

Vermilion

FLYCATCHER

April-June 2017 | Volume 62, Number 2



2017 Year of the Hummingbird

Santa Cruz Flats—
A Great Place for Birding

Bye Bye Butter Butt

2016 Annual Report



Tucson Audubon inspires people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the environment upon which we all depend.

Tucson Audubon offers a library, nature centers, and nature shops to its members and the public, any proceeds of which benefit its programs.

Tucson Audubon Society
300 E. University Blvd. #120, Tucson, AZ 85705
520-629-0510 (voice) or 520-623-3476 (fax)
TUCSONAUDUBON.ORG

Board Officers & Directors
President—Les Corey Secretary—Deb Vath
Vice President—Mary Walker Treasurer—John Kennedy

Directors at Large
Matt Bailey, Lydia Bruening, Edward Curley, Kimberly Drew, Dave Dunford, Jesus Garcia, Tricia Gerrodette, Laurens Halsey, Kathy Jacobs, Cynthia Pruett, Nancy Young Wright

Board Committees
Conservation Chair—Chris McVie
Finance—John Kennedy
Personnel—Open
Nominating & Governance—Dave Dunford
Resource Development Committee—Kimberly Drew

Programs & Activities
Field Trips—Luke Safford 520-209-1811
Library, Membership Meetings 520-629-0510 ext 0
Rare Bird Alert—Andrew Core | Report Rare Birds 520-629-0510 ext 3

Staff (unless otherwise stated, dial 629-0510 plus extension)
Executive Director—Karen Fogas ext 7001
Finance Director—Mark Krietemeyer ext 7014
Accountant—Kim Lopez ext 7003
Director of Conservation & Research—Jonathan Horst 520-971-6238
Bird Conservation Biologist—Jennie MacFarland ext 7004
Field Crew Supervisor—Rodd Lancaster 520-256-6909
Restoration Project Manager and K-12 Youth Engagement Coordinator—Andy Bennett 520-262-1314
Field Crew—Dan Lehman
Conservation Assistant—Olya Phillips
Restoration Intern—Kari Hackney
Paton Center Coordinator—Jonathan Lutz 520-394-2340
Director of Resource Development & Strategic Operations—Keith Ashley ext 7009
Habitat at Home—Keith Ashley ext 7008
Volunteer Coordinator—Luke Safford ext 7011
Engagement Director—Jan Holder ext 7018
Conservation Policy Analyst—Open
Communications & Membership Director—Helen Kim ext 7012
Membership & Development—Diana Rosenblum ext 7002
Digital Media & Bird Conservation—Matthew Griffiths 520-971-7924
Retail Manager—Debbie Honan ext 7007
Operations & Retail Assistant—Kimberly Matsushino ext 7017

Tucson Audubon Nature Shops
300 E University Blvd #120 ext 7015
Hours: 10 AM–4 PM, Mon–Sat
Agua Caliente Park, 12325 E Roger Rd 520-760-7881
Hours: 10 AM–1:30 PM, Thu–Sat Please call to confirm hours.
Shop opens earlier and closes later during certain months.
Nature Shop space generously provided by Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

Tucson Audubon Nature Centers
Mason Center
3835 W Hardy Rd, Tucson, AZ 85742
Open most weekdays 9 AM–5 PM or when chain is down.
Paton Center for Hummingbirds
477 Pennsylvania Ave, Patagonia, AZ 85624

Vermilion Flycatcher is published quarterly. For address changes or subscription issues call 520-629-0510. Submissions are due the 1st of the month, two months before issue date. Send submissions as Microsoft Word, RTF, or plain text files to Matt Griffiths at mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org.
Coordinator—Matt Griffiths 520-971-7924
Proofreaders—Tucson Audubon staff and volunteers
Design / Layout—Melina Lew
© 2017 Tucson Audubon Society
CCL in photo credits=creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0
All photos © the photographer.

FEATURES

- 12 2017 Year of the Hummingbird
- 16 Santa Cruz Flats—A Great Place for Birding
- 18 Bye Bye Butter Butt
- 19 2016 Annual Report

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Field Trips
- 3 Events and Classes
- 4 Events Calendar
- 4 Living With Nature
- 5 News Roundup
- 13 Paton Center for Hummingbirds
- 15 Wildlife Garden Plant Profile
- 23 Birds & Business Alliance
- 23 Birding Travel from Our Business Partners
- 24 Conservation and Education News
- 28 Tucson Audubon Nature Shops
- 29 Book Review



FRONT COVER:
Grand Prize winner of the Year of the Hummingbird Photo Contest, Anna's Hummingbird by Bob Reese. A birder for over 25 years, Bob has only recently sought to photograph them. Of all the bird species he finds hummingbirds to be the most fascinating and photogenic.

COMMENTARY

A Healthy Environment Cannot Afford Rollbacks on Essential Protections

Karen Fogas, Executive Director

Tucson Audubon's Year of the Hummingbird initiative buzzed into 2017 like an Anna's Hummingbird defending its favorite feeder. This initiative has created interest among school teachers and students, the hummingbird-loving public, the media and of course, among our members! It has been fun and engaging, and the year has only just begun—stay tuned, there is much more Year of the Hummingbird to come!

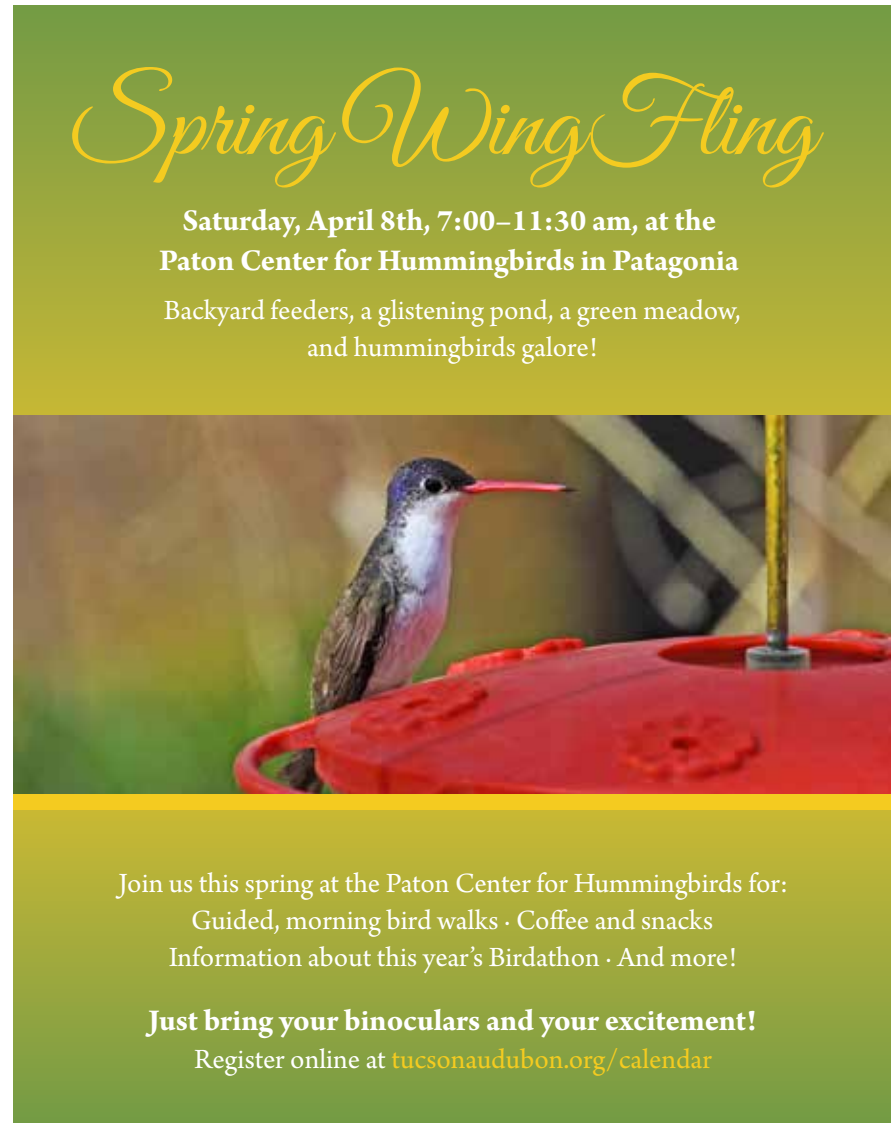
That's the bright side of the story. The dark side is the current administration's onslaught against environmental legislation, public lands, energy, climate and the Environmental Protection Agency. It is hard to reconcile the

almost daily messages decrying new threats to air quality, water quality, the diversity of species and the public lands which support them—all of which support birds.

