



Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 7 Issue 9

May, 2006

At our next meeting....

Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 7 p.m.

Featured this month **LIVE SNAKES** as **Andy Holycross** presents his program "Herps of Arizona"

Most of us are aware that less than 10% of Arizona's riparian communities remain in their natural form. As birders, we understand how critical this habitat is to the survival of many of our feathered friends. In the Sonoran Audubon program this month, we will have the opportunity to learn about the plight and disappearance from Arizona rivers of two native snakes, the Mexican Gartersnake and the Narrow-headed Gartersnake. Our speaker, Andy Holycross, will explore possible causes. Results of surveys across the Mogollon Rim will be compared and contrasted with previous efforts. The Mexican Gartersnake is proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and a proposal for listing Narrow-headed Gartersnakes is probably not far behind.

As well as demonstrating some standard herpetological gear, Andy plans on bring a few **Live Representatives of ARIZONA SNAKES** to the presentation.



Arizona Kingsnake—Photo by George Wall

Dr. Andy Holycross received his Bachelor's and Masters degrees from the University of Nebraska where he studied Prairie Rattlesnakes living in Prairie Dog towns. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from Arizona State University where he investigated various aspects of the conservation biology of two rattlesnakes. He has co-authored two field guides to amphibians and reptiles and is working on a scholarly treatise on the snakes of Arizona. Andy is on the faculty at Mesa Community College and continues to conduct research related to snake conservation as a Research Professor at ASU.

Andy and his wife Sharon have been married for almost 20 years and are raising their two boys, Dylann and Canyon. The family enjoys backpacking, camping and rock climbing together.



Andy Holycross

What's Happening?

By Your Editor

The Sonoran Audubon Society board meeting convened at 7 p.m. on April 5, 2006. Here are some of the items discussed by board members Bob McCormick, President; Anne Durning, Dan Bohlmann, Suzanne Cash, Dick Fogle, Karen LaFrance, Loretta Richards, and George Wall. Others present who had input were Chuck Richards and Tice Supplee.

1. Committee reports were made.

A. **Membership:** Our membership increased with 45 new members for a total of 634. 156 are known to view the website and 37 members receive the newsletter by mail. There are 113 Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society.

B. **Field Trip:** It was announced that Wild at Heart will open up their rehab facility area for field trips.

D. **Conservation:** Chuck Kangas and Chuck Richards attended the Upper AF Watershed meeting.

Tom Lazzelle was praised for all the work and time he has put into several projects. He will be honored as member of the month at the next general meeting.

2. A cell phone for the Sonoran Audubon Society was discussed. Board members would take turns monitoring. Anne Durning will check this out including having a yellow page listing.

3. The board voted to approve \$200 in order to get 25 Audubon Calendars.

4. The upcoming election of officers was discussed along with needing a new nominating committee.

5. There was a discussion on how to get volunteers for membership work. George Wall will put together a list of needs.

6. Tice Supplee asked for volunteers for a bird survey in the Lower San Pedro River area on May 20, 2006.

At the regular monthly meeting held on 12 April, Scotty Johnson gave a very interesting program on the Endangered Species Act that included some of the current threats and what we can do about it.

Some of the other items that occurred during the meeting were that Tom Lazzelle received an "Above and Beyond" certificate for all the work he has recently done concerning conservation.

Bob McCormick announced that a \$600 grant was received

for the Burrowing Owl Project in Peoria.

A nominating committee consisting of Anne Durning, Dan Bohlmann and Tom Lazzelle was nominated and approved.

Finally, the Slate of Officers and Board Members for the coming year starting in June were voted on and approved. They were Karen LaFrance, Vice-president; Loretta Richards, Treasurer; Suzanne Cash, Dick Fogle, Chuck Richards, Andrée Tarby and George Wall as board members.

There were three guests and they were Frank Insana, Vera Stiesmeyer, and Sheila Bellinger.

EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

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.

The Birds & Breakfast that was scheduled for May 12th has been cancelled.

Desert Botanical Gardens

Each Monday morning from now until September there will be bird walks from 8 a.m. to approximately 10 a.m. They see as many as 40 birds during these walks.

Desert Botanical Gardens 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

Bird Banding is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2006, from 6:00 a.m.—noon and again on Saturday, May 13, 2006, from 6:00 a.m.—whenever. May 13th is International Migratory Bird Day and we are expecting a big turnout.

