



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 9 Issue 6

February, 2008

At our next meeting....

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Moez Ali—Birds of Kenya

Moez Ali was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya and has always been very interested in birds and wildlife. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Martin College in Pulaski, TN.



Moez Ali

He is an avid and experienced birder, active member and field trip leader for the Tucson Audubon Society and always enthusiastic about any birding travels and adventures. He came to southeastern AZ in the summer of 2003 to work with nesting Red-faced Warblers and other Montane forest birds. He was immediately drawn to the fascinating Sonoran Desert and very intriguing Sky Island mountain ranges abundant with diverse bird and plant life.

He has been working in the Conway lab as a Research Assistant since the fall of 2003 on the Montane Forest Bird Project atop Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains, primarily with nesting Red-faced Warblers, Yellow-eyed Juncos and ground-nesting songbirds, as well as other Montane forest breeders. He is interested in breeding biology and nesting habits and thoroughly enjoys finding and monitoring great numbers of nests!

Some of the research projects he is currently assisting with or has assisted with include:

- Nest predators of ground-nesting forest passerines in southeastern Arizona.
- Effects of fire on Montane forest birds in southeastern Arizona.
- Effects of clutch size in the cost of reproduction in birds.
- Influence of perennial pools on the abundance, diversity and reproductive success of breeding birds in riparian woodlands in southeastern Arizona.

What's Happening in our Chapter?

By Your Editor, George Wall

We didn't have a board meeting for January as we did not have a full quorum, but we do have some things to mention.

Committee Reports:

A. **Membership:** Current membership is 695, Friends of SAS is 93, Web Viewers is 190, Newsletters by mail is 93.

B. **Conservation:** A comments letter was written by Tina Bickel to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

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EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Hassayampa River Preserve

Winter hours are in effect. It's open Wednesday-Sunday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 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

Learn the fascinating world of bird banding presented by master bird bander Anne Leight-Watzek. It will be held Saturday, February 2, 2008, 9-10 a.m. and then continues with field work from 10:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Bird Banding will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008, starting at 6:30 a.m. There is also an interpretive nature walk on Saturday, February 23, 2008, from 8:30—10 a.m.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their Winter schedule. They have daily tour walks at 1 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday general tours at 10 a.m.

February Bird Walks: February 2, 10, 16 & 24 at 8:30 a.m.

Learn to identify native Sonoran desert birds, and exotic migrants as well, on a two-hour bird walk guided by different avian experts each week. Bird walks repeat on the first and third Saturdays (second and fourth Sundays, too) during February, March and April.

Future outings are scheduled March 1, 9, 15 and 23, then April 5, 13, 19 and 27.

Their hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The price of admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for children ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at <http://cals.arizona.edu/BTA/>

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous, a group of birdwatchers, has their monthly meeting on Friday, February 15, 2008, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. At this month's meeting, Jeff Humphrey will be giving a program on "Endangered Birds in Arizona".

They meet on the third Friday of each month **all year around** at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City in King Hall. For further information contact George Wall at gwall5@cox.net

Estrella Mountain Park

The Sonoran Audubon Society will provide guides for

Bird Walks at Estrella Mountain Park the 4th Sunday of each month through March, 2008. The walks will start at 8 a.m. The February walk will be on February 24, 2008. There is a \$6.00 entrance fee per car.

Desert Botanical Garden

Each Monday morning from now through April, 2008, there will be bird walks from 8 a.m. to approximately 10 a.m. There will be additional walks on the second Saturday of each month at the same time. They see as many as 40 birds during these walks.

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 for further information.

Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

There are bird walks, nature programs and other items of interest. Their location is 2439 S. Central Ave., Phoenix. Check the website at www.phoenix.gov/riosalado.

Here are the events for February:

Saturday, February 2, 2008, Raptor Rap, Ldrs: Frank Insana & Tom Gaskill, 9-11 a.m. Meeting at the 7th Ave. Parking Area (South Side). Bring a scope if possible. You'll be viewing from the new Ramada next to the new Park Ranger area. Best spot for viewing raptors.

