



# The Cactus Wren-Dition

Summer 2004 • Volume LXX, No. 2

## CONTENTS:

[Events & Programs](#) • [From the Editor](#) • [Notes & Announcements](#) • [Photo Quiz](#) • [Conservation - Arizona's State School Trust Lands at the Crossroads](#) • [AZ Special Species - Red-Faced Warbler](#) • [Field Trips](#) • [Photo Quiz Answers](#) • [Boreal Forest Conservation](#) • [Carefree Christmas Bird Count Summary](#) • [Chapters, State Offices and Friends](#) • [Field Observations](#) •



**Black-necked Stilts** - Dirty Dancing, Gilbert sunrise, photographed by **Jim Burns** at Gilbert Riparian Area on April 1, 2004, with Canon EOS 1V body, Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens, and 2x teleconverter.

## PROGRAMS

### September 2003 through May 2004

**M**eetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, September-April, at the Phoenix Zoo Auditorium. Meetings start at 7:30, and feature a speaker, book sales, refreshments, and a chance to socialize with fellow MAS members. Visitors welcome!

Join us for a pre-meeting dinner at Pete's 19<sup>th</sup> Tee, 1405 N Mill Avenue, Tempe (at the Rolling Hills Golf Course) starting at 6:00 p.m. Meals average about \$5.00 with a variety of choices on the menu. Join us! Except at the September meeting we will have our annual potluck starting at 6:30. Each attendee is invited to bring a platter of his or her favorite h'ors d'oeuvres, sufficiently large enough to serve at least six people. We will provide the eating utensils, the plates, and the drinks. The regular meeting will begin at 7:30.

Join us for a season of dynamic speakers and captivating topics! Visit Iceland, Alaska, Peru, Mexico and Arizona to see our favorite creatures and their associated environments. Learn to identify birds in the field by their sounds, get close-up and personal with digital photography, view habitat restoration along the Santa Cruz River, experience Arizona's sky island ecosystems and discover major conservation efforts throughout the state. Wow! And if that isn't enough to whet your interest, our banquet speaker for May 2004 is Kenn Kaufman!

To conserve space, only a short list of our speakers and topics is included in this edition of the newsletter. A summary of each speaker's topic will be available on our web site ([www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)).

## PROGRAM TOPICS

### September 2, 2003

David Reesor  
"Birds of Iceland"

### October 7, 2003

David and Jen MacKay  
"Birds and Natural History of Northwestern Mexico"

### November 4, 2003

Kathy Groschupf  
"Identifying Bird Sounds in the Field"

### December 2, 2003

Gary Rosenberg  
"Digital Photography Through a Telescope: A Tour Leader's Travels from Alaska to Peru"

### January 6, 2004

Ann Phillips and Kendall Kroesen  
Along the Santa Cruz River: Its Birds and Reconstruction Efforts"

### February 3, 2004

Peter Friederici  
"Those Exotic, Thick-billed Parrots of the Sierra Madre"

### March 2, 2004

Bob Witzeman  
"Sky Islands of Arizona: Their Life Zones and Birds"

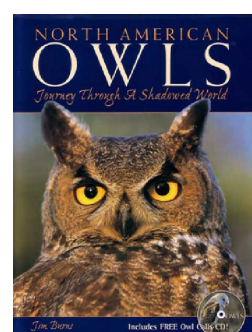
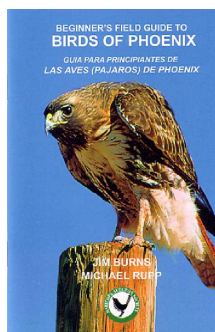
### April 6, 2004

Pat Graham  
"The Nature Conservancy in Arizona: Past Present and Future"

### May 4, 2004

Kenn Kaufman  
??????? (stay tuned!)

## NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Open position on Board — Education Chair** — If interested, contact a Board Member.

**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 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 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**

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](http://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](http://www.ruppaerialphoto.com).

**The Dove-tail Directory** ([www.dovetailbirding.com](http://www.dovetailbirding.com)): The Directory is an online catalogue of world birding tours, and our goal is to help birders locate that special birding tour, to any of 85 countries around the world. This is a free service. There are no hidden costs or surcharges. Tours are offered at the operators price. In addition to tours, the Directory also carries a comprehensive inventory of birding-related books. For your further convenience we maintain a North American, toll-free number (877) 881-1145, and someone will always happy to take your call.

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

By Deva Burns

## COMMITTEES/SUPPORT

### Activist Alert:

Shawn Bauer  
602-828-3607  
[shawnbauer@hotmail.com](mailto:shawnbauer@hotmail.com)

### Arizona Audubon Council Rep:

Herb Fibel  
408-966-5246  
[herbertsfibel@aol.com](mailto:herbertsfibel@aol.com)

### Audubon Phone 408-829-8209

### Book Store

### Field Observations

Janet Witzeman  
602-840-6089  
[jlwitzeman@aol.com](mailto:jlwitzeman@aol.com)

### Hospitality

### Web Page

Michell Fulton  
480-968-5141  
[webmaster@maricopaaudubon.org](mailto:webmaster@maricopaaudubon.org)

Maricopa Audubon Web Site  
[www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)

## 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.

Cities and towns across the United States have found that birding festivals bring dollars to their coffers and provide education to both locals and visitors. Phoenix recently joined this community of festivals with the Tres Rios Birding Festival. MAS was one of several sponsors of this two day event. Several MAS members volunteered this year but a special thanks goes to Mike Rupp and Cynthia Donald for also being on the Tres Rios Committee. If you didn't attend this year please try to do so in year.

Although this is called the Summer issue, spring is in the air as the Wrendition is being prepared for publication. The touching display of a pair of Black-necked Stilts reminds us that every Spring brings a renewal.

