



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 14 Issue 9

May 2013

**At our next meeting.... Wednesday, May 8, 2013 , at 7 p.m.**

## **David Dise-Brown Canyon & Area Adventure**

Dave is a newbie birder who lives in Arizona and summers in Colorado. He first moved to Phoenix in 1960 and attended West Phoenix High School. He entered ASU hoping to become a research scientist - a dream he never attained. After joining the Air Force, he obtained his BS in Computer Science and an MS in Electrical Engineering. As an engineer for the USAF, he had a varied set of work experiences such as working for The National Security Agency, teaching at the USAF Academy, managing the Air Force's advanced space technology program, managing the production of 2 satellites and building the command center at NOARD.

Although work was more than full time, Dave found time to enjoy all aspects of the outdoors and local wildlife wherever he lived. He has lived in places like New Mexico, Texas, Maryland, Alaska, California, Wyoming and, of course, Arizona. He has also traveled through every state except Maine. After retiring, Dave took up photography as a way to more fully enjoy our beautiful planet. Birds are one of his favorite photo

subjects. He likes to understand the bird and then try to capture it in its



**David Dise**

own environment behaving naturally. As a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society, Dave finds his knowledge and enjoyment of Arizona birds is growing like never before and hopes to continue marrying birding and photography together for many more years.

The May presentation will show his documentation of his trip with SAS to Brown Canyon in 2012. It will also include some photos by George Wall from his 3 trips there. For those who have been to the area the presentation will prompt you to remember your own experiences there. For those who have not been there it will serve to show you what you could see if you go in the future. For those who have in an interest in bird photography, it will include some of the Dave's experiences and lessons learned on this trip.



**Summer Tanager—Photo by David Dise**

## What's Happening in our Chapter

By George Wall and Karen LaFrance

There was a Board Meeting on April 3, 2013, and the attendees were Tim Cullison, Haylie Hewitt, Gail Bliss, Eleanor Campbell, Jim Consolloy, Joe Ford, Darnell Kirksey, Andrée Tarby, Jerry Theis and Karen LaFrance, consultant.

A discussion was held on a trip to Mababi Ranch in Mexico for later this year. This was a place that Joe Ford, Karen LaFrance, Tice Supplee and George Wall checked out last year and had determined it would be a good future trip for us to plan on.

The Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival was discussed. See the write up and pictures on pages 7-8.

Karen LaFrance is doing a proposal for collaborative funding to help for printing the Bird Friendly Community series. In the meantime, a motion was made and passed to set aside \$1500 for printing.

Haylie Hewitt reported that we received additional funding from the Environmental Fund of Arizona. We are getting a very good return on our yearly investment.

Other topics discussed were the Western Rivers Action Network and the National Audubon Chapter's Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon on July 12-15, 2013.

Other items of interest: Job description updates need to be done, a pair of binoculars were donated to our society at the picnic and a hospitality person is needed.

The General Membership Meeting was held on April 10th. The annual elections were held and Haylie Hewitt was elected as President, Tim Cullison re-elected as Vice President and Jim Consolloy elected as Treasurer. Re-elected as Directors at Large were Darnell Kirksey, Andrée Tarby and Dr. Jerry Theis.

42 people showed up for the program Jays, Nutcrackers and Pines presented by Tom Gaskill.

## Welcome and Thank You

Since our last newsletter, more people joined the National Audubon Society who live in our designated area. This automatically makes all of them a member of our chapter. These members are Debra Baird, Nadine Bomgren, Judy Dilling, Peri Edwards, Mark Everhart, Eleanor Hunzinger, Mary Lesniak, Michael Neptune, Pamela Palmer, Walter Ray, Barbara Sausen, Ruth Schlecht and Deb Tomek.

We've also had a new "Friend" who is Peggy Cullen.

## 2013 Field Trips—Spring and Summer

**REQUIREMENT:** On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling the leader or the contact person. They can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, **some** trips are limited in size. Anyone can do these trips and if a novice, you'll get plenty of help.

