottonwoods and reeds. Last time we even saw a Willow Flycatcher. Warblers should be numerous. (3) Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area with a loop trail that goes by McKay Reservoir. Bluebirds, Juncos and other birds should be plentiful. This is also antelope and deer country and hopefully we’ll see some. We’ll also be birding at a couple of spots I know of along the way. We’ll be staying three nights at the Best Western Sunrise Inn in Eagar which is right next to Springerville. Each room has two queen sized beds, TV and refrigerator. There is a continental breakfast. I have already booked six rooms ($258 per room for the 3 nights); so, no need to call them.

Difficulty: 1  Bring a lunch.

Saturday, June 19, 2010
Yarnell
Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922
rpfogle@yahoo.com

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

Difficulty: 1  Bring a lunch and water.

Meet at the SW corner of the Bell Recreation Center in Sun City to leave at 6:00 a.m. Take Boswell off off Bell, go one block south or at McDonald’s just as you enter Wickenburg to leave at 6:45 a.m.

Tuesday, June 29, 2010
Stoneman Lake
Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535
rms15247@cox.net

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

Difficulty: 2  Bring lunch and water.

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

Thursday, July 15, 2010
Forest Road 300
Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535
rms15247@cox.net

Drive north on US 17 to exit 287, Camp Verde, turn right and proceed along HWY 260 as it goes up the Mogollon Rim. Turn left on HWY 87, after several miles you will see a sign for Forest Rd. 300, turn right. Immediately after you turn there is a pullout on the right in a small clearing, we will regroup there. The gravel road is well graded for passenger cars. This is a beautiful drive in dense forest of pine and oak at 6000 to 7000 ft. We will travel to a burned out area, birding along the way, where we will listen for woodpeckers.

Difficulty: 1  Bring a Lunch.

Meet at the Burger King just west of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 5:00 a.m. OR at McDonald’s just off Carefree Hwy. taking Exit 223 off Rte. 17 at 5:45 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday, July 24-25, 2010
Flagstaff Arboretum/Kachina Wetlands
Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057
gwall5@cox.net

We will bird Raymond Park and the Kachina Wetlands first. Afterwards, we’ll visit Nancy Reed’s backyard. The next morning we’ll go to the Flagstaff Arboretum (Continued on Page 4)
(continued from page 3)

**2010 Field Trips**

that is nestled within the Ponderosa Pine forest at 7,150 feet. There is a possibility of other stops. Over 100 species of birds have been seen there at one time or another. Suggested place to stay is Days Inn, 1000 West Hwy. 66/140. Rates: $72-$95.

Difficulty: 1 - Bring a lunch.

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

**Tuesday, August 3, 2010**
**Madera Canyon**
Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535
rms15247@cox.net

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

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 4:00 a.m. in order to get there at the crack of light. This is a 2 hour drive so car pooling is a must. Alternate meeting place is the Tempe Public Library 3500 S. Rural Rd. in Tempe to leave there at 5 a.m. This trip is limited to 11 people plus leader (3 cars).

**Alamos**
By George Wall

This was my fourth bird watching trip to Alamos, Mexico, and it was just as good as the first one. Pictured here left to right are Sonoran Audubon members Richard and Karen Kaiser, Anne Durning, Joyce Eggert, Andrée Tarby, Ken Boeder, Gerry Horton, George Wall, Joe Ford and our guide and host David Mackay. We saw or heard over 200 species.

Alamos is a very old town in Sonora, Mexico of just a little over 10,000 population which includes the rural areas. Founded in 1681 and built around silver mining, it is located in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains. Alamos offers many attractions, festivals and activities like bird watching, horseback riding, history, photography and much more. Look for a program in the future on my four trips to Alamos.
I am a new member of your Audubon Chapter and thoroughly enjoy all the information you make available. I have “out of the ordinary” question for you. Attached is a picture of a heron chasing and ultimately grabbing a small bird. It literally grabbed it and then flew back to its nest. My question is – is this normal? On Thursday, March 25, 2010, at around 8 a.m. I decided to stop by the Tres Rios Hayfield on 91st Avenue in Tolleson to take a few photos of the "birds in spring". Unfortunately (or not), the road was severely flooded – so I just stood by the water treatment plant and watched in awe. The bird activity that morning was unlike any I had ever seen. There were so many different birds actively feeding, fighting and working that it was simply incredible. Then I got to witness "a once in a lifetime event" unfold in front of me. I was watching a hawk chasing some sparrows and then witnessed what I didn’t think I would ever see. This Great Blue Heron chasing a bird – it went on for about 30 seconds and I took a lot of shots – most turned out ridiculously out of focus (I think it was either nerves or adrenaline). Is this normal activity for a Heron? I thought they only ate small fish and the like.