In our two conservation articles we are reminded in order for this renewal to continue for future generations, we must be forever vigilant. I want Janet's column to continue to be an extensive list of sightings well into the next century. Finally, Jim's Special Species article and his Photo Quiz continue to delight and stump.

Be sure to check out our website at [www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.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.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org) or contact an MAS board member.

## 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

## More birding and nature festivals.

[www.americanbirding.org](http://www.americanbirding.org) . and [www.birdinghotspot.com](http://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](mailto: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.

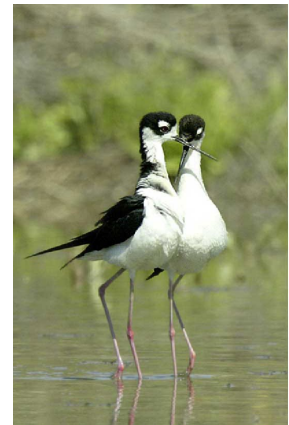
Last updated: June 28, 2004



# The Cactus Wren-Dition

Summer 2004 • Volume LXX, No. 2

**CONTENTS:** [Events & Programs](#) • [From the Editor](#) • [Notes & Announcements](#) • [Photo Quiz](#) • [Conservation - Arizona's State School Trust Lands at the Crossroads](#) • [AZ Special Species - Red-Faced Warbler](#) • [Field Trips](#) • [Photo Quiz Answers](#) • [Boreal Forest Conservation](#) • [Carefree Christmas Bird Count Summary](#) • [Chapters, State Offices and Friends](#) • [Field Observations](#) •



**Black-necked Stilts** - Dirty Dancing, Gilbert sunrise, photographed by **Jim Burns** at Gilbert Riparian Area on April 1, 2004, with Canon EOS 1V body, Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens, and 2x teleconverter.

## SUMMER 2004 - PHOTO QUIZ

By Jim Burns

**THIS ISSUE'S CLUE**— Even if we could print the color slides, there wouldn't be much color in this photo quiz. Just nice close looks at three LGJs taken in the Herb Garden at Boyce-Thompson Arboretum State Park last winter



**A) Good Photo, Easy Bird**



**B) Good Photo, Difficult Bird**



**C) Bad Photo, Easy Bird**

## Arizona's State School Trust Lands at the Crossroads

By Bob Witzeman



Audubon visitors had no trouble finding **Prairie Horned Larks** on overgrazed State Trust lands near Elgin, Arizona. This bird is an indicator species of overgrazing. Forest Guardian recently won the right to lease this land and restore it by excluding livestock grazing  
Photo credits: Jim Burns

*"The love of Nature is the only love that does not deceive human hopes"*  
Balzac (1799-1850)

An Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arizona has been presented to Governor Napolitano. It asks her to request the Arizona State Legislature to meet in a special session to approve a Referendum for Arizona's voters to approve this fall. This proposed Amendment was the product of insider deal-making between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and land trusts like the Sonoran Institute (SI), and Arizona's livestock industry. The Referendum proposes to: (1) give away 287,000 acres of the 9.2 million acres of Arizona State School Trust Lands for conservation, and (2) open for sale another 400,000 acres if and when money is available, by legalizing public/private land swaps.

Arizona voters have already rejected land swaps five times. GAO auditors in June 2000 reported that of 51 land exchanges evaluated, they found that public lands were often undervalued, while private lands were overvalued, resulting in significant losses to taxpayers. They found many land swaps had questionable public benefit.

The TNC/SI proposal has been opposed by many conservation organizations including, thus far, seven of Arizona's eight Audubon chapters. Why? Because it locks in place grazing abuses on 8.4 million acres of Arizona's

State Trust lands. Even worse, it deliberately overturns and makes null and void the recent landmark Arizona Supreme Court decision allowing environmental organizations (Forest Guardians) to competitively bid to rehabilitate State Trust Lands by various means including cattle exclusion.

Since cattle devour cottonwood and willow seedlings and saplings as if they were ice cream, livestock over the past century have eliminated most of the Southwest's riparian habitats. Add to this, (1) massive hillside erosion and topsoil losses, (2) the introduction of harmful exotic grasses including hot-burning, saguaro-killing species, and (3) cattle-caused dog-hair ponderosa thickets creating ladder fuels every bit as destructive to our forests as Smokey's fire suppression.

[\(continued on page 5\)](#)





# The Cactus Wren-Dition

Summer 2004 • Volume LXX, No. 2

## CONTENTS:

[Events & Programs](#) • [From the Editor](#) • [Notes & Announcements](#) • [Photo Quiz](#) • [Conservation - Arizona's State School Trust Lands at the Crossroads](#) • [AZ Special Species - Red-Faced Warbler](#) • [Field Trips](#) • [Photo Quiz Answers](#) • [Boreal Forest Conservation](#) • [Carefree Christmas Bird Count Summary](#) • [Chapters, State Offices and Friends](#) • [Field Observations](#) •



**Black-necked Stilts** - Dirty Dancing, Gilbert sunrise, photographed by **Jim Burns** at Gilbert Riparian Area on April 1, 2004, with Canon EOS 1V body, Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens, and 2x teleconverter.

## ARIZONA'S STATE SCHOOL TRUST LANDS AT THE CROSSROADS

### CONTINUED

Arizona's School Trust Lands make up 13% of Arizona and 90% of them are grazed. Their grazing revenues return only \$2 million annually, a tiny fraction of the \$100 million annual State Lands School Trust revenues -- primarily from state land sales.

A century of overgrazing has severely impacted a great many of Arizona's birds, as well as bighorn sheep, antelope, elk, gamebirds, fish and waterfowl. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) lists grazing as a factor in the imperilment of 23 of Arizona's 29 threatened birds, most of Arizona's 25 native fish, 14 of Arizona's 21 threatened mammals and 9 of Arizona's 20 threatened herps. Animals extirpated from Arizona by the livestock industry include: masked bobwhite, aplomado falcon, Yaqui catfish, black-tailed prairie dog, Mexican gray wolf, and grizzly bear.

