



# Gambel's Tales

The Newsletter of the Sonoran Audubon Society

Volume 4 Issue 8

April 2003

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BIRDING IN ARIZONA

By Sam Campana

VP & Executive Director, Audubon Arizona

Governor Napolitano twice last week related in speeches "...Arizona is going to pay more attention to bird watching as a tourism niche and ... [she] appreciates the economic impact of those visitors".

This did not happen by accident. The Office of Tourism had reached out (I think largely as a result of a state office for Audubon being established and our initial meetings) and created an Arizona Watchable Wildlife and Tourism Association. I am acting as Treasurer of that group – mostly to be on their Executive Committee and have an impact on the decisions made. All of our Chapters have been invited to participate and several do. The new Deputy Director of Tourism appointed by the Governor is a long-time dear friend and also joined last year at my Birdathon. She is eager to go down to the Research Ranch and I'll be certain that happens.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service did a survey in 2001 to document the impact of bird and wildlife watching in Arizona. The study also surveyed hunters and fishers – so this was just a small part of a bigger study. But the bottom line is (and was accurately portrayed in the recent Arizona Tourism in the Sunday Republic):

***Birdwatching is bigger than golf as a Tourism and Economic Impact in Southern Arizona.***

***Bird watching by survey accounts for as many visitors as golf in all of Arizona.***

(We choose golf only to illustrate – because when business people and public policy makers think of golf, they think of it as an industry, big impact, lots of visitors, big presence in Arizona. THAT is how we want to position bird watching, wildlife and habitat appreciation. People come to SEE our unique desert habitat, our rich riparian areas, and the largest stand of pine in the West AND the birds and wildlife that live in them. Very clean, non-consumptive, largely an affluent group with discretionary time and income.

(Continued on Page 2)

## At our next meeting....

Wednesday April, 9 at 6:30 p.m.

“Birding the Salt River”

By

Mike Rupp

Over the last two years, Maricopa AS member Michael Rupp undertook two tasks simultaneously- writing the new birding guide, *Guide to 101 Birding Sites, Phoenix*, and producing a birding video, *Birding the Salt/Gila River*, which highlights a few of the birding sites and species along the western and eastern reaches of the Salt/Gila River.

The book has been available for nearly 6 months, and is selling well in local stores, and the ABA website. Mike will be bringing books to the video presentation for sale to those who haven't gotten a copy yet, and 40% of all book sales will go to the Sonoran Audubon chapter, so this is an opportunity to get a signed book and benefit your Audubon chapter.

The video program runs 58 minutes, and covers several river sites with beautiful landscape scenes, some time-lapse coverage, and about 80 species of common to uncommon birds that can be found in this riparian habitat and adjacent farm fields. The emphasis is more upon the artistic side of the natural environment, though most species are named for the benefit of new birders. Over the course of a year and a half, Mike has captured various species and behaviors that are both informative and entertaining, and brought them all together in this new video program. Ultimately, it is hoped that the program will be rescripted and reedited with much more material for submission to local TV stations, in collaboration with the AZ Game & Fish Dept., and the Maricopa Audubon Society.

The presentation is something of a departure from the more common slide shows that we're all accustomed to, and illustrates birds in action. All video work was done on professional video equipment, with a 40x camera lens allowing really long shots that might otherwise be impossible. Following the presentation, Mike will answer questions about equipment, shooting techniques, and bird species, for those who might have questions.

(Continued from Page 1)

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BIRDING IN ARIZONA**

Exactly the visitor that Arizona wants to come here!)

### ***This is a very powerful image and message!***

One and one half million U.S. residents participated in wildlife watching in Arizona in 2001. Almost half were visitors or Arizonans away from home!

Over two million total trips with an average of two days (but a total of 7 days per participant) so 4 ½ million days were spent wildlife watching in Arizona in 2001.

The survey showed that 593,000 of the visitors (about one-third) came to birdwatch, about 100,000 more than came to just watch large land mammals – though happily most responded they are doing both!