**Friday, May 3, 2013**

**Mt. Ord**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425**

[awtarby@gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)

This is a perfect time of year to go to Mt. Ord for birds. There are grassland, pinyon, juniper, and ponderosa pine habitats. Mt. Ord is the highest bird habitat in Maricopa County. We may encounter Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, Gray Vireo, Black-chinned Sparrow, and many warblers as well as Summer and Hepatic Tanagers. A high-clearance vehicle is required.

Difficulty: 2 Bring a lunch

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

**Saturday, June 15, 2013**

**New River Nature Preserve**

**Leader: Bob McCormick**

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

Have you ever driven North on I-17 and wondered what that slender band of green is off to the East just past New River? Deeded to the Desert Foothills Land Trust in 1994, the New River Nature Preserve is a 20.8-acre habitat open during daylight hours to hikers and people on bikes or horseback. Bedrock comes to the surface here bringing with it the ground water that allows a mix of fan palms, willows, mesquite, native walnuts, cottonwood, gum and sycamore trees to thrive on the perennial spring waters. Lucy's Warblers, Bell's Vireos, woodpeckers, cuckoos, Common Black-Hawks and several types of frogs have been seen on previous trips.

Difficulty 1: Bring a lunch

For car pooling, meet at the Bell Road Park and Ride lot on the SW corner of Bell and I-17. We will leave at 6:45 a.m. to arrive on site by 7:30 a.m.

Directions: From Phoenix, exit I-17 (exit 232) and take frontage road North roughly 2.2 miles (the road turns to dirt after 1 mile, but it's passable by sedan) to a 3-way junction where there's a row of mailboxes and a street sign reading Coyote Pass/Old Stage Road. You can park across from the mailboxes. There's room for about 3-4 cars. Do not block the private driveways in the area. From here, walk the dirt road straight ahead for about 0.1 mile, there will be a New River Preserve sign and a gate.

**Friday-Saturday, June 21-22, 2013**

**Bender Springs and Area**

**Leader: John Arnett 623-695-0953**

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

Our destination is a small, scenic canyon in the Bender Springs Public Use Area of the Barry M. Goldwater Range East, managed by the US Air Force.

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## **2013 Field Trips-Summer**

We will travel through a unit of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, where we may also do some birding. There are other well-known birding opportunities near Gila Bend, and between the Phoenix metro area and Gila Bend, where the group may want to bird either on Friday or Saturday.

**Focus:** We will visit a small breeding population of Varied Buntings at one of Maricopa County's more reliable locations for this species. Other good birds are possible such as Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, (Desert) Purple Martin, hummingbirds, and late-season migrants. We may do some exploring in search of Rufous-winged Sparrows in the Vekol Valley.

**Itinerary:** Friday, the group will carpool to the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field (GBAFAF), where all participants will watch a visitor safety video (it's actually entertaining) and then receive a Visitor Use Permit good for one year. The group should arrive at the GBAFAF at 4 p.m. (1600) to watch the video. Friday night the group can stay and eat dinner at the Best Western Space Age Lodge in the town of Gila Bend. We will have a very early Saturday morning departure from Gila Bend. We will drive East on I10 to the Vekol Valley Road exit, then head south and southwest to our destination. We may encounter law enforcement personnel during this part of the trip. Upon arrival at the Bender Springs canyon, we will bird on foot on a gravel road, which is steep in places, and we may walk through the well-vegetated and rocky bottom of the canyon itself. After we have birded the canyon, we may bird other locations near the canyon or in the Sonoran Desert National Monument as we make our way back to Gila Bend.

**Difficult:** 4-5 Bring breakfast, lunch and snacks for Saturday; however, there are several fast food places in Gila Bend where we can grab an early breakfast and coffee.

**Notice:** Heat, undocumented aliens and drug trafficking are a possibility to encounter as well as challenging hiking.

**What to bring:** Official photographic identification (a driver license) in order to enter a US Air Force installation and in order to receive a Visitor Use Permit, plenty of water, good hiking footwear, sunscreen, wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, appropriate clothing for birding in Arizona in mid-May, binoculars, camera and an adventurous spirit.