For the AGFD lists of cattle-impacted species see:  
<http://rangenet.org/directory/witzemanr/>

After a recent Audubon meeting in Elgin, Arizona, some attendees visited the about-to-be acquired Forest Guardians'162-acre State Land lease. They witnessed a moonscape of overgrazed grassland and a cattle-trashed riparian habitat. A few cottonwoods and willows struggled to survive along the Babocomari River which runs through the property. Fence line photos show the ghastly grazing stewardship of Arizona's State Lands. Audubon visitors had numerous sightings of Prairie Horned Larks, an indicator species of rangeland abuse



Note this deplorable Arizona State Trust lands grazing stewardship on the Forest Guardians lease site near Elgin, AZ. The side of the barbwire fence with grass is on private (responsibly grazed!) land.

## ARIZONA'S SPECIAL SPECIES, RED-FACED WARBLER

By Jim Burns



Photo by Jim Burns

Even in bird-blessed Arizona, with its plethora of colorful and unique species in diverse and widely dispersed families, the wood warblers define summer birding just as they do in the rest of the country. Small and elusive, yet bright and vocal, six of these "butterflies of the bird world" appear here in the spring, disappear in the fall, and qualify as Arizona special species, species found only here or more easily here than in any other state.

Red-faced Warbler, *Cardellina rubrifrons*, is the only one of our special wood warblers in a genus by itself. (Olive Warbler, featured in our summer, 2000 issue, has recently been split from the wood warblers and placed in its own family.) In body shape and feeding habits, Warbler aficionados may find Red-faced highly reminiscent of Wilson's and Canada—long tails, long rectal bristles, and flycatcher-like ability to pluck insects from foliage or snatch them in flight. Taxonomists agree that *Cardellina* and *Wilsonia* are closely related.

Red-faceds breed across the central mountains of our state and throughout the southern Sky Islands from 6000 to 9000 feet. They are

Perhaps because of this, Red-faced Warblers, though not uncommon, can be maddeningly hard to find. It is extremely helpful to learn their "sweet" song which is very similar to that of the Yellow Warbler which does not occur in Red-faced's mountainside haunts. Though they are active and acrobatic feeders frequently making conspicuous forays from high in the pines to low bushes and often hanging chickadee fashion from the ends of branches, they are quite inconspicuous and secretive in and around the nest.

Nests are depressions on the forest floor beside a rock or underneath a root, often under overhanging leaf litter, always in deep shadow. **It is usually impossible to discern the nest's exact location even after carefully pinpointing where a mated pair is going to ground with food in its bills.** The accompanying photograph of a parent (Red-faced sexes are similar, though the males' red face is typically brighter) conveying food to its young was taken in June, 2000, at the second stream crossing above Beatty's orchard in Miller Canyon in the Huachuclas.

Red-faced Warblers can be found



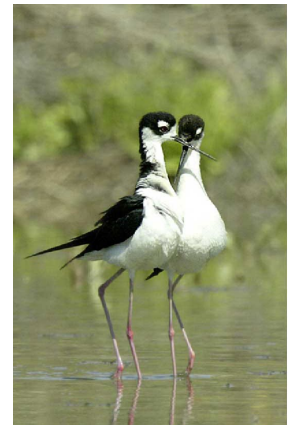


# The Cactus Wren-Dition

Summer 2004 • Volume LXX, No. 2

## CONTENTS:

[Events & Programs](#) • [From the Editor](#) • [Notes & Announcements](#) • [Photo Quiz](#) • [Conservation - Arizona's State School Trust Lands at the Crossroads](#) • [AZ Special Species - Red-Faced Warbler](#) • [Field Trips](#) • [Photo Quiz Answers](#) • [Boreal Forest Conservation](#) • [Carefree Christmas Bird Count Summary](#) • [Chapters, State Offices and Friends](#) • [Field Observations](#) •



**Black-necked Stilts** - Dirty Dancing, Gilbert sunrise, photographed by **Jim Burns** at Gilbert Riparian Area on April 1, 2004, with Canon EOS 1V body, Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens, and 2x teleconverter.

## Field Trips

By Mark Horlings

### 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, May 1

#### Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

Join Herb Fibel's Basic Birding Class for their final field trip. We will assemble in the valley and carpool 60 miles to the Arboretum. A \$7 donation will be requested. The Arboretum always produces a good variety of species. We hope for a day list of about 60. An excellent opportunity to meet beginning birders and correct any misinformation Herb has dispensed to the young and impressionable. Bring lunch. Call leader for reservations and information.

Limit: 10  
Difficulty: 1

are more stable than canoes, but be prepared to get wet feet entering and exiting the river. Please dress in dark clothes. Meet at 5:30 AM for car-pooling in parking lot at 740 E. Highland. Return early afternoon.

Limit: 10

Leaders: Tom Hildebrandt, Wildlife Program Manager at Az. Game & Fish and

Contact: Mike Rupp  
602-277-0439.

### Saturday, June 19

#### Seven Springs & Camp Creek.

## Field Trips

(continued from page 7)

### Saturday, July 17 & Sunday, July 18

#### Sierra Vista Canyons & Gray Hawk Ranch.

Two terrific sites near Sierra Vista, each trip led by Sandy Anderson. Sandy has an exquisite ear, and birders working on identification through calls and song can learn a lot. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday and bird the canyons, with short hikes into the higher regions if rare visitors are reported. Expect some time in Garden and Miller canyons, and some in the grasslands. Sandy's ear. Temperatures in the high 80's. Bring a lunch, water, and a poncho or raincoat.

On Sunday, we will meet at 6:30 at the Gray Hawk Ranch, on the banks of the San Pedro. A summer trip in 2002 saw four species of bunting with Sandy. We will break up in the early afternoon for return to Phoenix. Call Mark Horlings for reservations and information.

