



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 7 Issue 7

March, 2006

At our next meeting....

Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 7pm

Bob Brister: "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness"



Spectacular National Parks like Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Arches are not the only public land gems in Utah. Undesignated wilderness-quality BLM lands in Utah rival the national parks in beauty, wonder, and ecological significance and deserve no less protection.

"Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness," is a multimedia slide show documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. This 20-minute journey through red rock splendor invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands.

This presentation was made possible through the generous donation of photos, music and words from concerned Utahans who wish to pass this heritage onto future generations, including a special reading by Pulitzer Prize winning author Wallace Stegner from his famous Wilderness Letter. This inspirational and informational event is a must see for citizens wishing to become personally involved to make the difference in this tremendous American public lands conservation effort.

In conjunction with a brief presentation on the current status of the Utah wilderness movement, Bob invites the audience to write to Representative Ed Pastor to co-sponsor America's Redrock Wilderness Act, which would add over 9 million acres of spectacular Utah federal lands to the National Wilderness Preservation system.

Bob Brister has served as outreach coordinator for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance for 5 years. He is on the road over 1/3 of the year making Utah wilderness presentations to conservation groups around the country, including many Audubon Society chapters.

Bob has been an organizer on public interest issues for over 25 years and on public lands conservation for 10 years. He has previously organized for the National Wildlife Federation, the Southwest Forest Alliance, and the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign.

www.suwa.org.

PRESERVING ARIZONA LANDS

Excerpts from the Arizona Republic, Feb. 5, 2006

"When Arizona became a state almost 100 years ago, managing and preserving millions of acres of pristine desert wasn't a priority.

Developers weren't buying up land faster than they could build houses, and conservationists weren't clamoring for the preservation of open spaces.

Today, with development extending the Valley's edges a little more every day, managing Arizona's most valuable asset is a top priority."

Editors' Note: Right now, there are two competing plans.
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PRESERVING ARIZONA LANDS

One is sponsored by Rep. John Nelson backed by the Arizona Cattlemen's Association. The other is Conserving Arizona's Future Initiative and is backed by the Arizona Education Association, the Nature Conservancy and Audubon Arizona. Below are the 2 proposals in a nutshell. If any vote comes up or we can do anything to help get the Conserving Arizona's Future Initiative option to be a go, let's do it!!

Arizona Cattlemen's Association Bill

- Would preserve almost 43,000 acres with option for Legislature to set aside an additional 225,000 acres in rural Arizona.
- Would permit leasing of grazing and agriculture land without an auction.
- Would let state land that is part of a commercial development be set aside as open space if other land in a project sells for enough to offset it.
- Would permit mining or existing grazing leases on preserve land.
- Does not address State Land Department's funding.

Conserving Arizona's Future Initiative

- Would preserve 694,000 acres across Arizona.
- Does not address grazing.
- Would establish a seven member board of trustees.
- Would permit more state land to be conserved by board.
- Would let State Land Department use some of its revenues to operate, which it can't do now.
- Requires State Land Department and cities to work together on planning process.

What's Happening?

By Your Editor

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7pm on February 1, 2006. Here are some of the items discussed by board members Bob McCormick, President, Anne Durning, Dan Bohlmann, Suzanne Cash, Karen LaFrance, Loretta Richards, Alvin and Arlene Scheuer and George Wall

1. Some committee reports were made.

A. **Membership:** As of January, there are 587 members, 50 new, 150 web viewers and 37 by mail. The next board meeting will be devoted mainly to membership issues.

B. **Field Trip:** The Camp Verde Festival trip in April was cancelled due to lack of interest. Another trip will be scheduled in its place at the February 9th Trip Committee meeting.

C. The other committees had nothing to report at this time.

2. The upcoming elections were discussed. Nominations must be made at the February meeting. Most of the board members will run again. Vice President Dan Bohlmann declined to re-run.
3. There's going to be an Audubon Chapter Calendar—Jim Burns is organizing this with all Chapters.
4. The IBA coordinator is now Bob McCormick since Josh Burns, who now lives in Texas, resigned from this position.

At the February Monthly General Membership Meeting held on 8 February, John Hardison, a new member, attended for the first time. There were also several guests present—Herb Bensen III, Jim & Lorraine Morton and Kilian Roever.

