



Gambels Tale's

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 6 Issue 2

November 2003

Bird Banding in Hassayampa

By Anne Leight

This is part two of an article by Anne Leight. The first part was in the October newsletter. You might want to go back to that newsletter to review her article before continuing with this one.

INTERESTING INFORMATION FROM THE HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE BANDING PROGRAM:

What are the 4 most common species of birds which have been banded at the preserve?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. White - crowned Sparrow: | 151 |
| 2. Abert's Towhee: | 119 |
| 3. Yellow-Breasted Chat | 81 |
| 4. Common Yellowthroat: | 79 |

What is the greatest number of species banded in one day?

On International Migratory Bird Day, 5/10/2003, there were 18 species of birds banded in the 5 hour banding period. On 6/10/2000, there were 33 individual birds banded, the most in one day.

Days that yield a high number of birds might signify that it's peak migration season or simply high activity caused after a few days of poor weather when adult birds are aggressively pursuing food for their ravenous young.

What species of birds are banded year-round at the preserve?

1. Abert's Towhee
2. Song Sparrow
3. Black Phoebe
4. Northern Cardinal

These birds do not migrate and spend their entire lives within the vicinity of the preserve.

What are the seasonal birds at the preserve?

(Continued on Page 2)

At our next meeting....

November 12, 2003

By Cindy Fernandez

“What To Look At When You're Not Looking Up”



Tarantula Spider by Larry Schander (Sorry, the lighting wasn't perfect)

Cindy Fernandez will give talk/demonstration on the natural history of some of the more common bugs that are found in the Sonoran desert (cicada, Pinacati beetle, velvet ant, pepsis wasp, palo verde root borer beetle, blister beetles) and the various way you can play with some of them without harming the specimen. These insects have interesting defense mechanisms, life styles and even sex lives. She'll have dead specimens of all of these insects to pass them around so that people can get a good look at them.

Cindy has a BS in EEE (Ecology, Ethology and Evolution) from the University of Illinois and a MS in Zoology from ASU. She has worked as a High School Biology teacher, education specialist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, and at the Arizona Game and Fish Department in Phoenix. She has also taught Elderhostel classes for Grand Canyon University and ASU on Arizona flora and fauna.

(Continued from Page 1)

Bird Banding in Hassayampa

Summer:

- Buntings (Lazuli, Indigo)
- Grosbeaks (Black-headed, Blue)
- Flycatchers (Southwestern Willow, Cordilleran, Brown-crested)
- Warblers (Lucy's, Yellow, MacGillvray's, Yellow-breasted Chats, Wilson's, Nashville)
- Yellow-Billed Cuckoos (they love to eat those **tent caterpillars**)
- Orioles (Bullock's, Hooded)
- Tanagers (Summer, Western)
- Rough-winged swallow

Winter:

- Spotted Towhees
- White-crowned Sparrows
- Ruby-crowned Kinglets
- American Robin
- Red-shafted Flicker
- Scrub Jay

Migratory birds that just pass through:

- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler

These birds migrate many thousands of miles (in the case of the Yellow-billed cuckoo that spends the winter in Argentina) or they may just fly a few hundred miles.

What are some of the unique birds banded?

- Belted Kingfisher
- Green Heron
- Eastern Phoebe
- Western Wood Pewee
- Painted Bunting (only the 3rd record for this species in Maricopa County)

What is the oldest bird banded at the preserve?

Banders are taught how to age birds by certain characteristics of the bird's anatomy or plumage. When they are recaptured years later, we can more clearly determine their age and lifespan. Since the bird-banding program started, we have determined through recapture data that our oldest banded birds are:

1. A male Abert's Towhee was banded on 10/9/99 and determined to be After Hatching Year (Born in '98). It was recaptured in 2000 and again in 2003. This bird is 5 years old!

2. A Hermit Thrush, banded on 12/23/00 and determined to be After Hatching Year (Born in '99), was recaptured on 2003. This bird is 4 years old.

Anne Leight has a wealth of bird information on the birds of Hassayampa.

Pictures taken by Anne Leight follow:



Southwestern Willow Flycatcher



Lucy's Warbler

The following sign was prepared by Jak Keyser, one of our talented members, and will be displayed at our meeting refreshment table:



Thank you Trader Joe's, and Fry's Marketplace for your generosity.

A message from your president...

In my October message I said that it's unfortunate that many of you weren't present at our September 10th meeting. I further said that we had a good attendance at the meeting but it would have been so nice to see all of you there. Then I had a family emergency arise and I was gone for the October meeting. Again we had a good turnout and everyone enjoyed the program by the MacKay's. I've been on several field trips with David and they were both outstanding. Jennifer MacKay is a gourmet cook so both the food and the birding was all one could hope to expect. I look forward going on future trips with the MacKay's.

