



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 13 Issue 6

February 2012

**At our next meeting.... Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 7 p.m.**

## **Kendall Kroesen—Gardening for Birds**

Kendall grew up in Southern California where his mother identified common yard birds for him, but he didn't take up birding until after earning a BA in anthropology at the University of California, Riverside. After participating in a sea turtle conservation project in north-east Mexico, he bought a bird book and binoculars.

He practiced birding when he could during three years as a salvage archaeologist and then in graduate school at the University of California, San Diego where he earned a PhD in cultural anthropology.

He moved to Tucson and did volunteer work for the Tucson Audubon Society. He joined the staff in February 2002, and during his first four years worked with the habitat restoration program and helped improve communications, especially via the website and newsletter.

In 2006, he became Habitat Restoration Program Manager. His responsibilities included oversight of restoration work, grant writing, planning and new project implementation. Recently, his title was changed to Habitats Program Manager because, in addition to the duties above, he is helping Tucson Audubon create an urban-focused sustainability program. In this program, Tucson Audubon is working with businesses, homeowners and landscape designers to better define the characteristics of urban landscapes that make them ecological sustainable and useful for declining populations of birds.

He attended the Hog Island Audubon Chapter Leadership Training in 2008, and there he met our own Karen LaFrance which is how we knew we wanted him for a speaker.

Tonight's program is not simply to talk about plants that attract wildlife, but about the general principles of landscaping that make them ecologically more sustainable and supportive of birds. He will talk a little about the Tucson Audubon programs and how they're trying to orient them more toward urban populations. There are a variety of ecological issues that we have in our urban areas (declining birds, energy use, carbon footprint, water, non-point source pollution, etc.). These issues can be addressed through landscaping. He will introduce some basic principles and show example landscapes with a scorecard as to how well they measure up to the principles. He's not a landscape designer and he makes the point that the principles he gives are generalized and don't result in any one aesthetic approach, but can be used by landscape designers in creating a range of different landscape aesthetics.



**Kendall Kroesen**



## What's Happening in our Chapter

By your Editor, George Wall

We had a good Board Meeting and even had a guest—Gail Bliss.

We discussed the Annual Picnic at Horseshoe Ranch on March 31, 2012, and the Hassayampa Festival on April 7, 2012.

We talked about a welcome package to be given to guests and Gail Bliss will head up this endeavor.

We discussed a possible staffing position.

We have a lot of things that needs to be done that we outlined at the Retreat. Board members were urged to get familiar with the Retreat notes.

It turned out to be a great General Membership Meeting on January 11th to hear me give a program about Kenya. 58 people showed up for the program and 15 of them were guests. We informed everyone about the picnic and the Tres Rios Festival in March.

## 2012 Field Trips— Winter/Spring

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

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**

**Estrella Mountain Park**

**Leader: Joe Ford, 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)**

Joe Ford does this bird walk once a month and this is your chance to join in and just see what this park has to offer. With the mesquite trees, cottonwoods and lots of shrubbery, there are always lots of birds. Down at the river, egrets and herons will show their feathers and once in a while a Belted Kingfisher flies down the river. See the article and trip report on page 6.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the visitors center to leave at 8 a.m. or at the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird Avenue to leave at 7:15 a.m. Meet George Wall there for car-pooling. Note: There is an entrance fee of \$6.00 per car.

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

**Gilbert Riparian Preserve (Water Ranch)**

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

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

## 2012 Field Trips— Winter/Spring

Visit the Gilbert Riparian Preserve located at the SE corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads behind the Regional Library. A bird list of more than 140 species has been compiled there including more than 50 species of water/shorebirds like the Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the NE parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Alternate meeting spot is the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird to leave at 6:15.

**Sunday-Monday, February 26-27, 2012**

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

**Contact: Joe Ford, 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@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 be seen at the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. We are getting local leaders for each day and a fee will be levied to compensate them.

Difficulty 2 – You will need some slipover **wader boots** as there are streams to cross or just wear tennis shoes if you don't mind getting them wet.

Make your own reservations—suggested is the Travel Lodge at 1-928-680-9202.

