



The Cactus Wren-Dition

Fall 2004 • Volume LXX, No. 3

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Elf Owl - Scorpion to Go, photographed by **Jim Burns** in Pima County, AZ on May 30, 2004, with Canon EOS 1V body, Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens, and Canon Speedmaster 550EX flash.

by Laurie Nessell

For more information or to register, contact MAS Education Chair, Doug Green 480.998.5638, azbotman@yahoo.com, Laurie Nessel

From The Editor

By Deva Burns

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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 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.

Technology is a wonderful thing. This issue was organized sitting in my van in Madera Canyon using my laptop. Jim was off sitting patiently at a waterhole. There were only a few interruptions a Black-shinned Sparrow flew in the back door and out the side, and a pair of Scott's Oioles seemed to peer in wondering why I thought that was such a strange thing. But on the flip side, it can cause glitches..

Be sure to check out our website at www.maricopaadubon.org!

Although this issue of the Wrendition is labelled "Summer," preparation for its publication took place during the spring. The balletic post-copulatory dance of the Black-necked Stilts on our cover is an evocative reminder of the renewal which spring brings to our natural world.

In this issue's two conservation articles we are reminded that if future generations are to experience this renewal we, the stewards of the present, must remain forever vigilant. We must do whatever we can to see that Janet Witzeman's "Field Observations" feature remains at two pages or expands!

A wonderful start toward this goal was made this spring with the first Tres Rios Birding Festival. Communities across the United States have found that birding festivals bring dollars to their coffers and provide education to both locals and visitors. The Tres Rios event, conceived and designed by our new Membership Chairman, the energetic and resourceful Mike Rupp, is slated to be an annual affair. MAS was one of several sponsors of the highly successful two day event, and several MAS members volunteered in so many helpful ways, but a special thanks goes to Cynthia Donald who joined Mike Rupp's Planning Committee.

If you would like to help in any way with the renewal of our vows to maintain our natural environment, check out our website at www.maricopaadubon.org or contact an MAS board member.

and to ourselves to be their advocates, to fight for their existence, be aware of the issues, write our representatives, volunteer our time, educate the public and donate money to the cause. We are fortunate to have on our board two of the nation's top conservationists, Bob Witzeman and Robin Silver, working immeasurable hours, gratis, on behalf of birds and the

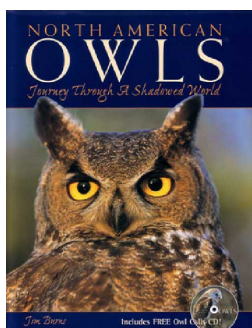
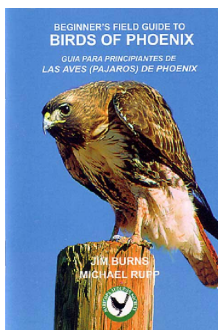
, 480.968.5614, laurienessel@hotmail.com, or the MAS or ANPS websites www.aznps.org.

THIS LINE IS YOUR LINE...

Maricopa Audubon is back in the bird alert business, but the alert will only succeed if you intrepid birders take the time to share your interesting sightings. This system differs from our old bird alert. It will record the first 15 sighting reports. After that, each new report will replace the oldest or earliest report on the tape. Please leave your name, the date of your sighting, the name of the bird sighted, the location of the birds sighted, and a reference phone number, if you wish, for further information. Interested birders reporting sightings, and looking for information on unusual alert number - (602) 795-0762. Thank you Harold Bond for setting this up and managing it for the Chapter.

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NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Note: If you are planning a birding expedition to Southeast Arizona in the next few months, you need to be aware that the only major hotel/motel in Patagonia - The Stage Stop Inn, will be closed for a much-needed remodeling and upgrading. They expect to reopen on October 1, 2004. there are other overnight stay facilities in Patagonia, but the selection is limited. Check the internet for Patagonia, Arizona accommodations.

Donations to MAS: nature Treks and Passages International Birding Trips sponsored by Tucson Audubon will donate money to MAS if you take on of these trips. Just mention that you are a member of MAS when calling Rochell Gerratt at 520-696-2002 or on their web site www.naturetreks.net
July 17, August 22, September 11 & October 3 - Proyecto Corredor Colibri (Sonora)

October 8-10 & November 12-14 - Northern Mexico & Mata Ortiz
October 16-25, 2004 & February 5-13 2005 - Copper Canyon
January 22-February 1, 2005 & March 12-22, 2005 - Belize

October 15-17 -- AAEE Conference, Camp Tontozone AZ: The Arizona Association for Environmental Education offers a three day opportunity for formal and non-formal educators to get Bat to Basics: learning In and About Arizona's Environment. Gives presenters a cool forest venue to showcase place-based EE programs. current descriptions of three [re-conference all day workshops, sessions, field trips and special events can be reviewed on AAEE website. Go to www.arizonaee.org for registration and session information or call Hean Contreras at 520-883-8110 for questions.

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

Children's Field Guide-- There's a new book in town! Well, a new booklet in any event! This spring, the Maricopa Audubon Society published a children's field guide for 56 species of birds commonly found in the Phoenix area. Running 30 pages and measuring just 4"x6", this little book packs quite a wallop. Conceived by MAS member Mike Rupp, the book took flight through the writing and photos of Jim Burns, another talented MAS member. Unveiled at the Tres Rios and

progress to the **River, Ponds, Farmfields and Desert.** So, give it a "once over" at our next meeting. It's perfect for the children in your life or inquisitive adults who want to read about Pijiji Aliblanco o los Rascadores.

North American Owls: Journey Through A Shadowed World-- MAS writer/photographer Jim Burns' owl book has been published by Willow Creek Press and is now available in bookstores and online. It covers our 19 owl species with color photographs, a CD of their vocalizations, thumbnails of their natural history, and compelling personal anecdotes.

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 Birdseye Guide to 101 Birding Sites, Phoenix: A guide published by Rupp Aerial Photography. The maps are excellent, it is all in color and is \$23.95. For more information check www.ruppaerialphoto.com.

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

FALL - 2004 PHOTO QUIZ

By Jim Burns

THIS ISSUE'S CLUE—These birds are all in the same family. They were all photographed on the same day, within twenty miles of one another, in the same state. (All photos Jim Burns)



A) Good Photo, Easy Bird



B) Good Photo, Difficult Bird



C) Bad Photo, Easy Bird

Feathered Friends festivals in March, the booklet is gaining in popularity. It also has some unique features. First of all, the text, in English and Spanish, is targeted at Kindergarten to pre-teen children. (But I have it on good authority that it's being read and enjoyed by adults as well.) Secondly, it carries a strong conservation awareness message. And finally, the organization is based on five "neighborhoods" (habitats) that begin with your **Yard**, and

seven kinds of Song Bird Coffee. For information call 800-634-7736.

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 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.

RODEO-CHEDISKI REVISITED

By Bob Witzeman

The mosaic of dark and light areas shows the beneficial effect of the heavy, light and unburned areas of the Rodeo-Chediski fire. Unlike news reports of 460,000 acres of totally burned forest, this burned/unburned mosaic mix creates a forest/meadow ecosystem with greatly increased species diversity.