There will also be bird banding at the same times and days on June 3rd and June 17th.

Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous, a group of birdwatchers, has their monthly meeting on May 19, 2006 from 10—11:30 a.m.

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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

In 1993, International Migratory Bird Day was created to focus public attention on the need for action to conserve birds and their habitats. It is an annual celebration of one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird—its journey between summer and winter homes. International Migratory Bird Day is recognized in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Central America and this year, 2006, it will be launched in Uganda, Africa. People throughout these countries will join forces on May 13th (2nd Saturday in May of each year) to celebrate birds, as well as educate others through experiences such as bird festivals and walks, educational activities and informative publications.

Each year a theme is chosen and the theme for 2006 is the North American boreal forest. This forest encompasses about 1.5 billion acres and stretches from Alaska to Newfoundland. The region includes one of the world's largest intact forests dotted with lakes, rivers and wetlands.

Events are scheduled at Hassayampa River Preserve and Boyce Thompson Arboretum. See Events in and Around the Valley section.

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

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www.az.audubon.org

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EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

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.

The program will be about the trip George Wall and Dick Fogle took to San Diego and Baja California in January 2006. It will be narrated with slides.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

On May 13th (International Migratory Bird Day), we invite visitors to learn more about birds on a guided birdwalk at 7:00 a.m. Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo, Hooded Oriole and Lazuli Bunting are among the Spring migrants which have returned recently.

Other events for the day include an exhibit of birds, an Avian Photography presentation and other exhibitors. The arboretum will open at 6:00 a.m. For more information see the website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/events/migratorybirdday.html>

Press Release—25 April, 2006 Groups Challenge Decision to Drop Protection for Few Remaining Pygmy-Owls

Defenders of Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Arizona Audubon Council, representing all eight Audubon chapters in the state, today filed an official notice of intent to sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service over its decision to remove the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl from the federal list of endangered species. With only 13 known pygmy-owls left in Arizona, the species faces imminent extinction, and the decision by the Bush administration to eliminate all ESA protections for the owl and its habitat will guarantee its demise.

“The decision to delist the owl is in clear violation of the Endangered Species Act, which obligates the agency to protect species threatened with extinction in the United States,” said Jenny Neeley, southwest representative of Defenders of Wildlife. “If this rule is allowed to stand, what is to stop the Bush administration from removing protections for many other species, including the wolf, grizzly bear and sea turtles, which are imperiled in the United States, but exist in other countries?”

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Sonoran Audubon Society Treasure's Report—April 10, 2006

Provided by Loretta Richards

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Income	\$9,600	\$4,243.18
NAS Dues Return	1,000	2,032.75
Chapter Sources	8,600	2,160.43
Projects	—	50.00
ABCI Grant (IBA)	4,200	—
Expenditures	\$9,600	\$5,399.73
Fund Raising Activities	200	200.00
Committees	2,480	2,077.79
Projects (Including ABCI Grant, IBA)	4,700	1,675.17
Chapter Operations	1,845	1,071.77
Insurance	375	375.00
Assets & Liabilities		
Total Cash		\$12,894.84
Encumbered Funds		1,111.16
Clear Funds		11,783.68

This report is submitted for publication three times per year as required in the Chapter By-Laws and by acts of the Boards. Any questions, including requests for more details, may be submitted to the Treasure, Loretta Richards, at carichards@nowonline.net

Bird Banding

By George Wall

When I was living in Alabama, my wife and I had the privilege of going to Fort Morgan on the Gulf Coast several times from 1997-98 to watch and assist in bird banding. We got to help take birds from the nets and put them in some bags to bring to the banding station. After the authorized banders measured, weighed and banded them, we got to release such birds as the Painted Buntings Red-eyed Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird as well as others. What a thrill!

Back in October/November of 2003, there was an article by Anne Leight on bird banding at Hassayampa River Preserve. Anne is a Master Bander and I got to meet her when she was banding at Hassayampa in April. This current article covers a more broad spectrum and history of bird banding.

Bird banding has been going on for hundreds of years. The first mentioned record of a metal band attached to a bird's leg was about 1595 on a Peregrine Falcon in Europe by a falconer. Then there was Duke Ferdinand who placed a silver band on a Grey Heron about 1669 and it was found in 1728, indicating the heron lived at least 60 years. In 1710 in Germany, a falconer captured another Grey Heron with several rings on one leg and one ring was apparently placed on the heron in Turkey, more than 1200 miles to the east.

