



The Cactus Wren•dition

Volume LIII, No. 1

Spring 2005



Le Conte's Sparrow by Jim Burns

Maricopa Audubon Meetings & Programs Sept. 2004 - May 2005

Please join us for a terrific year of speakers with a wide range of topics – birding in Russia (or Kenya), hummingbirds of Costa Rica, discovering our North American owls, prowling with the Mexican jaguar, dealing with conservation issues in Utah and Arizona, updating on the Rio Salado Audubon Center, exploring the Gilbert Riparian Institute and learning about the birds, wildlife and cultures of New Guinea.

Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month, September through May. Our May meeting is our Annual Banquet at Shalimar Country Club.

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m., and feature a general membership meeting, guest speaker, book sales, refreshments and a chance to socialize with MAS members.

Committees/Support

Activist Alert

Shawn Baur
602-828-3607
shawnbaur@hotmail.com

Arizona Audubon Council Rep

Herb Fibel
480-966-5246
herbertsfibel@aol.com

Audubon Phone

480-829-8209

Book Store

Herb Fibel
480-966-5246
herbertsfibel@aol.com

Field Observations

Janet Witzeman
602-840-6089
jlwitzeman@aol.com

Hospitality

Web Page

Kurt Rademaker
480.837-2446
kurtrad@mexicobirding.com

Maricopa Audubon web site

<http://www.maricopaaudubon.org>

"Man's greatest joy is to teach the love of nature." Anon

An Investment in the Future

Bequests are an important source of support for the Maricopa Audubon Society. Your chapter has dedicated itself to the protection of the natural world through public education and advocacy for the wiser use and preservation of our land, water, air and other irreplaceable natural resources.

You can invest in the future of our natural world by making a bequest in your will to the Maricopa Audubon Society. Talk to your attorney for more information on how this can be accomplished.

Visitors are most welcome! Our September through April meetings are held in Dorrance Hall at the Desert Botanical Garden. The Garden is located at 1201 North Galvin Parkway in Phoenix, which is approximately ½ mile north of the Phoenix Zoo. Dorrance Hall is located off the main parking lot and entry to the Garden. There will be signs directing you to the meeting. Although there is no charge to attend our general membership meetings, the Annual Banquet does require a dinner reservation and associated cost.

A pre-meeting dinner at Pete's 19th Tee Restaurant, 1405 N. Mill Avenue in Tempe (at the Rolling Hills Golf Course), will be in effect for the October through April meetings. Come and join us at 6:00 p.m. for a delicious meal (no-host), meet our guest speaker and say "howdy" to other birders. Meals at Pete's average \$5.00 to \$7.00.

Program Schedule for 2005

February 1, 2005

Scott Anderson The Gilbert Riparian Institute
Gilbert's Riparian Institute contains two sites and totals 182 acres of land in the midst of a booming urban area. Both sites host important numbers of breeding, migratory and wintering bird populations. Hear Scott's update on how these island jewels have become important in our lives. Want to learn more? Visit www.riparianinstitute.org.

March 1, 2005

Sam Campana Rio Salado Audubon

Center: At the Water's Edge Audubon Arizona has worked very hard to make the new nature center a reality. Come and see what's happened during the past two years and what will be happening in the near future.

April 5, 2005

Bob Witzeman Hummingbirds of Costa Rica

A long-time conservationist and birder, Bob has graciously agreed to share his experiences with hummingbirds in Costa Rica. His photographs are alluring, his presentations are compelling, so come, enjoy this feast for the eyes and learn about these jewels of the air.

May 3, 2005

Dave Pearson New Guinea:
Birding at the Edge of the Stone Age
Dr. Pearson is a research professor in the School of Life Sciences at ASU. An avid birder, Dave and his wife, Nancy, often post interesting local sightings on the birdwg. His publications include a series of "Traveler's Wildlife Guides" to: Brazil, Amazon and Pantanal; Peru; and Ecuador and the Galapagos. Dave says that he is an "excited participant" at this year's banquet as he talks about birds, wildlife and the diversity of cultures in New Guinea. NOTE: This program will be associated with our Annual Banquet to be held at Shalimar Country Club.

Due to a printing delay, Troy Corman will present the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas program at our September, 2005 meeting. Have a great summer!

From the Editor, Deva Burns

I am writing this column on the last day of a long weekend in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. What an exciting trip—Green-breasted Mango, White-fronted Robin, Golden-crowned Warbler, Crimson-collared Grosbeak! All the rarities that have been turning up here this winter beg the questions, why here and why now? Some of the south Texas experts think it is because the many small plots that various conservation groups have bought up and begun to restore are beginning to attract and hold these Mexican vagrants. Imagine what effect a large tract like the now-returning-to-natural Bentsen State Park may have in the coming years. And how important Tres Rios and the Gilbert Riparian Area here in our own metro area may become as unprotected habitat south of the border becomes unviable for birds.

Birding here in Arizona has also been

rewarding this winter—first documented state record Ruby-throated Hummingbird and second state record Le Conte's Sparrow. Were you able to get away and see these strangers? What else is out there?

Our wonderful, wet winter should bring us an amazing spring wildflower display. Be sure you read Bob Witzeman's article. It gives us an interesting perspective about all this water and its effects on the desert.

Thanks to all the field trip leaders who sent in reports. I am sure those who don't have the opportunity to get out there as much as they like enjoy birding from their armchairs as much as I do. Spring migration is as close as the next page on your calendar. I hope you're planting your gardens and planning your next birding adventures. I hope to see you out there.



Le Conte's Sparrow, 2nd documented state record; photographed by Jim Burns in Marana, AZ, January 17, 2005 with Canon EOS 1D body and Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens.

Notes & Announcements

MAS Board Nominating Committee—Don't forget to come to the May meeting and vote for your Board. See information on nominating committee later in this *Wren-dition*.

Membership Information—There are two ways to get on the mailing list in order to receive the *Cactus Wren-dition*: (We apologize for the complexity and confusion currently surrounding this process. It is caused by a review by an ad hoc committee of the National Audubon Society, which has been going on for over two years now, of National Audubon Society's longstanding policy of sharing a portion of the dues which members pay to National, with the assigned local chapter.) First, by joining the National Audubon Society. If you live in Maricopa County, generally east of 43rd Avenue, when National Audubon receives your check and membership application, Maricopa Audubon will receive your name and address from National, and will add you to Maricopa Audubon's *Wren-dition* mailing list, or you can make a check payable to National Audubon Society for \$20.00 and mail it with your National Audubon Society membership application to: Mike Rupp, Maricopa Audubon Society's membership chair, 740 E. Highland Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, Arizona, 85014, and he will forward it on to National Audubon. In the latter case, Maricopa Audubon will receive a rebate of your entire \$20.00 National Audubon membership fee the first year. Second, by becoming a "Friend of Maricopa Audubon". In this case you will become a member of Maricopa Audubon Society only, and will not receive the Audubon magazine, or any of the "benefits" of National Audubon membership but you will receive one year of the *Cactus Wren-dition*. "Friends" contribution categories in the form of a check made payable to Maricopa Audubon Society, and mailed to Mike Rupp, membership chairman, 740 E. Highland Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, Arizona 85014. The categories are—Anna's-\$20; Verdin-\$35-\$99; LeConte's Thrasher-\$100-\$249; Cactus Wren-\$250-\$999; Harris's Hawk*-\$1,000-\$9,999; and California Condor*-\$10,000+. *These levels include a signed, framed photograph by Jim Burns of your designated raptor. All "Friends" members receive various discounts. If you reside outside the above-indicated geographical area, the only way to receive a subscription to the *Cactus Wren-dition* is to become a "Friend" of Maricopa Audubon Society.

Needed—Hospitality Volunteers!—If you are interested, contact any Board Member.

Tucson Audubon Society and all other Arizona Audubon Chapters--Alaska Birding from Denali to the Sea--June 11-21, 2005--With John Higgins and Rochelle Gerratt. For more information about this trip and to register, contact Rochelle Gerratt at 520-696-2002 or info@naturetreks.net. Join us on a tour of some of Alaska's prime birding spots: Anchorage, Denali National Park, Denali Highway, and the Kenai Peninsula including Seward and Homer. We expect to see a number of bird species and hopefully all of the Big 5--large mammals that Alaska is famous for - grizzlies, caribou, Dall sheep, moose, and wolves. June is a great month to view Alaska's returning and breeding birds. With a little luck we should be early enough to miss out on the hordes of mosquitoes this state is famous for, and just in time for early summer flowers.

The trip price is \$3600 based on double occupancy. This includes all ground transportation by van from Anchorage, in-state air flight, boat rides, all meals, accommodations, and entrance fees, and two guides. \$150 of the total trip price per person will be donated to the local Arizona Audubon chapter they belong to. Membership in an Arizona Audubon Society is required, either your local one or with Tucson Audubon Society. For more information and to register, contact Rochelle Gerratt at 520-696-2002 or at info@naturetreks.net or visit <http://www.naturetreks.net/>.

Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas: Volunteers are needed for the second PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project scheduled for 2004-2008. This atlas effort comes two decades after the first atlas which documented 187 breeding species in the Commonwealth. The sponsors include the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Pennsylvania Game Commission. To learn more or register to participate go to www.pabirdatlas.org.

The Dove-tail Directory (www.dovetailbirding.com): The Directory is an online catalogue of world birding tours, and our goal is to help birders locate that special birding tour, to any of 85 countries around the world. This is a free service. There are no hidden costs or surcharges. Tours are offered at the

operators price. In addition to tours, the Directory also carries a comprehensive inventory of birding-related books. For your further convenience we maintain a North American, toll-free number (877)

881-1145, and someone will always happy to take your call.

