



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 6 Issue 8

April 2005

SENATE FAILS TO REMOVE ARCTIC DRILLING REVENUES FROM BUDGET RESOLUTION

From the Audubon Advisory March 25, 2005

"Despite overwhelming public opposition, on March 16th, the U.S. Senate voted 49-51 against an amendment sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) to strip a provision from the Senate budget resolution that incorporates revenues gleaned from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, taking one more step toward opening up the Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas leasing and drilling.

While this is disappointing, it certainly isn't the end of the fight!

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate still have to reconcile the differences in their budgets in conference committee. When Congress returns April 4, they will be called upon to hammer out the differences between each chamber's budget resolutions and to come up with a final measure that meets the approval of the full House and Senate - something they have not been able to do in two years! Adding this controversial provision will make that job far more difficult."

As an added note Republican Senator John McCain voted for the resolution to remove Arctic drilling revenues from budget resolution while Republican Senator Kyl did not.

JUST WHAT IS THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE?

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside for protection in 1960, and in 1980 Congress barred development of its coastal plain. This area is located in the north-east corner of Alaska and is about the size of South Carolina. It's the wildest place left in America. It's often called the "American Serengeti" for no where else in the United States comes close to matching the sheer wildlife spectacle of the famed African plain. The refuge is home to a herd of 129,000 Porcupine Caribou, 3 species of bear that include the polar and grizzlies, muskoxen, arctic foxes, wolverines, snow geese, 130 species of migratory bird and a myriad number of other creatures, all of which depend on this fragile, unique land for survival.

At our next meeting....

April 13, 2005

Kurt Radamaker: "Birding the Baja California"



Vizcaino [Le Conte's] Thrasher

Considered a subspecies of Le Conte's Thrasher, quite possibly a full species.

Photo by Kurt Radamaker

This 60 minute presentation will delight the audience with anecdotal stories of finding birds in Baja, Mexico, while taking them on a journey through the beautiful, wild and natural areas of the Peninsula.

The audience will be encouraged to explore and discover a peninsula still ripe with opportunities of seeing birds in their natural habitats as well as migration in progress. The Baja peninsula, still under-birded in many areas, offers a chance for some of the more daring to combine their birding skills with a sense of finding buried treasure. Many birds, recorded numerous times in the near-by states of California and Arizona, have yet to be seen, or are rarely seen, in Baja. Baja also enjoys a number of endemic species and subspecies; many of which are easily seen (if you know where to go!)

Join Kurt Radamaker, on Wednesday, April 13th to learn more about these curious and wonderful Mexican states of Baja California Norte and Baja California Sur, located just to the south of Arizona and California.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Kurt Rademaker: "Birding the Baja California"

Here the beaches and the desert join to form most unique and spectacular habitats. Kurt Rademaker has been interested in birds since childhood. At 11 years old he completed seminars in Ornithology offered by Cornell University which sparked a lifetime interest in birds. He has authored several papers on birds, was the editor and publisher of "The Euphonia", a scientific journal of the birds of Mexico, and is an associate author on the recently published monograph "Birds of the Baja California Peninsula: Status, Distribution, and Taxonomy". Kurt has led birding tours to Mexico and Costa Rica and served on the board of several birding organizations. He is currently a board member of the Florida Ornithological Society and a member of the Arizona Bird Committee, as well as the compiler for the Salt-Verde Christmas Bird Count. He is one of the founding members of a new organization currently being developed, the Arizona Field Ornithologists. Kurt currently resides in Fountain Hills with his wife Cindy who shares his love of the outdoors.

When out in the field birding with Kurt, he generously shares his vast knowledge of birds and most important his incredible enthusiasm and sense of humor.

IBA NEWS

By Josh Burns

The wet winter has played havoc with our various IBA plans but we are beginning to recover from it. Several significant activities are planned.

AGUA FRIA NM RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

We did not complete a full series of transects during the winter period because of the water. Dwayne and Josh visited the monument on March 22 and found that the east approach to the Horseshoe Ford has been washed out (replaced with large boulders by the river) but that a temporary but very rough way around the washout has been made. Also a grader was working on other portions of Bloody Basin Road.

PHOENIX RIO SALADO PROJECT

The extensive flooding of the Salt River has delayed construction and the opening of the project until the fall. However, we plan to finally get the bird counting project underway on International Migratory Bird Day (NAMC), Saturday, May 14th, with a limited morning count of the project area from the various bridges. For further information and hopefully to volunteer contact Dwayne Fink

(edna.fink@asu.edu) or Josh Burns
(josh_a_burns@yahoo.com) or Tice (see below).

