



The Cactus Wren·dition

Volume LX1, No. 4

Winter 2010-2011



Milbert's Tortoiseshell

Photo by Marceline Van der Water

Programs 2010

December 7, 2010

Dr. John Alcock Discover the virtues of returning to the same place repeatedly to really get to know the nature of change in the desert. Dr. John Alcock is Professor Emeritus at ASU specializing in Animal Behavior and the evolution of diversity in Insect Mating Systems. He will have copies of his new book for sale and will graciously sign them. Webster Auditorium

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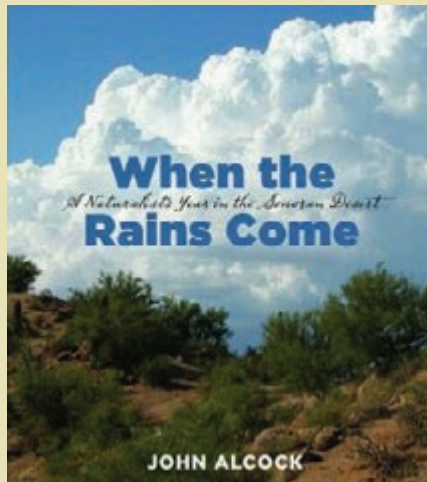
480-829-8209

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

An Investment in the Future

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

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



January 4, 2011

Dr. Gerald Rosenthal, Sonoran Desert Life: Understanding, Insights, and Enjoyment Dr. Gerald A. Rosenthal, Scottsdale resident and retired Professor of Biological Sciences and Toxicology, spent a decade observing and documenting the flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert. He has compiled his knowledge into an informative and lavishly illustrated field guide with an emphasis on



Photo by Scott Davies

botany. Dr. Rosenthal will share some of his many images that are part of his research and stitch together fragments of the vast web of life of this unique ecosystem. Webster Auditorium

Feb 1, 2011

Doug Moore, Andean Adventure: Hummingbirds, Orchids, Butterflies, People. Join TAS field trip leaders, Sally Johnsen and Doug Moore, for a presentation of birds and



Purple-throated Woodstar
 Photo courtesy of Arthur Morris

nature in the Andes Mountains of northern Ecuador. About the size of Arizona, Ecuador has one of the greatest biodiversities on earth, including 25,000 plants species and 1600 bird species. The country boasts 130 species of hummingbirds and more orchid species than anywhere else! The program explores habitats and life in the west and east cordilleras of the Andes flanking the capitol of Quito, from Tropical Cloud Forest to Páramo Alpine Tundra. The audience will also see local people working to conserve their lands and live sustainably with nature to provide a heritage for their children. Doug Moore is a naturalist and photographer/artist/illustrator living near Saguaro National Park West outside Tucson, Arizona. Sally Johnsen runs Andean Adventure tours. Webster Auditorium



Camera: Canon Rebel XTi, Canon Macro Lens EF 100mm F2.8
 Milbert's Tortoiseshell - *Nymphalis milberti*
 on Western Sneezeweed - *Dugaldia hoopesii* (synonym: *Helenium hoopesii*)

President's Message

Mark W. Larson

president's message

Last week (the end of September) I was up on the Mogollon Rim and I suggested to a passing hiker that, for those of us who live in the Valley of the Sun, summer is our winter. Most of you will recognize that for much of the country winter is the season with the fewest outdoor activities and the most time spent indoors. In the Sonoran Desert, the reverse is true.

The few recent days of brutal hundred degree plus temperatures serve to illustrate this point, but we are now entering our more salutary season: the time when summer birds depart for the Neotropics and winter birds, including snowbirds, arrive, and the time when the activities of Maricopa Audubon reactivate as well. Herb Fibel holds his exemplary "Big Sit" in October to raise money for the Chapter, our monthly meetings are well attended, and there is a field trip almost every week. Many of us are getting ready for Christmas Bird Counts in December and January.



Mark W. Larson

All this leads me to state that we have a great Chapter, an organization that is worth your time and involvement, worthy of your investment, and deserving of your interest. The Maricopa Audubon Society's legacy of conservation achievements is on-going—there are still worthwhile battles to fight and we are and will be in the midst of them.

To accomplish these ends we need you! We need you to encourage the young people you know to care about the natural world and to live their lives helping to protect it. We need you to talk to your families, your friends, and your neighbors about the importance of the natural world to us and to future generations. And, I encourage each of you to strengthen your personal connection to nature. Research

is now showing that one's links to the natural world can pay substantial dividends for mental and even physical health.

I sincerely hope that you will become an active member of Maricopa Audubon and, if you are already active, that you will become even more so!

Audubon Taps Noted Conservation & Communications Leader as New President

NEW YORK NY –EMBARGOED UNTIL 2 PM ET 29 JULY 2010

The National Audubon Society today announced that David Yarnold has been named its new President and Chief Executive Officer, giving new momentum to efforts to connect people with nature and their power to protect it. A passionate conservationist, Yarnold currently serves as Executive Director of Environmental Defense Fund and President of Environmental Defense Action Fund. Prior to that, he was a Pulitzer Prize-winning editor at the San Jose Mercury News.

"David brings proven leadership in the for-profit and non-profit sectors to Audubon at a time when efforts to protect birds, habitats and the resources that sustain us are needed more than ever," said Holt Thrasher, Audubon's Board Chair. "His leadership ability, his passion for conservation and grassroots action, his communications skills and his organizational expertise all make him the perfect fit for the Audubon of 2010 and beyond."

"David is a boundary-crosser, the kind of flexible thinker and values-based executive that a complex conservation and fundraising landscape demands right now," Thrasher said. "He shares Audubon's traditional passion for birds and its visionary understanding that helping people to protect them will safeguard our own future as well. I have no doubt that David will lead Audubon in expanding its reach to new audiences and elevating its conservation successes to new heights."

Yarnold has been at EDF since April 2005, where he is responsible for all operations, from programs, to development and marketing/communications. He helped expand EDF's innovative corporate partnerships work, focused on EDF's international programs, particularly in China, and helped the

organization grow from \$52M to \$117M in revenue. He is also President of the organization's Action Fund, its political action arm.

"Audubon's mission has never been more relevant. From the grassroots to state houses to national and regional policy, its wingspan is unparalleled," Yarnold said. "I'm excited by the opportunity to work with a nationwide network of Audubon Chapters and Audubon Centers that combine local concern, knowledge and action to equal conservation that makes a difference on a grand scale. It will be an honor lead an organization whose name has meant 'trust' and 'conservation achievement' for more than a hundred years."

Yarnold's San Jose Mercury News was consistently ranked as one of America's 10 Best Newspapers. His paper was called, "America's Boldest Newspaper" by a panel of international judges. During his time in San Jose, the Mercury News was widely recognized for its commitment to diversity and for its in-depth coverage of technology. He was also one of three Pulitzer Prize finalists for editorial writing in 2005.

"For me, going to Audubon is like going home. Community-based education and action that breeds broader changes has always been engaging and rewarding for me and those are the things Audubon does best," Yarnold said.

He will assume the Presidency of Audubon on Sept 1.

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Its national network of community-based nature centers, Chapters, and scientific, education, and advocacy programs engage millions of people from all walks of life in conservation actions to protect and restore the natural world. www.audubon.org.

Notes & Announcements

Flagged Shorebirds

Although not common in our area, please be aware of color-flagged Hudsonian Godwits, Whimbrels, and any other shorebird species which you notice have color bands. You can also contact Dave Krueper, Ass't. Nongame Migratory Bird Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103, (505) 248-6877 or dave_krueper@fws.gov

Unwanted Catalogs

Is your mailbox full of unwanted mail? Catalog works collaboratively with the catalog industry to embrace voluntary measures to reduce unwanted mail by honoring your mail preferences. Catalog Choice has become a significant consumer voice in the direct mail industry. Nearly 200 catalog mailers are participating in Catalog Choice, and this number grows every day. Please go to <http://www.catalogchoice.org/pages/merchants> to reduce the mailing of unwanted catalogs.