And yet I can't believe that Americans concerned with jobs or the economy would knowingly choose smog-laden air, polluted water or to eliminate whole species from the earth. I also believe the majority would hedge their bets that climate change is real rather than a hoax. Unbridled, we know the pull of today's profits—as opposed to future values of clean air, clean water, diversity of species and lands set aside for future generations—drives business to

compromise those values—sometimes with tragic results.

We—Tucson Audubon and its members—must do all we can to reach the public with the truth. Clean air, clean water, public lands and diversity of species *already* make this country great. Pitting these values against jobs and people's well-being is a specious argument meant to distract so the bottom line profits can accrue. As the year unfolds, look for ways you can join Tucson Audubon in helping educate people on why people—and birds—depend upon these core American values and what we can do to protect them.

Spring Wing Fling

Saturday, April 8th, 7:00–11:30 am, at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia

Backyard feeders, a glistening pond, a green meadow, and hummingbirds galore!

Join us this spring at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds for:
Guided, morning bird walks · Coffee and snacks
Information about this year's Birdathon · And more!

Just bring your binoculars and your excitement!
Register online at tucsonaudubon.org/calendar

Violet-crowned Hummingbird, John Hoffman

WILL YOU JOIN TUCSON AUDUBON TODAY?

Your membership supports Tucson Audubon's efforts in:

- Conservation** We enable people to conserve our natural environment through on the ground activities
- Advocacy** We promote public policy and speak out for wild birds and their homes
- Restoration** We create sustainable wild bird habitat
- Engagement** We help people connect with wild birds

Benefits include:

- Free guided birding field trips
- 10% discount in our Nature Shops
- *Vermilion Flycatcher* news magazine
- Discounts on Tucson Audubon classes and events

All funds are used for local conservation efforts
Feel free to join using the attached envelope if this issue has one.*

You may also sign up at tucsonaudubon.com/join or call our Membership Coordinator (520) 209-1802

*Please note: Not all magazines may contain an envelope.
Lucifer Hummingbird, Bryan Holliday



TUCSON AUDUBON EVENTS AND CLASSES

FIELD TRIPS Luke Safford, Field Trip Coordinator

TUCSON AUDUBON OFFERS FIELD TRIPS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES...

El Aribabi Conservation Ranch in Northern Sonora, Mexico

June 23–25

Cost: \$60/night for lodge or \$30/night for camping; \$35 for food



Rio Cocospera, Rancho el Aribabi; Jim Rorabaugh

Looking for a low-cost Mexican birding adventure? Join Jim Rorabaugh and Kathy Cooper for a two night stay at El Aribabi Conservation Ranch along the Rio Cocospera, 35 miles south of the border in Sonora, Mexico where many of the tough to find specialty birds of SE Arizona are easier to find. Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Five-striped Sparrow, Sinaloa Wren, and Buff-collared Nightjar are expected, with Green Kingfisher, Rose-throated Becard, and White-tipped Dove as possible area specialties. Birding and naturalist walks will be conducted along the Rio Cocospera and adjoining areas where Jim says “the Yellow-billed Cuckoos are as thick as fleas!” Register online.

AND IN YOUR BACKYARD...

Sweetwater Wetlands with Field Trip Coordinator, Luke Safford

Every Wednesday: April 7 a.m.; May–August 6 a.m.

Come join us as we explore the wilds of Sweetwater Wetlands and await the return of nesting Tropical Kingbirds, passing through neo-tropical species, and resident Green Herons. Bobcats, Javelinas, Raccoons, and Coyotes make appearances too. Diversity of bird life is the draw (last May 120 species were recorded here), but the company of local and out-of-town birders always starts the day off right! No prior registration required.

Year of the Hummingbird Field Trips led by Karen Krebs: This Year of the Hummingbird excursion is a “can’t miss” for birders interested in getting to know some of the area’s most dazzling birds. Led by hummingbird expert, Karen Krebs, we will visit popular hummingbird sites around the area and grow in hummingbird knowledge. Register online.

Dates: Saturday, May 13, Hummingbird Safari

Saturday, June 10, Hummingbird Safari (Member Priority)



Sweetwater Wetlands field trip, Luke Safford

MORE UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:

(To register, for more info, and to see more field trips, visit tucsonaudubon.org/fieldtrips.)

Wednesday, April 26, Avra Valley Wastewater Treatment Ponds: Shorebird Migration for Beginners—Join John Higgins to see which sandpipers, plovers and other wading birds are headed north. There will be a scope and ID guides.

Saturday, May 6 & May 20, Mason Center/ Arthur Pack Park—An introduction to birdwatching basics and our Mason Center. Feeder watching at the center and a stroll to Arthur Pack Park for some 20 to 30 more species. Great for families. Loaner binoculars available.

Tuesday, May 16, Rock Corral Canyon (Member Priority)—West of Tumacacori, another hotspot that flies under the radar in birding circles. Breeding season has just begun and there is the opportunity for Black-capped Gnatcatcher.

Saturday, May 20, Birds & Reptiles at Sabino—An avian/herp combo trip led by field trip coordinator, Luke Safford, and co-founder of Advocates for Snake Protection, Melissa Amarello.

Tuesday, May 30, Pinal Mountain—A journey up through a variety of habitats and transition zones gives us the opportunity for many different species from Blue Grosbeaks to Red-breasted Nuthatches.



Magnificent Hummingbird, ©bryanjsmith

UPCOMING CLASSES

BIRDING BY HABITAT Taught by Lynn Hassler

Southeast Arizona offers such excellent birding opportunities in part because of its variety of habitats. Experience the fun of birding in three different natural environments, Sonoran desert, riparian, and sky island. Maximum 12 people.

Field trips: **Saturday, April 8, 2017 – Catalina State Park, 7:00–11:00 a.m.**

Saturday, April 15, 2017 – San Pedro River, 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 22, 2017 – Mt. Lemmon, 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$175 members, \$210 non-members

BIRDING BY EAR Taught by Homer Hansen

Learn to use your ears as much as (if not more than) your eyes while birding your favorite destinations. This class will delve into the world of bird vocalizations and give you a framework for learning the voices of our master singers. The evening classroom session will introduce you to sonograms and vocalization types, as well as work on comparisons between similar sounding Arizona species. The field trip will give students a chance to use these skills in the field. Vocalizations will be recorded and brought back to the classroom to analyze.

Classroom session: **Thursday, April 13, 2017; 5:30–8:30 p.m.**

Location: **Tucson Audubon Main Office University and 5th Ave, Tucson**

Field trip: **Saturday, April 15, 2017; 7 a.m.–2 p.m.; Location: Catalina State Park and Sweetwater Wetlands**

Cost: \$110 member, \$145 non-member

Sign up online at: tucsonaudubon.org/education



Lucy's Warbler, Lois Manowitz

SEARCH FOR ELEGANT TROGONS IN SOUTHEAST ARIZONA

Spring is just around the corner and soon the male Elegant Trogon’s barking call will be echoing through the canyons of our mountain ranges. Tucson Audubon and Borderland Tours partner every year on the only systematic surveys of this iconic bird of the sky islands and we need your help to find all the trogons tucked away this May and June. If you are interested and available to help with the following surveys please sign up using our easy online survey at tinyurl.com/trogon. More information at aziba.org.

