



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 10 Issue 4



December, 2008

**At our next meeting.... Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 7 p.m.**

## **Rick Wright: Birds of Bulgaria**



**Rick Wright**

Have you ever thought about birding in Bulgaria? Are there even birds in Bulgaria besides the European Starling?

I think you'll be surprised. Come out and see this program given by Rick Wright.

Rick Wright lives in Tucson and in Hamilton, New York, with his wife, Alison Beringer. Rick grew up birding in southeast Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska and Harvard Law School before taking the M.A. and Ph.D. at Princeton University. After a dozen years as an academic, he moved to Tucson in 2003, where he founded Aimophila Adventures, a guide service for birders in southeast Arizona. Now the Managing Director of WINGS, Rick is a widely published writer, a popular lecturer at birding events, and an enthusiastic tour leader in Europe and North America.

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## **What's Happening in our Chapter?**

**By Your Editor, George Wall**

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on November 5, 2008. The attendees were Bob McCormick, Karen LaFrance, John Arnett, Carol Schooler, Eleanor Campbell, Rich Schooler, Andrée Tarby, and George Wall.

After review and approval of last month's minutes, the committee reports were made.

### **Committee Reports:**

A. **Membership:** Nothing new to report at the  
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## What's Happening in our Chapter?

Meeting. See page 9 of this newsletter for updated info.

**B. Field Trips:** The field trip committee is meeting soon and fields trips through April of 2009 will be in the next newsletter. See column 2 on this page.

**C. Programs:** Programs are set for the rest of the year and the auditorium is reserved through 2009.

**D. Education:** Rich Schooler reported that 15 attendees were at the October Family Bird Walk at Estrella Mountain Park. There were some good prospective members for our society.

**E. Finance:** Carol Schooler provided Profit & Loss Detail for June-October 2008. Other finances were discussed.

**F. Conservation:** A conservation meeting will be held on November 20, 2008. Rich Schooler will preside. The subject will be the Focus Birds.

**Other:** Bob McCormick reported on the recent Audubon Arizona Council meeting held in Chandler. The focus was on moving more towards conservation and lobbying.

The Tres Rios Nature Festival will be held March 6-7, 2009, at the B&M (next to the Phoenix Internal Raceway) area where it was held last year. Luke Air Force Base is the major sponsor.

There were several other discussions on the IBA, Christmas Bird Counts, Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative, Partners in Flight, Budget for committees and the upcoming general membership meeting.

Annie Teff resigned from the SAS board due to other commitments. Three board vacancies now exist.

### General Membership Meeting:

A very good crowd, including nine guests (some who heard about the meeting from the Family Bird Walk) came to hear Paul & Gloria Halesworth give their presentation on avian rehabilitation. The PowerPoint program really gave everyone an idea of just how much time is spent in rehabilitating birds and how difficult it is to do so. The program was well received by all.

Walter Thurber discussed the coming Christmas Bird Count and had sign-up sheets for several areas. Charles Eons had sign-up sheets for the Gila River Indian Reservation bird count being held on December 6, 2008.

Our president Bob McCormick discussed what transpired at the AAC meeting.

## Fall/Winter 2008-9 Field Trips

**REQUIREMENT:** On all trips, **YOU MUST** make reservations by calling the leader. The leader can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, some trips are limited in size.

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: John Arnett 623-695-0953**

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

This is the Nature Conservancy Preserve near Wickensburg. You never know what you might find here in the way of birds that hide in the palm trees, mesquite, cottonwoods and willows.

Difficulty 1—Morning trip only

E-mail or call leader to make reservations. Sun City and area residents can meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City to leave at 7:15 a.m. or you can meet the group at Hassayampa River Preserve at 8 a.m.

There is a \$5 fee for each person unless you're a conservancy member and then it is \$3.

