



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 6 Issue 4

December 2004

## HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE HOSTS NATURE WALKS

Docent-guided nature walks will be hosted by the Hassayampa River Preserve from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. the last Saturday of each month, October through April. Participants should meet at the Preserve's visitor center. Following the walk, participants can visit an interpretive center housed in the 1860's-era Frederick Brill ranch house/stagecoach way station listed on the Arizona State Register of Historic Places. A stroll through the interpretive garden and photographic exhibits by the Wickenburg Camera Club in the Frank Broz Memorial Gallery will round out the day. For more information or to sign up, call (928) 684-2772.

### Volunteers Are Needed

A volunteer/project coordinator, Bernadine McCollum, has been added to the staff and is recruiting volunteers for visitor center host, trail docent, trail and building maintenance, event planning, and data entry. Please contact her at (928) 684-2772 or email: [bmccollum@tnc.org](mailto:bmccollum@tnc.org) for more information.

### Admission Fee Begins January 1st

Beginning January 1, 2005, the Preserve will begin charging visitors, age 12 and older, a \$5.00 admission fee, according to Marty Lawrence, operations manager. "The fee will bring us in line with the Conservancy's other Arizona preserves," says operations manager Marty Lawrence, "and help to defray the costs of maintaining preserve facilities." Members of The Nature Conservancy will pay only \$3.00 per person. Visitors also can purchase an annual pass for \$25.00 that grants access to the Hassayampa River Preserve, as well as the Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon and Patagonia-Sonoita Creek preserves in south-eastern Arizona.

\*\*\*\*\*

See page 8 for a field trip report to the Preserve from November 12, 2004. The next one is scheduled on Saturday, March 26, 2005. Try to get to one of the trips and experience the richness of the habitat of Hassayampa. #

## At our next meeting.... December 8, 2004

**Roger G. Joos,  
USDA  
"The Beavers of Tres Rios"**



If a survey was taken asking people if beavers existed in Arizona, the answer would likely be a resounding no. The City of Phoenix Water Services Department however, knows very well that beavers do exist in Arizona and they know what they like to eat. An estimated 35-50 beavers showed up at the Tres Rios Constructed Demonstration Wetland ponds near the 91<sup>st</sup> Ave Waste Water Treatment Plant in the late 1990's. The beavers were causing damage to the vegetation, tunneling into berms, and damming up water outlets on the Ponds. The Water Services Department recognized the importance of beavers in a wetland habitat but could not accept the high levels of damage that was occurring.

The City of Phoenix contacted Wildlife Services and

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

## **The Beavers of Tres Rios**

asked what could be done. The Tres Rios non-lethal beaver research program was subsequently developed. The objective of the research is to develop methods that will reduce or eliminate beaver damage on a landscape scale. We are conducting ongoing research using repellents and scaring devices. Radio telemetry is also currently being used to gain a better understanding of the movements and territory sizes of the beavers within the study area. This information will allow biologists to determine future steps in the research.

The focus of my presentation will be the Tres Rios research. I will also discuss the history of beavers and humans in Arizona, and the life history and ecology of the North American beaver.

Roger Joos has a B.S. degree in wildlife biology from the University of Arizona. He has been employed with the USDA Forest Service where his projects included working with Mexican Spotted Owls and Northern Goshawks. He has also worked with numerous species of reptiles and amphibians while employed by the US Geological Survey. Currently employed by the USDA Wildlife Services, he is the lead field biologist on the Tres Rios beaver research project.

## **OPEN HOUSE**

The Sonoran Audubon Society is holding an open house at the Glendale Library on Tuesday, 4 January 2005 from 6:30-8:30pm. Come anytime during these hours.

To those of you who are interested in conservation, nature and the environment, this is an invitation and a good chance to find out what the Sonoran Audubon Society is all about. Come to this open house and talk some of the officers, board members and others interested in these things. There will be displays, literature, running videos and live raptors. What an opportunity!

