



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 6 Issue 6

February 2005

## Announcing New Director of Bird Conservation

Audubon Arizona proudly announces the official arrival of our new Director of Bird Conservation. Vashti "Tice" Supplee comes to us after a 29-year career with the Arizona Game and Fish Department where she was most recently Game Management Chief. She is now launching her second significant conservation career with us!

Tice has been an active Audubon member, serving on the board of our newest chapter, Sonoran Audubon, and representing them at the Arizona Audubon Council. She is a lifelong devotee of birds, learning her hawk as a teenager on the hills at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania.

Her academic background includes a bachelor degree in wildlife management from Cornell University, where she studied under Dr. Tom Cade and Dr. Stanley Temple. Her master degree in wildlife ecology was earned at the University of Arizona.

Tice will oversee the IBA Program in Arizona, and is charged with continuing the identification and recognition of IBAs across the state, pursuing the conservation of IBAs and will be working directly with the Sonoran, Maricopa, Prescott, Northern Arizona, and White Mountain Audubon chapters in central and northern Arizona. She will also be Audubon's Arizona lead for conservation policy. Scott Wilbor will continue in his role as the IBA Conservation Biologist, coordinating IBA avian science statewide and the IBA Conservation Program in southern Arizona. Scott is working on IBA conservation plans for the Upper Santa Cruz and Sabino Creek, and Tice is going to work on finishing IBA conservation plans for Oak Creek and Tuzigoot IBAs.

Both Tice and Scott will be focused on developing sound science and scientific partnerships for the Audubon cause in Arizona. Please join me in welcoming Tice to the Audubon Arizona family and thanking Scott Wilbor for his excellent work in laying the foundations for the Arizona IBA program.

(Continued on Page 2)

## At our next meeting.... February 9, 2005

### Carroll and Betty McCormick: "Peace Corps in Panama"



In 1993, Betty and Carroll McCormick served as Peace Corps volunteers in Panama. Prior to beginning, the McCormicks completed an intensive twelve-week training course in Costa Rica. The training included such subjects as Spanish, Cross Cultural Studies and the Tropical Agriculture of Panama.

During their service in Panama, they were responsible to INRENARE, the Panamanian government agency in charge of the national forests and the reforestation program. They served as agricultural and forestry extensionists assigned to the town of Monte Oscuro, forty miles west of Panama City. As Peace Corps volunteers they worked with local farmers and local farm associations. They helped organize agricultural groups and introduced new methods of agriculture. They also worked with MIDA, an agency in charge of agriculture, experimenting with natural insecticides. They also planted tree nurseries, mostly fruit trees such as mango, avocado, lemon, orange, and other indigenous fruits.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

## Peace Corps in Panama

They taught English to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders as well as tutored the local high school students in English and mathematics. Above all, stress the McCormicks, they were friends of the Panamanians!

When asked to write a little about their other experiences, Carroll replied that they could write a book! For thirty years, he taught physics, chemistry and math. Betty taught at Whitworth College in Washington State. They spent five years in Zimbabwe, teaching and working in agriculture. Two years were spent teaching at a vocational junior college in Palau. The last eight years the McCormicks were coordinators of the Tree of Sharing Program in the Spokane area, filling 8000 requests for gifts.

If the name of our speakers this month sounds familiar, yes, they are Sonoran Audubon President Bob McCormick's parents!.

## IBA NOTES

This is a regular feature of Gambel's Tales to keep the membership aware of what is going on at our Important Bird Areas and to alert you to volunteer opportunities.

### Agua Fria National Monument IBA

The Agua Fria and its tributaries collected the runoff from its upper basin and all flowed through the riparian corridor IBA. However, we completed, or will finish, the transects during the winter count period. Dwayne and I had an aerobic rock scramble through rushing water to complete the lower Sycamore Creek count and find thirteen birds.

### Phoenix Rio Salado Restoration Project

A good deal of progress was made in moving this project towards its first count but little on-site because of the flooding of the Salt River. Teaming with Audubon Arizona we have met with key City of Phoenix personnel and have worked out what each has to do to enable the counts. Only the receding of the flood waters will tell us when we can begin. At PRSP there will be two levels of counting; one using strict IBA procedures on two transects and one using SAS-AFNM procedures to cover the entire area. This latter level will be tied to big birding events such as the North American Migratory Bird counts and the Great Backyard Bird Count of 2006. Our first counts will probably be in April 2005.

For further information contact either Dwayne Fink at:

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

or Josh Burns at:

[josh\\_a\\_burns@yahoo.com](mailto:josh_a_burns@yahoo.com)

## BURROWING OWL RELOCATION

Do Good and Have Fun. Help Wild at Heart relocate some orphaned Burrowing Owls in our neighborhood - near Laveen.

Greg Clark, who always has several bird-projects in the works, has asked Sonoran Audubon to help put up a couple of "tents" for the owls. These tents serve as half-way homes for the birds, to transition them into their new neighborhood. Greg has perfected this technique. Think the Gilbert Water Ranch.

