



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 8 Issue 5

January, 2007

At our next meeting....

Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Catherine, the Herb Lady presents "BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES and BUFFETS"

Feast your eyes on edible landscaping in your garden, while providing food for the birds, bees, butterflies and your family!

With the abundance of beautiful and edible plants, it is possible to provide your families' gardens with non-toxic, useful plants, year-round.



Catherine "The Herb Lady" Crowley

Successfully planting edibles in the desert is mostly about timing. Catherine, The Herb Lady, will discuss planting conditions, times and varieties to provide a buffet for everyone .

"The Herb Lady" has been gardening for over 30 years, but almost two decades ago she turned to herbs to fill the flavor void left by family considerations of

low fat and low salt, which equaled--no taste. Since the mid-90s, she has been extensively gardening in her "laboratory" in the far east Valley of the Sun.

Her book - "Edible Landscaping in the Desert Southwest: Wheelbarrow to Plate" expanded on the concept of edible landscaping to include fruits and vegetables along with the herbs and edible flowers, all with an easy to follow month-by-month calendar, garden tips and, of course, recipes.

Her new cookbook "101+ Recipes from The Herb Lady" is now out with over 150 recipes and tips, facts and history of edible herbs and their uses.

The Herb Lady's column appears the fourth Saturday of the month in the online edition of the East Valley Tribune.

What's Happening in our Chapter? By George Wall, Editor

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on December 6, 2006. Here are some of the items discussed by board members Bob McCormick, Karen LaFrance, Chuck and Loretta Richards, Suzanne Cash, Dick Fogle, Alvin and Arlene Scheuer, Andrée Tarby, George Wall and Daniela Yellan. Ian Jeffrey attended as a guest.

1. The first order of business were the committee reports.

A. **Field Trip:** There were a couple of changes to field trips. The trip to Pinetop-Lakeside was deleted and a Tres Rios trip was added.

B. **Membership:** There are currently 593 on the membership list. Since last update, 63 were dropped and 27 new members were added.

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EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Rio Salado

They have 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.

The bird walks are every Saturday starting at 7:00 a.m. You meet at visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Ave. Everyone is welcome and no need to make reservations in advance. There are several resident birds like the Belted Kingfisher, Peregrine Falcon and Burrowing Owl among others. On one of our bird trips in October, we saw or heard 43 species. This area is improving all the time.

Desert Botanical Garden

Each Monday morning from now through April, 2007, 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.com for further information.

Hassavampa River Preserve

On Wednesday, January 17, 2007, from 8-10:30 a.m. Kathe Anderson will have the first of four sessions to introduce the E's and F's (Environment and Families) of birding.

On Saturday, January 27, 2007, from 8:30-10 a.m. there will be a class on Digital Photography Basics taught by award winning local photographers Dale and Debbie Keiser.

If your not into photography, there is an interpretive nature walk also on Saturday, January 27, 2007, from 8:30-10 a.m.

There will also be bird banding on Saturday, January 6 and January 27, 2007, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Reservations and fees may be required for some of the above events.

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

Normal visiting hours are Wednesday—Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their Fall/Winter schedule. 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.

Daily guided tours Jan 1-31, 2007: How old are saguaros? What bird drilled those rows of parallel holes in eucalyptus tree bark? Learn about desert plants and animals on a daily guided walking tour lead by Arizona State Parks volunteers at Boyce Thompson Arboretum this month and throughout the winter. Meet in the visitor center lobby at 1:00 p.m.; tours typically last about 60-90 minutes and proceed along the main trail, seeing most Arboretum collections.

This is also an ideal place to bird with two miles of trails. If you don't feel like birding, there are plenty of other things to do. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at

<http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous, a group of birdwatchers, has their monthly meeting from 10—11:30 a.m. 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. Their next meeting will be on January 19, 2007. George Wall will present a PowerPoint program on Exotic Birds around the world. For further information contact George Wall at gwall5@cox.net

Can I Stump You?



What bird is this?

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
Friends of Audubon Arizona Web Site:
www.friendsofaudubonarizona.org



and

KARL'S BAKERY



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What's Happening in our Chapter?

