



# Gambel's Tales

*The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society*

Volume 3, Issue 7

March 2002

## **AUDUBON OPENS ARIZONA STATE OFFICE; SAM CAMPANA APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Former Scottsdale mayor will spearhead Audubon's "2020 Vision" in Arizona Phoenix, AZ February 7, 2002 - The National Audubon Society announced the launch of its Arizona State Office, and appointed former Scottsdale Mayor Sam Kathryn Campana as Executive Director and Vice President. Audubon Arizona is the newest state office in the organization's rapidly growing network, bringing the total to 27. Campana will work from her home in Scottsdale until a permanent location for the state office is found in Phoenix.

"We're absolutely thrilled to bring Sam Campana onboard to launch Audubon Arizona," said Les Corey, Vice President of State Programs, National Audubon Society. "She is a vibrant and respected community leader known for her outstanding advocacy work on behalf of both the arts and the environment. As Mayor of Scottsdale she demonstrated her ability to build strong coalitions, addressing issues of preservation, diversity, and urban growth.

These are all important issues to Audubon, and we are confident of the job Sam will do in supporting Audubon's goals and missions within the state. She is a true asset to our team, and we could not have asked for a more dedicated and dynamic leader for Audubon Arizona."

As part of her duties, Campana will serve the needs of Arizona's eight local Audubon chapters and 9,000 members. With their help, she will work to establish Audubon Arizona as a leader in habitat preservation and conservation action within the state. As part of the state office's commitment to conservation, Campana will also work closely with the staff of the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch in Elgin. A cooperative partnership among the National Audubon Society, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Appleton family,

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## **At our next meeting....**



**March 13, 6:30 p.m.**

## **"The Bats of Arizona"**

**Presented by  
Karen Schedler**

**Heritage Environmental  
Education Program Manager  
Arizona Game and Fish**

About one out of every four mammals on Earth is a bat. Bats are very efficient predators of nocturnal insects, including many agricultural pests and play an important role in the pollination of many plants, including saguaros and agaves native to the Sonoran desert. Yet in North America, they rank among the most threatened land animals.

Do you know how many mosquitoes one little brown bat eats in an evening? In a three-month season? Do bats carry rabies? What should you do if bats roost in your attic? How many species of bats live in Arizona and where can you find them? Learn the answers to these questions - and many more - in this slide presentation covering these specialized flying mammals.

Karen Schedler has been the Heritage Environmental Education Program Manager for Arizona Game and Fish since March, 1998. Prior to working at Arizona Game and Fish, Karen Schedler was associated with The Phoenix Zoo for 22 years; first as a volunteer, then a part-time employee, and finally as a full-time employee for her last seven years there.

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Research Ranch serves as a living laboratory which formulates, tests, and demonstrates

methods to restore and safeguard Arizona's dwindling grasslands. It also provides assistance to citizens and policy makers in the protection and stewardship of Arizona's native ecosystems, natural resources, and quality of life.

One of Campana's primary responsibilities will be the establishment of a statewide network of Audubon Centers in support of the organization's new national education initiative, the 2020 Vision. This innovative program calls for the creation of 1,000 nature centers across the country by 2020, with the goal of reaching one in four schoolchildren with localized nature education programs. Half of the Audubon Centers in the U.S. created by 2005 will be located in urban and underserved areas.

Campana has had an outstanding career as a community leader and environmental advocate in Scottsdale, most recently serving as Mayor from 1996-2000, and on the City Council for twelve years, where she helped implement an Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance to help save the McDowell Mountains.

During her tenure as Mayor, she helped conceive and craft the Arizona Preserve Initiative to save 19,000 acres of the Sonoran Desert from development, and establish the McDowell Sonoran Preservation Commission. A true leader and visionary recognized by her peers, Campana recently completed a year-long Leadership Fellowship awarded to her by the International Women's Forum Leadership Foundation. One of only 15 women in the world chosen for the award that year, Campana traveled throughout the U.S., Southeast Asia, and Europe studying leadership styles, and had the opportunity to gain a global perspective on the role of conservation and the environment. Campana is an avid hiker and nature lover who grew up in a small rural community in Idaho, and attended school in Montana before settling in Arizona. She has hiked the Grand Canyon over 50 times and has committed both her personal and her professional life to preserving Arizona as a wonderful place for people and wildlife.