Today, after decades of Forest Service fire suppression in our public land forests, massive fuel loads of fallen conifer needles and branches have accumulated in many places of our forest floors. Additionally, a century of unregulated USFS livestock grazing has removed forest floor grasses which compete with ponderosa seedlings for sunlight, nutrients, and moisture. As a result in places a profusion of dense, stunted ponderosa "doghair" thickets have become the fuels which "ladder" fire up into the forest canopy. Add to that the severest drought in recent Arizona with its insect infestations in our conifers and one sees how Rodeo-Chediski burned in widely varying degrees over different portions of that 460,000 acre total area.

How will Arizona's forests change? Drought and/or global warming may have changed our pinyon pine, Arizona cypress, and ponderosa pine (transition life zone) distributions. Mixed conifers (Canadian zone) and spruce-fir (Hudsonian zone) have also suffered. At Rodeo-Chediski new oaks, locust, cypress and juniper have sprung up (some already waist high) after that 2002 fire. Perhaps our Merriam vegetational life zones will move upwards to higher altitudes, just as we moved downward in the glacier age 10,000 years ago.

An excellent *Arizona Republic* article (June 19, 2004, Mary Jo Pitzl) revisited Rodeo-Chediski. Pitzl pointed out that ponderosa requiring 16 inches of rainfall last year received only 10 inches last year.

From the Apache-Sitgreaves fire towers (see photo) one can see a now "healthier" forest/meadow mosaic that was 1/3 fully burned, 1/3 partially burned, and 1/3 unburned. By no means were 460,000 acres of forest destroyed as most news sources reported.

This mosaic has become beneficial for woodpeckers and avian insectivores like bluebirds, swallows, and many species of flycatchers. But it is less friendly for forest canopy dependent goshawks, Mexican Spotted Owls, and red squirrels. It is ideal for deer, elk, antelope and a multitude of mammals which benefit from the new mosaic of sunlit meadows of grass and forbs. These forest/meadow interfaces are productive for both nesting and foraging birds. Birdwatching can be less than exciting inside a deep, never ending forest. Now nature lovers can enjoy the species diversity provided by the many new forest/meadow interfaces.

Standing, dead burned trees require years or decades to fall. During this time they are valuable perches for avian insectivores and raptors. When tree tops and branches break off they become homes for bats, owls and other wildlife. When they finally fall wildlife find cover and homesites.

Salvage logging and other so-called "forest health" measures are the gambit of the Bush administration and its logging industry supporters in Congress. President Bush's top forestry official, Mark Rey, is a former lobbyist for the logging industry.

Salvage logging of standing dead trees destroys a much needed generation of topsoil. It litters the forest floor with flammable logging slash. The logging machinery erodes topsoil, incurring stream siltation and fish and water degradation.

Abigail Hagler of Yuma, Arizona, in protesting industry's removal of dead or downed trees (*Forest Magazine*, summer 2004), wrote: "...the forest floor is composed of the long-dead remains of trees. There is no forest floor—there is no forest—without countless dead trees, which have been left for centuries to rot, which really means composting quietly into nourishing organic matter. And what about the innumerable creatures that must have dying vegetation to live? Worms, bacteria, mushrooms, beetles—where will they go when the tree is removed?"

Salvage logging removes the shade needed for recruitment of sun intolerant plant and tree species. Additionally, fallen trees soak up moisture which is gradually released to nearby plantlife.

Gambel's oak, New Mexican locust, and some Arizona cypress and juniper are now waist high in profusion in many areas just two years after that 2002 fire, and despite two dry winters. The fire, which the doomsayers

AZ Special Species

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD

By Jim Burns



Is it possible that here in the hummingbird capital of the U.S., a state in which 15 species of hummingbirds can be seen and I personally have seen 10 in one day, that one of the plainest of these colorful jewels may be my personal favorite? Violet-crowned, *Amazilia violiceps*, is one of nine Arizona special species, species found only here or more easily here than in any other state, in this unique and beloved family of birds, and the affirmative answer to that question has much to do with how the plainness of the species makes it stand out in the busy, bustling crowds that frequent the feeders where it is typically sought.

On the other hand, can our third largest hummer, the only one with snow-white underparts (which make it appear even larger), and a bright coral bill with black tip be called plain? Certainly not when the angle of light changes and the dull purple crown flashes to neon blue rivaling the throat of the gaudiest Broad-billed. Sheri Williamson calls Violet-crowneds "handsome." Steve Howell calls them "unmistakable." Well . . . yes!

Violet-crowned Hummingbird ranges from extreme southeast Arizona southward to central Mexico along the Pacific Slope and through the interior. Here in Arizona it is considered "local," its breeding habitat sycamore/willow riparian. It has been observed as far north as Madera Canyon in the Santa Ritas, but is usually looked for and found with regularity in the Chiricahuas (Portal), the Huachucas (Miller Canyon), and in Patagonia, most famously there at Marion Paton's feeders. Recent years have brought increasing reports of overwintering birds near the well known and observed feeding stations.

The Violet-crowned nest, like most in this family, is an open cup of plant material bound together with spider webbing and decorated (camouflaged?) with lichen. Here in Arizona at the northern limits of its

This species has a loud, dry "chip" note, and is aggressive toward other hummingbird species. Often around multiple feeders, Violet-crowneds will favor one over others and make regularly scheduled visits to "their" feeder, much to the delight of awaiting birders. Though these intervals can be as much as an hour apart, they can sometimes be timed nearly to the minute. After drinking, Violet-crowneds may perch above the feeder, guarding, and driving away other species. Early in the morning around the nest they can be seen making flycatcher type sorties from exposed perches for flying insects.

The accompanying photograph taken in September, 2003 across from the Patagonia roadside rest south of the town represents the only time I have ever seen a hummingbird on the ground. A Violet-crowned nest had been seen in the area earlier in the summer. I had come to look for the Rose-throated Becards whose original nest had been destroyed in an earlier windstorm. As is often the case with this conspicuous hummer, I first heard, then noticed it buzzing about its morning rounds. As I endeavored to visually follow its route, I finally realized the bird was returning repeatedly to the exact same spot in leave litter under a tangle of vines, hovering momentarily, then dropping to the ground?!

Initially I thought the bird was injured, or then perhaps that there was a young bird on the ground or in a blown-down nest. Closer and prolonged observation revealed that this Violet-crowned had apparently discovered an ant colony beneath the duff and was periodically tonguing up a protein breakfast treat. This behavior continued three to four times per hour all morning for at least three mornings. Gilded Flickers in the area would have loved an invitation.

Next time you're in Patagonia, stop into Paton's backyard and concentrate on the feeder farthest to

implied would kill almost everything, did not kill those stumps or roots. Beautiful forest meadow wildflowers now abound throughout the new forest meadows in places where there had been no sunlight before.

No one can predict the next dominant forest type, but it probably won't be one of those even-aged ponderosa "tree farms" President Bush's pals in the logging industry are hoping for.