The first banding recorded in North America was done by John James Audubon. In 1803 he tied silver cords to the legs of a brood of phoebes near Philadelphia and was able to identify two of the nestlings when they returned to the neighborhood the following year.

A true system for bird banding did not really develop until 1899, when Hans Mortensen, a Danish school teacher, began placing aluminum rings on the legs of European teal, pintail, white storks, starlings and several types of hawks. He inscribed the bands with his name and address in the hope they would be returned to him if found. His system of banding became the model for our current efforts.

In 1902 Paul Bartsch a well-known conchologist (study of mollusks and shells) whose hobby was the study of birds, began the first scientific system of banding in North America. In that year he banded more than 100 black-crowned night herons in the District of Columbia with bands inscribed "Return to Smithsonian Institution."

The real pioneer bander in the Americas was Jack Miner who established a waterfowl sanctuary near

Kingsville, Ontario. Between 1909 and 1939 he banded 20,000 Canada Geese alone, many of which carried bands returned to him by hunters.

By 1909 the American Bird Banding Association had been formed and in 1920 the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Canadian Wildlife Service accepted the offer to jointly take over the work of the Association. Today, the program stretches from the Canadian Arctic to the tropics of Latin America, from Newfoundland to the far Pacific islands, and beyond to places like Siberia, Greenland, and Antarctica. Wherever North American birds go, bird banding is there.



Top: An Orange-crowned Warbler caught in a net
Bottom: Banding a Dusky Flycatcher
Photos by George Wall, April 8, 2006 at Hassayampa

Virtually all species are, or have been, banded. Currently, 1,200,000 birds are banded, and 85,000 recovered, each year.

Today's banders augment traditional capture and banding methods with advanced technology. Most use auxiliary marking techniques such as colored leg bands, coded neck collars and radio transmitters. Many take blood and feather samples for assays and DNA analysis, and many use sophisticated statistical models to analyze their data. Some use satellite transmitters to track birds in real time over long distances.

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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).

OLIVACEOUS

AHL-ih-vay-shus (e.g., Olivaceous Cormorant). "Olivaceous" refers to a deep shade of green or olive.

OSPREY

AH-spray or AH-spree. The word "Osprey" may have been derived from the Latin *ossifraga* meaning "bone breaker," from *os* "bone" and *frangere* "to break."

PARULA

PA-ruh-lah (e.g., Tropical Parula). Parula is a diminutive of parus "tit," hence meaning "little tit."

PAURAQUE

Pah-RAH-kay. "Pauraque" is a Mexican-Indian word used to describe this species by its vocalization.

PILEATED

PIE-lee-ate-ed or PILL-ee-ate-ed (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker). "Pileated" refers to the curved shape of the crest that covers the pileum. Pileum is a variation of pileus, a felt skull cap worn by the ancient Romans and Greeks.

PLOVER

PLO-ver or PLUH-ver (e.g., Mountain Plover). The word "plover" has its origins in the Latin *pluvial* "rain" or *pluvius* "rainy."

POCHARD

Poe-CHERD (e.g., Common Pochard). No clear etymology is available. The best guesses are that the word is related to the old French word *pocher* "to pocket" or "to poach," from the birds popularity as a game.

PROTHONOTARY

Pra-THON-ah-tary or pro-THON-ah-tary (e.g., Prothonotary Warbler). A prothonotary was a chief clerk or official in certain courts of law. Prothonotary Warbler is so called because its coloration resembles that of the robes traditionally worn by prothonotaries.

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BIRD BANDING

Migration was the focus of the earliest banding studies. Migration studies continue, but today banding has much broader application. Data from banded birds are used to: study avian behavior and ecology; monitor populations; restore endangered species; assess the effects of environmental disturbances; set hunting regulations; educate people about the environment; and to address concerns about human health, safety and economy such as West Nile disease, bird hazards at airports and crop depredations. Results from banding studies support national and international conservation programs.