E-mail Alert System

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

Birding Community E-Bulletin

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

Casa Del Caballo Blanco EcoLodge - Belize

A new six-cabana, eco-friendly accommodation in Belize - Casa del Caballo Blanco is a 23-acre former ranch 9.5 miles from the Guatemalan border near San Ignacio. It also shelters the not-for-profit Casa Avian Support Alliance (CASA) <http://www.casaavian.org/>. Its purpose is to understand and support the biodiversity of Belize that attracts and sustains over 530 species of migratory and resident birds spotted in a given year. Jodi and Vance Benté, owners of the property, also established The Alliance whose motto is: "Birds are the farmers of the world - help us to help them continue to sow their seeds." Their work has been undertaken in cooperation with the Government of Belize's efforts to protect critical habitat, the loss of which threatens

the avian population. Guests are invited to share in the responsibilities of supporting the avian program. They can assist in nest-box building, maintenance and feeding as well as trail building and signage. A percentage of each cabana rental will be donated to the CASA center to assist with medical and other expenses related to the management of the facility. Casa also organizes day-long tours that in addition to an educational and scientific focus can include bird-watching, horseback riding, cave tubing and visiting archeological and World Heritage Sites in Belize and Guatemala. For more information, call 707-974-4942 or visit www.casacaballoblanco.com.

Land of the Quetzal

Rich Kern and his brother, Jim, are looking for twenty partners to join us in the purchase of the 486 acre parcel, which is adjacent to Los Quetzales National Park and across the Savegre River from Los Santos National Preserve in Costa Rica. Preserving an important piece of quetzal habitat is a big part of our motivation in choosing the Savegre tract; the area is one of the best places to see this beautiful bird. Besides birds, it is also possible to see puma, ocelot, the little margay, jaguar and tapir. Half of the shares for the project have been spoken for. If you would like more information and a copy of the DVD please contact Rich Kern at kernnature@aol.com. (N.B. The Kern brothers project is independent from Audubon.)

MAS member, Charles Babbitt, will have an article about his year long quest to find all 13 Arizona owl species in the upcoming February 2011 edition of *Birder's World Magazine*.

Book Store Selections

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

Arizona Watchable Wildlife Tourism Association (AWWTA)

Check out their website for events around the state--www.azwildlife.com

Museum of Northern Arizona

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

Environmental Fund

Green At Work--Thousands of employees can now support Maricopa Audubon Society (MAS) in their annual fall charity campaign. The Environmental Fund for Arizona get thousands of Arizona employees involved with our group and many other conservation groups through payroll deduction workplace campaigns. Help spread the word at your office about

checking off "Green" choices this fall! If your employer does not yet include environmental/conservation groups, please contact Laine Seton at the Environmental Fund for Arizona: efaz@efaz.org or (480) 510-5511.

Credit Card

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

The Dovetail Directory

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

Shade-grown Coffee

If you are searching for a source to purchase shade-grown coffee and haven't been successful, try ABA Sales. They carry seven kinds of Song Bird Coffee. For information call 800-634-7736. Also, Trader Joe's carries shade grown coffee, as does Sunflower Market. Another source is Toucanet Coffee/Avian Ecologist. They are in the business of serving Smithsonian certified, bird-friendly coffee. All of their varieties are organic and shade grown. They also have fair trade varieties. Please visit www.toucanetcoffee.com for more information about their goals or to place an order. The website also includes an online community for bird and/or coffee lovers. They invite you to join. Another website for shade grown/organic coffee is www.cafebritt.com. An additional website is Thanksgiving Coffee Co--www.thanksgivingcoffee.com or 800-648-6491. And another from Kenn Kaufman is www.birdsandbeans.com

More Birding and Nature Festivals

www.americanbirding.org, and www.birdinghotspot.com

SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an interesting story to tell about birding? Please forward your submissions to the Editor - Emily Morris. Check the back page for address/email. Attaching an article to an e-mail is the absolute easiest way to submit an article. Please send any pictures to complement your article directly to me as well. Remember, all articles may not be published the first month after receipt.

Congratulations to Audubon!

Emily Morris

from the editor

The more I work and volunteer for Audubon, the prouder I am to be part of such a wonderful organization. Saturday, October 2nd was a truly amazing day for Audubon!

I started off the day with the first of our multi-chapter scouting program, with 15 very excited Cub Scouts. Though we hope to have groups of up to 60 kids for the programs in the coming months, 15 was a good number for a test run. With the help of several enthusiastic volunteers, we worked together to teach the kids how to use binoculars, make a bird feeder and identify birds along the Rio Salado. It was a fun morning, and I'm looking forward to our future Scouting events!

That evening, I joined the rest of the Audubon Arizona staff at Valley Forward's Environmental Excellence Awards dinner. Please read the article below to learn more about Audubon's successes! I felt so honored to have worked with Audubon volunteers in the morning to teach kids about the Sonoran Desert and follow that in the evening by being part of the team that received Valley Forward's top award. Congratulations, everyone!

On one last quick note, I would like to put in a personal request for everyone to consider joining in on the Chapter Round-up (details on page 10). Even if you only come for one program or one night, I think you will be inspired to be a part of this program that brings Southwestern Audubon chapters together.

Nina Mason Rio Salado Audubon Center Receives Valley Forward Association Award

-Valley Forward Press Release

On Saturday, October 2nd, Valley Forward Association gave its highest honor to the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center, the President's Award for Special Achievement in Environmental Excellence.

In making the award, Valley Forward noted that "the Center illustrates how innovative design, thoughtful construction, exciting educational programs, and a community committed to the environment can work together to create an educational and environmental success story."

For over forty years, Valley Forward Association has worked to bring business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to promote cooperative efforts to improve the environment and livability of Valley communities. Valley Forward's annual Environmental Excellence Awards program is Arizona's oldest and largest environmental competition. This year marks the competition's thirtieth anniversary. Over 700 people attended Saturday's awards program.

In addition to the President's Award, Valley Forward also recognized the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center with a prestigious Crescordia award in the buildings and structures category. The awards committee noted that the Audubon Center "represents far



more than an amazing physical structure that epitomizes environmental design." One of the Center's education programs, Water's Changing Journey, received an Award of Merit for outstanding environmental education.

We are grateful to so many supporters for helping us get to this point. We especially acknowledge the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, whose leadership gift made it possible for us to launch our Center capital campaign with critical momentum and whose continued support has given us a tremendous boost in our first two years of operations. We also want to specially thank our past Board Chair Lori Singleton and our friends at SRP, whose leadership and generosity are evidenced in ways too many to number-solar arrays, exhibits, financial support, help with events, expertise, volunteers-the list goes on!

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

Mike Plagens

DEC - FEB 2011

CAR POOLING: 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 10 cents per mile. Be courteous to the trip leader and help cover their gas costs.

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 distance, considerable birding from vehicle and possible multiple birding stops. 5 equals very high level of difficulty with respect to exertion. Longer hiking distances are expected with possible steep trails. Trips are level 1 unless noted otherwise.

REMINDERS:

- Be courteous to the trip leader and help cover their gas costs.
- Wear neutral colored clothing and sturdy walking shoes.
- Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, head protection and water.
- Avoid wearing bright colors.
- Always bring your binoculars. Bring a scope if recommended.
- Submit trip and leader suggestions to the field trip chair.
- Unless stated otherwise, reservations are required.