Never forget our National Forests provide less than 5% of this nation's wood products. More than 75% of our products come from private land, primarily from the southeastern U.S. states. The remaining small balance regrettably comes largely from Canadian public forests in a country with few environmental laws.

breeding range, Violet-crowns tend to nest rather late in the summer. Perhaps because of the bird's size and bright underparts, nests are often found and then easily observed, typically on a horizontal sycamore branch in heavy shade, occasionally no higher than eye level.

the left, the lowest and closest to the entrance gate. Usually in late summer and early fall there will be both adult and immature Violet-crowns coming to this feeder, and for several years at least one of these handsome, unmistakable hummingbirds has spent the entire winter.

By Marjorie Eckman

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!!!

Saturday, August 7

Granite Reef, Phon D Sutton & Coon's Bluff. The birding is always great in these areas but expect also a smattering of natural history plus desert habitat and riparian information. Bring lunch, plenty of water, mosquito repellent, hat. Carpooling at ASU Tempe Center parking lot, back in the SE corner at 5:30 AM sharp. Turn into the lot off Mill Ave, south of University and north of 10th St. Meet at Granite Reef Recreation Area at 6:00 AM..

Limit: 10
Difficulty: 1

Leader: Diana Stuart
diana.stuart@asu.edu
(480) 491-1323 leave message

Saturday, August 14

Page Springs. We will visit the Page Spring fish hatchery near Camp Verde and bird other nearby locations. Possible sightings of yellow-billed cuckoo, Wood Duck, Western & Cassin's Kingbird, and summer warblers. Spotting scopes are helpful. Bring lunch. We will meet near Camp Verde and 8:00 a.m. and break up in the early afternoon. Limit 15. Difficulty 2. Call leader for information and reservations.

No Limit

Leader: Herb Fibel
480-966-5246

Saturday, September 4

proceed to Saguaro Lake for a quick check, then to Sycamore Creek in Sunflower where we will search for lingering Common Black Hawks and the Zone-tailed Hawk along with a variety of riparian species. Finally we will check a few spots en route to the Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery in Payson. Please bring a scope, lunch, snacks, and carpool money. Plan on an all day trip.

Leader: Kurt Radmacher
Kurtrad@mexicobirding.com 480-837-2446 for reservations

Wednesday, September 22

Neely Ranch, Ocotillo & Riggs Ponds in southeastern Phoenix. All of these ponds are good sites for waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, hawks and sparrows. The surrounding trees and brushy patches will have other species. A scope is recommended here. Bring lunch, snacks, water and meet at Neely Ranch at 7 AM.

Leader: Bob Witzeman
602-840-0052 for reservations and car-pooling instructions

Saturday, September 25

Tres Rios or the 91st Avenue Ponds and the Hayfields site in southwestern Phoenix. These ponds are good birding any season of the year with open ponds, riparian habitat and trails that run along cottonwoods, mesquites and willows. Expect to see ducks, cormorants, herons, warblers, sparrows and often hawks and Osprey. Please bring a scope, lunch and water. Meet for carpooling at

(continued from page 7)

Wednesday, October 13

Box Canyon near Wickenburg.

Hopefully the monsoons will fill the Hassayampa River that is now dry. Expect to see some of the usual desert species including Greater Roadrunner, White-throated Swift, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Rock & Canyon Wrens, Black-throated Sparrow, Canyon Towhee and usually American Kestrel, Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk. Linger summer breeders such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers & orioles as well as early fall migrants, such as the Wilson's Warbler may be seen. Meet at the Wickenburg Community Center at 7:45 AM. Please bring lunch & water in backpack to eat in Canyon. Return to Wickenburg by 3 PM. Contact Marjorie for reservations and carpool information.

Leader: Nancy London.
Contact: Marjorie Eckman
480-368-1901 desertjewelB77@aol.com

Saturday, October 16

Hassayampa River Preserve and Rest Stop near Wickenburg.

Join us to search for migrants and resident species along this river corridor near Wickenburg. Red-shouldered hawk, cedar waxwings, western bluebirds, and various warblers and wrens are possible. Tropical Kingbirds were present this past spring. We will meet at 7 AM at the Rest Stop, approximately two miles south of the Preserve entrance. There is a \$5 donation for non-members. Bring lunch if you wish. Please call Cynthia for reservations and carpooling information.

Limit: 12
Leaders: Cynthia Donald & Peter Moulton
Contact: Cynthia Donald
480-768-0593
planres@earthlink.net

Wednesday, October 20

Watson Woods and Prescott National Forest/Lynx Creek.

We will be birding a lovely riparian area along Granite Creek that leads to Watson Lake where we will "scope" for ducks, wading birds, and migrating shore birds. In Prescott Nat'l Forest we will walk through the Ponderosa Pine, Emory and Gambel's oak forest ending at Lynx Creek. The species list we are most likely to see is long but a few include Wood Duck, Great Horned Owl, Bridled Titmouse, Bushtit, Lark, Song and Lincoln's sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos (three forms), and even American Goldfinches. In the lake areas, Western Grebes, Forster's Terns, and late migrating warblers. A scope will be helpful. Bring lunch, \$2 fee, and car-pool money. We will leave Phoenix at 5:30 for two hour trip. Contact Marjorie for reservations and car-pool information.

Leaders: Karen O'Neil & Kathy Wingert.
Contact: Marjorie Eckman
480-368-1901
desertjewelB77@aol.com

Saturday, October 30

Saturday, November 6

Parker Dam on the Colorado River.

Join us for a trip to Parker Dam for wintering hawks and waterfowl. We will search for hawks and sparrows around the agricultural areas of Ehrenberg en route to Parker where we have a good chance of seeing Ferruginous and possibly Rough-legged Hawks. En route to Parker Dam we will stop at various bends in the river and at the Bill Williams delta to look for possible Scoters and Loons. At Parker Dam our target bird will be Barrow's Goldeneye. This will be a long day. Please bring a scope if available, lunch, snacks, water, car-pool & restaurant money. Meeting place to be decided on later. Please help with carpooling if possible.

Leader: Kurt Radmacher
480-837-2446
Kurtrad@mexicobirding.com

Wednesday, November 10

Tres Rios in southwestern Phoenix

Both the well-known Cobble Ponds and the Hayfields site across 91st Avenue are open ponds, with riparian habitat and trails that run along cottonwoods, mesquites and willows. These ponds have been a mecca for birders for years and can be depended on for an interesting list of birds including waterbirds, shorebirds, hawks, warblers and sparrows plus often a surprise or a rarity. Please bring a scope if available, lunch and water. Meet for prompt departure at the REI parking lot at the SW corner of Southern & Priest at 7 AM.

Leader: Mike Rupp
602-277-0439 ruppar@mindspring.com

Sunday, November 14

Gilbert Water Ranch. The ponds and surrounding marshes attract migrating waterfowl, wintering raptors, and passerines. Burrowing owl colonies are well established and easily viewed. Like Tres Rios in the west end, these ponds are fast becoming the east side mecca for birders and also have had their share of rarities. Bring a scope if available, lunch, and water. Start at site at 7:30 AM.

Limit: 15
Leader: Cindy West
480-830-5332
cwestbirdr@juno.com

November 16 to 21

Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes. Is anyone interested in carpooling to this Festival in NM or shortly before the Festival?