Shade-grown coffee: If you are searching for a source to purchase shade-grown coffee and haven't been successful, try ABA Sales. They carry seven kinds of Song Bird Coffee. For information call 800-634-7736. Also, Trader Joe's carries shade grown coffee.

More birding and nature festivals. www.americanbirding.org. and www.birdinghotspot.com.

Audubon Adventures: Give the gift of discovery and share your love of the environment. The program is designated for students in grades 4-6. Introduce an entire classroom (up to 32 students) to the wonders of nature for just \$35 (plus shipping charges). You can select your favorite school or let Audubon do it for you. For orders: call 800/813-5037.

Maricopa Audubon T-Shirts—For information, contact Laurie Nessel at (480) 968-5614 or mail to: laurienessel@hotmail.com

Do you have an interesting story to tell about birding? Please forward your **submissions** to the Editor—Deva Burns. Check the back page for address/e-mail. Actually, attaching an article to an e-mail is the absolute easiest way to submit an article. If you have pictures or slides, you do need to send those to me directly. Remember, all articles may not be published the first month after receipt.

Remembering Eileen Fulmer-Kiep

Herb Fibel

Eileen Fulmer Kiep, known to most of her fellow birders as Eileen Fulmer, passed away on November 30, 2004, after losing her battle with cancer. Eileen was Maricopa Audubon Society treasurer from 1986 to 1988. She worked for many years in apartment management, and more recently in banking. Eileen lived in the Phoenix area for the past 25 years, the last nine years in Fountain Hills. She loved birding, and prior to her death, I cannot remember a Greater Phoenix CBC over the past twenty-five years in which she was not an avid participant. Eileen is survived by her husband, Jim, and one son.

Photo Quiz

Jim Burns



A) bad photo, easy bird



C) bad photo, difficult bird

THIS ISSUE'S CLUE—

All in the same family,
all in the same genus,
all coming back soon to
forests in Arizona.

All photos by Jim Burns.



B) bad photo, difficult bird

Through an inadvertent printing error, the captions for last issue's quiz photographs were transposed. Sorry about that. Were you confused? Did you notice?

Arizona's So-called Water Shortage

Bob Witzeman

"The human community and the natural world will go into the future as a single sacred community – or we will both perish."

Thomas Berry, *Theologian*

Arizona's "water shortage" is the buzzword of those who want ever more federal tax-payer subsidies to sustain a desert lifestyle and agribusiness industry that stands logic on its head.

Almost daily we read sky-is-falling articles about Arizona's water shortage. With the recent releases from SRP's Verde River reservoirs we are told water is being "lost." In fact, it is being saved and recharged into the groundwater table. It also replenishes the parched riparian wildlife habitat for 200 river miles all the way to Painted Rock Dam downstream of Gila Bend. If it were to get past that dam, which is almost twice the size of Roosevelt Reservoir, it would still have 300 river miles before reaching Yuma. If some water actually reached Yuma, it would benefit Arizona and California agribusiness which are annually obligated by treaty to supply Mexico with 1.5 million acre-feet (AF) of Colorado River water. It would also save U.S. taxpayers millions of porkbarrel dollars by not having to start up the antiquated Yuma desalinization dinosaur to meet the Mexican treaty obligation.

Painted Rock Dam is larger than all SRP reservoirs combined. The likelihood of water reaching Mexico, and replenishing the dried-up Colorado delta ecosystem of the world's smallest porpoise and its threatened fish is regrettably slim.

Currently Arizona uses some 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF) of water. That should be enough for 30-40 million people. Agribusiness uses 80 % of Arizona's water but returns only 1% of Arizona's income! Municipal and industrial users use 20% and provide 99% of Arizona's income.

Hay and cotton together devour 58% of Arizona's water! Hay takes 37%, cotton 21%, fruit 8%, vegetables only 2%, and other crops 12%. Hay is grown in every state, and mostly by unsubsidized, God-given rainfall. In Arizona it is grown with taxpayer-subsidized, below-market priced water, and subsidized electricity (for groundwater pumping).

The U.S. subsidy to cotton equals the total value of the entire crop. Imagine Detroit selling a billion dollars worth of automobiles and also receiving a billion dollars in subsidies.

Doubtless, Arizona politicians will lobby Congress, just as they did for the Central Arizona Project porkpie. Arizonans, despite talk about a rugged pioneer ethic, are unwilling to give up subsidized, water-wasting agriculture and grass lawns in the desert. Will it be nuclear powered, seawater desalinization at Rocky Point or Los Angeles, or floated icebergs from Alaska, or simply lobbying for more giveaway-priced, subsidized federal power for pumping our vast groundwater aquifers?

There are hundreds of millions of acre-feet of groundwater in Arizona to recoverable depths (at much less than the CAP's profligate 2900 foot pumplift) that could supply our urban growth for many decades.

However, groundwater pumping of riparian aquifers adjacent to Arizona's few remaining free flowing rivers such as the Verde and San Pedro will destroy those priceless, irreplaceable riparian wildlife habitats. Prescott's

growth is killing the Verde River and threatening Arizona's unique desert-nesting bald eagle population. Ft. Huachuca with its Sierra Vista are destroying the Southwest's last free-flowing river, the San Pedro. Even if Congress bequeathed us another CAP-like water palliative, would those cities halt their destruction?

Arizonans are now recharging our riparian aquifers with CAP water. Despite our recent drought, Arizona has recently recharged our water table at east and west valley riparian recharge facilities to the tune of four million acre-feet—enough water for two million people for a decade.

Metro Phoenix now has a Roosevelt Dam that was raised for flood control, and large bridges across the Salt. Next, we should draw down the water in the Salt and Verde dams – to recharge our nearby water

table. This also reduces reservoir evaporative losses, and the frequency of uncontrolled releases like the recent one.

Horseshoe Reservoir overlays an irreplaceable riparian habitat, not just for Arizona's unique and highly threatened Bald Eagles, but for other threatened birds and fish. Horseshoe produces only 21,000 AF of water annually, just 0.3% of Arizona's

water budget. That water could be replaced and the dam's habitat restored by the voluntary buy-out of 5000 acres of surplus cotton fields, or 4000 acres of water-wasting hayfields. Currently Arizona has 215,000 acres of cotton and 275,000 acres of hay.

Arizona must resolve to live within its means and respect the bountiful resources Nature has given us.



Photo by Jim Burns

Another Successful Big Sit!

Herb Fibel

The first Sunday in double figures in October each year beckons sedentary birders all over the U.S., The United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Canada, to go outdoors into the normally balmy fall weather, to relax within a seventeen-foot diameter circle, and to list how many species of birds they can identify by sight and/or sound during a 24 hour period. This odd birding event, now in its 13th year, is known as "The Big Sit!"

It was the Granite Reef Asterisks' 9th year of participation in this event. For the past couple of years we have used the event as a fundraiser for Maricopa Audubon Society. This time we raised over \$1,225 in pledges and donations. The money raised went towards the purchase of a power point system for the Chapter. I'm pleased to say, however, that the mercenary aspect of this event in no way detracted from the sheer pleasure and camaraderie of sitting under a big mesquite with friends for the

better part of a fall day enjoying Arizona's abundant avifauna.

Although arrangements were made ahead of time to provide us with pre-dawn access to the Granite Reef Recreation Area, apparently the word did not filter down to the USFS employee responsible for securing and opening the gate, and the gatekeeper, therefore, failed to show until about 7:15 a.m. This turned out to be an obstacle relatively easily overcome. We simply had to haul our food, scopes, picnic table, and barbecue grill, a few feet further than we had expected to.

Every year I'm pessimistic about our potential species count, and every year, by the time we are ready to call it a day, we end up having done far better than I had expected. This year our final tally was 55 species, a new record, and we almost had 56. The "almost" was a Roadrunner, spotted by Charles Saffell from outside the circle, which we were never able to see

from within the circle. We did add two new species to our cumulative list though—Long-billed dowitcher and MacGillivray's warbler, the latter, most accommodatingly, flew right into the tree that was within our circle, which brought our cumulative total for the 9 years to 113. My personal favorites of the day, however, were a couple of busy Red-breasted nuthatches.

Thanks are due to all those who donated. I promised all of our commercial sponsors that I would mention their companies. They were B & B Lawn Maintenance, Tempe; Owens Legal Services Corp., Phoenix; Job Examiner, Mesa; ADB Investments, L.L.C., Scottsdale; and Wild Birds Unlimited, Tempe. Sitters and bird spotters were Pete Moulton, Cynthia Donald, Cynthia Grant, Adam and Phyllis Martin, me, and special guests, Charles and Marian Saffell.

I can hardly wait until next October 16th rolls around.

MAS Annual Banquet is May 3rd

Herb Fibel

Make your plans now to join in the celebration of the completion of our 52nd year, our annual board elections, and in the laying of the groundwork for our 53rd year, at the MAS Annual Banquet on Tuesday, May 3, 2005, once again at the Shalimar Country Club at 2032 E. Golf Avenue in Tempe. Again the cost per person will be \$25.00 (10% discount for current Friends of Maricopa

Audubon) for a buffet dinner, with extensive selections offered for carnivores and vegans alike.

Our featured speaker will be ASU Life Sciences Department professor, Dr. David Pearson. David has provided several well-received programs over the years for us. His presentation for this year's banquet will be entitled: "New Guinea—Birding at the

Edge of the Stone Age". He will emphasize New Guinea's birds, other wildlife, and the diversity of its cultures.