2017 Elegant Trogon Surveys

Sunday May 7 – Atascosa Highlands (near Rio Rico)

Saturday May 27 – Patagonia Mountains (near Patagonia)

Sunday May 28 – Santa Rita Mountains (near Green Valley)

Saturday June 3 – Huachuca Mountains (near Sierra Vista)

Sunday June 4 – Chiricahua Mountains (near Portal)



JOIN THE GLOBAL BIG DAY IN ARIZONA, 13 MAY

If you like to get out in the spring sunshine and count birds, you should sign up to participate in the annual Global Big Day (GBD, formerly the North American Migration Count) on Saturday, May 13. The GBD is coordinated in Arizona by Arizona Field Ornithologists and supported by local Audubon societies, local bird clubs, and other organizations. With hundreds of volunteers in the field we will strive to get a “snapshot” of the progress and character of spring migration, and most of all have fun! You can be flexible about the amount of time you spend in the field or you can just sit in your yard and count birds. The last three years we’ve see more than 300 species, and every year we discover unexpected rarities.

The count is organized by county, and if you want to volunteer, check out the list of county coordinators at azfo.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- April 7:** 30th Annual Birdathon starts
- April 8:** Spring Wing Fling, Paton Center
- April 8:** Birding By Habitat begins
- April 10:** Living With Nature (Tucson)
- April 13:** Birding By Ear begins
- April 29:** Hummingbird Blitz
- May 9:** Living with Nature (Marana)
- May 13:** Hummingbird Blitz
- May 15:** Living With Nature (Tucson)
- May 20:** Living With Nature (Oro Valley)

TUCSON AUDUBON NEWS ROUNDUP



Central Tucson yard landscaped for birds which provides food, water and shelter. This yard has successfully hosted nesting Curve-billed Thrashers, Gila Woodpeckers, Verdins and Northern Mockingbirds! Photo by Matt Griffiths

Hummingbirds – Gems of Arizona’s Important Bird Areas

Jennie MacFarland, Bird Conservation Biologist

Arizona’s designated Important Bird Areas are habitats that have been identified as the most vital for supporting our native birds now and in the future. It is quite common for an IBA to have a star bird species such as Joshua Tree IBA near Wickieup, AZ which has abundant Bendire’s Thrashers or Pinaleño Mountains IBA with its many nesting pairs of Mexican Spotted Owls. For many of our IBAs though, the undeniable showstoppers are hummingbirds. These tiny birds have lots of class and sass and as southeast Arizona is especially rich in species. Our IBAs are often some of the best places to encounter these hovering gems.

Tracking Tucson’s Birds – The Tucson Bird Count

Jennie MacFarland, Bird Conservation Biologist

You can help make Tucson a more bird friendly through the Tucson Bird Count.



Bird supporting landscaping at the Tucson Audubon Paton Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia.

Tucson Audubon has launched the exciting Bringing Birds Home initiative that focuses on encouraging Tucson residents to create bird friendly habitats in their yards. This project has been influenced by the Tucson Bird Count

(TBC). The TBC is a citizen science driven urban bird count that will survey the birds of Tucson in its 17th annual count this spring. For the past 16 years birders in Tucson have volunteered their time and skill to document what birds occur on each of over 800 point counts throughout the Tucson Valley and Saguaro National Park east and west. The spring count will occur again April 15–May 15 on any morning that is convenient for the counter. There are many routes available and we need your help. If you are a birder able to identify Tucson’s common birds by sight and sound you are qualified to help with the Tucson Bird Count.

As urban space envelops more and more natural habitat we need to better share our living space with native birds and other wildlife. Helping with this bird count is an important way that you can help maintain the foundation of the Bringing Birds Home initiative. If you are interested in volunteering for the Tucson Bird Count please email Jennie at jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org.



Magnificent Hummingbird, Brittany O’Conner

Madera Canyon within Santa Rita Mountains IBA is one of the more famous places to see hummingbirds in the United States and is a wonderful place to visit this spring. The native nectar producing plants and feeders made available to the public by several of the lodges within the canyon make watching these tiny birds even easier and more accessible within the canyon.

When visiting this IBA this spring, you can expect to see abundant Broad-billed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds with the occasional Magnificent squeezing its large frame onto a feeder. Rarities are almost to be expected in this lush sky island habitat where a Plain-capped Starthroat or White-eared Hummingbird could make guest appearances. Last spring the highly prized Berylline Hummingbird was seen for several days in the canyon, to the delight of many birders. Being so close to Tucson and Green Valley, the Santa Rita Mountains are worth several visits this spring. ■



Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Don Faulkner. The star of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek IBA which includes the Paton Center for Hummingbirds.

TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY’S NINTH ANNUAL GALA



An Evening Celebration of Arizona’s Birds and the Arts

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, October 20, 2017

Living with Nature Monthly Program

Living With Nature is Tucson Audubon’s seasonal offering of free programs that seek to educate and entertain. Experts in their fields present on a variety of topics related to bird biology and ecology; global and regional birding hot spots; and conservation issues that affect birds, other wildlife and their habitats. This season features several speakers in honor of the Year of the Hummingbird! We have three program locations: Tucson, Green Valley and Oro Valley. Go to tucsonaudubon.org/lwn for more details and speaker bios.

TUCSON

Mondays at 6:00 pm
Pima Community College Downtown
Amethyst Room, 1255 N. Stone Ave.

April 10

Feathers and the Native American
with Robert Mesta

Native Americans, throughout their history have maintained a special relationship with the birds in their environment. The donning of feathers is a celebration of an ancient connection, a spiritual communication. The 20th century brought a series of laws, land reforms and societal changes that threatened this relationship and triggered the decline of both Native American cultures and the birds they revere. Robert will present this little known but compelling story and what is being done to reverse this scenario.



Feathers, Keith Lyndaker-Schlabach

May 15

Holistic Hummingbird Hosting
with Sheri Williamson

A bottle of sugar water is all you need to attract hummingbirds to your porch or patio, but these fast birds need more than “fast food” to survive. A few simple tweaks to your feeders and garden can help promote the health of both your hummingbird visitors and the native ecosystems on which their survival depends.

GREEN VALLEY

Saturdays at 10:00 am
Desert Hills Social Center
2980 S. Camino Del Sol

April 1

Hummingbirds in a Changing World
with Susan Wethington

What are the challenges that hummingbirds face and what can we do to help? Changing land use patterns, habitat loss, and changing climate conditions are significant drivers that affect hummingbirds’ ability to survive and thrive. The Hummingbird Monitoring Network is working with multiple universities and organizations to understand and predict how hummingbirds will respond to these changes. In this presentation, Dr. Wethington will present information about hummingbirds, some recent research results that suggest how hummingbirds may respond to these changes, and offer suggestions on how each of us can help hummingbirds thrive.

ORO VALLEY

Saturdays at 12:00 pm
Western National Parks Association
12880 N. Vistoso Village Dr.

May 20

Protecting Raptors from Electrocution
with Jim Bennett, Larry Weigel, Starlight Noel-Armenta

We will be presenting TEP’s program which is a partnership with the University of Arizona and consists of a proactive approach to providing raptor friendly structures while ensuring safe and reliable electric service to customers and complying with federal regulations.

MARANA

6:00 pm
Pima Community College, Northwest Campus,
Room #G105, 7600 N Shannon Rd

May 9

Birds, Riparian Restoration, and the El Rio Preserve

with Janine Spencer
The Town of Marana is moving forward with riparian restoration plans for the El Rio Preserve, AKA Coachline Gravel Pit. This area is a haven for birds with 223 species seen. Come learn about the restoration plans that include ponds, an arroyo feature, removal of some invasive plants, and planting/seeding natives.



