



The Cactus Wren•dition

Volume LVII, No. 4

Winter 2007-2008

Swanson's Hawk with mouse



Maricopa Audubon Meetings & Programs Nov. 2007 – May 2008

Cynthia Donald

Please join us for another exciting year of speakers covering a wide range of topics – African predators, condors, cranes, birds of Alaska, Fossil Creek, Cape May and more!

Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month, September through May. Due to the holiday, our January meeting this year will be on Wednesday, January 2, 2008. Our May meeting is our Annual Banquet with a location to be announced. Please check our web site or newsletter for the location of the May 2008 banquet.

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m., and feature a general membership meeting, guest speaker, sales tables, refreshments and a chance to socialize with MAS members. 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 will be held at Rolling Hills (formerly Pete's) 19th Tee Restaurant, 1405 N. Mill Avenue in Tempe (at the Rolling Hills Golf Course) for the September 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 average \$5.00 to \$7.00.

This year Maricopa Audubon will be holding a raffle for a Swarovski scope that was donated to us. Tickets will go on sale at our September meeting and the drawing will be held at our December meeting.

November 6, 2007

Taldi Walter Alaska Treasures and National Audubon

December 4, 2007

Michelle Harrington A River Reborn: The Restoration of Fossil Creek
Swarovski Scope Raffle

January 2, 2008

Bob and Peggy Wenrick Crazy About Cranes!

February 5, 2008

Tyler Loomis The Cape May Experience

March 4, 2008

Joe Yarchin Watchable Wildlife Program

April 1, 2008

Kurt Radamaker Baja Birding
MAS Elections

May 6, 2008

Kathy Sullivan Condors!

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"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.

From the Editor, Deva Burns

While assembling this issue of the Wrendition, I received the greatest email from Laurie Nessel celebrating the fact that the Carlota Mine was denied its permit. Because I cannot say it any better, and because I want to share this victory with all of you, I am going to quote it more or less verbatim.

"It is with great relief and happiness that I report a major victory for the environment and Pinto Creek in particular. The NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System), essentially a permit to pollute the nation's waters, was overturned by the 9th Circuit yesterday morning, citing it violated the intent and purpose of the Clean Water Act. It is bittersweet, in light of the recent construction (re: destruction) on Carlota's patented land as well as the pipelines and wells along Pinto Creek and into Haunted Canyon. But this is precedent setting law and could herald the beginning of the end of the 1872 Mining Law

For newer members, we have been fighting this ill-sited open pit heap leach copper mine located 60 miles east of Phoenix since the early '90s, and were litigants in

this and several other suits involving this mine. It is a David and Goliath battle and David won.

We have Roger Flynn to thank for his brilliant arguments before the court. Roger is with the non-profit Western Mining Action Project. Other key figures in this protracted fight include Sierra Clubs Sandy Bahr and Don Steuter, Tom Sonandres from Friends of Pinto Creek and EEEE, Tim Flood, Friends of Arizona Rivers, Howard Shanker (who is running for Congress), attorney Gil Venable and our own Frank Welsh. Frank presented a program on these developments at the Sierra Club meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 16. Also, I must mention Deborah Hamm, a shrewd and passionate attorney who worked tirelessly, pro-bono, on the Carlota fight for years before succumbing to a brain aneurism 9 years ago."

It is a victory like this that keeps the fires burning for our passion for the environment. Unfortunately, conservationists can never rest on their laurels. But, please take a moment to savor this.



Juvenile Swainson's Hawk with mouse; photographed by Jim Burns near Marana, AZ, September, 2007, with Canon EOS 1D body and Canon 600mm f/4 lens.

Thank you Dr. Mel Bramley for volunteering to take over our sales table. Everyone on the board is doing his or her job so well that I have little to worry about these days. I'm indebted to each of you for making my job that much easier. Robin Silver—our conservationist vice-president; Mark Horlings, our treasurer, carefully managing our financial resources; Maureen Stewart, our secretary, recording our proceedings for posterity; Laurie Nessel, field trip chairman, bringing you a wide range of interesting nature excursions; Cynthia Donald—finding programs for our meetings that pique our interest in many different aspects of our natural world; Bob Witzeman—Maricopa Audubon's conservation chairman—who speaks for MAS on every current environmental issue, plus taking a national leadership role in several specific ones; Jack Follett, membership chairman—an unsung board member who toils at keeping our membership records in order; Fred Stewart, our publicity chairman—who keeps the good name of Maricopa Audubon out there in front of the public; Deva Burns, our Cactus Wren-dition editor, without whom you would not be reading this spectacular publication at this very moment; and Mark Larson, Maricopa Audubon education chair—who

is responsible for bringing the Audubon story to civic groups and school children.

While I'm passing around thank yous, I'm obliged to a number of other people, non board members, who help keep the wheels of Maricopa Audubon running smoothly—Our hospitality chairman David Chorlton, our ace webmaster, Kurt Radamaker, (see for yourself at maricopaaudubon.org) Jim Burns, who does key articles for the Wren-dition in each edition, and touts the Audubon cause in his periodic regular column in the Arizona Republic, and the inimitable Janet Witzeman, who among her many other birding related activities, has reported recent bird sighting reports in our newsletter, for well over 30 years. I can't move on without also mentioning Christmas Count compilers with whom the chapter works—Kurt Radamaker, Troy Corman, Walter Thurber, and Cynthia Donald.

And the foregoing is not even what I had set out to talk about this month. While our conservation committee works on the big environmental issues, such as keeping the San Pedro free flowing, saving the Desert Nesting Bald Eagles from certain extinction, and standing firm in opposition to a huge copper mine coming into existence without public input into the process, what can we do as environmentally concerned individuals to

make our planet more habitable for a little bit longer? Here are some suggestions.

Buy, serve, and drink the more environmentally friendly, and thus more expensive, shade grown coffees. RECYCLE diligently! After many years as a Tempe homeowner, I recently moved into an apartment complex that doesn't have recycling. I still recycle though by taking my recyclables and dumping them in my daughter's recycling container, or at the public recycling facilities at the Tempe Community Center. Use cloth bags when you shop for groceries. (Basha's, Fry's and Sunflower give you a nickel credit for each bag you provide. Safeway, doesn't anymore, but I use my cloth bags there, anyway.) If you buy something that comes in a box, tell the checker they don't have to put it in a bag for you. Recycle your water bottles. I refill mine time and again with tap water and put them back in the refrigerator. Any waste product that is potentially environmentally destructive, take to your community's hazardous waste facility for disposal. Finally, the new fluorescent light bulbs do, indeed, save electricity, but what they don't tell you in the advertising is that they contain mercury and should be disposed of as hazardous waste! As Auduboners, let's lead by example.

See you at the next membership meeting!

Meetings & Programs Nov. 2007 – May 2008 cont.

Program Summary

November 6, 2007

Taldi Walter Alaska Treasures and National Audubon
Taldi Walter is the Alaska field coordinator in National Audubon's Policy Office. She has an informative presentation showcasing important natural areas and brilliant birds found in wild Alaska. Taldi will explore Alaska's natural treasures set aside decades ago for the benefit of wildlife and the American public. She will highlight the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. She will also discuss current national policy office efforts of National Audubon. Please plan to join us in welcoming Taldi to Phoenix!

December 4, 2007

Michelle Harrington A River Reborn: The Restoration of Fossil Creek
Fossil Creek is among the brightest jewels of Arizona's Rim Country. It stands out as one of the last free-flowing, year-around streams in Arizona, a magnificent ribbon of life in the high desert. Fossil Creek is even more important because it is the site of the first decommissioning of a hydroelectric facility in Arizona. The restoration of Fossil Creek is one of the most significant watershed level restoration efforts ever undertaken in the Southwest. This documentary recounts both natural and human history of the scenic waterway and the multi-level efforts of scientists, environmental advocates, federal and state resource managers and utility officials who made this dream into a reality.

January 2, 2008

Bob and Peggy Wenrick Crazy About Cranes!
The first Sandhill Crane that Bob and Peggy ever saw was standing neck deep in willowy grass near a highway in the Sawtooth Valley of Idaho. They made a double take and U-turn to see this astonishing long-necked gray bird with the striking red head. Since then, they have traveled to Bosque del Apache, the Audubon Rowe Sanctuary in Nebraska, Gray's Lake NWR in Idaho and the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin to study and learn about these remarkable birds. Bob and Peggy have been involved with Tucson Audubon for years and will be presenting this program on January 19, 2008 at the Wings Over Wilcox Festival.

February 5, 2008

Tyler Loomis The Cape May Experience
Maricopa Audubon sponsored Tyler Loomis, an enthusiastic 13-year old birder, for an October ABA bird camp entitled "The Cape May Experience." The camp is for young birders, from 14 to 18 years of age. Tyler has been a birdwatcher for 5 years and has assisted with CBC's over the past 2 years. Join us as he presents a program on his personal Cape May experience.

March 4, 2008

Joe Yarchin Watchable Wildlife Program
Did you know that the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) owns or manages over 266,800 acres in the State, including 23 Wildlife Areas? Joe is the coordinator for the AGFD's Watchable Wildlife Program. Come and find out about that program, the updated Watchable Wildlife book and the expanded

version of the Herps Guide, all valuable information for anyone who enjoys sharing the outdoors with its inhabitants.

April 1, 2008

Kurt Radamaker Baja BirdingMAS Elections
Been birding in Mexico? Been to Baja? Think there's not much there except sand and scrub? Think again! Come and experience Baja birding as you never imagined it could be! Kurt not only hosts our web page, but is very active in AZFO (Arizona Field Ornithologists), Christmas Bird Counts, and is an exceptional birder.