**Saturday, January 3, 2009**

**Santa Cruz Flats**

**Leader: Barbara Meding 623-266-1847 [barbara-meding@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara-meding@yahoo.com)**

Many hawk species winter in southern Arizona, some in relatively large numbers. One particular area for drawing these winter visitors is the Santa Cruz Flats in Pinal County located along the basin of the Santa Cruz River which flows northwest across the county towards the Gila River. Besides the hawks, you can also see Caracara, Mountain Plover and Bendire's Thrasher.

Difficulty 1 – bring lunch

Note: This trip has limited facilities.

Meet at the Sacaton rest area on Rte. 10 on the way to Casa Grande (about mile marker 182) at 7:30 a.m. If enough people sign up, there will be an alternate meeting location at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird at 6:30 a.m.

**Friday-Sunday, Jan 16-18, 2009**

**Lake Havasu, Bill Williams River WLR and Parker Dam**

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

[rms15247@cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

This is a trip designed to see a lot of water birds such as ducks and loons, but there are always other birds to

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## Winter/Spring 2008-9 Field Trips

seen. At the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge, Ranger Kathleen Blair will lead the group. The group will stay at the Island Inn at Lake Havasu. Price per night approximately \$60.

Difficulty 2 – You will need some slipover **wader boots** as there are streams to cross.

Call leader for reservations and further information as this trip will be limited to 4 cars (16 people).

**Thursday, January 29, 2009**

**Southern Avenue and Area**

**Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)**

You never know what you are going to see on this trip as there are fields and ponds. It should be a good time for some ducks and shorebirds. You'll always see the ever present Eurasian Collared Dove and some raptors.

Difficulty 1 – However, it is about a 2 mile walk around the dirt road to the ponds and back.

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 8 a.m.

**Saturday, February 7, 2009**

**Lake Pleasant Pipeline Trail**

**Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244 [dans-bohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dans-bohlmann@prodigy.net)**

Lake Pleasant has some nice trails that wander through the desert landscape and down to the water. This is a chance for a nice walk, pleasant scenery and some desert and water birds.

Difficulty 1 – Morning trip only

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot on Hutton Drive near Boswell in Sun City to leave at 8 a.m. There is an entrance fee of \$5 per car.

**Friday – Sunday, February 20-22, 2009**

**Yuma and the Slaton Sea with Henry Detwiler**

**Coordinator: Chuck Richards 623-594-6554 [crichards15@cox.net](mailto:crichards15@cox.net)**

The limit of 15 people for the trip has been reached. There is a **waiting list**.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7, 2009**

**Tres Rios Nature Festival**

There will be more on this later.

**Thursday, March 19, 2009**

**Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

**Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)**

This location near Superior is an excellent birding area that has all types of trees and fauna. It also has permanent running water that is attracting more and more varieties of birds. Usually you'll see 40-50 species.

Difficulty 1 – Bring a lunch

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot on Hutton Drive near Boswell in Sun City to leave at 6 a.m. There is an entrance fee of \$7.50 per person.

**Thursday, March 26, 2009**

**B&M/P.I.R. (where Tres Rios Festival was held)**

**Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904**

**[rashooler@cox.net](mailto:rashooler@cox.net)**

This is a trip designed to look for rails, bitterns and soras. We'll be getting there just about daylight in order to call these reed dwellers out into the open.

Difficulty 1 – Morning trip only

Meet at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 5:30 a.m. or meet at the site at 6 a.m.

**Saturday, April 4, 2009**

**Madera Canyon**

**Leader: Richard Kaiser 602 276-3312**

**[rkaiserinaz@aol.com](mailto:rkaiserinaz@aol.com)**

Situated in the Coronado National Forest in southern Arizona, this is one of the nation's top birding areas. The habitat varies from the grasslands of Florida Canyon to a heavily wooded area above the 5,000 foot level. We will be looking for birds from parking areas for the famous Proctor Road, Bog Springs and Santa Rita Lodge feeders. Species we will look for include Painted Redstart, Arizona Woodpecker, Yellow-eyed Junco, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Elegant Trogon.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch.