If you're already a member, come on out and meet some of the officers and board members and find out what is happening. At the same time, bring someone with you and introduce them to the society. If you haven't been attending the meetings, this is also a good chance to reintroduce yourself and get involved.

For further information, contact George Wall at 623-875-7057 or Dick Fogle at 623-584-3922

## **Wildlife Photography Techniques**

**Have you ever been disappointed with your wildlife photographs?**

**Come to a Wildlife Photography Workshop  
Saturday, January 15, 2005**

**Instructor: Bruce Taubert**

Have you ever been disappointed with your wildlife photographs? Was the bird you photographed too dark or washed out? It does not matter if you use a digital or film camera; this class will assist you in taking better and more useable photographs.

Topics will include how to use the basics of your camera, lighting, exposure, fill flash, etc. Bring your camera. Meet at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2222 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ, in the Roadrunner Room. The class will start at 1:00 PM.

If you need directions or more information, please call Bruce at 602-789-3301 or email him at

[btaubert@azgfd.gov](mailto:btaubert@azgfd.gov)

## **Tres Rios Christmas Count By Daniela Yellan**

This will be the fourth year of the Phoenix/Tres Rios Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society. The date this year is Thursday, December 16. The count would not be a success without the many SAS members who have participated the last three years. Last year the participants identified 140 species, several of them unusual or rare.

The count circle is divided into 10 areas. Each area is led by an experienced birder/counter. It is important to have a number of participants in each area, as 'the more eyes the better.' Birders of all levels are needed and welcome. Christmas bird counts are a lot of fun, usually with some surprises and unexpected things happening.

The full day of birding is followed by a compilation dinner, where the days highlights are presented by the different groups. To sign up or for more information, **please call the compiler, Daniela Yellan at 602 942-7791**, or email at

[danielay11@earthlink.net](mailto:danielay11@earthlink.net)

### A message from your president...

Have you ever wished that you could improve your birding skills? Have you ever wanted to make a contribution to science? Right now you can do just this, and in some of the State's most exciting habitats.

What am I talking about? Christmas bird counts! All over the State, volunteers are needed to conduct these annual counts. You will be matched up with an experienced birder and then spend an exciting day observing birds and recording information that is vital to the tracking of bird populations nationwide. Following most counts there is a compilation dinner where you can meet others who share your devotion to the environment and maybe even meet some of the State's top Naturalists.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a listing of the areas where the counts will be conducted and the contact information you need to get started.

I hope that you will make this a part of your Christmas tradition as many of us have!

A number of our members have indicated that they are unaware of the numerous items that are available on our web page. Take a few minutes and explore the web page and see the vast amount of information found there. Those of you without a computer can go to any library to open up the page. Ask your librarian for help if you are unsure how to accomplish this. The address for our web page is found below.

**SAS Web Site:** [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com) or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society P O Box 8068 Glendale, AZ 85312-8068

### Sonoran Audubon Society Officers & Board Members:

#### Officers

President Robert McCormick 602-237-3951  
[mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com)  
Vice-President Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8224  
[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)  
Treasurer Loretta Richards 623-594-6554  
[carichards@nowonline.net](mailto:carichards@nowonline.net)  
Secretary Anne Durning 602-237-9635  
[a.durning@earthlink.net](mailto:a.durning@earthlink.net)

#### Board Members at Large

Suzanne Cash 602-942-0727 [roxiep@msn.com](mailto:roxiep@msn.com)  
Dick Fogle 623-584-3922 [rpfogle@qwest.net](mailto:rpfogle@qwest.net)  
Tom Jones 602-861-1217 [trjones@grand-canyon.edu](mailto:trjones@grand-canyon.edu)  
Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646 [klaf@cox.net](mailto:klaf@cox.net)  
Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451 [lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us](mailto:lazzelle.tom@ev.state.az.us)  
Tice Supplee 602-258-7080 [vsupplee@gf.state.az.us](mailto:vsupplee@gf.state.az.us)  
George Wall 623-875-7057 [walaby@worldnet.att.net](mailto:walaby@worldnet.att.net)

