

 Audubon | SOUTHWEST

Beginning Birding Along the Lower Salt and Gila Rivers – a Covid-Safe Activity

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE WEBINAR – WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!

(ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE MUTED. PLEASE ENTER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS IN THE CHAT BOX)

Tonight's Agenda:

- Why Birds?
- Birding Equipment
- Safety
- Bird Identification
 - Tips for Finding Birds
 - Basic Bird ID
 - Common AZ Birds
 - Tricky ID Challenges
- Places to go on the Lower Salt/Gila Rivers

Tonight's Presenters:

- **Bob McCormick**
 - Sonoran Audubon Society
Former President
 - Important Bird Area
Coordinator
- **Steven Prager**
 - Audubon Southwest
Outreach Biologist
 - Chapter Liaison
(AZ/NM)



A scenic landscape photograph of the Lower Salt River. The river flows from the background towards the foreground, creating white rapids. The banks are lined with dense green vegetation, including trees and shrubs. In the background, a large, rugged mountain with a flat top (mesa) rises above the river valley. The sky is a mix of blue and soft pink/purple hues, suggesting dawn or dusk. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

Why Birds?

Lower Salt River. Photo: Jonathan Buford

Bald Eagle. Photo: Mick Thompson



Summer Tanager. Photo: Megumi Aita.



Abert's Towhee. Photo: Mick Thompson.





Arivaca Lake. Photo: Steven Prager



Acorn Woodpecker. Photo: Steven Prager

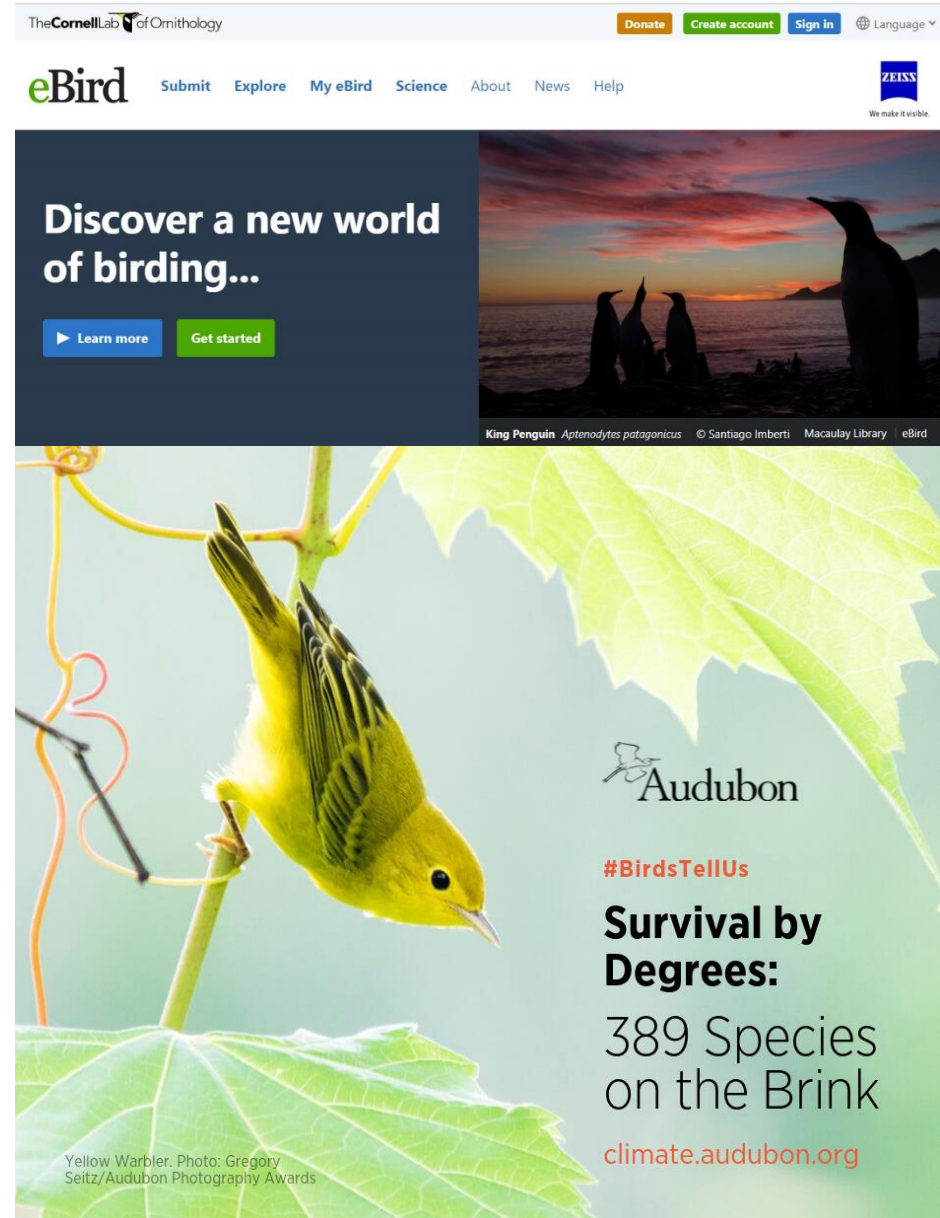
Community Science & Monitoring



Climate Watch


Audubon's Climate Watch is a new community science program that explores how North American birds are responding to climate change.

In 2014, Audubon released the Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report highlighting the risks that climate change poses to birds across North America. In response, thousands of people asked how they could help make the world a better place for birds. Now, you can help by observing birds in your area, using a specific protocol, to help us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate.



The banner features the eBird logo and navigation links at the top. The main text reads "Discover a new world of birding..." with "Learn more" and "Get started" buttons. A secondary image shows King Penguins on a beach at sunset. The bottom section features a Yellow Warbler on a branch with the text "Survival by Degrees: 389 Species on the Brink" and the website "climate.audubon.org".


The Cornell Lab of Ornithology [Donate](#) [Create account](#) [Sign in](#) [Language](#)

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Discover a new world of birding...

[▶ Learn more](#) [Get started](#)

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus* © Santiago Imberti Macaulay Library eBird

Audubon


#BirdsTellUs

Survival by Degrees:

389 Species on the Brink

climate.audubon.org

Yellow Warbler. Photo: Gregory Seitz/Audubon Photography Awards



*If you take care of the birds, you take care of
most of the big problems in the world.*

-Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, George Mason University



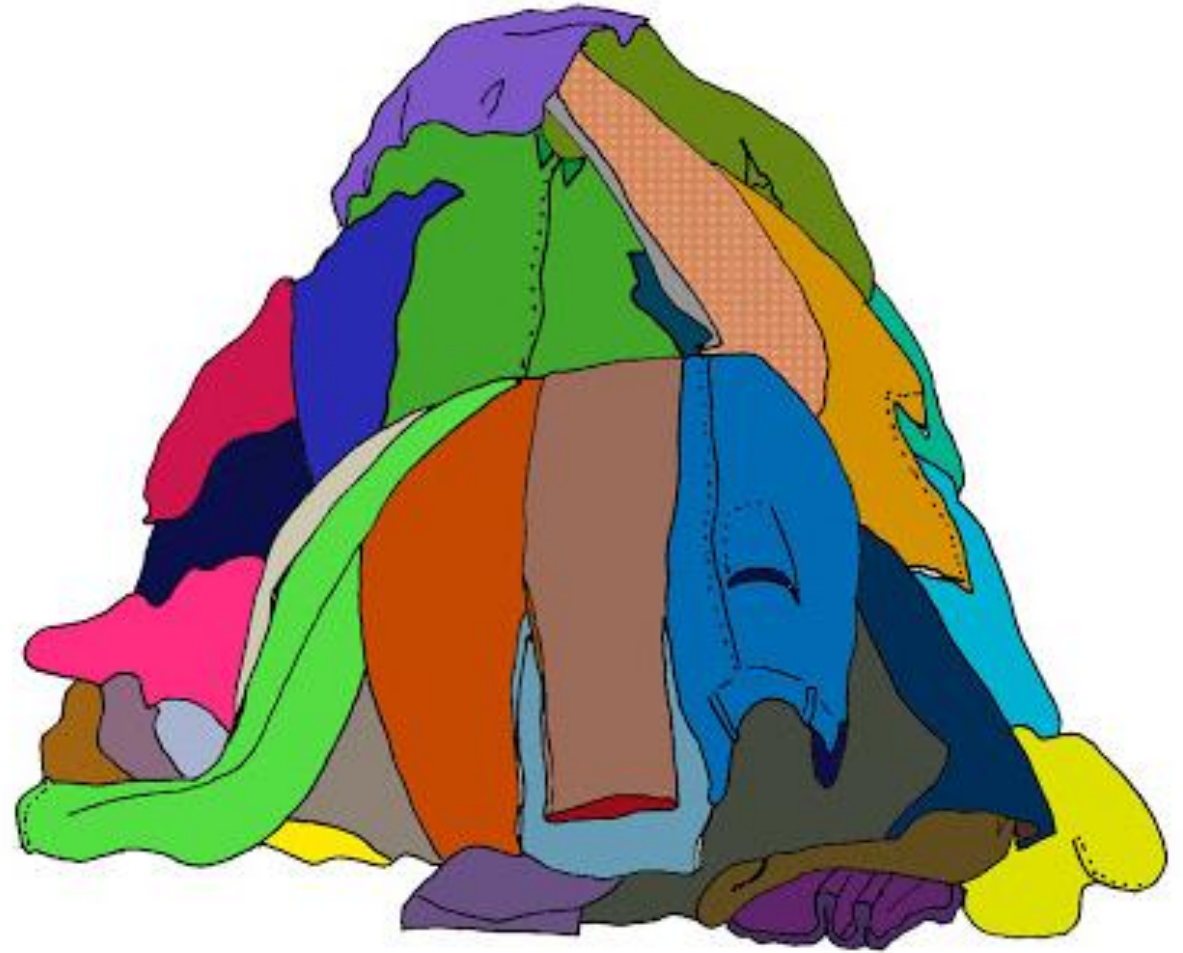
Tools of the Trade

- **Clothing**
- **Optics**
- **Field Notes**
- **Field Guides**
- **Apps**
- **Checklists**