Rufous Hummingbird, Lois Manowitz



Harris’s Hawks, Brandon Caswell

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS BRING NEW LIFE TO TUCSON AUDUBON

Tucson Audubon thrives because of its volunteers. In 2016 377 volunteers provided 9,627 hours of dedicated work to almost every aspect of the organization’s mission. Two rising stars among those volunteers are surprisingly young when we consider the breadth and depth of their contributions

DORIAN ESCALANTE



Dorian Escalante is a Jack-of-all-Trades when it comes to his volunteer work with Tucson Audubon. He conducts bird surveys with the conservation team out in the field, teaches kids (and some adults) the basics of drawing birds at **Tucson Meet Your Birds**, regularly co-leads outings for other youth through the **Trekking Rattlers Birding and Hiking Club** as well as the new **Kids Birding in the Parks** program, contributes to the **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** and also supported the **CBC for Kids** last year. Most recently he has been volunteering as a backyard bird guide at the **Paton Center for Hummingbirds** in Patagonia.

It makes complete sense that Dorian would explore every nook and cranny of Tucson Audubon’s work with such gusto. Having just turned 15, he is himself a multi-layered birder and aspires to be both a bird artist (just have a look at his work) and a professional bird guide. “My work as a guide in the Paton yard is really fun,” Dorian explains. “Many of the people I work with there are older. ‘Hey, you have really good eyes!’ or, ‘Don’t go anywhere, we need you here to help us identify these birds,’ they tell me.”

Paton Center Coordinator Jonathan Lutz has noticed the same relationship. “He fulfills the role of volunteer docent with enthusiasm

and a great depth of knowledge for both local birds and butterflies. Our primary constituent base—birders and casual visitors of retirement age—respond well to Dorian’s youthful presence and willingness to help find and identify new species.”

Tucson Audubon Board Member and youth-education volunteer, Deb Vath, emphasizes that Dorian serves as a great role model for other kids, like those who participate in the monthly **Trekking Rattler** field trips. “He’s into birds? Then I’m into birds!” is the response she has noticed. Deb explains further: “He’s important for the kids around him and the adults as well. His birding-by-ear skills are phenomenal, and he loves to quiz you!”

Dorian is now studying birds on an international scale. He won 2nd place for photography and a superior rating for his drawing at the 2016 National Youth Ministries Fine Arts Festival in Louisville, Kentucky, despite the fact that he has never had formal art lessons.

Dorian’s mom, Glenda Voyles, explains that she “absolutely loves the opportunities he gets working with Tucson Audubon. He’s exposed to seasoned birders, he contributes to scientific efforts, he gets to go places he would never have known about, he learns so much—and he has a blast while feeding his passion!”



Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Dorian Escalante



Anna’s Hummingbird, Dorian Escalante; Dorian won 2nd place with this photo at the 2016 National Youth Ministries Fine Arts Festival



Hooded Oriole Maia Stark



Vermilion Flycatcher, Maia Stark; Each year Maia creates a watercolor painting of a favorite bird she saw during Birdathon and then prints the painting on her thank you cards.

MAIA STARK



Maia Stark’s dream job is conducting bird surveys in the Grand Canyon on horseback. She’s concerned about climate change. She and her friend, Ollie, enjoy documenting what the local roadrunner pair near their homes in the Milagro Cohousing Community is up to—currently the feisty birds are feasting on Fig Beetle grubs. At 12 years of age, Maia clearly connects with birds and the environment. She has also connected deeply as a volunteer with the Tucson Audubon Society.

Maia is one of Tucson Audubon’s most effective volunteer fundraisers. Her Birdathon team, the Gila Woodpeckers, has raised over \$10,000 in the course of the last five years. They brought in a whopping \$3,859 last year earning the team the “Most Funds Raised” prize. She also delivered a brief, but inspiring address to the rest of the volunteer fundraising team gathered at the Birdathon wrap-up party. Maia noted: “If I don’t act on behalf of southeast Arizona’s birds, who will?”

Maia’s father, Brian Stark, explains that her volunteering is completely up to Maia. “She has shown devotion to Birdathon—staying in touch with supporters, keeping track of her spreadsheets, sending out her own water color thank you cards—she does it all, and I know these are skills that will carry her through life.”

In reflecting on her role with Tucson Audubon, Maia explains that “it feels really good to know that the birds I like are being helped by the funds I raise. I’ve seen places where Tucson Audubon works like the **Paton Center for Hummingbirds**. We recently visited a river they restored and also visited a Burrowing Owl site where they worked.” She is proud to be part of Tucson Audubon’s care for wild birds.

A student at the Khalsa Montessori School, Maia shares the inspiring quote from Maria Montessori: “With the child lies the fate of the future.” She explains that “What I think is pretty effective is kids teaching other kids. Bringing up kids who have an awareness of nature also makes adults more aware.” Tucson Audubon’s Executive Director couldn’t agree more: “When I first met Maia I knew I had come across a real teacher—for all of us!”

Maia’s Birdathon team is gearing up for another big year. You can support their team by following this link: bit.ly/maiaastark



Tucson Audubon is celebrating the 30th Anniversary of its most established and largest FUNraiser of the year: BIRDATHON!

What is Birdathon?

- It’s like a walk-a-thon, but instead of walking, we go birding! Some Birdathoners gather pledges for each species seen, while others welcome a direct donation. All pledges fund Tucson Audubon’s mission!
- Birdathon is a fun challenge for everyone—kids, adults, beginners, and experts. How many bird species can you find?
- Hold your Birdathon any time from **April 7–May 7**; your day can last from 1 hour to 24!
- Join a team or lead one! Gather a group of friends and go find birds for an exciting, different activity
- Prizes will be awarded to Birdathoners in a variety of categories!
- Join the fun online at tucsonaudubon.org/birdathon!

OUR LARGEST FUNRAISER OF THE YEAR!

Corey Perez

Yellow Warbler, Tom Ryan

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Living with Nature Volunteers

Many of you have attended one of our fantastic Living with Nature Programs but have you met the volunteers who are working behind the scenes to make them happen? Each location has a great team of volunteers who come early and stay late—and we are grateful for them! If you attend a program, be sure to look for them and tell them thank you! We recently had a chance to ask them some questions about volunteering:

Why did you get involved volunteering with Tucson Audubon?

Jan: I knew that Audubon was a force for good with the environment, from being a member of Seattle Audubon, and finally, after retirement, had some time. I thought I might make some new friends.

Susan: I was very active with the local Audubon Society in Corvallis, OR, before retiring to Tucson. One of the first things I did was to join the Tucson Audubon chapter, not only for the birding opportunities but to be of assistance where needed.

Joanna: I take photos when going on bird walks and that led to being asked if I could take photos during the Living with Nature Tucson programs. I keep getting asked so I continue volunteering!

Eileen: I got involved with Tucson Audubon because I wanted to help with the Bird and Wildlife Festival. Then, because I was a regular attendee of the Living with Nature program here in Green Valley, I offered to help with it, if needed. It has been fun.

Jeff and Judy: Judy and I have been Audubon Members for many years. A great voice for saving planet earth.

What has been your greatest reward in volunteering with Tucson Audubon?

Jan: I hope the Green Valley programs have resulted in greater membership for Tucson Audubon.

Susan: I've had multiple opportunities to volunteer and have had many fun and educational experiences. Volunteering has been a great way to meet like-minded people and to establish new friendships.

Joanna: The great information the speakers provide. So much for this beginning birder to learn!

Eileen: My greatest reward in volunteering with Tucson Audubon has been the people I have met. They are all very friendly and interesting to know.

Jeff and Judy: I enjoy seeing people respond to the appeal of the program and some join the effort as a result.

If you were a bird, which bird would you be?

Jan: I would be a Turkey Vulture. I like the way they look (really), and that they always have a good food source, not dependent on the largesse of humans, though because of road kill, my food source would be even greater. My pacifist beliefs would work, since I would not have to kill to eat. I would not have to be afraid of hunters, and they seem to travel with friends. I would also be able to congratulate myself on assisting the world to stay a cleaner, and more hygienic place!! I would be strong enough to travel at will, and would have a lifelong mate!!! Hurrah for the Turkey Vulture!!!