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

Impromptu Field Trips: Post your own outings or get notified of others planned field trips on short notice. Also get reminders of MAS field trips

by email. Founded by naturalist and field trip chairperson Mike Plagens, membership is easy, free and open to those who have an interest in the flora, fauna, and ecology of Arizona. Not just a trip listing, view the website for trip reports, flora and fauna databases, maps, links to google earth including Gilbert Water ranch, and photos. Trips focus on plants, animals, mycology, geology, biology, entomology, herpetology, ecology, paleontology, birding, anthropology or microbiology. Share expenses, experiences and expertise with like-minded travelers. Proposed trips should include a brief description of the destination, ways, means, purpose, hiking difficulty, departure location, date and time. Drivers and riders will negotiate between themselves any shared expenses, but it is recommended that riders at least cover the cost of gas. Users can share via e-mail questions and experiences they have encountered while hiking through the wonders of Arizona's landscapes.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/az_nature_fldtrips/

Friday, Nov 26

Rackensack Wash: What better way is there to burn off that extra slice of pie than to go birding? Hike along Rackensack Wash up stream and then down from the Seven Springs Road. Trail start is about 5 miles n. of Bartlet Lake turn off. Some migrants can be expected in the cottonwoods and willows along the riparian stretches and many desert species in chaparral areas. Meet 7:00AM @ at Fry's parking lot, at the SE corner of Tatum & Shea Blvd., Phoenix. Difficulty 2+

Leader: Mike mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for reservations.

Sunday, Dec 5

Desert Plants and Animals at Veterans Oasis Park (VOP): A morning walk that explores the plants and animals of the desert and wetland habitats at Veterans Oasis Park. Bring binoculars (close focus are best for insect viewing), water, good walking shoes, and a hat. The walks are not fast-paced, and the terrain is easy. There is a suggested \$5 donation to

benefit the Environmental Education Center at Veterans Oasis Park. Difficulty 1. No reservations. Meet 9 am at the Curve-billed Thrasher Ramada just north of the parking lot. VOP is on the north east corner of Lindsay and Chandler Heights Blvd.

Leader: Laurie Nessel

Sunday, Jan 9

Desert Plants and Animals at Veterans Oasis Park (VOP).

See description for Dec. 5th. No reservations. Difficulty 1

Leaders: Laurie Nessel

Monday, Jan 10

Route 60, off the beaten path:

We'll leave Gilbert about 7am to head straight to Oak Flat, a few miles beyond Superior, then work our way back, skipping the birding hot spot of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum! Other stops will include Queen Valley and probably the "Electric Park" in Mesa. These various environments should give us a nice collection of avian desert residents at different elevations. Expect to return to Gilbert about 2pm. No entrance fees at this time. Limited to 8 people. Please register.

Leader: Kathe Anderson kathe.coot@cox.net

Saturday, Jan 15

Gilbert Water Ranch: The variety of birds and number of rarities that have been sighted in this reclaimed waste water facility has made this location one of the best and famous birding locations in Maricopa County. Rare sightings have included Groove-billed Ani, Streak-backed Oriole, Harris' Sparrow, and Prairie Warbler. But the species we should see in the ponds, fields, and desert trees include Long-billed Dowitcher, Canada Goose, Gadwall, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Snipe, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Peach-faced Lovebird. Meet at the entrance to the preserve from the parking lot, east of the library, at the southeast corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads, at 7:30 A.M. Scope is helpful. Difficulty: 1..

Leader: Richard Kaiser at (602) 276-3312 or rkaiserinaz@aol.com.

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

Mike Plagens

field trips

Saturday, Jan 29

Gila River & Arlington Valley: We will meet at 6:30 AM in Goodyear and car pool to key birding spots in the Arlington Valley west of SR-85. Prepare for early morning chill, wear good shoes, bring water and small snack. Spotting scopes a plus. We will see raptors, sparrows, and shorebirds on the agricultural fields. At ponds and flooded fields a wide variety of egrets, ducks, and ibis are likely. Limit 10. Reservations required. Difficulty 2
Leader: Dave Powell (info & reservations w/Mike mjplagens@arizonensis.org /602-459-5224).

Fri-Sunday, Feb 4, 5, & 6

Salton Sea, California: A camping version of Kathe's trip (see next desc.). Friday at 5pm we will convene at rough, dispersed campsite near Lake

Mittry north of Yuma. On Saturday Morning we will look for birdlife and other wildlife around the lake and nearby Colorado River. Breaking camp by noon, we will continue west to Salton Sea State Rec. Area and set camp again. Birding along lake before return on Sunday. Expenses include sharing gasoline, packing own food and camp gear, and possibly a couple of meals out at very reasonable prices. Difficulty 2 Limited to 8 people. .

Leader: Mike Plagens, mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for reservations.

Sun-Monday, Feb 6 & 7

Salton Sea, California: A short trip to the Salton Sea is better than no trip at all. This will be a full 2 day trip to CA, stopping at Cibola National Wildlife Refuge on the Colorado River

before heading to the Salton Sea for late afternoon/dusk birding. We'll stay overnight in Calipatria and explore the Salton Sea Visitor Center and surrounding areas on Monday morning before making the long trip back to AZ, arriving about 6:30pm. Expenses include sharing gasoline, hotel (about \$90 for a double), and a couple of meals out at very reasonable prices. No entrance fees at this time. Limited to 8 people. Difficulty 1. Please register.

Leader: Kathe Anderson kathe.coot@cox.net.

Sunday, Feb 13

Desert Plants and Animals at Veterans Oasis Park (VOP).

See description for Dec. 5th. No reservations. Difficulty 1

Leaders: Laurie Nessel

Book Review:

Birds of Southeastern Arizona by Richard Cachor Taylor

Reviewed by Cynthia Donald

Hot off the press, *Birds of Southeastern Arizona* by Rick Taylor is a great field guide to birds you can expect to find in, well, southeastern Arizona. And make no mistake about it – this is a true field guide, capable of being easily slipped into a pocket or daypack. Rick includes photos and species accounts for over 400 species of birds (almost half the number of species found in the United States and Canada) which occur in an area comprising less than one percent of the land area of North America.

Starting with an introduction and “how to identify birds” section, the book quickly delves into its specialty –southeastern Arizona. Rick identifies and discusses ten habitats found in this part of the State and includes references to specific birding areas within each type. Not content with only providing descriptions and discussing similar species, voice, status, habitat and behavior, Rick has created two unique features for this book.

The first is Rick's use of an elevation chart to show season and altitudes where selected species can be found. He not only lists elevations but also incorporates



a selection of cities, towns and popular birding locales for geographic context. “Resident” species, birds that breed in this part of Arizona, have a purple bar graph; “Migrant” species pass through this part of Arizona in migration and have a yellow bar graph; “Winter” and “Summer” species refer to the obvious with blue and red bar graphs, respectively; “Year-Round” species, with lilac bar graphs, are not known to breed in this part of Arizona.

The second is Rick's inclusion of a “Noteworthy” section in most species accounts. This provides interesting reading and insight into many species. For example, the “Noteworthy” section for Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) states, “Green Herons drop food into water to attract small fish and other aquatic prey.” And for Northern Shoveler, “In winter Northern Shoveler is the most abundant duck in Arizona.” So, you can take this wonderful little book in the field and enjoy reading it while exploring southeast Arizona. I'd recommend this book to everyone who has an interest in birds that can be found in Arizona!

Field Trip Review — Huachuca Highlands, July 18 and 19, 2010

Mike Plagens

Alas, it was the middle of July in southeastern Arizona, which brings forth at least two situations. One is our summer monsoon rains, which we did experience on Saturday, but which did not affect our birding. The other is identifying juvenile birds, which are tough to do, especially with flycatchers, which we most encountered in Carr Canyon. But birding in the famous canyons of southern Arizona, south of Sierra Vista and close to the border, always make for an enjoyable escape from the Phoenix heat, with numerous good sightings.