After receiving his message, I had to answer him. A Great Blue Heron will eat fish, frogs, crabs, snakes, small animals, insects, and yes, birds. The Great Blue Heron is 46” while the poor little European Starling is a mere 8.5”. Seems unfair, but that is a bird’s life.
Rufous Crab-Hawk
By Dr. Jerry Theis

In February, 2009, on our last day of a Chupaflor Nature Tours birding trip to Venezuela, our main target in the NE corner of the country was the Rufous Crab-Hawk. The Rufous Crab-Hawk is a bird of prey in the Accipitridae family. It is found in Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical lowland forests and subtropical or tropical mangrove forests. It is commonly found perched at low to medium heights in mangrove and swamp vegetation.

As the name implies, the Rufous Crab-Hawk is a dietary specialist, feeding exclusively on crabs, although there is a record of stomach contents of a bird in Suriname containing a fish. According to the literature, this species hunts by sitting on a low branch over a creek and plunging into the mud, where it seizes a crab with its talons and carries it off to a dry perch. Thus, the bills and feet of this hawk are often covered in mud.

The Rufous Crab-Hawk is common within most of its range, but is highly susceptible due to ongoing and future loss of mangrove habitat throughout its range. In appearance, it looks like a small, dark edition of a Savanna Hawk with a gray head. The rest of the upperparts are gray, edged with rufous. The underparts are dull rufous, finely barred with black. The tail is short with an obscure median white band. In flight, the wings show a large pale tawny patch at the base of the primaries. Its call is a harsh shrill scream.

Gail Garber, one of our participants, wrote on her website, and I paraphrase: since we knew the Rufous Crab-Hawk must eat crabs, we expected to arrive at a sandy beach or rocky shore as we boarded boats and headed into a densely vegetated, narrow waterway. As our boats traveled farther along the now-widening waterway, it eventually became a wide river, lined by mangroves. Where were the beaches? Where were the crabs? After two hours of ever-expansive waterways, our Venezuelan guide, Daniel Mueller, pointed to a tall dead snag high above the mangrove forest, supporting a pair of Rufous Crab-Hawks. Where were the crabs? As we pulled in beneath the overhanging mangroves to view a staked-out Spotted Tody-flycatcher nest, we discovered that the forest was literally crawling with crabs, large and small, above and below the water surface! These tree crabs were so abundant that they continually fell into our boats, to be caught and released by several of us.

We now knew the full story of the Rufous Crab-Hawk/tree crab predator/prey relationship that unfolds each day in the mangroves of northeast Venezuela.
Sam Campana and Sarah Porter
Taken from the National Audubon Newswire dated March 31, 2010

Following eight years of outstanding leadership in building the Audubon AZ program, Sam Campana has assumed the newly created position of Founding Director of Audubon Arizona. Sam's new emphasis will be primarily fund raising, but she will continue to provide input in the areas of public policy, strategic planning and public relations. Sam's contribution to building a successful state program and completing the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is immeasurable. Under Sam's leadership, Audubon AZ completed a $7.3 million campaign to build the new Audubon Center along the Rio Salado in Phoenix and launched the state's IBA Program in partnership with Tucson Audubon and our Chapters statewide.

Sarah Porter was selected to succeed Sam as the new VP, Executive Director of Audubon Arizona. Sarah joined Audubon AZ as Associate Director and Director of the Rio Salado Audubon Center in 2006 following a period of service on the Board of Directors. Sarah has played a pivotal role in the design of Audubon's education programs and in ensuring the successful design and construction of the new Audubon Center. Sarah is very excited to be taking on this new role and will be working hard to ensure the long term success and sustainability of the Audubon Center, all the while helping lead new conservation initiatives in Arizona including a Protect Arizona's River Initiative which includes the Colorado River watershed and its Arizona tributaries.

Eighth Annual Audubon Arizona Nature Film Festival
“The Path of the Condor”

Audubon Arizona invites you to its exclusive screening of “The Path of the Condor”. This fascinating film follows Argentine director Christian Holler, ornithologist Lorenzo Sympson and paraglider pilot Martin Vallmitjana as they embark on a journey in search of the Andean condor’s secrets of life and flight. Their mission is to encourage the conservation of a species in danger of extinction. American actor, Viggo Mortensen, who adopted Argentina as his homeland, narrates the film.

Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at Harkins Camelview Theatre, 7001 E. Highland Ave., Scottsdale. Picnic supper and silent auction begin at 5:30 p.m. and films begin at 7 p.m.

Tickets in advance are $25 each and $30 at the door and include two films, picnic supper, popcorn and soda. VIP tickets are $100 and include reserved seating, express auction checkout and a $75 tax deductible contribution to Audubon Arizona. Reserve your tickets by calling Mandy Katz at 602-468-6470 or email akatz@audubon.org. Tickets will be held for you at the door. Please RSVP no later than June 13th.
EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Birders’ Anonymous

Birders’ Anonymous has their monthly meeting on Friday, May 21, 2010, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. The program will be presented Jody Kieran of Fallen Feathers who always brings lots of birds.

The bird watching trip will be on Thursday, May 13, 2010, to the Chandler Veterans Oasis Park led by George Wall. This park is only two years old and the growth around the ponds is not a well developed as the Gilbert ponds, but it will get there. Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. near Peoria Ave. to leave at 6 a.m. in order to get there by 7:15 a.m.

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

Hassayampa River Preserve

International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 8, 2010, 8 a.m.—noon. Hourly bird banding demonstrations until 11 a.m. Interpretive nature walk from 8-9:30 a.m. and much more.

Bird Banding Saturday, May 15, 2010, starting at 6:00 a.m. Newcomers welcome. However, if you want to help band, you must contact Anne Leight at ALeight@syntellect.com at least two days beforehand.

The preserve is open from Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance fees are $5.00 for adults and $3.00 for children. Members fee is $3.00.

Rio Salado Habitat

Saturday, May 22, 2010, Armchair Birding, 9-11 a.m. Course number 63115 applies.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix. Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail riosalado@audubon.org for more information.

Desert Botanical Garden

Every Monday and the second Saturday of each month, there is a bird walk starting at 7:00 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.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Saturday, May 8, 2010, is the Boyce Thompson Arboretum Migratory Bird Day Count. If you want to participate in the count, contact Doug Jenness at 520-909-1529 or at d_jenness@hotmail.com.

Admission is $7.50 for adults, $3 ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/.

Festivals

Wednesday-Sunday, August 4-8, 2010, Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival.

This year it will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Sierra Vista. Rick Taylor founder of Borderland Tours will be the guest speaker. For more information go to www.swwings.org.

Wild Birds Unlimited Grand Opening

Even though the Wild Birds Unlimited store at 7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale was open in April, the official grand opening is May 14-16, 2010. The store is located near 75th behind Mimi’s Cafe and next to the Souper Salad. They are open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.—6 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

On Friday, May 14th, George Wall will present a program at 10 a.m. and again at 11 a.m. on Backyard Bird Watching. This will be an informative program on what you can do to make your backyard more friendly to birds.

There will also be other things happening on those three days.

Come on out or give them a call at 623-773-3000 or go to their website at http://glendale.wbu.com/
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
Vice President:  Karen LaFrance  602-788-9646 klf@cox.net
Treasurer:  Carol Schooler 623-930-8904 raschooler@cox.net
Secretary:  John Arnett 623-695-0953 treerunner@yahoo.com

Board Members— Directors at Large
Tim Cullison, 602-863-9744 timcullisonaz@aol.com
Dick Fogle: 623-584-3922 rpfogle@yahoo.com
Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639 ercamp@juno.com
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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:  Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244 dansbohlman@prodigy.com
Hospitality:  Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180 haylie.hewitt@cox.net
Publicity:  Tim Cullison:  602-863-9744 timcullisonaz@aol.com
Membership:  Charles Kangas 623-931-6677 chuckkan@mindspring.com
Newsletter:  George Wall  623-875-7057 gwall5@cox.net

Care Centers for Birds

Fallen Feathers
Handles and cares for all birds
9532 W. Cielo Grande
Peoria
Jodie Kieran 623-533-2348
623-566-5302

Adobe Mtn. Wildlife Center
Cares for all wildlife including birds
I-17 & Pinnacle Peak
623-582-9806

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

Eagle with missing wing
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.

May 12, 2010: Andrée Tarby– Australian Adventures

Other Dates of Interest: May 5, 2010, 7 p.m. Board Meeting at West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale. – all SAS members, friends and guests welcome.

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