Susan: Because of my age and hair color, I'd say I'm a Gray Jay.

Joanna: Great-tailed grackle (I had a pair visit my backyard last summer and loved watching them frolic in my fountain).

Eileen: If I were a bird, I'd like to be a raptor of some kind because they soar. It would be fun to soar above it all and see a larger view of the physical landscape.

Jeff and Judy: Steller's Jay.



Jan Ajemian



Eileen Buckel



Judy and Jeff Webster



Joanna Strohn



Susan Atkisson



Tom Richardson

In Green Valley we have a steady volunteer force headed by Jan Ajemian, Eileen Buckel, and Jeff and Judy Webster, along with Dorothy Fitch and John Munier who helped out in November.

In Tucson we have had three volunteers help out every month since this season started in September: Susan Atkisson, Joanna Strohn, and Tom Richardson. Jean Clark, Catie Armstrong, Deb Vath, Lynda Klasky, Pauline Loftus, and Callie Jordan have also helped out this year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roberta Abelson, Helen Larson & Mark Adams, Liz & John Andrews, Starlight Noel-Armenta & Daniel Armenta, Theodore Babcock, Alan Baker, Teresa Bartlett, Thomas Beatty, Karen Biglin & Richard Turnier, Paul & Mindy Blaski, Pamela Rose Blunt, Gretchen Balse & Sophi Bowman, Rodney Bracken, John Brodie, Katie Brown, Katey Buster, Celeste Cacolici, Barbara Calvert & Joe Molina, Caroline Carson, Joan Carson, Terry & Chuck Chism, Judy & John Clark, Theresa Cullen & John Sartin, Bradley Cunningham, Kay & Denny Cutter, Kathleen Danahan, Liz Davis, Hollie & Matt Mansfield, Linda Dewey, Judy Dickson, Donna & Roger Dietrich, Connie Jo & Scott Dirks, Renee Duckworth, Jon Duerr, Julianne Duncan, John Dwyer, Jeff Egerton, Barbara Ellis-Quinn & Ronald Quinn, Martha & Sam Erdem, Teresa Falcone, Jean & Stephen Feeley, Kimberly Fitzpatrick, Debby Fort, Bernard Fried, Jim Furber, Donna Gabanski, Patti Galli, Sari & Brian Gersten, Leila Gimino, Terre & Xiao Glahn, Michele & Dick Goebel, Catherine Gorman & Phil Hedrick, Ted Gould, Ellen Graf, Marion Green, Alan Green, Kathleen Gregonis, Candy Webber & David Grimwood, Catherine Hagen, Mary Ann & Hank Harlow, Jenn & Bill Harman, Ross Hawkins, Judith Heffner, Marty & John Hirth, Stephanie Stayton & Valarie James, Pudge Johnson, Bree Johnston, Carolyn & Theodore Jolley, Deborah & David Kaechele, Kate Kaemerle, Ken Keenan, Scott Kelly, Elaine & Stephen Kenny, Betty King, Susan Knight, Sandra Knop, Karen Kostenvke, Lucille Lane, Douglas Larson, Kurt Leuschner, Marianne Lewis-Bass, Gloria Linder & Inman Gallogly, Barbara Martin & Don Lovely, Jonathan Lutz, Linda Maasch & Bob Reese, Holly MacAdam, Andrew Mackay, Antara Mallampalli, Sylvia Mansfield, Abby & Don Marier, Sara & Royal Martin, Kellie & Jon McClure, Freya McGregor, Russ & Heidi Meier, Julie & Joe Mnuke, Nancy Murphy, Karan & Dale Newberg, Mimi Nichter, Deb Oakley, E. Patricia O'Brien, Carol & Gordon Odell, Sheila Oglesby, Sunny Parker, Jeanne Peery, Shelley Phipps, Susan & David Piatt, Dr. & Mrs. Vernon Pilon, Patricia Prickett, Kate & Chris Ray, Ian Rees, Carol Reimann, Franklin Roe, Diana & Mike Sanderson, Karen Sausman, Martha McKibben & Jeff Schlegel, Jennifer & Terry Schmidt, Guy Senese, Richard Shaw, Brenda Shugars, Carissa Sipp & Dan Hunt, Ellen Jones Morell & Charles Sisson, Joyce Skeldon, Christine & Randy Smith, Garrett Smith, Shane Smith, Nancy Sponenbergh, Richard Sponenbergh, Chitra & Jonathan Staley, Linda & Kirk Stitt, Susan & Mark Sullivan, Barbara Sullivan, Holly Sweeney, Linda Syme, Peggy & Gordon Tans, Jody Telfair-Richards, Marcia Tingley, Tyler Tingley, Connie Trecartin, Erika Tritremmel, Laura Vitkus, Jacklyne Volpe, Teresa Wells, Lucinda & Alan White, Leslie Williams, Sarah Wolff, David Wrench, Kathy Zerkle

GIFTS IN HONOR/MEMORY

In honor of Aliaa Abdel-Gawad from Aliaa Abdel-Gawad
 In honor of Barbara Schneidau from Susan Aiken
 In honor of Charlene Allert from Charlene Allert
 In honor of Robert Gjestland from Peggy Bendel
 In memory of Pamela Bent from Laurie Benjamin
 In honor of Karen Biglin from Karen Biglin & Richard Turnier
 In memory of George West from Ellen Blackstone
 In honor of Thomas Bootes from Diane & Thomas Bootes
 In honor of Charles Bush from Charles Bush
 In honor of Gregory Pence from Celeste Cacolici
 In honor of Judy Caminer from Judy Caminer
 In honor of Susan Carpenter from Susan Carpenter
 In honor of Robert Casler from Carla & Robert Casler
 In memory of Bobbie Gilkerson from Kay & Denny Cutter
 In honor of Shirley Davis from Shirley Davis
 In honor of Jean De Jong from Jean De Jong & Joseph Watkins
 In honor of Martie and Art Boright from Phyllis DeFriese
 In honor of Ann Donoghue from Ann Donoghue
 In honor of Gabriella Duncan from Gabriella Duncan & William Marshall
 In honor of Tim Durnell from Tim Durnell
 In honor of Margaret & Alan Bennett from Carol & Don Eagle
 In memory of Alice Cavender from Amy Estelle
 In honor of James Goodwin from James Goodwin
 To Mel Gustafson from Jerri Gustafson

In honor of Merikay Haggerty from Merikay Haggerty
 In honor of Alan Hagg from Juliette Hagg
 In honor of Barbara Hawke from Barbara Hawke
 In honor of Sylvia Vangundy from Elizabeth Hoffman
 To Sue Voss from MaryAnn Jones
 In honor of Ty and Marcia Tingley from William Lidwell
 In honor of Sidney Lissner from Sidney Lissner
 In honor of Clarissa Marques from Clarissa Marques
 In memory of Beverly Clark from Jean & Douglas McLain
 In honor of Steve and Vesta Myers from Steve Myers
 In honor of Tracy Pheneger from Tracy Pheneger
 In honor of Jeff Babson from Iris & Emanuel Phillips
 In honor of Aaron Pie from Aaron Pie
 To Neil Rider from Alan Rider
 In honor of Cathryn Rose from Cathryn Rose
 In honor of Tim Schirber from Tim Schirber
 In honor of Kathryn Doyle from Jeffrey Sweetland
 In honor of Margaret & Robert Patricelli from Jeffrey Sweetland
 In honor of Connie Toops from Connie Toops
 In honor of Martha Vicinus from Nancy Simonds & Martha Vicinus
 In memory of Viktor Wakal from Susan Wakal
 To Stanley Wallace from Joseph Wallace
 In honor of John Wilson from John Wilson

BOARD ELECTIONS

For re-election to a second three year term to 2020:

Ed Curley
 Jesus Garcia
 Kathy Jacobs
 John Kennedy – extending 2nd term to 2019 as Treasurer

New Board members for a first three year term to 2020:

Lydia Bruening
 Tricia Gerrodette
 Cynthia Pruett

Board Officers for two year terms:

President, Les Corey, 2nd Term
 Vice-President, Mary Walker, 1st Term
 Secretary, Deb Vath, 1st Term
 Treasurer, John Kennedy, 2nd Term

Departing Board members to whom Tucson Audubon is in the debt of their service and commitment to the organization:

Robert Hernbrode Gavin Bieber Debra Finch
 Claire Zucker Richard Carlson Ruth Russell

Couple's Love of One Another and Birds Leads to Legacy of Love for Tucson Audubon

Recently, Tucson Audubon received an incredibly generous and transformative gift, given through a couple's love of one another and her love of birds. What makes this gift even more meaningful was how it came to Tucson Audubon.