MAS Elections

May 6, 2008

Kathy Sullivan Condors!
Kathy is the California Condor Program Coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She has also worked on the Whooping Crane and Sandhill Crane Recovery Projects, monitored Spotted Owls and Goshawks in Arizona, sea turtles in Florida and engaged in marine mammal research in Mexico. Kathy will discuss the California Condor natural history and biology, highlights and updates of the Arizona reintroduction program, current research, lead bullet reduction and education efforts and tell us the best places and times to see condors in Arizona.

NOTE: The May program will be associated with our Annual Banquet. Check our web site, newsletter, or contact a board member for location information.

Notes & Announcements

E-mail alert system -- Maricopa Audubon Society has established an e-mail alert system to notify members of upcoming events and activities. E-mail addresses were obtained from both the "Friends of Maricopa Audubon" roster and the National Audubon roster. There were several addresses that were returned, most likely because the e-mail addresses were not updated. If you would like to be included in or removed from this notification system, please let Jack Follett know at jackfollett@msn.com. The list will only be used for the stated purpose and not sold or used for any other reason.

Silent Auction -- Support your local Audubon chapter by donating an item to be raffled at our annual May banquet or volunteering to co-ordinate the auction. Contact Laurie Nessel, laurienessel@gmail.com, 480.968.5614.

Birding Community E-Bulletin -- A monthly bulletin with rare bird sightings and other birding information. If you would like to be put on the monthly emailing list please contact either Wayne Petersen (Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas Program) at 718-259-2178 or wpetersen@massaudubon.org or Paul Baicich at 410-992-9736 or paul.baicich@verizon.net. They never sell the recipient list and you will receive a lot of interesting information.

National Audubon Board of Directors election -- Roger Wolf is the nominee for the Southwest

Region. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting of Members in January, 2008.

WINGS OVER WILLCOX, January 17-20, 2008 (14th Annual) -- offers birding and nature enthusiasts the opportunity to visit some of the best birding attractions in southeastern Arizona and participate in exciting natural history tours and seminars. The Magic Circle of Cochise, which begins and ends in Willcox, draws nearly 500 species of birds to the area and is home to a great variety of plant and animal life. A complete list of activities, as well as local lodging and restaurants, can be found at the festival website: www.wingsoverwillcox.com. "Early Bird" registration deadline is December 31st. Call the Willcox Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture for status of tour availability at (520) 384-2272 or (800) 200-2272.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum carpool website -- <http://btacarpool.proboards74.com> Car pool and save gas when visiting the Arboretum. Just check out the website for details.

Casa Del Caballo Blanco EcoLodge -- Belize A new six-cabana, eco-friendly accommodation in Belize - Casa del Caballo Blanco is a 23-acre former ranch 9.5 miles from the Guatemalan border near San Ignacio. It also shelters the not-for-profit Casa Avian Support Alliance (CASA) (<http://www.casaavian.org/>). Its purpose is to understand and support the biodiversity of Belize that attracts and sustains over 530 species of migratory and resident birds spotted

in a given year. Jodi and Vance Benté, owners of the property, also established The Alliance whose motto is: "Birds are the farmers of the world - help us to help them continue to sow their seeds." Their work has been undertaken in cooperation with the Government of Belize's efforts to protect critical habitat, the loss of which threatens the avian population. Guests are invited to share in the responsibilities of supporting the avian program. They can assist in nest-box building, maintenance and feeding as well as trail building and signage. A percentage of each cabana rental will be donated to the CASA center to assist with medical and other expenses related to the management of the facility. Casa also organizes day-long tours that in addition to an educational and scientific focus can include bird-watching, horseback riding, cave tubing and visiting archeological and World Heritage Sites in Belize and Guatemala. For more information, call 707-974-4942 or visit www.casacaballoblanco.com.

A 4-night / 5-day vacation program from the recently opened Casa del Caballo Blanco Eco-Lodge in Belize allows you to take your conscience on vacation -- and have fun too.

"Toucan Eco-Tour" available through Nov. 30, 2007 is \$815 per person. Included are a supervised participatory avian / biodiversity learning experience, breakfasts, dinners and some lunches, accommodations, off-site archeological tours and airport transfers. Local taxes, bar tab, optional activities and service charges are not included.

Notes & Announcements

Book Store Selections -- We now have a selection of books on birding topics for adults and children alike. Remember that Friends of Maricopa Audubon members get a 10% discount and that your purchase helps to support our event, education and conservation efforts

Arizona Watchable Wildlife Tourism Association (AWWTA) -- Check out their website for events around the state--www.azwildlife.com.

Museum of Northern Arizona -- They sponsor Venture trips that explore and discover the Colorado Plateau in the Four Corners area. For more information contact Lisa Lamberson at 928-774-5211 x241 or llamberson@mna.mus.az.us.

Environmental Fund -- Green At Work--Thousands of employees can now support Maricopa Audubon Society (MAS) in their annual fall charity campaign. The Environmental Fund for Arizona get thousands of Arizona employees involved with our group and many other conservation groups through payroll deduction workplace campaigns. Help spread the word at your office about checking off "Green" choices this fall! If your employer does not yet include environmental/conservation groups, please contact Solange Whitehead at the Environmental Fund for Arizona: efaz@efaz.org or (480) 510-5511.

Donation Wish List -- Maricopa Audubon Society is looking for a donation of a laptop computer in order to provide educational presentations to youth groups and classes. To donate please contact any board member.

Credit Card -- The American Birding Association has negotiated an agreement with US Bank to provide ABA members a distinctive US BANK VISA Card. Using your card will not only show your connection to ABA and birding but also, at no additional cost to you, provide a contribution to ABA. If interested, contact www.americanbirding.org. I think Audubon should offer something like this!

The Dovetail 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 be 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, as does Sunflower Market. Another source is Toucanet Coffee/Avian Ecologist. They are in the business of serving Smithsonian certified, bird-friendly coffee. All of their varieties are organic and shade

grown. They also have fair trade varieties. Please visit www.toucanetcoffee.com for more information about their goals or to place an order. The website also includes an online community for bird and/or coffee lovers. They invite you to join. Another websites for shade grown/organic coffee is www.cafebritt.com.

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

Maricopa Audubon T-Shirts -- T-shirt Sale: \$8. Text reads "conserving habitat for future generations". Available at all MAS member meetings or by mail (add \$5 shipping). For information, contact Laurie Nessel at (480) 968-5614 or email 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.

Cactus Wren

Jim Burns

Cactus Wrens are widespread across six southwestern states from the Pacific to Texas, common and conspicuous, so why does this bird make the roster of Arizona's special species? I'm glad you asked. For starters, the disjunct and distinctive California coastal subspecies is listed as threatened, and this wren is declining in many parts of Texas. Secondly, there is more of this bird's preferred habitat--low cactus desert, particularly that with cholla, and mesquite brushland--in Arizona than in the other southwestern states where it occurs. Thirdly, and certainly due in part to this, the Cactus Wren (not the roadrunner!) is Arizona's state bird. That alone should place it on our list.

Among our U.S. wrens, Cactus Wren is a bit of an anomaly. All our other wrens are small, inconspicuous if not actually secretive, and well reputed for the quality of their song. The Cactus Wren, *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*, is none of the above. It is large, brash, and, though noisy, I haven't heard anyone mention "beautiful" as an adjective for its hoarse, raspy, accelerating "chew, chew, chew, chew." Only euphemistically can we refer to this as a "song."

Though the genus of big loud campylorhynchus wrens have only this one representative north of the border, there are eight of them in Mexico where Cactus Wren is a common resident south to the central part of that country. *Campylorhynchus* is Greek for "curved beak," and the species name, *brunneicapillus*, is Latin for "brown hair," an obvious reference to the Cactus Wren's crown and nape.

Our state bird is unique amongst our other wrens for other reasons as well. The nests are large masses of sticks and dried grasses shaped like a glass retort with an entrance hole at one end and a narrow vestibule leading to the nest chamber. This inner chamber is lined with softer materials such as feathers, fur, and plant down. Cactus Wrens are nothing if not creative in their choice of materials for their conspicuous homes. I have seen them transporting wads of insulation into nests, and I have seen them weaving toilet tissue into the exteriors.

The original or "real" nest is constructed by both male and female, but the male

then builds one or more "dummy" nests while his mate incubates. Nests are typically placed in thorny bushes--cholla cactus is a favorite site--presumably as a deterrent to predators. Both old and dummy nests are kept in repair and used throughout the year for night roosts. Cactus Wren pairs stay together year round and are thought to mate for life.

Four eggs are average and incubation is by the female only. Both adults feed nestlings, which fledge in

approximately three weeks, and then families stay together at least through the following fall. These small family groups are often encountered on their daily foraging rounds working across an expanse of desert or through a city park,

chattering or squabbling with one another and investigating various food venues which often include some of the following, all of which I have personally observed: giant saguaros (small bugs and the cactus fruit itself); trash barrels (apple cores and french fries); and radiator grills(!) of parked vehicles (pulverized butterflies and wasps).

More typical fare includes many seeds, beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, and the occasional lizard which is captured in the beak and then beaten against a rock or branch to dispatch and fit into its mouth. Cactus Wrens are often mistaken, at a distance under vegetation, for thrashers as they use their bills thrasher-fashion to turn over small stones and desert litter in their search for food.

