



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 9 Issue 1

September, 2007

## At our next meeting....

**Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 7 p.m.**

### **Birding in Ecuador with Theona Vyvial, Pat and Ken Phillips**

Theona Vyvial, a birder and amateur photographer and Pat and Ken Phillips, not so beginning birders and great photographers, toured Ecuador in July 2006. They will be sharing LOTS of photos and stories from their tours of Northwest Ecuador, the Andes and the Napo Wildlife Center in the Amazon Basin. Some of the photos they will be sharing include LOTS of hummingbirds (they saw close to 50 species), numerous parrots, tanagers, owls, trogons, toucans and woodpeckers. Also seen and photographed were several rarely seen antpittas (they went to see the Antpitta Whisperer!), the Cock of the Rock and the ancient appearing Hoatzin.

Come join us for an evening on the equator!



**Violet-tailed Sylph**

## What's Happening in our Chapter?

**By Your Editor, George Wall**

The Sonoran Audubon Society board has met during the summer with the following attendees at some of the meetings: Bob McCormick, Karen LaFrance, Chuck and Loretta Richards, Eleanor Campbell, Suzanne Cash, Dick Fogle, Rich Schooler, Andrée Tarby, George Wall and Daniela Yellan.

Here's what has transpired over the summer with the committees and other things:

### **1. Committees:**

**A. Membership:** Membership has stayed around the 700 mark. A new Arizona Bird Checklist was made and printed and is on line at our website. A new brochure for the Sonoran Audubon Society was made and has been printed. Both of these items will be available at future shows, meetings, etc. A special one year membership to the Sonoran Audubon Society was approved for Bernadine McCollum and Marty Lawrence of Hassayampa River Preserve and Phil Smith of Robbins Butte for their assistance in past endeavors that benefited our society.

**B. Education and Outreach:** This committee is going strong. All kinds of plans are in the works. The first family nature and bird walk sponsored by SAS is scheduled at Tres Rios for Saturday, October 13, 2007. These walks will be the 2nd Saturday of each month unless other events preclude this. The committee has purchased another canopy, some chairs and is planning on purchasing tables—all to be used at walks or events. Books, especially for young people, are also going to be purchased and sold at events as well as SAS logo T-shirts and Polo shirts. In the future, the committee will be outreaching to Girl Scouts and schools.

**C. Field Trips:** The field trip committee,  
(Continued on Page 2)

## EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY

### Arizona Audubon Council Celebration 2007

The last celebration was in Sierra Vista in 2005. This celebration will be September 14-16, 2007, at the Fiesta Inn Resort in Tempe, AZ. The Fiesta Inn Resort Conference Center is located on the southwest corner of Priest and Broadway. For registration and other info, see page 7 in this newsletter.

### Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

There are bird walks, nature programs and other items of interest. Their location is 2439 S. Central Ave., Phoenix. Check the website at [www.phoenix.gov/riosalado](http://www.phoenix.gov/riosalado).

A birders paradise awaits you just 1/2 mile south of downtown Phoenix! Discover many of the 200 species of birds that have been identified at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area as you walk along the Salt River. Participants will learn the basic skills of binocular use and bird identification before taking an easy 1-2 mile walk around the habitat. Please bring binoculars, camera, and field guides if you have them. These walks occur several times a month on Saturday or Sunday.

Frank Insana of the Sonoran Audubon Society will lead the one on Sunday, September 9, 2007. The walk starts at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 9:30 a.m. Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Ave. You should make your reservation in advance by visiting <http://phoenix.gov/PARKS> and click on "classes and programs". You can also call 602-262-6863 and leave a voice mail.

### Desert Botanical Garden

Each Monday morning from now through September, 2007, there will be bird walks from 7 a.m. to approximately 9 a.m. There will be additional walks on the second Saturday of each month at the same time. They see as many as 40 birds during these walks.

Desert Botanical Garden entrance fees of \$10.00 (\$9.00 seniors) apply unless you're a DBG member. Membership is \$55 a year. See their website at [www.desertbotanical.org](http://www.desertbotanical.org) for further information.