### Committee Contacts

Programs Daniela Yellan 602-942-7791  
[danielay11@earthlink.net](mailto:danielay11@earthlink.net)  
Education  
Field Trips Donna Smith 623-556-9535  
[rms15247@cs.com](mailto:rms15247@cs.com)  
Finance Treasurer Loretta Richards 623-594-6554  
[carichards@nowonline.net](mailto:carichards@nowonline.net)  
Hospitality Marian Bound 602-370-7795  
[kireisonia@yahoo.com](mailto:kireisonia@yahoo.com)  
Membership Charles Kangas 623-931-6677  
[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)  
Newsletter Bill Higgins [bill\\_higgins\\_tempe@msn.com](mailto:bill_higgins_tempe@msn.com)  
Publicity George Wall 623-875-7057 [wallaby@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wallaby@worldnet.att.net)  
Conservation



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, and Fry's Marketplace for your generosity.



## Winter and Spring 2004-2005 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.**

**Saturday, December 4, 2004**

**Sparrow Workshop**

**Leader: Bob McCormick 602-237-3951**

[mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com)

This is the first in a series of birding workshops that we hope to have. The plan is to try to identify as many sparrow species as possible and to try to define any characteristics that will make future identification easier. Some of the characteristics we will try to describe are appearance, song, habitat, and behavior.

The workshop will be held on Perry Mesa on the Agua Fria National Monument. If you have never been here before, the views are spectacular. A typical trip to this grassland produces 8 species of sparrows. These will include Brewer's, Lark, Vesper, Black-chinned, Savannah, White-crowned, Song, and occasionally Sage, Rufous-crowned, and Chipping sparrows. If time permits we will also visit some of the several of Native American ruins that litter the mesa and we may get a glimpse of the resident Golden Eagles and Prong-horn Antelope.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Denny's just W of I-17 on Bell Road (S side of Bell Road). There's a large parking lot there where we can leave extra cars. We'll car pool from there. We will then meet any others at the entry Kiosk on the Bloody Basin Road exit at 7:30. It's about another 40min from there to the mesa (we'll bird on the way). I have room for three in my vehicle and, depending on interest we may need others to drive their high clearance vehicle (the road is not in bad condition, just dirt).

We'll bird until about 2PM. PLEASE CALL LEADER to register.

Difficulty: 1

**Friday, December 10, 2004**

**Estrella Mountain Park**

**Leader: Jack Thompson 623-584-1691**

[cathyandjack@yahoo.com](mailto:cathyandjack@yahoo.com)

Last winter at the Tres Rios Nature Festival the beginning birders class found more than 50 species. Over 100 species have been recorded. Desert birds and shore birds may be seen. The Gray Flycatcher is usually there.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 7:30 a.m. OR at the park entrance at 8:15. Entrance fee is \$5.00 per car.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

**Saturday, December 11, 2004**

**Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum**

**Leaders: Loretta and Chuck Richards**

**623-594-6554 [carichards@nowonline.net](mailto:carichards@nowonline.net)**

This unique state park near Superior remains a special birding and hiking area. The diverse flora and permanent water here attract many birds. There are a great many trees that are labeled and the terrain offers a great variety of habitats.

Meet at the Burger King parking lot (near Lowe's) on Thunderbird Blvd. (south side) and 84th Ave. in Peoria at 7:00 a.m. Entrance fee is \$7.50 per person. Call the leaders to register.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch to enjoy in the park picnic area.

**Saturday, January 8, 2005**

**Badger Springs**

**Leader: Chuck Richards 623 594-6554**

[carichards@nowonline.net](mailto:carichards@nowonline.net)

We will plan to cover the parking area down to the river and return. Then, we will follow a wash lined with cottonwood trees. Sparrows and Wrens will be seen along with an assortment of winter birds common to the region. In January '04 there were three Crissal Thrashers on the trail to the river. The following month, a Golden Crowned Sparrow was observed in the same area. 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.