Saturday, February 9, 2008, Birding 101, Ldrs: Frank Insana & Tom Gaskill, 9-11 a.m. Meeting at the Central Ave. Parking Area (North Side). Bird tour after lecture.

Saturday, February 16, Rio Salado Bird Sit Down, Ldrs. Frank Insana and Tom Gaskill, 8-10 a.m. Meeting under the Central Ave. Bridge on the North Side. Bring a lounge chair. Sit under the bridge and observe anywhere from 70-100 species.

Sunday, February 24, 2008, Wildlife Investigators, Ldr: Frank Insana, 10 a.m.—12 p.m. Meet at the 7th Ave Parking Area (South Side). Like a bird tour except it includes the geology, fish, reptiles, etc.



Photo by George Wall

Join the National Audubon Society

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

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

Each year all National members in the Sonoran Audubon chapter area receive the September *Gambel's Tales* that describes major chapter activities for the year. All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* may be obtained free from the chapter website <www.sonoranaudubon.org> or by mail for \$10.00 per year. If you wish to get the newsletter by mail or to be notified when a new issue is placed on the website, please contact chuckkan@mindspring.com or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society, P O Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068. For Information or questions call 623-939-6181.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org

Arizona Audubon Web Site: www.az.audubon.org

Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:

www.desertriversaudubon.org



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Committees

Programs: Eleanor Campbell, Bob McCormick and George Wall—See phone numbers and email addresses above.

Education: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639

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Conservation: Tina Bickel bbickel@ecoisp.com

BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Kieran Suckling

“How the Dead Dream” by Center for Biological Diversity staffer Lydia Millet

This book was voted one of the 10 best novels of 2007 by National Book Critics Circle, received starred review by Publishers Weekly and was recently highlighted as one of the best books to read in 2008 by the Los Angeles Times.



Millet is an environmental activist as well as a novelist. She currently works for the Center for Biological Diversity and previously worked for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Millet has written one of the very first American novels to approach the emotional and aesthetic implications of the extinction tragedy. *How the Dead Dream* is notable for its thoughtful engagement with the social and personal effects of massive species loss.

It tells the story of an ambitious young real estate developer in L.A. who, after a personal crisis, becomes obsessed with rare and vanishing animals and starts breaking into zoos at night to be close to them.

He soon learned to recognize the signs of an animal's imminent disappearance. Some were tagged or collared or photographed, some monitored by bureaucrats. Sometimes a group or individual took up the cause of an animal or a plant and could muster the rationale for a lawsuit, and often the courts favored the victim; but the victim remained a victim and for each victim whose passing was noted thousands more slid away in the dark.

As the story's protagonist struggles by night with ideas of human aloneness and what it might mean to be a “last” animal, he's building sprawling subdivisions by day, grappling with his suicidal mother, whose husband has left her to find himself working in a gay bar in Key West, and fending off attacks by his brutal and jealous business partner Fulton.

FAMILY BIRD WALK CANCELLED FOR FEBRUARY, BUT IT IS ON FOR MARCH

Due to a prescribed burn at the Hayfield site, the family walk for February is canceled.

Members of the Sonoran Audubon Society are conducting FREE monthly family-oriented bird walks at Tres Rios Wetlands in Phoenix on the 2nd Saturday morning of each month. The next walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. Join other outdoor enthusiasts on an easy hike through the desert, around the ponds and into the woods at this beautiful site. The walks will start at 8 and continue with the last one at 11 a.m.



Great Horned Owl—Photo by George Wall

Leaders will loan binoculars and bird guides and will introduce participants to the fun of birding in an environment ideal for attracting birds. On top of this, **there will be live raptors** furnished by Andrea Nesbitt of the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center.

Meet at the Tres Rios Wetlands Hayfields Site. The entrance to the site is located on 91st Avenue, one mile south of Broadway Road in Phoenix past the sewage treatment plant on the left just prior to the Salt River. You'll see a yellow gate and a sign to the Hayfield site. Turn in and go about 1/3 of a mile to the end of the dirt road.