I hope to see of you at the November meeting. Darnell Kirksey has been to a workshop given by Cindy Fernandez and says her program was extremely interesting. She's sure all our members will share her viewpoint. Darnell says that Cindy will tell you all you wanted to know about the strange creatures crawling along the ground while you're birding.

I hope many of you will consider becoming docents at Tres Rios. Our board is also considering a proposal by Tres Rios to help with trail maintenance. Tres Rios is an area that many of us go to bird and it also the home of the Tres Rios Christmas Bird Count.

I again urge all of you to consider to becoming "Friends of Sonoran Audubon Society" With the elimination of the dues share from the National Audubon Society, it appears that it's the only way we can survive.

SAS Web Site: www.sonoranaudubon.org

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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Docent Training Program

Calling all Birders, Naturalists, Environmentalists, Hikers and all around nature buffs.

Looking for an opportunity to make a difference with your expertise or natural speaking abilities? The Tres Rios Constructed Demonstration Wetlands is offering a Docent Training Program to provide guided tours to the public. You will be teaching and training at a variety of levels, from expert to novice tour groups. Presently, and as the preserve expands, you would be on the forefront of demonstrating the need to protect and enlarge our wetlands by explaining the water quality improvement process to the public. Don't know a gambusia affinis (southwestern mosquito fish) from a beaver? Don't worry; City staff will train you in the identification of animals and vegetation found in the wetlands in a balanced environment. Hikers will love the trails and easy accessibility. Science and Technology-based persons will have a role explaining the water reuse cycle and its relationship to the community and economy as the population escalates. Accountants, there will be a role for you to explain the cost effectiveness of employing a wetland as a means for future water reclamation. You will also have the opportunity to educate the public about ancient and traditional folklore native to the Tres Rios Wetlands area as you traverse **our Hayfield and Cobble riparian trails.**

After the docent training, you will be asked to provide a rough idea of your availability for conducting tours.

Interested persons and groups may obtain further information by contacting the Project Coordinator, Debbi Radford at e-mail debbi.radford@phoenix.gov or at 602-495-7927.

This a list of the new members of Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society:

Josh Burns
Al Dieterle
David Domokos
Patricia Dyer
Steven & Joanne Ferguson
Dwayne Fink
William Grossi
Edgar & Barbara Jeter
Jeanne Lamont
Col Bruno Larsen
David & Mary Ellen Miller
William Muir
Charles P Richard
George & Maria Wall

We have just started the program of Friends of the Sonoran Audubon Society and already we have 42 members. A number of members have contacted me and said that they were mailing checks to us soon. We are hoping to have 200 of our members eventually becoming friends

I feel that we are going on a forward path and will get out of the quandary that the cut in dues shares by the National Audubon Society put us in.

The attendance at both our general meetings and our field trips is expanding and our new members are interested in becoming more active. I hope that even more of you will be able to attend our meetings and join us on the very interesting trips our field trip committee has scheduled.. Keep checking our newsletters to keep up with the upcoming activities.

**Chris Horyza, Project Manager
Agua Fria National Monument RMP
Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP
(623)580-5628**

It has been a long time since most of you have heard anything concerning the on-going Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plans and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). When you last heard from me, we were struggling at developing a set of alternatives to analyze in the EIS. We had hoped to complete that effort and share the preliminary alternatives with you in early summer, but found the task much more complex and time consuming than we expected.

Well, we have finally finished a set of preliminary alternatives we will be analyzing in our Environmental Impact Statement and have scheduled some public meetings to share them with you. Included is a copy of a News Release that is going out to news papers in the area.

I would like to thank those of you who have been actively involved with us in this effort and all of you for your patience. These preliminary alternatives mark a major milestone for us because they represent the foundation for the environmental impact analysis that will occur and the range of possibilities to choose a preferred alternative from. I look forward to sharing them with you and continuing our progress towards a final set of plans.

News Release

Presentation of Alternatives for the Agua Fria National Monument/Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas

Open house meetings are scheduled this month to present the Alternatives for the Agua Fria National Monument/Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas. Over the past two years we have gathered ideas and issues from interested publics, groups and concerned communities; we have consolidated this data into a formal document for review for the public at large.