En route to Sierra Vista, we decided to stop at the Sweetwater Wetlands, right near Interstate 10 in Tucson. It was late morning when we arrived, so the temperature was around 100 degrees, but the facility has lots of shade from tall trees. The avian highlight here was a beautiful male Ruddy Duck (in breeding plumage), but we also saw Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Cliff Swallow and Abert's Towhees. Mammals frequently provide the most excitement on field trips, and, here, an animal that dropped in the water from a lily pad or on heavy vegetation in a pond was determined to be a badger. I had not realized that this animal occurs in the desert, and around water.

After lunch in Sierra Vista, during which occurred a thunderstorm with heavy rain, we traveled south along State Route 92 to the turnoff to Coronado National Memorial. This was a first-time visitation to this historic location, so we stopped for a perusal inside the visitor center; unfortunately, the bird feeders once outside the picture window, and mentioned in southeastern Arizona birding guides, are no longer there. We did hear Mexican Jays around the building. The road continues to the top of Montezuma Pass, which at an elevation of 6,575 feet, offers views of the San Pedro River Valley to the east, and San Rafael Valley to the west. Although hearing and seeing Canyon Wrens, including a nest location, was impressive, we talked much about

the Border Patrol presence here. We felt puzzled when we learned that a border fence is unable to be built between Mexico and National Park Service property. But the views and cool breeze from the overlook and the Coronado Peak trail were quite memorable.

We decided to spend the late afternoon in Ash Canyon, and the bed and breakfast property of Mary Jo Ballator, a location I always like to show new birders or first-time visitors. The semicircle of chairs around the numerous hummingbird feeders provided us sightings of several Broad-billed, Anna's, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, as well as a single Lucifer Hummingbird, a rare species to Arizona, but an annual resident of this property. There was also an Anna's x Lucifer hummingbird hybrid visiting the feeders. Other bird species viewed from the chairs



Western Kingbird
Photo by Joy Dolhanczyk

able to identify Bridled Titmouse, Hepatic Tanager, and Acorn Woodpecker. Abundant species were Spotted Towhee, American Robin, Yellow-eyed Junco, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Western Wood-Pewee and Cassin's Kingbird were two of

the flycatchers we did identify.

A late morning stop at Ash Canyon (Mary Jo stresses one admission/donation is good for 24 hours) produced no new bird species, but just continued admiration at the ability to sit back and watch birds!

The next canyon to visit was Miller, one "up", or north, from Ash, and south of Carr. On Beatty's Bed and Breakfast property, we were shown a few of the (Ransey Canyon) Leopard Frogs by Edith Beatty, and we talked with Tom Beatty, Sr. at the Controlled Access Site (CAS). Attracted to his numerous hummingbird feeders here, we were able to add the White-eared, Blue-throated and Magnificent species. The leucistic Black-chinned, and the Berylline, the latter which liked the hair that Tom had hung for its nesting, were not observed during our visit. The sun was quite warm, yet we had an interesting talk with Tom Beatty, Jr., and the crossing of illegal immigrants coming near, or passing through, their property, and so their frequent encounters with the Border Patrol.

A mid-afternoon stop at Ramsey Canyon was to only admire their bookstore/gift shop, and confirm that the Whiskered Screech Owl that nested in a tree in the parking lot a couple of years ago, is no longer there. We also missed the Violet-crowned Hummingbird that came to a feeder outside a bookstore window; it was learned that the bird nested nearby, which is very rare for this canyon.

It was again a very pleasant and enjoyable field trip to the Huachuca and the canyons in southeastern Arizona. I suspect the enticement will come again for another visit in June or July of next year.



Yellow-eyed Junco
Photo by Joy Dolhanczyk

on the patio of Mary Jo's home included White-winged Dove, Blue Grosbeak, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bewick's Wren, and Brown-headed Cowbird. A Canyon Towhee on the concrete patio was real close to us.

We were surprised at the large quantity of House Finches. A couple of Mule Deer appeared in the yard to also eat, but Mary Jo chases them as they consume too much food. Activity slowed during a rain shower, but it was still a nice place to sit and admire, and smell the rain! On the drive out, we spotted six Wild Turkey, also resident to the area.

The next morning, we took the drive up to the higher-elevation campgrounds in Carr Canyon. I spotted a Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake crossing the dirt road, and all of us admired this colorful, non-venomous reptile. Wandering through the campgrounds and forest, we were

Hog Island Renewal Underway

After last summer's dormancy, Audubon's Hog Island has enjoyed a vital reawakening, hosting service and educational programs on this beautiful setting in Maine's Muscongus Bay. Programs this year operated under Project Puffin (which is part of National Audubon Society's Science Division). There were three sessions - all focusing on birds. The first was a five day service learning session operated in conjunction with Exploritas (formerly Elderhostel and now Road Scholar). The program was entitled 'Maine Seabird Biology and Conservation'. Twenty-four participants took part in the program, the highlight of which was a census of the eider and gull population on Audubon's Ross Island. Our second session was titled 'Joy of Birding' which featured Pete Dunne, Peter Vickery, Chris Lewey and other notable instructors. We had a total of 52 participants in this session. Our third week of June programming was 'Field Ornithology and Coastal Maine Birding for Teens'. A total of 44 adult and 15 avid teens attended this session (the largest group in Hog Island history) which featured Kenn and Kim Kaufman, Scott Wiedensaul, Sara Morris, Lang Elliott and other top ornithologists. Our final session for 2010 is another Road Scholar service learning program about Maine seabird biology and conservation scheduled for mid September. This program is already sold out with 30 participants.

In total, the Island's programs hosted 165 participants which represents 92% occupancy for the camp facilities. Participants represented 32 states as

well as New Brunswick. A total of 13 Audubon Chapters, garden clubs and ornithology groups sponsored a total of 32 participants. Twelve of the 15 teen campers received scholarships including two from the American Birding Association and four from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through a grant to the Audubon Education Department. We were also very fortunate to have Chef Janii Laberge return to the Island to work his culinary magic, keeping all the participants well-fed and energetic.

None of these programs would have succeeded without the support of our dedicated volunteers, the Friends of Hog Island. A total of 32 Friends signed on for one or more work sessions, donating a total of about 1,300 hours of work. In addition to preparing the camp for occupancy, Friends also assisted during each of the programs by helping in the kitchen, the camp store and taking care of various maintenance issues. They scraped and painted trim on most of the buildings, revitalized island gardens, hung flower boxes on anything that stood still and most importantly, greeted the participants with an enthusiastic and infectious warm welcome. The staff of birding super-stars, inspiring setting, great food, and the extraordinary teaching team all contributed to the stellar scores received on the Cornell Hotel School's evaluations. The Joy of Birding session received an overall approval rating of 4.82 out of 5 - only surpassed by the approval rating of 4.96 out of 5 for the Ornithology session!

Several partners helped Project Puffin make these sessions such a complete

success. Maine Audubon has continued to lend its help in getting the island ready for the summer, by reinstalling the water line, tending to the Island's generator, reinstalling the floats and ramps and servicing the sewage system. They were helped by staff from that splendid Maine institution Camp Kieve, whose boat the Snow Goose transported participants to various sites. Our programs also benefitted from the assistance and counsel of the Cornell Hotel School whose faculty and students helped with marketing and evaluation.

All in all, it was a wonderful summer on Hog Island as participants, staff and Friends all rediscovered the unique magic of that special place and enjoyed the wonders, complexities and beauty of the surrounding bird-life. I feel strongly that this summer's activities, supported by the partnership of so many groups and agencies, recaptured a vision for the future use and mission of this supremely significant ornithological resource. Certainly that future will present new programmatic, structural and financial challenges but I feel confident that those challenges can be met by the growing number of dedicated individuals who have witnessed and experienced the Island's enormous educational potential. I sincerely hope that next summer you will come and discover it for yourself!