Contact: Marjorie Eckman
480-368-1901
desertjewelB77@aol.com

Saturday, November 20

Arlington and Gila River area in southwestern Phoenix. We will concentrate on the ponds and

<div> <p>Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior. We will carpool from the Wild Birds Unlimited parking lot at SW corner of McClintock & Guadalupe at 6:45 AM. We can always expect a good list of species in this very beautiful Arboretum that can also include occasional rarities. A scope is helpful. Please bring lunch and \$7.50 entrance fee.</p> <p>Leader: Richard Ditch richditch@earthlink.net 480-706-1928 for reservations</p> <p>Saturday, September 11</p> <p>Paloma Ranch and Area in southwest Maricopa County. We will be following Bill in an area he knows well searching for birds in farm fields, along the trees lining the road, and the orchard area. The surrounding grasslands and other sites he feels will be productive will make for an interesting day. A scope is helpful. Please bring lunch, water and carpool money. Met at REI parking lot at SW corner of Southern & Priest in Tempe for prompt departure at 5:15 AM or McDonald's on Dysart Rd just south of I-10 for prompt 5:45 AM departure. Back at approximately 3 to 4 PM.</p> <p>Leader: Bill Grossi Contact: Marjorie Eckman desertjewelB77@aol.com (480) 368-1901</p> <p>Saturday, September 18</p> <p>Fountain Hills and Saguaro Lakes, Sycamore Creek in Sunflower and Payson. Join us for early passerine migration in western Maricopa County and part of Gila County as we search for fall migrants. We will meet at Fountain Hills Lake Park at 6 AM. After a brief scan of the lake for any early waterfowl, we will</p> </div>	<div> <p>REI parking lot at the SW corner of Southern & Priest in Tempe at 6:15 AM (leader not present).</p> <p>Leader: Jeff Fustich fustich@yahoo.com 623-327-0540 for reservations</p> <p>Saturday, October 2</p> <p>Basic Bird Photography Seminar by Cindy Marple and Mike Rupp. Have you ever thought about taking your birdwatching to another level? Whether for fun or profit, bird and nature photography opens a whole new approach to bird watching that can be deeply fulfilling. Experienced bird photographer Cindy Marple will present a basic seminar on bird photography covering equipment selection, composition, lighting, and how to approach the subject. Cindy will illustrate photo principles with her own terrific images in a power point presentation, and answer all your photography questions. Mike Rupp will end the session with a short discussion on videography of birds, and show a short program. Digi-scoping will be touched upon as well. This seminar fills fast - please register early! Meet at the Phoenix Zoo Auditorium, located off Galvin Parkway at 7:00 PM.</p> <p>Leader: Cindy Marple clmarple@cox.net 480-892-4460 for reservations</p> <p>Leader: Kurt Radamacher Kurtrad@mexicobirding.com 480-837-2446 for reservation</p> <p>(Continued on Page 8)</p> </div>	<div> <p>Granite Reef, Phon D Sutton & Coon's Bluff. The birding is always great in these areas with waterbirds and raptors along the Lower Salt River. Resident and migrant birds in the mesquite bosques can include a surprise or two. This is a traditional favorite with a leader who frequently birds this area. Bring lunch, water, \$4 fee and scope if available. We will meet at the Walgreen's parking lot on the SE corner of McKellips and Power Roads. We leave promptly at 7 AM.</p> <p>Leader: Richard Kaiser 602-276-5312 rkaiserinaz@aol.com</p> <p>Leader: Tracy McCarthy 602-451-4179 tmccarthey@Acstempe.com</p> <p>Saturday-Sunday, December 4-5</p> <p>Saldon Sea in sothern California. This is a great opportunity to learn new birds with a leader who knows this location well! More about this trip in our Winter Wrendtion.</p> <p>Leader: Russell Widner 480-595-2977 rwidner@earthlink.net</p> </div>
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Photo Quiz Answers

By Jim Burns

Compared to our last quiz, this should be a relatively easy one and we can only hope that someday these three species will all be photographable again in Arizona. The lethal hooks on these beaks tell us these are raptors, and the dramatic head markings along with the large-headed, short-necked jizz and knowing all are in the same family should lead us immediately to the falcons.

The family name, falcon, comes to us from the Latin *falx*, meaning falcated--sickle or scythe shaped. Different sources variously cite the shape of the wings, the beak, or the talons for this derivation, though if you are a White-throated Swift or a ptarmigan about to be met by stooping death any such distinction is probably moot. That falcated beak is not only toothed, but also notched, all the better to sever the spinal column of luckless vertebrate prey.

A)—Good photo, easy bird

On a perched bird, at a reasonable distance such as this, the black hood, or helmet, which covers almost the entire head and face of this falcon is unmistakable. The light neck and breast set off by the horizontal streaking on the belly and flanks completes this portrait of everybirder's iconic raptor, the Peregrine Falcon.

Three forms of Peregrine are seen in the U.S., differing in the extent of the hood and the darkness of the plumage. The *anatum* subspecies, or continental form, is characterized by a very wide mustache mark and very small white auricular patch and typically has an unstreaked breast and a rufous wash on the underparts. The tundra form is generally a paler bird with a much narrower mustache and much larger cheek patch. The Pacific Northwest form, Peale's, is the darkest of the three, both cheek patch and breast strongly streaked. Our quiz bird is an *anatum* Peregrine, photographed in December, 2000 near Port Isabel, Texas.

The wing rhythm of falcons in flight has often been described as "rowing". Peregrines in flight appear extremely long-winged and long-tailed, with a crossbow shape, the bright white of the upper breast usually very distinct. Their wingbeat is shallow, but very fluid, the beat itself emanating from the shoulder and rippling down the entire length of the wing. Typically Peregrines are observed relatively high in the sky and appear to be reconnoitering for prey.

Whether because of its remarkable and well documented comeback from the edge of DDT induced extinction, its romantic niche in the history of the Middle Ages when only lords were allowed to fly it, or its

At first glance the relatively thin mustache mark and large white cheek patch may suggest a tundra Peregrine, but the only falcon with this black belly band and white superciliary stripes is an Aplomado, formerly common and widespread across the yucca and cactus brushlands of our southwest. Prior to releases in south Texas, the most recent U.S. breeding record was in New Mexico in 1952, and only occasional strays from northern Mexico have been seen since then.

This bird, showing off its large leather leg bands, was photographed near Los Fresnos, Texas in December, 2000, and is one of many Aplomados released and now nesting in the area. Loss of habitat rather than pesticide poisoning is thought to be the cause of this species' decline. Aplomados are larger than American Kestrel and Merlin, nearly the size of Peregrines and Prairie Falcons. Sexes are similar, though females are larger and the male's belly band is often streaked with white. The rufous wash of belly and leggings is often quite bright.

Mated pairs of Aplomados remain together year round, often hunting and perching in tandem. Birds are the primary prey, but rodents and reptiles are readily taken. Aplomados hunt from an exposed perch, but will also chase prey afoot and hover, kestrel-style. Hopefully, with the success of reintroduction programs, it may not be too many years before this elegant, colorful, and distinctively marked falcon once again graces our states' southern grasslands.