## **VERDE VALLEY HOSTS SPRING BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL**

For the second year, the Verde Valley is going to the birds. And it's a good thing! Birding is big business.

Occasionally overlooked within Arizona's plethora of excellent birding venues, birders and other nature enthusiasts will now have the chance to check out the Black Hawk, the California Condor, and other sought-after species by attending the Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival, based at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, in the heart of the Verde Valley, from April 26 through 28, 2002.

Those interested should phone (928) 634-8437, or see the festival's Web site at [birdyverde.org](http://birdyverde.org), to receive more information about the festival's programs and how to register in advance. They'll be ready to "Bird the Verde" when they see the many fascinating tours and other activities available through the festival.

The natural environment of the Verde Valley is surely the most outstanding of its many famous attractions. The Valley is blessed with a pleasant climate, open spaces, diverse vegetation and wildlife, and the Verde River with its associated riparian communities. The Verde Valley is also centrally located within easy reach of all of Arizona, and it features pine-covered mountains, canyons, grasslands, and chaparral. All these natural attractions, and the fact that it is on a major flyway bring the Valley a multitude of birding opportunities, especially during Spring migration.

Founded by Arizona State Parks, Northern Arizona Audubon, and the Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce in 2001, the Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival is hosted in 2002 by the Verde Nature Tourism Alliance, consisting of the founders plus the Sedona City and Chamber, the City of Cottonwood, Camp Verde City and Chamber, Arizona Game & Fish, Montezuma Castle National Monument, Prescott and Coconino National Forests, Verde Natural Resources Conservation District, the Yavapai Apache Nation, and Cliff Castle Casino. With all that support, Audubon members can be assured that this festival will be well worth the visit.



The Paradise Bakery and Café and Traders Joe's located in Metro Center donate refreshments for our monthly meetings. When you shop at either the Paradise Bakery and Café or at Trader Joe's, please let them know how much we appreciate their donations of their wonderful products.

## A message from your president...

A ballot is enclosed in those newsletters sent by mail. It's on page seven for those people who receive the newsletter from the Internet. Our bylaws require that the ballot be in our newsletter which must be sent to our entire membership. This year the election is for our four officers who have all agreed to run for another term. John will be leaving us to move to the north country and won't be able to serve his full term.

I ran out of space in this newsletter so I'm using this space to include a message from Regina Rogers:

"I took the task of coordinating SAS's work on generating a plant list for the Agua Fria National Monument. (Which I admit that I feel very intimidated by the many plant species at Agua Fria.) Here is the current status.

John Delventhal and I agreed to do some combination plant I.D. and butterfly I.D. work days since they are compatible.

At the Feb. 12th AZ Native Plant Society (ANPS) meeting (Phoenix chapter), they agreed to work with SAS on Agua Fria Nat. Monument plant I.D. work days (and one member in particular is also a butterfly watcher). Some of these folks will be invaluable due to their plant I.D. expertise.

The ANPS Phx chapter president, Kathy Rice, who is very knowledgeable about AZ flora (her Master's thesis was on the flora of the Superstition Mts.) and works at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG), asked about pursuing getting permits to collect herbarium specimens in this effort. The collection of herbarium specimens involves trained personnel (such as Kathy) taking plant presses into the field, collecting the herbarium specimen, and taking the specimen back to DBG. Collecting a herbarium specimen does not mean taking the whole plant -- it would involve collecting leaves, a stem, etc. Collecting herbarium specimens could be done if the plant cannot be identified in the field - the collected specimen would be keyed, studied, and identified back at DBG. Also, a herbarium specimen might be used to document the presence of a particular plant in a particular area.