### **Friday-Saturday, June 28-29, 2013**

#### **Owling above Tucson**

**Leader:** Melody Kehl

**Contact:** Donna Smith 623-556-9535 [rms15247@cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

We'll bird the mountains between 3 and 6 p.m. Then a Lasagna dinner will be furnished for \$7.50 each prior to looking for the Elf, Western, Whiskered Screech, and Flammulated Owls, Poorwill and Whippoorwill. The trip is limited to 7 people.

### **Thursday-Saturday, July 11-13, 2013**

#### **Surf and Birds**

**Leader:** Kathy Anderson

**Contact:** Barb Meding 623-266-1847

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

Huntington Beach, California has some of the nation's best birding areas. We should see gulls, terns (Forster's Least, Elegant, Caspian nest here), Black Skimmer, plovers (Semipalmated, Black-bellied and Snowy nest in the area), sandpipers (including Long-billed Curlews, Ruddy Turnstones and Marbled Godwits), Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shouldered Hawks, White-tailed Kites, and possible California specialties such as the Nuttall's Woodpecker, Wrentit, California Towhee and California Quail. We leave early Thursday, making stops on the way and plan to arrive in time to stroll the beach before dinner. Friday we will explore our main destinations of Bolsa Chica Wetlands and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Saturday we will possibly return to a Friday site we missed in the morning, or explore a couple of parks in the vicinity. On the way home, we will make another stop before arriving late back in Phoenix. This trip is currently full with a waiting list.

### **Saturday, August 3, 2013**

#### **Pinal Peak**

**Leader:** Dr. David Pearson

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

Get away from the heat of the valley and into the higher elevations of the Tonto National Forest. Birders should be rewarded with nuthatches, woodpeckers and other high forest birds. Last year in August, we saw 80 species of birds. This trip is limited to 11 people (3 vehicles). The drive to the top of the mountain is about 11 miles on a well graded dirt road.

**Difficulty 1:** Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 4:00 a.m. We'll then travel to the alternate meeting place at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. in Tempe. Coming from 60, turn into the first driveway at the library. We'll leave there at 5 a.m. This is a 2 hour drive so car pooling is a must.

### **Tuesday-Thursday, August 13-15, 2013**

#### **Payson Area including Forest Road 300**

**Leader:** Donna Smith 623-556-9535 [rms15247@cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

We will travel all of Forest Rd. 300 on this trip. This is the road that runs along the edge of the Mogollon Rim and we should see high county birds along the way. It will be an all day ride. We will stay in Payson for two nights and bird some of the areas near town, like Tonto Fish Hatchery, East Verde River and the ponds in town

**Difficulty 1**

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## 2013 Field Trips—Summer/Fall

**Thursday, September 5, 2013**

**Locket Meadow**

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

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

Locket Meadow is a beautiful meadow in the area between the five peaks that make up the San Francisco Peaks. There is a small pond that attracts some high altitude birds along with the fir, spruce and aspen forest that surrounds the meadow. The elevation is 8600 ft. and it is reached by a gravel road that can be driven by any passenger car. We will be walking around the level meadow and campgrounds for about a mile and up the trail for 1/4th mile, taking it very easy because of the altitude. There will be the normal forest birds and because of the high altitude sapsuckers, Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Red Crossbills there.

Difficulty: 2: Bring a Lunch.

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

**Thursday-Saturday, September 12-14, 2013**

**San Jacinto Mountains and Morongo Canyon**

**Leader: Kathe Anderson**

**Contact: Barb Meding**

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

We'll leave early on Thursday and make a birding stop near the Colorado River (probably Mayflower Park, N of Blythe) before continuing to San Jacinto Mountains near Palm Springs, Ca. We will bird at Lake Hemet on our way to the mountain town of Idyllwild where we will spend 2 nights. Friday, we'll explore the area near the top of the mountain, including a nature center and a couple of other parks. Early Saturday we'll head down the mountain to Morongo Canyon Preserve (an IBA area) and explore that area for a couple of hours before returning to Phoenix. We hope to get a good mix of mountain birds and migrants. This trip is limited to 8 participants and because we have to make motel reservations, the earlier you register the better.