C)—Bad photo, easy pair

Here's another falcon, in soft focus because it was photographed at a much greater distance than the previous two, with a white eyebrow, light cheek, and thin mustache. It is lighter overall than the bird in our first photo, and might well pass as an immature tundra Peregrine which often has a light crown and forehead and appears quite different than any other Peregrine plumage. Other obvious candidates are Merlin and Prairie Falcon. It would be much easier if this bird were a flyover.

Let's eliminate immature tundra Peregrine, despite its similarities, because our quiz bird is spotted rather than heavily streaked and does show a dark ear patch rather than a completely light cheek. Eliminating Merlin, a much smaller bird than Prairie Falcon, is more problematical on a distant bird where relative size may be harder to discern. Like the Peregrine, Merlins have three rather distinct plumages. Black Merlin, the darkest form, does not have a white eyeline nor this light a cheek. Taiga and prairie Merlins are lighter overall and may show a light superciliary, but the

GILBERT RIPARIAN INSTITUTE Important Bird Area Program

By Cynthia Donald

Last spring, Gilbert Riparian Institute Director, Scott Anderson, asked Maricopa Audubon for volunteers to help survey the Riparian Institute to see if the two sites could meet the criteria for designation as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Six hardy souls responded, "Why sure!" before we had a clue...it just sounded like fun and we go birding there a lot over the course of a year.

As we ask ourselves, What on earth are we doing out here in these toasty times?" We also try to remember our mission, and delight in watching avocet, stilt and killdeer families with gangly young becoming ever more svelte and adult looking. The first young of the summer are just legs and fuzz. "oh, those must be avocet" because there are adults right there, then suddenly adult stilt race in and off go the babies with these guys. By our next visit, you can tell them apart, and we issue a collective sigh of relief. And we are glued to binoculars when we discover the breeding plumage phalaropes - way to go, girls! Two females and tow males -0 just too much.

But what is an IBA and why do we care about the Riparian Institute having this designation?

Well, an IBA is a site that provides essential habitat for one or more species of bird during breeding, wintering or migration periods. These areas range from a few to thousands of acres, from public to private ownership, and may or may not have a protective status. A site is determined to qualify as an IBA by the Arizona IBA committee, which is composed of 12 to 14 biologists and bird experts from all over the state.

site qualifies by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- It's important to populations of endangered, threatened or species of high conservation concern;
- It supports significant populations of birds that congregate during breeding, wintering or migration;
- It contains rare or unique habitat, or is an exceptional example of an ecological community type and holds important species or species assemblages largely restricted to a distinctive habitat or ecological community type;
- It supports programs in avian research or educational programs focusing on birds.

Okay, that sounds pretty darn good, but what are the benefits of being designated an IBA? Well, here are a

- Increased grant funding potential for conservation projects at IBAs;
- Community pride, recognition and economic gain from non-consumptive, wildlife based tourism;
- Proactive wildlife habitat conservation through science and education;
- Partnership of private and public landowners to achieve mutual goals;
- Recognition of exceptional wildlife habitat stewardship by landowners and public land managers;
- Promotion of local site stewardship and cooperative conservation projects

So what agencies are partners in this program? Check it out - Arizona Game and Fish Department; US Fish and Wildlife Service; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; US Forest Service; Bureau of Land management, natural Resources Conservation Service, National Park Service; Arizona State Parks; Arizona universities and many NGO's (non-government organizations).

And, what are we doing out there: A lot of hot, hard work, at least through the summer. We established "survey stations" at each site - the Water Ranch has 8 ponds and 37 stations; Neely has 11 ponds and 21 stations. We broke into two teams, and each member committed to doing ten surveys over the course of the year. We logged our stations on GPA, created maps for each site, and set about the business of actually working together as a team and completing a survey. Our ten survey periods are spread throughout the year when birds will be the most concentrated at breeding, wintering or migration. We are following protocol for a "census survey", which is not unlike a Christmas Bird Count survey. We stop at each area.

Interestingly, black-necked stilt and American avocet are not breeding in much of Arizona, burrowing owls are a special target species, and those of you who have visited the site during fall migration know of the large numbers of shorebirds that pass through. We believe these two sites have tremendous benefits to birds - both resident and migratory.

As this publication reaches you, we will be completing our third survey of each site. And we believe that we have met the criteria for shorebirds for each survey thus far. There will be a huge increase of birds during migration and in the winter, we we

legendary flight speed and feats of aerial capture, the Peregrine enjoys higher reverence among birders and higher name recognition among non-birders than any of our other raptors.

Once while trying to photograph White-throated Swifts feeding on flying insects along a cliff face, I witnessed a Peregrine strike. Swifts are so named for good reason, but these appeared to be loitering before the streaking blur of the stooping falcon. A puff of feathers marked the initial hit, the Peregrine rolled and let gravity settle its meal into upturned talons, then rolled aright and rowed effortlessly to a ledge to eat. Unbelievable. Unforgettable.

B)--Good photo, difficult pair

The identification of this very distinctly marked falcon is difficult only because most of us have never seen one, it has been extirpated from Arizona for at least half a century, and it just doesn't cross our consciousness when we see a falcon beating toward us. With the reintroduction of this species in south Texas, particularly on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding private ranches, all that is changing.

mustache stripe of the former is typically not this distinct, and the latter does not show this field mark at all. Additionally, Merlins have denser, more unbroken rows of vertical ventral streaking than our bird.

This Prairie Falcon was photographed in December, 2000 on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. In flight the dark "armpit," black spotting and barring on the underwing coverts contrasting with the rest of the light underwing, is the sure way to distinguish Prairies from Peregrines and the smaller falcons. Prairies in flight appear long-winged and long-tailed like Peregrines, but being slimmer look more tube-shaped, and the wingbeat seems to emanate from the wrist rather than the shoulder, giving the flight a stiffer, more mechanical rhythm than the Peregrine's fluid strokes. Prairies are typically seen lower in the sky than Peregrines, seeming to use the contours of the land to hide their approach, and consequently they always appear to be going someplace rather than just reconnoitering.

Next time you're in the San Rafael Grasslands of southern Arizona and see a falcon coming, expect a Prairie, hope for a Peregrine, but don't forget Aplomado is possible.

few...

- Recognition by governmental agencies and the ability to be included in regional planning for habitat, sensitive species and open space conservation;
- Increased public awareness of important habitats and the birds they support;

should be able to easily meet the established protocol to have the Gilbert Riparian Institute designated as an Important Bird Area. I am sure that during out winter days we will wish for the "toasty times" once again! Our team consists of Mark Horlings, Ginny Horlings, Brian Ison, Jack Follett, Peter Moulton and Cynthia Donald. It is our hope that you will support this effort and share your knowledge of both sites with us.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY MOST

By Herb Fibel

Indulge me for one second, please, while I explain the title to this article. Years ago I was shopping at the now defunct Gemco. In the men's department by the sock display I saw a sign which read: "One Size Fits Most". On the spot I decided that if I were ever to write my autobiography this ultimate equivocation would be my title.