Hank and Priscilla Brodtkin gave a nice program on "The Butterflies of Arizona".

Josh Burns was given recognition for the job he did as the IBA Coordinator.

Tice Supplee mentioned the March 4th Spring Trek at South Mountain and the Tres Rios Nature Festival March 11-12th. (See separate article on the festival)

Karen LaFrance asked for volunteers to meet for the

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Book Review

By Nancy Kroening

SONGBIRDS: Celebrating Nature's Voices by Ronald Orenstein, 1997, Sierra Club Books

"I might as well confess it--I am an unrepentant dickey-bird man." What a good way to begin a book about the entire order of Passeriformes, including the subspecies.

The photographs in this book are crisp and action-filled. A Bohemian waxwing is caught in the act of swallowing a big red berry. Particularly interesting are descriptions and drawings of the two to four thousand feathers a songbird sports, theories about bird song, and food sources of the Passeriformes. I didn't know, for instance, that willow flycatchers have rictal bristles on either side of their bills which may protect their eyes as they dart toward insect prey. At the end of his book, Orenstein included the American Birding Association Code: Principles of Birding Ethics to remind birders to respect the habitats and privacy of birds as we try to find just one more species for the day.

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

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org

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

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What's Happening?

Ad Hoc Committee she is going to chair.

Greg Clark talked about the Burrowing Owl project and what's planned in the Peoria area. He's hoping that the Sonoran Audubon Society will help in this project.

Chuck Kangas of the Nominating Committee gave the slate of officers. They are Karen LaFrance for Vice President, Loretta Richards for Treasurer (her 2nd term), Anne Durning for Secretary, Suzanne Cash, Dick Fogle, and George Wall for Director at Large (their 2nd terms), Chuck Richard and Andrée Tarby for Director at Large (their 1st terms). See page 5 & 6 for synopsis of nominees and ballot.

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Visit Audubon at the Tres Rios Nature Festival March 11-12 and Audubon Arizona at the ISE show, March 10-12

Mark your calendars for March 10-12 – Audubon Arizona will be at this year's Tres Rios Nature Festival along with Maricopa and Sonoran Audubon chapters AND at the International Sportsmen's Exhibition, a "first" for this event.

Audubon will have a large tent space at Tres Rios Nature Festival located at Estrella Mountain Regional Park in Goodyear, Arizona. The event is FREE this year, so please bring family and friends. There will be live wildlife and Audubon will have fun education activities for children. Sonoran Audubon Society is offering beginning birder walks. A limited number of opportunities to go on a guided canoe tour of the Gila River for \$40-45 or dawn wildlife tours for \$20 are available with pre-registration. For more information go to <http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com>

HELP, HELP, HELP

Urgent help is needed by the Sonoran Audubon Society at the Tres Rios Nature Festival. If interested, please contact Bob McCormick at 602-237-3951 or mcbobaz@aol.com

In Phoenix, come visit the Audubon Arizona exhibit in Booth 645 at the International Sportsmen's Exhibition. We will have activities for kids at the booth. Any chapters that want their information available please send them to Tice Supplee (tsplee@audubon.org). The audience for this event will be families that like to be

outdoors. Hunting and fishing is the focus of this show and many other outdoor and conservation organizations will be there. It is a chance to acquaint Arizonans who love the outdoors about Audubon and our mission.

The show runs from March 10-12 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix. Show hours are noon to 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 (free for children age 12 and under). Parking is \$7. For more information go to <http://www.sportsexpos.com>

Rio Salado

www.phoenix.gov/riosalado. They have bird walks, nature programs and other items of interest. Their location is 2439 S. Central Ave., Phoenix.

Birds & Breakfast at the Rio Salado Audubon Center site. Friday, May 12

This field trip and event are part of the celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Participants will gather at 6 a.m. by the Ramada at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center site on the southeast corner of Central Avenue and the Salt River Bridge. Birders will be divided up in groups with leaders to view the wonderful wildlife found in the park. Please bring your binoculars. At 7:30, there will be a continental breakfast and a presentation by Phil Weddle, architect of the future Audubon Center. There is a cost of \$15 per person. Please RSVP to Donna Sauer at dsauer@audubon.org or (602) 468-6470.