Bring your own binoculars if you have them. For more information contact: Rich Schooler at (623) 930-8904 or e-mail raschooler@peoplepc.com.

At our January walk, a lot of nice birds were seen including gulls, pelicans and ibis that flew over the wetlands. The eight people who participated had a good time.

(Continued from Page 1)

What's Happening in our Chapter?

Service concerning the Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping. You can read the letter by going to our web-site at : www.sonoranaudubon.org and then going to the Conservation area.

C. Field Trips: The field trip to Southern Avenue and environs on January 5th, was a great success. 45 species of birds were seen by the 13 participants.

At the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, Rob Fergus from the National Audubon Society gave a very good presentation on "Common Birds in Decline". He gave very good suggestions on how we can help. Hopefully, I'll be presenting some of these ideas in future newsletters.

We had a few first timers to the meeting who had just joined the National Audubon Society in previous months. They were Lynn Miller and Michelle LeCronier both from Glendale. Total attendance was 37.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Our annual picnic will be on Sunday, March 30, 2008, from noon—3:30 p.m. at Thunderbird Park located just off of 59th Avenue past Melinda Lane in Glendale. This is a free event open to all members and friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society and their guests. We had a great time at the last one.

The SAS will furnish the main items—hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, drinks, plates, etc.

We request that you register for this event. There will be a sign-up sheet at future meetings. You can also register by calling George Wall at 623-875-7057 or e-mailing him at gwall5@cox.net.

It would also be nice if families brought a side dish like baked beans, salad or dessert.



BIRDING PINETOP-LAKESIDE

By Sam Stearman

A place that is marvelous for bird watchers is the Pinetop-Lakeside not too far from Show Low. Here is an itinerary that you can spend a full day on and hit 7 different spots in order. Starting point for these directions is the three-way intersection of Hwy. 260 and Porter Mtn. Rd. It is assumed that Hwy. 260 runs east-west (west towards Show Low) and that Porter Mtn. Rd. runs north (which it does). The walking mileage at the end of some of the segments, are for round trips. If you do the entire trip in one day, you'll probably walk 6-7 miles.

1. Billy Creek: Go east on Hwy. 260 from the starting point (Porter Mtn. Rd.) and turn left on Pinecrest Dr. at 2.2 mi. Find the parking area and kiosk at 2.5 mi. Walk along the trail marked by blue diamonds and stay on it as it goes up the creek. Walk until the trail crosses the creek. 1.5 mi.

2. Walnut Creek: Go east on Hwy 260 from starting point (Porter Mtn. Rd.), and turn right at Woodland Lake Rd. at 3 miles and then make another right at 3.2 mi. (before the covered bridge). Find parking area at dam at 3.6 mi. Find Turkey Track Trail to the right of the ramada as you are standing in the parking lot. Stay to your left as you walk along the trail and turn left at trail intersection after ¼ mi. Follow trail down the stream until just past the wooden bridge. 1 ½ miles.

3. Woodland Lake: Same parking lot as area 2 above. Walk along paved trail that goes around the lake. 1 mi.

4. Upper Billy Creek: Go east on Hwy 260 from the starting point (Porter Mtn. Rd.), and turn left on Hill Dr. at 4.1 mi. Find parking area on the right at 4.3 mi. at the foot bridge. Walk across the bridge and follow the trail up the hill to your left – a hundred yards or so. Look for birds in Gambel Oaks. Walk down stream to bridge. Good place to see Red-faced Warbler.

5. Scott Reservoir: Go north on Porter Mtn. Rd. from the starting point, turn right at 1.4 mi., make another right at 2.0 mi. and find parking area at dam at 2.1 mi. Walk along earthen dam.

6. Jaques Marsh: Go north on Porter Mtn Rd from starting point., turn left on Juniper Dr. at 1.5 mi., cross cattle guard at the end of the subdivision at 1.8 mi., find kiosk at 2.2 mi. It's about 2 miles around entire marsh. A counter-clockwise direction seems better if you don't want to walk the entire distance.

7. Rainbow Lake: Go west on Hwy 260 from starting point (Porter Mtn. Rd.) turn left at unmarked road at 0.5 mi. (Lakeview Ln.) and find parking area at 0.7 mi. Bird watch from parking lot.