Best wishes,

Steve Kress

Director, Project Puffin

2011 SAVE THE DATE!!

Please save the date of **August 15-20, 2011 for the next Audubon Chapter Leadership Program** session at Hog Island Camp. Program and scholarship details will be shared with all Chapter leaders in the fall. Below please find the schedule of Hog Island Camp 2011 summer programs.

May 29-June 3	Seabird Biology and Conservation (with Road Scholar)
June 12-17	Joy of Birding
June 19-24	Field Ornithology and Maine Coastal Birding for Teens
July 14-19	Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week
August 15-20	Audubon Chapter Leadership Program
September 11-16	Bird Biology and Conservation (with Road Scholar)

It Is Time To Register

"Audubon Round Up"

Audubon Chapters' Learning Conference
November 11-14, 2010

Join other Auduboners! Experience the Sonoran Desert along the beautiful Salt River at Saguaro Lake Ranch (30 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport) www.saguarolakeranch.com.

Featuring: Learning opportunities that benefit your chapter's projects and sustainability; having fun networking, "down time"; relaxing with new friends; birding in the amazing Sonoran Desert.

Participants: Audubon Chapter Members in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada and Colorado

Costs: from \$115 PP per day to \$140 PP per day (includes all meals) plus event registration fee of \$65.00 PP. Camping nearby. *Those of you who are local or can stay with a friend may register and pay for meals only if you like!*

For On Line Registration and information on accommodations, go to www.sonoranaudubon.org and click on "Audubon Round Up Registration". Questions? Call Karen LaFrance 602-809-3360 or e mail at klaf@cox.net.

Some Confirmed Attendees with Highlighted Speaking Assignments:

Brian Rutledge, Wyoming Audubon, Kristine Uhlman, Univ. of AZ Water Resources Center, Mary Ford, National Audubon Society Education Programs Manager, Lynn Tennefoss, NAS VP for Chapters, Garry George, California Chapters Network Coordinator, Joy Hester, NAS Southwest Regional Director and Mary Hoadley, Arcosanti/Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership.

Chapters' Market: bring your wares and your brochures; talk to your fellow Auduboners about your projects during Social Hours...

Underwriting by Together Green, a program of National Audubon Society And Vashti ("Tice") Supplee, 2008 Together Green Fellow

Nature Prescriptions: Good for Us, Good for our Kids, Good for Nature

Gillian Rice

"Klee, klee, klee.....klee, klee, klee." I interrupt my Tai Chi practice to look up and search for the bird making a call I seldom hear in my backyard. Klee, klee, klee. A kestrel wheeling above my neighbor's ash tree. I experience a surge of excitement, satisfaction, and warmth, which add to the pleasant feelings I already have from my Tai Chi meditation. Perhaps the kestrel has come to my neighborhood for the winter. I mouth "welcome." Practicing Tai Chi in my backyard at sunrise, among my wildflowers, cacti, and trees always provides a good start to my day. Lesser Goldfinches feed on the desert marigold seeds. Hummingbirds spar over the fairy duster blooms. The Curve-billed Thrasher declares his territorial rights.

E.O. Wilson argues that the positive feelings I experience as I connect with the fauna and flora around me are innate. In a 1984 book, he introduces the concept of "biophilia:" the connection that human beings subconsciously seek and need with the rest of life."

Today, half the world lives in an urban setting. In 1950, 29% of people did so. In 2050, writes Jeb Brugmann in *Welcome to the Urban Revolution* (2010), experts project this figure to be about 70%. Urbanization is one important reason humans are disengaged from the natural environment. Even in the 19th century, however, city officials recognized health advantages that result from open space. Frederick Law Olmsted, the 19th century founder of American landscape architecture, believed the restorative quality of green nature "operates by unconscious processes to relax and relieve tensions created by the artificial surroundings of urban life."

Australian researcher, Celily Maller, and her colleagues acknowledge that considerable anecdotal evidence exists to document the benefits of "being in nature," but the exact effects (for example, using psychophysiological measures) on the human mind, body, and spirit remain mostly unknown. It's possible, says Maller, that some of the benefits develop from a mood state of pleasant arousal and relaxation because being in nature provides us with a more cyclical and slower sense of time.

Ecopsychology, or nature-guided therapy, demonstrates some of the positive effects. Maller and colleagues report one study that tested the ability of nature to improve the concentration of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. Children functioned better after doing activities in natural play settings and the "greener" a play setting, the less severe the ADD symptoms.

A growing body of research finds that children's unsupervised play in natural settings stimulates their healthy growth and development: physically, socially, emotionally, creatively, and intellectually. In response, and recognizing Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, as a leader in the "Leave No Child Inside" movement, The American Academy of Pediatrics invited him to give the plenary keynote address at its October 2010 National Conference.

According to the Spring 2010 *Newsletter of Green Hearts* (The Institute for Nature in Childhood), nature play is vanishing from childhood. Today, American children spend only 1% of their time outdoors – versus 27% with various forms of electronic media. Louv conceived the term "nature deficit disorder." As one fifth grader, undoubtedly with this disorder, expressed it to him, in a statement that has become the signature of the children and nature movement, "I like to play indoors better, 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are."

In addition to the competition from TVs and computers, many parents cite fears of dangerous traffic and stranger abductions as reasons that their children stay inside. "But there are also risks in raising children under virtual protective house arrest," writes Louv in *Orion Magazine* (2007). "Threats to their independent judgment and value of place, to their ability to feel awe and wonder, to their sense of stewardship for the Earth – and, most immediately, threats to their psychological and physical health."

"I've started to make formal 'park prescriptions,'" says family physician, Daphne Miller, in her *National Wildlife* article (Oct/Nov 2010). "The prescribing instructions are considerably more detailed than ones you might get with medication; they include the location of a local green space, the name of a specific trail and, when possible, exact mileage."

Researchers Ambra Burls and Woody Caan write in the *British Medical Journal* (2005) that "partnerships between healthcare providers and nature organizations to share and exchange expertise could create

new policies that recognize the interdependence between healthy people and healthy ecosystems." The city of Sante Fe, New Mexico developed a Prescription Trails Program, in response to high rates of diabetes.

Clearly, being in nature is healthy for both adults and children. An additional advantage of making it possible for children to be in nature is critical for Audubon members; when we love nature, we protect it. Recognizing this, environmental educators assume that teaching children and people about nature will make them want to conserve it. Yet, the *Green Hearts Newsletter* explains that education is not usually the reason why people conserve nature. Instead, children must first fall in love with nature. Then, they *want* to learn about it and protect it. The heart comes before the head: early love of the outdoors is what nature play promotes.

For ideas on how to get you, your kids, and your grandkids playing outdoors, visit:

<http://nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There.aspx>

<http://www.greenheartsinc.org/>

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/>

<http://www.letsmove.gov/letsmoveoutside.php>

For local programs, see

<http://riosalado.audubon.org/Programs.html>

Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Every child should have the opportunity to:

1. Discover wilderness -- prairies, dunes, forests, savannas, and wetlands
2. Camp under the stars
3. Follow a trail
4. Catch and release fish, frogs, and insects
5. Climb a tree
6. Explore nature in neighborhoods and cities
7. Celebrate heritage
8. Plant a flower
9. Play in the mud or a stream
10. Learn to swim

Source: <http://www.kidsoutside.info/billofrights.php>



Facts about Children and Nature

1. Children spend half as much time outdoors as they did 20 years ago.
2. Today, kids 8-18 devote an average of 7 hours 38 minutes using entertainment media in a typical day (more than 53 hours per week).
3. In a typical week, only 6% of children aged 9-13 play outside on their own.
4. Children who play outside are more physically active, more creative in their play, and are less aggressive and show better concentration.
5. Sixty minutes of daily, unstructured, free play is essential to children's physical and mental health.
6. The most direct route to caring for the environment as an adult is participating in "wild nature activities" before the age of 11.