There will be a no host cocktail hour from 6:00 -7:00 p.m., with the buffet starting at 7:00 p.m. Dress is casual. Reservations are a must. Sign up with Herb Fibel at (480) 966-5246, or Cynthia Donald at (480) 283-4515.

It's Time Again for Board Elections

Herb Fibel

The election of our MAS board of directors will take place at our annual meeting on May 3, 2005. Our board consists of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, conservation chair, publicity chair, program chair, field trip chair, membership chair, education chair and newsletter editor. With the exception of the newsletter editor, who is selected annually by the board, all chapter officer and other board positions are open for election each year. You may have noticed that a number of chapter officers and other board members have served in their respective positions for a number of years. This is not because he or she has a lock on that particular position. Rather, it's because

no one else has stepped forward and volunteered to serve in his or her place, and our bylaws have never specified term limits.

If you are interested in serving on the board, it is suggested that you contact the officer or chairperson currently holding that position and ask for more information about that position. Then contact one of the following members of this year's nominating committee:

Jim Blaugh, Chairman	(480) 491-2509
Gloria Traicoff	(480) 641-0086
Brian Ison	(480) 315-9031

If you are not quite ready to sit on our

board, you can get your feet wet, by volunteering to serve in one of the following capacities: hospitality chair (the person who arranges for meeting refreshments, calls volunteers to remind them that they volunteered to bring cookies, maybe sees to drinks being provided, and greets people when they come to our meetings); book sales chair (orders and sells books for the chapter at chapter meetings); raffle chair (scrounges up raffle prizes and runs the monthly raffle at the membership meetings, or Arizona Audubon Council delegate (attends the quarterly AAC meetings around the state and reports back to the chapter and the board). Please let someone know if you are interested.

Arizona's Special Species Lucy's Warbler

Jim Burns

Let us not forget amidst the bounty of our state's beautiful avifauna, Arizona's special species need not be spectacularly colorful, structurally unique, or ecologically important like Elegant Trogon which graced our last issue. Indeed, Lucy's Warbler is none of the above but, by our working definition—a species found only here or more easily here than in any other state—it is no less special.

In fact, there are several special aspects to the natural history of this tiny, plain, easily overlooked wood warbler. It is the smallest member of its family, barely topping four inches. It is the only warbler that breeds in the low deserts of the Southwest. It is the only western warbler that is a cavity nester (Prothonotary being the only eastern one). And it seems to be the only warbler seen during spring migration in flocks and during fall migration in family groups.

Vermivora luciae, genus name from the Latin words for worm eater, species name by its discoverer, Dr. James Cooper, for the daughter of his mentor, Spencer Baird, breeds in mesquite thickets from southern Utah and Nevada south through Arizona and along the lower Colorado River Valley east through southern New Mexico to just east of Big Bend National Park in Texas. South of our

border Lucy's breeds in northern Sonora and northeastern Baja.

Winters are spent in western Mexico and spring arrival in Arizona is in early March. Typically, one day there are no Lucy's and the next day they are everywhere. We once counted 15 Lucy's in a single tree across from



Photo by Jim Burns

the last picnic table in the Patagonia town park on a Sunday in March. On Saturday we had not seen a single Lucy's anywhere.

The easiest and surest place to see Lucy's close to Phoenix is the Granite Reef Recreation Area along the Salt River where the accompanying photo of a nest building female was taken last spring. This site was in a hollowed out limb of a fire damaged mesquite, but the species will frequently use old woodpecker holes and places where tree bark has simply peeled up leaving a suitable gap for a cup of grasses and animal

hair. Tamarisk groves are another of this species favored nest locations.

Lucy's males are quite vocal on territory but usually sing from the top of the canopy which makes the species only claim to color, the rusty cap and rump patch, hard to discern by birders from below. The song is not as distinctive as many of our warblers, and has been described more than once as "generic warbler." It is sweet, rapid, and high, most reminiscent of Yellow Warbler, though not as emphatic or recognizably repetitive. Lucy's are very pishable and, like many of our warblers, love to bathe. We have seen Lucy's bathing in Sycamore Canyon, along Arivaca Creek, and in Marian Paton's backyard water feature.

Like most warblers, Lucy's are active feeders, insect specialists gleaning from leaves and twigs as they hop along branches and through foliage, and they are often seen probing into cactus flowers. Although the clearing of mesquite bosques for firewood and cooking has undoubtedly lowered this species' overall numbers, where habitat conditions are right, Lucy's has the highest breeding density of any of our warblers.

For identifying Lucy's Warbler, refer to the Photo Quiz in our Summer, 2004 issue featuring other desert LGJs. Actually, the "little gray jobs" most likely to be confused with Lucy's are two non-warblers: juvenile Verdin with its unique, non-warbler bill which is tiny, sharply pointed and very broad at the base; and Bell's Vireo with its typically heavier, hooked vireo bill. On female and juvenile Lucy's lacking the chestnut crown and rump patch, the most diagnostic feature may well be the plain face. There's that adjective again, but plain or not, Lucy's Warbler is special to Arizona and unique in its own many ways amidst our state's avifauna.

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

Marjorie Eckman

The following field trips are sponsored by the Maricopa Audubon Society who have an organized program of trips throughout the year. They are open to the public and are free and include all skill levels. All the trips are Difficulty Level 1 unless noted otherwise.

CAR POOLING:

Maricopa Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on field trips. Please make every effort to organize your own carpool, consolidate vehicles at meeting places; and/or contact leaders for car pooling assistance. It is recommended that passengers reimburse drivers 5 to 10 cents per mile

LEGEND:

Limit: Maximum number of participants per field trip. Please call early to make your reservations. Difficulty Levels 1 through 5: 1 equals very low level of exertion, short walking distances, considerable birding from vehicle and possibly multiple birding stops. 5 equals very high level of difficulty with respect to exertion. Longer hiking distances are expected with possible steep trails.

REMINDERS:

- Wear neutral colored clothing and sturdy walking shoes
- Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, head protection and water
- Avoid wearing bright colors
- Bring your binoculars
- Don't forget to have FUN!!!

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

February – May 2005

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Le Conte's Thrasher site. This is our nearly annual trip to this traditional site on the far west side of Phoenix at the intersection of Baseline Road & the Salome Highway. Resident Bendire's, Crissal, and Curve-billed Thrashers may also be seen as well as Le Conte's and overwintering Sage Sparrows. Prairie Falcons have been observed on this trip in the past, and all of the typical low desert breeding birds should be present. The meeting place for those who wish to carpool will be Denny's parking lot, NW corner of I-10 & Litchfield Road at 7:00 AM. The leader will not be present, but will meet participants at the site at 7:30 AM. The leader must leave at noon, but those wishing to visit additional nearby sites should bring a lunch. Le Conte's are shy birds so we will limit the number of participants to 10 as we have done in the past. Call or email the leader early to insure a spot. Difficulty: 1

Leader: Jim Burns
Phone: 480-946-2502
Email: jpbaztec@aol.com

Sunday, February 20

Gilbert Water Ranch. The ponds and surrounding marshes attract migrating waterfowl, wintering raptors, and passerines. Burrowing Owl colonies are well established and easily viewed. Close looks at all the common waders usually possible. Bring a spotting scope if available, as well as lunch and water for a 7:30 start. Contact leader for

reservations or additional information. Limit: 15
Difficulty: 1

Leader: Cindy West
Phone: 480-830-5332
Email: cwestbirdr@juno.com

Wednesday, February 23

Needle Rock to Rio Verde Ranch. We will visit an area north of Scottsdale's McDowell Mountain Park and work our way down to the Rio Verde Ranch. This is interesting country with varied habitats and normally provides a good variety of species. Bring spotting scope if available, lunch, water and carpool money. Meet at parking lot by the north pond at Scottsdale Pavilions on Indian Bend at 6 AM. Contact leader for reservations or additional information. Difficulty: 1

Leader: Ann Baker
Phone: 480-471-7081
Email: abjbaz@cox.net

Saturday-Sunday, February 26-27

Colorado River - Cibola National Wildlife Refuge to Topock. Join us for a weekend of birding at several sites along the Colorado River in search of wintering loons, grebes, geese, ducks, and other waterbirds. We should also observe a fair number of landbirds and several early migrants. Key locations to visit will be Cibola N.W.R., the Parker Oasis, Parker Dam, Bill Williams River delta, several locations along Lake Havasu, and the Topock Marsh area. The trip will begin early Saturday morning in Blythe, CA. To help limit logistic problems for this lengthy road excursion, this field trip will be limited to 15 participants. Contact Troy for reservations and additional information on carpooling from Phoenix. Limit: 15 Difficulty: 1

Co-Leaders: Troy Corman and Tracy McCartney
Phone: 602-482-6187
Email: aplomado@cox.net

Saturday, March 5

Granite Reef Dam & Lower Salt River. We will bird the Salt River below Granite Reef Dam, using cars to cover hot spots along ten miles of road. A traditional favorite, excellent for waterfowl and raptors. This beautiful area usually produces a variety of species. There is a lake entry fee. Bring water, lunch and a scope if available. We will meet at 7 AM at the Walgreen's parking lot at McKellips and Power (Bush Highway). Contact leader for reservations or additional information. Difficulty: 1

Leader: Charles Saffell
Phone: 480-668-9393
Email: marisaff@cox.net

Saturday & Sunday, March 12 & 13

Tres Rios Festival

Saturday, March 19

Flagstaff Lakes. On this field trip we will visit the lakes around Flagstaff looking for waterfowl and Bald Eagles. We also hope to find Red-Crossbills, Cassin's Finches and Pinyon Jays. We will meet at the Denny's restaurant at the intersection of I-40 and I-17 at 8 a.m. Bring a lunch, water, snacks and a scope will be very helpful if you have one. Contact

leader for reservations and possible last minute changes or instructions. Difficulty: 1

Leader: Charles Babbitt
Phone: 602-840-1772
Email: cjbabbitt@cox.net

Wednesday, March 23

Native flowers & plants of the east valley.