C. **Conservation:** Chuck Richards reported on the Agua Fria watershed meeting. A study on water pollution on the Verde Watershed has been completed by ASU scientists. 18 people attended including the new BLM manager for the monument.

D. **Program:** Daniela Yellan reported that all programs are scheduled through May.

F. **Finance:** Loretta Richards reported that our sales of calendars was at \$239 (cost was \$200). The year's report has been submitted to the National Audubon Society; so our dues share should be forthcoming. Insurance has been paid for the coming year.

2. Here are a few of the other items discussed at the board meeting:

A. We need to push the calendars until after Christmas. At that time, any remaining calendars should be given to other organizations and places like assisted living homes.

B. The Board Retreat is scheduled for January 20, 2007, at Horseshoe Ranch. **All members interested in making input and suggestions are invited.** There will be some birding prior to the retreat.

C. Bob McCormick is almost done with the IBA Report for Game and Fish. He's just awaiting a couple of maps and pictures. IBA counts for 2007 begin in January.

Dick Fogle presided at the regular monthly membership meeting held on December 13, 2006. Patrick Graham, our guest speaker, enlightened us on some of the happenings around Arizona concerning conservation of water and resources and how the Nature Conservancy is working towards those goals. We were also shown a short film on the Verde River.

The Christmas Bird Count was talked up as some areas still needed monitors.

The members survey was discussed. These surveys will be used at the Board Retreat on January 20, 2007. Hopefully, we'll get some help on some of the committees and some new ideas.

Again, we had a very low turnout of about 25 members. Dick Fogle stressed the importance of meeting attendance and suggested we bring a friend to the next meeting. We did have one guest—Mary Ann Williams.

Rio Salado IBA Training

By George Wall

There were training sessions for IBA monitoring for the Rio Salado Riparian Habitat on December 8-9, 2006. The sessions were given by Scott Wilbur, Arizona Important Bird Areas Program Conservation Biologist with Tucson Audubon; Tice Supplee, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Arizona and Heather Watson, Natural Resource Manager City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department Natural Resources Division Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project.

The first day's training was held at the North Mountain Visitor Center. Approximately 20 volunteers were shown through slide presentations and examples on how to conduct IBA Transect Surveys, IBA Census Surveys, IBA Point Counts and how to fill out the forms involved.

On the second day, the class met at the Rio Salado Riparian Habitat parking lot early in the morning. They were paired off and sent to different areas to use the information learned in class and to actually perform the tasks required of IBA surveyors.

During the course of the morning, there were quite a few bird sightings including a Eurasian Collared Dove, a Harrier Hawk and a Virginia Rail.

Everyone involved seemed pleased with the results. The actual monitoring of the Rio Salado Riparian Habitat will begin in earnest starting in January, 2007, by the volunteers.



Rio Salado Riparian Preserve
Photo by George Wall

The Sonoran Audubon Society members who attended the training were Dick Fogle, Frank Inzana, Tom Lazzelle, Rich Schooler, Diane Stuart, Andrée Tarby, George Wall and Daniela Yellan.

IBA - Agua Fria National Monument Riparian Corridors

By Tice Supplee

Sonoran Audubon Society volunteers Bob McCormick, Chuck and Loretta Richards, George Wall and Dick Fogle all helped on the transects at Horseshoe Ranch on the Agua Fria River and Sycamore Creek near the EZ Ranch outside of Cordes Lakes. The riparian habitat below the ford on Bloody Basin Road is looking really good and the bird diversity seems to support that this is a healthy riparian stream. Besides Lazuli Buntings, Summer Tanagers, Bell's Vireos and Yellow Warblers this section of the river had Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Blue Grosbeaks after the start of the monsoon. The Sycamore Creek transect is higher in elevation and did not get the same abundance or diversity of bird species.

Tice Supplee and Chuck and Loretta Richards also conducted Area Search Surveys on Perry Mesa in the grasslands. Our most interesting trip was last spring when there was a warbler "fall-out" in the blooming acacia and mesquite. The Cassin's Sparrows documented in 2005 did not return to breed this year.