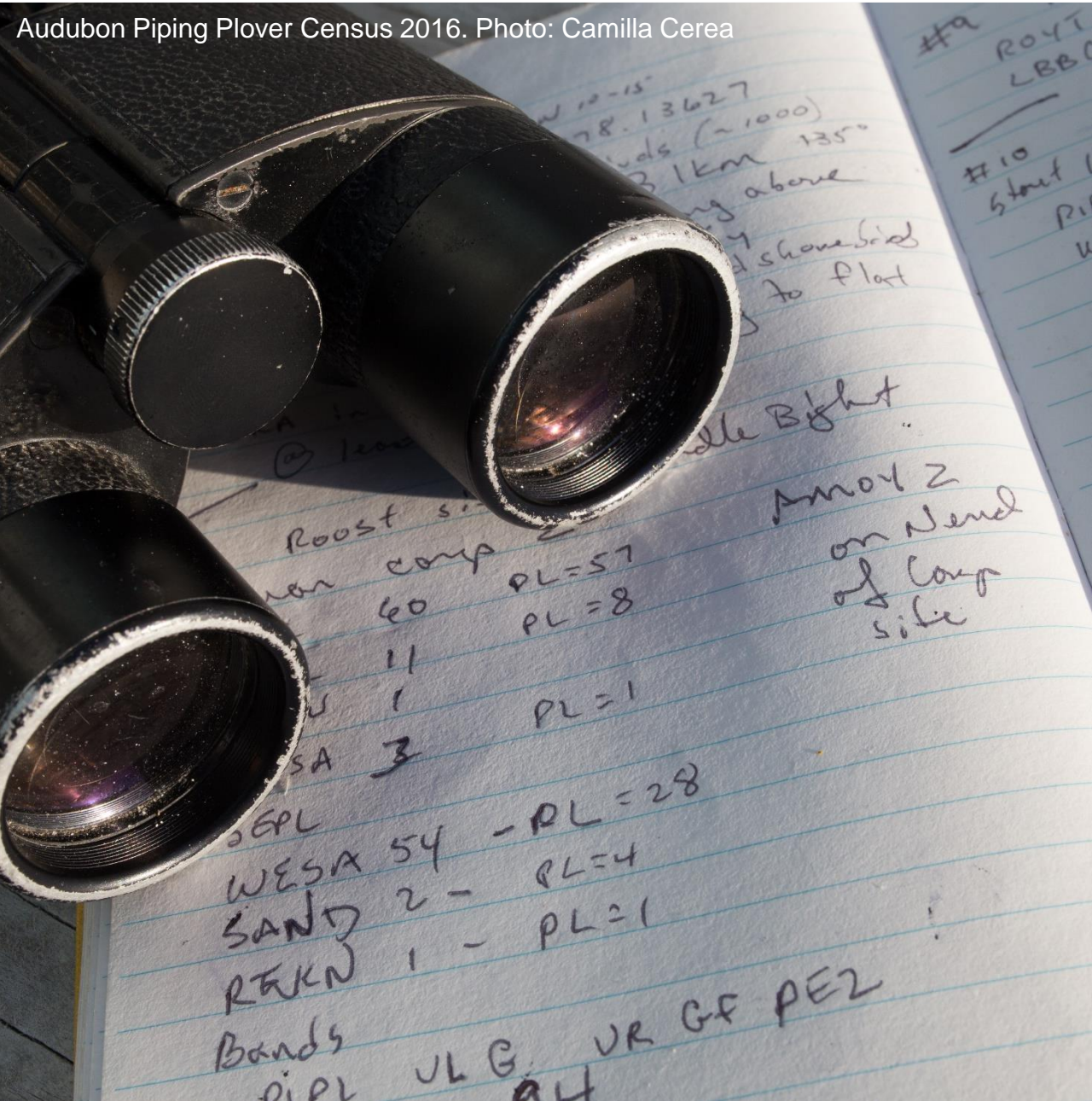
Clothing

What you want to wear depends on where/when you're birding, but there are a few things to always consider...

- Colors (avoid them)
- Comfort/ease of motion
- Weather
- Terrain
- Layers
- Hat



Audubon Piping Plover Census 2016. Photo: Camilla Cerea



Optics

• Binoculars

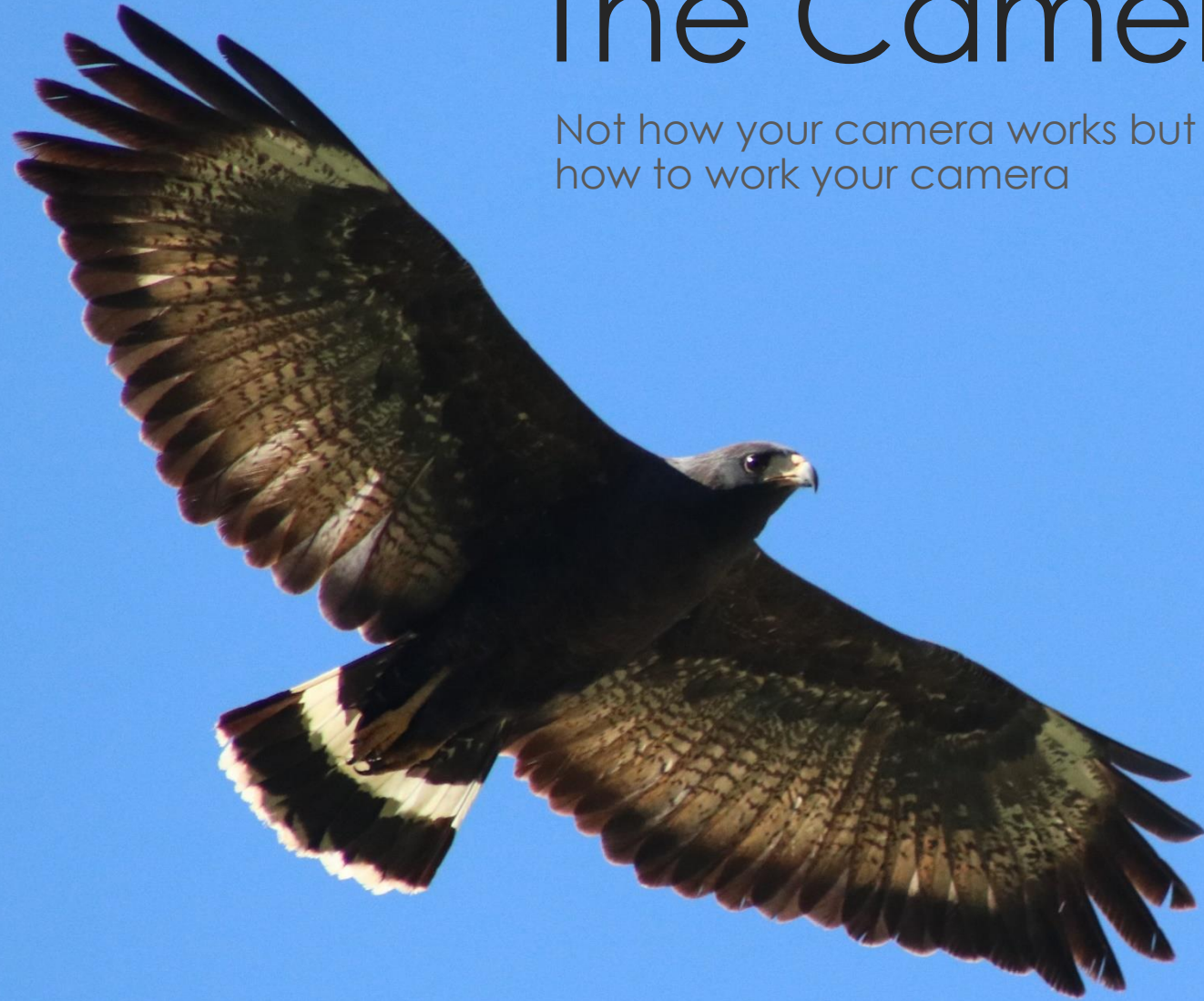
- 8x42 is good for beginners, but higher magnification can be useful
- Can range from \$30 to \$2,000, but the \$240-\$450 range is good
- Rule of thumb: by the best binoculars you can afford
- Look for waterproofed, nitrogen-purged, multi-coated glass

• Scope

- More expensive
- Uses: Viewing stationary objects like feeders, distant birds on bodies of water, observing birds with a group (**Not the best option during Covid!**)

The Camera

Not how your camera works but rather
how to work your camera





What should I get?

- It doesn't really matter what camera you buy.
- Small cameras will take decent pictures but if you want real good photos, you will need a real good camera.
- All good cameras are going to be bulky and get in the way of your binoculars. There is no way around it. You will have to carry both.
- Cannon 80D w/ 75-300mm lens is a popular set-up. They runs about \$900.
- The longer the lense, the less need for getting close. Use a UV filter, they are cheap and keep the lense from dirt and damage. Use a hood. Fast shutter speeds limit bright light, stop the action, and get you more photos.

Close-ups!



- A lens that can focus to 8' is great for taking close-ups – you could use a smaller lens but they have a wider field of view.

Need a plan



- To get good photos you need to think it thru. There are several steps you should follow. First, you want be between the sun and your subject. Second, study your subject, what is it doing, can I take advantage. Can I sneak up on it? Lastly, think about a set-up.

The stalk



- Stalking a bird is hard. Some tips to get close...move a short distance and stop, take a photo. If the bird is ok with you, do it again...and then again. Use cover. Try talking to the bird. Silly but it works. Who's a good bird...

Set-up 1 – Morning at the pond.



- ▶ The Golden hour – the hour right after sunrise and the hour before sunset. Morning is best with clear clean light. Sunset photos can be more artistic as the light can have a reddish hue altering the colors of your subject.

Set-up 2 – Watching a feeding location.



- Anywhere birds feed – Sunflowers, nectar, feeders, etc. Take some time and watch your subject as you photograph. Does it come back to the same perch? Does it frequent a certain spot or bush?

Set-up 3 – Nest or territorial location.



- Nesting birds are great subjects to photograph... if you stay at a safe distance. You will know when you are at a safe distance as the bird continues to act normal and ignores you completely.

Set-up 4 - Stake out a water hole.



- The desert has little water so any water hole will have birds constantly coming and going. Practice your skills by getting close to these.

Setup 5 – take advantage of human activity



- Birds take advantage of human activity. From farm fields to french fries, observe and take advantage.

Set-up 6 – Special locations



- Certain locations attract birds. Use the tools at hand and watch what happens. Example ...Paige Springs Fish Hatchery...