On May 4th Maricopa Audubon celebrated the completion of its 51st year of being advocates for the creatures, who are unable to speak for themselves. Once again the banquet was at Shalimar Country Club in Tempe. Camaraderie prevailed as we elected our board for the coming year, honored outgoing board members, enjoyed a sumptuous buffet, and were regaled by a tongue-in-cheek Kenn Kaufman, who revealed to us the secret birdwatching lives of such historic figures as Julius Caesar and Napoleon.

Thank yous go to helpers Cynthia Donald, Cynthia Grant, and Laurie Nessel, to the good folks at Shalimar, and to Keith Mellon of Wild Bird Center in Scottsdale, who provided us with the binoculars we raffled off.

As far as I could tell, 'a good time was had by most!

By Janet Witzeman

A **Yellow-billed Loon** was reported at Lake Havasu City May 11-13 (*fide* KK); there have been only three previous state records. A Clark's Grebe was observed with four Western Grebes at the Gilbert, s. of Ocotillo Rd. pond Apr. 3 (PD). A few Am. White Pelicans remained into the spring: two were reported in Buckeye Mar. 1 (TH), 25 were seen at Palo Verde Mar. 7, at least 15 were counted at Arlington Mar. 14 (PD), and 25 were seen at the Gilbert Rd. pond May 8 (DC).

A **Tricolored Heron** (a casual spring and fall visitor) was found in the Ocotillo Community pond in Chandler Mar. 11-12 (DC, RD). The **White Ibis** in the Palo Verde area since May 2003, continued to be observed there during the first two weeks of March (HD, RD, KK).

A pair of Canada Geese, that wintered at the ASU Research Park in Tempe, remained to nest there in late March (DL); there have been four previous nesting records for this species in the county. Sandhill Cranes were seen flying over downtown Phoenix again – seven were counted Mar. 6 (TG).

An unusually large number of 51 Willets were counted at Fountain Hills Lake Apr. 27 (KR). Two Marbled Godwits were observed at the Chandler Sewage Ponds Apr. 25 (EA) and one was seen at Fountain Hills Lake Apr. 27 (KR). A Sanderling was discovered at the Gila Bend Power Plant Pond Apr. 15 (BG). Two early Western Sandpipers were observed at the El Mirage Pond Mar. 6 (EL).

More than the usual number of Franklin's Gulls were reported during the spring. One was found near the confluence of the Hassayampa and Gila Rivers on the early date of Mar. 21 (RJ, SG), two were seen at Gila Farms Pond Apr. 4-30 (PD), two were observed at the Gila Bend Sewage Ponds Apr. 6 (HD), one was seen at Paloma Ranch Apr. 5 (BG), and between three and five were counted at the Chandler Sewage Ponds Apr. 23-25 (RD, EA). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were observed at the Gila Bend Sewage Ponds May 2-3 (CB *et al.*). An adult California Gull, an uncommon transient, was found at the Gila Farms Pond Apr. 18 (PD). Two Caspian Terns reported along the Salt River bed in Mesa May 16 (JM) were about a week later than the previous late spring date for the county.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported in new areas: two were seen at the Gilbert Rd. ponds Apr. 3 (PD), a few were seen at 115th Ave. and the Gila River Apr. 10 (CB), ten were counted at Arlington Apr. 10 (PD), one was found at the Desert Botanical Garden (hereafter DBG) Apr. 18 (JWo), and one was seen in Rio Verde Apr. 26 (BB). A male Ruddy Ground-Dove was discovered along Southern, e. of 107th Ave. May 25 (RJ). A Vaux's Swift, an uncommon transient, was observed at the Gilbert Water Ranch May 29 (RD), a bit later than previous spring records for the county.

A singing **N. Beardless Tryrranulet** was discovered May 2 at the Hassayampa River Preserve (hereafter HRP) where one was recorded for the first time a year ago (PD); there have been only four previous county records. The Thick-billed Kingbird, that wintered in Yuma, remained at least until Mar. 9 (HD). At least ten of the Steller's Jays wintering at the HRP were still present there Mar. 21 (PD). A group of Mexican Jays, found on Mt. Ord Mar. 29 (SG) were the first for that area.

A **Rufous-backed Robin** was discovered at the Hayfield Site, Tres Rios Mar. 6 (EL). An Am. Robin was seen carrying food in a Scottsdale yard Apr. 26 and may have been nesting there (JB). An immature Am. Robin was seen in that same yard in July 2003 and an adult Am. Robin was observed there in June 2002 (JB). There are two nesting records for the county, both at a low elevation in Phoenix. A Brown Thrasher visited a Scottsdale yard May 16-17 (JB).

A singing male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was discovered at the DBG Apr. 12 and remained there until Apr. 25 (SB *et al.*); all eleven previous county records have been in the fall. A singing male **Bay-breasted Warbler** was discovered at the HRP May 30 (OH); there have been only four previous county records. A Black-and-white Warbler was observed at the DBG Mar. 13 (AT *et al.*). An injured **Ovenbird** (that later died) was found near Higley and McKellips Rd. in Mesa May 28 (AP); there have been three previous county records in May and about two dozen records overall. A Northern Waterthrush was observed at Bushnell Tanks, Sunflower May 1 (K&CR). A female **Hooded Warbler**, a casual visitor, found in a yard in Tolleson May 21 (BG), provided the tenth county record and the fourth for May.

A female Pyrrhuloxia was seen in an unusual place – in a Scottsdale yard - Mar. 14 (JB), A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, observed at the Hayfield Site, Tres Rios May 25 (RJ), was one of five reported in s. Arizona during the spring. An adult male **Painted Bunting** was found at the confluence of the Agua Fria River and Badger Springs Wash May 8 (CT), A singing male

(Continued from Page 9)

Beatty's feeders in Miller Canyon May 27. More than the usual number of Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported: up to two frequented the Ash Canyon feeders from Mar. 25 through May, one was seen at the Banning Creek Field Station Mar. 27 and Apr. 1, two were seen at the Beatty's feeders during April and May, and individuals were reported in Carr Canyon and in a Hereford yard in April and May (m.ob.).

The male **Rose-throated Becard** that was discovered along the Santa Cruz River in January, remained until Mar. 30 (*fide* KK). Another male was found at the traditional spot across from the Patagonia Roadside Rest area May 14 and remained there until May 20 (*fide* KK). A **White-eyed Vireo** was heard singing and later seen along the San Pedro River May 20 & 23 (DS *et al.*); there have been about 20 previous state records. A pair of **Flame-colored Tanagers** were discovered in Madera Canyon in early April and remained to nest there in early June; at least one individual had returned to Miller Canyon by early May (*fide* KK). An adult male **Yellow Grosbeak** was discovered May 17 at the Arizona Desert Museum where it remained until May 22 (LH *et al.*); there have been 14 previous state records.

Abbreviations: Desert Botanical Garden (DBG), Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP), many observers (m.ob.).

Observers: Eldon Archer, Charles Babbitt, Sally Barnes, Jack Bartley, Bob Brook, Dale Clark, Henry Detwiler, Pierre Deviche, Rich Ditch, Steve Ganley, Tom Gaskill, Bill Grossi, Olga Harbour, Linda Harris, Tom Hildebrandt, Roy Jones, Keith Kamper, Eric Latturmer, Diane Laush, James McKay, Anne Peyton, Kurt & Cindy Rademaker, Dave Stejskal, Andre Tarby, Carl Tomoff, Joe Woodley.