Chuck & Loretta Richards
Photo by Tice Supplee

Tice Supplee went in the field on Saturday, December 16th with Tom Hildebrandt, Roger Joos and Tim Flood of the Arizona Riparian Council and Scott Jones with Friends of the Agua Fria NM. Our purpose was to show the ARC folks where the two transects are located and see if they can develop a vegetation monitoring protocol for the riparian habitats that can compliment the SAS bird survey efforts. The next step will be for ARC and SAS to meet with the BLM and discuss what will most help them in monitoring the health of the riparian vegetation. They agreed that the segment of the Agua Fria River where we are surveying is in a good functional con-

dition with a lot of positive evidence of a healthy stream. They were concerned about Sycamore Creek (as is the SAS survey team) and worry that the frequent severe flash floods have left this stream in a raw condition. The severity of the floods would indicate that the watershed for Sycamore Creek is in less than ideal conditions. The partnership with the Arizona Riparian Council is exciting news and we hope that they will be able to help us on other IBAs once the methods are established at Agua Fria NM.

The first year of the Gila River surveys has been completed. We need more volunteers to help cover all our survey points. The formats are to survey from hilltop vantage points in the evening once a month from January through May or to census selected open water locations in the mornings. We chose the evening for the hilltop surveys because it is easier to count the birds as they come in to roost for the night and there is less flying up and down river, yielding a more accurate count. Our vantage points are Monument Hill behind the PIR and B&M Wildlife Area (we need volunteers for this spot), the peak behind Jackie Meck's Lake –Bob McCormick is the leader for this site (we may change this to a census survey of the lake itself), Robbins Butte – Andrée Tarby is the leader for this site, Arlington WA (we need volunteers for this site), Tres Rios Hayfields-Daniela Yellan is the leader for this site.

Please contact Tice Supplee at 602-380-3722 or tsupplee@audubon.org if you want to help with the IBA surveys at Agua Fria NM or on the Gila River.

Phoenix Tres Rios Christmas Count

By Daniela Yellan

On Tuesday, December 19, more than 50 volunteers helped with the 6th year of this CBC. This year, I worked hand in hand with Dave Powell, who so graciously agreed to take over as chief compiler.

Because Dave is new to the Phoenix area, many people, including Troy Corman, Kurt Radamaker and I introduced Dave to the count area in the Western Valley. Because Dave had not yet met many of the members of the birding community, my primary contribution this year included soliciting, contacting, and coordinating the eleven area leaders and teams. Of course I also assisted Dave in other areas as needed.

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ANWR

Published: November 27, 2006

Anchorage Daily News

FAIRBANKS -- Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will probably face heavy opposition in the new Democrat-controlled Congress, that is, if it's even considered at all.

With Democrats in charge, oil drilling in the refuge, which Stevens has championed for decades, will not be seriously considered for at least the next two years, according to congressional observers.

National environmental groups noted that drilling in ANWR has been effectively stopped. Some drilling supporters, like California Republican Rep. Richard Pombo, the House Resources Committee chairman, were defeated.

Mike Daulton, the National Audubon Society's conservation policy director, said however, that his group and others will be working to protect the Teshekpuk Lake area in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Some say the Democratic majority, however, won't be able to pass an ANWR wilderness protection bill, just as the Republican majority proved too slim to open the refuge to drilling.

"The procedural protections that were available to people that opposed ANWR development are now available to the people that support ANWR development," said John Katz, director of Gov. Frank Murkowski's office in Washington, D.C.

Democrats opposed to drilling have relied heavily on those procedural protections. Although Republicans controlled Congress and the executive office during the past six years, ANWR leasing legislation languished in part because Democratic senators mounted a successful filibuster and Republicans couldn't round up the 60 votes needed to overcome it.

Katz said the state should not give up pushing for drilling and, for now, could at least keep the issue alive through what he called a "low-level education campaign."