### Hassayampa River Preserve

Winter hours begin on September 15, 2007. It's open Wednesday-Sunday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Entrance fees are \$5, TNC members \$3 and children 12 and under are free. For information call 928 684-2772 or e-mail [www.bmccollum@tnc.org](mailto:www.bmccollum@tnc.org)

First event is on September 14, 2007, Friday 7-9:30 a.m.

and it's Birding 103 A—Hassayampa River Preserve. This is the first of four sessions led by professional birding tour leader Kathe Anderson. Future sessions will include visits to farmlands, mudflats and higher elevation settings within an hour's drive of the preserve. Each session stands on its own. Do the complete series and you should see around 60 or more species of birds.

Regular Bird Banding: Saturday, September 1, 2007, bird banding takes place at 6:00 a.m. and Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 6:30 a.m.

### Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is now in their Fall schedule. They have bird walks and other programs. Their hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The price of admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for children ages 5-12. For driving directions or other details, call 520-689-2811 or visit their internet website at <http://cals.arizona.edu/BTA/>

### Birders' Anonymous

Birders' Anonymous, a group of birdwatchers, has their monthly meeting from 10—11:30 a.m. They meet on the third Friday of each month **all year long** at the Church of the Palms on the corner of Boswell and 103rd Ave. in Sun City in King Hall. Their next meeting will be on September 21, 2007, and program will be a DVD video "Hooked on Hummingbirds". For further information contact George Wall at [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

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### **What's Happening in our Chapter?**

chaired by Donna Smith, had a meeting in August and lined up a lot of trips. See the field trip pages.

**D. Programs:** Daniela Yellan has retired from being the program chairperson as of June 1, 2007. She had served in this position since September 2004. Well done Daniela! The new committee is jointly chaired by Eleanor Campbell, Bob McCormick and George Wall. If you have any suggestions, ideas or even would like to give a program sometime in the future, please contact one of the people mentioned above.

**2. Other Items of interest:** The 2006 IBA Report for the Aqua Fria National Monument and Salt & Gila River Systems was completed and submitted.

### Join the National Audubon Society

New adult or family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for seniors and students: \$15.00

These fees cover membership in the National Audubon Society and a subscription to Audubon magazine. An application form for National membership may be obtained from the chapter at the regular meeting or by contacting <chuckkan@mindspring.com>.

Each year all National members in the Sonoran Audubon chapter area receive the September *Gambel's Tales* that describes major chapter activities for the year. All monthly issues of *Gambel's Tales* may be obtained free from the chapter website <www.sonoranaudubon.org> or by mail for \$10.00 per year. If you wish to get the newsletter by mail or to be notified when a new issue is placed on the website, please contact chuckkan@mindspring.com or by mail to: Sonoran Audubon Society, P O Box 8068, Glendale, AZ 85312-8068. For Information or questions call 623-939-6181.

SAS Web Site: [www.sonoranaudubon.org](http://www.sonoranaudubon.org)  
Arizona Audubon Web Site: [www.az.audubon.org](http://www.az.audubon.org)  
Desert Rivers Audubon Web Site:  
[www.desertriversaudubon.org](http://www.desertriversaudubon.org)



### Sonoran Audubon Society Officers, Board Members and Committee Contacts:

#### Officers

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[klaf@cox.net](mailto:klaf@cox.net)

Treasurer: Loretta Richards 623-594-6554

[carichards@nowonline.net](mailto:carichards@nowonline.net)

Secretary:

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#### Committees

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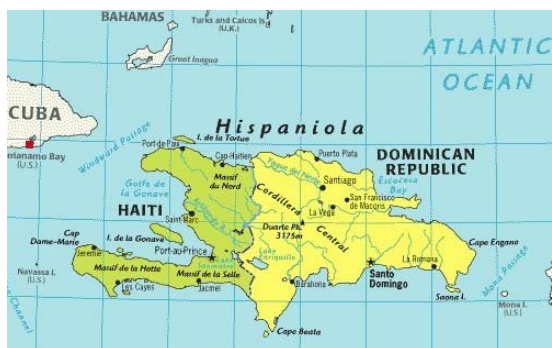
## The Plight of Haiti's Birds

By George Wall

A story entitled "Haiti's Birds" by Jason Townsend in the 2007 Spring Edition of Living Bird, an article entitled "Ornithological Field Investigations in La Visite National Park, Haiti, 26 January – 1 February 2005," that was written by several people and in collaboration with the Haiti Audubon Society, an article on the Black-capped Petrel from the National Audubon Magazine, an article from the Miami Herald written August 5, 2003, and my own observations in Peru gave me the impetus to write about this subject.