Source: <http://nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Why-Be-Out-There.aspx>

Court Removes Much-Needed Protections From Desert Bald Eagle

By Robin Silver

Species' Fate Now Uncertain



Robin Silver

PHOENIX, Ariz. – A federal judge today granted a request by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove the **desert nesting bald eagle** from

the endangered species list unless and until the Center for Biological Diversity successfully challenges the agency's February 2010 decision taking the species off the list.

On July 9, 2007, the Bush administration overruled Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, ordering the agency to remove the desert nesting bald eagle from the endangered species list. It had been on the list since the 1970s. The Center filed suit and on March 6, 2008, U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia struck down the delisting decision and ordered the agency to return the bald eagle to the endangered species list.

On Feb. 24, 2010, the Obama administration issued a new decision also removing protections from the eagle. This new decision uses the same flawed logic as the 2007 Bush-era decision and also involved agency bureaucrats overruling agency scientists.

The Center had asked the judge to keep the species on the list until the new decision was legally challenged and resolved. The judge denied that request, telling the Center it first

needed to file suit and prove the new decision is illegal.

"The Obama administration's decision earlier this year was just as politically tainted as the Bush decision in 2007," said Dr. Robin Silver of the Center. "We look forward to proving that in court in a suit we plan to file shortly."



For more than three decades, every recognized bald eagle expert

has acknowledged the fact that the desert nesting bald eagle is unique and important to the species as a whole. But on July 18, 2006, Fish and Wildlife Service career administrators gave their staff "marching orders" to abruptly reverse their opinion and "to find an analysis that works."

On March 5, 2008, Judge Murguia called the agency actions "arbitrary and capricious." She ordered the agency to issue a new evaluation, and issued an injunction against lifting protection for the eagle in the interim. On Dec. 9, 2009, after agency bald eagle experts again reinforced their opinion that the desert nesting bald eagle is unique and important to the species as a whole, career administrators again ordered the eagle experts to reverse their position, saying, "My staff will work with you on development of the revised version of the finding."

The biggest threats to the eagle are increasing habitat destruction and

human harassment – and the judge's protective order had been the only law protecting eagle habitat. Today's order

also removes the requirement for mandatory mitigation funding of the NestWatch program.

NestWatch provides on-site protection for the most threatened eagle nests beginning in the middle of December of each year. Between 1983 and 2005, NestWatch rescued 9.4 percent of all young eagles fledged in Arizona, including up to 50 percent of a given year's reproduction. Until this ruling, agencies such as the Salt River Project, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Defense had been required to contribute yearly money to the NestWatch program to make up for destruction of habitat and harm to eagles.

Contact: Dr. Robin Silver, Center for Biological Diversity, (602) 799-3275



Because life is good.

Legislature's Neglect of State Park System Harms Arizona's Economy

By William C. Thornton, Special to the Arizona Daily Star, 10.1.2010

state park neglect

Preliminary recommendations by the Governor's Commission on Privatization and Efficiency come as no surprise to those of us who have been on the front lines of the battle to save Arizona's state parks.

For the rest of us, it should serve as a wake-up call of what's at stake if a lack of vision and political will is allowed to destroy our state park system. Conveniently, the final proposal won't be released until after the fall elections;



but it's difficult to envision any park privatization scenario under which Arizona citizens and taxpayers won't be the big losers.

In comments posted to the Star's website, one writer asked: "What's wrong with somebody earning a profit?" The answer: absolutely nothing, and that's just the point.

Hundreds of businesses throughout our state earn profits by supplying park visitors with gas, groceries, supplies, lodging and meals. A 2009 study by Northern Arizona University estimated the total economic impact of our state parks at \$266 million per year, about half from out-of-state visitors. When a local park closes, as has already happened at Winslow (Homolovi), Springerville (Lyman Lake), and Oracle, visitors and the dollars they spend go away.

You may ask: "Won't they do just as well under private management?" The answer: Not likely! Private operators

will, no doubt, be eager to take over profitable parks such as Catalina, Kartchner Caverns and the Colorado River parks. They probably won't show much interest in smaller parks that, in themselves, aren't profitable but still support local jobs.

How did we get here? The Legislature began the systematic dismantling of our state parks long before it could be justified by a budget crisis.

General-fund park appropriations ceased in 2002. Legislators told parks to become "more entrepreneurial and self-supporting" through admission fees, souvenir sales, etc. When they did, the Legislature took the money.

As a holistic system, profitable parks could carry those that didn't break even but still generated economic benefits for their communities. That was no longer possible when the Legislature swept away every cent parks earned for themselves. In a particularly outrageous fund grab, legislators even took money from park donation jars and \$250,000 from the estate of a benefactor who specifically willed it to state parks.

Before leaving office Gov. Janet Napolitano assembled a task force on sustainable parks to consider all options, including sale and privatization.

Gov. Jan Brewer continued the task force when she took office in January 2009. In October 2009, the task force recommended a modest

\$12 surcharge on noncommercial-vehicle licenses. In return, anyone with a current Arizona license plate would gain unlimited admission to all state parks. The system has worked well in other states. It would have assured the future of our state parks and reopened all roadside rest areas.

The measure died when House Appropriations Committee Chairman John Kavanagh would not allow a vote by the panel. Kavanagh claimed to be taking a principled stand for taxpayers. It was nothing of the kind. If the measure had passed the Legislature, it still would have required voter approval. By denying voters a more direct voice in determining the future of our parks, Kavanagh exemplified the arrogant abuse of power that prompted the framers of our state constitution to provide for voter initiatives.

In testimony to the House Appropriations Committee, I relayed sharply contrasting experiences at two state historic parks: Judge Roy Bean in Texas and McFarland in Arizona. Although it's far off the beaten path, at Roy Bean we found beautifully maintained facilities that celebrate a colorful chapter in the history of the Lone Star State. At McFarland, in the Tucson-Phoenix corridor, we found a closed facility with crumbling historic buildings, even though Senator, Governor and Judge McFarland arguably played a bigger role in Arizona history than Judge Roy Bean did in Texas.

Our tax code is riddled with dozens of loopholes that could be closed to distribute the overall tax burden more evenly and allow for investment in our state's future. The legislative leadership flatly refused to consider it.



Where do we go from here? The future may look grim, but it's far from hopeless. Much will be decided in the upcoming elections. If you agree that we need a vibrant system of parks to preserve our

natural, cultural and historic treasures for all Arizonans, make your views known to the governor, your state legislators and candidates.

William C. Thornton is a member of the Arizona Heritage Alliance Board. E-mail him at cactusworld@msn.com

Conservation Corner

Bob Witzeman

“Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place that they may be placed alone in the midst of the Earth.”

– Isaiah 5:8

An outstanding bird magazine, “*World Birdwatch*” (a publication of *Birdlife International*) in their December 2009 issue reviews the world’s plant, bird, mammal and reptile extinction rates.

Of the 9,998 species of birds found in the world 137 are now extinct or extinct in the wild. One in eight of the world’s known avian species are either threatened or now extinct. 669 are considered endangered and 192 critically endangered. There have been 153 bird extinctions since 1500. Some 8,564 birds are not threatened. 835 are near threatened.

Of the world’s 5,490 mammals, 79 are extinct or extinct in the wild 188. 449 are critically endangered and 505 are vulnerable.

Of the world’s 1,677 reptiles, 469 are threatened with extinction and 22 are already extinct or extinct in the Wild.

Amphibians are high on the list of threatened wildlife. Of the planet’s 6285 amphibians, 1895 are threatened. 39 are already extinct or extinct in the wild. 484 are critically endangered, 754 endangered, and 657 vulnerable.

Plants come in the highest on the list of the world’s vulnerability and extinction rates. Of the world’s 12,151 plants, 8500 are threatened with extinction. 114 plants are already extinct or extinct in the wild.

Some birds, however, have made remarkable comebacks from near extinction. For example, Lear’s Macaw has increased in numbers

of species from feral cats, rats, goats, etc. have brought many island species back from near extinction.