## Mababi Ranch

**Sonoran Audubon Society Special Trip: Mababi Ranch, Mexico, All Inclusive Guided Trip: Leave Phoenix Saturday AM, August 31, 2013; return Wednesday PM, Sept 4, 2013; Leaders: Joe Ford 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net) and Tice Supplee [tsupplee@auduon.org](mailto:tsupplee@auduon.org).**

The 6500 acre Mababi Ranch lies at 3500 feet in elevation, abutting the Reserva Forestal Ajos-Bavispe, one of Mexico's few ecological preserves. It is 60 miles south of Douglas, AZ, 25 miles from the town of Fronteras, in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains. The bird list is extensive with a

## Mababi Ranch—Continued

good variety right at the ranch buildings. The surrounding mountains are stunning. Accommodations are excellent with private baths and separate sleeping quarters. Logistics: The price--\$750.00 per person--covers everything and includes all travel in comfortable rented, insured vans, two trip leaders (Joe and Tice), all meals and all special, guided side trips from the ranch. Both border crossings will be with Alice Valenzuela, a ranch owner and our hostess who knows the ropes (Valid passport and one additional ID will be required). Alice also does the cooking which is simple, but superb Mexican fare. There is Wi-Fi internet access. The trip is limited to 12 persons. First come will be first served with a \$40.00 reservation fee per person to "Sonoran Audubon Society", credited toward the trip cost. Full payment is required no later than two weeks in advance of the trip. Cancellation with full refund ONLY if your space can be filled, up to one week before the trip. A penalty for late cancellation will be determined. HURRY, sign up early! This trip is not to be missed! For information, call Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360 or e mail [klaf40@gmail.com](mailto:klaf40@gmail.com). The border crossing is simple as long as you have a valid passport and one other piece of identification.

## FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA

**Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society**

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

Join the Sonoran Audubon Society for an easy two hour hike in the park and along the Gila river. Over 150 different species have been observed at the park. We have a Saturday and Sunday walk each month. Bring 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 **May 11, 2013**. Meet at the visitors center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. The walk will last approximately two hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net).

The last Saturday walk on April 13th had 12 attendees who saw 61 species including the Common Goldeneye.

**SUNDAYS:** These walks are held on the fourth Sunday of the month. The next one will be on **May 26, 2013** starting at 7:30 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@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 [awtarby@gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com).

## Girl Scout Badge Workshop

Submitted by Tim Cullison

On April 6, 2013, SAS board members Joe Ford, Darnell Kirksey, Andree Tarby and Tim Cullison, assisted by Paula Cullison, presented a birding badge workshop to 38 Brownie Girl Scouts.

Previously, the local Girl Scout council had petitioned the Girl Scout national office for permission to create an All About Arizona Birds badge. The badge requirements were developed by SAS because the Girl Scouts do not currently offer a bird badge.

The workshop was conducted at the North Mountain Visitor Center in Phoenix and featured a PowerPoint presentation on bird characteristics, a bird walk and two crafts: making a bird feeder and drawing a bird picture.

In addition to receiving the official Girl Scout badge, the Brownies also received a souvenir Sonoran Audubon badge developed by long-time SAS member Karen LaFrance. The badge will also be on sale at SAS meetings for \$5. After the event, the local Girl Scout executive requested that SAS set a date for next year's workshop.



Tim Cullison Instructing



Darnell Kirksey Instructing



Joe Ford Instructing



Joe Ford, Darnell Kirksey and Andree Tarby



## What Makes a Backyard Bird Habitat

By George Wall

This is the second part of this article (the first part was in the April newsletter). When we talk about other than those for hummingbirds, we talk about feeders for certain species or certain feed. Of course, you can just spread seed on the ground and you'll bring in a lot of birds, but do it right and use specific feeders. For instance, some birds eat mainly seeds and just about any type, some like a specific type of seed and others fruit or berries. Just about all birds will eat suet. This means you have to have feeders that fit those categories. Also, use feeders that deter squirrels if you have them.