What is happening in Haiti that affects birds? A simple question with a simple answer – their habitat is being destroyed and thus a decline in bird population!

Why is this one little country so important? It is important because what is happening in Haiti is happening in many of the Central and South American countries, the Caribbean and even places such as Borneo. The forests are being destroyed as shown in a picture I took while in Peru.



Why is the deforestation happening? We have to look at the Haitian people along with their economy and governmental politics to answer this question.

Let's take the people and their economy first. This is one of the most poverty stricken countries in the world. An average Haitian subsists on \$1 a day. Few people have solid work as most are growing their own food and trying to survive day to day. How are they doing this? They are clearing the forests for lumber, firewood, and charcoal which they sell and then burning the grounds to plant their hidden vegetable patches.

Currently Haiti has only 1% of its land in forest compared to 75% when the Europeans came in 1492. The only forests left are parks and preserves that were established in 1983. These are the La Visite National Park and nearby Pine Forest Reserve, which together cover 77,000 acres high in the La Selle mountain range south of Port-au-Prince and the Pic Macaya Park that sits on 13,500 acres in mountains to the southwest.

Since these are the only forested areas left, guess where the people are clearing?



Taken in Peru Highlands by George Wall

Why isn't the government doing anything about this crisis? They've tried a couple of times, but all they do is argue over how to protect what is left. The few park rangers that they have can't do anything to stop the truck loads of charcoal, lumber and vegetable patch food that leave the forests. Over 30 years of political turbulence hasn't helped the problem. Forty some years after the forest preserves' creation there is still no centralized agency to run them. The four Haitian ministries - agriculture, tourism, environment and planning - continue to argue over how they should be run.

So what does this mean for the birds? There are 241 species of birds in Haiti and 26 of them are endemics. Ten are endangered.

The La Selle range is home to a number of birds and plants that do not exist anywhere else in the world. Many of these native birds, including the Hispaniola Parrot and Parakeet, Chat Tanager and White-Winged Warbler, are in danger of disappearing.

According to local sources, more money, more agents and more projects are not the answer as long as the political crisis isn't resolved. Corruption in government is rampant just as in many other poverty stricken countries. There currently is no answer.

What would John James Audubon who was born in Saint Domingue (now Haiti) think of this situation?

## SNAKES IN THE ROOM!

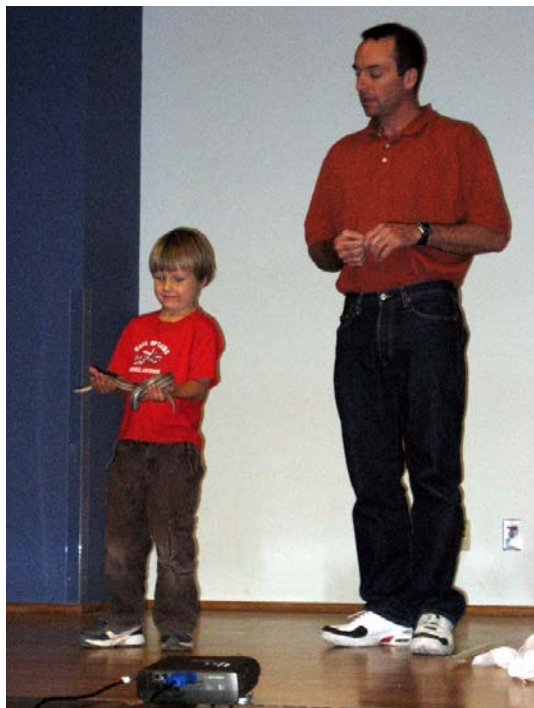
By George Wall

The Sonoran Audubon Society general membership meeting held on May 9, 2007, was a real treat. Giving the program was Thomas C. Brennan, co-author with Andy Holycross on the book "Amphibians and Reptiles in Arizona" and naturally he brought reptiles for us all to enjoy.