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.

**Friday, January 14, 2005**

**Gilbert Water Ranch**

**Leader: Dwayne Fink 480-967-9202**

[edna.fink@asu.edu](mailto:edna.fink@asu.edu)

This is a trip to one of Dwayne Fink's favorite birding spots in the valley, the Gilbert Water Ranch, located at the SE corner Guadalupe Rd and Greenfield Rd (go east on Superstition Freeway (US 60), then south to Guadalupe Rd. Park south side of library Start time: 8:30 a.m. We'll bird until noon. West-siders may car pool from

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

## Winter and Spring 2004-2005 Field Trips

Birders' Anonymous Site # 2 (Parking lot of Sun Bowl at 107<sup>th</sup> Ave) at 7:30 a.m. Expect wintering ducks and migrating shore birds.

**Friday-Sunday January 21-23, 2005**

**Sierra Vista, White Water Draw and Willcox with Arne Morehouse**

**Contact: Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677**

[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

People who have done this trip before have found out that the hotels in Sierra Vista can fill up fast. We will try to stay at the Best Western on Fry Blvd in Sierra Vista. The rates are reasonable and include a good breakfast. Make your reservations early.

We will leave the Phoenix area Friday morning and bird the Sierra Vista area. We will have a picnic lunch in Sierra Vista. Sunday morning we will drive to White Water Draw and meet Arne. Those of us who went on the sparrow workshop several years ago remember what a wonderful time we had with Arne showing all his favorite places to bird in the surrounding area. Who can forget the field full of Ferruginous Hawks.

We'll decide what area we want to bird on Sunday morning before heading back to Phoenix.

Difficulty: 1

**Wednesday, January 26, 2005**

**White Tank Mountains Regional Park/Happy Trails Pond**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

[rms15247@cs.com](mailto:rms15247@cs.com)

White Tank Mountain Regional Park has a variety of easy, well kept trails where desert birds abound. Cactus and Rock Wrens, several varieties of sparrows, Curve-billed and Bendire's Thrashers and Canyon Towhee's are residents. This trip will begin with a stop at the Happy Trails Pond at Cotton and Bell Rd on the way to the White Tanks. Hopefully there will be some ducks at this time of year as well as Vermillion Flycatchers. Last year an Eurasian Wigeon was present. Maybe we will be lucky and it will have returned. Then on to the White Tanks Regional Park, where we'll walk some of the easier trails.

There is a \$5.00 per car entrance fee.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City. Leave at 7:30 am

Difficulty: 1-2 (walking several easy trails) Morning only

**Friday, February 4, 2005**

**Arlington Valley**

**Leaders: Dean and Joan Luehrs 623- 875-1016**

[luehrs1@mindspring.com](mailto:luehrs1@mindspring.com)

Arlington Valley, west of Phoenix and south of Arlington, with its fields, several ponds, canals, a dam, and a desert butte offer a variety of habitats to search for birds. At this time of year there should be flocks of blackbirds, ibis, and egrets feeding in the fields. On the last trip to the area 61 species were seen including seven Burrowing Owls and a good mixture of sandpipers and other shorebirds. White Pelicans have always been seen.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City at 7:00 a.m.

Difficulty: 1 (very little walking; some birding from the car) Bring lunch.

**Tuesday, February 15, 2005**

**Thunderbird Park Area**

**Leader: Carolyn Modeen 623-972-6273**

[ctmodeen@juno.com](mailto:ctmodeen@juno.com)

This area contains a large pond to view water birds such as ducks, herons and egrets as well as a desert area of the park itself where you can see Cactus Wrens and other desert birds. At this time of year, should see 30 or more species of birds.

Difficulty: 1 (very little walking) Morning only.