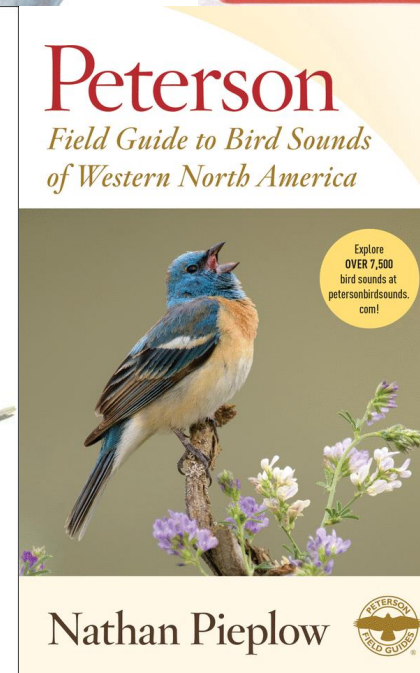
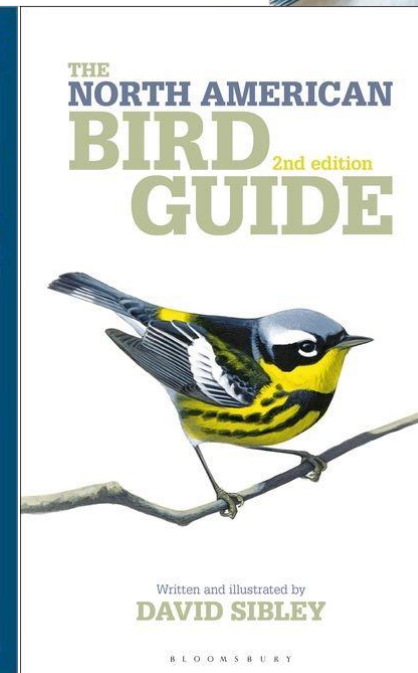
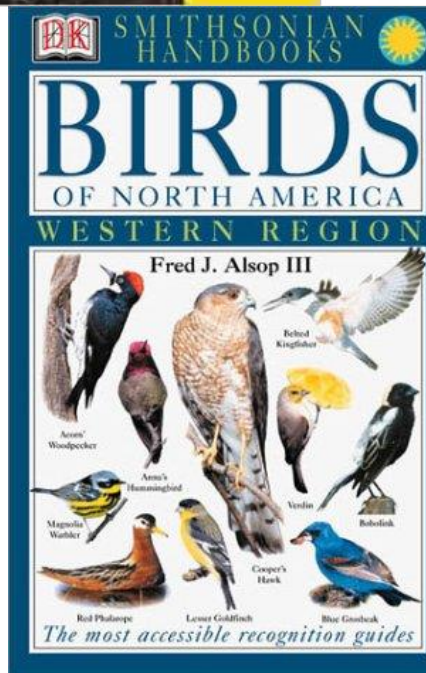
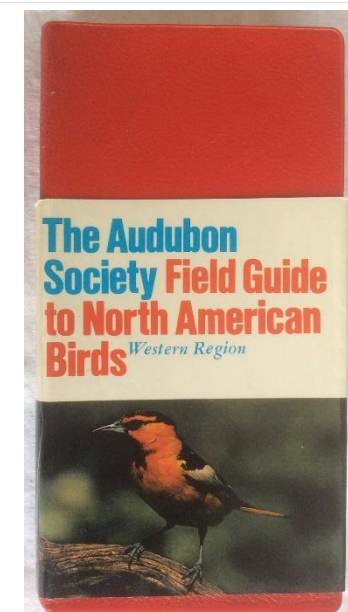
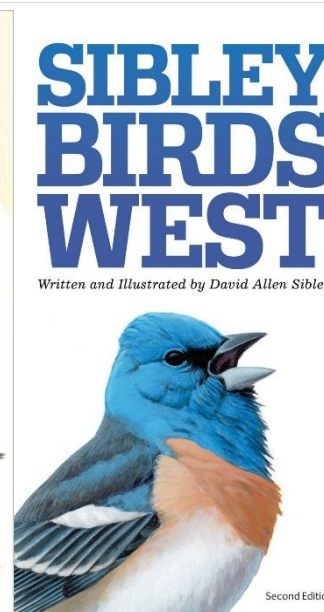
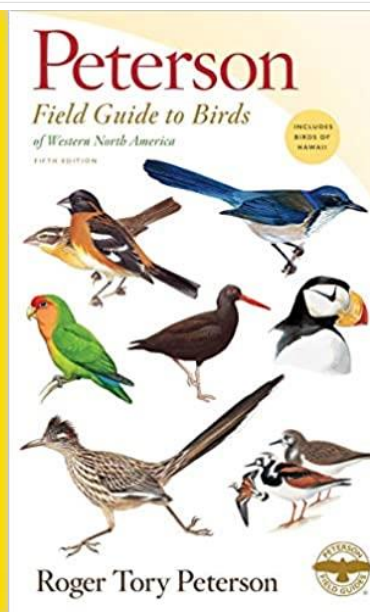
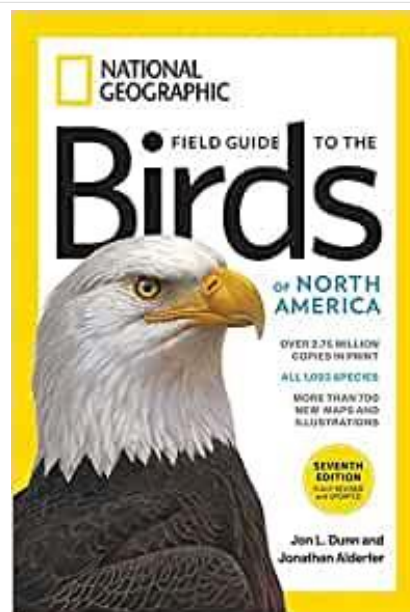
Field Guides

Many to choose from, but good ones include...

- Species drawings or photographs
- Species descriptions
- Range maps
- Natural history information

And they are organized by...

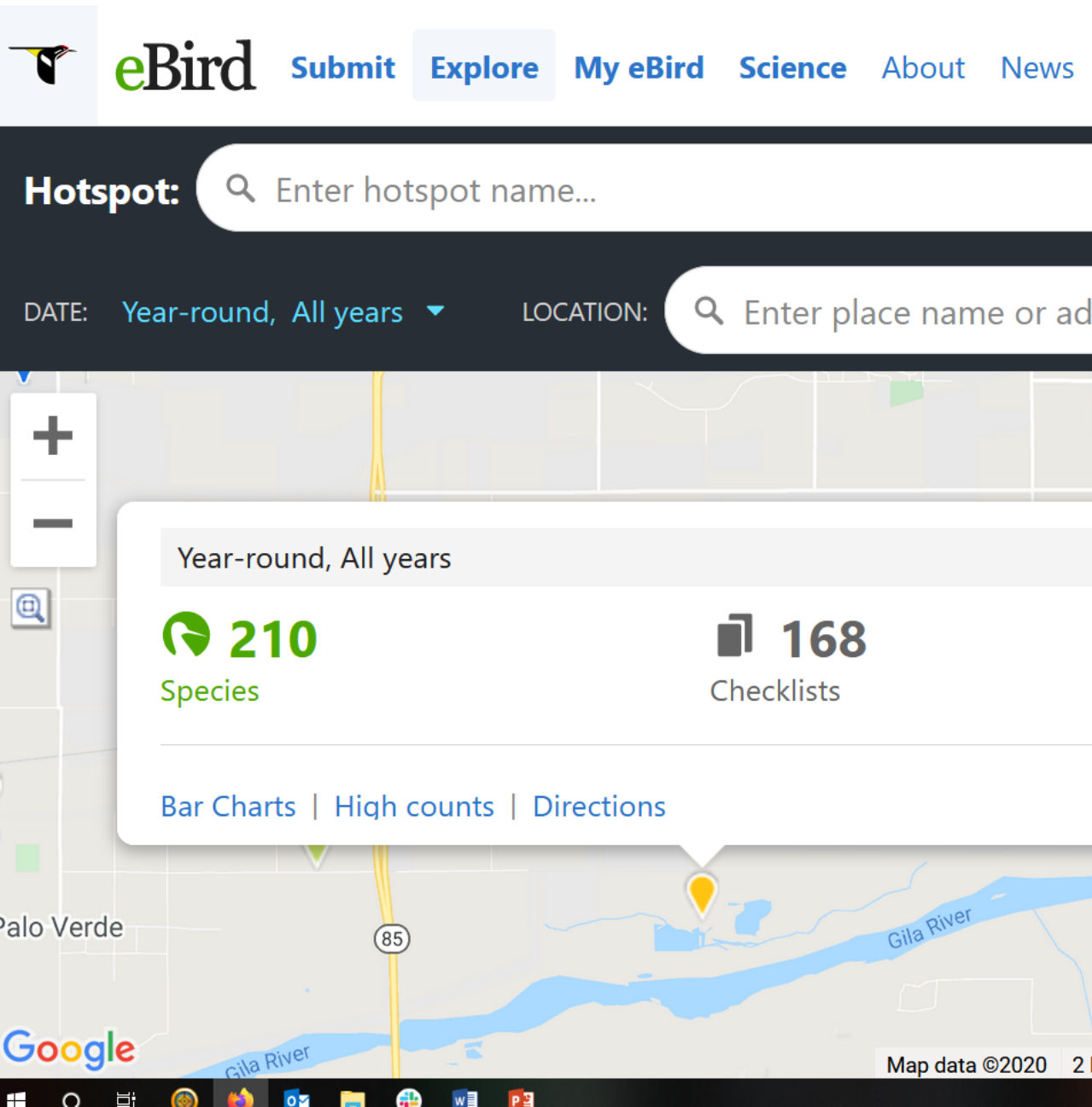
- Taxonomy/groups of like birds
- Ducks, Hawks, Woodpeckers, Warblers, Finches, etc.
- NOT color





Apps

- **Field Guides:**
 - Sibley eGuide to the Birds of North America
 - Audubon Bird Guide (**FREE**)
 - iBird
- **Active Identification Apps:**
 - Merlin Bird ID
 - Birdsnap
 - BirdSongUSA: USA Automatic



The screenshot shows the eBird website's navigation bar with links for Submit, Explore, My eBird, Science, About, and News. Below the navigation bar is a 'Hotspot' search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter hotspot name...'. Underneath the search bar are filters for 'DATE: Year-round, All years' and 'LOCATION: Enter place name or address'. A map is displayed below the filters, showing a location near the Gila River. A pop-up window on the map displays the following information:

- Year-round, All years
- 210 Species (indicated by a green leaf icon)
- 168 Checklists (indicated by a checklist icon)
- Links: Bar Charts | High counts | Directions

The map also shows the Gila River, Palo Verde, and Highway 85. The Google logo is visible in the bottom left corner, and the text 'Map data ©2020' is in the bottom right corner.

Checklists

Checklists give you an idea of what you may encounter before you go birding, giving you the chance to study

sonoranaudubon.org/projects/birding-checklists/

- eBird Checklists
- Game & Fish Departments
- Forest Service Ranger Stations
- State and National Parks
- Local/City Parks
- Arboretums



**SAFETY
FIRST**

Safety

There are many risks to consider when birding. Here are some tips.

- Know the hazards, both natural and human.
 - Natural: weather, terrain, wildlife, plant life
 - Human: private land/landowners. Unexpected encounters
- Don't get lost or stranded.
 - Bring a map/GPS
 - Tell someone where you're going. Bring a phone.
- Bring a buddy.
 - Birding in **(physically distanced)** pairs can increase safety



Safety

Covid 19

- Check conditions
 - <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/covid-19/dashboards/>
- Wear your mask
- Maintain distance of 6+ feet
- Carpool only within your family or pod
- Comply with state/municipal guidelines
 - <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-what-everyone-needs>



Safety

Some people face hazards that others do not

- Birding While Black
 - <https://orionmagazine.org/article/9-rules-for-the-black-birdwatcher/>
 - <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-woods-are-my-safe-haven-thats-not-true-everyone>
- Birding as a woman
 - <http://www.bryonyangell.com/a-birds-guide-to-birding/2016/6/28/thoughts-from-the-field-on-being-a-solo-girl-birder>

Access

- Birdability
 - focuses on removing barriers to access for birders with mobility and other challenges
 - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/819bf15a20164b4ba5196c04f58836b4>

Tips for Finding Birds

- **Using your senses**
- **Timing**
- **Approach**
- **Weather**
- **Habitat**
- **Group Size**
- **Common Birds**



Lucy's Warbler. Photo: Mick Thompson

Common Birds of Arizona

We will look at some common birds that you can encounter while you are out and about in Arizona.

As we progress, we will look at some comparisons between similar species and discuss how to tell them apart.



Flickers – Gilded or Red-shafted



If you can't tell, it's a Northern Flicker



Woodpeckers



Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers

Egrets



Black beak, yellow feet –vs- Yellow beak black feet

Snowy Egret

Great Egret



Cattle Egrets are much smaller

Teal



Green-winged, Blue-winged & Cinnamon

Blackbirds



Brewers, Red-winged, and Yellow-headed. Males above, females below

House Birds



Here are some birds that are at almost everyone's house. What features do you see that lead to the identification. Of course the males are easy identify.

Sparrows – Rusty Capped



Field Sparrow



Chipping Sparrow



Rufous-crowned Sparrow



Song Sparrow

Details, details, details...similar but there are differences

Sparrows - Streaky



Savannah Sparrow



Vesper Sparrow



Lincoln's Sparrow

**Where you are can
determine what you
are looking at.**

Warblers



Warblers are everyone's favorite. There are many varieties and they all have one thing in common...

They won't sit still.

Females are hard to identify!



Hummingbirds



Black-chinned are riparian!
Females as usual are tough to identify. In fact all the photos of Black-chinned females on the CornellLab website are listed as Female/immature male.



Females – Dark birds



More Female trouble...

**Above, a Brewer's Black Bird.
Above Right, a Great-tailed
Grackle. To Right, a Brown-
headed Cowbird**



Vireos



Vireos are typically summer birds. Look at the facial features.