Note: The majority of the above information was taken from the website of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/

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Press Release—25 April, 2006

Groups Challenge Decision to Drop Protection for Few Remaining Pygmy-Owls

The administration's decision follows a 2003 ruling by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that the Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to adequately explain its decision to list the pygmy-owl in Arizona but not in Mexico. Notably, the court acknowledged that the pygmy-owl was threatened with extinction in Arizona and did not order that the pygmy-owl be delisted from the Endangered Species Act. Instead, the court remanded the matter to the Fish and Wildlife Service for further consideration and explanation. Unfortunately, instead of simply addressing the court's concerns and reaffirming the owl's legal status as an endangered species, the Bush administration seized this opportunity to strip the pygmy-owl of all Endangered Species Act protections, notwithstanding the fact that the best available science clearly establishes that the species is on the brink of extinction in Arizona.

"This is nothing more than another political maneuver by the Bush administration, at the expense of this country's wildlife," said David Hogan, Urban Wildlands Director for the Center for Biological Diversity. "The decision to delist the owl is anti-science, anti-conservation, and shows a profound disrespect for the American people's love of nature and wildlife."

Lower San Pedro Important Bird Areas Inventory May 20th!

By Scott Wilbor and Tice Supplee

Come on out for this team-based bird inventory of the Lower San Pedro River on Saturday May 20th. This is going to be an exciting one-day survey effort covering 7-8 sub-areas from Dudleyville to near Cascabel. All eight Audubon chapters have the opportunity to send IBA team members. Camping opportunities will be available Friday night to facilitate this early morning survey for those that are interested. This will be great time period for the survey with breeding birds singing to defend their territories and with the tail end of migration going on for some species traveling to the far north. This will be a great chance to see an area where many conservation activities are in the works, involving recently acquired conservation lands, retired mining lands, and lands up for purchase. Afterwards we will meet at the La Casita Mexican restaurant in Mammoth, AZ (11:15 a.m.) to share findings over lunch and have a short discussion on the conservation scenarios for this potential Important Bird Area. Folks can be on their way home right after lunch.

We hope to provide occurrence and relative abundance data on a number of key species that may qualify this area for Important Bird Area status in Arizona, notably: the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Gray Hawk, Common Black-Hawk, Mississippi Kite, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Abert's Towhee, Indigo Bunting, Hooded Oriole, and Streak-backed Oriole. We expect to have a few biologists participating who know the area well and the potential distribution of the above species.

We will have two sites for camping the night before on Friday May 19th: one at the Nature Conservancy Preserve at Winkelman and one at the Nature Conservancy's Three Links farm near Cascabel. Teams will be two to three people who will survey all birds along a two 1 km transects with a short point count at the beginning and end of each. We will start surveying at 5:30 a.m. and finish by mid-morning. We will pre-assign you your designated survey area, discuss the route and protocol, and provide you with data sheets.

Please RSVP with either Scott Wilbor, AZ IBA Conservation Biologist (520) 628-1730, Tucson Audubon Society or Tice Supplee, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Arizona (602) 468-6470.

Spring/Summer 2006 Field Trips

An * means a Birders' Anonymous sponsored trip

Saturday, May 6, 2006

Yarnell City Park

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

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 the 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

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Spring/Summer 2006 Field Trips

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 Healy who lives in the area. At this same time frame in 2004, 95 species were seen including the Elegant Trogan 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 Carefree Highway (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 species of 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 the

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.

Thursday, June 29, 2006

The Narrows of Oak Creek Canyon

Leader: Dan Bohlmann (602) 938-8244

dansbohlmann@prodigy.net

This is a little known section of Oak Creek that has a trail that leaves Grasshopper Point Rec. Area heading west along the north side of the creek. This section is heavily shaded in Sycamore, Cottonwood and Ash trees, has lots of flowing water and ponds and naturally attracts 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. It would be great if I could just get half of them to show up for you.

Difficulty: 2

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

***Friday, July 7, 2006**

Stoneman Lake

Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535

rms15247@cox.net

Stoneman Lake is one of several spring-fed mountain lakes on the Mogollon Plateau and located 36 miles south of Flagstaff and 125 miles north of Phoenix. Take Interstate 17 to the Stoneman Lake Exit #306, and follow the clearly marked signs.

The lake is probably pretty low at this March writing considering the drought, but hopefully by the time the trip takes place, the Monsoon will have started or at least we'll have had some rain there. At the last outing, 42 species were observed. This is a good way to get out of the city heat and enjoy the cool air of the mountains.

Meet at the Bell Rec Ctr parking lot near corner of Hutton and Boswell in Sun City for car pooling and be ready to leave at 6:30 a.m.