**Wednesday February 23, 2005**

**Page Springs Area**

**Leader: John Delventhal**

**Contact: Chuck Richards (623) 594-6554**

[carichards@nowonline.net](mailto:carichards@nowonline.net)

John is the former Vice President of Sonoran Audubon and now lives in Cornville north of Cottonwood on Oak Creek. We will be birding on trails near his home in the morning. There is a good chance we will see a Bald Eagle. There are picnic tables available for lunch. After lunch, those who wish may continue birding at Page Springs and Montezuma Well. We will meet behind Denny's at the corner of I-17 and Bell Rd. (SW corner) and will be leaving at 6:30 a.m. There is ample room to park excess cars. We will need to hold the group to 20, so please register with the contact person.

Difficulty: 1, with the exception of an optional walk down at Montezuma Well.

**March 18-20, 2005**

**Salton Sea, California & Yuma, Arizona with Henry Detwiler**

**Contact: Chuck Kangas 623-931-6677**

[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

This will be a three day trip. We will drive to Yuma on March 18, bird the Yuma hot spots and spend the night there at the Comfort Inn in Yuma. There is a wide selection of motels in Yuma but make your reservations early. On March 19 we will drive to Salton Sea and spend the

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

## Winter and Spring 2004-2005 Field Trips

day birding the area, returning to Yuma for the night. On March 20, we will again bird the area around Yuma, then drive back to Phoenix.

Henry Detwiler is an extremely accomplished tour leader and there will be a charge of \$ 20.00 per person. Those of you who haven't been to the Salton Sea will have a pleasant surprise. Thousands of water birds winter in Salton Sea, with many other birds in the surrounding area. Henry will bring us to some of his favorite birding spots around Yuma. Call Chuck to secure a place on the trip, as it should fill up fast.

Difficulty 1

**Tuesday, March 22, 2005**

**Estrella Mountain Park/El Mirage Ponds**

**Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057**

[wallabv@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wallabv@worldnet.att.net)

This regional park is an excellent birding area with easy walking. Over 100 species have been recorded at various times in this area. Afterwards, a quick trip to the El Mirage ponds should produce some water & shore birds.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Avenue just south of Peoria Avenue in Sun City at 7:00 AM,

Difficulty: 1 (some easy walking) Morning only

**Saturday March 26, 2004**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623 556-9535**

[rms15247@cs.com](mailto:rms15247@cs.com)

One of Donna Smith's favorite place to bird. At this time of year we should have the first of the migrating species and the last of the winter residents. A good time to check out the preserve. The Preserve has been the nesting site for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Red-shouldered Hawk Meet at the south east corner or the Bell Recreation Center Parking lot. At 7:00 AM.

Also you can meet at the Hassayampa River Preserve on Route 60 about 3 miles southeast of Wickenburg, about 45 miles west of Glendale at 8:00 a.m. Donation to The Nature Conservancy is \$5 per person.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only (A picnic area is available for lunching after the trip.)

**Thursday, April 14, 2005**

**Pinal Airport Pecan Grove/Sweetwater (Tucson Area)**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

[rms15247@cs.com](mailto: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 107<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 flycatchers 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](mailto: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 nightjars. 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

**Tuesday, May 3, 2005**

**Granite Reef Dam/Coon Bluff**

**Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922**

[rfogle@qwest.net](mailto:rfogle@qwest.net)

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

## Winter and Spring 2004-2005 Field Trips

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 of 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  
& George Wall 623-875-7057**

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, Junco's and other birds should be plentiful. This is also Antelope and deer country and hopefully we'll see some. We'll be staying in the Best Western at 128 N. Main in Eager which is right next to Springerville. The price for seniors 55 and older is \$67.50 non-seniors is \$75.00

Difficulty 1 – Easy trails.