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

**Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11, 2012**

**Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival to be held at Estrella Mountain Park (See Page 4)**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Vera Markham, 623-974-1110**

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

Hassayampa is always a nice place to take a bird walk as you never know what you'll find. There are nice easy trails to walk around the area and also to the river.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at 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 8-8:15 a.m. There is a \$5 fee for each person unless you're a Nature Conservancy member and then it is \$3.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

### 2012 Field Trips— Spring

**Saturday, March 31, 2012**

**Horseshoe Ranch—5th Annual Picnic**  
**See Page 5 for information**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

**Red Rock State Park**

**Leader: Dan Bohlmann, 602-938-8244**

[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

This a beautiful State Park near Sedona with Oak Creek flowing through it and lots of cottonwoods and sycamores along the creek. There are trails running along the creek, around open meadows and up to the top of a small peak (Eagles Nest) overlooking the whole park which is a spectacular viewpoint. Within the park is a favorite nesting area of the Common Black Hawk. There are a great variety of birds that have been seen here such as great flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Red-winged Blackbirds, Blue Grosbeaks, Oregon Juncos, Spotted and Green-tailed Towhees, Lesser Goldfinches, Cardinals, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Bluebirds, Summer and Western Tanagers, Bullock's Oriole, Robins, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Scrub Jays, Swallows, Red-shafted Flickers, Hairy and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Vireos and Warblers depending on the time of year. There is a \$5 per car park entrance fee.

Difficulty: 2 Bring Lunch.

Meet at Fry's Electronics Store, 31<sup>st</sup> Ave. and Thunderbird in the parking lot on the north side of the building (N.E. corner) to leave at 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

**Mt. Ord**

**Leader: Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425**

[awtarby@gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)

This is a perfect time of year to go to Mt. Ord for birds. There are grassland, pinyon, juniper, and ponderosa pine habitats. Mt. Ord is the highest bird habitat in Maricopa County. We may encounter Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, Gray Vireo, Black-chinned Sparrow, and many warblers as well as Summer and Hepatic Tanagers. A high-clearance vehicle is required.

Difficulty: 2 Bring Lunch.

Meet at Denny's in Fountain Hills to leave at 7 a.m. Alternate meeting spot is the Burger King just off of 101 on Thunderbird Avenue to leave at 5:45 a.m. It's a 1 hour drive from the Burger King to Denny's.

**Friday-Sunday, April 27-29, 2012**

**Brown Canyon Ranch & Area**

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

[gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

This is a special trip that we have arranged with Buenos Aires National Wildlife Preserve. We have reserved the Brown Canyon Environmental Education Center. This is a 7 bedroom ranch house that sleeps 14 on the second floor. There will be roommates. It has 2 bathrooms on the upper floor and a bathroom on the bottom floor. There is a large kitchen with refrigerator and oven and a very large meeting room with a huge table to seat everyone.

This ranch house is located on a dirt road quite a distance from the paved road. A canyon wash (sometimes with water) leads up into the mountains to an archway. Birds abound especially if there is water. Not only will we bird here, but also at nearby spots like the preserve and Arivaca Lake.

There is limit of 14 people and we currently have 8 signed up. The cost for renting is \$560 for the two nights. This means if we get 14 people (which I anticipate easily), the cost will be \$40 for the two nights plus your travel costs. You have to bring your own linens for your bed or a sleeping bag, towel, and any other toilet necessities. We chip for the suppers (usually spaghetti/meatballs, salad and dessert one night and hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans and dessert the next). You bring your own food for breakfast and lunches.

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**Glendale Library Gardens**

**Leader: Joe Ford 623-792-8154** [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)

In place of the Brown Canyon trip listed above, you can try this trip. It is a bird walk for beginners and for people who like to walk in the beautiful Xeriscape gardens where Gila Woodpeckers are seen in the palms and you have to chase the pheasants from underfoot.

Meet at the Glendale Library at 8 a.m. The Library is located at the corner of 59th Avenue and Brown in Glendale.

**Thursday-Friday, May 10-11, 2012**

**Patagonia**

**Leader: Kathe Anderson**

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

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

A trip to Patagonia leaving Thursday morning at 4:15 a.m. and staying at a B&B. This trip is limited to 8 people and is currently full. Put your name on the waiting list as there is always a possibility.

# **Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival**

**Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11, 2012 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**The event and activities are free – Parking is \$3 per vehicle**

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival is an annual **two-day** outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. This is an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage, ecology, history and wildlife of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers! It is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a beautiful spring day in Arizona and learn something about the place we call home.

## **Canoe Excursions**

Join us “Down by the River” to learn about safe canoeing from Arizona Game and Fish boating safety instructors and experience the joy of paddling your own canoe around the small lake at the Festival Area. Enjoy the serenity of being on the water, get close to birds and animals, watch the fish below you and generally enjoy the great weather and natural surroundings!