He first showed us the Sidewinder rattlesnake. This is a venomous snake, but is one of the least strong in the strength of the venom. We all laughed as Thomas Brennan tried to capture the snake once he had let it out of the bag on the stage. It was side winding all over the place.

The next reptile was the Arizona Black Rattlesnake which is one of the larger ones. He put it in a holding tube so that anyone who wanted to could touch the snake and the rattles. A great many who were in attendance took advantage of this opportunity.

He also brought out a non-venomous snake called the Rosy Boa. Thomas Brennan asked if anyone wanted to hold it. Young Campbell Brawley jumped up on stage as shown here.



**Campbell Brawley & Thomas Brennan**  
Photo by Alice Brawley-Chesworth

After seeing this, everyone wanted to hold the snake; so it was passed hand to hand around the room.

The last reptile was a huge Gila Monster that was let loose on the stage. It was a beautiful creature but did absolutely nothing except lay there.

Thomas Brennan had brought some of the books that he co-authored and it was nice to see that many bought some at a discounted price. He also happily endorsed them.

The meetings of the Sonoran Audubon Society have great programs and it's a shame that not more of you are taking advantage of these meetings.



**Sidewinder—Photo by George Wall**

## Arizona Field Ornithologist (AZFO) State Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 20: the Arizona Field Ornithologists (AZFO) will hold its first state membership meeting. It will be held at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert, Arizona, just southeast of Phoenix. This site is next to the Gilbert Water Ranch, well known as a rich birding spot. Opportunities for birding before and after the meeting and on Sunday morning will be organized. Maybe the Streak-backed Oriole will return for its third year.

The meeting will offer an opportunity to discuss reports on AZFO activities and hear three or four presentations from different parts of Arizona on bird distribution and recent research projects. Dues-paid members will be able to elect officers and the board of directors and approve the by-laws. New people who are not yet members are urged to come, join, and invite others. For those who sign up as new members at this meeting, their dues will be paid through 2008. (All dues and contributions to AZFO, which is officially a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, are tax-deductible.)

Updates on the program and schedule will be available on the AZFO website: [azfo.org](http://azfo.org).

If you are interested in attending or helping to work on this gathering, please contact meeting coordinator Keith Kamper at: [keith\\_kamper@adventurebirding.com](mailto:keith_kamper@adventurebirding.com)

## Rare New Hummingbird Species Found By Toby Muse of the AP



**Gorgeted Puffleg**

BOGOTA, Colombia (May 15, 2007) - There's a new chirp in the forest but it may be choked by the slashing and burning of trees by coca farmers, researchers said.

The Gorgeted Puffleg, a rare hummingbird that boasts a plumage of violet blue and iridescent green on its throat, has been discovered living in the cloud forests of southwestern Colombia, researchers announced.

The species belongs to the Puffleg genus, which appear to have "little cotton balls above their legs," said Luis Mazariegos-Hurtado, who has spent 30 years documenting hummingbirds and founded the Colombian Hummingbird Conservancy.

Ornithologists are urging the government to protect the bird's tiny territory from the environmentally ruinous drugs industry, which relies on slashing and burning large tracts of land to grow illegal crops such as coca, the raw material in cocaine.

The Hummingbird Conservancy estimates that coca-growing and other agriculture destroys 1,235 acres of forests surrounding the Gorgeted Puffleg's habitat each year. They want the government to declare a natural reserve of 494,000 acres to pre-

serve land in the area.

The zone has seen a rise in growing of illegal crops in recent years as coca farmers have arrived escaping the government's eradication program in other parts of the country.