Contact the leader to confirm the expected meeting place of the intersection of Continental Road with Madera Canyon Road, and the meeting time of 7:00 a.m. This trip might be extended into Sunday morning.

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

**Page Springs**

**Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904**

**[rashooler@cox.net](mailto:rashooler@cox.net)**

Page Springs is a fish hatchery where water also attracts many birds. There are also Arizona Sycamore and cottonwoods surrounding the water. Bridled Titmouse is a resident and Common Black Hawks nest regularly. There is a birding trail that is a part of the Page Springs Important Bird Area.

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## Winter/Spring 2008-9 Field Trips

Difficulty: 1- Bring a Lunch.

Meet at McDonald's just off of I-17 in Carefree to leave at 6 a.m.

**Saturday, April 25, 2009**

**Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson**

**Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639**

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

The Sweetwater Wetlands is a water treatment area just off I-10 (Prince Rd. Exit) near Tucson. This is an excellent nature site developed for viewing birds. Paths around the many ponds are well maintained and easy to walk on. You can sometimes see Sora and Virginia Rail. Many rarities show up there and there should be warblers at this time of year.

Difficulty: 1 Lunch at nearby fast food restaurant.

Meet at the Burger King just off 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 6:00 a.m. or at the Sacaton rest area on Rte. 10 at 7:00 a.m.

## FAMILY BIRD WALKS

By Rich Schooler

The next Sonoran Audubon Society Family Bird Walk will be on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at the Maricopa County Estrella Mountain Park located at Bullard Avenue and Vineyard Road. Meet at the new visitor parking lot at 8 a.m. The walk will last anywhere from 1 1/2—2 hours. There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks and loaner binoculars are otherwise free of charge.



**Chuck Richards holding a Red-tailed Hawk**  
Photo by George Wall

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Adobe Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will be showing live birds at the Family Bird Walk. For further information contact Rich Schooler at 623-930-8904.

## Arizona Conservation Workshop

From Paul Green, Tucson Audubon

Get involved! Be part of Audubon's Arizona Conservation Workshop.

If you are interested in becoming an effective Audubon conservationist in Arizona, come and join others who share that interest during a day-long workshop at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson on **February 28, 2009.**

Among the goals of our Audubon Conservation Workshop are to determine what we consider to be the most important wildlife conservation threats in our state in 2009 and to determine the scope of their importance. Which threats span our local region, the state, and the nation? How do we in Audubon effectively address these threats, and how do we ensure that we work most effectively within the context of other conservation groups in the state, and in the context of other chapters, our state office, and National Audubon?

Inevitably, many of the issues upon which we work will fall within broader priorities for Audubon at the national level, for example, questioning details of land use and planning decisions may be part of broader concerns related to climate change and water.

Our day will be a mix of presentations, discussions, and smaller workgroups, and will include representatives from other organizations, our state office, each chapter in our state (and perhaps from other states also), and from National Audubon. We anticipate setting up workgroups to work on issues following our summit, and there will be homework to do in advance. Please let us know today if you want to be involved. Please send your contact details to [jbarchman@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:jbarchman@tucsonaudubon.org) or call Jean on 520 622 5622.

## PHOTO CONTEST



The Sonoran Audubon Society will be producing brochures in conjunction with our focus on common Arizona birds in decline. Photos of the following birds; Billed Flicker, Cactus Wren, Costa's Hummingbird, Verdin, Burrowing Owl, Black-throated Sparrow, Phainopepla, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yuma Clapper Rail and Elf Owl are needed. Winners photos will be used for the brochures and possibly other advertising. Send your pictures to Bob McCormick at [mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com).

## Sonoran Audubon's 2009 IBA Schedule

If you would like to participate in a count, contact the area leader for the date, time and carpool information. We would love to have your help. Beginners encouraged!