Above, A Cassin's. Top Right a Hutton's. Lower Right a Warbling Vireo.



Little Brown Jobs (LBJs) – OK...Gray



Can you believe these get confused?

Above, Verdin. Top Right, a Lucy's Warbler. Lower Right, a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.



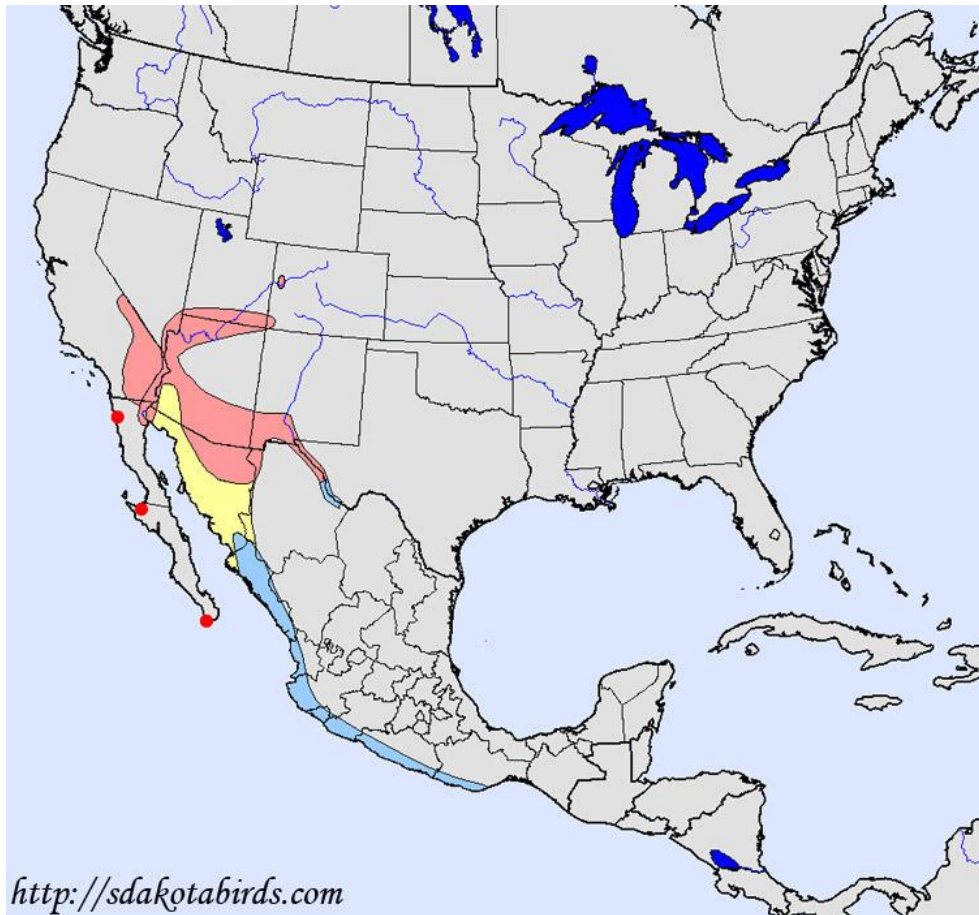
Bird ID Tips

- **Narrowing it down**

Identifying birds is a game of process of elimination. By categorizing a bird broadly and working your way to specifics, you can usually ID a bird to species.

- 1) Range/Season
- 2) Habitat
- 3) Group
- 4) Species





Map created by Terry Sohl,
Data from NatureServe

Bird ID Tips Cont.

1) Range/Season

- Helps you narrow things down to the birds likely to be in your area at a given time
- Birds can be out of range



Bird ID Tips Cont.

2) Habitat

- Within a given geographic range, what sort of habitat is the bird using? (Riparian, Desert, Chaparral, Pinyon-Juniper, etc.)?
- Within that habitat type, what plant community is the species using?

Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

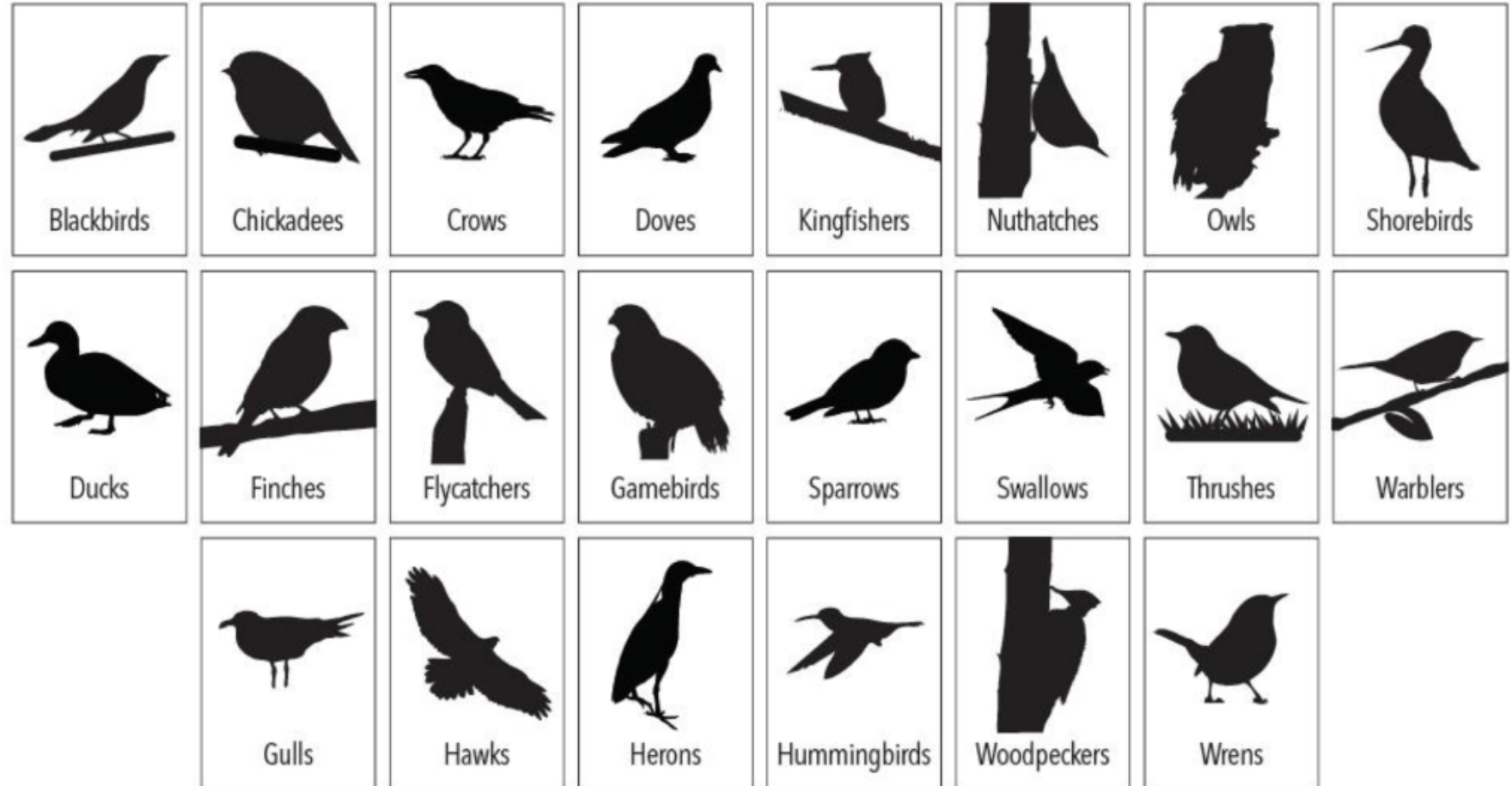
- Silhouette/Structure
- Color
- Flight Pattern
- Behavior
- Habitat



Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

- Silhouette/Structure
 - Bill shape
 - Body Shape
 - Wing Shape
 - Tail
 - Posture
 - Size



Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

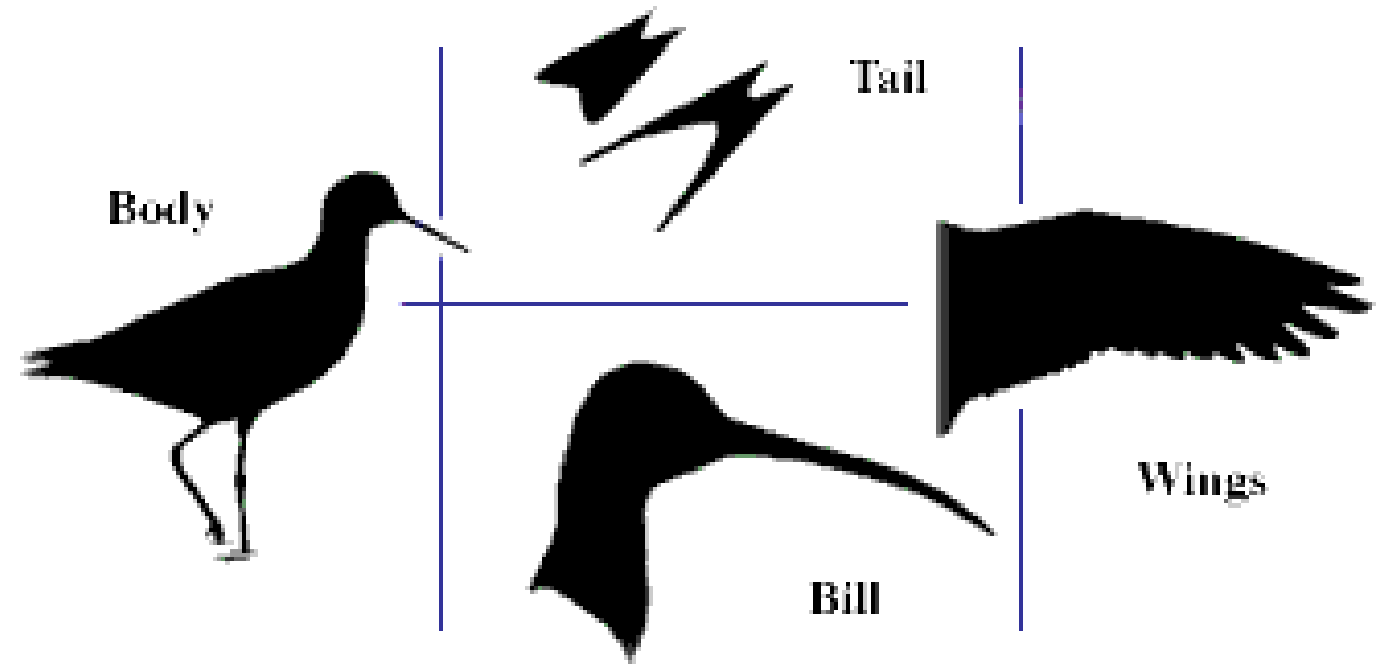
- Silhouette/Structure
 - **Bill shape:** Different bill shapes evolved depending upon their function and the food source they're designed for
 - Body Shape
 - Wing Shape
 - Tail
 - Posture
 - Size



Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

- Silhouette/Structure
 - Bill shape
 - **Body Shape:** Round? Oval? Slender? Stocky?
 - **Wing Shape:** Pointed? Crooked? Narrow? Rounded? Stout?
 - **Tail:** Long? Short? Squared? Rounded? Forked?
 - Posture
 - Size



Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

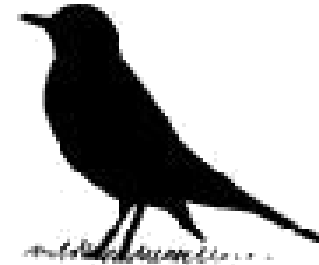
- Silhouette/Structure
 - Bill shape
 - Body Shape
 - Wing Shape
 - Tail
- **Posture:** Vertical? Horizontal? Angled? Hunched?
- **Size:** Comparison in size to known objects/birds is best. Can be tricky, and perspective matters!