Volunteers needed to lead a brief field trip at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center site on the southeast corner of Central Avenue and the Salt River Bridge at 6am on Friday, May 12th. Breakfast will follow the field trip at 7:30 a.m. at the site. Please call Janice Miano at egret@cox.net or (480) 946-1327 to volunteer to lead a small group.

South Mountain Preserve

Will hold its 30th Annual Spring in the Mountains on Saturday, March 4, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be at the South Mountain Environmental Education Center, 10408 S. Central Ave. Brunch will be 10:30 a.m. There will be several things going on—hiking, biking, plant lovers, horseback riding and a bird hike at 8:00 a.m. led by a Sonoran Audubon Society member. There will also be a program at 11:00 a.m. by Dr. Him Dawson of Liberty Wildlife on desert hawks among other things.

You must register by Feb 20th otherwise there may be a \$5 late fee. A form was emailed on Feb 13th to some readers.

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SYNOPSIS OF NOMINEES

- Karen LaFrance (for Vice President): Karen has served the past two years on the board as a Director at Large. She's now stepping up to this new post. Atta Girl! will be new to the Board. She has been an Audubon member for four years. She was Sonoran's able retreat-coordinator this past year. She also has been one of the faithful bird-counters for our Agua Fria study. By trade, she is a Community Development Professional. She claims to be "of" the LaFrance fire-truck family. Wonder if she has a Dalmatian?
- Loretta Richards (for Treasurer): This will be Loretta's second term on to the Board. She's been in Audubon for eight years – most of that with the Blackbrook Audubon Society in Ohio. She was an Elementary Teacher prior to retiring to Arizona. She has become an avid bird watcher since joining the Sonoran Audubon Society, and is one of the faithful on the Agua Fria NM counts. She and her husband Chuck regularly volunteer at the Adobe Mountain Rehabilitation Center – "Doing what needs doing".
- Anne Durning (for Secretary): This will be Anne's second term on the Board. She has been an Audubon member for 21 years – mostly with the Maricopa Audubon Society. She grew up in Arizona: did her undergraduate work at Arizona State University, and then got her JD degree from the University of Arizona. She works as a Tax Attorney. Anne is on our list of 50+ volunteer birders for the Agua Fria NM. She volunteers for the Animal Welfare League, and serves as a volunteer mentor for several teenage girls.
- Suzanne Cash (for Director at Large): This will be Suzanne's second term on the Board. She has been an Audubon member for six years – starting with the Maricopa Audubon Society, and transferring to the Sonoran Audubon Society. Suzanne was our naturalist on the Costa Rica birding trip. The birders saw 400+ birds; Suzanne saw them – and everything else comprising the habitat. She has a degree in Paleontology, and has taught Biology and Earth Science at Cortez High School. She is the treasurer of the Arizona Native Plant Society, and is a member of and Event Supervisor of the Science Olympiad (an organization devoted to promoting science at the high school level – which includes local and national competition using submitted science projects). Her other interests include music and the arts. She has season tickets to our Phoenix Symphony, and is a Board member of the Lyric Opera Theater Guild.
- Richard Fogle (for Director at Large): This will be Richard's second term on the board. He is a relative old-timer with Audubon: thirteen years total – most of that with Maricopa AS, before transferring to Sonoran AS. He says he seriously got into birding after retirement. He was a District Manager for the Ford Motor Company, and as such traveled all over the world, but extensively in Latin America. Richard went the extra mile on his international travels – taking the time to learn of the people and places where Ford sent him. With all the places he has been, the one thing he regrets is that he wasn't a bird watcher at the time.
- George Wall (for Director at Large): This will be George's second term on the board. George has been an Audubon member eight years, and "got into birding" after he retired. He's currently the editor of the Sonoran Audubon Newsletter and loves to write. He is also on the Membership Committee and the Trip Committee. He is the current Leader of Birders' Anonymous. For those of you who don't know, Birders' Anonymous is Sonoran's sister-birding-organization on the West side. That organization predates Sonoran, and many members have dual membership with Sonoran Audubon Society. Before retiring 10 years ago, he served 30 years in the Air Force and then 12 years as a manager in a computer company.
- Chuck Richards (for Director at Large): This will be Chuck's first term as a board member. Chuck is retired after 32 years with a steel company in Cleveland in the position of manager of systems and programming. After retiring, both he and his wife joined Blackbrook Audubon in Ohio in 1996 and quickly became avid birders. Upon moving to Phoenix in 2001, they joined Sonoran Audubon and have become increasingly more active. Chuck is a member of the Field Trip Committee and the Conservation Committee. Chuck and his wife are also active as volunteers at the AZGFD Wildlife Rehab Center.
- Andrée Tarby (for Director at Large): This will be Andrée's first term as a board member. Andrée is retired but still keeps doing the accounting for her husbands business. She's been birding for over 30 years and joined the Maricopa Audubon Society in the late 1980s. When the Sonoran Audubon Society formed, she switched to them. She has been the program chairperson and has assisted in the Tres Rios Nature Festival. She has led field trips and is especially knowledgeable about California Gulch where the Five-striped Sparrow and the Buff-collared Nightjar are found. For many years, she has been a volunteer at the Desert Botanical Gardens where she leads bird walks on Monday mornings.