We didn't know Gary and Vera Gregg well. In fact, we never got to meet Vera. Motivated by her love of birds, we met Gary when he called about including Tucson Audubon in Vera's estate plans as part of her legacy, as she was quite ill with cancer. Barely into the discussion, communication paused. A handful of months later, we received a call from Dan and Tracy (Gregg) Craft. Their explanation for the lapse brought tears to our eyes as Dan explained that Tracy's brother, Gary, did not know that he, too, had cancer at the time he was reaching out to assist Vera with her estate plans. He passed away shortly before Vera.



Vera and Gary were keenly aware of creating a setting in which to enjoy each and every moment they had left. They were eager to enjoy all that this beautiful area offers, and Tucson Audubon is honored to be a part of helping them to do that. Over time, they had expressed their appreciation to Dan and Tracy for three organizations that had helped them understand, experience and enjoy Southeast Arizona and its rich offering of birds, one of which, of course, was Tucson Audubon. Knowing this, Dan and Tracy felt it was important that Gary and Vera's estate be left to support the work of these organizations for the future, and they went to work to see that Gary and Vera's life's savings would be gifted among them. I'm sorry not to have met either Gary or Vera, but when I met Tracy and Dan

as they came to Tucson to deliver the estate gift, there was an instant connection. I'm sure given a little more time, Gary and Vera would have become fast friends to our Tucson Audubon family.

We are reminded that life can be unexpectedly short and that we never know how we touch others, but most of all that the gift of love transcends time and circumstances. We will assure that their gift enables others to share the love of birds, just as Vera did, for many, many years to come.

—Karen Fogas

We share this tribute from Gary's sister Tracy—

Gary and Vera loved birds and being in nature. They moved to Tucson in 2014 from Kansas City, though both were originally from the Cleveland, Ohio area. In Kansas City Vera trained blue jays to come flying whenever she shook an empty milk carton filled with peanuts. They came to her from their perches in every nearby tree.

Vera also loved the desert and Gary wanted to give Vera Tucson as a gift. She had been diagnosed with stage four breast cancer several years earlier and they chose Tucson as the place in which they would spend the rest of their lives together.

While in Tucson, Gary and Vera visited the Tucson Audubon Society's Mason Center for lectures and to interact with the birds. They spent many days at Madera Canyon birding, anytime Vera felt up to making the trip. They also loved other wonderful

A small portion of Gary and Vera's generous bequest has been dedicated to Tucson Audubon's Habitat at Home program—in memory of their passion for supporting birds and other wildlife in their backyard. Another portion will be used to create a memorial to Vera and Gary that will also, over time, serve to honor other Tucson Audubon donors. The largest portion of their bequest is being set aside in the Tucson Audubon Society's reserve fund. Its future purpose will be carefully considered by the Board.

Legacy Giving is a wonderful way to support the work of Tucson Audubon well into the future. For more information contact Keith Ashley at kashley@tucsonaudubon.org or 520-209-1809.

birding hot-spots in southeast Arizona. They built their home in Marana on a nature preserve. Their landscaping choices were all carefully designed to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Gary wanted to create a memorial tribute for Vera in honor of her love for birds, but through a terrible twist of fate, he was also diagnosed with cancer and passed four months before Vera. Gary died September 2015 and Vera, January 2016. Both were 58 years old.

Their love for nature is also their legacy. Even though they only lived in Tucson for a short time, they left their footprint which will be around for years to come.

—Tracy Gregg

TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY'S PATON CENTER *for* HUMMINGBIRDS 2017 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



MATT FRAKER & SHERRI THORNTON: INVESTING IN THE PATON CENTER'S FUTURE

Built around 1915, the Paton home that anchors the **Paton Center for Hummingbirds** is crumbling and must be rebuilt. Tucson Audubon is conducting a 2017 Capital Campaign to raise \$450,000 for a new home (see tucsonaudubon.org/patoncampaign). As a major donors supporting habitat restoration efforts at the Paton Center, Matt Fraker and Sherri Thornton share here the many reasons why they are investing in the Paton Center's future.

—Keith Ashley

In a remote corner of a small village in Patagonia, Arizona, one will come to "Blue Heaven Road." It's an expressive name for a little lane that leads to a very special place in the annals of birding lore—the Patons' Hummingbird Haven. Once a private backyard full of bird diversity (with a focus on hummingbirds), the Paton yard has now become Tucson Audubon's Paton Center for Hummingbirds with a myriad of diverse mini-habitats reflecting that avian diversity. ***This is a place that also reflects the diversity of reasons why we watch birds in the first place.***

We enjoy sharing birds:

The Paton story arose from one couple's love for sharing their private wonder openly with the public. Wally and Marion Paton's decision to let folks roam their yard freely to enjoy "their" birds was a remarkable act of kindness and birding altruism that gave this place its legendary status.

We enjoy just watching birds:

Many birdwatchers love taking in the eye candy of a crazy mix of wonderful birds, especially in a calm environment that takes the effort out of bird-finding. The Paton Center offers up many of south-east Arizona's specialties, and of course the possibility of something unusual or truly rare arriving exists at all times.

We can educate through birds and nature:

The Paton Center is a dream resource for educating our youth, an age group that often needs considerable stimulation to keep them focused. Taking children and teenagers to a place with easy access to birds offers a fabulous opportunity for youngsters to get hooked on the outdoors.

We have concerns for our environment:

The Paton Center is not just an isolated yard full of cool birds. It is a major cornerstone of a long-protected stretch of the Sonoita Creek watershed. Moving downstream from the Paton Center we travel through the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, the privately owned Circle-Z Ranch, and into Patagonia Lake State Park and Patagonia State Natural Area. This conservation corridor has a diversity of partner organizations accomplishing its mission of protection.

We need certain birds for our lifelists:

One bird in particular stands out as THE iconic Paton Center species—the stunning Violet-crowned Hummingbird. The Paton yard can be thanked for the vast majority of birders' "lifer" Violet-crowns.

Sometimes birding takes you someplace that makes you think about the ones you love and miss:

My mom only came to southeast Arizona a few times but she did love it. The Paton Center reminds me of her because she would have deeply enjoyed a place where she could anonymously improve the experience of tens of thousands of strangers, during their visit to an astonishing little natural area. This is all because of what Tucson Audubon is accomplishing here with the gifts that they receive, such as those from my mom.

The Tucson Audubon Society has met the challenge of carrying this legacy forward. The transformations on this property are already doing marvelous things for the remarkable critters that this legendary little corner of the world off of Blue Heaven Road.



Matt and a Spotted Owl in Peña Blanca Canyon; Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Bill Bryant

Dr. Matt Fraker is owner of the Prairie Oak Veterinary Center in Normal, Illinois and he serves on the Board of Directors for the American Birding Association. At the Paton Center for Hummingbirds, he is sponsoring the Creekside Restoration Project.