"We want members of Congress to be educated about the importance of ANWR in the nation's domestic energy policy," Katz said. "Second, we want to have a

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PhoenixTres Rios Christmas Count

Early on, Barbara Meding volunteered to find a restaurant which would accommodate a sizable group in a separate room, was willing to be flexible as to when and how dinner would be served, and provide separate checks. She made an excellent choice for the compilation dinner with Arturo's in Goodyear. Kudos to the staff at this fine Mexican restaurant for providing the approximately forty hungry and tired birders with wonderful food and service!

Although it remained quite chilly all day and the wind picked up off and on, the predicted rain never came, providing good birding conditions most of the day.

In spite of the very obvious 'encroachment' of civilization in the Count Circle, unofficially, 143 different species were identified and counted, about the same as in previous years. Rarities included a Rufous-backed Robin, Black-and-white Warbler, a possible MacGillivray's Warbler, and Rough-legged Hawk. Raptors were abundant and included Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and White-tailed Kite. One of the groups actually counted 15 Greater Roadrunners; another group saw four Ferruginous Hawks sitting in one field only a few hundred feet apart.

A special thanks goes to some of the staff at the Tres Rios Wastewater Treatment Plant and Constructed Wetlands: Ron Elkins, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, Debbi Radford, Tres Rios Project Coordinator, and Herb Benson, Tres Rios Wetlands Operator, who spent about three hours giving the Area 1 team an extensive tour of the plant and surrounding area.



White-tailed Kite
Photo by Greg Clark

BIRDING SPOTS

By George Wall

This is the fourth in a series about birding spots in and around our area.

Gilbert Water Ranch Riparian Preserve

I first visited this birding spot on September 15, 2000, and to be honest, I wasn't impressed. At that time, there was just a small pond and a short trail. We finished up our birding trip in an hour. Three of us, Dwayne Fink, Marshall Esty and I saw only 27 species of birds; however, I did get a lifer that morning—a MacGillivray's Warbler. This was great for me as I had only been birding for a year.

My, how things have changed since then. This is now one of the "Hot" birding sites in the area. Constantly new birds are showing up there during the year. Birds like the Groove-billed Ani, Thick-billed Kingbird, Harris's Sparrow, Streak-backed Oriole and many more. Their list of 150 species I'm sure has expanded.



Harris's Sparrow

Photo taken by Dick Fogle at Gilbert Water Ranch

What brought this development of the Water Ranch about? Here is some of the information that I took off their website at www.reparianinstitute.org

"In 1986, the Town of Gilbert made a commitment to reuse 100% of its effluent water. The Town's desire to create innovative and unique ways to combine water resource development with open space, educational and recreational opportunities led to the development of the Riparian Preserve. Of the 110 acres, 70 acres make up the 7 water recharge ponds that are filled on a rotating basis with treated effluent and allowed to percolate into the aquifer where it is stored for future use.

One of the ponds has a unique distribution stream that mimics the action of an ephemeral desert stream. An additional lake is filled with reclaimed water, and is designated as an urban fishing resource through the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

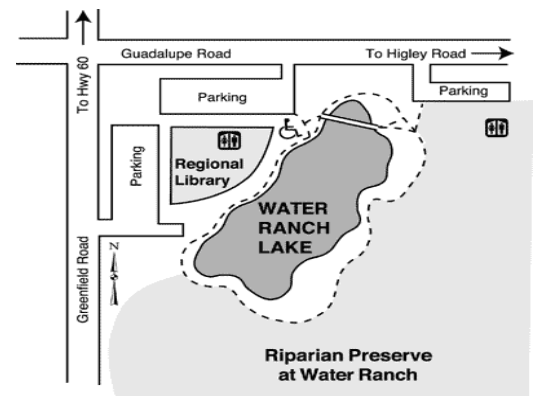
The Preserve is organized into various vegetative zones ranging from marshlands to native riparian and upland vegetation areas. Over 4.5 miles of trails weave through the park, and there are interpretive education panels on wildlife and vegetation throughout. Viewing blinds have been established at various locations near the edge of several ponds to further enhance the visitor's experience. A floating boardwalk crossing the northern end of the lake allows visitors a close up view of the fish and ducks on the water. Additional educational areas include an ethnobotanical garden, a paleontology dig site, an archaeological dig site, a weather station, a scale model solar system, state-of-the-art observatory and a hilltop outdoor classroom. The Preserve includes restroom facilities, picnic ramadas, and a play area. "

The Riparian Institute plans to build an Education Center that will offer a focal point for every visitor to the preserve. It will provide a source of learning and experience for people of all ages. The Center will be located just east of the intersection of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads in the Town of Gilbert.