The good news is that periodically species are rediscovered that were long considered extinct. The Fiji Petrel was known for just one specimen collected on Gau Island, Fiji in 1855. It was lost to science for the next 130 years. Since 1984 there have been no confirmed sightings. Eight individuals were recently seen and photographs taken at sea of the species just south of Gau Island.

Likewise, a few new bird species are periodically discovered.

World Birdwatch highlights these discoveries with remarkable photos and stories.



World Birdwatch, a quarterly magazine published in England, is one of the most exciting and informative bird magazines anywhere. It provides breathtaking color photographs of worldwide birds and their habitats being protected or brought back from the brink of extinction through the heartening efforts of local governments and citizens. Subscription cost is about the equivalent of two Audubon memberships per year and well worth it. Contact: birdlife@birdlife.org.

as a result of a joint effort of many national and international NGOs, the Brazilian government and local landowners. Public education programs, Endangered Species Act protections in the U.S., efforts of governmental and local citizens and indigenous peoples worldwide have brought back many species from the brink of extinction. Protection

Democratic Representatives Kirkpatrick and Mitchell. Since RCC is a consortium of the world’s two largest mining companies, buying one’s way through congresspersons and even respected conservation groups would come as no surprise. Best Democrat was Carter, then Clinton, and Obama, thus far, last.

Exceptional Eavesdroppers

Throughout childhood we are taught that eavesdropping is rude, but what if it could help save your life? Hispid cotton rats, found throughout most of southern Arizona, use information they overhear from another



species to avoid predation. Blue Jays produce a "scolding" call when interacting with predators, which can be very useful information for nearby prey. Cotton rats use this information to change their foraging behavior, likely because they interpret this call as a warning of a predator lurking nearby. Surprisingly, they do not respond to the calls of hawks (one of their predators), possibly because these hawks are not calling while hunting. Thus, cotton rats not only receive information from various species, but are able to decipher this information appropriately to increase their chances of survival. If only humans were as good at deciphering overheard gossip!

Details of the altered behavior are reported in *Behavioral Ecology* (by Felts and Schmidt).

Eau de Viper

Cologne or perfume of the right scent can easily attract or repel.

Which do you think rattlesnake scent does? Various rodent species, including Arizona's local rock squirrel, have been observed chewing on the carcass or shed skin of rattlesnakes and subsequently licking themselves. (Do we have any votes for their appearance as *Fear Factor* competitors?!) While this odd behavior may

have a few alternative explanations, research suggests that it is used as an anti-predator defense, possibly to mask the rodent's own odor, or to give off the odor of a rattlesnake to larger mammalian predators. How well this "sheep in wolf's clothing" defense actually works has yet to be investigated.

Details of this defense behavior are reported in *Animal Behaviour* (by Clucas *et al.*) and the *Journal of Mammalogy* (by Xu *et al.*).



Loving Leeches?

Most of us have heard of intense demonstrations of parental care—bears fiercely protect their young, kangaroos carry their joeys, and snakes often fast while brooding

their eggs. However, perhaps a more unusual case of parental care should be added to the list. In a widespread genus of freshwater

leech (*Helobdella*), the acting mom (leeches are hermaphrodites) will not only protect the 20-60 eggs she lays at one time, but she will also protect and feed her young for weeks or months after hatch. These slick youngsters attach themselves to the belly of their parent, and feed off of her offerings of snails, worms, or other prey as she carries them, until they are large enough to fend for themselves. To top it off, the slippery juveniles are not above sibling rivalry, and they may sometimes compete against one another to get the "leeches share" of food from mom.

Details of the leech's behavior are reported in both the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* (by Burd, *et al.*) and in *Animal Behaviour* (by Kutschera and Wirtz).

Entering Desert

By David Chorlton

The desert is a high-pitched scream
if you want it to be;
a wire stretched from where you stand
to the horizon,
a gate inviting the first step
to oblivion. Or an embrace
so wide you fall through it
until the wings of a phainopepla
lift you back into the dizzy light,
where you're spinning around your own finger
that points at the sun
as if offering directions.

Arizona Christmas Bird Count Schedule 2010-2011

By Walter Thurber

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

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

Date	Day	Count Name	Compiler	Phone	Email*
12/14	Tu	Salt Verde River	Kurt Radamaker	480-837-2446	kurtrad at mexicobirding.com
12/16	Th	Patagonia	Abbie Zeltzer	520-604-6320	amindajar at gmail.com
12/16	Th	Pipe Spring NM	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	andrea_bornemeier at nps.gov
12/17	Fr	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251	bonnie_swarbrick at fws.gov
12/17	Fr	Saint David	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom at sabo.org
12/18	Sa	Avra Valley	Mary Lou Cole	520-578-0114	birdingnana at msn.com
12/18	Sa	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayampacbc at hotmail.com
12/18	Sa	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Henry Detwiler	928-210-6474	henrydetwiler at earthlink.net
12/18	Sa	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	elaimorr at npgcable.com
12/18	Sa	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetrogon at comcast.net
12/18	Sa	Payson	Dave Hallock	303-258-3672	eldoradh at rmi.net
12/18	Sa	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	tedmouras at mindspring.com
12/18	Sa	Santa Catalina Mountains	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	batesd at cox.net
12/18	Sa	Timber Mesa	Mary Ellen Bittorf	928-367-2462	maryellen12 at cableone.net
12/19	Su	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-636-4916	duerksen at msn.com
12/19	Su	Jerome	Robert Hunt	928-308-3039	zapata86303 at yahoo.com
12/19	Su	Tucson Valley	Larry Liese	520-743-3520	larryliese at prodigy.net
12/20	Mo	Elfrida	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom at sabo.org
12/20	Mo	Phoenix-Tres Rios	David Powell	602-441-5508	vireo at vireos.com
12/22	We	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	ctomoff at prescott.edu
12/26	Su	Sedona	Dottie Hook	928-204-1894	dottiehook1 at aol.com
12/26	Su	Superior	Cynthia Donald	480-283-4515	planres at earthlink.net
12/28	Tu	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado at cox.net
12/28	Tu	Havas NWR	DeeDee DeLorenzo	928-758-2707	poncho at citlink.net
12/29	We	Bill Williams Delta	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair at fws.gov
12/29	We	Green Valley-Madera Canyon	Jeff Gilligan	520-399-0773	jeffgill at teleport.com
12/30	Th	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber at cox.net
12/31	Fr	Atascosa Highlands	Rich Hoyer	520-325-5310	birdernaturalist at me.com
1/1	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Terry Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows at nau.edu
1/1	Sa	Portal	Jackie Lewis	520-558-2287	winjac12 at vtc.net
1/2	Su	Appleton-Whittell	Robert Weissler	520-803-0794	weissler at aves.org
1/2	Su	Camp Verde	Terry Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows at nau.edu
1/2	Su	Dudleyville	Doug Jenness	520-909-1529	d_jenness at hotmail.com
1/4	Tu	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence at nps.gov
Unknown		Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Stephen Barclay	520-387-4987	stephen_barclay at fws.gov