Black Canyon City
Albins Community Center October 27, 2003
19055 South K-Mine Road, Black Canyon City 6:30 8:30 pm

Wickenburg
Community Center Auditorium October 28, 2003
120 North Valentine Street, Wickenburg 7:00 9:00 pm

Prescott/Prescott Valley
Hotel Saint Michael/Crystal Ballroom October 29, 2003
205 West Gurley Street, Prescott 6:30 8:30 pm
Phoenix

Deer Valley Community Center October 30, 2003
2001 West Wahalla Lane, Phoenix 7:00 9:00 pm

The next step in our planning process will be completing the Environmental Impact Analysis and to then publish the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We continue to encourage all interested parties to stay engaged in our planning process.

Bureau of Land Management

It is very important for a large number of our members to attend at least one of these meetings. We need our voices heard by BLM concerning our opinions about the Agua Fria Monument.

ARIZONA (& VICINITY) CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE [2003-2004]

The National Audubon Society has conducted Christmas bird counts since 1900. Volunteers from across North America and beyond take to the field during one calendar day between December 14 and January 5 to record every bird encountered within a designated 15-mile diameter circle. These records now comprise an extensive database that helps to monitor winter bird populations and the overall health of the environment.

Participants are typically assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. A \$5.00 participation fee defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the count results. Help is needed on most of these counts, so find one that interests you and contact the compiler for more information.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
12/14	Su	Jerome	Gary Romig	928-639-1516	gromig@sedona.net
12/14	Su	Mormon Lake	Elaine Morrall	928-526-1022	elaimorr@earthlink.net
12/14	Su	Santa Catalina Mountains	Bob Bates	520-296-5629	batesr@u.arizona.edu
12/14	Su	Tucson Valley	Susan Birky	520-743-9390	sbirky@mindspring.com
12/16	Tu	Salt-Verde Rivers	Kurt Radamaner	480-837-2446	kurtrad@mexicobirding.com
12/18	Th	Phoenix-Tres Rios	Daniela Yellan	602-942-7791	dyellan@aol.com
12/20	Sa	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta NWR	David Griffin	505-532-0969	djg1@zianet.com
12/20	Sa	Avra Valley	George Montgomery	520- 682-8530	diamont@dakotacom.net
12/20	Sa	Baviácora, Sonora, MX	Arnold Moorhouse	520-364-3178	
12/20	Sa	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Henry Detwiler	928-343-8363	henry@southwestbirders.com
12/20	Sa	Nogales	Michael Bissontz	520-577-8778	seetrogon@aol.com
12/20	Sa	Puerto Penasco, , MX	Steve Ganley	480-830-5538	sganley4@cox.net
12/20	Sa	Sedona	Dottie Hook	928-204-1894	dothook1@aol.com
12/21	Su	Hassayampa River	Vanessa Montgomery	623-465-0012	hassayamacbc@hotmail.com
12/21	Su	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	tomoff@northlink.com
12/23	Tu	Alamos, Sonora, MX	David MacKay	011 52 647 4280466	info@solipaso.com
12/27	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden	Terence Blows	928-774-8028	terence.blows@nau.edu
12/27	Sa	Ramsey Canyon	Ted Mouras	520-803-0221	mourast@saic.com
12/27	Sa	Saint Johns	Brian Heap	928-337-4865	brian@wmonline.com
12/28	Su	Elfrida	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
12/29	Mo	Camp Verde	Carl & Ruth Breitmaier	928-282-1041	caru@esedona.net
12/29	Mo	Havasú NWR	Norma Miller	520-578-1399	n8urnut@earthlink.net
12/30	Tu	Bill Williams Delta	Kathleen Blair	928-667-4144	kathleen_blair@fws.gov
12/30	Tu	Gila River	Troy Corman	602-482-6187	aplomado@cox.net
12/30	Tu	Saint David	Tom Wood	520-432-1388	tom@sabo.org
1/1	Th	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-636-6944	duerksen@msn.com
1/1	Th	Sierra Pinta-Cabeza Prieta	David Griffin	505-532-0969	djg1@zianet.com
1/2	Fr	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-823-4251	bonnie_swarbrick@fws.gov
1/2	Fr	Carefree	Walter Thurber	480-483-6450	wathurber@cox.net
1/3	Sa	Dudleyville	Tracy McCarthey	602-973-0881	tmccarthey@msn.com
1/3	Sa	Green Valley-Madera Can	Reid Freeman	520-625-9895	wallcreeper@juno.com
1/3	Sa	Peloncillo Monts, NM	Alan Craig	520-558-2220	narca_9@yahoo.com
1/3	Sa	Pipe Spring Nat. Mont	Andrea Bornemeier	928-643-7105	andrea_bornemeier@nps.gov
1/3	Sa	Timber Mesa	Jimmy Videle	928-537-5144	moonrise@wmonline.com
1/4	Su	Patagonia	Pete Workizer	520-394-2823	bullwinkle@theriver.com
1/4	Su	Portal	Larry Gates	520-558-2334	hummers@vtc.net
1/4	Su	Superior	Steve Ganley	480- 830-5538	sganley4@cox.net
1/5	Mo	Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence@nps.gov

Fall and Winter 2003 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. Sonoran Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on all outings!