### Salt and Gila Rivers IBA - Census Surveys ( 4 counts )

January (mid-January)  
March (mid-March)  
April (mid-April)  
November (mid-November)

#### Area Leaders

Tres Rios (Census & Area Search)	Rich Schooler	<a href="mailto:raschooler@cox.net">raschooler@cox.net</a>
Jackie Meck's Lake	Bob McCormick	<a href="mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com">mcbobaz@aol.com</a>
Arlington WA	Frank Insana	<a href="mailto:insanas@aol.com">insanas@aol.com</a>
Robbins Butte	Andrée Tarby	<a href="mailto:atarby@cox.net">atarby@cox.net</a>
B&M WA (Area Search)	Rich Schooler	<a href="mailto:raschooler@cox.net">raschooler@cox.net</a>

### Agua Fria Riparian IBA – Transects ( 2 counts )

Late April or Early May  
Mid July

Horseshoe Ford	Bob McCormick	<a href="mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com">mcbobaz@aol.com</a>
Sycamore East	Sam Stearman	No e-mail contact Bob McCormick
Sycamore West	Andre Tarby & Tice Supplee	<a href="mailto:atarby@cox.net">atarby@cox.net</a>

### Agua Fria Riparian IBA – Point counts

Late May  
Late August (Grasslands only and optional)

Horseshoe Ford	Bob McCormick	<a href="mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com">mcbobaz@aol.com</a>
Sycamore East	Sam Stearman	No e-mail contact Bob McCormick
Sycamore West	Andrée Tarby & Tice Supplee	<a href="mailto:atarby@cox.net">atarby@cox.net</a>
Perry Mesa Grasslands	Chuck & Loretta Richards	<a href="mailto:crichards15@cox.net">crichards15@cox.net</a>

### Agua Fria Riparian IBA – Area Searches

Late April  
Late August

Perry Mesa Grasslands (3 sites) Chuck & Loretta Richards [crichards15@cox.net](mailto:crichards15@cox.net)

**Don't forget our "Focus" birds; Gilded Flicker, Cactus Wren, Costa's Hummingbird, Verdin, Burrowing Owl, Black-throated Sparrow, Phainopepla, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yuma Clapper Rail and Elf Owl.**

## Book Review

By George Wall

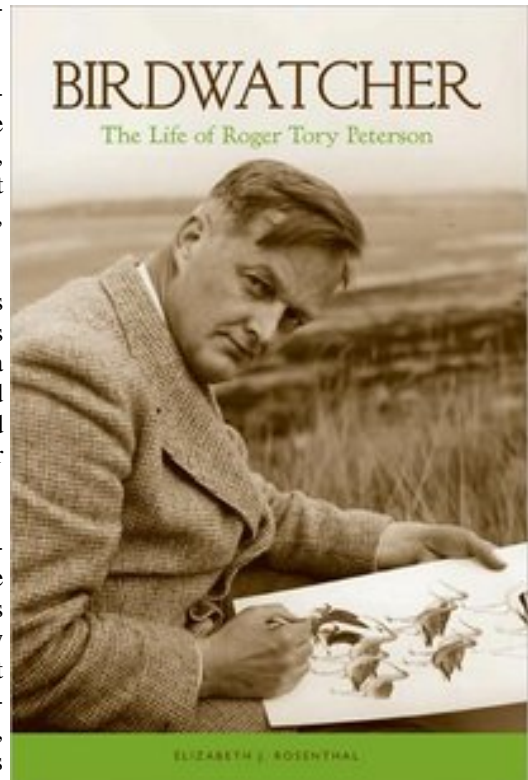
I just finished reading “BIRDWATCHER: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson” by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal published recently by Lyons Press.