Difficulty 1-2 – some trail walking. Bring a lunch.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday July 14 –16, 2006

California Gulch and Southern Arizona

Leader: Andrée Tarby 480-948-1074

atarby@cox.net

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Spring/Summer 2006 Field Trips

This is a repeat of some very successful trips that Andrée Tarby has previously led. In the past we have seen almost all of the target birds we went to see, including the Five-striped Sparrow, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Varied Bunting, and the Botteri's Sparrow. I believe all the target birds were seen through the scope, so all of us had good looks at them. This year we also will look for the Buff-collared Nightjar, a Mexican specialty. This is a bird that many of our members need for a life bird. The plan is to drive to Nogales and spend the night leaving very early Saturday morning. Some of us will plan to see some birds on Friday on our way down to Nogales. We go along some very rough roads so 4-wheel drive vehicles are necessary. We hope to have enough 4-wheel drive vehicles to put in extra people who might want to drive their own cars. It's only the last few miles where 4WD vehicles are necessary. Call leader for more details.

Friday-Sunday, July 21-23, 2006
Grey Feathers Lodge, New Mexico
Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623 977-7639
ercamp@juno.com

Watch 4,500-5,000 hummingbirds PER DAY feed at Grey Feathers Lodge nestled at 7,000 ft. 25 miles north of Silver City, New Mexico, in the Gila National Forest. An annual Hummingbird Festival is scheduled for July 22-23 with guided walks and hummingbird banding at Lake Roberts a few miles from the Lodge. Allen's, Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Calliope, Blue-throated, Magnificent and Rufous hummingbirds may be seen during this migration time.

A stream and a mountain across from the Lodge plus several primitive wooded campgrounds offer ample habitats for birding. Acorn Woodpecker and Pygmy Nuthatch are residents. Western Tanager, Western Bluebird and Common Yellowthroat are found nearby. Check the website: www.greyfeathers.com for their extensive bird list and information on the Lodge. Make a reservation soon since there are only eight rooms and four suites available. Their phone number is: (505) 536-3206.

Difficulty: 1 Please call the leader to register and for meeting place and time. (Leader is staying until July 25th so consider a longer stay if you want to explore the area further.)

***Wednesday, August 9, 2006**
Forest Road 300
Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057
gwall5@cox.net

Drive north on US 17 to exit 287, Camp Verde, turn right and proceed along HWY 260 as it goes up the Mogollon Rim. Turn left on HWY 87, after several miles you will see a sign for Forest Rd. 300, turn right. Immediately after you turn there is a pullout on the right in a small clearing. We will regroup there. The gravel road is well graded for passenger cars. This is a beautiful drive in dense forest of pine and oak at 6000 to 7000 ft. We will travel to a burned out area, birding along the way, where we will listen for woodpeckers.

Hopefully we will see the Three-toed Woodpecker. On the way back we may stop at Potato Lake.

Some of the birds seen last year on July 28th were Red Crossbill, Painted Redstart, Red-faced Warbler and Williamson's Sapsucker.

Meet at the Bell Rec Ctr parking lot on Hutton near Boswell in Sun City to leave at 5 a.m. Alternate meeting place (let me know if you want to meet here) is at McDonalds on Carefree Hwy. at 5:45 a.m. Exit right off US17 and at the first stoplight, make a left. McDonald's is to the right.

Difficulty: 1—Bring a lunch as this is an all day trip.

Thursday, August 24, 2006
White Tank Mountains
Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535
rms15247@cox.net

The White Tank Park opens at 6 a.m. and we need to get there early in order beat the heat. We should see desert birds such as Canyon Towhee, Curve-billed Thrasher, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren and some hawks. We will bird the picnic areas and if the weather is not too hot, walk a few of the trails.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th near Peoria Ave in Sun City to leave at 6:30 a.m.

Difficulty 1 – Morning trip only

Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

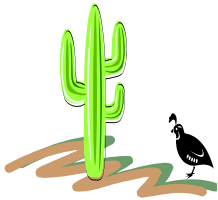
**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection) Time: 6:30 p.m.**

May 10, 2006

Andy Holycross: "Herps of Arizona"

After the May 10th meeting, the next regular general membership meeting will be September 13, 2006.

Other Dates of Interest: May 3, 2006 at 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room. All SAS members welcome.



Sonoran Audubon Society

P.O. Box 8068

Glendale, AZ 85312-8068