Dates: February 5 and 6 (done in plenty time to catch the Super Bowl)

Place: Laveen (75th Ave and Baseline; reachable by car; signs will be posted)

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Equipment to bring: nothing (well maybe your broken-in gloves)

Lunch? (water and snacks for lunch will be provided)

If interested, or have questions, call Dwayne Fink at 480-967-9202 or e-mail him at

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

This is not a show-up event. We need to know that we have enough hands to start the job.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Burrowing Owl project website can be found at:

[http://mirror-pole.com/wild\\_at\\_heart/bur\\_owl/rel\\_sites/mac/grp1.html](http://mirror-pole.com/wild_at_heart/bur_owl/rel_sites/mac/grp1.html)

(Continued from Page 1)

## New Director

Tice is leading a birding field trip as a part of the Phoenix Mountain Parks Preserve Council Spring Trek, that will be held at Dreamy Draw Mountain Park on March 5th. The field trip will start from the ramadas at 7:30 A.M.

Difficulty is 1. Primarily common desert species will be seen. Those that want to stay can enjoy a great catered brunch for \$10.00. Proceeds support the work of the Phoenix Mountain Parks Preserve Council. Come join Tice for a Saturday morning in the desert.

## A message from your president...

The 2005 Tres Rios Nature Festival (March 12-13) is fast approaching. If you'd like to get in free and help out with the festival, we are looking for volunteers to man our booth, help out at the tents, and do beginning birder tours. The shifts are 8:30-1:00 and 12:30-4:00 on both Saturday and Sunday. We are also looking for trail docents this year for the various field trip destinations (Jackie's lake, B&M, and Tres Rios wetlands). It would be nice to have two people at each site for the two shifts and one for each of the early morning tours (6:30-9:30).

There is also a possibility of early morning tours on Friday as well. The docent positions should be a lot of fun since all you have to do is hang out at the birding site and maybe answer a few questions from festival goers. If the river is still flowing at the time of the festival, access to some of the sites may be closed and alternates will be used. If you would like to participate, please call or e-mail me at (602)237-3951 or [mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com).

To prepare, the Festival is having the Gila River Rally Saturday, February 26, 2005 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on the Gila River at the B&M Wildlife Area in Avondale. Join us for a morning and help clean up our river and reclaim this scenic stretch of natural habitat. Contact Maxine to receive more information - 623-932-1832

**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 [wallaby@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wallaby@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.

## **Sonoran Audubon Society Great Back Yard Bird Count Feb 18 – 21, 2005**

In conjunction with the Audubon Great Back Yard Bird Count

### **PARTICIPATING IS EASY!**

Join us at the Sonoran Audubon Society to find out who has the best yard in the West Valley for watching birds. Any residence west of Central Avenue is eligible to participate. This contest runs in conjunction with the Great Back Yard Bird Count and has the same rules with the exception that you can only count those birds seen from your yard.

Here's what you do:

Count the birds seen from your yard on one or all four count days. Just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each day. Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate. We recommend watching for a half-hour or more, so that you'll have a good sense of what birds are in your area. Observations made at various times on the same day can be put on the same checklist.

How to count:

It is very important that everyone count their birds in exactly the same way.

For each kind (species) of bird that you see, keep track of the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time. Use a "Tally Sheet" to help keep track of your counts. Your tally sheet should look something like the following:

House Finch - 3, 5, 3, 1  
High Count = 5

Inca Dove - 1, 3, 6, 2  
High Count = 6

Be careful not to count the same bird over and over! Don't add another Inca Dove to your tally every time you see an Inca Dove at the feeder. You could be seeing the same individual again and again. If you record only the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time, you're sure to never count the same bird more than once!

You can submit one bird checklist for each day that you count.

Prizes will be awarded for the following:

Grand Prize Trophy "West Valley's Best Yard for Birds" – Most species observed

"What the heck was that?" award - Most unusual species (as determined by the Sonoran Audubon Board)

Email your list to [mcboaz@aol.com](mailto:mcboaz@aol.com) with the subject "Best Yard for Birds"

– or –

Mail to:

Sonoran Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 6068  
Glendale AZ 85312-6068

Must be postmarked by February 25, 2005

## **Field Trip - Gilbert Water Ranch**

**January 14, 2005**

**By Dwayne Fink**

The Gilbert Water Ranch is one of the Valley's better birding places - especially in winter. The ponds are full of water then, and attractive to large numbers of ducks and shorebirds. The vegetation between ponds caters to the likes of most of the common permanent Valley birds, plus lots of other winter migrants, plus spring/fall transients traveling to and from wherever.

There are several miles of well-maintained, level one trails. They are even graveled so you don't get all muddy in the rain. Birders have to share space with those out for some exercise - but there is plenty space for all. And most birds are used to the human traffic. The ducks patiently wait while you adjust your binoculars and scopes.