IBA MONITORING WORKSHOP

To deal with a concern about identified IBAs that are not being monitored or undercounted, Audubon Arizona will conduct a free workshop on IBA monitoring on April 7th and 9th at the Christ Episcopal Church in Carefree. The Thursday session will run from 12 noon to 7 pm and focus on the techniques of and forms used in monitoring. A light dinner will be served and there will be a short birding session. The Saturday session will run from 7 am to 12 noon and will be hands on monitoring, probably at Spur Cross.

For further information and to register contact Tice Supplee at tsupplee@audubon.org or (602) 468-6470

A message from your president ...

While going over the bird lists for our West Valley's Best Yard for Birds 2005 contest, I noticed something interesting. One person had a bird list that just screamed ARIZONA! Someone from a different part of the country could literally go to her place and pick up a dozen life birds! This is why it has been decided to award Ann McDermott the Grand Prize, the West Valley's Best Yard for Birds 2005. Congratulations Ann!

The following is a partial listing of the birds seen from her yard. Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Gambel's Quail, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, Curved-Billed Thrasher, Say's Phoebe, White Crowned Sparrow, Bendire's Thrasher, Black-throated Sparrow, Verdin, American Kestrel, Anna's Hummingbird, Gilded Flicker, Abert's Towhee, Rock Wren, and Great Horned Owl.

The other winners were. . .

"What the heck was that?" award - Most unusual species (as determined by the Sonoran Audubon Board) Matt Chew & Julie Stromsburg - Osprey (it routinely patrols the Western Canal in South Phoenix)

"I wouldn't want to park my car here!" award - Highest total number of birds Arlene Scheuer - about 600 birds.

List of participants for 2005 & number of species seen.:

Bob McCormick 31, Matt Chew & Julie Stromberg 26
Ann McDermott 26, Arlene Scheuer 21, George Wall 9, Carolyn Modeen 8

Thanks to all participants and we will add more prizes for next year.

Did you know ...

By George Wall

The latest issue of Wild Bird (May/June 2205) is the 15th Annual Hummingbird Issue. It is full of nice pictures and information on hummingbirds. So thinking along that line, here are some interesting facts about hummingbirds.

Did you know—

—That an average hummingbird consumes half its weight in sugar each day.

—That the smallest hummingbird in the world, the Bee Hummingbird of Cuba, is only 2.25 inches long and the largest in the world, the Giant Hummingbird of South America, is 7.2 inches long.

—That a hummingbird's heart beats 1,260 times per minute.

—That of all birds, hummingbirds lay the smallest eggs. They are half the size of a jellybean. Picture in your mind one of their eggs alongside an ostrich egg.

—That they feed 5-8 times each hour, but for about 30-60 seconds at a time.

—That when resting they take 250 breaths per minute.

—That they have the largest known relative heart size of all birds. Their heart represents 2.4 percent of their body weight.

—That hummingbirds have no sense of smell. They locate their food by eyesight looking for colorful flowers or objects. This is why they are attracted to feeders that are red and yellow.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org

Join the National Audubon Society

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

These fees cover membership in the National Audubon Society and a subscription to Audubon magazine. An application form for National membership may be obtained from the chapter at the regular meeting or by contacting <chuckkan@mindspring.com>.

Each year all National members in the Sonoran Audubon chapter area receive the September *Gambel's Tales* that describes major chapter activities for the year. All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* may be obtained free from the chapter website <www.sonoranaudubon.org> or by mail for \$10.00 per year. If you wish to get the newsletter by mail or to be notified when a new issue is placed on the website, please contact chuckkan@mindspring.com or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society P O Box 8068 Glendale, AZ 85312-8068

Tres Rios

Both Tres Rios sites (Cobble & Hayfield) are closed due to the flooding of the river. The wetlands are fine, but there is no access to them as part of the access road was washed out. It will be a while before repairs can be made.