Over a million Arizonans participate in wildlife watching activities around their home. The survey broke out “Birds” specifically and the number was 771,000 said they birdwatch within a mile of their home. 860,000 Arizona residents feed wild birds or other wildlife (accounts for the factoid I read that said birdseed is a bigger seller for Purina than cat and dog food combined.)

Of the over million Arizona birdwatchers, 58,000 keep birding life lists. It reports that 853,000 can identify between 1-20 species and 193,000 can identify 21-40 bird species. They estimate that over 84,000 people can identify more than that!

Lest you think that these numbers are just people who live in rural Arizona and interact with wildlife as a part of their daily life in nature, here is the breakdown:

Only 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the respondents said they were “rural” – the rest are “urban”. Importantly, though, much of this activity took place in the rural areas of Arizona – places most in need of the economic stimulus. They were equally divided by gender. The highest numbered surveyed were in the 35-44 years of age category – although except for teens – the age categories were all about equal: over a half million in each.

About one-tenth were Hispanic or non-white. Three-quarters have college education and over half of the visitors are college graduates. The annual household income was \$50-75,000 the highest category, with \$55,000 being about the median income for residents, \$66,000 for visitors, although about a million respondents would not report in this category.

The Expenditures in Arizona by U.S. residents wildlife watching in Arizona:

\$820,718,000 – yes, that’s right, almost a Billion dollars! The average per spender is \$500 for the trip (food, lodging, transportation) and \$591 for equipment and other expenditures (binoculars, scopes, film, cameras, lenses, packs, special clothing, bird food, birdhouses, guides).

The total economic effect from 2001 watchable wildlife recreation in Arizona was estimated to be \$1.5 Billion (\$1.1 billion by residents and \$434.7 by non-residents). In the last ten years, expenditures in Arizona have more than doubled (\$410.9 million in 1991). These numbers take into account retail sales, salaries and wages of the 15,000+ workers, with tax revenues state sales and state and federal income taxes of \$135 million. These numbers do not have a “multiplier” incorporated.

These are very powerful numbers. They document the claim that birding is the fastest growing pastime in America. As the population in America matures, and our sensitivity to conservation, preservation of the environment grows as a culture, more and more people are attracted to the educational aspects, serenity, the sensitivity, the affordability and the health benefits of bird watching.

### **John Flicker**

#### **President, The National Audubon Society**

Dear Audubon Family:

In the days ahead, there will be much uncertainty and concern as the war in Iraq unfolds. Please take time for yourself and your family, when needed, and time to talk with your friends and fellow employees about your thoughts and feelings.

Remember, too, that what you do at Audubon is important. People turn to nature in times of difficulty for comfort and healing. America is a beautiful place and our work to ensure that we may all enjoy that beauty is essential and admirable.

Yesterday, for the second time in two years, the Senate voted against opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Success on this issue is a tribute to the dedication of the entire Audubon Family at the local, state and national levels.

Audubon's mission is one of hopefulness. "Protecting Our Great Natural Heritage" is at the heart and soul of what we do.

Thank you for all you do each and every day to help us realize that mission.

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I thought it was important to share this letter from John Flicker with all of you. I announced at the March meeting that all of us have to be extremely vigilant with what the administration will be doing with our environment while most of us will be concerned with what's happening in Iraq. Let's not let them blindsides us with anti-environmental programs!

## A message from your president...

I hope many of you can make it to the meeting on April 9. The SAS board will have completed updating our by-laws and a vote the membership will vote to approve them. Of course, if any of you find anything you want changed a vote can take place on the change. There will be enough copies of the by-laws so that everyone can examine them. A board member will explain the reason for each change.

There will also be complete copies of the Hassayampa River Preserve, Goals, Objectives and Criteria, Final Report dated February 20, 2003. There is a portion of the report on page four of this newsletter. We hope to have someone from the committee explain the report.

I hope many of you have a chance to thank Eleanor Campbell for the fine job she has done as field trip chair person. Also, if any of you have any suggestions for future trips feel free to contact Eleanor. When I see those of you who will be at the April meeting I'll give a report on the Colorado trip. Also, It's not too late to think about going on the New Mexico trip. It promises to be a wonderful trip. There are two cars going with room for two people in each car. Contact Eleanor if you are interested in going.