Difficulty: 3  
Limit: 15

Leader: Sandy Anderson  
[sandy@grayhawknaturecenter.org](mailto:sandy@grayhawknaturecenter.org)

Phoenix Contact: Mark Horlings  
(602 279-2238)  
[Mhorlings@cox.net](mailto:Mhorlings@cox.net)

### July 24, 31 or August 7, 14, 21 or 28

**Monsoon Herp Walk** at Spur Cross Monsoon evenings under cloud cover are the best time to find snakes, lizards and other herps. We are delaying setting an exact date for this field trip until the monsoon has begun and conditions are right. Our leaders will build a list of e-mail addresses and phone numbers and contact you, probably in the morning of the day of the walk.

### 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. Car-pooling 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](mailto:diana.stuart@asu.edu) or 480-491-1323 and leave message.

### Saturday, August 14

**Page Springs.** We will visit the Page Springs 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 at 8:00 a.m. and break up in the early afternoon. Call leader for information and reservations.

Limit: 15  
Difficulty: 2

Leader: Herb Fibel  
(480) 966-5246

### Gilbert Water Ranch Walks

The Gilbert Water Ranch, on the SE corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Rds, in Gilbert, next to the Regional Library is sponsoring bird walks. It's about 1 1/2 m south of Route 60. Meet at the Entrance Plaza, at the west end of the parking lot. We'll walk for not more than 2 hours. The



Leader: Herb Fibel  
(480) 966-5246

**Saturday, May 29 & May 30**

**Weekend in Flagstaff.** May 29 -- Lakes Marshall, Upper & Lower Mary, Mormon, Ashurst and immediate surroundings of these lakes. Meet at 6:00 AM for car-pooling at the Sizzler Restaurant parking lot at the south end of Milton Rd where I-17 begins. Bring water, snacks, lunch, sweater/jacket, hat, binocs. A scope if you have one. Not a lot of walking. Return to Flagstaff about 3:00-4:00 PM. May 30 -- South Kaibab Lakes in the Williams area. Meet as above. Call Contact for information and reservations.

No Limit

Leader: Elaine Morrall,  
member NAAS in Flagstaff

Contact: Marjorie Eckman  
480-368-1901

**Saturday, June 5**

**Gila River Float Trip.** Come explore a two-mile "hidden" stretch of the Gila River on inflatable "dinghies" with target birds being Rails and Bitterns, along with all the other common riparian birds. We will be off the river before the heat is excessive, bring sunscreen, water, and a hat. The dinghies

Northeast of Carefree, in the Tonto National Forest. Sycamore/Willow riparian areas attract Zone-tailed and Common Black Hawk, Summer Tanager, Hooded Oriole. Hardy souls will tackle Mt. Humboldt in the afternoon for Scotts Oriole, Gray Vireo, Juniper Titmouse and Black Chinned Sparrow. Early start. Bring lunch. Contact leader for information and reservations.

Limit: 15  
Difficulty: 2

Leader: Laurie Nessel  
(480) 968-5614

**Saturday, July 10**

**Lake Pleasant Birding/ Sailing.**

This trip will be a combination of birding the area south of the dam plus another area on the north side of the lake, and then a sailing trip around the lake on a 27ft sailboat, looking for open water birds, and enjoying the late afternoon. Bring lunch, snacks, and drinks, dress for sun exposure, and have tennis shoes available for the boat. Boat has an enclosed head and galley with fridge. Meet at 5:30 AM for car-pooling in parking lot at 740 E. Highland. All day.

Limit: 8

Leader: Mike Rupp 602-277-0439

(Continued on Page 8)

We will meet at Spur Cross at 6 p.m. for a couple hours of twilight birding, followed by the herp search. Bring flashlights. Bring a fee of \$3 for the park. Call leader for information and reservations.

Limit: 20  
Difficulty: 3

Co-Leaders: Laurie Nessel and John Gunn, wildlife biologist and park ranger

(480) 968-5614;  
[laurienessel@hotmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@hotmail.com)

walk is sponsored by the Riparian Institute and costs \$3 per participant (to help our Education Building Fund). Please sign up with me, at [Kathe.coot@cox.net](mailto:Kathe.coot@cox.net), so that I can let participants know if there are any last minute changes.

**May 22, 6AM**

**June 12, 6AM**

8

7



# The Cactus Wren-Dition

Summer 2004 • Volume 29, No. 2

## CONTENTS:

[Events & Programs](#) • [From the Editor](#) • [Notes & Announcements](#) • [Photo Quiz](#) • [Conservation - Arizona's State School Trust Lands at the Crossroads](#) • [AZ Special Species - Red-Faced Warbler](#) • [Field Trips](#) • [Photo Quiz Answers](#) • [Boreal Forest Conservation](#) • [Carefree Christmas Bird Count Summary](#) • [Chapters, State Offices and Friends](#) • [Field Observations](#)



**Black-necked Stilts** - Dirty Dancing, Gilbert sunrise, photographed by **Jim Burns** at Gilbert Riparian Area on April 1, 2004, with Canon EOS 1V body, Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens, and 2x teleconverter.

## Photo Quiz Answers

By Jim Burns

One of the axioms of field birding is that smaller birds tend to feed more actively and move more frequently and unpredictably than larger birds. How does one separate three Little Gray Jobs of similar size and structure as they flip frenetically and silently together through the same habitat? Here are three requirements:

Patience. Sooner or later even Little Gray Jobs will pause to rest, preen, or eyeball around for the next morsel. That's how sharp images of smaller birds are ultimately captured.

Experience. Last fall, in the low desert of Papago Park, one of our quiz birds was reported to me as an Olive Warbler. Beginning birders just growing into an awareness of habitat and probability need to realize once-in-a-lifetime sightings rarely occur at the beginning of that lifetime.