## Field Trip - Hassayampa River Preserve

**Friday November 12, 2004**

**By George Wall**

The field trip to the Hassayampa River Preserve was on an overcast day with a threat of rain, however we were hoping for some good birding. Due to the recent rains several trails were closed including the main river walk which limited our access to the preserve and the number of birds we would see. We walked around Palm Lake and the mesquite ramble loop to the river overlook. We saw over 200 birds, about 185 of them were ruby-crowned kinglets, some with their ruby crowns raised, and spotted towhees running and scratching over the ground. We also saw two beautiful gray foxes and a desert ground squirrel excavating his hole. All in all we had a pleasant morning. Attendees were George Wall, John Gottfried, Tom Lazzelle, Carolyn Modeen, Chuck Kangas, Stew and Liz Norris, Vera Markham, Connie VanZurdt (from Virginia) and Donna Smith, leader.

Several of us stopped at the nearby rest stop for a picnic lunch and to bird the area.

List of birds seen: Pied-billed grebe, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Morning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Phainopepla, House Wren, Sage Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher (H), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Verdin, Common Raven, Spotted Towhee, Abert's Towhee, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, House Finch, and House Sparrow.

Those of you who examine the contents of our newsletter carefully might have noticed that we have a new field trip chair. Eleanor Campbell after two and a half years as newsletter editor felt it was time to move on. I think we all are grateful for the wonderful job she performed. The new field trip chair is Donna Smith. We rewrote the job description for the field trip chair and the field trip committee. The job of the field trip chair is now more manageable. We also assembled a larger committee to take care of a number of tasks formerly performed by the chair. Best wishes to both Donna and Eleanor.

## TREASURER'S REPORT, December 1, 2004

The following is the Sonoran Audubon Society tentative budget for Fiscal 2003-2004:

INCOME	
NAS dues return	\$ 2,062.75
Friends of SAS	745.00
Other Chapter Sources	<u>21.16</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,828.91
EXPENDITURES	
<i>Gambel's Tales</i>	483.96
Fund-raising	-0-
Committees	75.46
Operations	669.59
Insurance	<u>-0-</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,220.01
CHANGE IN CASH	\$ 1,608.90
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN CASH	
On hand, June 1, 2004	\$12,398.03
On hand, November 1, 2004	\$14,373.95
CHANGE IN CASH	\$ 1,975.92
ASSETS	
Balance, checking account	\$ 5,241.62
Balance, savings account	\$ 8,632.33
Not yet deposited	<u>-0-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$14,373.95
LIABILITIES	
Held for Butterfly Garden	611.16
Environmental Fund of Arizona	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1111.16
CLEAR FUNDS	\$13,262.79

Under the Bylaws and subsequent actions of the Board this Treasurer's Report appears in *Gambel's Tales* three times a year.

Any questions including requests for more details may be submitted to me, Loretta Richards at

## ARIZONA (& VICINITY) CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE [2004-2005] - Changes and Additions

The following are changes and additions to those reported in the November newsletter. Please see that issue for the other bird counts and additional information about the Christmas Bird Counts.

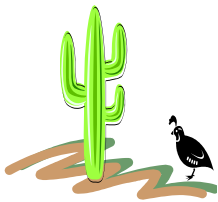
<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
12/21	Tu	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	tomoff@northlink.com
12/22	We	Yecora, Sonora, MX	Forrest Davis	800-743-2668	forrest@hilonesome.com
12/28	Tu	Baviacora, Sonora, MX	Arnold Moorhouse	520-364-3178	

## 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.**

December 8, 2004	Roger E. Joos, USDA: "The Beavers of Tres Rios"
January 12, 2005	Rich Glinski, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation: "Raptor Diversity of Arizona"
February 9, 2005	Caroll and Betty McCormick: "Peace Corps in Panama"
March 9, 2005	Kurt Radamaker: "Birding in Baja California"
April 13, 2005	Carol Beardmore, US Fish and Wildlife Service: "Sonoran Joint Venture"
May 11, 2005	Terry Stevens.: "Second Chance: Wildlife Rescue and Rehab"

**Other Dates of Interest:** December 1 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**