At our next meeting…. Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 7 p.m.
Mark Siegwarth-Namibia South Africa Plants & Birds

Mark Siegwarth, Executive Director of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum will be presenting a talk on November 10, 2010 detailing his solo trip to Africa. Mr. Siegwarth went to South Africa and Namibia to forge partnerships to aid the Arboretum’s plan to expand its Deserts of Southern Africa area.

During his two week odyssey, Mr. Siegwarth flew from Amsterdam across the continent to Cape Town, South Africa. With only carry-on luggage weighing less than 20 lbs including his camera, he then proceeded to drive over 1,200 miles by himself in rented cars on the wrong side of the road. Mr. Siegwarth took over 1,800 pictures and promises to show only a few during his talk. He visited five national botanic gardens, several national parks, museums, private gardens and a Desert Research Center. His meetings with the Curators of the botanic gardens were very successful and he has a lot to report.

Mr. Siegwarth’s background as a Boy Scout, Marine Corps pilot and avid Arizona hiker prepared him well for this journey, although he would prefer some company next time.

Prior to his being named Executive Director at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Mr. Siegwarth served as an Assistant Director of Arizona State Parks for nine years and was also on the Boyce Thompson Board of Directors for five years. Mr. Siegwarth has an undergraduate degree in Economics from Miami University of Ohio and a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The Sonoran Audubon Society usually schedules a trip to Boyce Thompson once a year, but many of you go on your own to this wonderful arboretum. Come out and hear about his adventures in the gardens of Africa and what is planned for the arboretum. You won’t be disappointed.
What’s Happening in our Chapter?  
By Your Editor, George Wall

So many things happening or happened (Retreat, Round Up, Girl Scouts, meetings, events, etc.) that I decided to let you read about them in the newsletters and the e-mails that I send out.

At our last General Membership meeting, we had over 50 people attend Janice Miano’s “Postcards from the Parks” program.

2010 Field Trips—Fall and Winter

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.

Monday, November 8, 2010
Cordes Junction/Big Bug Creek
Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057
gwall5@cox.net

We plan to bird the upper Agua Fria river area among the cottonwoods, mesquite and other growth along the river. We have never had a birding trip to this particular area where our chapter is so active with the community; so, who knows what we’ll find. If the birding is bad or we have time, we’ll go and bird Big Bug Creek (Karen LaFrance and Tice Supplee report good birding here).

Difficulty: 1-2—Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Burger King on Thunderbird near 101 in Peoria at 7 a.m. or meet at the McDonald's at I-17 & Carefree Highway at 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 18, 2010
Estrella Community Ponds and Gila River
Leaders: Donna Smith 623-556-9535
rms15247@cox.net
Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244
dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

These are beautiful ponds right in the middle of the Estrella Community that are usually included in the Tres Rios Christmas Count. Every time we have been there, we seem to come up with some unusual bird that you don’t usually see in this area. One year it was a Greater White-Fronted Goose and the next it was a Cackling Goose. Another time there were small flocks of Ross’s Geese and Snow Geese and lots of Canada Geese. We found a few unusual ducks like a Greater Scap and a Bufflehead along with the more common ring-necks, pintails, shovelers, teals, widgeons, ruddys and Mallards in groups of 30 to 50 and the ever present coots in flocks of hundreds. We even had a Common Loon show up one year and in the shoreline trees a Lewis’s and Acorn Woodpecker. But they were there in the middle of December and we are going in the middle of November – so we shall see the early arrivals, whoever they are?

After checking out the ponds, Donna is going to take us to a new area along the Gila River that has its own paved parking and trails along the river. We are going to see if we can scare up any Soras or Rails that live in this area or maybe find a flock of White-faced Ibis.

(Continued on Page 3)

Member Spotlight

By Eleanor Campbell

Martha and Joe Emmons are relatively new Friends of Sonoran Audubon having moved to Sun City from the Seattle area two years ago. Although they are full time residents they spent two months this summer traveling around the country visiting relatives and friends hitting almost every state. Of course they birded enroute and in their 10,771 miles they chalked up 35 life birds.

Joe is a recently retired Mechanical Engineer. Martha spent many years overseeing a school’s "solution room" calming unsettled kids. They were high school sweethearts, have been married 41 years and have three sons.

Joe is an avid fly fisherman and plays softball regularly. Martha is a collector. In addition to salt and pepper shakers she has a unique collection of bits of sand from her travels all over the world like Israel and Russia and added Florida this summer. Both are interested in genealogy and like to hike.