I knew that Roger Tory Peterson was a bird-watcher, artist, photographer and writer since I have a few of his books, but I had no idea of the extent of his accomplishments. He wrote or co-authored over 80 books, but not just on birds. I checked the Internet and found books by him that dealt with wildflowers, reptiles and amphibians, trees, animal tracks, edible plants, shells, butterflies and even dinosaurs.

“BIRDWATCHER” tells the story of his life from childhood to his death in 1996 at the age of 87 with comments from his family, friends and the many people who knew or worked with him. This book gives a fascinating account of many of his journeys, trials and tribulations and his fanatic frenzy to educate the people of the world about birds and wildlife. I believe that no one in our current history has done more for the hobby of bird watching or conservation than Roger Tory Peterson.

His first book, Field Guides to the Birds, was published in 1934. It became the field guide that most every bird-watcher used for years. There had been a few other bird books, but not a comprehensive guide like this one. As you read “BIRDWATCHER”, you become enthralled with how he gradually goes from just a backyard bird-watcher to the most sought after and gifted ornithologists in history. His accomplishments in education not only with field guides but with his association at Hog Island, the Audubon Societies, American Birding Association and numerous other organizations are explored in this well written book. The many awards he received over the years, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by President Carter, were well deserved. He was even nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize.

If you want to walk through history with a true naturalist, read this book. You can find other reviews and information at [www.petersonbird.com](http://www.petersonbird.com).



## Project Feeder Watch

The 2008-09 season of **Project FeederWatch** got underway **November 8, 2008**, and will run through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 FeederWatch season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges--a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.

“Being a FeederWatcher is easy and fun, and at the same time helps generate the world’s largest database on feeder-bird populations,” says project leader David Bonter. “We are grateful for the contributions our participants have made for the birds and are proud of the joy they say it brings to their busy lives. Since we started in 1987, more than 40,000 people have submitted observations, engaging with the wildlife beyond their windows.”

To learn more and to sign up, visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the *FeederWatcher’s Handbook*, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, *Winter Bird Highlights*.

## ARIZONA (& VICINITY) CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE [2008-2009]

The National Audubon Society has conducted Christmas bird counts since 1900. Volunteers from across North America and beyond 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 that interests you and contact the compiler for more information.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
12/14	Su	Jerome-Cottonwood	Betsy Feinberg	928-203-0676 Ex11	azbirder@gmail.com
12/14	Su	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	elaimorr@npgcable.com
12/14	Su	Patagonia	Abbie Zeltzer	520-604-6320	amindajar@gmail.com
12/15	Mo	Elfrida	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
12/15	Mo	Salt-Verde Rivers	Kurt Radamaker	480-837-2446	kurtrad@mexicobirding.com
12/15	Mo	Atascosa Highlands	Rich Hoyer	520-325-5310	calliope@theriver.com
12/18	Th	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	tomoff@northlink.com
12/19	Fr	Pipe Spring Natl. Monument	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	adrea_bornemeier@nps.gov
12/19	Fr	Saint David	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
12/20	Sa	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	Curt McCasland	520-387-4992	curtis_mccasland@fws.gov
12/20	Sa	Avra Valley	Mary Lou Cole	520-578-0114	birdingnana@msn.com
12/20	Sa	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayampacbc@hotmail.com
12/20	Sa	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Henry Detwiler	928-210-6474	henrydetwiler@earthlink.net
12/20	Sa	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetregon@comcast.net
12/20	Sa	Payson	Dave Hallock	303-258-3672	eldoradh@rmi.net
12/20	Sa	Santa Catalina Mountains	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	batesd@cox.net
12/20	Sa	Timber Mesa	Jimmy Videle	928-337-2466	moonrise@wmonline.com
12/21	Su	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-636-4916	russell.duerksen@azbar.org
12/21	Su	Tucson Valley	Larry Liese	520-743-3520	larryliese@prodigy.net
12/22	Mo	Phoenix-Tres Rios	David Powell	602-441-5508	vireo@vireos.com
12/27	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Terry Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows@nau.edu
12/27	Sa	Portal	Jackie Lewis	520-558-2287	winjac12@vtc.net
12/27	Sa	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	tedmouras@mindspring.com
12/28	Su	Green Valley-Madera Canyon	Michael Mariden	520-269-6240	birdanza@cox.net
12/28	Su	Sedona	Dottie Hook	928-204-1894	dottiehook1@aol.com
12/28	Su	Superior	Cynthia Donald	480-283-4515	planres@earthlink.net
12/29	Mo	Havasú NWR	DeeDee DeLorenzo	928-758-2707	poncho@citlink.net
12/30	Tu	Bill Williams River NWR	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair@fws.gov
12/30	Tu	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado@cox.net
1/2	Fr	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251 Ex108	bonnie_swarbrick@fws.gov
1/2	Fr	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber@cox.net
1/3	Sa	Appleton-Whittell	Robert Weissler	520-803-0794	weissler@aves.org
1/3	Sa	Camp Verde	Anita MacFarlane	928-282-4063	ajmac@sedona.net
1/3	Sa	Dudleyville	Doug Jenness	520-909-1529	d_jenness@hotmail.com
1/5	Mo	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence@nps.gov