If you want to attract goldfinch you want a thistle feeder which is the favorite food of goldfinch. If you just put a regular thistle feeder up, all types of finch, sparrows and other small birds will use it. However, if you put an upside-down finch feeder, usually only goldfinch will use it since sparrows and other small birds don't like to feed upside-down. Don't use the thistle seed bag feeders as they won't last very long because of the weather and the birds tearing them.

For sunflower seed feeders, I would recommend one that has no base for large birds to grab hold of. For regular seed feeders, use one that has a mesh around the feeder. This will deter large birds like doves, grackles, etc. Using an upside-down suet feeder will keep grackles and starlings from the suet (which they like) because they can't hang upside-down. A fruit feeder is a must to attract birds such as orioles and they can be very simple. On ground feeders, use one that prevents large birds from getting in. On quail block feeders, buy or make one that is off the ground and has a cover to prevent rain from ruining the block.

A lot of feeders come with some type of protective cover, but many do not. A protective cover will help keep the seed fresh longer. Rain can cause seed to get moldy. However, if you have a lot of birds coming to your feeder, the seed won't last very long so it may not be necessary. Doing this article, even I learned a lot.



**Upside-down Goldfinch feeder**



**Sunflower seed feeder**



**Regular mesh feeder**



**Upside-down suet feeder**



**Fruit feeder (apple or orange)**



**Ground feeder**



**Quail block feeder**



**Protective dome**

## Annual Picnic at Horseshoe Ranch, March 23, 2013

By George Wall

It was a cold, very windy morning when I drove into Horseshoe Ranch about 65 miles from my house in Sun City. I got there a little before 8 a.m. and there were already a couple of birders waiting for the bird walk. Within a few minutes they were pouring in by the carloads. We gathered out of the wind while I tried to figure out how I was going to handle over 30 enthusiastic birders. I had only anticipated about 12-15 showing up, boy, was I surprised. Richard Kaiser, who birded here last year, kindly agreed to take part of the group down along the river. I took the larger portion, 23 strong, out the back way behind the barn, past the pond that was being renovated, and down the road.

Even though it was gale force winds, we saw two American Kestrels sitting in a bare cottonwood tree. We thought, hey, we might see some birds. Well, we did see a few but not many. A Common Raven flew over and there was a Turkey Vulture in the distance. The only other highlight on the walk was a Ladder-backed Woodpecker. Finally I decided I had enough and several of us headed back to the ranch. A few hardy souls continued down the road. It ended up that we saw more birds just sitting in chairs out on the lawn like the beautiful Vermilion Flycatcher that showed its red beauty all day long. If it wouldn't have been so windy, I feel sure we would have seen a lot more birds.



Group of 23 birders—Photo by George Wall

The 32 birds seen (I may have missed one or two) were Gambel's Quail, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Common Black-Hawk, Harris's Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Cactus Wren, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.



The Picnic Area—Photo by George Wall

The ranch itself is composed of many buildings and the one we used was ideal for what we wanted. It had about a 12 foot table in the middle, a kitchen and two bathrooms. The table was where we had decided to set up the entire silent auction and the raffle items and there were some really good pieces. There were several beautiful bird prints (some in frames), a weather station, a Pink Adventures Tours vouch for two, a telescope for viewing the night sky, and a raft of other items. On the raffle side, there were seven items including a \$50 gift certificate to Grazie Pizzeria. The raffle tickets were \$1 each or 6 for \$5. By 11 a.m., there were 55 people in attendance – 10 more than last year. Andrée Tarby and Haylie Hewitt did a masterful job in getting the food and drinks together. Joe Emmons, Dan Flaherty, and I handled the grills. John Arnett, Gail Bliss and Jerry Theis were instrumental in getting the auction and raffle in order. Tim Cullison handled the receipts. Over \$700 was made from these events. This will pay for

the food, drinks, etc., plus adding some much needed funds to our coffers. It was a team effort by them and many others to get everything laid out for a wonderful feast, auction and raffle.