Join us for a walk in the desert to look for wildflowers and other native plants. We will touch on identification techniques and ecology. A small loupe would be helpful. Bring binoculars as we will be watching for typical desert birds. Contact Leader for reservations or additional information. Limit: 15 Difficulty: 1

Leader: Mel Bramley
Phone: 480-969-9893 (in the evening)

Saturday, March 26

Picacho Peak wildflowers and plants. This trip will combine looking at birds, wildflowers, and desert shrubs. Wildflowers may be in short supply depending on the abundance of winter rainfall. Plant life dictates what bird species will be found in an area. These relationships and other aspects of avian natural history will be our primary topics as we search for desert birds. Meet at the REI parking lot at SW corner of Southern & Priest in Tempe for prompt departure at 6 AM. Bring lunch, water and carpool money. Contact leader for reservations or additional information. Difficulty: 1

Leader: Robert Obmart, Dept. Applied Biological Sciences, ASU
Phone: 480-727-1126

Wednesday, March 30

Seven Springs, Camp Creek & Rackensack Canyon. We shall concentrate on two or three of these attractive areas looking especially for migrants. With an early start and a quick look at Rackensack, we will have time to linger at Lower Camp Creek and hopefully make it to Seven Springs for a day of quite varied habitats. Meeting place and time to be decided. Bring lunch, water and carpool money. Contact leader for reservations & additional information. Difficulty: 1

Leader: Joy Dingley
Phone: 480-419-9804
Email: joydingley@hotmail.com

Wednesday, April 4

Slate Creek. We will look for late migrants and early nesters in this beautiful part of Arizona. Bring lunch and water. Call for additional information and reservations. Limit: 12 Difficulty: 1

Leader: Russell Widner
Phone: 480-296-8163
Email: rwidner@earthlink.net

Saturday, April 9

Cave Creek Owling Trip. This is an afternoon and evening trip with emphasis on owls. We will visit riparian and desert habitats. In particular, we will visit the "Jewel of the Creek", a preserve of the Desert Foothills Land Trust, which borders the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. The preserve has water year-round and contains large cottonwood and

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

willow trees. Possible owls are Great Horned Owl, Western Screech Owl, Barn Owl and Elf Owl (might be a little early for this one). A goodly number of passerines are likely. Be prepared for steep but short grades and some unsteady footing. Bring a flashlight. Call leader for meeting time and place. Limit: 10 Difficulty: 3.

Leader: Harvey Beatty
Phone: 480-991-9190
Email: hbeatty@extremezone.com

Saturday, April 16

Spur Cross. We will concentrate on a portion of the park recently reopened to visitors. We will also visit an area known as "Jewel of the Creek" which features a stand of cottonwoods, willow and ash. Passerines should be abundant in this riparian area. Last year a total of 44 species saw a wide variety of birds plus a western diamondback, coyote and several mule deer. Three mile walk. Bring a lunch. Call leader for meeting place and reservations.

Co-leaders: Laurie Nessel and John Gunn, wildlife biologist and park ranger.
Phone: 480-968-5614
Email: laurienessel@hotmail.com

Wednesday, April 20

Butterflies and Birds at Sunflower. A quiet road along Sycamore Creek should provide some early migrant birds and a nice variety of butterflies. Bring lunch and water. Contact leader for additional information and reservations. Limit: 12 Difficulty: 1

Leader: Janet Witzeman
Phone: 602-840-6089, no emails please.

Wednesday, April 27

Mt. Ord. We will visit beautiful grassland, pinyon-juniper, and ponderosa pine habitats in the Upper and Lower Sonoran life zones. Mt. Ord is the highest bird habitat in Maricopa County. We may hope to encounter Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, Gray Vireo, Black-chinned Sparrow, and many warblers including Olive, Painted Redstart, Grace's, Black-throated Gray and Virginia's as well as Summer and Hepatic Tanagers, nuthatches and other passerine species. Bring a lunch. The road is rocky and high-clearance vehicles are required. We can carpool as necessary. Call leader for additional information and reservations. Difficulty: 2

Leader: Bob Witzeman
Phone: 602-840-0052. No emails please.

Saturday & Sunday, April 30-May 1

Sierra Anchas camping trip (MAS & SAS). This weekend car camping trip is scheduled for the peak period for spring migration of birds in Gila County, so you never know what we might encounter. We will visit many habitats and elevations in search of a great diversity of birds. This includes waterbirds at Roosevelt Lake and birds of the desert, riparian woodlands, and cool mountain forests. Since this is an overnight camping trip, we may also try our luck with detecting nocturnal owls and nightjars. This field trip may include some strenuous mountain trail hiking and higher clearance vehicles may be needed in a few areas. Please note this is a joint trip with Sonoran Audubon and space is limited to only 15 participants. Carpooling is required.

Leader: Troy Corman
Phone: 602-482-6187
Email: aplomado@cox.net for reservations and additional information.

Friday, May 6

Box Canyon (joint trip MAS & SAS). Box Canyon is a high-walled canyon of the Hassayampa River located about 12 miles northeast of Wickenburg. Due to the drought there has been little or no water in recent years, but if the current rains continue, then by May we may have to walk through some water. Wear old tennis shoes and bring a change of shoes and socks to leave in the vehicles. Also bring a backpack with lunch and water. We should be back in Wickenburg by 2 PM. On the drive to the Canyon we will see the usual resident desert birds, but in the Canyon we can expect to see riparian birds, residents and migrants. We will surely hear calling Canyon Wrens. The likely birds at the Box are the same as at the Hassayampa River Preserve, if we have a rainy fall/winter. Meet at 8 AM at the Wickenburg Community Center: as you travel northwest on Hwy #60 entering Wickenburg you will cross the bridge over the Hassayampa, turn right immediately after the bridge and you will be looking at a large white building and surrounding parking lot. Difficulty: 2

Leader: Nancy London
Phone: 928-684-5530
Email: 55407@w3az.net
Maricopa members for convenience may contact Marjorie Eckman at 480-368-1901 or desertjewel877@aol.com

Wednesday, May 11

Rackensack, Lower Camp Creek, Seven Springs. This is one of the best places in the county for migrating warblers and resident species. Bring lunch and water. Call for information and reservations. Limit: 12 Difficulty: 1

Leaders: Janet Witzeman and Bix Demaree.
Call Janet at 602-840-6089, no emails please.

Wednesday, May 18

Phoenix Zoo Ponds. The Phoenix Zoo's ponds are home to incredible numbers of migratory waterfowl and this is a great chance for beginning birders to practice their identification. Seasoned birders will enjoy the sheer volume of migrants and the visibility of some usually difficult-to-view birds. This trip will include stops at the Arizona Aviary, three major lakes and the Harris Hawk demonstration. We will begin at 8 AM, one hour before the park opens to the public and conclude at noon. Program is free to Zoo members and a \$4 donation is requested for non-zoo members. Limit: 30

Leader: Mike Foley
Phone: 602-273-1341 extension 7339
Email: mfoley@thephx Zoo.com for reservations.

Saturday, May 21

Oak Flat Campground - Haunted Canyon, endangered Tonto National Forest Public Lands. Early morning stop to Oak Flat Campground for a quick view of the 4100-foot elevation chaparral habitat. Continue on to Haunted Canyon for a three-mile round trip hike to a 95% forest canopy including One-seed juniper and Arizona alder. We hope to see some spring migrants at this

3500 foot elevation riparian habitat. Bring lunch and water. Call for reservation and any additional information. Difficulty: 3

Leader: Laurie Nessel
Phone: 480-968-5614
Email: laurienessel@hotmail.com

Gilbert Water Ranch Beginning Birdwalks

Maricopa Audubon Society, the oldest and largest Audubon chapter in the valley, has teamed with The Riparian Institute of Gilbert, to bring regular monthly "birdwalks" to individuals and families in the southeast valley.

Located at the southeast corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads, the beautiful 110 acre Gilbert Water Ranch will play host to guided birdwalks each second Saturday of the month, from October 2004 through April 2005. Running from 8AM to 12:00, the birdwalks will be guided by experienced leaders, with "loaner" binoculars and field guide books available free of charge. Each walk will travel around several of the ponds and a variety of habitats that will provide participants with good views of some of the 125 species that have been recorded at the water recharge facility.

In addition, there will be spotting scopes set up at various spots to see close-ups of waterfowl, and changing educational displays and learning opportunities at the exhibit tent. Come see bird artifacts, children's books on birds, stunning bird photographs, and even live birds like a Bald Eagle or Red-tailed Hawk, brought by Liberty Wildlife, a local wildlife rehabilitator.

The walks are open to all ages, individuals, and families, and are especially suited to let children experience, perhaps for the first time, the little known bird species that live right in our own neighborhoods- from beautiful Red-Tailed Hawks, and ground-dwelling Burrowing Owls that stand guard at their burrow entrances, to a good variety of ducks, sparrows, and sandpipers.

Details about birdwalk dates, times, and changing exhibits can be seen at: www.maricopaaudubon.org, and www.riparianinstitute.org

These birdwalks are a perfect way to introduce children and adults alike to local birdlife, and provide an educational family activity that will be long-remembered. Maricopa Audubon invites you and your little "naturalists" out for a fun morning of discovery and exploration.