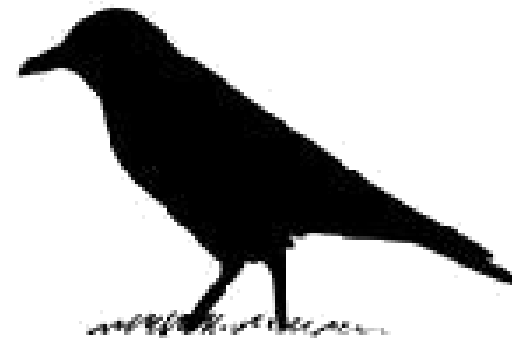
House Sparrow



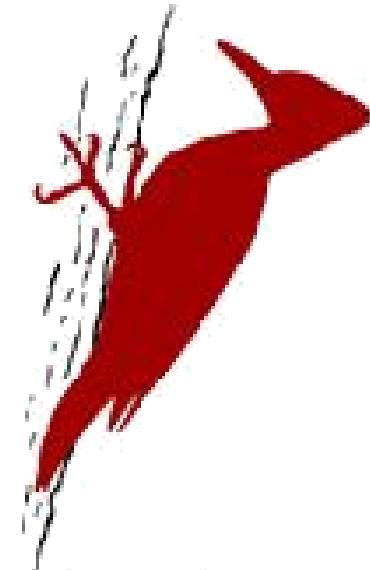
Downy Woodpecker



American Robin



American Crow



Pileated Woodpecker

Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

- Color: Can be helpful, but misleading!
- Be careful of backlighting and similar effects!
- Use overall color to help narrow to group
- Do not use this as your only tool

Blue: Jays, Bluebirds



Yellow: Orioles, Warblers



Black: Corvids and Blackbirds



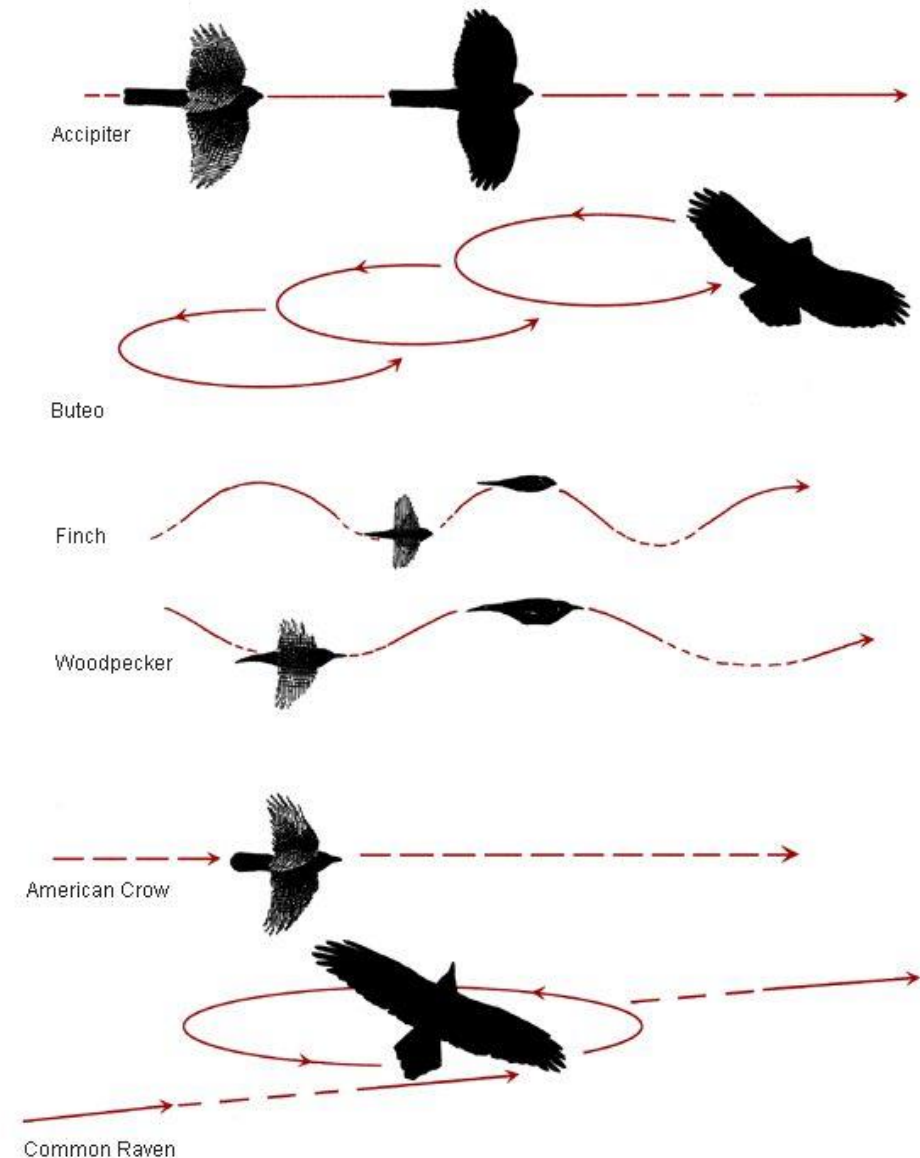
Brown: Sparrows and Finches



Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

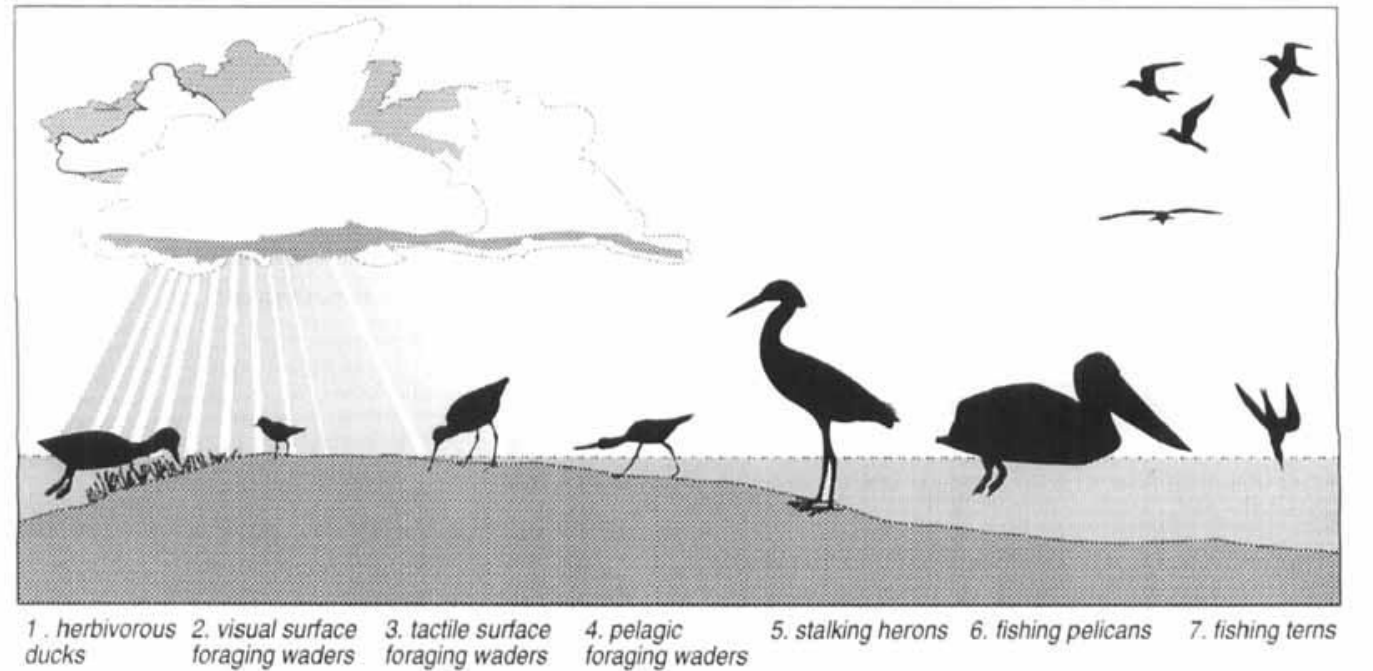
- Flight Pattern
 - Direct flight (shorebirds, blackbirds)
 - Flap and glide (ravens, falcons)
 - Glide (Swifts, swallows)
 - Hawking (flycatchers, warblers)
 - Hovering (hummingbirds, kestrels)
 - Static Soaring (hawks, vultures)
 - Straight line formation (pelicans, cormorants)
 - Undulating (woodpeckers, finches)
 - V formation (ducks, geese)
 - Zig-zag (snipes, grouse)



Bird ID Tips Cont.

3) Group

- Behavior: What is the bird doing?
 - Flycatchers pump their tails
 - Towhees eat seeds of the ground, warblers pick insects off leaves
 - Woodpeckers climb up trunks, nuthatches climb down
- Habitat: Where is the bird?
 - In a tree?
 - In a shrub?
 - On the ground?
 - In water?





Kentucky Warbler. Photo: Mark Gordon/Audubon Photography Awards



Wilson's Warbler. Photo: George Scott/Audubon Photography Awards

Bird ID Tips Cont.

4) Species

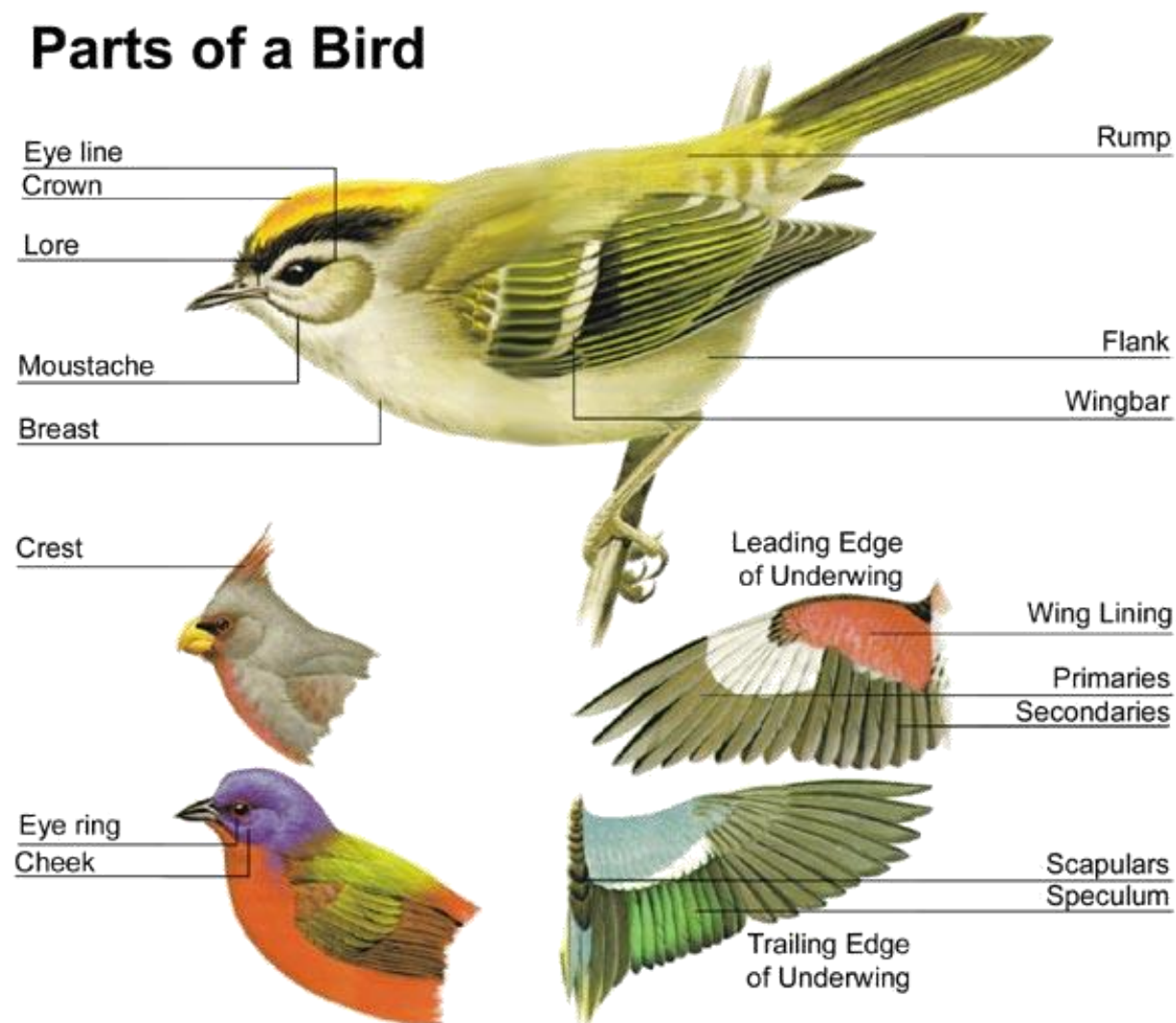
- **Color:** More specific than when thinking about group
- **Relative Size:** Within group – big warbler? Small Sparrow? Etc.
- Field Marks
- Song/Call