The plan is to have a series of monthly work days starting on April 13." More on this later in next newsletter.

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## "The Bats of Arizona"

She is also a former junior high school teacher and former president of AALE (State Environmental Education Association).

Better practice your math skills, too, as Karen Schedler always closes her program with "Bat Math" using audience participation!

## Getting A Little Loony

by Ann McDermott

On February 10, 2002 Daniela Yellan and I made the journey to the Colorado River in search of the oft reported Yellow-billed Loon and Long-tailed duck. It had been about four years since either one of us had been out that way, and that alone would have been enough to make the trip a worthwhile endeavor, but we had good success as well, with one of the species, at least, that we were after.

Neither of us is particularly prone to shooting off on a trip the moment a rarity is mentioned on the Bird Line, but when Daniela asked me if I'd be interested in making this one-day trip, I agreed. We left Phoenix early and arrived at the London Bridge late morning and within a few minutes had decided where we'd eat lunch... You can tell where our priorities were.

It took about the same amount of time to spot the Yellow-billed Loon once we began our stroll along the walkway bordering the river. Daniela's scope clinched the ID, but we actually had good views of the critter with binoculars too. It was quite cooperative, hanging around the bridge, then moving downstream and eventually out of sight. It had the distracting habit of diving and swimming what seemed vast distances before resurfacing again, but other than that, was quite willing to pose and remove every shadow of doubt as to its identity. It definitely was a loon; it definitely had a yellow bill; hence, the only conclusion possible: we definitely had the Yellow-billed Loon in the scope! This largest of loons has been reported in Arizona only once before. Although it has been spotted wintering off the western coast of the United States, Arizona is quite far removed from its Arctic breeding grounds and more typical coastal wintering headquarters.

Who knows what brought this Snow Bird to town? Likely it was the minnows around the London Bridge that kept it here all season, though. At Havasu Springs Resort and marina, on the way from Lake Havasu City to Parker Dam, we fed huge carp and numerous birds the left-over french fries from our lunch. We had a brief and simple gull lesson while here, with both the Ring-billed and California Gull in attendance. Actually, there was just one California Gull, but it was an adult and seemed reluctant to fly--perhaps it was injured or something--so it was content to swim quite close to us and give us great views. The Ring-billed Gull was present in both adult attire, and various juvenile apparels.

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## Getting A Little Loony

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Later, in the water above the dam, We spotted a Common Loon just as we had four years earlier.

It was nice to have another loon to compare and contrast the Yellow-billed to, and to know that in this ever changing world, some things are consistent...such as an isolated loon that apparently returns to the same waters each winter to spend the season alone before heading back north to its breeding grounds when Spring reawakens its hormones.

Below the dam, we scanned the waters again and again for the lone Long-tailed Duck, but all we could see were plentiful numbers of Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, Coots and Buffleheads, the males of the Buffleheads were almost blinding with the afternoon light glistening off their white heads. It was still a treat to get well reacquainted with these species of ducks, even if the duck of our dreams was not to be found.

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

## Join Sonoran Audubon Society.....

New Adult or Family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and Students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for Students and Seniors: \$15.00

Mailed Newsletter subscription : \$8.00

Fee includes membership in the National Audubon and your local Sonoran Audubon Societies, and a subscription to the Audubon magazine. Your check should be made payable to the National Audubon Society, along with the membership form, preferably obtained from the Sonoran Audubon Society and containing our chapter ID number B07.

The Sonoran Chapter newsletter, Gambel's Tales, may be obtained free from the chapter website <[www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)>, or by subscribing for a mailed hard copy. Web site recipients will be notified when each newsletter is posted if the chapter has your e-mail address. Send your membership name and e-mail address to <[chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)>. If subscribing for a hard copy, send check (\$8.00), made payable to the Sonoran Audubon Society, to Sonoran Audubon Society, P.O. Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068. Please include your address, and telephone number.