## **Early Birding Tours**

Join volunteers from the Sonoran Audubon Chapter for a dawn tour (7:30 a.m.) of the festival vicinity along the Salt and Gila Rivers. This is your chance to see the birds and other wildlife of the area at their best, prior to the arrival of the festival crowd. Participation is by pre-registration only and is limited to 15 participants each day. Pre-register by email to [McBobAZ@aol.com](mailto:McBobAZ@aol.com) or phone to 602-237-3951. Please state which day (Saturday or Sunday) you plan to attend this activity. Bring your binoculars, field guides and comfortable hiking shoes.

## **Regular Birding Tours**

These tours start at 9 a.m. when the festival opens and go all day long. They start from the Bird Walk Booth.

## **Hikes**

Guided and self-guided hikes will be offered during the festival. Staff from Estrella Mountain Regional Park will lead hikes several times daily into the trail system, identifying plants and animals (or their “sign”) as you walk. Or, you can walk on your own through the trail system during the beautiful spring weather expected for the day. Find the “Hiking” station in your daily program and check for the next available guided tour.

## **Fishing Clinic**

Enjoy two opportunities to “wet a line” at the Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival, and learn about fishing from Arizona Game and Fish Department Fisheries staff. For the little ones there is a tank in the center of the festival grounds that offers plenty of fast action and a never-fail chance to catch that first fish of a lifetime! For older children and adults, jump on our hay wagon transporter and ride down to the river to our fishing dock where instructors will set you up and get you fishing as a first experience or a repeat of a familiar one! No license required for this event!

## **To reach the Estrella Mountain Regional Park:**

From central Phoenix, take I-10 west to Estrella Parkway exit.

Travel south to Vineyard Ave.

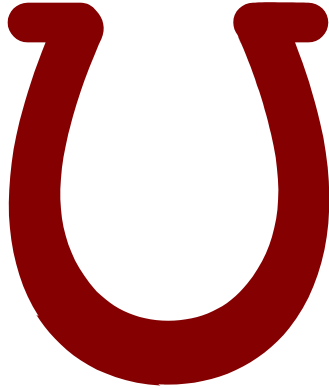
Turn east on Vineyard Avenue to the Estrella Mountain Regional Park entrance on the south side.

See the website at <http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com/activities.htm> for more info and detailed map.

# THE SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY'S FIFTH ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, March 31, 2012

To be held at



## Horseshoe Ranch

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has bought the Horseshoe Ranch, a 199-acre holding surrounded by the Agua Fria National Monument in public hands. The historic ranch features two homes, bunkhouses, a large barn, storage buildings, ancient rock art and a half-mile of the Agua Fria River in southeastern Yavapai County. This is a significant riparian corridor. The agency plans to use the ranch for outdoor and wildlife educational activities.

The Sonoran Audubon Society along with several other organizations donated monies to help buy this ranch. As a result, we have reserved the site for our 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Picnic on Saturday, March 31, 2012, starting at 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

There will be a Bird Walk starting at 8 a.m.

Free Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, cold drinks and water (attendees will be asked to bring a side dish)

Door prizes

Great Camaraderie

There will be restroom facilities.

**Directions:** Take I-17 towards Flagstaff. Take exit 259 (Bloody Basin Road – a well established dirt road) and bear right for approximately 5 miles. Gate entrance is on the left and it will be well marked.

**Reservations Required:** Contact George Wall at 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net) or sign up at the Membership Meetings.

## Members Spotlight

By Eleanor Campbell

New York City is a long way from Sun City, Arizona, but Vera Markham has brought her birding expertise that far. Vera says her skills in identifying birds, both visually and by sound, come from "repetition...going out birding often."

Vera was born in London, England, lived in Canada during her early years, then moved to Long Island, New York. She spent her school and most adult years around New York City. Although her father had given her binoculars and bird books as a youth, she became truly interested in birds when she joined the Linnaean Society of New York. She went birding with them to Jones Beach, Long Island; Cape May, Atlantic City and Brigantine, New Jersey; Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Prospect Park; New York's Central Park and Bronx Zoo. She was also a member of the Brooklyn Bird Club.



Vera Markham



Ladder-backed Woodpecker  
Photo by Vera Markham

Although she worked full time for various firms in Manhattan, she took trips with professional birders and acquired a life list of 595 species. She took early retirement after 25 years with ConEd and moved to Arizona 10 years ago. Here she's been active in the Birders Anonymous group as well as a friend of Sonoran Audubon Society. She's a member of National Audubon Society and is especially interested in animal rights with membership in PETA, Animal Rights Society of the United States, Arizona Humane Society and the Humane Farming Association. As a member of the Sonoran Audubon Society, she's a member of an IBA team for the Arlington Wildlife Area.