Here are some of the species counts, date and rarer birds seen.

- 27 - September 15, 2000 - MacGillivray's Warbler
- 51 - February 15, 2003 - Blue-winged Teal
- 39 - January 21, 2004 - Peach-faced Lovebird
- 50 - January 14, 2005 - Wilson's Snipe
- 51 - February 11, 2006 - Streak-backed Oriole
- 52 - April 13, 2006 - Tropical Kingbird
- 54 - November 18, 2006 - Harris's Sparrow

The Gilbert Water Ranch is easy to get to as the map shows. It is located at the corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads and there is ample parking.



Winter 2007 Field Trips

An * indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

Saturday, January 13, 2007

Estrella Park & P.I.R. Area

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Donna Smith and Ranger Patricia Armstrong do bird walks every 2nd Saturday of the month at Estrella Mountain Park. We'll do a hike along the Gila River and also through the park. Last January, 61 species were seen.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just S. of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to leave at 8:30 a.m. or call the leader for alternate meeting places. We'll be starting the walk at 9 a.m. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee.

***Thursday, January 18, 2007**

Arlington Valley

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Arlington Valley, west of Phoenix with its fields, ponds, canals and wildlife areas provides a variety of habitats to search for birds. Burrow Owls, Sandhill Cranes, many species of shorebirds as well as rarities like the White Ibis and White-tailed Kite may be seen. You may even see a Crested Caracara.

Difficulty: 1 – Bring a lunch.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. just S. of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to leave at 7:30 a.m. or call the leader for alternate meeting places.

Friday-Sunday, January 26-8, 2007

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Leader: Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074

atarby@cox.net

Wintering rosy finches at Sandia Crest above Albuquerque are the target species for this trip. Last year all three species were present at the feeders around Crest House, the concession there. We will also spend time at Rio Grande Nature Center State Park in Albuquerque itself. Hopefully, we'll see some ducks. This trip is limited to 4 cars.

Difficulty: 3 - This is because of the distances involved and high altitude.

We will leave Phoenix early on Friday morning at 7 a.m. from Denny's located at Bell and I-17. A suggested place to stay is the Comfort Inn East, 13031 Central Ave. NE, Albuquerque. Ph: 505-294-1800. If the weather is bad, Bosque del Apache will be the fall-back birding site.

***Friday, February 2, 2007**

Tres Rios

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

The Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands Project located on the 91st Ave. is a haven for many bird species. The habitats include open water ponds, 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.

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

Saturday, February 10, 2007

Sod Farms & Pecan Grove

Leader: Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074

atarby@cox.net

This trip will explore the agricultural fields and sod farm west of I-10 and south of Casa Grande. We will be looking for Mountain Plover as well as wintering raptors. This area has regularly produced falcons and good looks at hawks.

Difficulty 1: Bring a lunch and water.

We will carpool from both the east and west sides of town and meet at 7:30 a.m. at the first Rest Area on I-10 south of Phoenix. Please contact the leader to find out who else is going from your area.

Saturday, February 24, 2007

Gilbert Water Ranch

Leaders: Chuck & Loretta Richards (623) 594-6554

carichards@nowonline.net

The Gilbert Water Ranch is one of the Valley's better winter birding places. The ponds attract large numbers of ducks and shorebirds. There are many common permanent valley birds, plus lots of other winter migrants. There have been a number of sightings of the female Streaked-backed Oriole again this year. You can check this out at www.birdingonthe.net and see what else has been spotted.