Concentration. I know very well a lifelong birder who writes photo quizzes who, on his slides, mislabeled one of our quiz birds for another, an egregious error pointed out to him by his friend Troy Corman.

### A)—Good photo, easy bird

If you've heeded the well-worn message about the importance of structural differences over plumage considerations but all you're seeing is three plump little birds with the same body shape, then you've forgotten that bill shape is part of a bird's structure and bill shape is always a good place to begin separating look alike species.

A close, careful look at these three photos reveals three very different bill profiles. Our first image shows a bill that is quite thick compared with the other two. That stout bill, if not the plump body, eliminates warblers from our consideration and is the

second bird has a uniformly plain face without any discernable difference in the color of the loreal area. It also has a flatter, less rounded crown. This is not a Hutton's Vireo, but the differences are subtle.

So subtle, in fact, that many field guides show this species alongside Hutton's on the vireo color plate to note how careful observers should be in separating it from Hutton's. So subtle, in fact, that this species' name is easily and often applied to a Hutton's passing by in a hurry or to a Hutton's image if a photographer is in a hurry to label his slides. The converse, however, seems not to be true. We rarely apply Hutton's name to this bird because Hutton's is not nearly as common, as commonly seen, or as well known and recognized as this bird. This second quiz bird seems always to be our "default" LGJ.

If we slow down and look carefully at those "same" wingbars we realize they are not really the same. In our Hutton's photo, the bright lower wingbar, which is really the tips of the greater secondary coverts, reaches all the way to the base of the bird's secondaries. In this photo we see a very distinct black bar across the base of the secondaries, not at all in the same place as, or to be confused with, the greater coverts of the Hutton's which appear darker than its secondaries in our first photo. This black bar across the base of the secondaries is the surest way to distinguish Ruby-crowned Kinglet from Hutton's Vireo.

### C)—Bad photo, easy pair

This grayscale image, with only two slightest hints of color, is exactly what you would see observing the female of this species--no face pattern, no obvious wingbars, nothing but shades of gray. A tough

## BOREAL FOREST CONSERVATION

By Jim Burns

### Boreal Conservation Framework Lays Out Vision for Protecting Vital Breeding Grounds for Billions of North American Birds

Stretching from Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean, Canada's boreal forest is one of the world's largest forests. It accounts for 25 percent of the earth's remaining intact forests, covers 1.3 billion acres, and is larger than the Brazilian Amazon. With more fresh water than any place on earth, Canada's boreal forest supports some of the largest populations of wildlife such as grizzly bears and wolves, and provides vital breeding grounds for up to a third of North America's land birds and 40 percent of its waterfowl.

In December 2003, the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI) announced a landmark vision to protect this global treasure. The Boreal Conservation Framework proposes a new approach to balancing conservation and economic development: the establishment of a network of large interconnected protected areas covering about half of Canada's boreal region, and the use of cutting-edge sustainable development practices in remaining areas. The Framework reflects an extraordinary alliance of conservation organizations, First Nations, and timber and oil companies who have signed on to the Framework. (Information about the Framework can be found at CBI's web-site: [www.borealcanada.ca](http://www.borealcanada.ca))

While vast tracks of the boreal region remain unspoiled at this point, the release of the Framework comes at a time when development is rapidly escalating and land use decisions in every Canadian province and territory will determine the fate of much of the boreal region within the next three to five years. With over 90% of the boreal under public ownership, a critical next step will be to persuade Canadian

Much of the resource development in the boreal is being driven by U.S. consumption. The U.S. is the leading importer of Canadian forest products and oil and gas. Eighty-one percent of Canada's forest products go to the United States, and most of the wood cut in Canada's boreal is used to make paper, including catalogs, junk mail, magazines, and newspapers. And the U.S. buys more of its oil and gas from Canada - ~ 60% of which is produced from the boreal -- than any other single source.

Of the 298 bird species that have some of their breeding grounds in the boreal forest, at least 40 species of land birds and several species of ducks are already experiencing population declines in part due to habitat loss from logging and oil and gas development.

While American consumption is largely responsible, it also means that American citizens and companies can influence the fate of this global treasure. The boreal is perhaps the greatest forest conservation opportunity left on earth.

An international campaign focused in the U.S. is emerging. The Boreal Songbird Network is a new network of conservation groups that include: the Boreal Songbird Initiative, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the American Bird Conservancy. These groups are working to build a broad base of international support for boreal conservation and the adoption of the Boreal Framework.

For more information on how you can help protect the boreal forest, please go to the Boreal Songbird Initiative website at [www.borealbirds.org](http://www.borealbirds.org).

primary characteristic of that mostly drab family of LGJs, the vireos.

Even in a family as nondescript as the vireos, our quiz bird scores "very plain." Five of our vireos sport "racing stripe" eyebrow lines, but here we see only an eyering broken at the top by a dark spot. Seven of our vireos sport eyerings and matching lores so bright we call them "spectacles," but here we see pale lores not quite bright enough to connect into the eyering. That leaves us to choose from Hutton's, Gray, or Bell's, and it would be very unusual to find either of the latter two in central Arizona in the winter.

The only other plumage feature in the photo, the obvious set of bright wingbars, should wrap up our identification of this bird as a Hutton's. Gray Vireo wingbars are so indistinct that many guide books do not even depict them or show only the lower one. Wingbars on the Arizona version of Bell's Vireo are equally obscure, though the lower bar on a bright eastern Bell's might be this bright. Neither Gray nor Bell's vague eyering is broken on the top like this Hutton's

#### B)--Good photo, difficult pair

Our second bird, at first glance, could pass for a Hutton's Vireo mightn't it? Same plump nondescript little body, same eyering broken at the top, same wingbars. But that bill is different. It is thinner, flatter, and possibly even smaller relative to this bird's head, though we can't say for sure because our Hutton's view isn't a completely side profile. And, except for the pale eyering, our

call perhaps, especially if other LGJs were about. But there is that unique bill--tiny, thick at the base, yet sharply pointed. It is not a warbler bill, and if this bird were reported from Papago Park as an Olive Warbler, you should know immediately that a novice birder had seen the male of this species.