Field Trip Report

Flagstaff - May 29 & 30 led by Elaine Morrall and her friend, Celia Holm and attended by our new members from the UK, Joy and Steve Dingley with Linda Long and Marjorie Eckman. We immensely enjoyed our stay in the Flagstaff area during which we had absolutely perfect weather and excellent birding with a total of 72 species. The first day we birded many sites in the Ponderosa Pine area along #151 where Violet-green Swallows, Western Wood Pewees, Dusky Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos, American Robins, Western & Mountain Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, Red-faced & Grace's Warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Dark-eyed Juncos were everywhere. Elaine often repeated their various songs, which greatly helped us remember them. The lake areas in the Kaibab plateau and the Anderson Mesa Lakes were all interesting for their differences in resident ducks but with the usual suspects otherwise. We were fortunate to witness the Western Grebes doing their courtship display. At the Natural History Museum, the Cordilleran Flycatcher, Lewis Woodpecker, Western Bluebird and the Pygmy Nuthatch were all seen feeding their young. The Arboretum added MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers.

Gila River canoe trip - June 5 led by Tom Hildebrandt and organized by Mike Rupp turned out to be great fun. Everyone said if we had not seen any birds, they would have greatly enjoyed it; but we did see 35 species. The highlights were hearing the calling of the Yuma Clapper Rail and good views twice of the Least Bittern. We entered the river at Arlington about 7 AM and drifted slowly down stream to the Gillespie Dam with high reeds and salt cedar on both sides, all very peaceful with the chorus of mixed sounds of the many birds. Hoards of Cliff Swallows flew out as we approached the Dam.

Seven Springs & Lower Camp Creek - June 12 led by Laurie Nessel. Lower Camp Creek was a winner for its many species and raptors - Harris Hawk, Common Black Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk with a fly-by Cooper's/Sharp-skinned and the spectacle of Cassin's Kingbirds persistently harassing a Zone-tailed Hawk. The elusive Rufous-crowned Sparrow gave us good views and Black-chinned Sparrows were clearly heard. No lack of color with Scott's & Hooded Orioles, Cassin's Kingbirds, Yellow Warblers, Summer Tanagers and the Northern Cardinal. We arrived after 10 AM at Seven Springs to a quieter scene.

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BY-LAWS

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MARICOPA AUDUBON SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The organization shall be known as the Maricopa Audubon Society.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

SECTION 1. The purpose and objectives of the Society shall be to engage exclusively in any such educational, scientific, conservation, investigative, literary, historical, philanthropic and charitable pursuits to conform to the provisions of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as may be part of the stated purposes of the National Audubon Society, Inc., of which this Society shall function as a Chapter.

SECTION 2. This Society is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to the members thereof, or to any private shareholder or individual. The property, assets, profits, and net income of this Society are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the property, assets, profits, or net income of this Society shall ever inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. Upon the dissolution or upon abandonment, the assets of the Society remaining after payment of or provision for all debts and liabilities of this Society shall be donated to such corporation or corporations, association, fund or funds, foundation or foundations, having similar objects and purposes as the Society, as the Board of Directors of this Society may designate, subject to the order of a court as provided by law; provided that none of such assets shall be donated to any organization other than one organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes as presently set forth in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 3. No substantial part of the Society's activities shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, nor shall the Society participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Any person interested in the purposes of the Society is eligible for membership.

SECTION 2. Any member in good standing of The National Audubon Society assigned by The National Audubon Society to Maricopa Audubon Society's geographical area, and any Friend of Maricopa Audubon Society in good standing, as defined by the Maricopa Audubon Society Board of Directors, shall be considered a bona fide member of Maricopa Audubon Society.

SECTION 3. All members of Maricopa Audubon Society, as defined in Section 2, above, shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership, except that those members, who are members only by virtue of being members in good standing of The national Audubon Society assigned geographically to the Chapter, shall receive all editions of the Chapter newsletter only if The National Audubon Society is sharing no less than \$5.50 of that person's National Audubon Society annual dues with Maricopa Audubon Society.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors of Maricopa Audubon Society reserves the right to confer additional rights and privileges to members, who are members by virtue of being Friends of Maricopa Audubon Society, except that no distinction shall be made in voting rights between the two types of members.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The annual Meeting of the members of the Society shall be held on such date in May of each year as may be determined by vote of the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the members may be called by the President, or in the case of disability, by the Board of Directors. At least ten days written notice of such special meetings, stating the objects thereof, shall be given to each member at his last known post office or electronic address.

Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum.

BY-LAWS

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ARTICLE VII. FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to organize and publicize field trips. Field trip schedules shall be made available on the web site and in the newsletter as far in advance as possible.

ARTICLE VIII. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to promote the purposes and objectives of the Audubon Society through local educational and scientific groups by such means as the committee deems appropriate.

ARTICLE IX. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to keep the membership informed of local and national conservation issues. It will promote local actions that are in support of conservation measures, including coordination and cooperation with local groups actively interested in conservation.

ARTICLE X. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to keep the public informed through newspaper and other publicity media, of the purposes and programs of this Society.

ARTICLE XI. EDITORIAL POLICY

SECTION 1. Publishing standards in keeping with the Society's desire to maintain a dignified public posture: All materials published by the Maricopa Audubon Society shall be reasonably and clearly written, reflecting the highest professional standards for spelling, publication, language, tone and factual accuracy.

When controversial issues arise fair opportunity shall be provided for the presentation of significant opposing viewpoints. All public criticism of agencies and others who may disagree with Maricopa Audubon Society shall be calm, constructive and fully objective (that is, shall be fully supported by facts and directed at issues rather than persons).

Internal disputes shall not be carried on in Maricopa Audubon Society publications, but shall be referred for discussion to regular meetings of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. A newsletter and web page shall serve as the official means of communication among Maricopa Audubon Society members. These publications shall serve to educate and inform members and the public about the Society's values and goals, and shall provide a forum for the discussion of timely issues.

SECTION 3. Newsletter Editor: Editorial authority shall be delegated by the Board of Directors to its appointed Editor, who is thereafter responsible to the Board or its appointed representatives. (See Article XI Section 5.)

It shall be the Editor's responsibility to judge the quality and suitability of all materials submitted for publication, being guided by the criteria set out in Article XI Section 1 and 2 above. The Editor shall be particularly concerned about factual accuracy, thoroughness of research, the clear separation of fact from opinion, and the use of misleading language.

The Editor may reject materials which fail to meet Maricopa Audubon Society publishing standards or, where appropriate, may instruct or aid the contributor in bringing about the necessary improvements.

The Editor shall establish guidelines for the submission of copy, set deadlines, and otherwise be responsible for coordinating mechanical and technical aspects of publication as directed by the Board of Directors.

The Editor shall be appointed by the board of Directors and have full voting privileges as a member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Contributors: Contributors to Maricopa Audubon Society publication shall respect all editorial guidelines for preparation and submission of material for publication (copy formats, deadlines, etc.).