Mid July through August seems to be the best time for highest bird count. It's a good trip for forest birds (robins, chickadees, nuthatches, jays, woodpeckers and warblers). Most warblers are seen in the Gambel Oak habitat (areas 1,2 and 4).

Retreat on February 2nd at Hassayampa—Open to All Members/Friends

Here is the tentative agenda on February 2nd:

Enjoy leisurely birding and “networking” in the morning 8-10 a.m. or so.

Gather in the meeting room and celebrate our sightings of the morning. About 10 a.m.

Gather in Committees for the work of the day 10-12 noon.

Review work of the Committee to date this year.

Prepare plans for Committee work through August 2008 (and beyond if appropriate, like Program)

Committees: Education, Membership, Field Trips, Programs and Hospitality, Conservation, Publicity, Finance and Fund Raising, Important Bird Areas and other projects,

Determine how this work can be evaluated.

Noon –1:00 Lunch and Talk (Pot Luck) and go outside, hang out.

Gather in the whole group 1:00 – 2p.m.

Reports from Committees to whole group

Amendment to plans if necessary

Finish up 2 p.m. Hang out or leave.

If we finish the work in the morning, we have a pleasant lunch and then we are done.

For those of you who are Committee Chairs, this would necessitate your inviting key Committee members to this meeting, Saturday, February 2nd OR arranging a meeting of your Committee prior to February 2nd and then being prepared to report to the group.

Finally, in September 2008, SAS will schedule a Planning Retreat with facilitator for the Board, new board members, Committee Chairs and friends.

HELP IS NEEDED—Your board can't do it all!

Do you want to continue to have refreshments before the meetings? Dan Bohlmann has requested that he be replaced on the **Hospitality Committee**. If everyone who attends the meetings would volunteer for a nine month period that we have meetings, the position would be filled for years. Dan currently gets there at 6 p.m. bringing with him an ice chest, coffee pots, utensils and anything else that is needed. Please volunteer.

Chuck Kangas, chairperson of the **Membership Committee** would like someone to take over the Membership Database. He currently receives a database in Excel from the National Audubon Society with updates, deletions and additions. This in turn, has to be incorporated into the File Maker database so that notifications, letters, etc. can be sent out to expired members and new people.

The **Program Committee** needs someone to step in and be the chairperson. Currently Eleanor Campbell and George Wall have been contacting people and firming up the programs. Eleanor and George are on several committees already and they need someone take over the main responsibility of doing this. They can still help, but on a limited basis. The programs are currently scheduled through May 2008; so this would give a new person plenty of time to orient themselves into this position.

Some of the other committees like **Conservation, Education, Publicity and Field Trips** could also use help.

Let's keep the Sonoran Audubon Society a vital influence in our community. You can help in this respect by volunteering in one of the areas mentioned. Take a close look at page 3 of this newsletter and contact any board member or committee member and give your support.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The GBBC is just around the corner. It will be held February 15-18, 2008. The following information was taken from the GBBC website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird-watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun and easy – and it helps the birds.

How do I participate?

1. Plan to count birds for least 15 minutes during February 15-18, 2008. Count birds at as many places on as many days as you like – just keep a separate list of counts for each day and/or location.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time and write it down.
3. Enter your results through the web page listed above.

Statistics from 2007

Total checklists submitted: 81,003
Total species observed: 613
Total individual birds counted: 11,082,387

Here's what Arizona reported in 2007:

Total checklists submitted 2,207
Total species observed 253
Total individual birds counted: 154,865

Highest numbers:

Mourning Dove = 14,933
House Finch = 11,920
Sandhill Crane = 10,560
House Sparrow = 8,394
Gambel's Quail = 7,401

The Great Backyard Bird Count is jointly sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Winter/Spring 2008 Field Trips

An * indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

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

Friday, February 8, 2008

Salome Road

Leader: Eleanor Campbell - 623-977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Search for several species of thrashers and gnatcatchers known to be found in this desert habitat west of Phoenix. A variety of sparrows, raptors and other field birds should be seen.