Actually the bird in this photograph is a male. The dark lores are discernable here, but the touch of darker tone at the shoulder might be your imagination without the color slide to show you the rusty epaulet--which is often not visible in the field anyway. Which may account for mistaking this male Verdin for a male Olive Warbler in the low deserts around Phoenix.

The female Verdin, lacking the male's dark lores, may well be our plainest bird, without any apparent field marks, but remember that behavior can be a key diagnostic feature. Verdins' feeding mannerisms are similar to those of kinglets, exploring nervously along branches, hanging from the branch tip, then flipping off to the next bush. I have seen both species hover pluck insects and I have seen both flick their wings repeatedly for no apparent reason. Hutton's, like all vireos, tends to feed more slowly and deliberately than Verdins or kinglets, gleaning, pausing, searching with the eyes rather than the body.

Here's an ultimate cautionary note for LGJ aficionados. A male Olive Warbler spent last winter in Boyce-Thompson Arboretum State Park! Be patient. Be careful. Learn from your mistakes.

governments to play a central role in making the Framework's vision a reality.

*The Boreal Songbird Initiative is a new project dedicated to educating bird conservationists and naturalists throughout the United States about the importance of North America's boreal forest to migratory birds.*



Field Observations Field Observations Field Observations Field Observations



committee's earliest recommendations, quickly adopted by the NAS board, was to phase out the practice of National Audubon sharing approximately \$5.50 of each person's NAS annual dues with the local chapter to which that person was assigned. Rather than cutting the tail off all at once, it was decided by NAS that the first year of this cutoff, chapters would receive 75% of their dues share, 50% the following year, and 25% the next, whereafter a new and much more conservative system, with greatly reduced divisions of dues with the local chapters, at times, potentially, as little as zero dollars to the chapters, would be put into place.

In the year that the dues share was scheduled to be 25%, McQuilkin's NAS Ad Hoc Chapters Committee had not yet come up with its final recommendations, and amidst an outcry from chapters, it was decided to hold the "safety net" dues share for another year at 50%. In January of this year the NAS board agreed to continue the "safety net" dues share at the 50% level for yet another year.

assigned to the chapter, and, thereafter, copies only to those who became "Friends of Maricopa Audubon". Since NAS has not cut off our dues share entirely as we had anticipated as yet, and because of an anonymous \$5,000 "Friends" donation, your chapter finds itself with a modest surplus of revenue this current fiscal year. I'm pleased to report that a significant portion of this additional income has been used to publish Mike Rupp's and Jim Bums' Beginner's Bird Guide for the Phoenix Area, with pictures of our 26 most common local bird species, and bird descriptions printed in both English and Spanish, which will be used as an important educational tool. We are also purchasing our own display tent for use at nature festivals that are put on annually throughout the area.

Your board sincerely hopes that we are meeting the expectations of our "Friends" with our high quality "Cactus Wren-dition" and with our efforts to conserve our environment and educate our community about birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

McCormick Ranch from Jan. 17 at least to Feb. 16 (JH,SG,WT *et al.*), one at Paradise Garden Cemetery Pond in Scottsdale Jan. 28 at least to Feb. 24 (LM,SG,RD,JA *et al.*), and one at a pond adjacent to the Neotropic Cormorant colony in Chandler Feb. 29 (TC). Blue-winged Teal are not usually reported before mid-February, so the ones observed Jan. 17 at the Neely Ranch Ponds (JM) and in the effluent channel at 91<sup>st</sup> Ave. Jan. 18 (TC) were early. A male Greater Scaup was found at the ASU Research Park Pond Jan. 11 at least to Feb. 16 (TC,JM) and three were reported in Bill Williams Delta Jan. 23 (DP). Two Surf Scoters and a White-winged Scoter were discovered below Parker Dam Dec. 6 (CB,SS); the White-winged Scoter remained at least until Feb. 7 (KR,BG,MS).

Two male Com. Goldeneyes were observed at 115<sup>th</sup> Ave. and the Gila River Dec. 6 (RJ,TC); six were counted on the Salt/Verde CBC Dec. 16 (*fide* KR), four females were reported at PaloVerde Jan. 8 (MM), and one was seen at Tres Rios Feb. 7 (ME). Between two and seven Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported below Parker Dam Dec. 6 – Jan. 24 (CB,SS,KR,BG,MS). Larger than usual numbers of Hooded Mergansers were found. In addition to the Hooded Mergansers reported in the fall, there were three on the Salt/Verde CBC Dec. 16 (*fide* KR), up to ten at the Scottsdale Pavilions Ponds Jan. 11 – 31 (TC *et al.*), between five and nine at Fountain Hills Lake Jan. 24 –25 (JA,L&KB), seven at the Tempe Marsh Feb. 1 (DStu), and one at the Zoo Ponds Feb. 8 (PM,CD). A male Red-breasted Merganser was found (with 240 Com. Mergansers) at McCormick Ranch Jan. 11 (TC) and five were observed at the Gilbert/Riggs Ponds Jan. 12 (CR).