Cactus Wrens are known to puncture the eggs of other species nesting in their immediate neighborhood, but this is apparently done in territorial defense rather than as a feeding strategy. David Sibley sites a research project which "has

suggested that egg destruction might reduce competition for food (which would improve nesting success), and that fewer active nests near the wrens' own nests can reduce predation by making the area a less conspicuous and fruitful hunting ground."

Since Cactus Wrens "sing" from the tops of conspicuous perches such as mesquites and saguaros, and because they are often quite tame and more common in suburban settings with remnants of cactus desert than they are in riparian and foothill locations, they should not be particularly hard to find. In Phoenix they are abundant in any of the mountain preserves, in Papago Park, and along any of the desert washes where native vegetation has not given way to lawns and golf courses.

If you're looking for a little different kind of birding fun and need a reminder of just how different our state bird is from others in the wren family, check out Boyce-Thompson Arboretum State Park an hour east of Phoenix on U.S. 60. Cactus Wrens are common there, as are Bewick's, Rock, and Canyon. In the odd winter when a Winter Wren is discovered there, it's possible to have a seven-wren-day(!) at that season when House and Marsh are also present.

Any bird which makes "state bird" status is certainly a bird special to its state. When most people, birders or non-birders, residents or visitors alike, think "Arizona," the Saguaro Cactus is certainly one of the first images that comes to mind. When it does, atop that saguaro image there is probably either a white saguaro flower, the state flower, or a Cactus Wren. The Cactus Wren is certainly more common, more conspicuous, and more readily seen than Greater Roadrunner or any other bird species in the state for that matter. If you question how or why this species was chosen for our state bird, just step out into the morning at any season of the year and our bright, bold, and sassy desert greeter will probably be right there to let you know the answer.

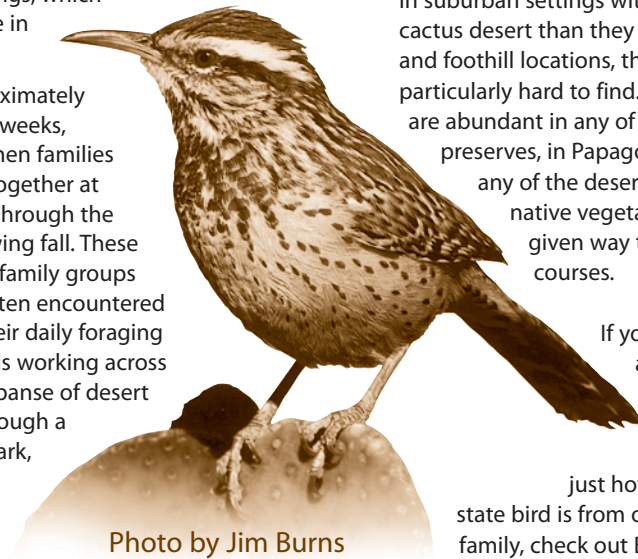


Photo by Jim Burns

Photo Quiz

Jim Burns

photo quiz clues

THIS ISSUE'S CLUE —

Vertical posture, zygodactyl toes, stiff, supportive tail feathers, huge, chisel-shaped bills. I don't think we'll need to spend any time figuring out which family these birds belong to. All were photographed in Arizona. After you get the easy part, the species, see how you fare with a greater challenge. Are they male or female?



A) Good photo, easy bird



B) Good photo, easy bird



C) Good photo, difficult bird

All Photos by Jim Burns

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

Laurie Nessel

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 wading distance, considerable birding from vehicle and possible 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 and scope if recommended

Day Passes Required for National Forests. Many favorite spots in our National Forests now require Day Use Passes. You are responsible to acquire a day pass (\$6) in advance of field trips with an asterisk (). Passes are available by phone or mail, at FS district and ranger offices, Big 5, some Circle K's, the Shell station at Tom Darlington and Cave Creek Road and elsewhere. Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/tp/where.shtml> for more information.

Monday, Nov. 12

Gilbert Water Ranch-Beginning bird walk. Gilbert Water Ranch has 7 acres of water recharge basins ringed with easy, dirt trails. Beginning birders will have the patient expertise of Kathe Anderson to teach them how to identify the wintering waterfowl

and resident species and perhaps a surprise visitor that flock to this urban oasis. Bring binoculars, water, snack. Meet 8:00AM at the Dragonfly Ramada south of the parking lot. GWR is at the southeast corner of Guadalupe and Greenfield Rds. in Gilbert, just east of the public library. Done by 10:15AM. Limit 12

Leader: Kathe Anderson, 480.951.4890 or kathe.coot@cox.net for reservations.

Saturday, November 17

Sunflower Area-Join us for a pre-holiday meander to desert areas near Sunflower, north on the Beeline Highway, to include Mesquite Wash, Bushnell Tanks, and Sycamore Creek. Expect to see Phainopepla, Say's Phoebe, Lesser Goldfinch, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Other possible bird sightings include Townsend's Solitaire, Loggerhead Shrike, Harris' Hawk, and Juniper Titmouse. Meet at Denny's Restaurant parking lot on the south side of Shea Boulevard just west of the Beeline Highway (State Route 87) in Fountain Hills at 7:30 A.M. Bring a lunch, binos, water. Limit: 15; Difficulty: 2

Leader: Richard Kaiser, (602) 276-3312 or rkaiserinaz@aol.com for reservations or information.

December and January

Christmas Bird Counts. Please check pages 18 & 19 of this Wrendition and our website for the schedule.

Saturday, January 12

Seven Springs and Camp Creek*. We will look for the good birds that were found on the Christmas Bird Count, perhaps a Townsends Solitaire or Cassins Finch. Meet 8:00A at the parking lot at the junction of Cave Creek Road and Bartlet Lake turnoff northeast of Carefree. There is a Tonto N.F. day use fee Bring lunch. Limit 12. Difficulty 2 (one steep hill that is optional).

Leader: Russ Widner, (480) 595.2977 or rwidner@earthlink.net for reservations.

Saturday, January 19

Sweetwater Wetland in Tucson. Sweetwater Wetland is a constructed wetland located in Tucson between I-10 and the Santa Cruz River, near Prince Road. Built in 1996, it helps treat secondary effluent and backwash from the reclaimed water treatment system at adjacent Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sweetwater serves as an environmental education facility and habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Rarities seen here over the years include Least Grebe, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (last winter), Chestnut-sided Warbler, and many others. A group of Harris's Hawks is often to be seen in the large eucalyptus trees north of Sweetwater, near the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sweetwater Wetland consists of several ponds surrounded by cattails, willows, and cottonwoods. Ducks visit the ponds while Red-winged, Yellow-headed, and Brewer's blackbirds frequent the cattails. Sora and Virginia Rails are usually present. Thick stands of saltbush provide cover to Song Sparrows, Abert's Towhees, wrens, and many other species. Paths, both paved and unpaved, encompass all the ponds and give a view to the large detention basins to the south which, when containing water, attract wading birds and shore birds. Tucson is about a two-hour drive south of the Phoenix Metro area, depending on where you live. A scope could prove useful, although most of the birds are well habituated to people. Bring a snack and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Trip will conclude at about 10 a.m. Limit 10. Meet 7:00A at the site's main parking lot. Difficulty 1.

Leader: Mark W. Larson, (480) 474-4439 (evenings) for reservations and directions.

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

Friday, January 25

Scottsdale's Urban Ponds for Beginning Birders. All levels of birders are welcome on this trip geared to help novice birders build their identification skills. We will visit the ponds at the Pavilions, Chart House and McCormick Ranch to look for a variety of ducks, waders and winter waterfowl. Possible species include Hooded Merganser, Eared Grebe, Kingfisher and Cormorants plus some desert species. Meet in the parking lot by the north pond at the Pavilions at 8:00AM. Done by noon. Scope optional. Limit 12. Difficulty 1.

Leader: Kathe Anderson,
480.951.4890 or
Kathe.coot@cox.net for
reservations and carpooling.

Saturday, February 2

Humboldt Canyon. Join Patagonia Birding Co. field guide, Matt Brown, as we explore Humboldt Canyon, the highest north-facing drainage in the Patagonia Mountains. We will see spectacular rock formations and cliffs and Sierra-Madreal riparian habitat dominated by Silver-leaf, AZ White, and Mexican Blue Oaks, Pinyon, Chihuahua and Ponderosa Pine, huge Velvet Ash, Alligator Juniper, AZ Cypress, and Netleaf Hackberry trees. Winter/year-round residents include: Wild Turkey, Montezuma Quail, N. Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Whiskered Screech Owl, N. Pygmy-Owl, Elegant Trogon, Williamson's Sapsucker, AZ Woodpecker, Hammond's, Dusky, Gray and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Mexican, Scrub, and Steller's Jays, Eastern Bluebird, Crissal Thrasher, Olive, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit Warblers, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Green-tailed and Spotted Towhees, Rufous-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows. Rarities and irruptives include: Gray Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker,

Hairy Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Red-faced Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, and Cassin's Finch. Wear good hiking shoes and warm layers to peel off. Expect temperatures from the teens up to the 60s at 5,200'. Bring scope (optional), hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, snacks, lunch and water. High clearance recommended. Difficulty 2 (3 mile hike, gradual uphill) with 3-4 option. Meet 7:00A at the Patagonia Post Office.