Bird ID Tips Cont.

4) Species

- Color
- Relative Size
- **Field Marks:** Specific details about the color, pattern, and structure of the bird that reliably identify it as unique from other species.
- Song/Call

Parts of a Bird



Bird ID Tips Cont.

4) Species

- Color
- Relative Size
- Field Marks
- **Song/Call:** All birds have calls and/or songs that are unique to the species and can be used to identify it.

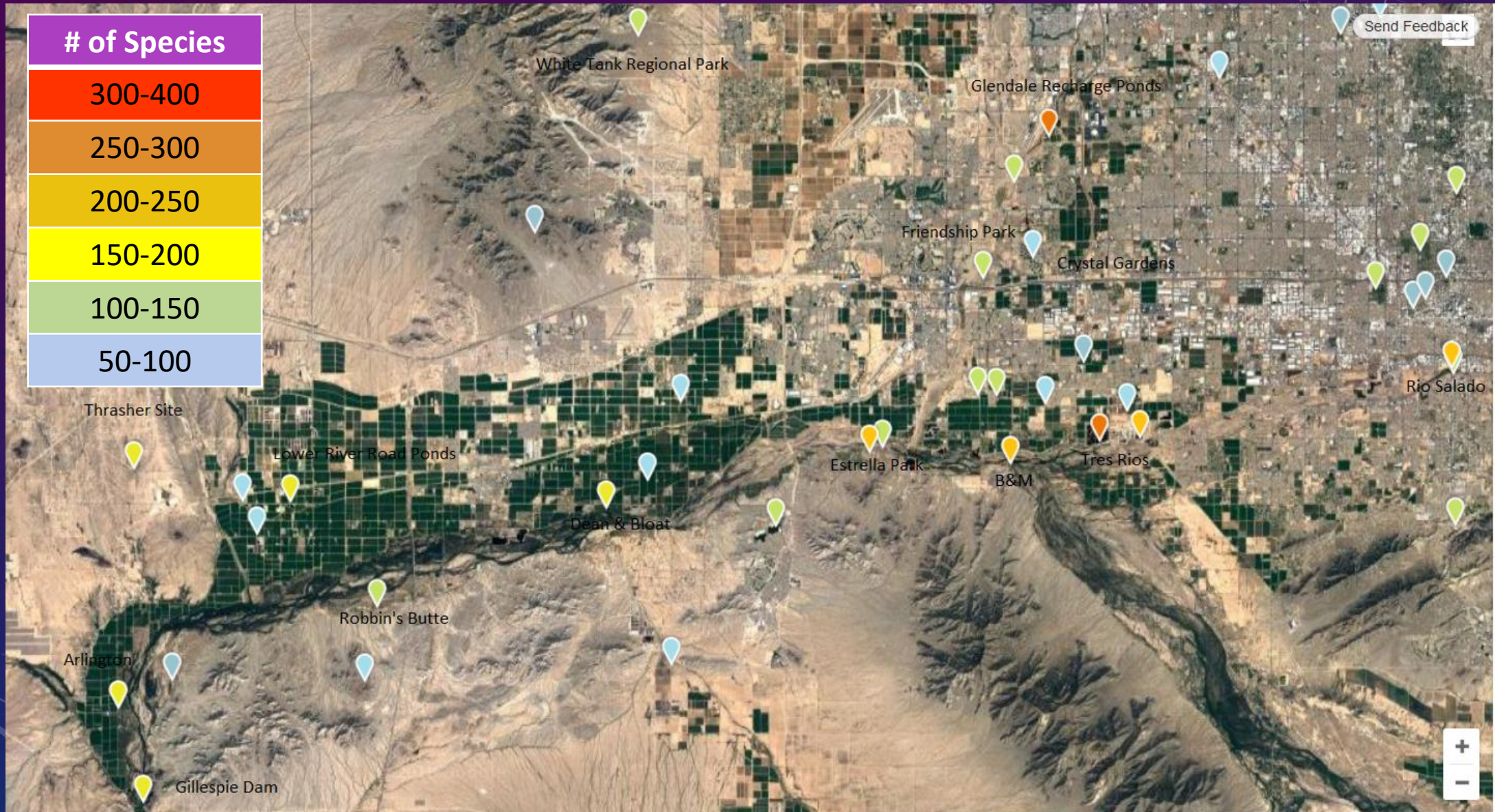


BIRDING THE LOWER SALT AND GILA RIVERS

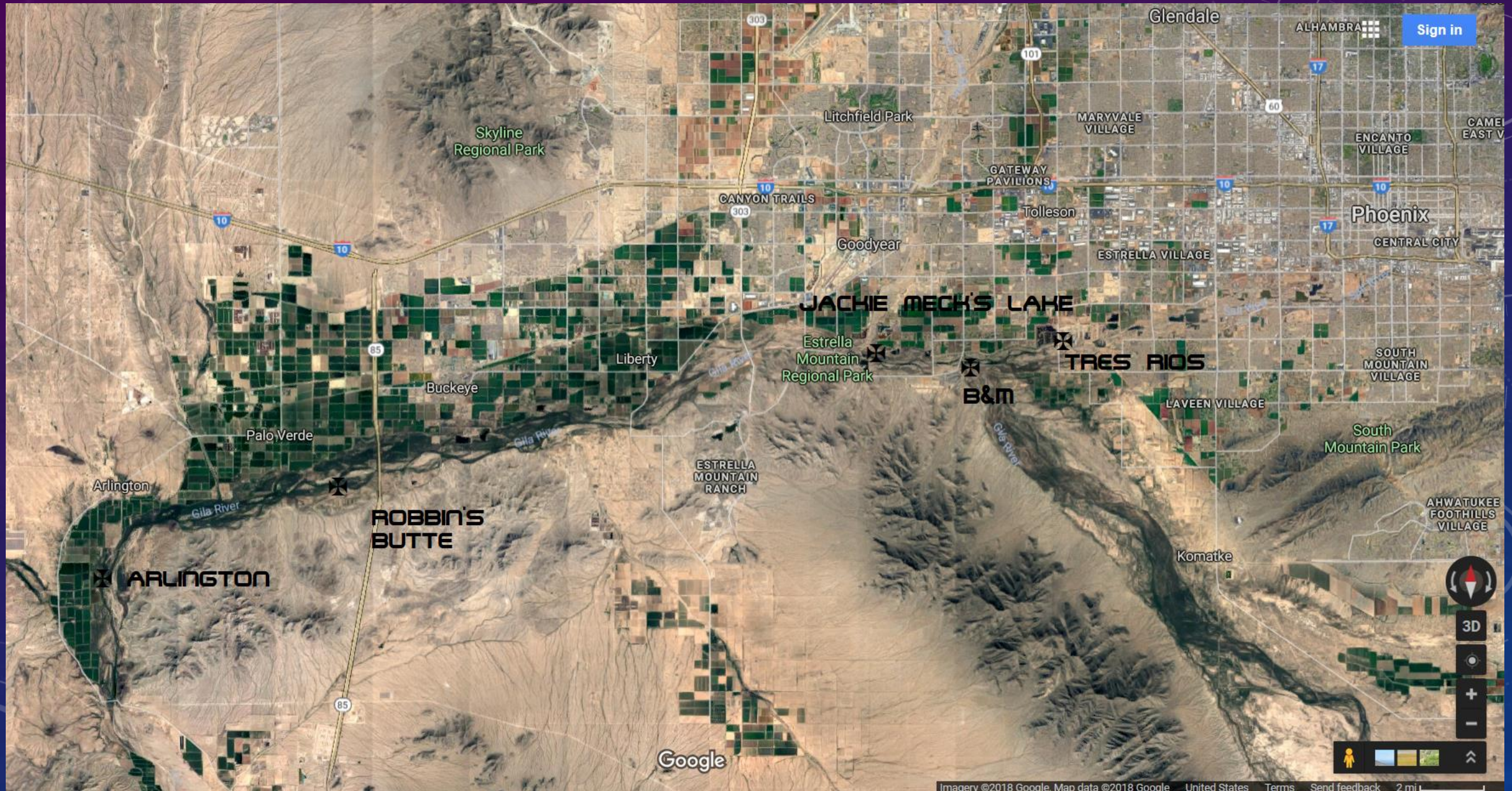
A COVID SAFE ACTIVITY



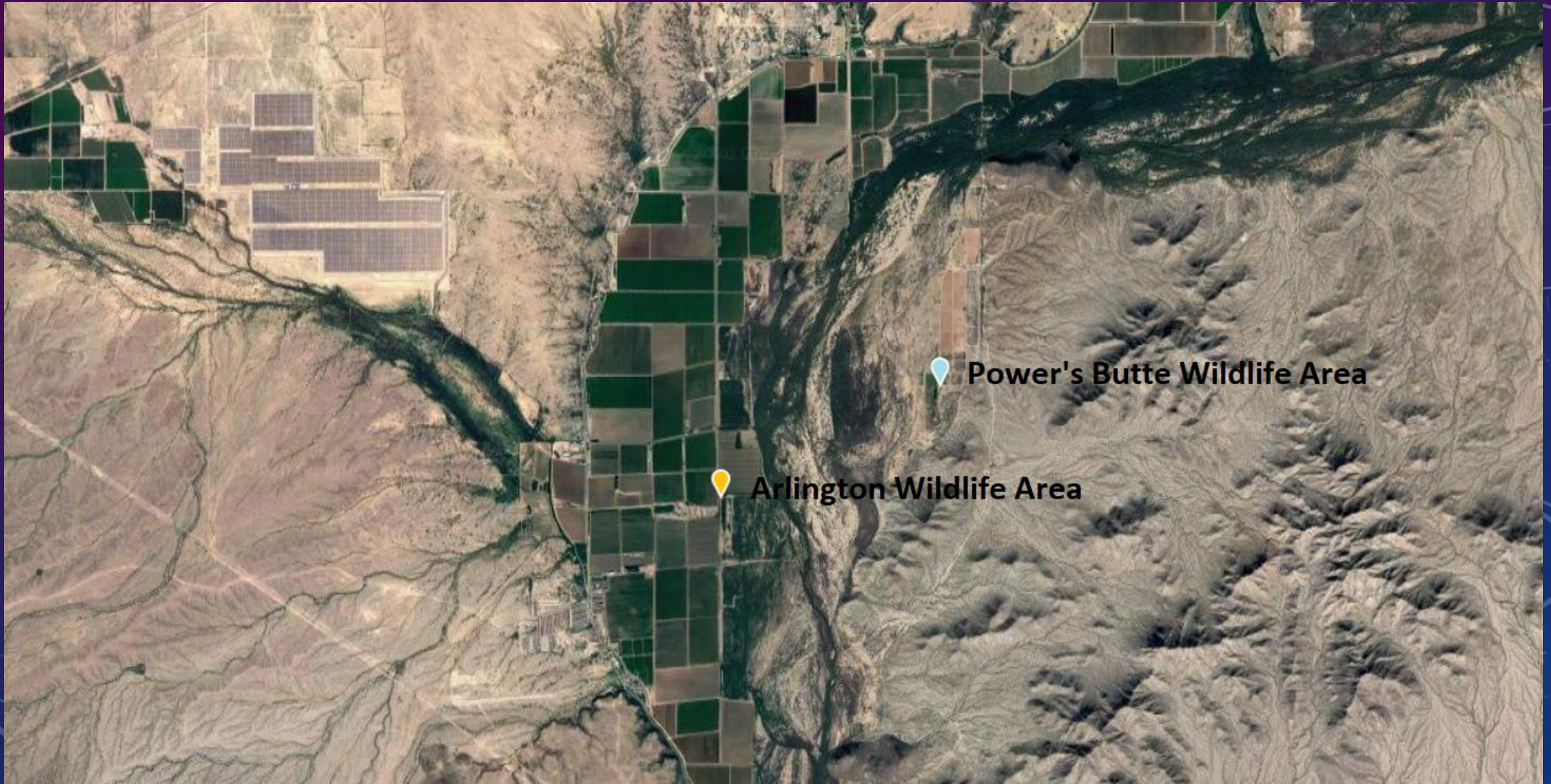
E-BIRD MAP OF THE HOTSPOTS



THE IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBA)



ARLINGTON WILDLIFE AREA - 213 SPECIES



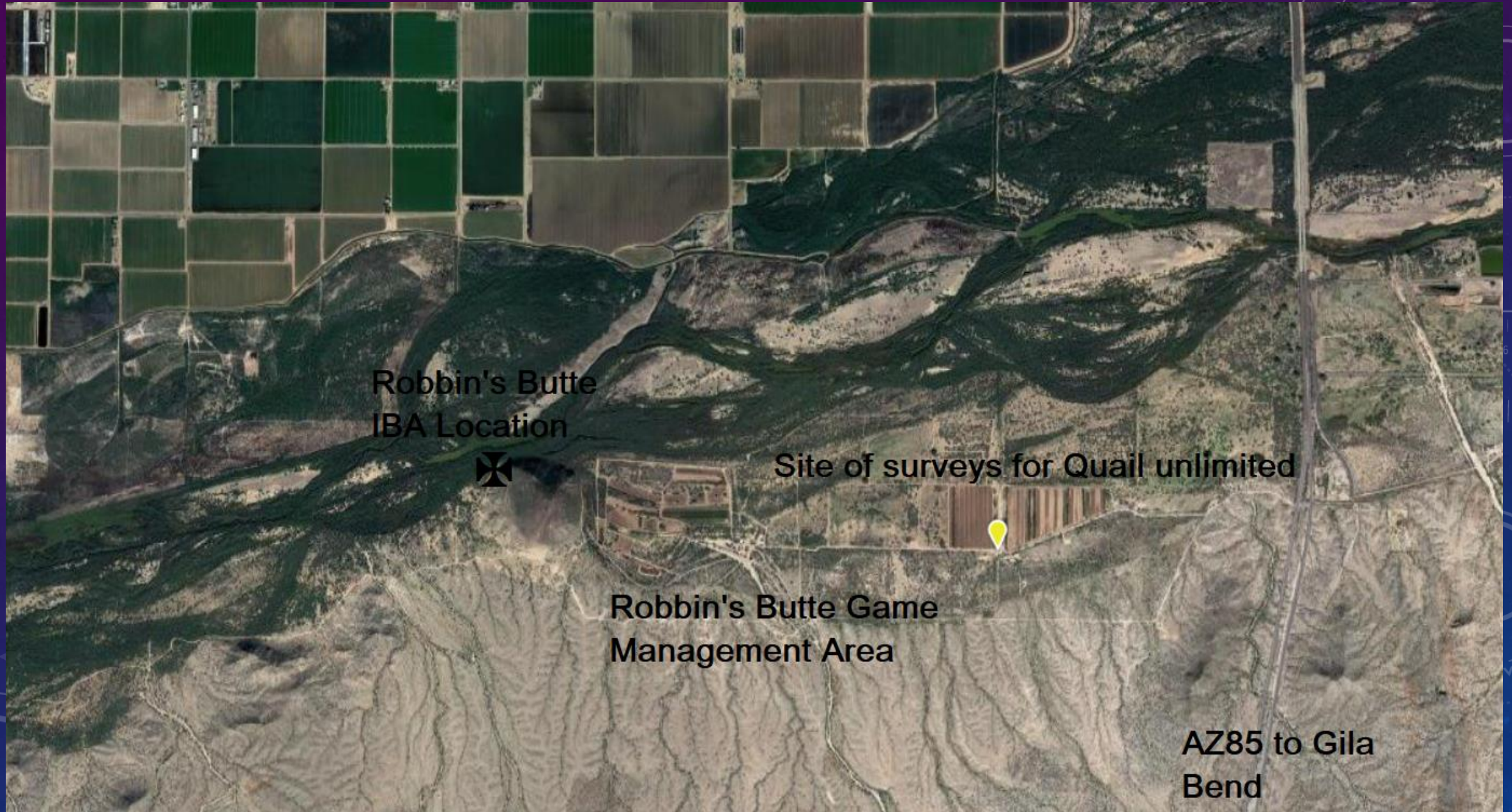
ARLINGTON PONDS



Arlington Ponds

Gila River

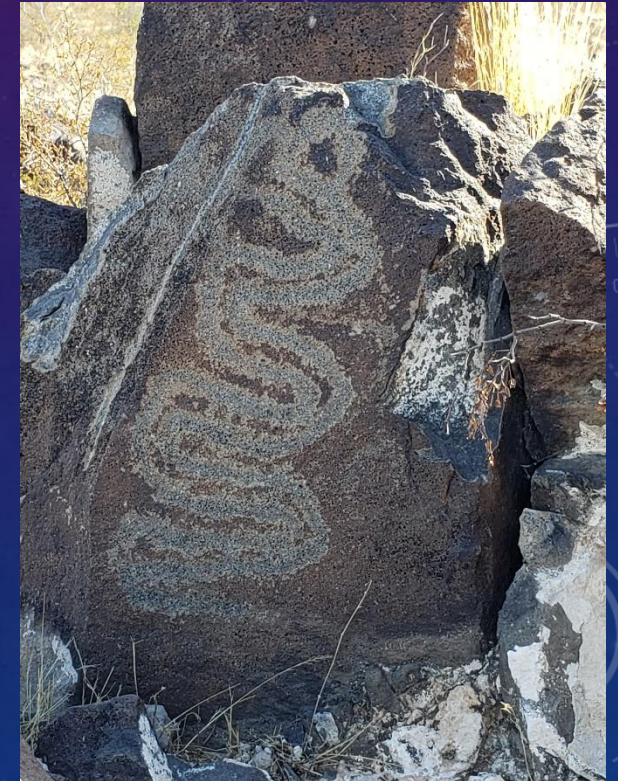
ROBBIN'S BUTTE WILDLIFE AREA - 150 SPECIES



ROBBIN'S BUTTE CENSUS – RIVER OVERLOOK



ROBBIN'S BUTTE



JACKIE MECK'S LAKE AT ESTRELLA PARK – 207 SPECIES



JACKIE MECK LAKE CENSUS