## Pictures Taken at the Picnic



Julie Nelson, daughter of Shannon Perry (a member), took this nice photo of a Zone-tailed Hawk that flew over.



Vera Markham photographed this Vermilion Flycatcher and the Say's Phoebe.



David Kennedy captured this beautiful photo of a Ladder-backed Woodpecker and the Verdin pictured below.





## Spoon-billed Sandpiper

By Dr. Jerry Theis

Photos from Wikipedia

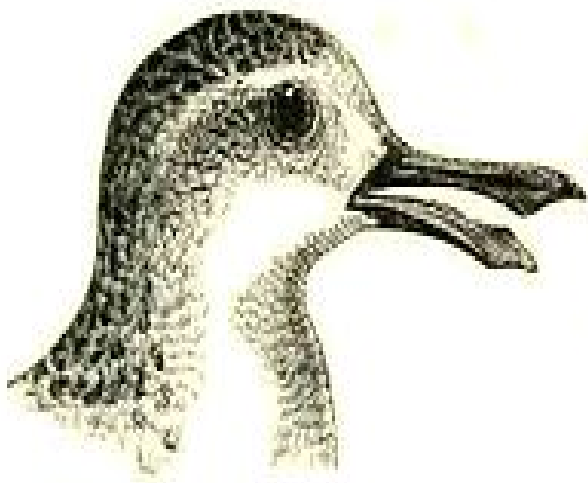
In January, 2012, I visited Thailand with Field Guides and the Spoon-billed Sandpiper was high on everyone's wish list. We were discouraged to hear that only one bird was being seen in recent weeks at Pak Thale, an area of salt pans, shrimp ponds and coastal mudflats 80 km south of Bangkok. Even more discouraging was the fact that it hadn't been seen yet the morning of the day we visited. After viewing Common Sandpipers, Spotted Redshanks, Common Greenshanks, Marsh Sandpipers, Wood Sandpipers, Whimbrels, Far Eastern Curlews, Eurasian Curlews, Black-tailed Godwits, Great Knots, and Broad-billed Sandpipers, we amped up our efforts. After about an hour of searching, we did find one lone Spoon-billed Sandpiper among the throngs of wintering shorebirds, resting on the side of a levee. The western shore of the Gulf of Thailand produces a wealth of shorebirds, the rarest of which is undoubtedly the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, a critically endangered shorebird with probably fewer than 200 birds remaining in the wild.



Non-breeding Season

sometimes sandy beaches, salt pans, and prawn ponds. It often stands more upright than the Red-necked Stint. It feeds in shallow water and on wet mud, either sweeping its bill from side to side or patting the surface with its bill. Sometimes it feeds in a "vacuum cleaner" fashion, compared to the "sewing machine" style of snipes and dowitchers. It winters coastally from SE India to Singapore to SE China, but it is nowhere common. It occurs in passage in Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Eastern China.

The first record of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the United States was from May 30-31, 1986, on Attu Island in the Aleutians, when two were found by Dr. Ed Greaves, the highlight of his long and distinguished birding career.



Unusual bill

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper resembles Red-necked and Little Stints but has a diagnostic spatulate-shaped bill, which is less obvious in a profile view. It also has a somewhat bigger head, whiter forehead and breast, and broader supercilium, and its scapulars are more uniformly fringed rufous-buff. In breeding plumage, the face, neck and upper breast are mainly chestnut-red. The upper parts are dark, with chestnut and whitish fringes. In flight, the white wingbar and sides of the rump are relatively prominent. Non-breeding birds, like our bird, have pale brownish-grey upper parts with bright white fore-neck and breast.

Spoon-billed Sandpipers nest in June-July in coastal tundra preferring grassy areas near freshwater ponds, feeding largely on insects around these ponds. Its habitats are mud and sand flats,



Breeding Season

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is a highly charismatic wader, owing to its extraordinary bill shape, obvious even in young birds, and to its rarity. Many efforts are underway to understand and preserve this species in the wild. In 2012, the first movie documenting its nesting, with hatchlings, was recorded. Also in 2012, eggs from Russia were transported to the U.K. for hatching in the first captive breeding program. Will the hatchlings be spoon-fed?

## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

Audubon's Birds 'n Beer, is being offered on May 16th 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 sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery. Proceeds from the sale of beer 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 located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix and 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 [rio-salado@audubon.org](mailto:rio-salado@audubon.org) for more information about their programs and events.

### Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting 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. The next meeting is on May 17, 2013, and the program will consist of candid and posed trip pictures through the year.

The birding trip will be to the Seven Springs area. Meet at the church parking lot to leave at 7 a.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings and trips.

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

### Hassayampa River Preserve

Anne Leight has bird banding programs on Saturday, May 4th and on Sunday, May 19th at 6 a.m. Newcomers are welcome; however, if you want to help bird band, you must contact Anne Leight at [birdannabelle@hotmail.com](mailto:birdannabelle@hotmail.com).

Migratory Bird Day celebration—Saturday, May 4th, 8-11 a.m. hourly bird banding demos, bird walks and a raptor presentation by Rich Glinski, author of Raptors of Arizona.

Mother's Day Birds and Brunch, May 12th, 6:30—9:30 a.m. Fee is \$15. Enjoy an easy paced walk along the trails with a docent to catch sight of resident and migratory birds and then enjoy a great breakfast.

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. Members fee is \$3.00.

### Desert Botanical Garden

Each week on Mondays there is a bird walk. The bird walks for May will be starting at 8 a.m.

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students. DBG Membership is \$65 a year (\$75 for Families). When special events are held, the entry fee could be higher. See their website at [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org) for further information.

**Friday, May 10th is a free day at the Gardens. No charge!**

### **Hassayampa's Nature Festival is Over**

The Nature Festival at Hassayampa was held on April 6th and naturally we had a table there. The table was manned by SAS members Haylie Hewitt and Jessica Hoss. About 40 kids from 3-year-olds up to teenagers dropped by the table to play the Identification Game. Our newsletter and four new handouts focusing on Building Our Bird Friendly Community were passed out. Photos are by Mark Hewitt.



Haylie Hewitt and Jessica Hoss



Wild Man Phil's (reptile guy) daughter and Jessica



### 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.

#### Upcoming Schedule:

**May 8, 2013:** David Dise—Brown Canyon & Area Adventure

**September 11, 2013:** Paul Holdeman—Birds Gone Wild: Creating Attractive Habitats in Your Own Yard

**October 9, 2013:** Ross Hawkins—Hummingbirds Galore

**November 13, 2013:** Len Boeder—His Best Bird Pictures

**December 11, 2013:** George Wall—Puerto Rico

**January 8, 2014:** John Arnett—Cuba

**February 12, 2014:** David and Diane Reesor—Brazil

**Other Dates of Interest:** May 1, 2013, 7 p.m. Monthly Board Meeting at above location. Members are invited to attend as guests.

SAS Web Site: [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)  
Audubon Arizona Web Site: [www.az.audubon.org](http://www.az.audubon.org)  
Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site: [www.desertriversaudubon.org](http://www.desertriversaudubon.org)  
Maricopa Audubon Web Site: [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 and located near 75th Avenue behind Mimi's Café and next to the Souper Salad.

Ph: 623-773-3000—Website: <http://Glendale.wbu.com>  
7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale and located near 75th

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

#### Officers

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

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

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

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

#### Board Members— Directors at Large

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

#### Committees

Programs: Darnell Kirksey, Jerry Theis and George Wall—See phone numbers and e-mail addresses above.

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

Field Trips: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244  
[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

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

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

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

Database Manager: Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451  
[tlazzelle@cox.net](mailto:tlazzelle@cox.net)

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

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Project: Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360 [klaf40@gmail.com](mailto:klaf40@gmail.com)

### 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

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 fully tax-deductible.

## THE FRIENDS

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NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

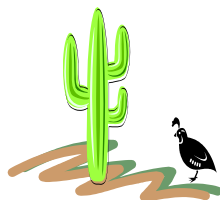
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Sonoran Audubon Society

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