Sonoran Audubon Society Ballot

The Chapter by-laws require that an election ballot is to be included in the March newsletter. If the member is unable to attend the April meeting send this completed ballot to:

Sonoran Audubon Society
P. O. Box 8068
Glendale AZ, 85312-8068

The following members are nominated to fill a two year term for the respective officer position:

_____ Karen LaFrance, Vice-president
_____ Loretta Richards, Treasurer
_____ Anne Durning, Secretary

The following members are nominated to fill a two year term as a board member at large:

_____ Suzanne Cash
_____ Richard Fogle
_____ Chuck Richards
_____ Andrée Tarby
_____ George Wall

Put a check mark in front of each officer and board member to indicate your approval.

Non Sonoran Audubon members who receive this newsletter, please ignore this ballot.

Your name and address _____

This ballot is in accordance with the Bylaws of the Sonoran Audubon Society and should be made available to as many members as possible.

PRONOUNCED BÛRD

By Kurt Radamaker & Michael A. Patten

This is a continuation of last month's article of pronouncing some of the names of birds using the "moo-goo-gai-pan" method where the phonetic pronunciation of a syllable is spelled out and where syllables are separated by dashes. The syllable on which the stress falls is capitalized (e.g., PLO-ver).

BOTTERI'S

BOT-er-eyes (e.g., Botteri's Sparrow). Matteo Botteri (1807-1877) was a Yugoslavian immigrant who moved to Mexico in 1854. Dr. P.L. Sclater named this sparrow in his honor.

CARACARA

KAR-ah-KAR-ah or KARE-ah-KARE-ah (e.g. Crested Caracara). "Caracara" is a Tupi Indian word carried over into Spanish and Portuguese. It is presumably imitative of the Caracara's call.

CHACHALACA

CHAH-chahLAH-kah (e.g., Plain Chachalaca). "Chachalaca" is of Spanish-Mexican origin. The word describes the vocalization of the species.

COLIMA

Koe-LEE-mah (e.g., Colima Warbler). "Colima" refers to a small prickly, tropical American shrub, a State on the Pacific Coast of SW Mexico and a Volcano in the state of Jalisco.

Northern Cardinal

John Hardison is a new member of the Sonoran Audubon Society and he is also a professional photographer. This female Northern Cardinal picture was taken in January at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. To attract the cardinal, he used an iPod with bird songs and was able to take over a hundred pictures.



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EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

Hassayampa River Preserve

Saturday, March 11th, 9-10:30 a.m.—There will be a program on Desert Raptors presented by Rich Glinski. There will be raptors on display.

Saturday, March 18th, 9-10 a.m.—Outdoor writer and wildlife photographer Jim Burns will have a book discussion and signing of his new book "North American Owls: Journey Through a Shadowed World."

Saturday, March 25th, 8:30-10 a.m.—Take an interpretive nature walk with an experienced naturalist.

Saturday, March 25th, 9-10 a.m. —Explore the world of roadrunners with a book discussion and signing by local author Martha Mason on her book "The Real Roadrunner".