Sonoran Audubon and Birders Anonymous combined a trip to the Water Ranch on 14 Jan 05. Twentytwo participants enjoyed a perfect day of birding. We traveled together past the fishing-lake, and on to the Burrowing Owl sites. We then split, with George Wall taking half the group.

We logged 50 species, which included ten of duck/geese, three of heron/egret, three of the hawks, and six of shorebirds. "Best Birds"? Depends on who you asked: the Burrowing Owls are always an attraction; five Wilson Snipes sunning themselves on the shore in perfect view is one rare sight; the Peach-faced Lovebird was new to several - and still a special with most.

We had a guest birder from New Orleans, who was in the Valley on business. She stayed over a day to go on our trip. Found us on the web. Several of our local birds were lifers for her. Her excitement added extra sparkle to the rest of us. Hooking up with a local Audubon field trip is one good way to bird in a strange place.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Winter and 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.**

**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. Meet at Bell Recreation Center parking lot at Hutton and Boswell, Sun City; leave at 7:00 AM.

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)

**Sorry This trip is full. Will take back-ups.**

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 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.

Meet at Sun Bowl parking lot on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave just south of Peoria Ave in Sun City. Leave at 8:00 am.

Difficulty 2

**Tuesday, March 22, 2005**

**Estrella Mountain Park/El Mirage Ponds**

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

[wallaby@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wallaby@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 and shorebirds.

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: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639**

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

This is one of our favorite places 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 of the Bell Recreation Center Parking lot at 7:00 AM.

(Continued from page 5)

## Winter and Spring 2005 Field Trips

Also you can meet at Hassayampa River Preserve, 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**

[pfogle@qwest.net](mailto:pfogle@qwest.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](mailto: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

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

## Winter and Spring 2005 Field Trips

**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, Juncos 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.

(Continued from page 4)

## Gilbert Water Ranch

Here are the 50 birds seen or heard: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Ruddy Duck, Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Gambel's Quail, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, Least Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Verdin, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat (heard), House Finch, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle and the Peach-faced Lovebird.

Participants were Dan Bohlmann, George Drew, Dick Fogle, Marge Eckman, Marshall Esty, Doris Hill, Kathy & Jerry Hobbs, Ian Jeffrey, Vera Markham, Ann McDermott, Barbara Meding, Janice Miano, Bill Muir, Chuck & Loretta Richards, Betty Roberts, Donna Smith, Jean Stimmel (visitor from New Orleans), George Wall, Jerry Weaver and Dwayne Fink - leader.

## Impact of Salt River Flow on Rio Salado Construction

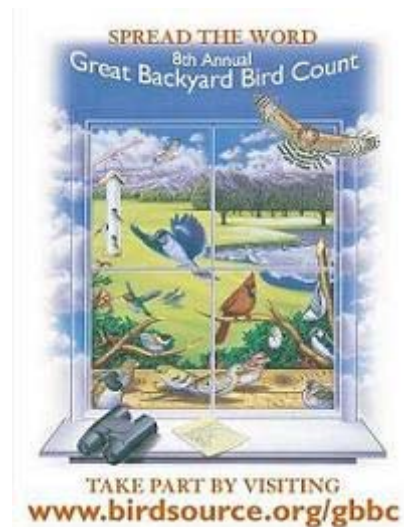
**By Sheryl Sculley, Phoenix Assistant City Manager**

Since June 2000, staff has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to construct a diverse mixture of riparian habitat types including mesquite, cottonwood-willow, wetland marsh, aquatic strand/scrub, and open water. Each of these habitat types is typically located within an active flood plain. The project is located in a five-mile section of the Salt River. The site totals 595 acres and extends from 28th Street on the east (upstream end) to 19th Avenue on the west (downstream). The project site includes the over banks, slopes of the banks to the terrace level, terrace level, low flow channel and a 10-mile trail system.

The usually dry Salt River, which began flowing on New Year's Eve after Verde River run-off filled Horseshoe and Bartlett reservoirs, continues to run at an average of 15,000 cubic feet per second through the Phoenix Rio Salado Project. The low-flow channel is nearly filled to capacity. This flow is the first test of the 3-year old low-flow channel, constructed in the middle of the river at a width of 200 feet and depth of 15 feet, and appears to be functioning as designed.

All the climate information is pointing to further wet weather and increased releases that most likely will flow beyond the low-flow into our terrace-level constructed wetlands. We are unsure of any damage to the construction but staff will continue to monitor the site daily to see how the project handles the releases.

We do anticipate a delay in our construction schedule and spring public opening. Staff is limiting tours and public educational programming at the site. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation staff, working closely with police officers, will continue to patrol the riverbed to assure the public stays at a safe distance from the water.

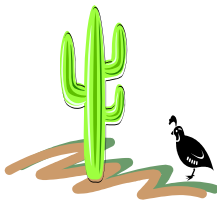


## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

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

February 9 , 2005	Carroll and Betty McCormick: "Peace Corps in Panama"
March 9, 2005	Kurt Rademaker: "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:** February 2 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**