## Sonoran Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

**President** Charles Kangas 623-931-6677 [chuckan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckan@mindspring.com)

**Vice-President** John Delventhal 480-998-0078 [aspenrecycled@hotmail.com](mailto:aspenrecycled@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer** Josh Burns 602-468-3002 [josh\\_a\\_burns@yahoo.com](mailto:josh_a_burns@yahoo.com)

**Secretary** Tice Supplee 602-258-7080 [tice\\_az@hotmail.com](mailto:tice_az@hotmail.com)

### Board Members at Large

Dwayne Fink 480-967-9202 [edna.fink@asu.edu](mailto:edna.fink@asu.edu)

Tom Jones 602-861-1217 [trjones@grand-canyon.edu](mailto:trjones@grand-canyon.edu)

Bruce Palmer 623-582-6757 [palmerbc@home.com](mailto:palmerbc@home.com)

Hugh Rodgers 623-974-1105 [hugh.rodgers@home.com](mailto:hugh.rodgers@home.com)

Regina Rodgers 623-974-1105 [regina.rodgers@home.com](mailto:regina.rodgers@home.com)

## Committee Contacts

**Conservation** John Delventhal 480-998-0078 [aspenrecycled@hotmail.com](mailto:aspenrecycled@hotmail.com)

**Education** John Nichol 602-993-7913 [jnicholstew@hotmail.com](mailto:jnicholstew@hotmail.com)

**Field Trips** Daniela Yellan 602-942-7791 [dyellan@aol.com](mailto:dyellan@aol.com)

**Finance** Josh Burns 602-468-3002 [josh\\_a\\_burns@yahoo.com](mailto:josh_a_burns@yahoo.com)

**Hospitality** Kathy Hobbs 602-942-4547

**Membership** Dwayne Fink 480-967-9202 [edna.fink@asu.edu](mailto:edna.fink@asu.edu)

**Newsletter** Charles Kangas 623-931-6677 [chuckkan@mindspring.com](mailto:chuckkan@mindspring.com)

**Publicity** Tom Lazzelle 602-843-8451

## March and April 2002 Field Trips

### Sonoran Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on all outings!

Please organize your own carpool, consolidate vehicles at meeting places, and/or contact leaders for carpooling assistance.

Field Trips are rated in difficulty levels one, the easiest, to five, the most difficult. It is recommended that passengers reimburse drivers at an agreed rate.

**REMINDERS: Don't forget water, sunscreen, hats and insect repellent. Wear neutral colors. Avoid bright colors. Wear sturdy walking shoes**

### Tuesday, March 5

#### Reach 11 Wildlife Recreation Area

**Leader: John Delventhal 480-998-0078**

Spend a leisurely morning on this lovely desert and riparian habitats stroll along the CAP Canal. The desert birds should be busy mating and building nests. We may even get some migrants passing through. Morning only. Difficulty: 1+

Call leader for meeting time and place.

### Tuesday, March 19

#### Castle Hot Springs

**Leader: Ken Larsen 623-974-0197**

**Time:** 7 A.M.

**Meeting Place:** Northwest corner parking lot at 99th Ave and Hutton Dr.

This is a Birders Anonymous/Sonoran Audubon joint trip. We'll look for spring migrants as well as water fowl on the north end of Lake Pleasant. Difficulty 2. Bring Lunch.

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## **Saturday, March 23**

### **Tres Ríos Wetlands, Cobble Ponds, El Mirage Ponds**

**Leader: Dwayne Fink**

**Contact Person: Daniela Yellan 602-942-7791  
dyellan@aol.com**

This time of year should yield a good variety of the area's shorebirds such as black-necked stilts and avocets, as well as possible migrating warblers at the Cobble Ponds, where often unusual species such as the Northern Parula may show up. Difficulty: 1 Morning Only. Contact Daniela for meeting time and place

## **Thursday, April 11**

### **Box Canyon**

**Leader: Nancy London**

**gate@w3az.net**

This is a high walled canyon along the Hassayampa River. This is a stunning natural habitat where migrants and breeding birds may be seen. Difficulty 2-3. Bring lunch. Contact leader for meeting time and place.