Leader: Matt Brown
Reservations: Laurie Nessel
480-968-5614,
laurienessel@gmail.com

Saturday, February 9th

Boyce Thompson Arboretum. We will search for several "winter regulars" such as Fox Sparrows, Brown Thrasher, Rufous-backed Robin and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. We meet at 8:00 in the parking lot of the arboretum. There is an entrance fee for the arboretum. Bring a lunch and water. Difficulty 2. Limit 15

Leader: Scott Burge,
burgenv@globalcrossing.net,
480.968.5141 for reservations and
information

Saturday, February 16

Picacho Reservoir, Arizona City and Sod Farms. Join Tucson naturalist and field guide, Larry Liese, as we explore a rarity in central Arizona: a marshy oasis in the midst of an arid cotton-growing region. Water level is highly variable but when present is a magnet for waterfowl and shorebirds, and attracts unusual vagrants. The reservoir, south of Coolidge, is less than 60 miles from both the Phoenix and Tucson areas. We will also tour local bird spots in Arizona City and the Sod Farms for Mountain Plover. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the turnoff (Selma Highway and Rt. 87). Limit: none. Difficulty 1. Bring

scope if you have one, water, snack, lunch. Done by 2:00P.

Leader: Larry Liese 520-743-3520, larryliese@prodigy.net
For directions and carpooling Laurie Nessel 480.968.5614
laurienessel@gmail.com

Sunday, Feb. 17

Herps, Birds and Arthropods at 51st Ave and the Salt River. We will look for wintering waterfowl, raptors, horned larks, and other birds while searching for herps and arthropods that inhabit this last vestige of undisturbed streamside habitat along the urban stretch of the Salt River. Among the species we hope to see are Side-blotched, Zebra Tailed and Whiptail lizards, Desert Iguana, Little Worm and Checkered Garter snakes, Giant Desert Hairy Scorpion and Centipede. This area is slated to be converted into marsh by the City of Phoenix. Meet 7:30A. Difficulty 1.

Leader: Frank Welsh
480.218.9540, welshfj@yahoo.com,
for reservations

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Phoenix Zoo Ponds. Meet on the zoo bridge at 7:00AM for possible Great Horned Owl sightings. We will proceed into the zoo grounds for great, up close views of waterfowl. This is especially good for beginners to learn the difference between male and female ducks. We will also be treated to other zoo surprises and behind the scenes exhibits. No limit. Done by 10:00A. Difficulty 1.

Leader: Mike Foley
Reservations: Laurie Nessel
480-968-5614,
laurienessel@gmail.com

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Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

continued from page 9

Saturday, March 1

Sycamore Canyon. Join Tropical Birding field guide, Moez Ali, for an adventurous 2.5 mile hike in beautiful Sycamore Canyon in southeast Arizona. This stunning canyon with its high walls, running stream and good mix of vegetation types amid breathtaking scenery offers some truly exciting birding with its allure for rarities and many regional species. Wintering raptors, sparrows and flycatchers will dominate and early migrants like Lucy's and Yellow Warblers, Bell's Vireo, Scott's Oriole and others might be encountered. With luck, the gaudy Montezuma Quail, Elegant Trogon and Mountain Pygmy-Owl may thrill us with surprise sightings! We'll hike about 2.5 miles roundtrip over rugged terrain with little elevation gain. The primitive trail follows the canyon bed and is uneven and rough, occasionally with wet crossings. Please bring sturdy hiking boots and a hiking stick if necessary, at least 2 quarts of water, a picnic lunch and snacks. Sunblock, a hat and light fleece would be handy as well. High clearance vehicles are recommended. With time, a brief stop to nearby birdy Pena Blanca Lake will follow picnic lunch. End around 2:00 pm. Difficulty 4. Meet in downtown Tucson (TBA). Limit 10.

Leader: Moez Ali
Reservations and information
Laurie Nessel 480-968-5614,
laurienessel@gmail.com

Saturday, March 8th

Needle Rock and Rio Verde*. We will look for nesting Bald Eagle, Vermillion Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, and Western Bluebirds. Day pass to Tonto National Forest required, purchased in advance at some Circle K, Big 5, TNF offices and sporting goods stores. Meet 7:30A. Bring snack, water, lunch. Difficulty 1.

Leader: Herb Fibel 480.966.5246,
herbertsfibel@aol.com for
reservations, meeting location and
carpooling.

Saturday, March 15

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 Denny's Restaurant at the intersection of I-40 and I-17 at 8:00AM. Bring a lunch, water, snacks and a scope will be very helpful. Difficulty 1.

Leader: Charles Babbitt,
(602) 840.1772 or cjbabbitt@cox.net
for reservations

Tuesday, March 18th

Sonoita Creek Natural Area. We will hike both riparian (3,750') and upland areas of the newly opened 5,000-acre site adjacent to Patagonia Lake State Park. More than 130 species of butterflies and 275 species of birds have been documented there. To control human impact and maintain a wilderness experience, only a limited number of permits are granted daily. Park Ranger Bill Adler will lead us on a 6 mile loop trail to look for Trogon, Black Capped Gnatcatcher, Hammonds, Dusky and Gray Flycatchers and Sage thrasher. Botanist may want to reserve time to peruse the herbarium in the Visitors Center, open 7AM-5PM daily. Meet 8:00 at the Visitors Center. Bring snacks, water, lunch, hat, scope. Return to trailhead mid-afternoon. Camping available at Patagonia Lake State Park. Park entry fee is \$7/ carload. Limit 8. Difficulty 2, easy but long hiking.

Leader: Park Ranger Bill Adler

Reservations: Laurie Nessel,
laurienessel@hotmail.com,
480.968.5614

Saturday, March 29

Santa Rita Big Tree Adventure. We join the state coordinator for the National Register of Big Trees, Ken Morrow, in search of a pair of champion Apache Pines at McBeth Springs. We will also look for early

spring migrants. This is a moderate, full day hike on established trails in a wilderness area, 6-7,000'. If inclement weather, a lower elevation alternate will be searching the springs and canyons of the Tumacácoris for Gooding Ash and Mearn Sumac and Arizona's only native pepper. Expect a rough road. May be chilly. Bring lunch, snacks, water and work gloves for those willing to help clear out migrant trash. Difficulty 3.

Leader: Ken Morrow
Reservations: Laurie Nessel
480-968-5614,
laurienessel@gmail.com

Saturday, April 5

Salome Hwy Thrasher Site. On the far west side of Phoenix at the intersection of Baseline Road and the Salome Highway, resident Bendire's, Crissal and Curve-billed thrashers may be seen as well as Le Conte's and other low desert breeding birds. Meet at McDonalds at Dysart south of I-10 at 6:00A. Done by lunch. Bring snack and water. Difficulty 1.

Leader: Bill Grossi BLM Wildlife & Fisheries Program Leader
Reservations: Laurie Nessel
480-968-5614,
laurienessel@gmail.com

Saturday, April 12, 2008

San Oedro Riparian National Conservation Area. We will visit this famous birding location in southeastern Arizona, a rich deciduous riparian woodland including about 40 miles of the San Pedro River extending from the Mexican border on the south nearly to St. David on the north. Birding will be done in the town of St. David (principally at the Holy Trinity Monastery), the ghost town of Fairbank (historical too), at the famous San Pedro House (including the Green Kingfisher Pond), checking the Hereford Bridge area along the river, and possibly the Palominas property just a few miles from the border. Species of birds we could

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

see are a combination of late wintering residents and early spring migrants, including Gray Hawk, Pyrrhuloxia, Lucy's Warbler, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, White-winged Dove, and ... Green Kingfisher. Bring water, lunch, and sturdy walking shoes. Tentative meeting place is at the post office in St. David along State Route 80 at 7:30A. Limit: 15, Difficulty: 2

Leader: Richard Kaiser, (602) 276-3312 or rkaiserinaz@aol.com, for reservations and information.

Saturday, April 19

Reavis Creek and Montana Mountain (Superstition Wilderness). We will travel up the Reavis Creek drainage to Montana Mountain, north of Superior, at elevations from 2,700 to 6,350 feet. This spectacularly beautiful area is rich in birds but is so seldom birded that we nicknamed it Area 51 in the Superior CBC. The variety of habitats includes upper Sonoran scrub, open grassland, oak thickets, and one-seed and alligator junipers. Expect large numbers of Hooded Orioles, Black-Throated Sparrows, and Bell's Vireos. Other common birds include (at various elevations) Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, numerous flycatchers (Empids and Tyrants), Mexican and Scrub Jays, Stellar's Jays, Bushtits, Bridled Titmice, Cardinals, and a wide variety of migrant and resident warblers. Large numbers of several sparrow species are expected, and all four of our regular towhee species are possible. Meet 5:30A at the Open Range Steakhouse just east of Apache Junction to consolidate into 4WDs. Directions to the Open Range Steakhouse: The Superstition Freeway becomes divided Hwy. 60 at Mountain View Dr. just east of Apache Jct. From there you go about 4 miles to Kings Ranch Rd. (the third stop light from Mountain View Dr.) There is a Best Western Hotel at the intersection of Hwy. 60 and Kings Ranch Rd. You can only turn north on Kings Ranch Rd. Go north about 1 mile and the Open Range Steakhouse is on the left, just

past the entrance of Gold Canyon Golf Resort. This is a full day trip, so bring a lunch and plenty of water. Difficulty 3 (rough roads but only moderate hiking). Limit 12.