Photo Quiz Answers

Jim Burns

In addition to these images all being bad photographs, what other characteristics do they share which might help us place these migrants in the correct family? There are three commonalities: short, flat, broad-based bills; upright posture; and perches on bare, exposed branches. We're looking at flycatchers, and we can just imagine each about to sally out, grab some protein, and return again to their favored perch.

Flycatchers, as a family, are notoriously difficult to separate. Many appear simply drab and gray with a dearth of field marks, and many of those with color are separable only by subtle variations in that color. Do we have enough visual information here, without color or vocals, to identify these three to species?

A)—Bad photo, easy bird

This being the worst of three bad photos, how does it happen that I consider it the easiest of the three identification problems? Well, remember, these birds are all in the same genus. If we can solve one of them it should make the remaining two much easier, and I think this bird is the only one of the three which might be identified without benefit of the verbal clue which accompanies the images.

The obvious reason this is the worst of the three photos is that this bird is the most distant, and the odd perspective here indicates it is at the very top of a very tall tree with the camera looking almost straight up. This is a good clue! While it may be counterintuitive to say this bird is the easiest because its image is the smallest, that may in fact be the case. There is one flycatcher species notorious for perching almost exclusively at the very tops of tall trees. And because of that persistent behavioral trait this species has been, for me, one of the most difficult of birds to photograph well.

While we often loosely use the term "vested appearance" in describing other species, this first quiz bird is the one that most famously "pioneered" the vested look—light throat, breast, and belly contrastingly outlined by vertically streaked dark shoulders and flanks—the height of avian couture. This Olive-sided Flycatcher, in classic pose, was poorly photographed in the Le Roux Burn on the San Francisco Peaks in September, 2002. And the whole time I was setting

up for the shot I was hearing the classic Olive-sided refrain—"Whip three beers."

A second helpful field mark in Olive-sided identification is the white tufts on the sides of the rump, but these tufts, certainly not visible in this photo, cannot always be seen even with a good dorsal view. There are also two features of Olive-sided "jizz" often used in conjunction with these field marks. The first, discernable in this image, is the large-headed appearance. The second, not apparent from this camera angle, is a decidedly short-tailed look. Olive-sideds, though not to be expected in the deserts, are the most likely of our three quiz birds to be seen here during spring and fall migration.

B)—Bad photo, difficult bird

Now that we know our first bird is an Olive-sided Flycatcher, we know a couple other things as well. Not only are we in the same family, we are in the *Contopus* genus, all literally on the same page in most field guides. Greek and Latin scholars will know *contopus* translates to "short foot." Flycatcher scholars will know that is totally irrelevant in separating this genus in the field from others in the flycatcher family, but we can take consolation in knowing there are only three other species from the U.S. in the short-foot tribe—Greater Pewee and Eastern and Western Wood-Pewee.

Though our second quiz bird is the closest of the three, once again we are looking up from beneath the subject, a poor photographic perspective rarely as pleasing or as diagnostic as other camera angles. I am not certain this bird would be identifiable in this photo if we did not know it was a *Contopus* flycatcher, but let's review the field marks we can see.

The bird has a uniformly colored breast lighter than its face, a light lower mandible, a notched tail, and what appears to be a thin, wispy crest. Any of these four field marks would preclude Olive-sided, and the last two should be enough to tell us for sure we are not looking at one of the wood-pewees. Additionally, this bird's bill looks much too large, relative to the size of its head, for a wood-pewee. This Greater Pewee was photographed in February, 1999 at the Brock Farms in the California desert, an uncommon but not unheard of area for this species to overwinter.

Greater Pewees, like many of our flycatchers, thankfully have a quite distinctive voice to help us get past their drab plumage. Greater Pewee, of course, is the "Jose Maria" vocalist which announces springtime in our southern and central mountains.

C)—Bad photo, difficult bird

Without the reference to Arizona and without hearing its song, there would be no way to know with certainty whether our final photo is an Eastern or a Western Wood-Pewee. And don't forget an Eastern did spend a majority of the summer in Madera Canyon in 1998, originally discovered by a birder with an alert ear who at first couldn't believe what he was hearing.

Field marks in this poor photo, sidelit and with almost half the subject hidden by shadow, are the peaked but not crested crown, two light and narrow wingbars, a contrastingly light throat, and perhaps a hint of that vested appearance we mentioned earlier. If there is an eyering at all, it is certainly faint and incomplete, and the wing silhouette suggests a long primary projection. These features are all characteristics of our wood-pewees, but won't necessarily separate them from one another.

The real wood-pewee problem for both eastern and western birders is separating this bird from the small, drab flycatchers in the *Empidonax* genus. With the exception of Willow and Alder Flycatchers, the empids will have a much more obvious eyering than we see in this photo. Willows and Alders should be separable from the two wood-pewees because, like the other empids, they will have shorter wings with a shorter primary projection, will not show this vested appearance, and will typically flick tails and/or wings which the wood-pewees do not do.

Other than geography and their obviously different songs, there is no reliable way to tell Eastern from Western Wood-Pewees. This Western Wood-Pewee was photographed near Greer in June, 1997. The typical Western song, often sung literally all day long, is a mournful, descending "Peeeer," another sure sign of spring in Arizona's mountains. Because they are persistent and distinctive vocalists, even with bad looks or no looks at all, birders will usually know when our *Contopus* flycatchers have arrived on their Arizona breeding grounds.

October 11 - Photography Seminar

Our first bird photography seminar was held at the Phoenix Zoo auditorium with a group of twelve interested birders in attendance. Cindy Marple presented a great Power Point program that covered the topics of composition, equipment, approaching your subject, and exposure. She showed us image examples to illustrate good and poor photos along with some of her wonderful bird shots. The drawback was the group didn't get to see more of her great bird photographs - imagery that goes well beyond a "documentary photo" of a bird, and shows a bit of habitat, behavior and "character". We will be sure to arrange another photo seminar sometime in the future, and try to schedule Cindy as a speaker at one of our monthly meetings to share her wonderful images of our avian community.- Mike Rupp

October 23 - Hassayampa River Preserve

Approximately ten members and friends of Maricopa Audubon met Cynthia Donald and me at the US #60 Rest Area and as always, the rest area provided excellent birding, and the group turned up 17 species in an hour. The star attraction proved to be a male Townsend's Warbler, followed closely by a beautiful male Red-naped Sapsucker and a Black-throated Gray Warbler. Two Juncos, one Gray-headed and one Oregon were especially interesting at this seemingly early date. The Preserve produced 27 species, mostly ones not seen at the rest area. Observers were rewarded with excellent views of both Cassin's and Plumbeous Vireos. One Red-shouldered Hawk was heard and briefly glimpsed as it soared over the treetops to hunt downstream. The Preserve banding station was open and during lunch we spent some time in the picnic area observing this interesting procedure. Several of the group were allowed to handle and release the newly marked birds, but the most interesting part was in actually seeing several species in the hand. We totaled 39 species for the trip.-Pete Moulton

October 20 - Prescott

This was a joint trip between the Maricopa and Prescott chapters led by Karen O'Neil and Sharon Arnold. The location was in Watson Woods, Watson Lake and the Highlands Center for Natural History (Lynx Creek site). The weather

was in the high 60's, sunny but with wind in the morning. One of the participants, Sandra Rios Balderrama of Scottsdale came with Marjorie Eckman and was attending her first birding trip. Her enthusiasm in everything she saw was a great delight to everyone. Later we received her diary of the trip, a wonderfully written lyrical chronicle. We saw a total of 48 species, with the highlights being Cassin's Finch, Belted Kingfisher, and Loggerhead Shrike.

October 30 - Lower Salt River

Just two days before this field trip, the Phoenix area had one of the rainiest days in a couple of months. However, on this day, although slightly chilly at the start, the weather was absolutely beautiful. A nice start was spotting an American Kestrel that perched on a roadside wire at our meeting location. We made a brief stop at Red Mountain Ranch and then left residential and commercial development to take a dirt road that went near the Granite Reef Dam. A stop here had us hear White-crowned Sparrows (surprisingly, our only encounter with this species!), and see a Rock Wren, Great-tailed Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Abert's Towhee, Gambel's Quail, and good views of two Black-tailed Gnatcatchers. Most exciting was the sighting of a Bald Eagle flying overhead, and then perched high on the cliff (providing telescopic views). Further down the road, some residual water excited us with a great, albeit quick, view of a Sora that sneaked out of the reeds. A couple of us saw Killdeer, and heard a Marsh Wren. Most of us were able to see a Bewick's Wren, and a Northern Harrier fly over, and then perch in a tree. Views of the Salt River from the Granite Reef Recreation Area showed us Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, and American Pipit, and on land, we spotted Northern Cardinal, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gila Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a Ladder-backed Woodpecker. After a couple of other stops, we were at Coon Bluff Recreation Area for lunch at midday, and exciting sightings of Greater Yellowlegs and Common Moorhen in the water, and close to us on the cliff, a bright Red-naped Sapsucker, Vermilion Flycatcher, and a couple of Say's Phoebes that fought in the air, and even on the ground. A few Lark Sparrows were identified on the ground on the other side of the picnic

area. Later on at Saguaro Lake, walking along the road between ramadas, we alternated between binoculars and the telescope to study distant birds out on the water. We determined we had at least a hundred grebes, some of both Western and Clark's, not commonly seen birds on this field trip. Returning to our cars, we spotted a bird darting into the cliff, quickly guessing from coloration and habitat, that it was an Osprey. Finding the bird in the telescope, we realized that our "prize" was instead a Peregrine Falcon! Our final stop was at Butcher Jones Recreation Area. Walking around the grassy beach, we added Belted Kingfisher, Violet-green Swallow, Western Meadowlark (the last, new for this biannual field trip), and Lesser Scaup to our day's list. The nice nature trail here provided us closer views of Western, Clark's and Pied-billed Grebes, as well as Ruddy Duck. We ended our birding at 4 PM with 60 species total, and such beautiful weather, we agreed that we essentially were reluctant to stop this popular birding trip! Hope YOU can join us NEXT time!- Richard Kaiser