Sonoran Audubon Society Officers & Board Members:

Officers

President Robert McCormick 602-237-3951

mcbobaz@aol.com

Vice-President Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8224

dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

Treasurer Loretta Richards 623-594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

Secretary Anne Durning 602-237-9635

a.durning@earthlink.net

Board Members at Large

Suzanne Cash 602-942-0727

roxiep@msn.com

Dick Fogle 623-584-3922

rfogle@yahoo.com

Tom Jones 602-861-1217

trjones@grand-canyon.edu

Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646

klaf@cox.net

Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451

lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us

Tice Supplee 602-258-7080

vsupplee@gf.state.az.us

George Wall 623-875-7057

wallaby@worldnet.att.net

Committee Contacts

Programs Daniela Yellan 602-942-7791

danielay11@earthlink.net

Education

Field Trips Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cs.com

Finance Treasurer Loretta Richards 623-594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

Hospitality Marian Bound 602-370-7795

kireisonia@yahoo.com

Membership Charles Kangas 623-931-6677

chuckkan@mindspring.com

Newsletter George Wall 623-875-7057 wallaby@worldnet.att.net

Publicity George Wall 623-875-7057 wallaby@worldnet.att.net

Conservation: Nancy Kroening 602-296-4586

greenfrost@yahoo.com &

Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451 lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us

Refreshments donated by

TRADER JOE'S®

The above sign was prepared by Jak Keyser, one of our talented members, and will be displayed at our meeting refreshment table:

Thank you Trader Joe's

FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR ...

I hope that I can continue on and do the excellent job that Bill Higgins and Chuck Kangas has done in the past.

Here's a little about myself. I'm currently a board member, the publicity chairperson and on the field trip and nominating committees of the Sonoran Audubon Society. I'm also the leader of the birding group called Birders' Anonymous in Sun City and write their one-page newsletter each month.

I send out all emails from both groups to all interested parties regarding any activities, events and exciting or unusual bird sightings.

I only got interested in birding in 1997 and in conservation in the past two years.

In the past, I've held several offices in the Sun City Stamp Club including president. I was president of the Montgomery Area Stamp Club in Alabama for 20 years. I published a 2 page newsletter for them for 17 of those years. Hopefully, this experience and your input will help me do the kind of job that is needed as editor of the Sonoran Audubon Society Newsletter - George Wall

Salton Sea-Yuma Field Trip March 18-20, 2005

By Ann McDermott.

The predicted rains never materialized except in the form of sprinkles over the windshields of the cars used to explore the surreal landscapes of the Salton Sea and the wetlands around Yuma. Instead, we were inundated by butterflies migrating through the region, mostly Painted Ladies.

Henry Detwiler, of Southwest Birders, led our group, which consisted of members of Maricopa Audubon, Sonoran Audubon and Birders Anonymous, through his birding domain, telling us a little history, a bit of geology and plenty about birds to be seen in each location. Chuck Kangas organized the trip, making arrangements for travel, accommodations and Henry's skills, a daunting challenge, but one for which all travelers were grateful. Field trip participants were: Chuck and Loretta Richards, Chuck Kangas, Ian Jeffrey, Donna Smith, Jane McNeill, Barb Meding, Mary Jo and Bill Draxler, Daniela Yellan, Darnell Kirksey, Ann McDermott, Vera Markham, Ann Durning, Linda Long and Karen Stucke.

We visited locations such as the Somerton sewage plant, Betty's Kitchen, farm fields around Yuma and Holtville, mud pots steaming just off-road in California, Obsidian Butte by the Salton Sea, Wister Waterfowl Management

Area, Laguna Dam, Finney Lake, Mitty Lake and a golf course--pretty much the usual birding spots except for there being only one sewage plant.

These birding hotspots yielded a grand total of 119 species which included: Eared Grebes, Pied-billed Grebes, Clark's Grebes, Western Grebes, American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Black-crowned Night Herons, More Cattle Egrets than you'd believe, Green Heron (Flying over our cars), Great Egrets, About as many Great Blue Herons as you'd expect, Common Merganser, Ruddy Ducks in impressive, but not ridiculous numbers, Turkey Vultures, White-faced Ibis, Snow Geese, Mallards, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeons, Northern Pintail, Northern Shovelers in ridiculous numbers, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Red-head, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, a male in breeding plumage along with a female, Bufflehead, Ospreys, Northern Harriers, No Eagles, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora (heard), Gambel's Quail, Common Moorhen, American Coots (Way more common than Moorhen), No Cranes, Black-bellied Plovers (One or two headed toward breeding plumage), ever present Killdeer, American Avocet in lovely breeding plumage, Black-necked Stilts, Willets galore, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, A few Western Sandpipers, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, **Surfbird** (very rare--big surprise to Henry), **Red Knot** (Also a surprise to Henry), Long-billed Dowitcher, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Gull-billed Tern (From the observation tower), Caspian Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Inca Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Greater Roadrunner, unfortunately, no owls except Burrowing Owl, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher (On the golf course), Western Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, no Vireos, Bells not arrived yet, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Marsh Wren. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Abert's Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds many times over, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Bullock's Oriole, House Finch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, and finally, the House Sparrow.