Vera is also a great photographer owning seven cameras, the newest being a Nikon D5100 that gives her clear pictures fast. Her photos are frequently published in this newsletter.

In the past she's had a canary, parakeets and an Umbrella Cockatoo as pets, but presently has Rusty, a toy poodle.

You'll see Vera either leading a bird trip or attending one. She considers the Elegant Trogon a special species and was happy to see the Smith's Longspur, a life bird for her, on the recent SAS Arlington field trip.

## FAMILY BIRD WALKS AT ESTRELLA

Sponsored by the Sonoran Audubon Society

Estrella Mountain Park is located on the south side of the Gila River in Goodyear at Bullard Ave. and Vineyard Rd.

**BIRD WALKS** have started again and the response has been great in both attendance and in the number of birds seen.

**SATURDAYS:** These walks are held the second Saturday of each month. The next walk will be on **Saturday, February 11, 2012**. Meet at the visitor's center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The walk will last approximately 2 hours. For further information, contact Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)

**SUNDAYS:** These walks are held the fourth Sunday of each month. The next walk will be on **Sunday, February 26, 2012**, at 8:00 a.m. Follow the signs to the dirt parking lot on the east side of the park (Navy Area). For further information contact Bob McCormick at 602-373-2952 [mcbobaz@aol.com](mailto:mcbobaz@aol.com) or Andrée Tarby at 602-421-9425 [awtarby@gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com).

There is a \$6.00 per vehicle charge for entering the park; however, the bird walks are free of charge.

On the Saturday walk held on January 14th, Eleanor Campbell stepped in for Joe Ford and did the walk assisted by Joe Legander. It was a cold morning and the river was high preventing a lot of the normal birds from making an appearance. Still, 12 people showed up for the walk and had a great time.

## The Oilbird

By Dr. Jerry Theis

After a long day of birding at Cabanas san Isidro, Ecuador, in January 2001 with Chupaflor Nature Tours, Jim Black, the leader, asked if anyone was up for night birding. Most participants headed for their cabanas while a few of us climbed into the van and drove to the “Potoo pasture” as dusk fell. As we opened the van door an Andean Potoo was already singing. The bird immediately responded to its taped call and landed on a perch in full view. We felt fortunate to hear and see such a scarce and local Andean bird. At dinner everyone was told of our discovery so those who had stayed behind headed out while the first group retired for the night, except for me! When we arrived at the site, we heard hissing and clucking sounds coming from the forest opposite the potoo site. Upon pointing the spotlight toward the sounds, we noticed three large nightjar-type birds with large, glowing eyes, hovering and flying against the tree branches. We wrote them off as mystery nightjars or a family group of potoos, although potoos are not noted to be gregarious. No one at the lodge could explain our sighting. Several months later I was reading an old copy of a Wings tour newsletter. On one of their tours at Cabanas san Isidro, they experienced the same sights and sounds in the exact location but one of the birds landed, enabling them to identify the birds as Oilbirds. Oilbirds feed from fruits as they hover, emitting their unusual sounds as they feed. The loud clucking noises enable them to navigate and echolocate fruit in pitch darkness (the frequency is 7000 cycles/second, unlike a bat’s cry, which is supersonic).

The Oilbird ranges from Guyana and Trinidad to Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia in forests and woodlands with caves. It has occurred as a rare vagrant to Costa Rica, Panama and Aruba. The Guacharo Cave was Venezuela’s first national monument and, according to some estimates, harbors 15,000 or more birds. Oilbirds live mainly on lower mountain slopes on both sides of the Andes but are prone to wandering. They roost by day in caves and dark gorges, emerging at dusk to feed by plucking large fruits from various trees, especially Oil Palms and tropical laurels, in canopy and borders, often flying long distances. They are noisy both at night and when disturbed in their diurnal roosts.

The Oilbird is a large, slim bird (16-19”) with a wing span of just over 3 ft. It has a flattened, powerfully hooked, bill surrounded by rictal bristles. It is mainly reddish-brown with white spots on the nape and wings. The lower parts are cinnamon-buff spotted with white. The stiff tail feathers are brown spotted with white. The feet are small and almost useless. The long wings make it capable of hovering and twisting flight, useful for navigating through caves. The Oilbird is the only nocturnal fruit-eating bird in the world.