November 7 - Parker Dam

On a Maricopa Audubon field trip, ten of us had a wonderful time together seeing 73 species including some really great birds. We visited agricultural fields on the way to the Dam where we saw Prairie Falcon, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Western Meadowlark and about 300 Sandhill Cranes. In driving a lot of the farm roads, we saw a Ferruginous Hawk, Horned Larks and American Pipit, Merlin, Vermilion Flycatcher, American Crow, Northern Harrier, and Dark-eyed Juncos. A Yellow Warbler surprised us at this late date. At one field, Cindy saw some clods of mud moving along, only to discover that we were looking at a group of 40 Mountain Plover! The dam had few birds, possibly a touch early in the season. The only ducks were two Common Goldeneyes, spotted by Linda and a group of about 75 Bufflehead and a Mallard that habitually followed any boaters venturing into the area! A Bonaparte's Gull, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron and an Osprey were seen. A stop at Buckskin Mountain State Park, a beautiful location, was a disappointment in the way of birds. Likewise, the Blue Water Casino, where we ate lunch,

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Field Trip Reports

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produced few birds. Our best bird was a female White-winged Scoter found late in the day at the Bill Williams delta which provided us with great excitement since it was at considerable distance and asleep. As I spotted it, I said, hmmm, could this be a Greater Scaup or even a Scoter? A group of us decided to trek back out to the point for a better look and as we headed there, I heard Marjorie yell "the bird lifted it's head; I think it is a Scoter!" Finally the bird began to swim and as the bird turned, I could see the white wing patch. Wow, a White-winged Scoter!-Kurt Radamacher

December 7, Phoenix Zoo

The sun made a much appreciated appearance for the Maricopa Audubon zoo trip after several days of rain. Highlights of the day included a pair of great horned owls vocalizing and perched in the parking lot as we started the day. The assorted waterfowl at the zoo's three main lakes were cooperative enough to give us incredible looks. Northern Pintails, American Widgeons and Ring-necked Ducks were visible in great numbers and Gadwalls and Ruddy Ducks were seen in smaller numbers. Lesser Goldfinches, Belted Kingfishers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warblers, Yellow-rumped

Warblers and the typical Sonoran desert songbirds were in abundance all through the day. One of the interesting pleasures we witnessed included a group of wild Harris Hawks that make their home at the zoo. They were seen throughout the walk including during the zoo's free-flight presentation by our trained Harris Hawks. Due to this presentation, the wild hawks made another appearance. They were so close that the attendees were given great examples of territorial calls! Overall a wonderful day was had by all as we enjoyed the native wildlife at the Phoenix Zoo interspersed with the exotic collection of plants and animals-Mike Foley

Grand Canyon National Park Is a National Treasure, Not a Scenic Highway

Roxane George

Grand Canyon National Park is one of the crown jewels of our national park system, recognized by the international community as a World Heritage Site. The Colorado River through the Grand Canyon encompasses breathtaking beauty and a vast array of historic, scientific and cultural values, providing increasingly rare opportunities for seclusion and world class river recreation in wilderness. Clearly, if any place deserves the highest protection of its natural resources and wilderness character, the river at the heart of the Grand Canyon does. Yet the values that make this place so special are threatened.

Glen Canyon Dam has caused the loss of most of the river's sediment and nutrient base and a critical decline in native fish and other mammals. Noise from overhead aircraft has severely diminished the Canyon's natural quiet and serenity. There has been a tremendous increase in the number of people traveling down the river each year, from 2,100 in 1967 to over 22,000 currently, many on motorized boats. These contribute significantly to noise, crowding and other detrimental impacts to the park's cultural and natural resources. We are in danger of literally loving the Colorado River in Grand Canyon to death.

The National Park Service has had a number of opportunities to confront these threats to the Canyon's river ecosystem, from as early as 1980, when they first

proposed to phase out raft motors to restore and protect the wilderness experience. Since then, the Park Service has recommended most of the park, including the river corridor, for wilderness protection.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Colorado River Management Plan released in October represents the Park Service's most recent opportunity to restore and protect the river. Yet, in spite of the Park Service's management mandate to put park conservation priorities ahead of all others, including recreation, their preferred alternative is not a resource protection guide for one of the world's most amazing wildernesses. It is instead a traffic plan to maximize visitor services and tour accommodations.

Although it is clear that a full range of boating opportunities for people with diverse needs can be maintained while managing the Grand Canyon for wilderness character, the Park Service's preferred alternative allows the continued use of motors in the Canyon, which is incompatible with the spirit and letter of the laws that direct management of potential wilderness.

The preferred alternative also increases visitation numbers although the DEIS acknowledges that lower visitor numbers can allow boaters to enjoy longer trip lengths and more discretionary time on the river without increased impacts to

natural and cultural values. The Park Service's proposal would also continue to allow noisy helicopters in the bottom of the Grand Canyon in spite of the Park's ongoing failure to comply with a 1987 law requiring the restoration and protection of natural quiet at the park.

The final alternative should phase out motors and helicopter exchanges on the river. These can be compensated for with our trips and traditional and appropriate means of transport such as hiking, horseback and mule rides. The canyon is well worth experiencing on its own terms and such an experience has been proven possible for everyone, even those with disabilities.

Trip sizes, crowding during all seasons, and encounters between trips should be significantly reduced. While there are many places where we can motor through life, peace, quiet and solitude are increasingly rare in our modern world. The Grand Canyon is one place where the pace and spirit can refresh our souls and awaken our spirit of exploration and wonder. It should be preserved for the times when we seek out this kind of recreation.

For more information about the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter's Campaign to restore and protect the greater Grand Canyon ecosystem, contact Roxane George: 928-775-6514; roxane.george@sierraclub.org. For the draft EIS go to: <http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp/>.

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, & NOVEMBER 2004

Again this fall, as was the case last fall, Am. White Pelicans were numerous and widespread in the county. Four were counted at Gillespie Dam Sept. 19 (TC) and about 50 were observed at the Dam and the area around the Dam on the Gila River Indian Community Sept. 29 (MR); two were seen below Horseshoe Dam Oct. 6 and 15 were seen at Lake Pleasant Oct. 27 (RWd,BD,AV); 40 were counted at Tres Rios Nov. 11 (TC), between 23 and 33 were observed at the Gilbert, s. of Ocotillo Rd. pond Nov. 21 – 28 (DP,PD), and three were seen along the Salt River south of Laveen Nov. 21 (DJ). In western Arizona, 200 – 250 were counted at Alamo Lake Sept. 26 (KR).

Two Neotropic Cormorants were observed at Encanto Park Oct. 3 (JM), 25 were counted at Tres Rios Nov. 11 (TC), and between six and 20 were seen at the Gilbert/Ocotillo Rd. pond Nov. 21 – 28 (DP,PD).

An **American Bittern**, a rare winter visitor, was discovered at the Gilbert Water Ranch Oct. 31 (AP,CF), where it remained at least until Nov. 2 (OH). A large number of 300 Great Egrets were counted along with 40 Snowy Egrets, at the Lower River Rd. ponds in Palo Verde Nov. 13 (TM); 80 Great Egrets were observed at the Gilbert/Ocotillo Rd. pond Nov. 28 (PD). The White Ibis, that has been observed in the area southwest of Phoenix since May 2003, was seen again Nov. 27 at the Lower River Rd. ponds (PD). Numbers of late fall and wintering White-faced Ibis have been increasing since 1999; between 100 and 160 were counted at the Gilbert/Ocotillo Rd. pond Nov. 21 – 28 (DP,PD).

A large group of 47 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were observed at the Gilbert/Ocotillo Rd. pond Nov. 28 (PD). Individual Greater White-fronted Geese were reported at El Mirage pond Oct. 25 (BG) and at Fountain Hills Lake Sept. 17 through the period (KR et al.). Up to four Greater White-fronted Geese were counted at the Dateland Shrimp Ponds Sept. 19 + (TC,KR et al.). Individual

Ross's Geese were observed at the Lower River Rd. ponds Nov. 20 (KR) and at the Gilbert/Ocotillo Rd. pond Nov. 21 (DP). A female Greater Scaup was reported along the Verde River, n. of Rio Verde, Oct. 31 (TM). Two female **Surf Scoters** were discovered on Sunrise Lake in the White Mountains Oct. 14 (DSJ). A female **White-winged Scoter** was found at Bill Williams Delta Nov. 6 (KR et al.).

One of the Red-shouldered Hawks at the Hassayampa River Preserve was seen there Nov. 24 (JBo). Two Sandhill Cranes, irregular visitors to Maricopa County, were observed at Paloma Oct. 2 (BG). Up to four Black-bellied Plovers were observed at the Dateland Shrimp ponds Sept. 19 – 27 (TC,HD,RD,KR,JT) and two were found at Paloma Oct. 2 (BG). Up to eight Snowy Plovers were seen at the Dateland Shrimp Ponds Sept. 19 – 26 (TC,HD,RD,KR). Forty Mountain Plovers were found near Parker Nov. 6 (KR et al.).