## BIRDING SPOTS

By George Wall

This is the eighth in a series about birding spots in and around our area. For those of you who go birding, you've probably been there; however, there may be a few that haven't or you may be a new birder. This month's spot is:

### Estrella Park & Areas

This regional park and nearby Gila river located near Goodyear off I-10 is an excellent birding area with easy walking. Over 100 species have been recorded in the past. The first stop we usually make is at the corner of Estrella Parkway and Vineyard by the bridge overlooking the Gila River. From this point you can possibly see some ducks, swallows or shorebirds.

In the park itself, depending on the time of year, you can see a variety of birds. You can also leave the park, cross the highway and walk a dirt path birding along the way down to the Gila River.

Entrance fee: \$5.00 per car.

**37 - December 15, 2000 – Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

**34 - October 27, 2001 – Dunlin**

**42 - November 19, 2002 – Gilded Flicker**

**41- August 14, 2003 – Common Ground Dove**

**33 - October 14, 2003 – Hammond's Flycatcher**

**54 - December 10, 2004 – Crissal Thrasher**

**31 - March 22, 2005 – White-faced Ibis**

**61 - January 28, 2006 – Canvasback**

**43 - January 13, 2007 – Lark Bunting**

First figure above is number of species seen.



## Arizona Audubon Council Celebration 2007

The last celebration was in Sierra Vista in 2005. This celebration will be September 14-16, 2007, at the Fiesta Inn Resort in Tempe, AZ. The Fiesta Inn Resort Conference Center is located on the southwest corner of Priest and Broadway.

Conference Registration is \$85 per person which includes box lunch, banquet dinner, attendance for all Saturday workshops and Sunday field trips—Friday workshops are extra. Early registration is urged as some events will be limited.

### Speaker List:

- John Flicker, President and CEO of the National Audubon Society.
- Jerry Jackson, renowned ornithologist and author.
- Dr. David L. Pearson, Research Professor at ASU and author.
- Jim Burns, wildlife photographer and writer.
- Homer Hansen, Chairman of the annual “Wings over Willcox”.
- Rose Ann Rowlett, of Field Guides.
- And many others....

Friday events include IBA Monitoring Workshop (all day), Designing a Hummingbird Garden & Sparrow ID Workshop

Saturday events include workshops, social hour with book signings and of course the banquet at 7 p.m.

Sunday has many trips scheduled and registration for them starts at 1 p.m. on Friday

Hotel reservations must be called in to 480-967-1441 and ask for the special Audubon Conference Rate at \$86 per night plus tax. Additional people in room is an extra \$10.

Celebration Registration – please use a separate form for each person

***Register for the Conference prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> and your name will be entered into a drawing for a special prize.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Celebration package: **\$85.00**

Price includes Saturday lunch and banquet. Friday dinner is on your own. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IBA Monitoring Workshop Friday at Gilbert Riparian Preserve: **\$25.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Workshops:

1:30-3:00 - Designing A Hummingbird Garden: **\$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

3:00-4:30 – Sparrow Identification Workshop: **\$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian meals: yes \_\_\_\_\_ 3:00 p.m. Friday Van Tour of the Rio Salado: yes \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **“Arizona Audubon Council”** Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

and mail to:

**Audubon Celebration  
4250 E. Camelback Road #310K  
Phoenix, AZ 85018**

***Questions? Call 602-468-6470 or e-mail [egret@cox.net](mailto:egret@cox.net).***

## My Turn

By Sam Kathryn Campana

Having hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon over 50 times, I marvel every time when I catch a glimpse or a rare close-up view of the California condor. In the world, there are only 279 and at one time we were down to 22 condors in the world. The majestic desert nesting bald eagle in Arizona is only a precious 43 breeding pairs! How could this happen to the Arizona emblem of our national bird or the largest of birds in the world, the condor?

Audubon has gathered compelling information that other birds we consider common could also become rare, in a recently released study made possible by years of bird-watching information collected during annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and the U.S. Geological Survey's Breeding Bird Survey. "Tens of thousands of citizen scientists have given us information that no researcher or group could possibly gather without them," said Paul Green, executive director for Tucson Audubon. And now we know: Numerous "common" bird species in America are declining in number - some by over 50 percent in my adult lifetime!