Spring 2005 Field Trips

Sonoran Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on all outings!

Please organize your own carpool, consolidate vehicles at meeting places, and/or contact leaders for carpooling assistance. Field Trips are rated in difficulty levels one, the easiest, to five, the most difficult. It is recommended that passengers reimburse drivers at an agreed rate.

REMINDERS: Don't forget water, sunscreen, hats and insect repellent. Wear neutral colors.

Sunday, April 3, 2005

Beginning Birder Class

Leaders: Bob McCormick (602) 237-3951

McBobAZ@aol.com

We will be conducting a beginning birder class at the Thunderbird Park picnic area and the nearby Heritage Fund Pond. We will be covering the birding basics; identification, books, binoculars, etc. The first part of the class will cover the desert birds at the park and then we will drive over to the pond to view the ducks and herons. The class in November 2003 had 38 species.

Morning Only ARRIVE at 8:00 a.m. at the south end of the Thunderbird Park picnic area. We will be at one of the pagodas near the restrooms. This regional park is located about 1 ½ miles North of the loop 101. Plan on about 3 hours of birding. Please call to register.

Difficulty: 1

Saturday, April 9 2005

Badger Springs

Leader: Chuck Richards 623- 594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

This is a reschedule of the trip that got washed out in January. We should see some of the early spring migration birds up from the south as well as some winter birds that are late in leaving. Crissal Thrashers have been seen on the trail to the river. If there has been rain, expect to find some water on either trail. The trail down to the river is gradual but some walking over rocks may be needed. The trail through the wash is mostly loose sand.

Meet at Denny's just W of I-17 at Bell (SW corner) to leave at 7:00 a.m. There is a large parking lot to drop off excess cars. We'll carpool from there. PLEASE CALL LEADER to register.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only, no facilities.

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Pinal Airport Pecan Grove/Sweetwater (Tucson Area)

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cs.com

The Pinal Airport Pecan Grove on the way to Sweetwater is a nice location for hawks and woodpeckers in the scarred cottonwoods. Warblers and other birds may be seen in a few pecan trees still standing. The Sweetwater Wastewater Treatment Plant has designed an area with birders in mind. A nice easy walk around the ponds on very nice paths will provide an abundance of birds and waterfowl. 40-70 species can be seen on this trip.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave just south of Peoria Ave in Sun City. Leave at 6:30 am

Difficulty: 1 (easy walking) All day, bring a lunch

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Sycamore Creek

Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623 977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Sycamore Creek meanders on both sides of dual highway Rte. 87 going Northeast toward Payson.

At Bushnell Tanks there is a grove of old sycamores and running water where orioles, tanagers, vireos and fly-catchers may be seen. Walking along old Rte. 87 where it has been closed except for local traffic expect to see Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings and warblers there. On the last trip to the area the group was treated to a flock of Lark Sparrows and Western Kingbirds. The Common Black-Hawk nests here.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center at Boswell and Hutton Dr. one block south of Bell Rd. in Sun City to leave at 6:30 a.m. or call the leader to arrange a meeting place farther East.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch

Saturday-Sunday, April 30-May 1, 2005

Roosevelt Lake and the Sierra Anchas

Leader: Troy Corman 602-482-6187

aplomado@cox.net

This weekend car camping trip is scheduled for the peak period for spring migration of birds in Gila County, so you never know what we might encounter. We will visit many habitats and elevations in search of a great diversity of birds. This includes water birds at Roosevelt Lake and birds of the desert, riparian woodlands, and cool mountain forests. Since this is an overnight camping trip, we may also try our luck with detecting nocturnal owls and night-jars. This field trip may include some strenuous mountain trail hiking, and higher clearance vehicles may be needed in a few areas. Please note this is a joint trip with Maricopa Audubon and space is limited to only 15 participants, roughly evenly distributed between the two Societies. Car pooling is required. Call leader for reservations and additional information.