Three Am. Avocets were reported below Horseshoe Dam Oct. 6 (RWd,BD,AV) and up to 17 were counted at the Gilbert/Ocotillo Rd. pond Nov. 21 – 28 (DP,PD). Thirty-two Long-billed Curlews, uncommon in late fall, were seen in a field near Palo Verde Nov. 27 (PD). Up to five Sanderlings were observed at the Dateland Shrimp Ponds Sept. 11 – Oct. 17 (TC,HD,PD,KR,JT) and one was found at Willow Lake in Prescott Sept. 1 (TM). Other unusual species discovered at the Dateland Shrimp Ponds during the fall were: a Semipalmated Sandpiper Sept. 4 (KR), a **Ruff** (only the fifth state record) Sept. 21 – Oct. 3 (BG et al.), two Short-billed Dowitchers Sept. 4 – 26 (KR,TC,HD), and a **Red Phalarope** Sept. 11 – Oct. 3 (PD). A Wilson's Phalarope was found at the Lower River Rd. ponds on the late date of Nov. 27 (TM).

A large group of 12 Ring-billed Gulls and four Herring Gulls (rare transients) were seen at the Lower River Rd. ponds Nov. 13 (TM). A Sabine's Gull was reported at Fountain Hills Lake Oct. 2 for the second consecutive year (KR). Up to four Sabine's Gulls were reported at the Dateland Shrimp Ponds Sept. 29 – Oct. 3 (RWd,BD,AV,HD) and one was found at Springville in the White Mountains

Sept. 10 (CB,BJ). A Caspian Tern was observed at the Gilbert/Ocotillo Rd. pond Sept. 4 (DC) and three were seen at Garden Lakes in Avondale Sept. 17 (JT). A juvenile Common Tern was found at Concho Lake in the White Mountains Sept. 9 (CB,BJ).

Individual Ruddy Ground-Doves were found at Gila Farms Pond Sept. 18 (RJ) and at Arlington Oct. 31 (PD). An out-of-range Roadrunner was observed at 6500 feet in elevation at the Wenima Wildlife Area in the White Mountains Sept. 10 (CB,BJ). A Flammulated Owl was rescued from a spider web Halloween decoration at a house in Chandler Oct. 29 (AP); the species is a casual fall transient in the lowlands. A No. Pygmy-Owl was heard calling at South Fork of the Little Colorado River Sept. 11 (CB,BJ).

A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was observed at Boyce Thompson Arboretum (hereafter BTA) Oct. 17 at least until Nov. 21 (TC,CB,RWz); the species has been recorded there during the last two falls at least. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at BTA on the late date of Oct. 17 (TC). Individual Lewis's Woodpeckers were reported at Alamo Lake Sept. 26 (KR) and along Old U.S. 80, n. of Gila Bend Nov. 9 (HD). A female Acorn Woodpecker (an irregular wanderer to the lowlands) was found in a Tempe neighborhood Nov. 7 (RB,KS).

Two Willow Flycatchers were seen at the Gilbert Water Ranch Sept. 2 (DP), a high of seven were counted along the Agua Fria River south of Lake Pleasant Sept. 11 (TC), two were still present along the Agua Fria River on the late date of Oct. 2 (TC), and a late staying individual was seen along the Verde River, n. of Rio Verde Oct. 11 (TC). Several Pacific-slope Flycatchers were observed along the Agua Fria River Sept. 11 and one was seen there Oct. 2, as well as a Hammond's/Dusky Flycatcher (TC). A "Western" type Flycatcher was observed in Ahwatukee on the late date of Nov. 14 (RD).

A large number of 12 Loggerhead Shrikes were counted in the Palo Verde and Arlington areas Nov. 5 (RWd,BD,LH,AV). Individual Red-breasted

Field Observations

Nuthatches found in the lowlands during the fall were along the Agua Fria River Sept. 25 (TC), in a Scottsdale yard Oct. 2 (WT), at Paloma Oct. 5 (HD), and in a Yuma yard Oct. 6 (HD). Two Brown Creepers were observed along the Agua Fria River Oct. 9 (TC), and other individuals were seen at BTA Nov. 4 (JBa), and at Oak Flat Campground and along Queen Creek, n. of BTA Nov. 21 (CB,RWz).

A Golden-crowned Kinglet, a rare and irregular late fall and winter visitor, was seen n. of Rio Verde on the early date of Oct. 11 (TC). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were found at BTA Nov. 18 (JBa) and four were counted along Queen Creek, n. of BTA Nov. 21 (CB,RWz). A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were seen feeding a fledgling along the Agua Fria River on the late date of Sept. 11 (TC). Individual Varied Thrushes were observed along Horton Creek Trail past Kohl's Ranch Oct. 16 (JR, fide TG), at Oak Flat Campground Nov. 19 (ES), and at Cibola Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Nov. 29 (MM). A Brown Thrasher was seen back at BTA for the fifth consecutive fall/winter on Oct. 23 (PM,CD).

Individual late-staying Lucy's Warblers were seen at Granite Reef Dam Sept. 13 (SG) and at the Gilbert Wildlife Area Neely Ranch ponds Sept. 22 (JWz et al.). Individual Yellow Warblers (rare in late fall and winter) were observed at Parker Nov. 6 (KR et al.) and at the Pavilions Shopping Center in Scottsdale Nov. 25 (JBa). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was found n. of Rio Verde Oct. 11 (TC) and a female was discovered at Seven Springs Oct. 12 (RWd,AV). There have been 12 previous county records. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was also found n. of Rio Verde Oct. 11 (TC); there have been 11 previous county records. A female **Bay-breasted Warbler** was discovered n. of Rio Verde Oct. 13 (JBu,BI); there have been only five previous county records of this species.

Individual Black-and-white Warblers were seen along the Agua Fria River Sept. 30 (JBa) and at Tres Rios Nov. 11 (TC). Individual Am. Redstarts were reported at Laveen Sept. 7 (BMc), along the

Agua Fria River Sept. 11 (TC), and n. of Rio Verde Oct. 31 (TM). An **Ovenbird**, found in Tempe Aug. 3 (RJ), represented the first August record for the county. Another **Ovenbird** was discovered at Paloma Sept. 28 (JBr). A N. Waterthrush was seen at Indian School Park, near Indian School and Hayden Roads, Sept. 11 – 13 (JBa). A male **Hooded Warbler**, found in a Scottsdale yard Nov. 15, remained at least until Dec. 1 (JBa), providing only the fourth winter record for the county and the first in December.

An adult male **Scarlet Tanager** was discovered in Eagar in the White Mountains Sept. 10 – 11 (CB,BJ). There have been about 28 previous state records.

Individual "slate-colored" Fox Sparrows were found on Mt. Ord Oct. 18 (KR) and at Oak Flat Campground Nov. 21 (KKp). A White-throated Sparrow was reported at BTA Nov. 7 at least until Nov. 28 (PM et al.). A Harris's Sparrow was observed at Oak Flat Campground Nov. 19 (ES).

For the fourth consecutive fall, **McCown's Longspurs** were recorded at the Rousseau Sod Farm in Scottsdale. At least two (a male and a female) were found there from Nov. 7 at least to Nov. 20 (TC,KR,RJ). **Lapland Longspurs** were found at the same place for the third consecutive fall. Up to eight were counted from Nov. 7 at least until Nov. 20 (TC,KR,DP,PD,RJ). A few Chestnut-collared Longspurs were also present there from Nov. 7 – 9 (TC,KR,DP); only the second fall at this location.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued to be found in higher than usual numbers: a first year male was observed along the Agua Fria River Oct. 2 (TC) and another first year male was seen at BTA Oct. 16 – 19 (TC et al.). Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported s.w. of Yuma Oct. 28 (fide HD) and one was seen in a Yuma yard Oct. 28 (HD). A **Dickcissel** was discovered at the Wenima Wildlife Area in Springerville Sept. 10 (CB,BJ).

A **Bobolink**, found in Fountain Hills Sept. 12 (JP), provided only the seventh record for the county. An early female **Orchard**

Oriole was discovered in a Scottsdale yard Sept. 11 – 12 (JBa), providing the first September record for the county. Another **Orchard Oriole**, a first year male, was found in a Tolleson yard Nov. 29 (BG).

A small flock of Red Crossbills were sighted in Peoria Sept. 26 (BP) and the same day three were observed at the heron rookery near Painted Rock Dam (HD). Twelve Pine Siskins (irregular visitors) were seen along the Agua Fria River Oct. 2 (TC). Although numbers of Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported in s.e. Arizona during the fall, only one was seen in the Phoenix area – along the Agua Fria River Oct. 9 (TC). At the same place that day a male **Evening Grosbeak** (a rare irregular visitor) was observed (TC).

A few highlights from s.e. Arizona during the fall were: a **Cave Swallow** was discovered at Willcox Oct. 20 (DSj), the first in s.e. Arizona since 1991; the female **Green Kingfisher** continued to be seen along the San Pedro River (many observers); a **Blue-headed Vireo** was found and photographed in Sabino Canyon Oct. 23 (WR), the first to be documented in the state; and a Rufous-backed Robin was seen in Tubac Nov. 21 (JBo).