BASELINE & MERIDIAN WILDLIFE AREA – 251 SPECIES



THE BIRDS OF B&M - IBIS



THE BIRDS OF B&M



THE BIRDS OF B&M - SWALLOWS



TRES RIOS WETLANDS – 262 SPECIES!

It's Free!

Tres Rios Wetlands Access Permit Request

To obtain a free access permit to the Tres Rios Overbank Wetlands, please fill out the form below. Only one permit is needed per group, but requestor must be present when visiting the site.

<https://www.phoenix.gov/waterservices/tresrios/permit>

*denotes required field

First Name*

Last Name*

Requested Permit Start Date *(Permits are valid for six months.)*

Phone Number

Email Address*

Mailing Address

City

State:

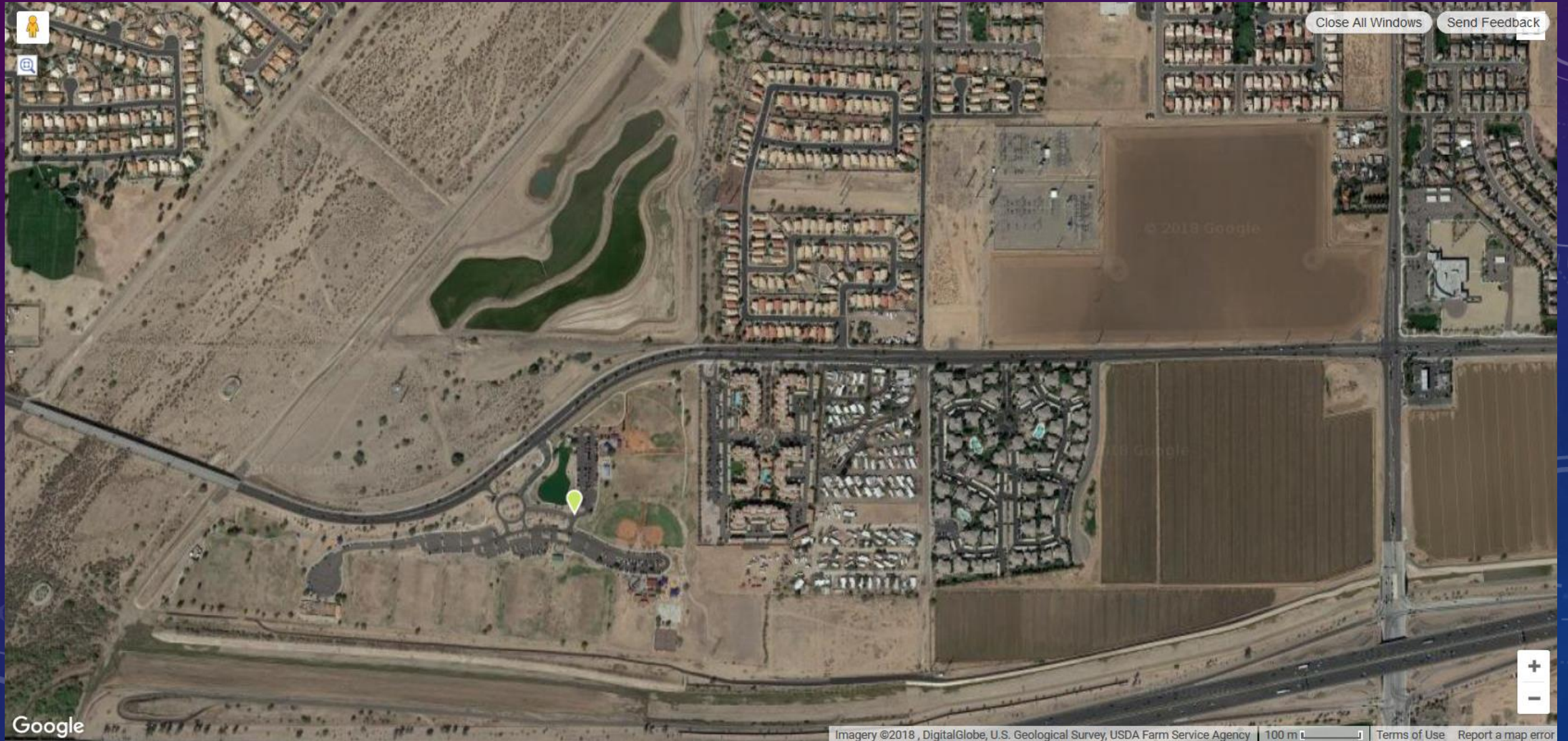
Country *(If other than United States.)*

ZIP/Postal Code

Before you submit this e-mail form, we would like you to be aware of the city's policy on the use of its e-mail systems. The policy states that the e-mail message you are about to send: (1) is subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Law, (2) is not private or confidential and (3) is retained for 90 days.