Individual Bald Eagles were found in unusual areas: w. of Firebird Lake Jan. 24 (RD), at the Rousseau Sod Farm Feb. 18 (EA), and along 91<sup>st</sup> Ave. Feb. 26 (EA). An adult N. Goshawk, a rare winter visitor, was seen flying over Boyce Thompson Arboretum Dec. 14 (RD). The Red-shouldered Hawk continued to be seen at HRP during the period (m.ob.). An injured **Broadwinged Hawk** was picked up near McQueen and Pecos Roads in Chandler Jan. 26 (AP); there

(Continued on Page 13)



# The Cactus Wren-Dition

Summer 2004 • Volume LXX, No. 2

## CONTENTS:

[Events & Programs](#) • [From the Editor](#) • [Notes & Announcements](#) • [Photo Quiz](#) • [Conservation - Arizona's State School Trust Lands at the Crossroads](#) • [AZ Special Species - Red-Faced Warbler](#) • [Field Trips](#) • [Photo Quiz Answers](#) • [Boreal Forest Conservation](#) • [Carefree Christmas Bird Count Summary](#) • [Chapters, State Offices and Friends](#) • [Field Observations](#) •



**Black-necked Stilts** - Dirty Dancing, Gilbert sunrise, photographed by **Jim Burns** at Gilbert Riparian Area on April 1, 2004, with Canon EOS 1V body, Canon 400mm f/2.8 lens, and 2x teleconverter.

### Field Observations

#### DECEMBER, JANUARY, & FEBRUARY 2004

(Continued from Page 12)

have been only three previous county records, this was the first for January. A Zone-tailed Hawk, a rare winter visitor to the lowlands, was observed at the Gilbert Neely Ranch Feb. 21 (JM).

Six Sandhill Cranes were seen flying over downtown Phoenix Dec. 3 (TG) and a large group (160) were counted at Arlington Dec. 25 (TC). Thirty-five **Mountain Plovers** were discovered on the Paloma Ranch Dec. 21 and that number had increased to 60 by Feb. 7 (BG); more than 30 were counted in that area Feb. 17 (RD). Mountain Plovers were first found wintering in this area in 1967 and they continued to be found there through the 70s and 80s, but had not been seen there since the winter of '91-'92, after which they seemed to prefer fields south of Maricopa County. So it is nice to have them back in the county again.

A larger than usual group of 335 Black-necked Stilts were counted at El Mirage Pond Jan. 18 (TC). American Avocet is usually considered to be a rare winter visitor, so the 20 counted at the Gilbert Rd. south of Ocotillo Rd. Pond Jan. 12 (CR) was most unusual; four were also seen at the Cobble Ponds Dec. 13 (TC), one was seen at Gillespie Dam Feb. 17 (MK) and four were reported at the Gilbert Neely Ranch Pond Feb. 21 (JM). Wintering Long-billed Curlews were found at Palo Verde - 12 on Jan. 8 (MM), at Paloma Ranch - 80+ on Feb. 8 (JC), and s. of Maricopa - 13 on Feb. 22 (C&SW); more than 300 were counted in a field in the Yuma area Jan. 3 (HD).

Two first winter Herring Gulls were observed in Bill Williams Delta Dec. 6 (CB,SS) and an immature was seen on San Carlos Lake Feb. 5 (JE). The **Glaucous-winged Gull**, found n. of Palo Verde in November, remained at least until Jan. 2 (TC,BG). Eurasian Collared-Doves were found in several areas of the Tres Rios CBC Dec. 18 and a high number of 53 were recorded on the Gila River CBC Dec. 30 (TC). Individual White-winged Doves were found on the Tres Rios CBC Dec. 18 (TC), in Encanto Park in December (TG), and in Papago Park Feb. 15 (TG). A male Ruddy Ground-Dove was found n. of the Palo Verde Cemetery Jan. 24 and two were seen at the Cemetery Jan. 25 (PM). Burrowing Owls can still be seen near Painted Rock Dam; two were observed in that area along Sisson Rd. Feb. 17 (RD). A *Chaetura* sp. Swift was reported flying over downtown Phoenix Dec. 9 (TG); there were no previous December records for either Chimmney or Vaux's Swift.

A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen at the Gilbert Water Ranch on the early date of Feb. 16 (GR). A Rufous Hummingbird was found at BTA on the very late date of January 4 (SG). A Lewis's Woodpecker was observed at Whitlow Dam Dec. 7 (ME). Individual Acorn Woodpeckers were found at two lowland areas - one on the Tres Rios CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* TC) and one on the campus of ASU Jan. 1 at least to Jan. 18 (JB,JN). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported on the Salt/Verde CBC Dec. 16 (TC,KR) and two were found on the Yuma/Martinez Lake CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* HD). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was discovered at Oak Flat Campground near Superior Jan. 4 (SG) and remained at least until Feb. 11 (m.ob.). A male N. "Yellow-shafted" Flicker, a rare winter visitor, was found at the Cobble Ponds Dec. 17 (TC).

### Field Observations

#### DECEMBER, JANUARY, & FEBRUARY 2004

(Continued from Page 13)

A female Varied Thrush joined the male at BTA Dec. 7; the pair was seen at least through January and the male remained through February (m.ob.). A third Varied Thrush was recorded on the Superior CBC Jan. 4 (SG). The Brown Thrasher at BTA also remained at least through January (m.ob.).

An **Olive Warbler** was discovered along Camp Creek Jan. 1 & 2 (TC), representing the first record for the county away from the species' usual habitat in higher elevation pines. Surprisingly, a second **Olive Warbler** was found Jan. 4 in another lowland location at BTA (SG), where it remained through the period (m.ob.). A Nashville Warbler, only a casual winter visitor, was discovered on the Gila River CBC Dec. 30 (TC). A N. Parula, a casual winter visitor, was reported at Tres Rios Jan. 9 (MK). Individual Yellow Warblers were observed at Indian Bend Wash, Scottsdale Jan. 11 (TC) and at Scottsdale Pavilions Feb. 8 (PM,CD). The Yellow Warbler seen at the Cobble Ponds through the fall, remained at least to Mar. 1 (TH).