There are only two more meetings and we'll be off for the summer break. The program committee will be meeting to plan the programs for next year. If any of you have any suggestions for future programs be sure to contact Andrée Tarby at 480-948-1074 or e-mail at: [atarby@cox.net](mailto:atarby@cox.net)

I hope to see many of you at the April meeting.

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

## Join Sonoran Audubon Society.....

New Adult or Family membership: \$20.00

Seniors and Students: \$15.00

Renewal fee for Students and Seniors: \$15.00

Mailed Newsletter subscription : \$8.00

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

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

## Sonoran Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

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

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

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

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

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

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## More on the Agua Fria Monument

By Dwayne Fink

The Spring Count of birds on the Agua Fria National Monument will be conducted the week of 14 April (Monday) through 19 April (Saturday). Those who were on past counts have already been alerted. If you would like to get involved, email me at [edna.fink@asu.edu](mailto:edna.fink@asu.edu) or call at 480-967-9202 or call Josh Burns 602-468-3002 e-mail: [josh\\_a\\_burns@yahoo.com](mailto:josh_a_burns@yahoo.com). The winter count was fun and exciting. The spring count should be even better, what with the migrants coming through and the beginning of the nesting season.

Sonoran Audubon Society is doing a great service to our community by compiling extended lists of the birds that frequent Arcosanti and for the entire Agua Fria National Monument. We've finished Arcosanti, but the AFNM count will continue for at least another year. It's a hoot, and we need your help.

We are thinking about doing a similar study for Rio Salado – the project to restore the Salt River through Phoenix, and where National Audubon is contemplating a Nature Center. You could be in on the ground floor on this one. If interested, let Dwayne or Josh know.

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I've said this before. If you've never been on a count it's a lot of fun. Don't worry about your expertise you'll have plenty of help. You can gain experience pinning down those tricky species.

March 13, 2003

Dear Friends of the Hassayampa River Preserve,

In our last correspondence about the Hassayampa River Preserve we informed you of our decision to take a step back before moving any further in looking for a partner to work with us and serve you at Hassayampa.

To clarify our goals for the preserve and also to engage our members and volunteers in the process, we created an advisory committee made up of a cross-section of Conservancy members, volunteers and community representatives. They have been meeting with us since January to help create specific goals for conservation of the preserve, environmental education, etc., and criteria against which we can evaluate potential partnerships. A document outlining these goals is now complete and available to you (see attachment), and to other potential partner organizations that have indicated, or may indicate, an interest including the Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

We wish to express our special thanks to the advisory group for the dedication and creative thinking they brought to this process. They have provided an invaluable service towards our goal of building consensus about what we all want to see happen at the preserve.

I am also pleased to report that the good will and dedication of our volunteers continues to allow us to keep the Visitor Center open as their schedules permit. The preserve trails are open from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Wednesday through Sunday, and a self-serve kiosk offers trail guides, maps and a sign-in register.

Thank you for your continuing interest in helping us protect the Hassayampa River Preserve and the lands and waters that give it life.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Graham

State Director, The Nature Conservancy

## **Hassayampa River Preserve**

### **Goals, Objectives and Criteria**

#### **Final Report**

**February 20, 2003**

#### **Challenge**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has adopted a framework to fulfill its mission to protect the diversity of life on Earth. Called *Conservation by Design*, this strategy will result in a scientifically sound “greenprint” for lands and waters that need to be conserved for future generations in Arizona, the U.S. and around the world. It requires that we take action on a scale that is large enough to make a difference and, that we achieve **tangible results in a time frame that matters.**

The Conservancy has historically focused on buying unique lands and waters that are home to rare species. Given the accelerated pace at which we are losing these lands and waters that provide habitat for birds, fish and all life (including people), we have added new tools to our protection “toolkit” and are engaging new partners. The job is simply too large to do alone. The Conservancy, like all other organizations, has limited resources. So we looked among the many important things we do to determine which might be done as well or better by partners while achieving our primary goal to conserve land and water for all life on Earth.