Leader: Tom Gaskill, gaskillt@mindspring.com, 602-712-0635 for information and reservations

Saturday, April 26

Workman Creek, Sierra Ancha Experimental Station and Parker Creek. This trip will take people to a number of vehicle stops at Workman Creek and Parker Creek, along the Young Road north of Roosevelt Lake. It is a great opportunity to see birds and some great riparian vegetation. Issues involving uranium mining, the status of the Sierra Ancha Experimental Station and fire will be discussed. Difficulty 1 (some hiking not to exceed two miles).

Co-Leaders: Russ Haughey and Gene Sturla
Reservations and information: Laurie Nessel, laurienessel@hotmail.com, 480.968.5614

Saturday, May 3

Patagonia-Nogales-Madera Canyon Loop. Here is a longer but very exciting field trip for spring migrants and early summer arrivals. We will leave from Tempe, and arrive in Patagonia about 6:30A. For those going down earlier and staying overnight, meet us near the rest rooms in the park at 4th Ave. in Patagonia. We will then bird the Patton's, the Patagonia TNC Reserve, lunch at the Patagonia Rest stop (bring your own lunch and drinks), Kino Springs, Rio Rico Ponds, and then be at Madera Canyon for the early afternoon and an hour or two of birding there. We will return to Tempe around 5:00P. We did this same trip in May 2007 and saw 125 species including Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Flame-colored Tanager, Botteri's Sparrow, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Gray Hawk, Elegant Trogon and Violet-crowned Hummingbird. Limit of five cars. Meet

at S.E. parking lot of Tempe Library at Southern and Rural to depart at 3:30A SHARP. Bring your Golden Eagle Pass or pay \$5 US Forest Service fee/car at Madera Canyon. Donation of \$5/person at the TNC Patagonia Reserve. Difficulty 1.

Leader: David L. Pearson
Reservations: Laurie Nessel, 480-968-5614, laurienessel@gmail.com

Continuing

Bird Walks at the Desert Botanical Gardens. Mondays and second Saturday. Free with admission to the garden. 8:00A through April. 7:00A May-September. Join expert birders for a morning bird walk along the Garden trails. Everyone, including first-time birders, is welcome. Wear a hat, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes, and bring binoculars if available.

Bird, Butterfly or Dragonfly Walks at Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Join knowledgeable guides for Saturday walks through the arboretum. The Arboretum is located at Highway 60 milepost #223 near the historic copper mining town of Superior, 55 miles east of Phoenix. \$7.50 admission. Check their website for current schedule, <http://cals.arizona.edu/BTA/index.html>.

Bird Walks at Patagonia Lake State Park. Mondays through April 15th with Ranger Bill Adler. Volunteers lead Thursday and Saturday walks on the east side of Patagonia Lake. Bird Walks at Sonoita Creek Natural Area. Join Ranger Bill Adler for monthly, Saturday 5 mile bird hikes along both upland and riparian habitats. Reservations required. Both locations are accessed from Patagonia Lake Road, 7 miles west of Patagonia. Visit their website for current schedule. \$7 entry fee per vehicle. <http://www.pr.state.az.us/Parks/parkhtml/sonoitacreeksna.html>

Butterflying and Dragonflying Come of Age

Bob Witzman

Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people alive today, but the property of the unborn generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander.
--Theodore Roosevelt

For years Maricopa Audubon has conducted reptile and butterfly field trips as well as bird trips. But with the arrival of close-focus binoculars, user friendly field guides and digital cameras, nature enthusiasts and birders have found identifying and photographing butterflies



Variegated Meadowhawk, *Sympetrum corruptum*, photo by Pete Moulton

(lepidoptra-leps), and dragonflies/damselflies (odonata-odes) more popular than ever.

Close-focus binoculars are now available. When buying be certain they focus to six feet or less. Seven or eight power and an objective lens with 30 to 42 mm diameter is suitable. For eyeglass wearers, chose a binocular with 18 mm or more of eye relief.

Ordering from the American Birding Association (ABA), (800.634.7736, www.abasales.com) is worthwhile as they are a not-for-profit bird conservation organization. Eagle optics (800.289.1132, www.eagleoptics.com) is a second alternative, but they do not offer book sales.

At ABA one can obtain Kenn Kaufman's, "Butterflies of North America," and/or Jeffrey Glassberg's "Butterflies through Binoculars, The West." The advantage of Kaufman is that it

covers the entire U.S., whereas one must purchase both eastern and western U.S. volumes of the slightly bulkier Glassberg guide to cover all U.S.

However, as birders all know, two guides

are much better than one to ID difficult, look-alike species.

For user friendly dragonfly books, we are only gradually emerging from the dark ages. Maricopa Audubon, at our monthly meetings and dragonfly field trips, sells an excellent local guide: "Common Dragonflies of the Southwest," by Kathy Biggs (\$10). Another guide, "Dragonflies



Two-tailed Swallowtail, *Papilio multicaudata* (official butterfly of the state of Arizona), photo by Marceline VandeWater.

through Binoculars" by Sidney Dunkle covers the entire U.S. One may obtain both from ABA. The photographs in both of these guides are small and often lack important morph, age and sex forms. Please come and help us, Kenn Kaufman, and author a U.S. odonata field guide! MAS member Pete Moulton says an exciting new U.S. guide by Dennis Paulson is coming out, hopefully soon.

I recently returned from a visit with my three sisters in northern Ohio. Northern Ohio has an outstanding odonata field guide - though recently out of print and soon to be updated. Fortunately, I borrowed a copy from one of my sisters and Janet and I tallied some new 'lifer' odes in Ohio. All three of my sisters are longtime birdwatchers. Not surprisingly we sat around talking about how much more numerous and exciting birds were in past spring and fall bird migrations in those 'good old' days years ago in Ohio.

Butterflying and Dragonflying Come of Age

There are over 300 species of dragonflies, 100 damselfly species, 700 butterflies and 800 species of birds in the U.S. and Canada. By studying our odes and leps one is able to double the number of species to study, enjoy, add to our life lists, and to concern ourselves about their conservation needs.

Digital cameras are invaluable tools for ode and lep study today. The user can now identify species one has just photographed, and leisurely studying it in the field on the camera's LCD screen. Opinions on which digital single-lens reflex (SLR) camera is best for odes and leps vary. For Arizona butterflies outstanding photographers like our Marceline Vandewater use a Canon SLR. Pete Moulton switched from

Nikon to Canon for his stunning dragonfly shots. SLR cameras have the advantage of quick focus in areas where interfering vegetation, movement, or confusing backgrounds may confuse a "point-and-shoot" camera's focusing. Point-and-shoot cameras, however are smaller, lighter and less expensive. If you select the latter, select one with 12x, 15x, or circa 500mm (35mm equivalent) telephoto lens. Chose 8, 10, or more megapixels. More megapixels are always better.

Accompanying this article are photos by Marceline Vandewater and Pete Moulton. If you visit our chapter website at www.maricopaaudubon.org/ you can visualize their striking colors.



Atlantis Fritillary, *Speyeria hesperis*, photo by Marceline Vandewater



Wandering Gliders, *Pantala flavescens*, photo by Pete Moulton.

This amazingly skillful, stop-action photo of mid-air copulation by Moulton documents a remarkable process. Moulton points out: "The male captures the female behind her head with his terminal appendages. There's a theory that the female has strategically placed nerve endings in that area that, when properly contacted by the male's appendages, cause her to go into the breeding mode. Meanwhile, the male curls his abdomen underneath itself, and extrudes a sperm packet from his 9th abdominal segment onto the auxiliary genitalia on the underside of his 2nd abdominal segment. When the female is properly stimulated, she curls her abdomen under his to bring her 8th segment into apposition with his second segment, and the sperm transfer occurs. It takes anywhere from a couple of minutes to over an hour for the transfer, and during that time the male can remove any sperm packet placed in the female by a previous male. That ensures that his genes go forward. The male is the one with the wings propelling the couple. The female wings are still.

Hybridism is rare to nonexistent in Odonata. There are two different points in the process where the male and female anatomy have to be exactly correct. Otherwise, the female is never stimulated to breed, and even if she does get the proper stimulation, her 8th and his 2nd segments have to match up exactly, or the transfer never happens."

Field Observations

Janet Witzeman

JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST 2007

Greater White-fronted Geese were formerly considered to be uncommon fall transients, but 29 counted at the Watermelon Rd. ponds in Gila Bend Aug. 29 (TC) and 20 observed at Painted Rock Dam (PRD) Aug. 31 (BG) were far more than usual. Also, an individual returned to Fountain Hills Lake Aug. 29 for the third consecutive year (KR). The Ross's Goose that remained at Chaparral Park in Scottsdale, from November 23, 2006 through spring 2007, was still present there Aug. 30 (MM), providing the first summer record for Maricopa County.

A male "Mexican" Mallard was still present at Gilbert Water Ranch (GWR) June 8 (MM). Individual Blue-winged Teal were observed at Tres Rios June 30 (MH) and at GWR July 26 (MM); the species is uncommon in the county after mid-June and rare in July. A male N. Shoveler (uncommon in summer) was seen at GWR June 8 (MM).

Individual wandering immature Brown Pelicans were observed at Tempe Town Lake July 28 – Aug. 30 (MW,TC), at Rio Salado Aug. 18 (TGs,LS), and near Old Hwy 80 and Hwy 85 Aug. 18 (KE). The 25 Neotropic Cormorants seen at GWR June 8, had disappeared by July 26 (MM). A female or juvenile frigatebird (sp?) was discovered flying over n.w. Phoenix July 30 (DT). Magnificent Frigatebirds have been known to wander into the county at this time of year; there have been about a dozen records in the county since 1974.