2017 YEAR OF THE HUMMINGBIRD



HUMMINGBIRD COURTSHIP AND NESTING

Spring in southeast Arizona is a great time. The trees bud and leaf out and flowers appear everywhere. With many of these flowers come hummingbirds eagerly feeding on the abundant blooms. This is a heady time for most birders as bird migration begins and species diversity soars. Our local hummingbirds also feel the pull of spring and males battle one another for the best territories and flower patches. The males with the best locations fastidiously chase off male intruders but may react differently if a female appears. If the female seems interested in the slightest and the sun is shining to his advantage he will do his absolute best to impress her and he pulls out all the stops. In addition to his radiantly shining feathers he aims to dazzle her with acrobatics and begins a courtship flight display. What happens next varies by species and Costa's Hummingbirds have a dizzying display involving loop de loops while making impressively loud whistles. Then the male may fly directly in front of the female, lift his rich purple throat and crown feathers straight out and buzz directly in front of her. He carefully maneuvers himself to have the best light refracting off of his gorget feathers and looks like a blazing purple star right in her face. Looks impressive to us but it does seem that female hummingbirds do take quite a bit of convincing.

sound the male creates with his tail is so loud that it can be heard indoors. If you hear it, try to find its source outside as you may see a repeat performance.



Anna's Hummingbird nest spotted at the recent Tucson Meet Your Birds event, Jennie MacFarland

All of this courtship on the male's part segues into motherhood for the female. When it comes to preparing the nest and caring for the eggs and then chicks, she is entirely on her own and is very much up to the task. Some of our more common urban hummingbirds seem very comfortable nesting in our yards and many local residents have been delighted to discover a nesting mother and watch the ensuing raising of chicks. Their nests are delicate yet strong and largely made from spider's webs. She will carefully add bits of bark, leaves or lichen to the outside to camouflage her nest so well it can be quite cryptic while in clear view. She then lays and incubates her tiny eggs and then devotedly feeds her chicks which grow rapidly and fledge in less than a month. The well designed nest will stretch in proportion to the growing chick keeping them snugly secure in the nest while accommodating their increasing size. Mothers may even start to make a new nest nearby when her current chicks get large enough to maintain their own body heat.

The flight displays of male hummingbirds are some of the most dazzling sights in nature but the effective and elegant nests of the females can be just captivating in their modest way. ■

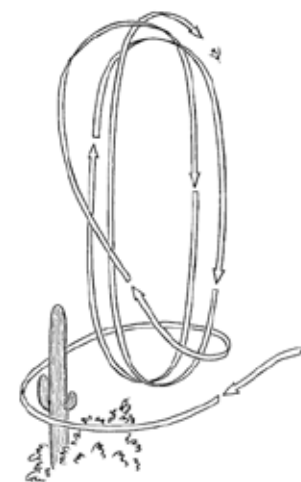
The flight displays of male hummingbirds are some of the most dazzling sights in nature but the effective and elegant nests of the females can be just captivating in their modest way. ■



Anna's Hummingbird, Joan Gellatly

Costa's Hummingbird, Laura Stafford

The Anna's Hummingbird has a different and more acoustically stunning flight display. Male Anna's Hummingbirds do sing a repetitive scratchy song that isn't all that musical to our ears but is quite advanced in the hummingbird community. One may hear a male Anna's Hummingbird sing all day in the backyard but when a female enters his territory he shifts into high gear. He will begin with short flights and makes sure she has her undivided attention. If he does, he hovers directly above her and then zooms over 100 feet straight up into the sky and then zooms straight down and screeches to stop right over the female. At the last second, he spreads his tail and specialized feathers on the outer edges create a fantastically loud popping sound. He then shows off his dazzlingly pink head feathers to her and may dive again and again for her, up to 40 times. The



Looping Dive and Whistle Display of male Costa's Hummingbird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Dive Display of male Anna's Hummingbird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

DISCOVER ARIZONA'S HUMMINGBIRDS!

Hummingbirds are complex and dynamic creatures and while we know quite a lot about them you can help us learn even more. Tucson Audubon has three ways that you can help gather information about these tiny birds right here in southern Arizona and these activities are suitable for both advanced and beginning birders alike and only take a little bit of time.



Anna's Hummingbird, Terry DeMont

HUMMINGBIRD HOTSPOTS

Hummingbirds do quite well in urban settings and just a few nectar producing plants and/or a hummingbird feeder could persuade one or more to spend time in your yard. If you have such a hummingbird hotspot, please add it to our interactive map at: tucsonaudubon.org/hotspots. You can also add public areas such as business with landscaping that supports hummingbirds. Let's find out how friendly southern Arizona is to hummingbirds!

HUMMINGBIRD BLITZES

You can help us get a snapshot of where the hummingbirds of southern Arizona are on the following dates: April 29, May 13, August 12 and November 28. When you see or hear a hummingbird anywhere in southern Arizona on these dates you can mark it on our map at tinyurl.com/humblitz. You can also contribute by sharing an eBird list to username TucsonYOH. This is an easy activity that is great to do with a child or young birder.

5 MINUTE HOTSPOT WATCH

This one is fun! You just find a place that has food sources for hummingbirds such as you own yard (if it's a hummingbird hotspot!) or a public space and then you stay in one location and for exactly 5 minutes keep track of all the hummingbirds you see. You can share your results with us using eBird ("share" the list to username TucsonYOH) or on our website directly.

More information on all of these activities and an ID chart can be found at tucsonaudubon.org/hummingbirds

GREGORY SCHOOL HUMMINGBIRD HOTSPOT

To celebrate the Year of the Hummingbird, the Gregory School introduced a Hummingbird Hotspot to their schoolyard, complete with a new hummingbird garden and a hummingbird feeder. Tucson Audubon Board Member Kimberlyn Drewt shared a lesson on hummingbirds and led students in the creation of their garden.

"The vision that we have for our students at The Gregory School is that our graduates are global citizens that live ethical, productive, and thoughtful lives. We work hard to foster a community that celebrates collaboration and compassion. The Hummingbird Hotspot is one small extension of our mission. Our students volunteered to create this habitat because caring for our environment is critical. We have students who have moved a bench to sit near the garden, students who have volunteered to water the plants and refill our hummingbird feeder. Our Hummingbird Hotspot has quickly become an integral part of the middle school campus."

— Lori Patton, Assistant Head of School, The Gregory School



Photos by Lori Patton



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Tucson Audubon's first ever photo contest was a big hit for the Year of the Hummingbird. Clearly, fast moving hummingbirds are a top target for photographers despite their speed. Forty-one people submitted 122 images, most via Facebook! Three categories were judged by local photographers and one (Flock's Choice) was voted on by Facebook users. Thanks to all who made this a fun virtual birding experience!

GRAND PRIZE

The Anna's Hummingbird cover photo for this *Vermilion Flycatcher* was chosen by Tucson Audubon staff and was taken by Bob Reese. Of all the bird species, Bob finds Hummingbirds to be the most fascinating and photogenic. "With so many birds competing for our attention, it is sometimes easy to look past these colorful little acrobats who can dart and hover about with such speed and grace. I am so pleased that Tucson Audubon has chosen to honor them in this way."