Difficulty: 1 Call leader for meeting place and time.

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Arlington Area

Leader: Donna Smith - 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Arlington Valley west of Phoenix and south of Arlington with its fields, ponds, canals, a dam, and a desert butte provides a variety of habitats to search for birds. On the North American Spring Migration bird count in May, 2003, a White Ibis was seen amidst the Great Egrets, swallows, blackbirds, raptors and sparrows.

Difficulty: 1

***Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

Tres Rios

Leader: Rich Schooler - 623-930-8904

raschooler@peoplepc.com

The Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands Project located at the 91st Ave. Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Salt River is a haven for many bird species. The habitats include open water, running stream, marsh, desert and woodland which provide a good environment at any time of year for ducks, shorebirds, and migrating passerines.

Difficulty: 1, morning only. Call leader for time and meeting place.

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Santa Cruz Flats

Leader: Donna Smith - 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

This is a farmland area off of I-10 on the way to Tucson. No telling what you might find out there. Last year Crested Caracaras were seen. Call leader for meeting place and other information.

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Winter/Spring 2008 Field Trips

Saturday, March 8, 2008

Sparrow Workshop

Given by Tom Gaskill

Rio Salado guide, Tom Gaskill, will share his love of sparrows and to quote Tom "Early March is ideal, since the sparrows are almost all in breeding plumage, many are singing, and they're less challenging for folks who have LBJ anxiety". Tom will share sparrow-finding and behavior tips and will have handouts with identification tips for Arizona Sparrows.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the McDonald's on the NW corner of McDowell and 99th Ave. From there we'll go to the confluence of Agua Fria and Gila Rivers, at the end of Southern Ave. We will then wander west through the valley stopping for anything interesting and will end at a good sparrow spot near Gillespie Dam around 1 p.m.

Bring lunch and water. We won't be doing too much walking. Bring a scope if you have one.

Contact Barb Meding for reservations at barbara-meding@yahoo.com or call her at 623-266-1847.

Saturday & Sunday, March 15-16, 2008

Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival

This a two-day outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. Join us March 15-16, 2008, on the River at B&M Wildlife Area, just north of Phoenix International Raceway. This year, the set up for the booths, tents, etc. will be on the old road across the river. This means a lot more parking space.

***Thursday, March 20, 2008**

Granite Reef Dam & Area

Leader: George Wall - 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

The sites on the Salt River in Tonto National Forest always provide good habitat for ducks, herons, hawks and Bald Eagles. The mesquite forest is home to wrens, woodpeckers, phoebes, juncos and sparrows as well as flycatchers even in winter.

Difficulty: 1—bring lunch

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City to leave at 6:45 a.m. Call leader for alternate meeting place.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Rio Verde - Box Bar

Leader: Chuck Richards—623-594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

Box Bar is an area along the floodplain of the Verde River just northeast of Rio Verde. There are cottonwoods, wills and tamarisk along the banks of the river. We should see several types of birds including some water birds. We will be walking up and back on level ground about 1 1/2 miles over sand and some river rock. This area is in the Tonto National Forest and has a \$6 fee per vehicle.

Difficulty: 2 - Call leader for information on time and where to meet.

***Friday, April 11, 2008**

Hassayampa River Preserve

Leader: George Wall - 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

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—This is a morning trip only—we should be finished by 10:30

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at 7:15 a.m. or you can meet the group at the Hassayampa River Preserve at 8 a.m. There is a \$6 fee for each person unless you're a conservancy member and then it is \$3.

Saturday, April 19, 2008

Rio Salado

Leader: To be announced

This is a great birding area and new birds are being found all the time.

Difficulty 1—Morning trip only.

Wed.—Fri., May 21,-23, 2008

Portal and Cave Creek

The Portal and Cave Creek area is located in South-eastern Arizona. The area offers a multitude of bird habitats as well as magnificent views of beautiful vistas. There will be a local leader for this trip (Melody Kehl) who has led us once before. Contact: Donna Smith 623-556-9535 rms1524@cox.net for details.