Canaries have long served as the indicator for environmental health in mines. When Audubon presented the alarming data in a compelling report, *Common Birds in Decline*, the future was clear unless we intervene: Backyard bird populations currently in decline will become at risk, become threatened, become endangered and become extinct. We must understand the reasons, and commit to action.

"These are not rare or exotic birds we're talking about - they're birds that we can find in our own yards or on a hike in the desert," said Audubon Arizona Bird Conservation Director Tice Supplee. "The fact that many of our common birds are becoming scarce is an early warning of changes in our environment. The birds' declining numbers tell us that we have serious work to do, from protecting local habitats to addressing huge threats from climate change."

Three of the five Arizona birds that are declining can be found in Maricopa County: the Black-throated Sparrow, the Verdin and the Phainopepla.

What can we as caring desert dwellers do to help? Fortunately, the declines can be reversed with some thought and planning. The mountain preserves and large county parks offer ideal habitats for all three species.

Making sure these open lands remain in native Sonoran

around for the future. Smaller parks, streetscapes and your backyard planted in native mesquite, ironwood and paloverde can keep Verdins singing in your neighborhood.

Let's keep our "canaries in our Arizona desert" singing. All three species are birds of the Sonoran Desert and they do not migrate elsewhere. Create habitat where you can and call city hall to keep our native Sonoran Desert habitats and the birds that depend upon them healthy!

## Summer/Fall 2007 Field Trips

An \* indicates a Birders' Anonymous planned trip

**REQUIREMENT:** On all trips, make reservations by calling or e-mailing the leader. The leader can then give updated information as to the meeting place, times, etc. Also, some trips are limited in size.

**Friday-Sunday, September 7-9, 2007**

**Patagonia & Area**

**Leaders: Chuck Richards 623-594-6554**

[carichards@nowonline.net](mailto:carichards@nowonline.net) and Eleanor Campbell  
**623-977-7639** [ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

On the way, we'll stop at Gardner Canyon to see the Botteri's and the Cassin's sparrows which should be singing. In the Patagonia area, we should see many hummingbirds.

Difficulty: 1 - Call leaders for all details.

**\*Wednesday, September 19, 2007**

**Tres Rios Wetlands**

**Leader: George Wall 623-875-7057**

[gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)

Tres Rios Wetlands Project located at the 91<sup>st</sup> Ave. Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Salt River is a haven for many bird species. Habitats, which continue to improve, include a running stream, marsh, desert and woods that provide environments for a variety of ducks, shorebirds and residents at any time of year.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 7:00 a.m. or meet the group at the parking area at Tres Rios at 7:45.

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## Summer/Fall 2007 Field Trips

**Saturday, September 29, 2007**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Rich Schooler 623-930-8904**

[raschooler@peoplepc.com](mailto:raschooler@peoplepc.com)

Over 230 species have been recorded nesting or migrating along this riparian area where cottonwoods and willows surround running water and a pond. Trails traverse mesquite thickets and cottonwood stands. There are river overlooks where a variety of species are seen at The Nature Conservancy's preserve near Wickenburg. Anna's Hummingbirds are regulars. The Preserve has been the nesting site for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Red-shouldered Hawk. Although they may not be seen this time of year, there is always a good number of residents.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only (A picnic area is available for lunching after the trip if you'd care to.)

Meet at the River Preserve at 8:00 a.m. Call the leader for alternate meeting spot.

**Saturday, October 6, 2007**

**Rio Salado**

**Leader: Frank Insana**

**Contact: George Wall 623-875-7057 [gwall5@cox.net](mailto:gwall5@cox.net)**

Rio Salado is one of our newer birding areas on the Salt River in downtown Phoenix and Frank Insana who been leading trips there for sometime knows where the birds are hiding. There is plenty of water in the ponds and the river so birds should be there.