Difficulty: 3

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Spring/Summer 2005 Field Trips

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Granite Reef Dam/Coon Bluff

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

wallaby@worldnet.att.net

These sites on the Salt River in the Tonto National Forest are good habitats for ducks, herons, hawks and Bald Eagles. The mesquite riparian area is also home to a variety of birds.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center parking lot on Hutton Dr near Boswell for car-pooling. Leave at 7:00 AM. Call leader for directions on meeting farther east and for details.

Difficulty 1 – Easy trails. Bring Lunch & spotting scope if available.

Friday May 6, 2005

Box Canyon

Leader Nancy London 928-684-5530

55407@w3az.net

Box Canyon is a high-walled canyon of the Hassayampa River located about 12 miles northeast of Wickenburg. Because of the drought there has been little or no water in recent years. But if the current rains continue, then by May we may have to walk through some water. Wear old tennis shoes and bring a change of shoes and socks to leave in the vehicles. Also bring a backpack with lunch and water. We should be back in Wickenburg by 2 p.m. The road to the trailhead is passable by a regular car, if it hasn't rained the day before.

On the drive to the Canyon we will see the usual resident desert birds, but in the Canyon we can expect to see riparian birds, residents and migrants. We will surely hear calling Canyon Wrens. The likely birds at the Box are the same as at the Hassayampa River Preserve, if we have a rainy fall/winter.

Meet at 8:00 am at the Wickenburg Community Center: as you travel northwest on Hwy. 60 entering Wickenburg you will cross the bridge over the Hassayampa, turn right immediately after the bridge and you will be looking at a large white building and surrounding parking lot.

Difficulty: 2

Tuesday-Thursday, May 24-26, 2005

Springerville, Arizona

Leaders: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922

rpfogle@yahoo.com

& GeorgeWall 623-875-7057

wallaby@worldnet.att.net

The migration should be in full swing at this time of year in Springerville and in that area are numerous birding

spots. Here are some of the places we'll visit: (1) Becker Lake where a pair of Bald Eagles has been seen. (2) Weima Wildlife Area managed by the Arizona Game and Fish has 2 easy walking trails along the Little Colorado River through cottonwoods and reeds. Warblers and other birds should be numerous. (3) Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area with a loop trail that goes by McKay Reservoir. Bluebirds, Juncos and other birds should be plentiful. (4) The South Fork area that is in a small canyon in which lies the Little Colorado River. Birds seen here have included Veery, American Redstart, Gray Catbird & Indigo Bunting. This is also antelope and deer country and hopefully we'll see some.

This is a joint Birders' Anonymous & Sonoran Audubon Society trip. We'll be staying at the Best Western in Eager on the 24th and 25th.

Difficulty: 1-2 as these are easy trails that run anywhere from ½ mile to 6 miles depending on how much you want to walk or you can just wait at the trail heads where there are also plenty of birds.

NOTE: The above Springerville trip is full with 20 participants. If you'd like your name on the waiting list, contact one of the leaders.

Saturday, June 4, 2005

Yarnell City Park

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cs.com

Yarnell is a charming town that welcomes birders in the Weaver Mountains. Off route 89 northeast of Wickenburg. This is high desert valley at 4780 ft. The park has restrooms and picnic tables with well cared for trails. There is a nice restaurant in town where some of us will have lunch. The rest can have a picnic lunch in the park.

Birds that have been seen are nesting juniper titmouse, acorn woodpecker, all three towhees, warblers, vireos, and orioles.

Meet at Wickenburg Community Center at 7AM. As you travel northwest on Highway 60 entering Wickenburg, you will cross the bridge over the Hassayampa river, turn right immediately after the bridge, the road goes around a bend and you will see a large white building and parking lot on the right. It's a short scenic drive up the mountain to Yarnell.

Difficulty 1

Friday, June 10, 2005

Seven Springs and Camp Creek

Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623 977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Explore these riparian areas in the Tonto National Forest

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Summer 2005 Field Trips

north of Cave Creek where water and shade offer good habitat for a variety of birds. On past trips birds such as Sage Thrasher, Scrub Jay, Black-eared Bushtit, Townsend's Solitaire, Tree Swallow, and Red-naped Sapsucker have been seen. The mountainous scenery is as captivating as the birding sites and, as usual, each birding day in this area has been serendipitous. A variety of hawks and warblers are often seen.