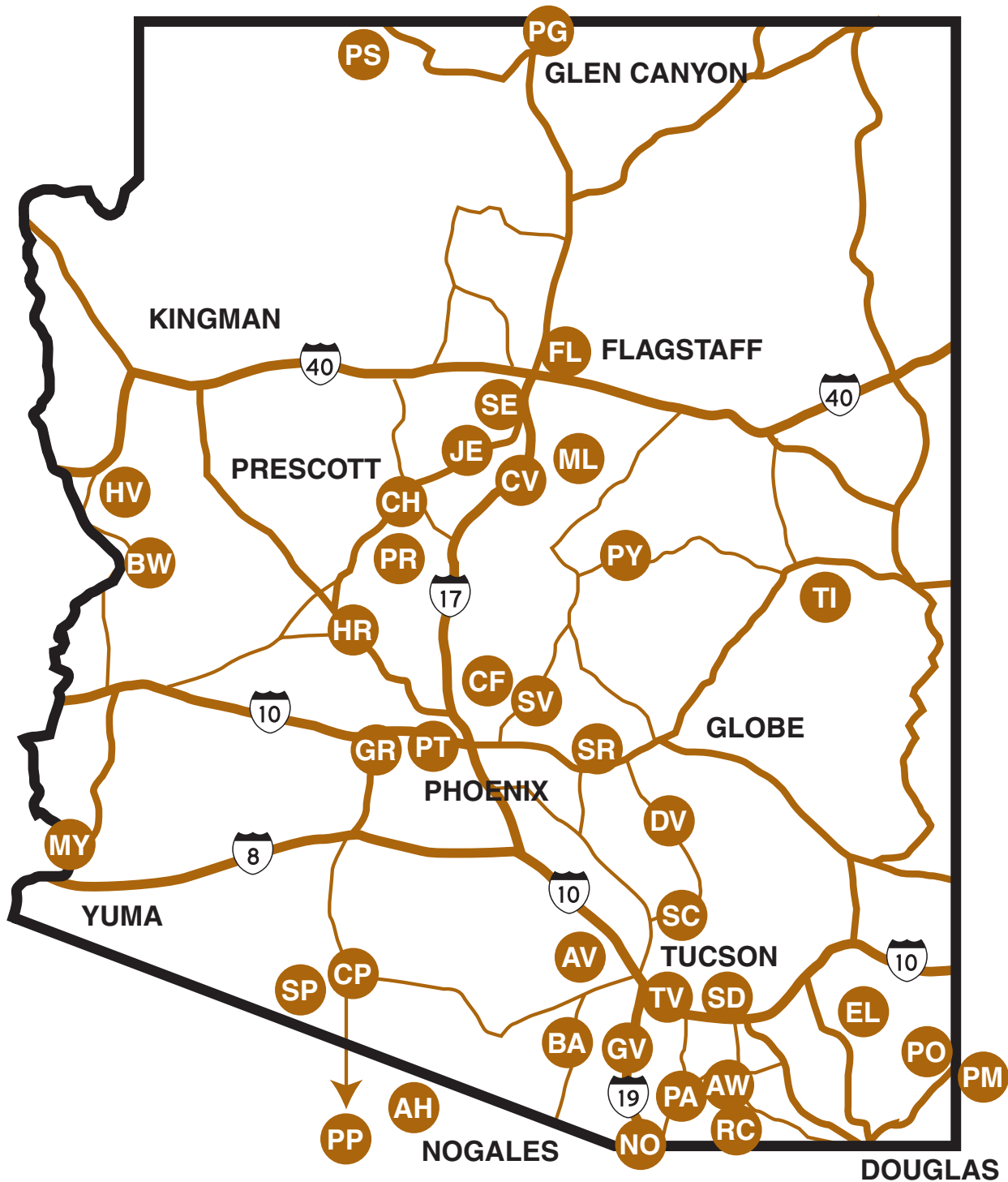
Nearby New Mexico Count

1/2	Su	Peloncillo Mountains	Nicholas Pederson	505-417-8665	npederson4088 at hotmail.com
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Christmas Bird Count Map

cbc map





sendero encantado



enchanted trail

FREE! FAMILY! FUN!

Come visit the Enchanted Trail! Experience a magical evening stroll along the Audubon Center's beautiful nature trail, where you and your family will encounter activities and entertainment all about nocturnal animals of the Sonoran Desert—including owls, bats and ring-tailed cats! See live nocturnal wildlife and solve the Mystery of the Enchanted Trail to make your very own animal mask, just in time for Halloween!

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Nature through the Artist's Eye: Shane Fero

Shane Fero was born in Chicago, IL in 1953 and has been a flameworker for 40 years and maintains a studio next to Penland School in North Carolina. He participates in international symposia and conferences by lecturing, and demonstrating. Fero is also an educator and has taught at institutions such as Penland School, Urban Glass, the Pratt Fine Arts Center, the Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass, the University of Michigan, Eugene Glass School, Espace Verre, Montreal, Quebec, the Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pilchuck Glass School, Bild-Werk, Frauenau, Germany, the International Glass Festival in Stourbridge, UK, Scuola Bubacco, Murano, Italy, Chameleon Studio, Tasmania, Australia and in Seto, Osaka, and the Nijijima Glass Art Center in Japan.



His work can be found in collections both private and public institutions worldwide. He has had over 23 solo exhibitions since 1992 and has participated in over 400 group exhibitions during his career. He has been honored with three retrospectives; a 30 year at the Berkowitz Gallery at the University of Michigan in 1999, a 40 year at the Huntsville Museum of Art in 2008 and at the Christian Brothers University in 2010. His work can be found in over 20 museum collections worldwide including the Museum of Art & Design, NY, GlasMuseum, Denmark, the Asheville Art Museum, NC, the Huntsville Museum of Art, AL, the Museum fur Glaskunst, Lauscha, Germany, and the Nijijima Contemporary Glass Museum in Japan. He is the Past-President of the Board of Directors of the Glass Art Society.



Maricopa Audubon Society

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Phoenix, AZ 85060-5451



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miscellaneous

Monthly Meeting

First Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced, September through April, 7:30 p.m. Our meeting place is Dorrance Hall or Webster Auditorium, at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG), except for our annual banquet in May, the location to be announced. The DBG is located at 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona. This is approximately 1/4 mile north of the Phoenix Zoo. For a map, please see the DBG website at www.dbg.org/.

Dorrance Hall is located just off the main parking lot and entry to the DBG. Webster is in the far southeast side of the gardens. Please contact a board member if you have any questions, or check out our web site at www.maricopa-audubon.org. Pre-meeting dinners (September through April) are held at Rolling Hills 19th Tee Restaurant, 1405 N. Mill Avenue, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Membership Information

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

1. By joining the National Audubon Society. If you live in the Phoenix metro area generally east of 43rd Avenue, or in the East Valley other than in Gilbert or Chandler, when National Audubon Society receives your check made payable to National Audubon Society and your membership application, you will be assigned to Maricopa Audubon Society, or you can send your check payable to National Audubon Society and your National Audubon Society membership application to Scott Burge, membership chair, and he will send it on in to National Audubon for you, or
2. By becoming a "Friend of Maricopa Audubon". In this case you will become a member of Maricopa Audubon Society only, and you will not receive the Audubon magazine or any of the other "benefits" of National Audubon membership, but you will receive a one-year subscription to the *Cactus Wren*dition*. "Friends" contribution categories are: Anna's Hummingbird-\$20; Verdin-\$35-\$99; LeConte's Thrasher-\$100-\$249; Cactus Wren-\$250-\$999; Harris's Hawk-\$1,000-\$9,999 and California Condor-\$10,000+. Mail your Friends membership application and your check made payable to Maricopa Audubon to Scott Burge, membership chair. All "Friends" members receive certain designated discounts. (If you reside outside the above-indicated geographical area, the only way to receive a subscription to the *Cactus Wren*dition* is to become a "Friend".) For National Audubon membership address changes or other questions call (800) 274-4201 or e-mail CHADD@audubon.org. For all other membership questions call or e-mail Scott Burge.

Submissions

Copy for *The Cactus Wren*dition* must be received by the editor by e-mail, by January 15, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Articles not received by the deadlines may not appear in the upcoming issue. E-mail to: The Cactus Wren*dition Editor, Emily Morris: monarchmorris@gmail.com

Opinions

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

Reprinting of material

Unless stated explicitly in the article, material in *The Cactus Wren*dition* may be reprinted on other newsletters as long as the material is credited to the original author and to *The Cactus Wren*dition*.

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