There are several feeders in their large backyard and they enjoy bird watching there.

Joe & Martha Emmons
2010 Field Trips—Fall and Winter

In fact, we may go here first to see if the early birders can catch the early birds catching that early worm.

Difficulty: 2 – Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot (SW corner near Boswell and Hutton in Sun City) at 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 28, 2010
Estrella Mountain Park
Leaders: Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 mcbobaz@aol.com or Andrée Tarby at 480-948-1074 atarby@cox.net.

Join the group for a Sunday morning bird walk. See the Sunday walk at Estrella listed below. No need for reservations.

FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA
Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

Estrella Mountain Park is located on the south side of the Gila River in Goodyear at Bullard Ave. and Vineyard Rd.

SATURDAYS: These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be on Saturday, November 13, 2010. Meet at the visitor’s center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The walk will last approximately 2 hours. For further information, contact Rich Schooler at 623-930-8904, ra-schooler@cox.net.

At the last Bird Walk on Saturday, October 9, 2010, there were 8 people. It was an excellent walk with 31 species seen. The highlight was a Common Blackhawk and three Ospreys over the river.

SUNDAYS: These walks are held the fourth Sunday of each month. The next walk will be on Sunday, November 28, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park (Navy Area). For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 mcbobaz@aol.com or Andrée Tarby at 480-948-1074 atarby@cox.net.

There is a $6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks are free of charge.

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trip

Friday, November 26, 2010
Rackensack Wash
Leader: Mike Plagens 602-459-5224 miplagens@arizonensis.org

Hike along Rackensack Wash up stream and then down from the Seven Springs Road. Trail start is about 5 miles north of Bartlett Lake turn off. Some migrants can be expected in the cottonwoods and willows along the riparian stretches and many desert species in the chaparral areas. Meet at 7 a.m. at Fry’s parking lot, SE corner of Tatum and Shea Blvd, Phoenix.

Difficulty: 2+

Celebration

On Saturday, December 4, 2010, 10 a.m.—3 p.m., the Sonoran Desert National Monument-National Landscape Conservation System (SDNM-NLCS) will be celebrating their 10th anniversary. They will also be celebrating the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the 20th anniversary of the Arizona Wilderness Act. To commemorate this event, there will be an all-day celebration at the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field approximately 3 miles south of Gila Bend. There will be guest speakers, approximately 40 exhibitors, entertainment by Native American dancers, etc., reenactments by the Mormon Battalion, a historical Wells Fargo stage coach, nature and bird walks, and a 25’ tall cold-air balloon of Smokey the Bear. And this is just the beginning.

There will be many partners including the Friends of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, the Anza NHT Coalition of Arizona, Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Sonoran Institute, the Desert Rivers Audubon Society, the Sonoran Audubon Society, the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. A.F. Luke Air Force Base, to name a few.

The theme is centered around celebrating all the wonderful opportunities for outdoor recreation, treasured landscapes, and environmental education that we have here in south-central Arizona.

Keep this date open as the Sonoran Audubon Society will have a table there and we will also be participating in the bird walks.

This is a free event!!!!
The Retreat
By George Wall

The “Retreat” or Strategic Planning Session as it was officially called was a success. Karen LaFrance was the facilitator for the “Retreat”, and as usual, she did an excellent job. As in previous years, several board members and others gathered to celebrate previous accomplishments since the last “Retreat” on September 5, 2009, generate ideas and put forth plans to implement these ideas in the next five years. This will make our chapter a more viable organization.

Prior to actual start of the planning, several people joined in on the scheduled bird walk. The attendees on the walk were Marilyn Cute, Stanley & Darnelle Dunn, Joe Ford, Darnell Kirksey, Bob McCormick, Barb Meding, Rich & Carol Schooler, Donna Smith, Tice Supplee, Jerry Theis, George Wall and Kathy Wheeler. 42 species were seen including a Vermillion Flycatcher. It was a great walk.