Oilbird—Photo taken from [birdwatchershouse.com](http://birdwatchershouse.com)

How did the Oilbird get its name? In Trinidad it is called “diablotin” or little devil, referring to its loud cries. The genus name *Steatornis* means “fat bird.” The naked young are fed on rich, oily fruits and become grotesquely fat, reaching twice the adult weight at their maximum size. They lose this baby fat when their feathers begin to grow in. In the past, baby Oilbirds were captured and their fat boiled down for torch oil, hence their name!

## Welcome and Thank You

We have several new Sonoran Audubon Society members who joined the National Audubon Society or transferred into our area which automatically makes them a member of our chapter. The new members are Linda Austin, Glenda Averill, Red-Ruth Balli, Rose Barden, Karen Bonham, Ruby Brull, Cherie Burton, Audrey Clements, Orman-Frances Darby, Phyllis Datesman, Evlynn Day, Marjorie Denies, Joanne Duhon, Stuart Glenn, Cecelia Haner, Joan Hardison, Arthur Hibbs, Katalin Hollay, Norma Jean King, Jennifer Leitch, Marcella Linder, Judith Littlefield, Margaret Ljungborg, Kim Luhman, Michael Marquardt, Pamela Miller, Geraldine Moeser, William Munz, Marureen Neumeyer, Anne Paull, The Perez Family, Guenther Poeschel, V. Thiel, Anne Tingley, Merrily Turner, Joanne Wolfe and Elfriede Zawicki.

We also have a few first time new “Friends”. They are Nancy Dammann, Zona Deweerdt, Stan and Darnelle Dunn, Ruth Kennedy, Benjamin Leonard and Maggie Parish.

The “Friends” drive is still on and we hope a lot more of you will renew your “Friends” membership or join as a new “Friend”.

## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### Audubon Arizona Rio Salado Habitat

Audubon's Birds 'n Beer, is again being offered in 2012. Local professionals will give you a refreshing way to learn about Arizona birds and other wildlife while networking with fellow nature-lovers. Professionals from all over the Valley come to the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center to enjoy a cold Four Peaks brew while enjoying an enlightening and lively presentation on Arizona nature. Stop into the Audubon Center every third Thursday of the month, 5:30 - 7:30 for this popular event. Generously Sponsored by Four Peaks Brewery.

The 3rd Annual Volunteer Open House is Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 2-4 p.m. If you've volunteered at Rio Salado, you need to be here. RSVP to the address below.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix. Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail [riosalado@audubon.org](mailto:riosalado@audubon.org) for more information about their programs and events.

### Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous has their monthly meeting on Friday, February 17, 2012, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City. The program will feature a Hummingbird video. The field trip for the month is on February 9, 2012, to Gilbert Water Ranch led by George Wall.

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

### Hassayampa River Preserve

Anne Leight has bird banding programs on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at 8 a.m. There will be another banding session on Saturday, February 25, 2012, also starting at 8 a.m. Newcomers are welcome; however, if you want to help bird band, you must contact Anne Leight at [birdanna-belle@hotmail.com](mailto:birdanna-belle@hotmail.com).

The preserve is open mid-September through mid-May Wednesday-Sunday 8 a.m.– 5 p.m. and mid-May through mid-September Friday - Sunday 7-11 a.m. Entrance fees are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Members fee is \$3.00.

Birding 101 is on Saturday, 8-11 a.m. February 25, 2012. Get started in the fascinating hobby of birding with professional birder Kathe Anderson. Learn about bird types, binoculars and field guides. Find and recognize different species of birds on a short, guided hike along the preserve trails.

Hassayampa is having their Nature Festival and 25th

Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, April 7, 2012, from 8 a.m.—2 p.m. There will be guided bird walks at 8 and 10 a.m., Wildman Phil's Reptiles from 10-11:30 a.m. and much more. Save the date. The Sonoran Audubon Society will have a table there.

### Gilbert Water Ranch

The Gilbert Water Ranch is located on the SE corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads in Gilbert, Arizona. From the Superstition Freeway (US 60) exit at Greenfield Road and drive S. on Greenfield for 1.5 miles. Turn east (left) on Guadalupe. The entrance to the parking lot for the Water Ranch is the third driveway on the right. See the web site at <http://sites.google.com/site/birdsofthegilbertwaterranch/>

### Arizona Field Ornithologists

AZFO have several surveys and field expeditions coming up in the near future. See their website at [www.Azfo.org](http://www.Azfo.org) for more details.

### Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Winter/Spring guided birdwalks resume February 4, 2012, with Arizona Audubon's Cathy Wise and also John Ray as our guides; author Jim Burns is here February 12 and acclaimed photographer Richard Ditch February 18. Bird walks at BTA begin at 8:30 from the breezeway lobby of the visitor center, There will be another walk on February 26th.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum opens at 8:00 a.m. \$9.00 for adults, \$4.50 for ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>

### Desert Botanical Garden

Every Monday bird walks are held starting at 8 a.m.

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees of \$15.00 (\$13.50 seniors) apply unless you're a DBG member. Membership is \$75 a year. When special events are held, the entry fee could be higher. See their website at [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org) for further information.

### Festivals

The first-ever Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival is scheduled for August 17 - 21. "August is the time when we have more species of birds in southeast Arizona than at any other time of year," said Dr Paul Green, Executive Director of Tucson Audubon. "We want people from around the world to come and experience them with the best of our world-class local leaders." See their web site at: [www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival)

## 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 less money goes to us; however, you get the National Audubon Society Magazine. Some people choose to do both. See our website for the applicable forms.

Adult or family membership: \$20.00  
Seniors (60 and up): \$15.00  
Students Under 18: \$10.00

All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* are free from the chapter website <[www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)> or by mail for \$10.00 per year.

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.desertriversaudubon.org](http://www.desertriversaudubon.org)  
Maricopa Audubon Web Site:  
[www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.org)  
Arizona Field Ornithologists: [www.azfo.org](http://www.azfo.org)  
National Audubon: <http://audubon.org/>



7480 W. Bell Rd in Glendale and located near 75th Avenue behind Mimi's Café and next to the Souper Salad. Ph: 623-773-3000  
Website: <http://Glendale.wbu.com>

## Care Centers for Birds

**Fallen Feathers**  
Handles and cares for all birds  
9532 W. Cielo Grande, Peoria  
Jodie Kieran 623-533-2348  
623-566-5302

**Adobe Mtn. Wildlife Center**  
Cares for all wildlife including birds  
I-17 & Pinnacle Peak  
623-582-9806

**Wild At Heart**  
Raptors only  
31840 N. 45th St.  
Cave Creek  
480-595-5047

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

### Officers

President: George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)  
Vice President: Tim Cullison 602-863-9744  
[timcullisonaz@aol.com](mailto:timcullisonaz@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180 [haylie.hewitt@cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@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)  
Joe Ford: 623-792-8154 [lford25@cox.net](mailto:lford25@cox.net)  
Darnell Kirksey 602-938-6174 [dkirk38338@aol.com](mailto:dkirk38338@aol.com)  
Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646 [klaf@cox.net](mailto:klaf@cox.net)  
Rich Schooler 623-930-8904 [raschooler@cox.net](mailto:raschooler@cox.net)  
Andrée Tarby 602-421-9425 [awtarby@gmail.com](mailto:awtarby@gmail.com)  
Jerry Theis 623-878-6528 [jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com](mailto:jerry.theis@bannerhealth.com)

### Committees

Programs: Darnell Kirksey, Jerry Theis and George Wall—See phone numbers and e-mail addresses above.

Education/Conservation: Many of the Board Members are alternating hosting this committee.

Field Trips: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244  
[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

Hospitality: Haylie Hewitt 623-581-1180  
[haylie.hewitt@cox.net](mailto:haylie.hewitt@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)

Database Manager: Lauren Bosch 520-603-3652  
[lsfreebird@aol.com](mailto:lsfreebird@aol.com)

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Community Planning Project:  
Karen LaFrance 602-788-9646 [klaf@cox.net](mailto:klaf@cox.net)

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

## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**Location:** West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale — **Time:** 6:30 p.m. for socializing and 7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program.

### Schedule for the Year:

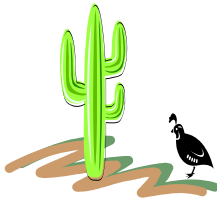
**February 8, 2012: Kendall Kroesen—Gardening for Birds**

**March 14, 2012—David and Diane Reesor—Australia**

**April 11, 2012: Members—Adventures in Bird Watching**

**May 9, 2012—Tom Gaskill—Egypt**

**Other Dates of Interest:** February 1, 2012, 7 p.m. Board Meeting at West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of 59th Ave. and Cholla in Glendale.



**Sonoran Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 8068**

**Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**