The Arizona chapter is moving forward carefully to identify opportunities that will allow us to achieve our larger goals while continuing the important work we do at places like the Hassayampa River Preserve. Possibilities being considered include development of new streams of income, creation of an endowment, and transfer of management responsibilities for the preserve to a partner organization. Our challenge is to preserve these resources while retaining the opportunity for the public to learn and recreate at Hassayampa.

#### **Purpose**

The Chapter is pursuing opportunities for collaboration or partnership with another organization or organizations that can help it achieve its goals in the areas listed below. The Chapter wants the input of TNC members and HRP stakeholders to confirm appropriate goals and objectives and to suggest criteria that can be used to evaluate potential partnerships. An ad hoc group of members was formed to help TNC set goals, objectives, and criteria for evaluating potential partners. The following goals are all considered important to meet the challenge. However, the primary conservation goal is the most important. When evaluating potential partners, this goal and its related objectives must prevail.

#### **Conservation**

##### **Goal:**

Maintain perennial flow, aquatic and riparian habitats, and the intact desert-to-river landscape of the Hassayampa River Preserve to support a wide array of fish, wildlife and plants.

##### **Objectives:**

1. Ensure adequate stewardship of preserve land.
2. Pursue long-term initiatives to protect land and water in the Hassayampa watershed in collaboration with private and public interests.

##### **Criteria:**

1. Demonstrate land conservation capability.
  2. Restrict water use to avoid impact to natural hydrologic systems.
  3. Possess resources to perform monitoring tasks (as specified by TNC).
- (Continued on Page 5)

## Catering to the Neighbors

by Ann McDermott

Over the years, one of my favorite wild neighbors has been the Western Screech Owl. I've had a number of close encounters with it and look forward to more. I hope the human population growth in my area won't preclude that. I had often heard the "bouncing ball" call of the owl long before I knew who it belonged to. Especially on nights of the full moon, the calling would go on for extended periods of time. Then I heard Troy Corman imitating a Western Screech Owl while trying to bring up small birds from the bushes during a birding outing, and I finally knew my neighbor's identity.

I've been fortunate to have a few good sightings too. Several times while out on a walk I have passed nearby and been pleased when it didn't flush, but sat still and watched me through eyes closed to the merest slits so that the bright yellow of its irises wouldn't beam right through its attempt at camouflage. And that camouflage is just about perfect too.

The cryptic gray/black/white plumage is tough to see up against the flaky bark of a mesquite trunk or even the gravel base of a driveway, where it once sat while my dogs walked right by it without noticing. I marveled how they had not seen it, then marveled again when it continued to sit still as I walked by, only a few feet distant. It sat as still as a garden gnome, as if it were perfectly safe perched in a tree, instead of perfectly vulnerable, perched in my driveway. Without a doubt, its absolute motionlessness is what saved it from my dog's attention. Only about seven inches tall, I really did wonder if my eyes were deceiving me.

Another time a human neighbor and her two-year old son paid a visit. They walked down my patio to my back door, passing by an owl sitting silent and still on the edge of a planter. I have no explanation for these rare occasions of boldness on the Screech Owl's part, but we're all glad to have shared a moment with this tiny member of our community.

A neighbor friend of mine is a carpenter, and when Kenn Kaufman published his specs for a Western Screech Owl box, I cut out the article and took it over to him. My Christmas present last year was the finished owl box, hung in a Palo Verde near my home. I do hope someone takes up residence this spring, though I haven't seen evidence of that yet. THAT'S a family I'd love to have next-door.

If anyone is interested in having a Western Screech Owl box made to Ken Kaufman's specifications, my friend, Bob Allen, can be reached at 623-584-1502. He's a talented carpenter, so if you have the specs for any owl box or bird house, he can make it for you. Actually, if you want a wall unit for your living room, he can make that too. But it's the owl boxes that will bring in the most fascinating neighbors you could ever wish to have.

Enjoy spring and all those community members nesting in and around your house!

## Hassayampa River Preserve (Continued)

4. Possess resources to perform required maintenance of preserve land, e.g. fences and firebreaks, control of invasive non-native exotics. (Could include a portion or all of the preserve).

5. Demonstrate experience in coordination with relevant outside land management and resource agencies.

### Environmental Education

#### Goal:

Provide opportunities for environmental education and public outreach.