Difficulty: 2 (there is one long hill down to Camp Creek)
Bring lunch.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center at the corner of Hutton Drive and Boswell one block south of Bell Road in Sun City to LEAVE at 6:30 a.m. Call the

leader to arrange a meeting place farther east.

There is a \$4.00 per car entrance fee.

Saturday, June 18, 2005

Pinal Mountains/Signal Peak

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

wallaby@worldnet.att.net

This is a trip to the Pinal Mountains south of Globe away from the heat of the valley and into the higher elevations of the Tonto National Forest. The beauty of the area is unmatched and birders should be awarded with views of nuthatches, woodpeckers and other high forest birds.

The last time this trip was done was in September 27, 2003. Eleanor Campbell wrote about that trip: "Wild and wonderful was the view from Pinal Mountain and Signal Peak in the Pinal Mountains south of Globe, Arizona."

Difficulty: 2 – Bring Lunch. There are several picnic grounds on Pinal Peak. This is at least a 2 hour drive; so car-pooling is a must.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot (107th south of Peoria in Sun City) prior to the 5:30 am departure time. We'll be stopping for breakfast at a local restaurant located just before the birding area.

Thursday-Friday, July 7-8, 2005

Flagstaff

Leaders: Nancy Reed 623-876-8807

KENNANREED@cox.net & Jayne McNeill 623- 594-2500 jamcbird2@aol.com

Here's another summer get-away to the cooler climate of Flagstaff. Thursday we will bird the Flagstaff Arboretum and then go to Nancy Reed's house. Who can forget Nancy Reed's backyard porch where you're looking down on feeders and small pools of water. Here you are bound to see a lot of birds like the Pygmy Nuthatch, Hairy Woodpecker, American Robin and Western Blue-

bird frolicking and bathing right in front of you. A real treat! Nancy is scouting the Flagstaff area to select the areas to bird on Friday.

Difficulty: 1 – Bring lunch. You should make this trip an overnigher by staying at a local motel after a full day of birding on Thursday. This is another long drive and we'll be leaving the Bell Recreation center parking lot at 5:30 am. If you miss this pickup spot, or will be staying in Flagstaff, we will be meeting at the Flagstaff Arboretum at 9am to start the day of birding.

California Gulch and Southern Arizona

Friday, Saturday and Sunday July 15 –17, 2005

Leader: Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074

This is a repeat of some very successful trips that Andrée Tarby has previously led. In the past we have seen almost all of the target birds we went to see, including the Five-striped Sparrow, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Varied Bunting, and the Botteri's Sparrow. I believe all the target birds were seen through the scope, so all of us had good looks at them. This year we also will look for the Buff-collared Nightjar, a Mexican specialty. This is a bird that many of our members need for a life bird. The plan is to drive to Nogales and spend the night leaving very early Saturday morning. Some of us will plan to see some birds on Friday on our way down to Nogales. We go along some very rough roads so 4-wheel drive vehicles are necessary. We hope to have enough 4-wheel drive vehicles to put in extra people who might want to drive their own cars. It's only the last few miles where 4-wheel drive vehicles are necessary.

Call Andrée Tarby for details of the trip and she'll also try to arrange for car pooling.

Friday-Sunday, August 19-21, 2005

San Diego, California

Leader: Mary Beth Stowe

Contact person: Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677

chuckkan@mindspring.com

Mary Beth will take us to her favorite birding spots in San Diego. She will lead the trip on Saturday and Chuck Kangas is working on another San Diego birder to lead us on Friday afternoon and Sunday. Some of the people will want to stay until Monday when the traffic will be lighter returning to Phoenix.

There will be a limit of twelve birders, so the trip will fill up fast. Mary put on the limit so that we will have less trouble going to the various places in San Diego. We should have a good chance to see most of the California specialties. Call Chuck to reserve a place on the trip and receive more information.

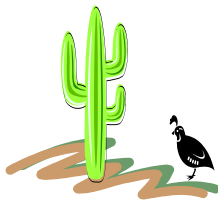
We will meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot at 6:00 AM and head for San Diego. Bring three days of picnic lunches. Chuck will arrange to have the group stay at a hotel next to the freeway.

Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection) Time: 6:30 p.m.**

April 13, 2005 Kurt Radamaker: "Birding in Baja California"
May 11, 2005 Terry Stevens,: "Second Chance: Wildlife Rescue and Rehab"

Other Dates of Interest: April 6 at 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room. All SAS members welcome.



**Sonoran Audubon Society
P.O. Box 8068
Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**