### Other Nearby Counts

12/20	Sa	Puerto Penasco, Sonora, MX	Steve Ganley	480-830-5538	sganley@cox.net
12/28	Su	Peloncillo Mountains, NM	Tony Godfrey	520-558-3350	kingbird@vtc.net

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## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

A birders paradise awaits you just 1/2 mile south of downtown Phoenix! Discover many of the 200 species of birds that have been identified at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area as you walk along the Salt River.

The bird walk for this month is on Saturday, December 6, 2008, led by Tom Gaskill. The walk is from 7:30-9:30 a.m. (Course ID #52916). Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Ave.

You need to make your reservation in advance by visiting <http://phoenix.gov/PARKS> and click on Classes and Programs and enter the course number. You can also call 602-262-6863 and leave a voice mail. Note: All of the courses above including the bird walk have a cost of \$5 for adults, \$1 for youths and seniors,

### Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous, a group of bird-watchers, has their next meeting on Friday, December 19, 2008, starting at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. This will be their annual Christmas Potluck gathering.

For further information about Birders' Anonymous contact Marshall Esty at 623-977-1637 or at [mne@juno.com](mailto:mne@juno.com)

### Desert Botanical Garden

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees of \$10.00 (\$9.00 seniors) apply unless you're a DBG member. Membership is \$55 a year. See their website at [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org) for further information.

### Hassayampa River Preserve

On Thursday, December 18, 2008, 8-11 a.m. there is birding at Tres Rios Wetlands. Carpool from Hassayampa River Preserve to Tres Rios and join expert birder Kathe Anderson for a walk through the area.

There is an Interpretive Nature Walk on Saturday, December 27, 2008, from 8:30-10 a.m. This is an easy walk along the trails to catch sight of migratory and resident birds as well as other wildlife.

For those into bird banding and want to help set up nets, etc., the dates are Saturday, December 6 and Saturday, December 20, 2008, starting at 7:00 a.m. **However**, you must contact Anne Leight at [ALEight@syntellect.com](mailto:ALEight@syntellect.com) at least two days beforehand.

Entrance fees are \$5, TNC members \$3 and children 12 and under are free. For information call 928 684-2772 or e-mail [www.bmccollum@tnc.org](mailto:www.bmccollum@tnc.org).

## Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Visitors are invited to join our guided walks. This month there is the Plants of the Bible walk on Sunday, December 7, 2008, and Saturday, December 20, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. There is also a tour of the Trees of the Arboretum on Sunday, December 21, 2008, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their winter schedule from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. except during special programs. Admission of \$7.50 for adults, \$3 ages 5-12.

For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>.