#### Objectives:

1. Increase public awareness in Wickenburg and Central Arizona about the values and conservation needs of riparian systems in general and the HRP in particular.

2. Increase community support for the primary conservation goal.

3. Support opportunities to build a strong conservation ethic in current and future generations through programs both on and off the preserve.

#### Criteria:

1. Demonstrate experience in and capability for providing quality environmental education programs for children and adults. Demonstrate experience in riparian and desert ecology and ornithology. This experience will be measured in: numbers of students, range of groups worked with, repeat business, range of appropriate professional expertise, geographic area of focus, access to appropriate equipment and supplies, and other as appropriate.

2. Maintain existing legal and foundation-related commitments.

3. Demonstrate ability to tailor message /strategy to HRP's identified constituencies.

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If you would like to have a complete copy of the report contact the editor.

## West Valley Birding Festival Needs Volunteers

The Arizona Game & Fish Dept has recently started to organize an event to be held in the west valley with the goals of :

- acquainting residents with west valley bird species and birding sites,
- fostering an appreciation for all habitats and animal species, and
- bringing an educational conservation message to the area.

In addition, the event will provide typical birding information, many displays, and perhaps seminars, for the local birding community.

The first event is to be held April 10th at Estrella Community College, with legislators and City officials in attendance. This event will not be open to the public this year, but will be primarily to acquaint local politicians and officials from four cities with the goals and mission of the festival, and finalize planning for next year's event.

There will be several displays from various organizations, a few speakers, a video presentation of the "Birding the Salt River" program, and field trips on chartered buses to three sites on the Salt River- Mack Lake, Tres Rios, and 115th Ave. Experienced birders are needed to lead these field trips, give background information on birding, and help participants find and identify species at the sites. Volunteers should bring binoculars, and a scope if they possess one, to allow the participants to view selected birds. Volunteers are needed from 7:30 AM to about Noon. There are currently about five birders who have volunteered, and there is a need for about seven more.

Come and be part of an event that promises to become a highlight for birders, and an important vehicle for local conservation and preservation of habitats in the west valley.

To volunteer, please contact :

Mike Rupp at rupp@mindspring.com, or 602-277-0439

Tom Hildebrandt from AZGF at  
THildebrandt@gf.state.az.us, or 480-981-9309 X221

Sonoran Audubon member Daniela Yellan,  
dyellan@aol.com, or 602-942-7791

## Spring 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 April 12, 2003**

**Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area**

**Leader: John Gunn 480-488-6601**

This Conservation Area in Cave Creek, managed by the Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department, is designed to protect and enhance the conservation areas, archeological and natural resources while providing recreational opportunities. Explore the cottonwood riparian area with a leader who knows the scope of the biotic diversity of the area. Warbler migration should be well underway. There is a \$3.00 per adult admission fee. Take Spur Cross Road for 3.5 miles from Cave Creek Road.

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

**Tuesday April 15, 2003**

**Lake Pleasant/Morgan City Wash**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

**e-mail: rms15247@cs.com**

This is a riparian area at Lake Pleasant Regional Park that the public can't use without a ranger present. We'll meet Park Ranger Terry Gerber there for a walk. There is water in the wash that comes from underground springs. Donna Smith, who is a volunteer at the park education center, will take us to spots where birds are known to appear. There is \$5.00 per car fee for admission.

Difficulty: 2 Morning only, but bring lunch if you want to stay and enjoy the park facilities.

This is a Birders Anonymous and Sonoran Audubon combined trip. Meet at Bell Recreation Center, corner of Boswell and Hutton Dr., Sun City, to LEAVE at 7:30 a.m.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

## Spring 2003 Field Trips Continued

**Wednesday April 23, 2003**

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

**Leader: Lorraine Thompson 623-546-2103**

The Nature Conservancy's Preserve on the Hassayampa River near Wickenburg is still open to the public. The trails, maintained by volunteers, continually change due to flooding, but always provide access to a great variety of birds. The endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher and the Red-shouldered Hawk have nested there for several years. Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole, and many species of vireos and warblers are seen at this time of year. There is a \$5.00 donation per adult suggested for TNC non-members. Difficulty: 1

Morning only, but bring lunch if you want to enjoy the picnic area later. Meet at the Preserve on Route 60 about three miles southeast of Wickenburg, about 50 miles west of Phoenix at 8:30 a.m.