Wild at Heart

On March 21, 2006, Wild at Heart is sponsoring a Burrowing Owl event in Peoria near Thunderbird and Loop 101. The event runs from 7 a.m. to around 1 p.m. and includes burrow installation, tent construction and owl release. Most of the work will be done by Girl Scouts and middle school students from Peoria.

This event is part of the pre-release publicity for the movie "Hoot" and we expect lots of media. The movie, due to be released in mid-April, is based on Carl Hiaasen's New York Times bestseller of the same name. The story revolves around a boy who moves from Montana to Florida and becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. The movie is produced by Frank Marshall (Seabiscuit) and Jimmy Buffett. Mr. Buffett also provides original music for the movie.

They want to make this a safe and smooth event for the Girl Scouts and middle school students. In order to do this, they need some experienced volunteers to help with setup, parking directions, crowd control, water distribution and supervision of young people to make sure the burrows at several sites are being assembled correctly. If you can help, call Greg Clark at 480 688 0118 for more information.

Desert Botanical Gardens: Each Monday morning from March 1 to September from 8 a.m. to approximately 10 a.m., there is a bird walk. They see as many as 40 birds during these walks. Desert Botanical Gardens entrance fee 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.

Winter/Spring 2005-6 Field Trips

Saturday, March 4, 2006

Granite Reef/Coon's Bluff

Leader: Dick Fogle 623-584-3922

rpfogle@yahoo.com

The last March trip to this area produced 52 species. These areas are located on the Salt River in the Tonto National Forest and provide good habitats for ducks, herons, hawks and Bald Eagles. The mesquite riparian area is home to woodpeckers, juncos and the Vermilion Flycatcher.

Difficulty: 1 Bring a lunch

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. Leave at 7:00 a.m. Call leader for directions for meeting farther east and for details.

Saturday-Sunday, March 11-12, 2006

Tres Rios Nature Festival

***Tuesday, March 21, 2006**

Hassayampa River Preserve

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

This is one of our favorite spots to bird at this time of year—the start of the migration. Last year at this same time, we saw over 30 species including Lucy's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and the prize of the day a Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Difficulty: 1 This is a morning trip only, but you may want bring your lunch just in case the birding is good. There are nice picnic tables where you can eat and watch birds.

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at around 7:00 a.m. or you can meet the group at the Hassayampa River Preserve at 8:00 a.m.. There is a \$5 donation to the preserve for each person.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

New River Preserve

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

This is a new area to bird and hopefully, it will provide us with several nice migrants at this time of year. There are a few palm, walnut, cottonwood as well as the usual mesquite trees. Last year at this time when I first checked it out, we saw several Bullock's Orioles and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and I only spent a half hour there. Who knows what we'll find on this trip.

Difficulty: 1 - Morning only with about a 1mile walk

Note: This is a rough road and does require a high clearance vehicle for car-pooling.

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot (near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City) to leave at 7:00 a.m.. Call for alternate meeting place.

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Box Bar-Tonto National Forest

Leaders: Chuck and Loretta 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, willows and tamarisk along the banks of the river. We should see spring migration warblers, tanagers and sparrows as well as some water birds. We will be walking up and back on level ground about a total of one mile over sand and some river rock. Wear sturdy shoes. Last fall, we spotted a Black-throated Blue Warbler. This area is in the Tonto National Forest and has a \$4 fee per vehicle.

Morning only.

Meet at Denny's just W of I-17 at Bell (SW corner) to leave at 6:00 a.m. There is a large parking lot to drop off excess cars. We'll carpool from there. Those who want to meet at Box Bar can call the leader for directions.

***Saturday-Sunday, April 29-30, 2006**

In Tucson—Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson Botanical Gardens & Sweetwater Wetlands

Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057

gwall5@cox.net

This trip is a little different. We'll be visiting the Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson Botanical Gardens and the Sweetwater Wetlands. See the sites listed below.

www.tucsonaudubon.org/birding/sweetwater.htm

www.tucsonbotanical.org

www.desertmuseum.org

We'll leave early Saturday morning at 7a.m. and we'll be stopping at the Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson to bird. From there, we'll go to the Tucson Botanical Gardens (cost \$5) and then on to the Super 8 motel at 1550 Grant Rd (cost about \$73 and I've reserved a block of rooms). Sunday morning after breakfast, we'll go to the Sonoran Desert Museum (cost \$12) where you can spend as much time as you want before heading back to Phoenix. Call or email me as soon as possible if you want to go.