## Festivals

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings Over Willcox Sandhill Crane Celebration – January 14-18, 2009.**

Tours and Seminars focus on: Sandhill Cranes – thousands up close and personal, Raptors and Winter Sparrows, Geology, Southwest History and Archeology, Mining, Ranching and Farming, Beginning and Advanced Birding, Wildlife Photography, Astronomy, Bats and Reptiles, Free Seminars, Trade Fair and Silent Auction and noted ornithologist Dr. Paul Johnson is the Banquet speaker. Willcox, Arizona. 800-200-2272 or [www.wingsoverwillcox.com](http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com)

### **Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7, 2009**

#### **Tres Rios Nature Festival**

There will be more on this later.

### **13th Annual San Diego Birding Festival—March 5-8, 2009, at the Marina Village.**

The keynote speaker will be David Sibley. He will also lead a trip. <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm>

### **Yuma Birding & Nature Festival**

**April 15-19, 2009**

Where the Colorado River meets the Sonoran Desert, there's a rare mix of habitats and wildlife watching opportunities. Festival features trips into Mexico, to Salton Sea in California, and more. We're on the Colorado River flyway, nearly 400 species of birds live or visit here each year.

Contact: Yuma Visitor's Bureau, 202 South First Avenue, Suite 202, Yuma, AZ 85364 800-293-0071

### Join the Sonoran Audubon Society

This can be done in two ways: become a friend of the Sonoran Audubon Society or join the National Audubon Society. The difference is as a “friend” all the money goes to our chapter. As a National member, you still become a member of our chapter, but only a percentage of the money goes to our chapter; however, you get the National Audubon Society Magazine. Some people choose to do both. See our website for the applicable forms.

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

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.

SAS Web Site: [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)

Arizona Audubon Web Site: [www.az.audubon.org](http://www.az.audubon.org)

Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:

[www.desertiversaudubon.org](http://www.desertiversaudubon.org)

Maricopa Audubon Web Site:

[www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)



### Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

#### Officers

President: Robert McCormick 602-237-3951

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

Vice President: Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646

[klaf@cox.net](mailto:klaf@cox.net)

Treasurer: Carol Schooler 623-930-8904

[raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net)

Secretary: John Arnett 623-695-0953

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

#### Board Members— Directors at Large

Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639 [ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

Chuck Richards 623-594-6554 [crichards15@cox.net](mailto:crichards15@cox.net)

Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 [raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net)

Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074 [atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net)

George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

#### Committees

Programs: Eleanor Campbell and George Wall—See phone numbers and e-mail addresses above.

Education: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904

[raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net)

Field Trips: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

[rms15247@cox.net](mailto:rms15247@cox.net)

Hospitality: Diana Barnum 623-215-3400 [didibar@cox.net](mailto:didibar@cox.net)

Publicity: Tim Cullison: 602-863-9744

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

Membership: Charles Kangas 623-931-6677

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

Newsletter: George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

Conservation: Tina Bickel [tbickel08@gmail.com](mailto:tbickel08@gmail.com)

### SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 599 up-to-date National members. There are another 135 National members whose memberships have expired. We have 132 Friends, but some of those also have expired membership. We have 190 known members who receive their newsletters via e-mail and another 36 by postal mail. Expired memberships will be contacted.

## 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. for socializing and  
7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program

December 10, 2008—Rick Wright: Birds of Bulgaria

January 14, 2009 —George Wall: Birding Australia

February 11, 2009—Moez Ali: Birds of Kenya

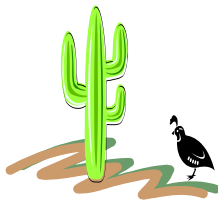
March 11, 2009—Amy & Tim Leu: Feathered Hearts

April 8, 2009—Tim Cullison—Kittlitz's Murrelet with Alaska Wildlife

May 13, 2009—Speaker from the Arizona Riparian Council



**Other Dates of Interest:** December 3, 2008, 7 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**