Difficulty 1: This is a morning walk only

Meet at the Sun Bowl parking lot on 107th Ave. in Sun City just S. of Peoria Ave. to leave at 6:15 a.m. or meet at the Rio Salado parking lot on South Central Ave (Northeast Corner) a little before 7 a.m.

**Thursday, October 18, 2007**

**Oak Creek Canyon and West Fork**

**Leader: Dan Bohlmann 602-938-8244**

[dansbohlmann@prodigy.net](mailto:dansbohlmann@prodigy.net)

We will bird at different spots in Oak Creek Canyon and hike into the West Fork of Oak Creek for about a mile. The U.S. Golden Age Passport can be used in place of the Sedona area parking permit(\$5) to park along the road and some other

parking spots. Some parking areas such as West Fork cost extra (Up to \$7 a car) – we will avoid all except the West Fork.

What we will see in the way of birds is anybody's guess. It depends on what the weather is doing. Usually the trees in the West Fork Parking Lot are filled with all kinds of birds, woodpeckers, kingbirds, orioles, warblers, tanagers and goldfinches. There is a bridge that crosses from the parking lot over Oak Creek that is usually a good spot for observing birds along the creek and in the trees lining the creek. On the other side of the bridge are grassy fields and an old apple tree orchard that the trail winds through that contains another whole set of birds that prefer that habitat – sparrows, flycatchers, bluebirds and cliff swallows that nest on the nearby red & white cliffs. Then you reach the actual entrance to the West Fork Canyon where the old historic Mayhew Lodge use to stand and the typical forest birds start to show up (Nuthatches, Chickadees, and Titmice). Even if the birds don't show up, we can be pretty sure that the glorious sights and smells of Fall will be there since the West Fork is filled with lots of Maple and Oak trees that turn all sorts of beautiful shades of red, orange, pink and yellow. Against the background of blue sky, green pines and firs and streaked red and white canyon walls, it makes for an incredible contrast of colors.

Difficulty: 2 – Bring a Lunch

Meet at Denny's Restaurant, west of I17 near 27th Ave and Bell (In front of Fry's). We will leave at 7:00 a.m. We may try to also designate a Sun City meeting place at 6:30 a.m. if requested by callers.

**\*Thursday, October 25, 2007**

**Seven Springs and Camp Creek**

**Leader: Eleanor Campbell 623-977-7639**

[ercamp@juno.com](mailto:ercamp@juno.com)

Stop in desert and chaparral habitats before arriving at the riparian site in the Tonto National Forest. Canyon Towhee, Sage Thrasher, and Hermit Thrush were seen on past trips.

Difficulty: 2 (one hill down to Camp Creek). Bring lunch.

Meet at Bell Recreation Center at the corner of Hutton Drive and Boswell one block south of Bell Road in Sun City to LEAVE at 7:00 a.m. Call the leader to arrange a meeting place farther east. Entrance fee to the park is \$4.00 per car.

**Plan now for this trip** as space will be limited: Portal and Cave Creek in SE Arizona on May 21-23, 2008, (Wednesday-Friday), there will be a local leader for this trip - Contact: Donna Smith 623-556-9535 [rms1524@cox.net](mailto:rms1524@cox.net) for details.

Trips coming up in November, 2007, will be to McCormick Ranch Lakes, Gilbert Water Ranch and Painted Rock. These trips will appear in the October newsletter.

## Calendar of Monthly Meetings...

**Location: Auditorium, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street  
(one block south of Peoria Ave. & 59th Ave. intersection) Time: 6:30 p.m. for socializing and  
7 p.m. for the start of the meeting and program**

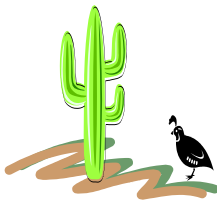
September 12, 2007—Theona Vyvial, Pat and Ken Phillips : Birding in Ecuador

October 10, 2007—George Wall: Birding the Pantanal & Iguacu Falls (Brazil & Argentina)

November 14, 2007—Barb Winterfield: Birding in Florida

December 12, 2007—"Hope Takes Wings" DVD Video

**Other Dates of Interest** September 5, 2007, 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**