Here are some of the items we celebrated: Birds of Conservation Concern Brochure, Family Bird Walks, Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership Community Planning project and three Together Green Grants, Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys, publicity for programs which generated attendance at meetings between 50-60 on average, successful chapter picnic, Tres Rios Festival with over 75 people on bird walks led by us, new board members, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (2 sessions with 12-13 in each), Agua Fria National Monument 10 years celebration in which Bob McCormick and Karen LaFrance led bird walks with over 100 attendees, International Migratory Bird day at Rio Salado where we led bird walks, Green Days representation at Hassayampa, Spring Trek at South Mountain, Glendale Family Bike Ride and Green Festival, Christmas Bird Counts, a new venue for our monthly membership and board meetings, our website changed to accept Pay Pal and a collaborative grant with Maricopa and Desert Rivers along with Liberty Wildlife and Audubon Arizona to teach scouting badges in the future (first session on November 6, 2010).
(Continued from Page 4)

**Retreat**

After the celebration, ideas were generated for the future. After being listed, the attendees were divided into two groups. One discussion group worked on Adult Education and Stewardship of the environment; the other worked on Membership and Youth Education.

Some of the highlights for membership: recruiting a diverse board equals more diversity of membership; one on one contact is recommended for recruiting Board and committee members; giving talks to service clubs and other appropriate organizations; expanding our membership package, for talks, for new Friends; diversify bird walk locations and give general meeting information on items like bookmarks.

We can gain Friends! Increasing members equals increasing volunteers equals increasing Friends. Let us reduce dues for young members to $10; go to schools/colleges to offer programs; get involved in other groups’ activities, present programs to home schoolers, charter schools, churches. A clearer designation of Friends status and when contributions are due is on the horizon. Our goal is to increase our Friends from the current 90 to 150 in five years.

Education for Youth is a high priority for the next five years. We need to get youth involved in nature through church groups with live animals; building on the Girl Scout work; youth camps; youth activities at festivals. Create a speakers group, beginning birding at Friendship Park in Avondale for families.

Education for Adults is another priority. Put emphasis on birding classes at convenient locations where birds are; have field guides, loaner binoculars and handouts to include field trips. A learning workshop at a plant nursery that is bird friendly. Field trip training both in town and out of town. Put basic bird ID tips on the website. Build web linkages to SAS web and partners. Also, put emphasis on “Friends” membership because these dollars stay here. Spread this fact on other media like Twitter and Facebook.

Stewardship concerning the environment was another hot topic. Learn what native plants are by taking trips to nurseries and botanical gardens; learn identification of invasive plants. Get involved with cleaning up invasive Salt Cedar and grasses. Involve more people in our Important Bird Areas. Develop criteria for habitat certificates for homes (backyards).

Sonoran Audubon is going green by using shade grown coffee, emphasizing e-mail communications, no plastic bottled water and carpooling.

Facilitator

Lunch Time
“Audubon Round Up”
It is Right Now!
Audubon Chapters’ Learning Conference
November 11-14, 2010

Join other Auduboners! at Saguaro Lake Ranch for fun and learning that benefit your chapter www.saguarolakeranch.com.

Auduboners talking together? Wow what a concept! Enjoy “down time” relaxing with new friends and birding in the Sonoran Desert.

Costs: from $115 PP per day to $140 PP per day (includes all meals) PLUS Event Registration Fee of $65.00 PP. Camping nearby; awards dinner included.

On Line Registration, printable Registration Forms and where to send your check and accommodations, go to www.sonoranaudubon.org. JUST CLICK!

Confirmed Attendees with Speaking Assignments: Brian Rutledge, Wyoming Audubon, Kristine Uhlman, University of AZ Water Resources Management Center, Mary Ford, NAS Education Programs Manager, Lynn Tennefoss, NAS VP for Chapters, Garry George, California Audubon Chapters Network, Joy Hester, NAS Southwest Regional Director and Mary Hoadley, Arcosanti and Upper Agua Fria Watershed.

Preliminary Program and Schedule: On line at www.sonoranaudubon.org

Salt River IBA Dedication and Awards Dinner Saturday! Just $50.00 if that is the only time you can join us. Sign up on line or mail your check to Sonoran Audubon Society, PO Box 8068, Glendale, AZ  85312.

Chapters’ Market: Features The Store by Desert Rivers Audubon!

Questions? Karen LaFrance, Round Up Coordinator and 2009 Together Green Fellow at klaf@cox.net and 602-809-3360.

Sponsor: Arizona Audubon Council

Underwriting by Together Green, a program of National Audubon Society And Vashti ("Tice") Supplee, 2008 Together Green Fellow
The National Audubon Society has conducted Christmas bird counts since 1900. Volunteers from across North America and beyond will take to the field during one calendar day between December 14 and January 5 to record every bird species and individual bird encountered within a designated 15-mile diameter circle. These records now comprise an extensive ornithological database that enables monitoring of winter bird populations and the overall health of the environment.

Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. Many counts hold a compilation dinner at the end of the day where results are tabulated and stories shared. A $5.00 participation fee defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the overall count results. Help is needed on most of these counts, so find one or more of interest to you and contact the compiler for information.

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Unknown Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR  

Stephen Barclay  

520-387-4987  

stephen_barclay@fws.gov

Nearby New Mexico Count

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EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

**Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat**

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 about their programs and events.

Arizona Animal Encounters—2nd Saturday of every month at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, there will be a bird walk followed by a class focusing on Hawk ID. This will be from 8-11 a.m.

**Birders’ Anonymous**

Birders’ Anonymous has their monthly meeting on Friday, November 19, 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 on Efforts to Preserve Vulture Mine presented by Bernadine McCollum. The bird walk is on Friday, November 12th led by Marshall Esty to the Glendale Recharge Ponds.

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

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

The preserve is open mid-May through mid-September Friday - Sunday 7-11 a.m. and mid-September through mid-May Wednesday-Sunday 8 a.m.– 5 p.m.. Entrance fees are $5.00 for adults and $3.00 for children. Members fee is $3.00.

Bird Banding: Saturday, November 6th and 27th, starting at 6:30 a.m. Newcomers welcome. However, if you want to help band, you must contact Anne Leight at birdanna-belle@hotmail.com at least two days beforehand.

**Gilbert Water Ranch**

Audubon Family Walks - Desert Rivers Audubon leads bird walks for beginners and families on the third Saturday of each month, through April, running from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Free, no registration required. 260 species of birds have been recorded at this great place.

The Gilbert Water Ranch is located on the SE corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads in Gilbert, Arizona. From the Superstition Freeway (US 60) exit at Greenfield Road and drive S. on Greenfield for 1.5 miles. Turn east (left) on Guadalupe. The entrance to the parking lot for the Water Ranch is the third driveway on the right. See http://sites.google.com/site/birdsofthegilbertwaterranch/

**Arizona Field Ornithologists**

See their website at www.azio.org.

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**Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

Boyce Thompson Arboretum opens at 8:00 a.m. $7.50 for adults, $3 ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their website at http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/.

**Desert Botanical Garden**

Every Monday, October-April at 8 a.m., join expert birders for a morning bird walk along the Garden trails. Everyone is welcome, including first-time birders. Wear a hat, sunscreen and comfortable shoes, and bring binoculars if available.

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.

**Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center**

OPEN HOUSE: Saturday-Sunday, November 20-21, 2010, at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center. Free Admission. This is your opportunity to learn about wildlife native to Arizona and other conservation education programs the Department offers.

The event will feature live wildlife education programs, learn to cast at the fishing activity, boating law and safety information, hunter education program information, self-guided tour of the facility. There will be raffle tickets and merchandise for sale.

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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 less money goes to us; however, you get the National Audubon Society Magazine. Some people choose to do both. See our website for the applicable forms.

Adult or family membership: $20.00
Seniors (60 and up): $15.00
Students Under 18: $10.00

All monthly issues of Gambel’s Tales are free from the chapter website <www.sonoranaudubon.org> or by mail for $10.00 per year.

Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

Officers

President: George Wall 623-875-7057 gwall5@cox.net
Vice President: Dick Fogle: 623-584-3922 rpfogle@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Carol Schooler 623-930-8904 raschooler@cox.net
Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953 treerunner@yahoo.com

Board Members—Directors at Large

Eleanor Campbell: 623-977-7639 ercamp@juno.com
Tim Cullison: 602-863-9744 timcullisonaz@aol.com
Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 lford25@cox.net
Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180 haylie.hewitt@cox.net
Darnell Kirksey 602-938-6174 dkirk38338@aol.com
Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646 klf@cox.net
Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 raschooler@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 dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

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

Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale and located near 75th Avenue behind Mimi’s Café and next to the Sou-
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.

Tentative Schedule for the Year:

November 10, 2010: Mark Siegwarth—Namibia and South Africa—Plants & Birds  
December 8, 2010: Rick Taylor—Mexican Marauders  
January 12, 2011: Carol Beardmore—Alamos Bird Survey Expedition  
February 9, 2011: David Reesor—Birds of Bhutan  
March 9, 2011: Doug Alexander—Birds of New Zealand  
April 14, 2011: Amy Leu—Feathered Hearts (live birds)  
May 11, 2011: Joe Ford—The Wonder of Plants and Flowers

Other Dates of Interest: November 3, 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