Note: Trip is full, but there is a waiting list.

BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVALS

Wings over Willcox January 17-20, 2008 – Willcox, AZ

This festival combines adventure, entertainment and education to provide a fun-filled weekend of birding pleasure for the novice, expert or curious. From the rugged peaks of the Dos Cabezas Mountains to Middle March Pass of the Dragoon Mountains, nature is one of southeastern Arizona's greatest attractions. The Sulphur Springs Valley, which lies between these two mountain ranges, is home to a great variety of plant and animal life. It is this diversity that draws nearly 500 species of birds to Cochise County. Every year, thousands of nature enthusiasts from around the world come to the valley to enjoy this wonderful attraction. The Magic Circle of Cochise, which begins and ends in Willcox, offers the birding enthusiast the opportunity to visit some of the best birding attractions in southeastern Arizona. See their website at www.wingsoverwillcox.com

San Diego Bird Festival February 6-11, 2008 - Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay, CA

The San Diego Audubon Society is sponsoring the 12th San Diego Bird Festival. The banquet keynote speaker will be Kenn Kaufman, photographer and author. They have added several new trips and workshops and are repeating our most popular events. For further details see the website www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest

Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival March 15-16, 2008 – B&M area by Phoenix International Raceway (P.I.R.)

This festival is a two-day outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. Join us March 15-16, 2008, on the River at B&M Wildlife Area, just north of Phoenix International Raceway. Discover a world of wildlife, history and culture in your own back yard! See the website at www.tresriosnaturefestival.com

Yuma Birding and Nature Festival April 16-20, 2008

Yuma hosts the Yuma Birding and Nature Festival. You can bird by boat along the Colorado River, bird in nearby Mexico and view the many delightful migrants to be found this time of year in the Yuma area. There's even a dunes trip guaranteed to round up some fascinating reptiles and insects.

There are lots of trips like the one down into Mexico to the Cienega de Santa Clara, a wildlife refuge. See website at www.yumabirding.org



Cienega de Santa Clara—Photo by George Wall

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival April 24-27, 2008 - Dead Horse State Park

Despite its distinctive name, Dead Horse Ranch is situated amidst an abundance of life along the Verde River. A six-mile reach of the river is known as the Verde River Greenway. Its unique ecosystem, the Cottonwood / Willow riparian gallery forest, is one of less than 20 such riparian zones in the world. Life along the river changes with the seasons, giving visitors a glimpse of the numerous species of raptors, neotropical migrants, resident songbirds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. See the website at www.birdyverde.org

Festival of the Hummingbirds May, 2008 Tucson, AZ

More on this festival later.

Southwest Birding and Nature Festival August, 2008 Sierra Vista, AZ

More on this festival later.

Monterey Bay Birding Festival September 26-28, 2008 Watsonville, CA

Join us for the 4th annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival, headquartered in Watsonville, California. Participate with Central Coast birding enthusiasts in a full weekend of activities centered in the Pajaro Valley, heart of the Monterey Bay's world-renowned birding area 95 miles south of San Francisco. Over 220 species found in 2007.

Sign up for guided outings to: Watsonville Wetlands, Monterey Bay, Elkhorn Slough, Pajaro River and Dunes, Moss Landing State Beach, Big Sur, Sunset Beach, Santa Cruz Coast, Pinnacles National Monument and Carmel River. See website at <http://www.montereybaybirding.org/>

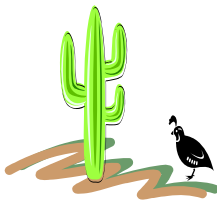
Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**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**

February 13, 2008—Moez Ali: Birds of Kenya
March 12, 2008—Mike Quigley: Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness
April 9, 2008—Rich Ockenfels: South African Adventure
May 14, 2008—Rob Smith: Global Warming

Other Dates of Interest: February 2, 2008, 8 a.m.—2 p.m. Annual Retreat at Hassayampa.

February 6, 2008, 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room – all SAS members welcome.
AAC Meeting - January 12, 2008. Retreat - February 2, 2008, Hassayampa from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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