An Am. Bittern was found at GWR Aug. 2 (MM); there were no previous county records for this rare fall transient before the first week in September. An adult male Little Blue Heron, discovered at Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA) in Pinal Co. June 23 (CT), provided the first record for that area. A Reddish Egret, discovered at PRD Aug. 5 – 31 (BG et al.), provided the 12th record for the county. The heron rookery near I-8 and Painted Rock Dam Rd. continued to be active; many Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons were observed on nests Aug. 5 (BG).

Formerly, White-faced Ibis were uncommon in summer, but numbers have been

increasing in recent years and this summer saw even larger numbers: 60 were reported at Hunter's Ponds June 24, 40 were seen in a field on 99th Ave. July 4, and 160 were counted at Tres Rios July 8 (MH). Eighteen White-faced Ibis, counted at Morgan City Wash Aug. 25 (TC,MV), were the first for that area.

A female N. Harrier was found near Sacaton on the very early date of July 25 (DL) and another female was observed along Sisson Rd. near PRD Aug. 8 (MM): the species does not usually return until mid-August.

Two of the Snowy Plovers that nested at Paloma Ranch, were still present there Aug. 31 (BG). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at the Lower River Rd. (LRR) ponds in Palo Verde Aug. 30 (KR,R&JWz). A Ruddy Turnstone was discovered below PRD Aug. 31 (BG). Eight Stilt Sandpipers, counted at the LRR ponds Aug. 29-30 (TC,KR,R&JWz), was a larger than usual number for this uncommon fall transient. Even more uncommon was the Short-billed Dowitcher found at the LRR ponds Aug. 29 (TC). A Red Phalarope, a rare fall transient, was discovered at Paloma Ranch Aug. 31 (BG).

Between one and two Black Terns were seen at the LRR ponds Aug. 19-25 (MH,KE) and one was seen at the Watermelon Rd. ponds in Gila Bend Aug. 29 (TC). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was discovered June 21 at BTA (CT) an area where the species is considered to be accidental.

A pair of Barn Owls with two young were found near 115th Ave. and the Gila River June 1 (MH). The hybrid Broad-billed x Violet-crowned Hummingbird that spent the winter and spring at BTA, remained through the summer at least to Aug. 4 (CT et al.).

A singing Willow Flycatcher was found June 24 at Palm Lake, Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP), where the species nested in June 1998 (TC,C&KR). Two Pacific-slope Flycatchers were heard calling at Morgan City Wash on the slightly early date of July 21 (TC). At least two pairs of Tropical Kingbirds were observed June 24 (TC,C&KR) and one pair was seen July 15 (MH) at HRP, where the species has been nesting since 2001. A Thick-billed

Kingbird, a species that has also nested at HRP in recent years, was seen there July 15 (MH). A Cassin's Kingbird, reported at GWR July 26 (MM), was unusual at that low elevation.

A Cassin's Vireo, seen and heard singing at HRP June 24 (TC,C&KR), was out of season and provided the first June record for the county. A House Wren was found at Morgan City Wash on the early date of July 21 (TC); there were no previous county records before Aug. 22.

A Hermit Warbler was observed in a Tempe yard Aug. 29 (SO,fide HF). An Am. Redstart, rare in June, was discovered at Whitlow Dam in Pinal Co. June 21 (JBa). A Prothonotary Warbler was found at Becker Lake, Apache Co. Aug. 5 (JBU). A N. Waterthrush was seen along Queen Creek, e. of BTA Aug. 30 (JBa). A male Kentucky Warbler was banded and photographed at HRP Aug. 18 (KW); there were only seven previous county records. It was also learned belatedly that a female Hooded Warbler was banded and photographed at HRP May 19 (KW).

One Lazuli Bunting was seen at Morgan City Wash July 21 (TC), two were reported at GWR July 26 (MM) and 25+ were counted along Sycamore Creek July 30 (EH), indicating a more accurate beginning of fall migration time for this species in the county; previous records were not before early August. A Pine Siskin was found in a Scottsdale yard July 11 (JBa); the species is accidental in the lowlands in summer.

Abbreviations: Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA), Gilbert Water Ranch (GWR), Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP), Lower River Road (LRR), Painted Rock Dam (PRD).

Observers: Jack Bartley, Jim Burns, Troy Corman, Kreg Ellzey, Herb Fibel, Tom Gaskill, Bill Grossi, Melanie Herring, Eric Hough, Diane Laush, Michael Moore, Sylvia Orioli, Cindy & Kurt Radamaker, Liz Smith, Carl Tomoff, Deb Treadway, Marceline Vandewater, Kurt Watzek, Magill Weber, Robert Witzeman.

Minnesota in September – Cynthia Donald “It will be really cold,” my friend’s voice said over the phone. “I know,” I replied. “No,” he continued, “I mean it will be REALLY cold.” “You forget that I lived in Chicago for many years,” I protested. “You don’t understand, it’s going to be REALLY cold,” was his response. And this was my introduction to Minnesota in September.

We had talked about this trip for a couple of years, since I had first heard tales of Minnesota, all those eastern warblers, of Hawk Mountain and fall migration. Now the time had finally come. I had e-tickets in hand and a new Sibley Guide to the Eastern Birds in my pack. Waiting for the plane after more than 30 days of 110+ degrees, I was looking forward to donning warmer clothes. A woman sat next to me in the gate area and asked, “So, how’s the weather back in Minnesota?” I looked at her, smiled at the accent, and said, “I’m really not sure, but I do know it’s much colder than here.”

There is nothing that can equate to spending time with friends in their home place. After landing, we birded our way through Minneapolis along the Minnesota River Valley. The first marsh we visited yielded great views of Sora, Wood Duck, Mallard, Swainson’s Thrush, Ring-billed Gull (I was advised that I would get tired of looking at them), Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, American Crow, Green Heron, Barn Swallow, American Goldfinch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-winged Blackbird, Virginia Rail, Black-capped Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, and Northern Cardinal. New dragonflies were White-faced and Yellow-legged Meadowhawks. Dinner was at a restaurant on Lake Minnetonka where I was introduced to walleye and Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio.

Our second day was spent birding at the Westwood Nature Center and Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Too many to list, but just let me say that we had a 5-vireo day, with Warbling, Blue-headed, Red-eyed, Yellow-throated and Philadelphia in numbers and all very close. Several warblers as well, including Tennessee, Nashville, Wilson’s, Black and White, Mourning, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula and Ovenbird rounded out the group.

Next day we headed up to Duluth, to Hawk Ridge and Lake Superior. We left at 0600, met two other enthusiasts, breakfasted in Hinckley, and motored our way up through farmland and forest to Duluth. We had been in the Jeep about 10

minutes when the questions and stories began. “So,” I was asked. “Do you play poker?” When I replied that I didn’t, the next question was, “So, would you like to learn?” I demurred, and was saved by the simple fact that no one had brought a deck of cards.

The view coming down that steep hill into Duluth is stunning. Lake Superior expands from the back of the city to fill all voids, meeting sky at a distant point. Our destination is a long escarpment on the left side of the city and lake. It is cold and windy. We have been watching the temperature steadily fall as we drove north from Minneapolis and I was told that the temperature at 0600 would be the warmest we would have that day. We wind our way to the bottom of the ridge, stop and ask a lady for directions which she happily provides and wishes us a good day. A few minutes later we are on top, out of the Jeep, and almost blown over the ridge by the gusts. The high temperature that day was 50° F, and we experienced a steady 35 mph wind, with much stronger gusts.

My friend had made arrangements to visit the banding station, so off we go and find ourselves in a blind, near a small open area. The first bird that gets trapped is a female juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk. She is brought to our blind after a couple of minutes and I hold her. No fear, just curiosity from her. I release her after a few more minutes and off she goes through the woods. Next one is a female 2nd year Sharp-shinned. She has the orange eyes belying her age, but everything else about her speaks of an adult. By now we have surpassed our allotted time in the blind, but since the weather is so bad there are no other reservations, so we stay another hour. It is fabulous and we so enjoy watching the “Shins” use that long tail to maneuver in the wind.

Down to the city for hot soup, and we bring steaming bowls back to the banders. Then out again on the ridge to see what’s coming. A chickadee lands on my friend’s shoe, investigates his red laces, then goes off to a nearby bush. We see many Broad-winged Hawks, some American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Osprey, Merlins and flocks of Canada Geese. We arrive back in Minneapolis late, exhausted and happy.

The next few days are spent at different places along the Minnesota River Valley. We come upon a large flock of gulls over a marsh feeding on dragonflies. They swoop and glide, and after eating their fill, kettle into a huge group and sail

over the horizon. I find a newly emerged Common Green Darner and think, “Why is this guy coming out so late?” So, I look in the guide and discover that there are two emergences of these dragons. The 2nd emergence coincides with the American Kestrel migration. Astonishing.

All too soon it’s time to return to the desert and heat. We find American Black Duck the last day, on the way back to the airport. What an incredibly beautiful state, what a wonderful trip. I announce that I will be back next year and want to stay a couple of days in Duluth. “You better come back!” was the response.

So, was it cold? By my wimpy standards it certainly was. Was it worth it? You bet!

Higley Road wastewater ponds – Bob Witzeman October 6, 2007 was the inaugural field trip to the Higley Rd. wastewater ponds. Many great species were seen.

The highlight of the trip was a juvenal Prairie Falcon stooping for a number of unsuccessful passes at the shorebirds and waterfowl in the east pond. They arose in perfect unison in tight flock formation. They circled and banked in beautiful harmony. The Least Sandpipers bunched very closely and made beautiful banking turns shifting their colors from gray to white to dark instantaneously as they sought to evade the raptor.