## **April 26-April 29 Kino Bay, Sonora Mexico**

**Leader: Ken Bielek 602-279-0134**

Spend a relaxing weekend on the beach. This trip will include land birding as well as a pelagic trip. Likely birds will include the **Redbilled Tropicbird, Least and Black Storm Petrels, Boobies, the Magnificent Frigatebird, Black Skimmer, Elegant Tern, Yellow-Footed Gull, Mangroove Swallow and many other species.** As a special activity we will have the opportunity to visit the Seri Indians to trade for and purchase their special crafts, such as ironwood carvings and baskets. Group size is limited to twelve.

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### **8:00 AM Friday, April 26**

Nogales, AZ to Kino Bay, Sonora (Most people will be staying in Nogales Thursday evening, but those who wish can drive from Phoenix)

#### **Saturday, April 27**

Either pelagic birding to Isla San Pedro Matir in the Sea of Cortez, or birding on the Kino Bay estuary (A.M.) & a visit to the Seri Indian village of Punta Chueca (P.M.), depending on the weather.

#### **Sunday, April 28**

San Pedro Matir or Kino Bay estuary and Punta Chueca.

## **Monday, April 29**

Return to Phoenix from Keno Bay.

### **Accommodations:**

We will spend the nights of Friday-Sunday (April 26-28) at Las Olas, on the beach at Kino Bay. The Las Olas houses are two new, modern, side-by-side houses, joined by a common balcony/patio overlooking the beach and Sea of Cortez. Each house includes a modern kitchen with full-sized refrigerator, range, microwave, dishwasher, and washing machine/dryer. Dishes, flatware and utensils, and cookware are included. Each unit has a gas grill on the balcony/patio.

### **Transportation & Miscellaneous:**

Each participant is responsible for his or her own transportation to Kino Bay. Carpooling is suggested. Bring all the water you will drink (although some is provided by the Las Olas owner)

There are about four good restaurants for dinner. Bring food for breakfasts, lunches, and snacks. There are very limited commodities at an extremely small grocery store in Kino Bay.

All accommodations and fees are based on double occupancy. Cost is approximately \$250.00 per person due by March 20th. This includes house rent and boat fee. There might be an adjustment depending on the total number of people going on the trip and the boat.

### **Save These Dates:**

**Thursday, May 2 Burro Creek with Eleanor Campbell.**

**Thursday, May 9 Seven Springs with Eleanor Campbell**

### **Tentative future trips:**

A number of us have gone on several Mexico trips to Alamos and stayed with the MacKay's at their wonderful location in Alamos. Jennifer is a wonderful chef and host and David is a great birder and tour guide. One trip is to Yecora, Cebadillos Thick-billed Parrot Reserve, Mata Ortiz, Casa Grandes - Natural and Human History of the Northern Sierra Madre. - 9 day, 8 night, emphasis on birding, natural and human history. The other is : 11 day Oaxaca Birding trip. Starting and ending in Oaxaca.

Details on both trips can be seen on their web page:  
<http://www.solipaso.com/excursions.htm>

or contact Chuck Kangas at 623-931-6677

Any interest in either of these trips? They both look like exciting trips. Several people have already indicated that they would go. David indicated that November might be a good time for the first trip and the timing of the second trip is open.

## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

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

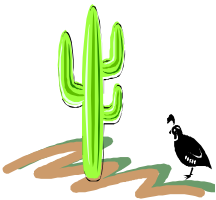
**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

Mar 13, 2002      Karen Schedler, with the AZGFD Education Department on "The Bats of Arizona"  
Apr 10, 2002      Fiona Goodson, Environmental Consultant on "Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl"  
May 8, 2002      Kate Litteral of the Mesa Southwest Museum on "Arizona Dinosaurs A to Z"

We hope to have some of the fall schedule in the future spring newsletters.

### **Other Dates of Interest:**

Mar 6, 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library. All SAS members welcome.



**Sonoran Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 8068**

**Glendale, AZ 85312-8068**

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