**Saturday May 3, 2003**

**Agua Fria National Monument**

**Leader: Josh Burns 602-468-3002**

**josh\_a\_burns@yahoo.com**

SAS has adopted the new Agua Fria National Monument and has initiated a number of projects that reflect a focus on the Agua Fria River. Volunteers have nearly completed a bird list for Arcosanti which lies in the monument. Others are working with BLM to create an ongoing seasonal and distribution checklist for the entire monument with four major bird counts scheduled. To see some of the monument and learn more about the area birds, join our society's treasurer, who has been involved in saving the varied habitat, on this field trip.

Difficulty: 2+ Contact leader for meeting time and place.

**Friday May 16, 2003**

**Camp Verde State Park/Verde River**

**Leader: Donna Smith 623-556-9535**

**rms15247@cs.com**

Visit the Verde River area during spring migration. Explore Camp Verde Park where there are lots of trees and birds. Last year the leader found a nest of Common Black Hawks there.

Difficulty: 1 Bring Lunch.

This is a Birders Anonymous and Sonoran Audubon combined trip. Meet at Bell Recreation Center, corner of Boswell and Hutton Dr., Sun City, to leave at 6:30 a.m. OR call leader to meet enroute.

**Friday May 30-Sunday June 1, 2003**

**Grey Feathers Lodge**

**Silver City, New Mexico**

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

**ercamp@juno.com**

Grey Feathers Lodge advertises itself as "A Birder's Paradise." It is a long rustic building nestled on the side of a mountain in the heart of the Gila Wilderness, 24 miles north of Silver City, N.M., at 6,000 feet. There's a stream across the road, a small lake a few miles away and abundant birding sites nearby. One of the greatest attractions at the lodge is the incredible numbers of hummingbirds that migrate and nest there. During the peak of migration in July it's estimated that they feed 5,000 birds a day!

The cost "in season" is \$49.95 per room double occupancy which includes Full breakfast. Dinners with homemade cakes and pies are available.

The leader will scout out good birding sites prior to the weekend. There is also a local resident who does birding tours as a business. There are only 14 rooms, so make your reservations now if you're interested. Some birds seen from the lodge porch: Montezuma Quail, Piñon Jay, Spotted Owl, Red-faced Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Calliope Hummingbird. Difficulty: 1

**Monday June 16, 2003**

**P.I.R. and El Mirage Pond**

**Leader: Marshall Esty 623 977-1637**

**mne@juno.com**

The marshes near noisy Phoenix International Raceway still provide refuge for shore and water birds. Walk on the old road to PIR to look for resident Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, egrets, ducks and nesting warblers. Look for raptors and field birds enroute to the ephemeral El Mirage Pond, if it's still there..

Difficulty: 1 Morning only.

This is a combined Birders Anonymous and Sonoran Audubon trip. Meet at Sun Bowl Parking lot on 107th Ave. just south of Peoria Ave. in Sun City to LEAVE at 6:30 a.m.

**Thursday-Saturday July 10-12, 2003**

**Flagstaff**

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

**ercamp@juno.com**

This get-away in "under-birded" Flagstaff area will include a tour of Kachina Wetlands led by expert birder, author, and past president of Northern Arizona Audubon, Frank Brandt, on Friday morning.

There will be a visit to Northern Arizona University Museum to look for chickadees, nuthatches, orioles and nesting warblers along the nature trail and an exploration of The Arboretum Saturday morning. More next month.

## 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.**

Apr 9, 2003

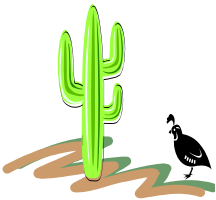
Mike Rupp "Birding the Salt River"

May 14, 2003

Judd Klement , Regional Coordinator , National Audubon Society - Public Policy,  
"Politics is for the Birds"

### Other Dates of Interest:

Apr 2, 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**