Saturday, May 6, 2006

Yarnell City Park

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

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Winter/Spring 2005-6 Field Trips

Yarnell is a charming town in the Weaver Mountains that welcomes birders. It is northeast of Wickenburg on State Route 89. This is high desert valley at 4,780 feet. The park has restrooms and picnic tables with well cared for trails. There is a nice restaurant in town where some of us will have lunch. The rest can have a picnic lunch in the park.

Birds that have been seen are nesting juniper titmouse, acorn woodpecker, all three towhees, warblers, vireos, and orioles.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at Wickenburg Community Center at 7 a.m. As you travel northwest on Highway 60 entering Wickenburg, you will cross the bridge over the Hassayampa River. Turn right immediately after the bridge, The road goes around a bend and you will see a large white building and parking lot on the right. It's a short but scenic drive up the mountain to Yarnell.

Saturday, May 13, 2006

Sycamore Creek and Canyon

Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244

dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

The south end of Sycamore Canyon is located about 10 miles north of Clarkdale. The trail into the canyon drops down about 100 ft at first and is level from then on. There are lots of trees (Cottonwoods, Sycamores and Ash) and water in the creek and several springs. Usually there are lots of birds due to all the water year round. I've seen Kingbirds, Flycatchers, Warblers, Phoebes, Swallows, Woodpeckers, Jays, Titmice, Wrens, Bluebirds, Vireos, Robins, Sparrows, Waxwings and Gnatcatchers.

Difficulty: 2—Bring 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.

***Friday-Monday, May 26-29, 2006**

Sierra Vista

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Sierra Vista will be the starting point for excursions to various birding sites. There are many canyons to explore: Garden, Miller, Ramsey and more. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area along the San Pedro River is close by. On Saturday, we'll be led by professional birder Stuart Heally who lives in the area. At this same time frame in 2004, 95 species were seen including the Elegant Trogon and an Elf

Owl. Who knows what will be in store for us in one of the best birding areas in S.E. Arizona.

Please call the leader to get on the list for this trip as the limit for is 16 people. She will then provide you with more information as the time approaches.

Saturday, June 10, 2006

Mingus Mountain

Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623 977-7639

ercamp@juno.com

Mingus Mountain, a 7,700 ft. peak in the Prescott National Forest near Jerome, supports many breeding warblers. Painted Redstart, Olive, Grace's, Black-throated Gray, and Red-faced Warblers and Hepatic Tanager inhabit the pine forest where exploration of quiet campgrounds, trails and a pond should be rewarding. Pygmy Nuthatch and Band-tailed Pigeon are locals along with forest dwelling woodpeckers and flycatchers. Hooded and Townsend's Warblers have summered there in numbers in the past.

Difficulty: 1 ALL DAY TRIP. Bring lunch, snacks and 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 5:50 a.m. at McDonald's just east of Rte. 17 on the north side of Cave Creek Rd. (Exit 223).

Please call the leader to register and for details.

***Wednesday, June 21, 2006**

P.I.R. and Area

Leader: Marshall Esty 623-977-1637

mne@juno.com

This is a morning trip only for the early risers to see some birds before the morning gets too hot. There are always several birds in the P.I.R. Gila River area like the Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern and other waterfowl.

Difficulty: 1

Meet at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City. We'll leave at 6:30 a.m. in order to be back by 10 a.m.

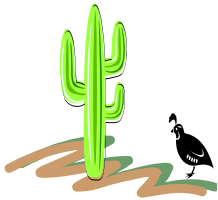
In the next newsletter, we'll have the remaining summer trips posted

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.**

March 8, 2006	Bob Brister: "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness"
April 12, 2006	Scotty Johnson: "From Leopold to Carson: Saving the Endangered Species Act"
May 10, 2006	Andy Holycross: "Herps of Arizona"

Other Dates of Interest: March 1, 2006 at 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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