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

Saturday, November 1

Jackie Meck Lake

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

Explore this rich habitat 'lake' at the confluence of the Agua Fria and Gila Rivers, near Estrella Mountain Park.

This is part of the Buckeye Water District Conservation Area. This is an opportunity to hopefully see many species of waterfowl, as well as possible migrants along the canal.

Call leader for time and meeting location. Scopes will be very helpful. Time permitting, we may have the chance to explore other nearby birding areas.

Difficulty 1. Morning only. Limit 10

Saturday, November 8

Arlington Valley

**Leaders: Joan and Dean Luehrs 623 875-1016
luehrs1@mindspring.com**

Arlington Valley west of Phoenix and south of Arlington with its fields, ponds, canals, a dam, and a desert butte provides a variety of habitats to search for birds. On the North American Spring Migration bird count in May, 2003, a White Ibis was seen amidst the Great Egrets. Swallows, blackbirds, raptors and sparrows should be prevalent.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch.

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

Saturday, November 22

Prescott Forest and Lakes

**Leader: Jim Morgan 928-778-1041
kingbird@cableone.net**

Explore Watson Woods Conservation Area and the lakes in Prescott's unique Granite Dells.

Check the pine/juniper forest for Pygmy Nuthatch, Band-tailed pigeon and woodpeckers. Last fall a Common Goldeneye was seen along with many other wintering waterfowl at a wastewater treatment center. Meet at Denny's Restaurant at the corner of Gail Gardner Road and Iron Springs Road, Prescott at 8:00 AM

Difficulty: 1 Morning only, but plan to enjoy lunch at one of Prescott's local restaurants. Call leader to register.

Saturday, November 15th

Beginning Birder Class

**Leaders: Tice Supplee vsupplee@gf.state.az.us
and Bob McCormick McBobAZ@aol.com**

We will be conducting a beginning birder class at the Thunderbird Park picnic area and the nearby Heritage Fund Pond. We will be covering the birding basics; identification, books, binoculars, etc. The first part of the class will cover the desert birds at the park and then we will move over to the pond to view the ducks and herons. With luck, we could exceed 40 species.

Difficulty: 1 Morning Only ARRIVE at 7:30 a.m. at the south end of the Thunderbird Park picnic area. We will be at one of the pagodas near the restrooms. This regional park is located about 1 ½ miles North of the loop 101 on 59th Ave. Plan on about 3 hours of birding.

Saturday, December 6

Thunderbird Park, Glendale

**Leader: Carolyn Modeen 623 972-6273
ctmodeen@juno.com**

Thunderbird Park has a formal bird blind adjacent to a pond where Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser and Ruddy Ducks congregate in large numbers in winter. Black-crowned Night Herons are residents. There is also desert environment to explore for gnatcatchers and thrashers.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only. Contact leader for meeting time and place

Friday, December 12

Tres Rios Wetlands

**Leader: Vera Markham 623 974-1110
markhamv@msn.com**

Tres Rios Constructed Wetlands Project located at the 91st Ave. Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Salt River is a haven for many bird species. The habitats include open water, 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 7:30 AM.

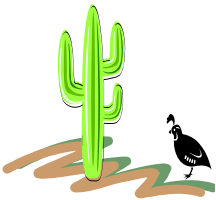
Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

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

November 12, 2003	Cindy Fernandez, "What To Look At When You're Not Looking Up"
December 10, 2003	Bruce Taubert, Arizona Game & Fish, "Birding in Africa"
January 14, 2004	Alice Brawley - Chesworth, City of Phoenix, "Future Plans for Tres Rios"
February 11, 2004	Tom Jones, Grand Canyon University, "Mired in the Mud: A Look at Neotropic Rainforest Amphibians and Reptiles".
March 10, 2004	Bill Branan, Audubon Ranch, "Your Audubon Ranch - Grassland Research."
April 14, 2004	Clait Braun, "Discovery and Description of a New Species of Sage-grouse: Gunnison Sage-grouse."
May 12, 2004	Brian Wakeling, Arizona Game and Fish: "Turkey Research and Management in Arizona"

Other Dates of Interest:

November 5 at, 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting at Glendale Library in the small meeting room. All SAS members welcome.



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