A **Scarlet Tanager**, discovered at the Parker Oasis on the Lower Colorado River Dec. 6 (CB,SS), provided only the third winter record for the state; there have been about two dozen state records overall. The late-staying male Summer Tanager, seen at McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale Nov. 29, remained until Dec. 14 (WT).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was discovered at the Rousseau Sod Farm Jan. 1 (RJ); there have been seven previous county records. A "Sooty" form of Fox Sparrow was found on the Carefree CBC Jan. 2 (*fide* WT) and a "Slate-colored" form of Fox Sparrow was observed at Oak Flat Campground Jan. 4 (PM). Five Swamp Sparrows were found at 115<sup>th</sup> Ave. and the Gila River Dec. 13 (TC) and these, plus a few more, were recorded on the Tres Rios CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* TC); one was found on the Salt/Verde CBC Dec. 16 (KR). The White-throated Sparrow that was reported at BTA in November remained there at least to Jan. 24 (m.ob.); one was observed along Camp Creek Jan. 1 & 2 (TC); and one was found at Watson Lake in Prescott Jan. 21 (BD,AV,RWd). A group of about a dozen Chestnut-collared Longspurs, seen and heard calling s. of Arlington Dec. 25 & 27 (TC), were the first to be recorded in s.w. Phoenix since 1988. A Pyrrhuloxia, found on the Carefree CBC Jan. 2, was the first for that Count (WT) and at a slightly higher elevation than usual. Another Pyrrhuloxia was observed near BTA Jan. 4 (KR).

A female Orchard Oriole was discovered along the Gila River, n.w. of Robbins Butte Dec. 29 (TC). A female Orchard Oriole returned to an Ahwatukee yard in December and remained for the fourth consecutive winter (SB). An injured female Hooded Oriole (a casual winter visitor) was picked up in a yard in w. Phoenix Jan. 23 (JK). A Bullock's Oriole (rare in winter) was observed at BTA Jan. 9 - 14 (MK,DStj,MS). The only Lawrence's Goldfinch reported during the winter was one found along Camp Creek Jan. 1 (TC).

A few highlights from s.e. Arizona during the winter: A female **Green Kingfisher** was found along the Santa Cruz River near Tubac (a new area for this species) Feb. 1 (DP) and remained at least until Feb. 12 (m.ob.). A male **Rose-throated Becard** was discovered along the Santa Cruz River

A N. Beardless Tyrannulet was an unusual find on the Superior CBC Jan. 4 (SG). A Hammond's Flycatcher, a rare winter visitor, was discovered on the Salt/Verde CBC Dec. 16 (KR). Individual "Western" type Flycatchers were reported on the Tres Rios CBC Dec. 18 and on the Gila River CBC Dec. 30 (TC). The **Tropical Kingbird**, at the Gilbert Water Ranch since early November, was heard vocalizing Dec. 2 (BI), ruling out Couch's Kingbird; it remained until Dec. 8 (SG,RJ,WR). The Thick-billed Kingbird returned for the second winter to Yuma where it was found Feb. 19 – Mar. 9 (JC,HD).

A Cassin's Vireo (an uncommon winter visitor) was observed at BTA Dec. 27 (PD) and a second one was seen there Jan. 9 – 17 (PD *et al.*); one was also found at HRP Jan. 14 (BD,AV,RWd). Larger than usual numbers of Steller's Jays were found wintering in the lowlands: one was recorded on the Gila River CBC Dec. 30 (TC), several seen along Camp Creek Jan. 1 (TC), were included in the 18 that were counted on the Carefree CBC the following day (*fide* WT), and a flock of more than a dozen were reported at HRP Jan. 4 at least to Feb. 7 (L&KB,EL). Many W. Scrub Jays were also recorded along Camp Creek, at BTA, and at HRP during January (TC,SG,L&KB); one was also reported at Morgan City Wash riparian area below Lake Pleasant Jan. 29 (HM).

One of the Mt. Chickadees at BTA remained there through the winter (m.ob.). A lowland Red-breasted Nuthatch was recorded on the Gila River CBC Dec. 30 (TC). A Winter Wren was found along Camp Creek Jan. 1 & 2 (TC). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed at Whitlow Dam Dec. 4 (JB), one was seen at Morgan City Wash Jan. 29 (HM), and one was found at BTA Feb. 8 – 22 (RD).

(Continued on Page 14)

near the Tumacacori Mission Jan. 27 (GB) and was still present there Feb. 27 (m.ob.); also a new area for this species and provided only the third winter record for the state. Pairs of Black-capped Gnatcatchers were found in three new areas: in Montosa Canyon in the Santa Ritas Jan. 24, at Rock Corral in the Tumacacori Mts. Feb. 1, and in Madera Canyon Feb. 18; the pair at Patagonia Lake continued to be seen through February (m.ob.). The Rufous-backed Robin at Patagonia Lake also continued to be seen through February (m.ob.).

**Abbreviations:** Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP), many observers (m.ob.).

**Observers:** Jerry Allen, Eldon Archer, Charles Babbitt, Sally Barnes, Jack Bartley, Gavin Bieber, Linda & Ken Bielek, Mary Burkley, Jeff Coker, Troy Corman, Bix Demaree, Henry Detwiler, Pierre Deviche, Rich Ditch, Cynthia Donald, Marjorie Eckman, Roger Edwards, Jeff Estis, Steve Ganley, Tom Gaskill, Bill Grossi, Jan Hanson, Tom Hildebrandt, Robert Hunt, Brian Ison, Roy Jones, Melody Kehl, Jody Kiernon, Eric Lattuner, James McKay, Laura Meller, Anthony Mendoza, Henry Messing, Michael Moore, Pete Moulton, Laurie Nessel, Jeannette Nickels, Dave Pearson, Anne Peyton, Kurt Radamaker, Gwen Robinson, Carlos Ross, Will Russell, Sig Stangeland, Dave Stejskal (DStj), Mark Stevenson, Edward Strong, Diane Stuart (DStu), Walter Thurber, Anita Van Auken, Russ Widner, Chauncey & Sarah Wood.