Continue

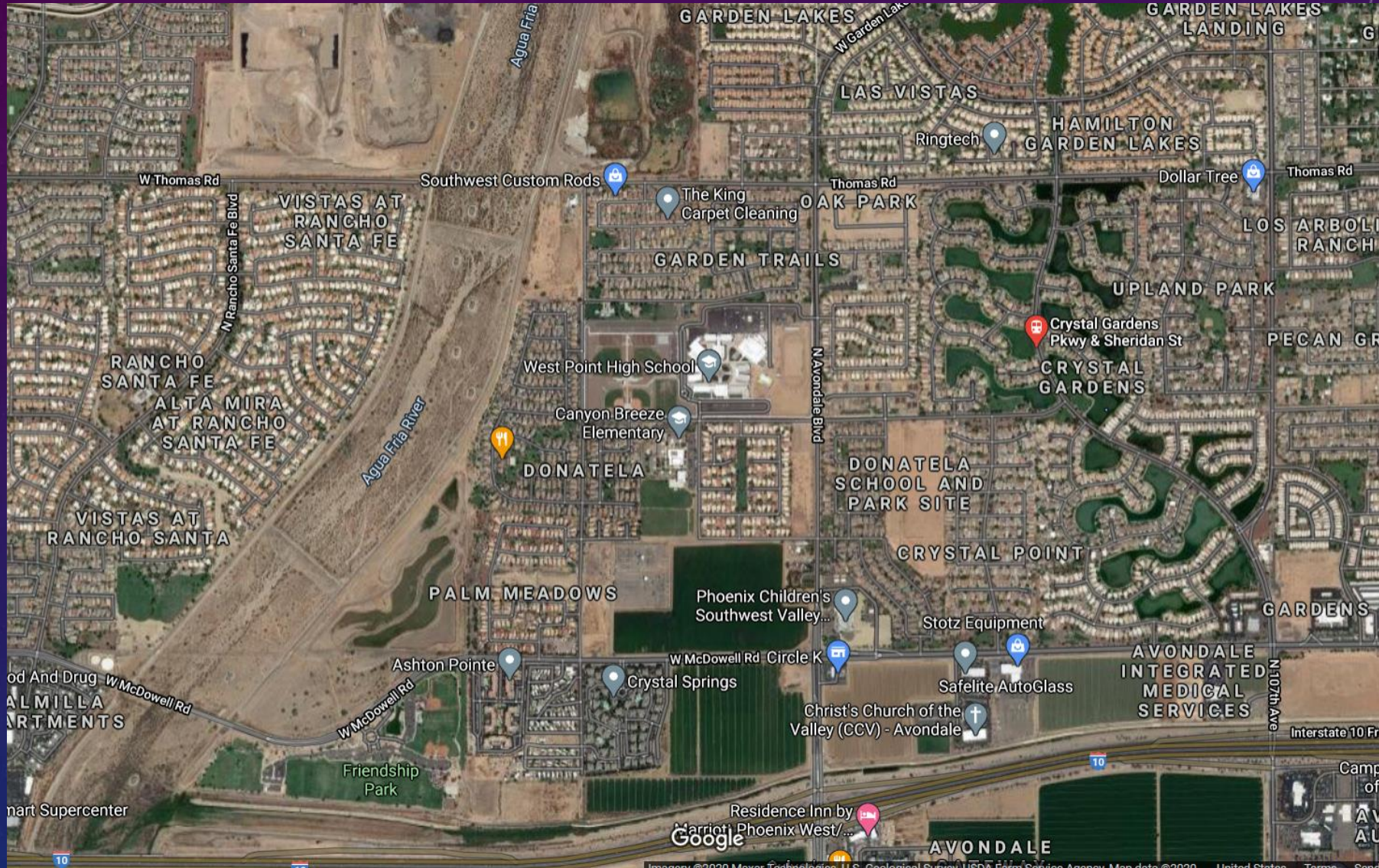
FRIENDSHIP PARK – 111 SPECIES



BIRDS OF FRIENDSHIP PARK



CRYSTAL GARDENS – 83 SPECIES



BIRDS OF CRYSTAL GARDENS



GLENDALE RECHARGE PONDS – 292 SPECIES!



BIRDS OF THE RECHARGE PONDS



WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN COVID-19 IS OVER

- Field Trips
- Tres Rios Earth and Nature Festival
- Bird Surveys – IBA, Water bird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Christmas Bird Counts
- Birds and Beer at Rio Salado
- Don't forget to get your FREE Arizona State bird list on our website

WWW.SONORANAUDUBON.ORG

GO TO WWW.SONORANAUDUBON.ORG FOR A FREE GUIDE

ARIZONA IS A
BIRD-WATCHER'S
DREAM STATE!

The state has its special Sonoran Desert and "backyard" birds such as Cactus Wren (the state bird), Curve-billed Thrasher, Abert's ("A"-bear's) Towhee, Verdin, Gambel's Quail, White-Winged Dove, Phainopepla and Gilded Flicker. But the state's tremendous variety of habitats makes Arizona an important stopover during spring and fall migration for many, many species of birds—from ducks to shore birds, from warblers to raptors.

In the Phoenix area's West Valley communities, bird-watching is a rewarding pastime at all times of the year. Several easily accessible and celebrated bird-watching sites beckon, ten of which are highlighted here. For excellent in-depth information on these sites and others visit www.birderfrommaricopa.com. For volunteer-guided, bird-watching outings in the West Valley — especially in fall, winter and early spring — to which all are welcome, visit www.sonoranandubon.com



Curve-billed Thrasher



Harmonia *On*



2008



CAUTION: The West Valley's climate is very, very dry relative to other parts of the country and the sun, which shines all but about sixty days of the year, can be punishing. Therefore, even in cooler winter months on the relatively easy, level trails or walks that are highlighted here, hats and water are always necessary.

*Photos courtesy of Tommy De Bardeleben, Vera Markham.
George Wall, Joe Ford and Marceline Vandewater*

WEST VALLEY BIRD WATCHING



Black-throated Green



Whitlow, unexplained tumor



**NOW ENJOY THE WEST VALLEY'S EXCELLENT PEOPLE-FRIENDLY
BIRD-WATCHING SPOTS!**



Monday



Pharmacokinetics



1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26



Snow Goose



Gilded Filch



Field Experiments



Cambridge Online

*Cactus Wren*

- 1 ARLINGTON WILDLIFE AREA [ARIZONA GAME & FISHERY ARLINGTON- Arlington School Rd., southeast corner at Desert Road] Look:** take the dirt road south; see ducks walking; look for rail calls, snags and bitterns in the marshy areas; levels in open water; holes may yield wintering raptors, Sandhill Cranes and sparrows.
- 2 BASILENE AND MERIDIAN WILDLIFE AREA, AVONDALE:** From Interstate 10, take I 15th Ave south 5 miles. After the bridge over the Palo Verde River, turn left onto Basylene Rd. Information about the area is available at this point past the PIV entrance to the R&M parking area; early walking on old paved roads past lakes, ponds, wetlands, riverbottom sand and scrub; very hard in summer months; many birds – especially waterfowl for example – are seen here; ducks, all species of migratory, eagles, sparrow hawks, falcons, ospreys, herons, grebes, all.
- 3 ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN RESERVAL PARK [MARICOPA COUNTY]:** From Interstate 10, south to Estrella Park Rd. To experience the wide variety of desert birds and wetland; regular, seasonal guided walks are given (www.sonoranazooandpark.org). Park entrance fee.
- 4 LAKESIDE PAVILION AT SUN CITY GRAND:** Walk on Route 60, south on Sunrise Blvd. to Kensington Drive; early walking around the Pavilion and ponds; ducks in winter.
- 5 RESEARCH PONDS [SALT RIVER PROJECT], GLENDALE:** North on 107th Avenue West from West Camelback Road; walk leeward among its ponds and access to the Agua Fria riverbed; very hot in summer months; know for shorebirds, gulls, raptors, waterfowl and herons.
- 6 ROBBINS BUTTE WILDLIFE AREA [AZ GAME & FISHERY], BUCKEYE:** Entry off route 85 moderately difficult hills; the desert birds from the car are abundant. The entrance road can be leafy/mud if most desert areas are accessed on foot for route 85 moderately difficult hills; all the desert birds are here and wintering birds that favor farmland.
- 7 THUNDERBOLT CONSERVATION PARK, GLENDALE:** 9 mi. north of Route 101 past Arrowhead Lakes; early mornings before other park visitors arrive; most common desert species are found here. The several Arrowhead Lakes (about 50th Avenue) are good places to observe birds in season, bring a scope if using the Thunderbolt Viewing Birds Blind.
- 8 THE "THRASHER SITE," BUCKEYE:** From Interstate 10, Route 85 south to Buckeye Road, west to the intersection with Solana Highway, west, renowned local side location for the elusive Le Conte's Thrasher and other desert southwestern thrashers — Bendire's, Cissal and Sage (in migration) — Black-throated Sparrow and common desert species.
- 9 THESE BUS OVERHEAD WETLANDS, PHOENIX:** From Interstate 10, 91st Ave south to the City of Phoenix Water Department's Water Treatment Facility site, extensive wetland area is to be missed. From small parking area, about 91st Avenue entry is not of fun. Best to get a permit from The Bus personnel during business hours. For maps and Special Area App go to: <http://phoenix.gov/webcncn/government/water/treatment/facilities/>. The bus overhead wetlands contain some of the best bird viewing areas. The public is invited to walk the 2.5 mile-long "overwalk" wetlands which lay deep down ponds hosting marsh birds, shorebirds and ducks. The larger, closed-to-the-public ponds to the north can be scanned for raptors including bald Eagles and Golden Eagles. To the south, the smaller bottomlands hold songbirds, desert species and many migrants in season.
- 10 WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK [MARICOPA COUNTY]:** From Interstate 10, north on Cotton Lane to Olive Avenue, drive five miles west, from the 101 Freeway, take Olive Avenue west 14 miles. "Waterfall Canyon Trail" is an easy, one-mile hike including a fully handcarved waterfall, meadow, riparian forest, grassy hillside, shrub woods — Catal Rock and Canyon — can be observed. Park entrance fee.

THANKS FOR WATCHING!

Check our website for up-coming presentations and
in a few short months, we will resume field trips.

WWW.SONORANAUDUBON.ORG