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Winter/Spring 2007 Field Trips

An * indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

The trails are well maintained, graveled and level. There are picnic benches for those who wish to bring a lunch. 50 plus birds are usually seen or heard on trips to this site.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Meet at Lowe's parking lot on Thunderbird just west of 83rd Ave. by the Burger King. There is lots of parking available. We plan to leave at 6:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 3, 2007

Robbins Butte

Leader: Bob McCormick 602-237-3951

mcbobaz@aol.com

Robbins Butte is a Wildlife Area administered by the AZ Game & Fish Dept. This area hasn't been visited by our group of birders in a long time; so it's an unknown area as to what we'll find. Occasionally there are Sandhill Cranes and a White-tailed Kite is possible. Expect to see lots of hawks. Phil Smith, the Ranger at Robbins Butte will be assisting on this trip.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only

Carpool will leave from Denny's 1 block N. of I-10 on Litchfield Park Rd at 7 a.m. or meet us at the pond just east of Robbins Butte at 7:30 a.m.. The pond is 100 feet east of the locked gate (very easy to find).

***Thursday, March 8, 2007**

Granite Reef/Coon's Bluff

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

These 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 Bell Recreation Center Parking Lot on Hutton Drive near corner of Boswell in Sun City to LEAVE at 7:00 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday, March 17-18, 2007

Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival

It will be held on the river at B&M Wildlife Area at Avondale and Gila River (just north of PIR). More later.

Thursday, March 29, 2007

The Narrows of Oak Creek Canyon

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

dansbolhmann@prodigy.net

This is a little known section of Oak Creek that has a trail called the Huckaby that leaves a parking lot 1.8 miles up Schnebly Hill Road. It heads north along the east side of the creek. This section starts out in Pine and Juniper country above Oak Creek Canyon and then drops down next to the creek where it is heavily shaded in Sycamore, Cottonwood and Ash trees and has lots of flowing water and ponds that naturally attract lots of birds. In this area I've seen Blue Grosbeaks, Summer & Western Tanagers, Warblers, Vireos, Bullock's Orioles, Western Bluebirds, Swallows, Lesser Goldfinches, Townsend's Solitaires, Plain & Bridled Titmouse, Flycatchers, Black & Say's Phoebe, Hairy Woodpecker, and Scrub Jays.

Difficulty: 2 Bring a lunch

Meet at Fry's Electronics parking lot at the SE corner of 31st Ave and Thunderbird. We will leave at 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Lower Oak Creek Important Bird Area

Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Officially designated, Lower Oak Creek Important Bird Area includes Page Springs Fish Hatchery and a birding trail that traverses through marshland to Oak Creek southwest of Sedona.

This riparian corridor (cottonwood/willow/sycamore and mesquite/hackberry bosque) supports a broad diversity of bird species. Exploration of woods, ponds and grassland at this time of year should be ornithologically rewarding.

Lucy's Warbler and Bell's Vireo breed here. Migrants such as Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Virginia's Warbler pass through. Cavity nesting species seen here in abundance are: American Kestrel, Bridled Titmouse, Brown-crested Flycatcher and Violet-green Swallow. Notable rare species also occur such as Common Black-Hawk and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Difficulty: 1 All Day Trip. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks.

Meet to LEAVE at 5:30 a.m. at Bell Recreation Center, corner of Hutton Dr. and Boswell Blvd., in Sun City OR at 6:00 a.m. at McDonald's just east of Rte. 17 on the north side of Carefree Highway (Exit 223).

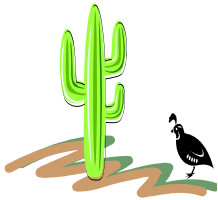
Please call the leader to register and confirm meeting place.

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.**

January 10, 2007	Catherine, the Herb Lady
February 14, 2007	Sean Saville—National Outreach Coordinator
March 14, 2007	Rich Ockenfels—Pronghorn Antelopes
April 11, 2007	Bill Grossi—Birding in Peru
May 9, 2007	Andy Holycross—More Snakes

Other Dates of Interest January 7, 2007, 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room. All SAS members welcome.



Sonoran Audubon Society
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