All contributors to Maricopa Audubon Society publications shall be extended the following professional courtesies:

Prior consultation with the Editor on all changes of substance, language, and tone.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition to the foregoing officers, the members shall elect six (6) Directors, to include Membership Chair, Program Chair, Field Trip Chair, Education Chair, Conservation Chair and Public Relations Chair. Each Chair shall select the members of his/her committee. In case of a vacancy occurring among the officers or on the Board of Directors before the end of the elected term, such vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the term by the Board of Directors. In case a member of the Board of Directors does not fulfill the duties of his/her office, that Director may be asked to resign by majority vote of the Board. The Officers and Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of one year.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers and directors as provided in Article III Section 1. The control of property and conduct of business of the Society shall be vested in the Board of Directors. They shall meet monthly, or in no event less than bi-monthly.

SECTION 3. The President shall preside at all Board of Directors meetings, all regular and special meetings of the Society, and shall direct and administer the affairs of the Society as its executive head, and shall supervise all phases of its work. The President shall be member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating and Auditing Committees.

SECTION 4. The Vice-president shall assist the President in the carrying out of the latter's duties.

SECTION 5. The Secretary shall keep a record of all the proceedings of the Society and of all Board of Directors meetings. The Secretary shall send notices of all meetings, conduct and preserve all correspondence relating to the Society, and perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may direct. The Secretary shall affix the seal of the Society, if any, to all contracts and agreements requiring the seal of the Society and shall attest to same.

SECTION 6. The Treasurer shall have custody of the Society's funds and securities; shall see to the deposit of all monies and securities in the name of and to the credit of the Society in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Society as may be ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers therefore, and shall render to the Board of Directors at the regular meeting of the Board or whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and an account of the financial condition of the Society. The Treasurer shall keep a register of the members of the Society, and shall submit a report of the financial condition at the Annual Meeting of members, and said report shall be published annually in the Society newsletter.

Subsection A. All drafts and checks of the Society shall be signed by the Treasurer. In case the Treasurer shall be, for any reason, unable to sign checks or drafts for the Society, any two of the following shall sign checks or drafts: President, Vice-president, and Secretary.

Subsection B. AUDITING. At the completion of the year the Treasurer shall balance the accounts, prepare or have prepared requisite tax and financial reports. The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may direct that an audit be performed and select either an audit committee or independent accounting firm.

ARTICLE IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall select a Nominating Committee to consist of at least three participating members of the Society who are not Officers or Directors of the Society. The names of the members of such Nominating Committee shall be made known to the members of the Society in the issue of the Society's newsletter preceding the Annual Meeting by at least 45 days, and suggestions for nominations of officers and directors may be submitted to this committee by any members of the Society. In case any member of the Nominating Committee shall be unable to serve, then such committee itself shall fill the vacancy.

SECTION 2. The Committee shall nominate candidates for officers and directors of the Society for the ensuing year. Its report will be presented at the annual members' meeting.

SECTION 3. Nothing herein contained shall prevent nomination of members from the floor at the time of the meeting at which elections are to be held.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this Committee to maintain a current listing of "Friends." The Committee shall also send to The National Audubon Society membership applications of persons desiring to join and maintain a list of National Audubon members assigned to the Chapter. It shall be the duty of this Committee to inform potential "Friends" about requirements for membership, to actively recruit new "Friends", and to attempt to obtain the continuing membership of "Friends" whose memberships are about to lapse or have already lapsed.

Prior consultation and cooperation (within reason) on any graphics or illustrations which may accompany the submitted materials.

Source of credit.

SECTION 5. Editorial Review Board: An Editorial Review Board may be selected by the Board of Directors to serve as its agent on matters of editorial policy and substance. The Editorial Review Board shall:

Advise the Board of Directors on matters of editorial policy.

Be available to the Editor to assist in making difficult judgments on matters of controversy.

Serve as a board of appeals when differences in judgment arise between the Editor and potential contributors.

Be responsible for upholding the Society's publication standards and stated policies.

The Editorial Review Board shall consist of a Chairman and two members appointed by the Board of Directors from among its own membership or from the Society at large. Members of the Editorial Board should be chosen on the basis of their ability to render fair and impartial judgment, their knowledge of national and local conservation issues and policies, and their familiarity with the subject of public relations and publishing protocol.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITMENTS

The Board of Directors of the Society shall not enter into any commitments binding on the National Audubon Society without authorization from the latter; in like manner, the National Audubon Society shall make no commitments on this Society without its consent.

ARTICLE XIII. DISCONTINUANCE

The Society reserves the right to terminate its Chapter status on six month's notice given in writing to the National Audubon Society. The Society recognizes the right of the National Society to terminate the Chapter relationship on six months notice given by it to this Society.

ARTICLE XIV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

In matters not covered by these By-laws, Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of those members of the Society present at any regular meeting or at any special meeting thereof, regularly called, provided, however, that notice of such amendments be mailed to each member at his last known address at least fifteen days before said meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2004

By Herb Fibel, Treasurer

Dues share from NAS	\$6,488	Wren-dition	\$7,606
Friends contributions	9,313	Beginners Bird Guide	3,700
Books & t-shirt sales	3,874	Conservation	1,746
Fundraising revenue	2,894	Donations	1,200
General donations	779	Officer & committee exp.	978

ARTICLE VI. PROGRAM COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to make all plans and arrangements for programs to be heard at the regular meetings of the Society. Program schedules shall be made available on the web site and in the summer newsletter for as much of the ensuing year as possible. This committee shall also be responsible for scheduling pre-meeting dinners (including payment for guest dinners), scheduling the Annual Banquet and meeting, assisting out-of-town speakers with transportation and lodging as necessary, and shall make arrangements for stipend payments for out-of-town speakers. The Program Committee shall coordinate the regular monthly meeting schedules and necessary audio-visual equipment for speakers.

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Investment appreciation	735	Books & t-shirt exp.	834
Interest earned	287	Display tent & banners	795
Miscellaneous	90	Audubon phone	716
Total Income	24,460	Friends expenses	166
		AAC meeting expense	110
		Ballot prop. argument	100
		Banquet	79
		Miscellaneous	360
		Total expenditures	18,380

As you can see, income exceeded revenue for the fiscal year by \$6,080.

This was the result of a totally unanticipated anonymous Friends donation of \$5,000.

Also, at the beginning of the last fiscal year it was expected that we were only going to receive a from National Audubon a "safety net" dues share of 25% of our base dues share, and, instead, we received 50%. These unexpected revenues enabled us to buy a display tent and banner-type signs for it, and to pay \$3,700 for the publication cost of Mike Rupp's and Jim Burn's "Beginner's Bird Guide" aimed at introducing young people to the marvelous diversity of the Valley's birdlife without having to dip into our reserves. This marvelous booklet has photos of over 50 bird species with descriptions in both English and Spanish.

If you have any questions about Maricopa Audubon's income, expenditures, or financial condition, please feel free to give me a call at (480) 966-5246. I'm sorry, but I do not have access to my e-mail at the present time, and I don't know when I'll be able to rectify this problem.

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