Observers: Charles Babbitt, Jack Bartley, Ron Bimrose, Jerry Bock, Jeff Brake, Jim Burns, Dale Clark, Troy Corman, Bix Demaree, Henry Detwiler, Pierre Deviche, Rich Ditch, Cynthia Donald, Craig Fischer, Steve Ganley, Tom Gatz, Bill Grossi, Olga Harbour, Liz Hatcher, Brian Iason, Dave Jabne, Bud Johnson, Roy Jones, Keith Kamper, Tracy McCarthey, Bob McCormick, James McKay, Mary McKenzie, Pete Moulton, Jerry Pavlock, Dave Pearson, Brandon Percival, Anne Peyton, Kurt Radamaker, Jim Rorabaugh, Mike Rupp, Will Russell, Dave Stejskal, Edward Strong, Karen Stuckey, Walter Thurber, Jolan Truan, Anita Van Auker, Russ Widner, Janet Witzeman, Robert Witzeman.

Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

At publication time only 1 CBC was received—Salt/Verde. There were 49 participants and 136 species seen. Below is a sample listing.

Species	Number	Area IX	XIII	I-4, I-5	X-XI	I-1	VIII	III-B	V	I-3	I-2	XII	II	XIV	IIIA	IV	Totals
Canada Goose	14														36		36
Gadwall	15		24					11	17				7		32	19	110
American Wigeon	15		3	38				114	110			136	150		32	17	600
Mallard	15	56	4	98	29	2	12	20	123			57	30	12	12	28	483
Northern Shoveler	15			65				1				2			4		72
American Green-winged Teal	15		2	2				20	42				9	1	22	39	137
Ring-necked Duck	15	2		13		3		20	4			116	4		142		304
Lesser Scaup	15			42													42
Bufflehead	15			64											1		65
Common Merganser	15			48				1	10			12	13		46	1	131
Ruddy Duck	15			84				2				8			10		104
Gambel's Quail	15	21		215	34	115	55	58	103	30	241	128		20	58	93	1171
Pied-billed Grebe	15	1	5	11		2			4			3	1	3	5	3	38
Eared Grebe	15			40				1							1		42
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	15		8	7			1	3	9			3	8	6	4	12	61
Great Egret	15		3					1	2			1	5	6	3	4	25
Harris's Hawk	15		3	2		2	4		4				9		1		25
Red-tailed Hawk	15	4		6	2	8	5	3	2		2	4	13	3	2	1	55
American Kestrel	15	4	2	4	4	5		1	1		1	1	1	1	1		26
American Coot	15	20	10	400				2	14			87	15	2	70	1	621
Killdeer	15	4	16	17	36	3	1	2	3			5	184	8		16	295
Greater Yellowlegs	15		5	9				6	14				6	22	5	38	105
Least Sandpiper	15	12	2	20	13		12		1				2	18		36	116
Rock Pigeon	15	39	6	29	6	67	240			3	17	10				39	456
Mourning Dove	15	49	88	156	14	171	11	1	6	3	384	212	26	8	7	13	1149
Inca Dove	15			12		25			1		4		11			2	55
Anna's Hummingbird	15	7	15	9	9	30			5		46	9	1	2	2		135
Costa's Hummingbird	15	5		2		1	5		1		4						18
Belted Kingfisher	15		3	1				2	8				3	3	4	4	28
Lewis's Woodpecker	1																0
Gila Woodpecker	15	9	16	15	2	18	9	2	31	14	53	11	32	25	9	12	258
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	15		2	2					6	1	4	1	5	3	10	7	41
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	15	3	5	7	3	5	1	5	11			2	7	7	5		61
Gilded Flicker	15	1	1	3		4	1	1	7	5	18				3		44
Black Phoebe	15		6	3	5	2	1	3	20			2	12	12	9	25	100
Say's Phoebe	15	11	7	7	4	6	1	1	1		3	4	28	5	9	9	96
Common Raven	15	2	10	27	24	12	40	4	11	2	2	12	19	7	36	7	215
Horned Lark	15	210					10										220
Verdin	15	13	14	20	12	25		1	15	5	47	7	3	11	16	25	214
Cactus Wren	15	4	12	20	2	33	7		19	5	53	3	5	2	10	12	187
Rock Wren	15	3	3	5	2	2	2	5	8	1	21	5		5	2	4	68
Bewick's Wren	15	1	2					1	9		7	1		2	7	3	33
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	15	5	9	5	6	2		8	53		17	4	21	30	36	17	213
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	15			1	4	4	1		8			2	2	3	3	24	52
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	15	2	8		2	2	2		14	3	9		1	1		9	53
Western Bluebird	13		3						25					18	6	9	61
Northern Mockingbird	15	8	5	4	2	30	1	1	3		4	4	5	1	2		70
Curve-billed Thrasher	15	3	8	6		18			5		45	1	2	2	3	3	96
European Starling	15	109	13	225	274	68	416		5		5	321	100		1000		2536
American Pipit	15	172			37		172	17	2				200	8	4	11	623
Phainopepla	15		8	3		6		4	25	24	259		50	21	19	18	437
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler	15	15		2	3	24	1	9	7	36		10	80	37	43	33	285
Canyon Towhee	14		1	1						6	107			2	2	6	125
Abert's Towhee	15	8	8	8	11	7	1	3	27		12	8	10	10	18	21	152
Lark Sparrow	15								26				72	15	25	9	147
Black-throated Sparrow	15	1	33	5	2	8			29	27	382		5	5	9	95	601
Savannah Sparrow	15												100				100
Song Sparrow	15	1	2	2				2	13			1	1	7	1	6	36
White-crowned Sparrow	15	41	70	210	24	69		9	46	15	326		50	43	52	136	1091
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	15								10					3	cw		13
Northern Cardinal	15		5	3		1			3		8	4	4	2	4		34
Red-winged Blackbird	15			300	78				81			739	30	6	700	1	1935
Western Meadowlark	15			1			4	3				1	40		11		60
Yellow-headed Blackbird	13											116					116
Brewer's Blackbird	15	20				2	4						16		6		48
Great-tailed Grackle	15	75	20	75	37	100	35	54	36			763	66	15	520	21	1817
House Finch	15	59	35	200	19	110	117	8	38	1	139	17	240	9		15	1007
Lesser Goldfinch	15	10	1	2	25	1					9		1	3	47		99
House Sparrow	15	5	12	12		52			42		201	76		1	10		411
Peach-faced Lovebird			20									12					32

Monthly Meetings

First Tuesday of the month, September through April, 7:30 p.m. Our meeting place has been changed to Dorrance Hall, at the Desert Botanical Garden, beginning with our October 5, 2004 meeting. All remaining regular meetings of our society will occur there, with the exception of the Annual Banquet, which will be at Shalimar. The Desert Botanical Garden (DBG) is located at 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona. This is approximately 1/4 mile north of the Phoenix Zoo. For a map, please see the DBG website at www.dbg.org/.

Dorrance Hall is located just off the main parking lot and entry to the DBG, and there will be signs directing you to the meeting place. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN. Please contact a board member if you have any questions, or check out our web site at www.maricopaaudubon.org. A banquet is held in May. Pre-meeting dinners (October through April) are held at Pete's 19th Tee, 1405 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe (at the Rolling Hills Golf Course), starting at 6:00 p.m.

Membership Information--see notes and announcements for more detail

Your National membership entitles you to membership in the National Audubon Society and the Maricopa Audubon Society. National members receive bi-monthly issues of Audubon Magazine and quarterly issues of the Cactus Wren-dition. For all new National Audubon memberships send check or money order payable to National Audubon Society to: Membership Chair, Mike Rupp.

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For Summer/Winter address change or to freeze your membership in our chapter call Membership chair, Mike Rupp.

Submissions

Copy for The Cactus Wren*dition must be received by the editor by e-mail, (may be on computer diskette, or typed and double-spaced; however, this is not preferred) by January 15, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Articles not received by the deadlines may not appear in the upcoming issue. E-mail to: Cactus Wren*dition Editor, Deva Burns. devaburns@aol.com

Bird Alert Line
 602-795-0162

Opinions

The opinions expressed by authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policy of the National Audubon Society or the Maricopa Audubon Society.

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Maricopa Audubon Society

P.O. Box 15451
 Phoenix, AZ 85060-5451



Maricopa Audubon Board

PRESIDENT

Laurie Nessel

1632 E. Cedar Street
 Tempe, AZ 85281-5906
 480-968-5614

laurienessel@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Robin Silver

PO Box 39382
 Phoenix, AZ 85069-9382
 602-246-4170

rsilver@biologicaldiversity.org

SECRETARY

Krys Hammers

1121 N. Terrace Road
 Chandler, AZ 85226
 480-413-9805

krys.hammer@cox.net

TREASURER

Herb Fibel

1128 E. Geneva Drive
 Tempe, AZ 85282-3940
 480-966-5246

herbertsfibel@aol.com

FIELD TRIPS

Marjorie Eckman

5453 E. Lincoln
 Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
 480-368-1901

desertjewelB77@aol.com

PUBLICITY

Charles Babbitt

4735 N 53rd St.
 Phoenix, AZ 85018-1950
 602-840-1772

cjbabbitt@cox.net

CONSERVATION

Robert Witzeman

4619 E. Arcadia Lane
 Phoenix, AZ 85018-2804
 602-840-0052

witzeman@cox.net

PROGRAMS

Cynthia Donald

2042 E. Balboa
 Tempe, AZ 85282
 480-283-4515

planres@earthlink.net

MEMBERSHIP

Mike Rupp

740 E. Highland Ave, #100
 Phoenix, AZ 85014
 (602)277-0439 Office

(602)277-0460 Fax

ruppar@mindspring.com

EDUCATION

Doug Green

6243 E. Sunnyside Drive
 Scottsdale, AZ 85254-4968
 480-998-9638

azbotman@yahoo.com

EDITOR

Deva Burns

7709 E. 4th Street
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4524
 480-946-2502

devaburns@aol.com

Audubon Online

see us on the Web at:

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