About one or two minutes later a juvenal Peregrine Falcon came in and made some unsuccessful passes at the same birds in the east pond. By then the ducks and shorebirds were in tight flocks and ready to easily outwit the Peregrine by again flying in unison in tight flocks. All Peregrine attempts failed though one shorebird seemed to be caught momentarily in the Peregrine’s talons, but it got away.

Butterflies seen: Western Pygmy Blue found in Russian Thistle

Odonata seen today: dragons: Black Saddlebags, Red Saddlebags, Blue Dasher, Common Green Darner, Variegated Meadowhawk, Wandering Glider, Red-tailed Pennant, Roseate Skimmer—damsels: Familiar Bluet, Rambur’s Forktail, Mexican Amberwing.

When the cottonwoods and willows mature up this place will be awesome. Current problems include occasional off road motor bikes of youth speeding on embankment roads and the resulting harassing and frightening waterbirds.

Swarovski Scope and Tripod Raffle!

raffle

Maricopa Audubon will be conducting a raffle for a Swarovski scope and tripod that were donated to us. Tickets will be available at our monthly meetings, beginning September 4, 2007 and continuing through December 4, 2007. The scope is an 80 mm model with angled, 20-60x zoom eyepiece and carrying case. The tripod is Gitzo G1228 with a Bogen 410 head.

To enter, please mail the completed raffle ticket below, or any reasonable facsimile thereof together with your check for \$10.00, made payable to Maricopa Audubon Society, to:

Mark Horlings, Treasurer
334 W. Palm Ln.
Phoenix, AZ 85003

To be included your mailed in entry and check must be received by Mark in the mail by December 3, 2007, or you may personally bring it to the meeting on December 4th.

Maricopa Audubon Swarovski Telescope Raffle Ticket

\$10 per chance
Drawing December 4, 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: (Optional) _____

You need not be present to win!

Compassion vs. Strength

Jennifer Lancaster

the hawk flies with an instinctive mission
that gives him the strength to survive;
the patience to find food
to be fearless as he dives from out of the sky...
for a tiny field mouse that's fast and can hide.
he has strength in his conviction
that he will succeed.
the hawk's strength manifests itself
through the expansion of his wings.
the tiny field mouse hasn't a chance...
its own strength limited
from fear of the hawks dance.
the power, the determination, the strength
from the hawks eyes...
seemingly paralyzes the field mouse's cry.

Photo Quiz Answers

Jim Burns

It hasn't often happened that you've had three good photos for this photo quiz, but the woodpeckers are among the easiest of bird families to photograph well. For the most part they are noisy (I started to write "vocal" but drumming, though certainly a form of woodpecker communication, is not, strictly speaking, vocalization), they are fairly tame and easily attracted to feeders, and their life style dictates they often spend several minutes in one setting before moving on.

Though the several special adaptations this family has evolved for that unique life style is beyond the scope of a photo quiz, those adaptations are the reason woodpeckers have always been one of my favorite families and a frequent target of my photographic forays. Plumage differences in the three quiz birds are obvious, but I was struck by the several broad similarities we see in the photos and, since woodpeckers come mostly in patterns of black and white with a few browns, it's understandable that identification is not always easy for beginning and intermediate birders.

A) Good photo, easy bird

There are three broad similarities in our photos: dark backs over light underparts; light streaking or barring on those dark backs; and a pattern of head and facial stripes which goes dark, light, dark, light, dark from top to bottom. That said however, there is probably little chance that our three quiz birds would be mistaken for one another, and this first one is the most dissimilar of the three.

The primary distinguishing plumage features we see here are the liberal sprinkling of dark spots on the light underparts and the light horizontal barring across the back, heaviest at the top. Only three of our 22 North American woodpeckers match this pattern, and only one of those is found in Arizona. Let's call this quiz the woodpecker starter quiz because all three of this issue's species could be easily confused with a couple similar species not shown here, and one of these times we might put the real look alikes side-by-side.

This is a Ladder-backed Woodpecker, one of our more common desert woodpeckers, and this is probably a male. Although we can't be sure without the color photograph that its crown stripe is red, that stripe is obviously lighter than the two dark facial stripes. Female Ladder-backs have black crowns, and both males and females have buff tones in their underparts, a characteristic that distinguishes this species from the two non-Arizona species that share its general plumage pattern.

Those two very similar Picoides woodpeckers are the Red-cockaded of the Southeast and the Nuttall's of California. Facial pattern separates these three from one another. Red-cockaded has a black crown and a black mustache, but the cheek itself is white without the black stripe behind the eye which all three of our quiz birds show. Nuttall's face is more similar to that of our Ladder-backed, but the dark stripe is thicker or, if you like, its two white facial stripes are narrower. Ladder-

backs, then, are intermediate in facial pattern between the white-cheeked Red-cockaded and the nearly black-cheeked Nuttall's.

Ladder-backs and Nuttall's have a very narrow zone of overlap where they hybridize, but that zone is in California. This Ladder-backed male was photographed at the Granite Reef Recreation Area along the Verde River September, 2003.

B) Good photo, easy bird

Our second quiz bird looks more like the third than the first, but differences from the third are readily apparent. The light areas of this bird's face, back, and underparts are neither as bright nor as extensive as those of our final bird. The lighter markings on its back appear in two neat but somewhat mottled rows, the underparts, though light are variegated, and a dark collar shows beneath a lighter chin. In short, this bird is more muted, its markings not as bold or contrasty as the bird in our last photo.

The vertical rows of white blotches on the back and the framed throat tell us this is a sapsucker. There are four species of sapsuckers in North America and all four can be found in Arizona, but only the Red-naped and Yellow-bellied combine the specific back and throat pattern we see in this second photo. A few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers show up in the lowlands of Arizona every winter. The barring on their backs is more extensive than that of Red-naped, typically the rows brighter and considerably wider than those of the latter. The overall visual effect, without seeing the throat pattern and without the advantage of color, is that the back of the Yellow-bellied is light with dark barring whereas that of the Red-naped is dark with light barring. Go ahead and judge this second photo based on that criterion, and then let's discuss throat framing.

Throat framing on our sapsuckers can be an inexact and frustrating exercise. Here's what the books say. Only the male Williamson's Sapsucker has a framed throat patch, but its back is solid black. Red-breasted Sapsuckers have unframed red throats. With Red-naped and Yellow-bellied you usually need a good, careful look. If the throat is solid red (male) or solid white (female) framed completely with black, it is a Yellow-bellied. If there is a white chin atop the red throat completely framed with black (female) or a solid red throat which bleeds out over the black frame into the white of the neck (male), it is a Red-naped. Typically, but not always, the nape of the Yellow-bellied is bright white, the nape of the Red-naped red. Should we talk about sapsucker hybridization or how the reds can fade out with feather wear? Are you beginning to question my sanity for labeling this an "easy" bird?

What I see in this photograph is a sapsucker with a mostly dark back with light markings. I see a throat patch entirely surrounded by a dark frame, and the upper area of that patch appears somewhat lighter than the lower area. The nape is light, but it doesn't appear white. This female Red-naped

Sapsucker was photographed in Ash Canyon, Arizona November, 2005. If you missed the gender because the white chin and rosy nape don't show up in this sepia rendition, that's understandable, but to me the species, "Red-naped," was an easy call because the back is way too dark for Yellow-bellied. Hybrids are beyond the scope of these photographs, but maybe we'll tackle them sometime, side-by-side. Just be aware that they're out there, in Arizona, particularly in the winter.

C) Good photo, difficult bird

The label on this bird is "difficult" but, as is often the case, by the time we get to the third photo we have a lot of information which precludes similar species and makes the discussion less lengthy. There are only two North American Woodpeckers which display these bold face stripes, bright, clean white underparts, and this bright, bold white upper back. The difficulty, though, is that the two are very similar, both have an extensive distribution throughout the country and both occur in Arizona.

Hairy or Downy? How fast would you make the identification without seeing the two together? Hairies are much more common and more widely distributed in Arizona than downies, the former in our high mountain pinelands, the latter only in deciduous growth at lower elevations, but not in our low deserts. Most birders would take one look at the size and length of the bill on our quiz bird and not think twice about calling it a Hairy. And the somewhat lighter area at the back of the crown tells us it is probably red, not black, so this would be a male.

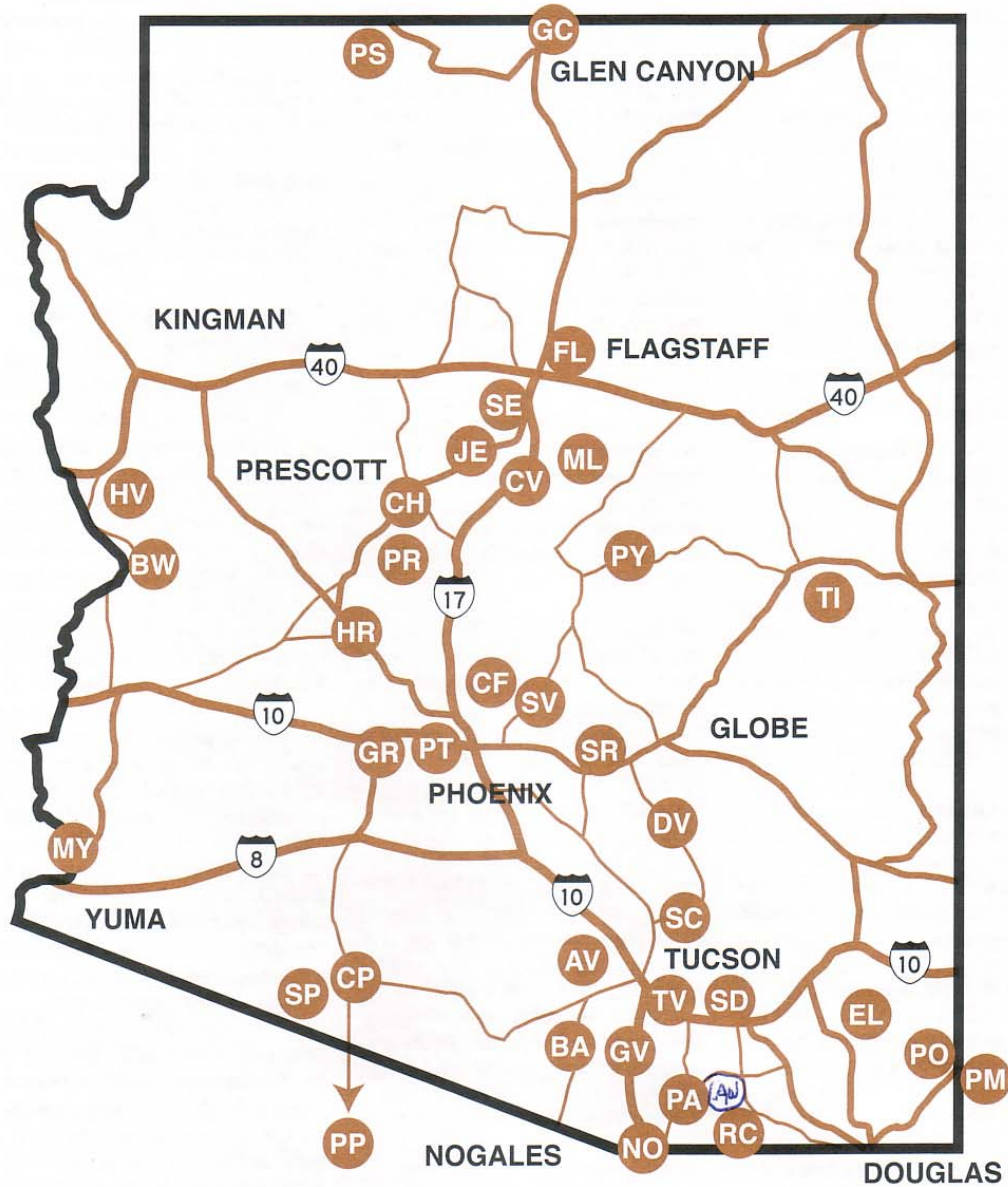
This male Hairy Woodpecker was photographed near Heber, Arizona September, 1995. Before you congratulate yourself, though, let me feed any lingering doubts. Downy is our smallest woodpecker and its bill is always described as "petite." Our photo bird looks large and robust and there's no way its bill is "petite." It's about one-third the length of the head, whereas the bill on a Downy is about one-fourth its head length. So . . . where am I going with this? There are four things about this photo which give me pause.

The first is the nasal tufts at the base of the bill, conspicuous according to the field guides, on Downy, but inconspicuous on its much larger (2 1/2 inches) congener. These look conspicuous to me. Secondly, both these woodpeckers have partial black collars, Downy's as you'd expect, rather small, the Hairy's an extensive spike. This one looks pretty small to me. Thirdly, most Downies have small black spots on their white outer tail feathers, a characteristic shown by only a few Hairies. I see a black spot in this photo. And lastly, Sibley says Downy "often forages along small twigs or weed stalks," but Hairies "never" do. This Hairy is feeding on a mullein, a roadside weed. It's extract is used as an medicinal. I haven't changed the label on my slide, but maybe I need some mullein eyedrops. I told you this was a difficult bird.

Arizona (& vicinity) Christmas Bird Count Map 2007-2008

christmas bird count

Arizona (& vicinity) Christmas Bird Count Map 2006-2007



Arizona Christmas Bird Count Schedule 2007-2008

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

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

Date	Day	Code	Count Name	Compiler(s)	Phone	E-Mail
12/14	Fr	PS	Pipe Spring Natl. Monument	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	andrea_bornemeier@nps.gov
12/14	Fr	SV	Salt-Verde Rivers	Kurt Radamaker	480-837-2446	kurtrad@mexicobirding.com
12/14	Fr	BA	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251	bonnie_swarbrick@fws.gov
12/15	Sa	AV	Avra Valley	Mary Lou Cole	520-578-0114	birdingnana@msn.com
12/15	Sa	ML	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	elaimorr@npgcable.com
12/15	Sa	NO	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetrogon@comcast.net
12/15	Sa	PY	Payson	Dave Hallock	928-474-9475	eldoradh@rmi.net
12/15	Sa	TI	Timber Mesa	Jimmy Videle	928-337-2466	moonrise@wmonline.com
12/15	Sa	PP	Puerto Penasco, Sonora, MX	Steve Ganley	480-830-5538	sganley@cox.net
12/15	Sa	SC	Santa Catalina Mountains	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	batesr@u.arizona.edu
12/15	Sa	MY	Yuma-Mittry Lake	Henry Detwiler	928-343-8363	henrydetwiler@earthlink.net
12/16	Su	CH	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-925-5567	duerksen@msn.com
12/16	Su	HR	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayampacbc@hotmail.com
12/16	Su	JE	Jerome-Cottonwood	Betsy Feinberg	928-203-0676 x11	betsyfpub101@catharon.com
12/16	Su	TV	Tucson Valley	Larry Liese	520-743-3520	larryliese@prodigy.net
12/17	Mo	El	Elfrida	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
12/21	Fr	SD	Saint David	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
12/22	Sa	CP	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Curt McCasland	520-387-4992	curtis_mccasland@fws.gov
12/22	Sa	PA	Patagonia	Abbie Zeltzer	520-394-2921	azeltzer@theriver.com
				Thomas Arny		
12/27	Th	GR	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado@cox.net
12/28	Fr	HV	Havas NWR	Norma Miller	520-578-1399	n8urnut@comcast.net
				DeeDee DeLorenzo	928-758-2707	poncho@citlink.net
12/29	Sa	BW	Bill Williams River NWR	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair@fws.gov
12/29	Sa	FL	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Terry Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows@nau.edu
12/29	Sa	PO	Portal	Larry Gates	520-558-1020	hummers@vtc.net
12/29	Sa	RC	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	tedmouras@mindspring.com
12/29	Sa	SP	Sierra Pinta-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Curt McCasland	520-387-4992	curtis_mccasland@fws.gov
12/30	Su	SE	Sedona	Dottie Hook	928-204-1894	dottiehook1@aol.com
12/30	Su	PM	Peloncillo Mountains, NM	Tony Godfrey	520-558-3350	kingbird@vtc.net
1/2	We	CF	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber@cox.net
1/3	Th	GC	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence@nps.gov
1/4	Fr	SR	Superior	Cynthia Donald	480-283-4515	planres@earthlink.net
1/5	Sa	AW	Appleton-Whittell	Robert Weissler	520-803-0794	weissler@aves.org
1/5	Sa	CV	Camp Verde	Anita MacFarlane	928-282-4063	ajmac@sedona.net
				Betsy Feinberg	928-203-0676 x11	betsyfpub101@catharon.com
Unknown		DV	Dudleyville	Tracy McCarthy	602-451-4179	tmccarthy@msn.com
Unknown		GV	Green Valley-Madera Canyon	Reid Freeman	520-625-9895	wallcreeper@cox.net
Unknown		PT	Phoenix-Tres Rios	David Powell	602-441-5508	vireo@vireos.com
Unknown		PR	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	tomoff@northlink.com

Please see the website for any dates that were not available at press time.

Monthly Meetings

First Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced, September through April, 7:30 p.m. Our meeting place is Dorrance Hall, at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG), except for our annual banquet in May, the location to be announced. The DBG is located at 1201 N. 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. There will be signs directing you to the meeting place. Please contact a board member if you have any questions, or check out our web site at www.maricopaaudubon.org. Pre-meeting dinners (September through April) are held at Rolling Hills 19th Tee Restaurant, 1405 N. Mill Avenue, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Membership Information

There are two ways to become a Maricopa Audubon member and to receive the Cactus Wren*dition by mail:

1. By joining the National Audubon Society. If you live in the Phoenix metro area generally east of 43rd Avenue, or in the East Valley other than in Gilbert or Chandler, when National Audubon Society receives your check made payable to National Audubon Society and your membership application, you will be assigned to Maricopa Audubon Society, or you can send your check payable to National Audubon Society and your National Audubon Society membership application to Jack Follett, membership chair, and he will send it on in to National Audubon for you, or
2. By becoming a "Friend of Maricopa Audubon". In this case you will become a member of Maricopa Audubon Society only, and you will not receive the Audubon magazine or any of the other "benefits" of National Audubon membership, but you will receive a one-year subscription to the Cactus Wren*dition. "Friends" contribution categories are: Anna's Hummingbird-\$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. Mail your Friends membership application and your check made payable to Maricopa Audubon to Jack Follett, membership chair. All "Friends" members receive certain designated 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")

For National Audubon membership address changes or other questions call (800) 274-4201 or e-mail CHADD@audubon.org. For all other membership questions call or e-mail Jack Follett.

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

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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