FLEDGLING PHOTOGRAPHER
Violet-crowned hummingbird by Thor Manson

PLUMAGE PRO

Anna's Hummingbird by Mick Thompson



FLOCK'S CHOICE
Magnificent Hummingbird, Diane Poleyquiva



AVIAN ARTISTIC
Broad-billed Hummingbird by Brian Stack

Tucson Audubon would like to thank the panel of photographer judges:

- James Capo
- Axel Elfner
- Doris Evans
- Bryan Holliday
- Lois Manowitz
- Ken Murphy
- Angela Pritchard
- Jim Prudente
- David Quanrud
- Tom Ryan
- Bruce Taubert
- Charles Trapani
- Mary Zalokar

Mexican Oregano: All-Star Hummingbird Plant

Lynn Hassler, Garden Volunteer Captain; photo by Lynn Hassler

Scientific name: *Poliomintha maderensis*

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint)

Native range: Sierra de la Madera, Coahuila, Mexico, 8000 feet

Wildlife value: Blossoms attract hummingbirds and sphinx moths

Add some spice to your garden with Mexican oregano! This small- to medium-sized (3'x3') rounded shrub has very aromatic leaves, reminiscent of the herb oregano; hence the common name. Brush against it for a sensory delight. Plants appeal to the visual senses as well, sporting delicate white and light-to-dark lavender 1" long tubular flowers that are densely clustered at the tips of the stems. The flowering season is extensive—nonstop from spring through fall—and the blooms draw hummers galore. My specimen at home, situated

in a large container located on a north side, is routinely visited by Costa's, Black-chinned, Anna's, and Broad-billed hummingbirds. White-lined sphinx moths (sometimes called "hummingbird" or "hawk" moths) are regular visitors as well. People sometimes mistake them for hummingbirds because, like hummers, they hover at blossoms and sip nectar through an extended proboscis. But sphinx moths are mainly active at dusk.

Mexican oregano grows relatively fast either in full sun or light shade. Water requirements are low to moderate, and plants seem to be relatively disease- and pest-free. They can also take the cold—hardy to 10 degrees. It's a good idea to shear plants in late winter to promote new growth and to increase thickness. Mexican oregano tends to be on the brittle side, so avoid planting it in high traffic areas.



THE PATON CENTER EMERGES FROM CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Jonathan Lutz, Paton Center Coordinator

Nearly 3,000 people visited the Paton Center for Hummingbirds between January 1 and February 28, 2017. Visitors came from more than 35 states and almost a dozen foreign countries! The birding hotspot's signature species—the Violet-crowned Hummingbird—was seen almost daily during this period. The Richard Grand Memorial Meadow and a robust feeding station in the front yard provided looks at an incredible variety of winter birds. During much of this time, the most well-known feature of the two acre property—the Paton's backyard—was closed December through March as crews prepared the site for a new permanent viewing pavilion.

Now the sounds of excavators, skid steers, and dump trucks are being replaced with the songs of warblers, tanagers, and orioles. While the pavilion project is a work in progress, Tucson Audubon is pleased (and relieved) to resume the tradition of viewing birds in the area behind the Paton home. Updates that will occur throughout the spring and summer will include: a new stream feature, a fresh arrangement of bird feeders, and the planting of dozens of native shrubs and wildflowers. Temporary shade canopies are in place through the fall. The pavilion structure is being constructed in Tucson and is scheduled for installation at the end of the year.

The Paton Center is shaped by the time, talents, and wealth of thousands of individuals. From professional staff to the visitors

who deposit a few dollars in the Sugar Fund, continuing the legacy of Wally and Marion Paton depends on a community that spans the globe. Thank you for your donations, for purchasing Paton Center merchandise, and for supporting Tucson Audubon through membership. On a personal note, I'm deeply appreciative of all the volunteers who pulled weeds, built fences, raked gravel, and engaged visitors during my first few months on the job. Together we are working together to preserve the Paton Center—a true hummingbird hotspot—for many years to come. ■

Paton construction, Jonathan Lutz



SANTA CRUZ FLATS—A GREAT PLACE FOR BIRDING

Doug Jenness



Santa Cruz River at 11-Mile-Corner Road; Doug Jenness



Tropical Kingbird habitat, Fast Track Road; Doug Jenness



Greene Res. pond, Santa Cruz Flats; Doug Jenness



Santa Cruz Flats, field of Globe Mallow; Doug Jenness

Many nonbirders likely think that birding must take you to pristine forests and cool, fast-running brooks. This is certainly true, but that's not the whole story. We also spend a lot of time at sewage plants, dairy sludge ponds, feedlots, and farm fields. Why? Because that's where a lot of interesting birds are. One of the more popular such sites is the Santa Cruz Flats, a broad flat agricultural area of roughly 350 square miles between Tucson and Casa Grande, where 274 species of birds have been reported. It is located in Pinal County west of the small town of Red Rock. It comprises many acres of cultivated crops, sod farms, pecan groves, a cattle feedlot, a dairy farm, and a sheep farm, all intersected by a labyrinth of irrigation ditches and canals and dotted with temporary and permanent ponds. It is surrounded on three sides by mountains and saguaro-studded bajadas.

to channel water to a reservoir to provide water for crop irrigation. However, this project met a disastrous end when flood waters during the winter of 1914-15 rechanneled the Santa Cruz, leading to the destruction of the water delivery system into Greene's Reservoir. The land where the short-lived reservoir once was, west of Sunland Gin Road between Greene Reservoir and Pearce roads, is now home to cotton fields. In the late 1980s, the Central Arizona Project began transporting Colorado River water from Lake Havasu to the lower Santa Cruz basin. Water still runs intermittently in the Santa Cruz River and its diversion canals, mostly due to fluctuating flows from Tucson's Roger Road and Ina Road water reclamation facilities.

Irrigation water in ditches, canals, ponds, flooded fields, and sod lawns draw a wide diversity of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders to the Flats. A big draw for birders is Mountain Plovers, which may be found at the sod farms from September through March, with 177 the highest daily number recorded. In recent years, they have been most reliably reported at the Evergreen Turf sod farm. Other plovers, including Pacific Golden-Plover, American Golden-Plover, and Black-bellied Plover have also been recorded at least once. Individual Upland Sandpipers have been reported twice. Many observers were fortunate to see Pinal County's first record of White-rumped Sandpiper in May 2016 at a small, temporary farm pond. Rarely reported in the county, a Ruff showed up in a flooded field in 2010 and a Whimbrel in 2011. A Roseate Spoonbill made a brief showing in 2012 at a floodwater containment pond.

Many grassland species of sparrows as well as pipits winter in the area. Sagebrush Sparrows, found in the extensive saltbush flats in the western part of the area, are a favorite of birders. In early 2015 a few Sprague's Pipits were discovered in the Bermuda grass fields adjacent to Evergreen Turf, and up to six have been reported in the two winters since. Three species of longspur have been occasionally reported at or near Evergreen Turf.

Many birders visit the Flats in the winter to observe the large number of raptors that winter or migrate through the area. Particularly notable is the influx of socially foraging, nonbreeding Crested Caracaras beginning in November and continuing through April. Although caracaras have been reported erratically from the Flats since 1965, their numbers in winter have dramatically increased in the past decade to an estimated high of 150. A total of 25 raptor species have been reported during the winter, including six species of owl. Not seen in winter, Swainson's Hawk migrates through the area in spring and fall, with large flocks often numbering more than 100 birds.

In addition to the farm fields interspersed with desert scrub, there are a few riparian corridors dominated by Gooding's Willow and tamarisk that attract breeding birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo, and Lucy's Warbler as well as many migrants. Such state rarities as Louisiana Waterthrush, Palm Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler have been reported. Farm yards with shrubbery and nut and fruit trees have attracted vagrants, including rarities, such as Rufous-backed Robin and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

A dozen years ago Ruddy Ground-Dove was reported regularly in the vicinity of the Red Rock feedlot. A nest along the Santa Cruz River at the Sasco Rd. ford in 2006 was the first documented north of Mexico. In recent years, however, this dove has been sparse with none reported some years. Particularly intriguing is the discovery of many nesting pairs of Tropical Kingbirds. This kingbird had been casually reported in the area since the late 1990s, but it wasn't until 2013 that nesting was confirmed in single rows of pecan trees along roadsides, principally in the Baumgartner Road/Wheeler Road area. As many as 15-20 pairs have been detected nesting.

Paradise Lake, an artificial lake in the town of Arizona City at the northern end of the Santa Cruz Flats, has hosted many rarities, including both Brown and American White pelicans, Common Loon,

Heermann's Gull, and Horned Grebe, as well as many other waterbirds. Although continuing construction of new homes is restricting viewing sites, there still remain a few spots on the south side of the lake from which much of the lake can still be observed.

The Santa Cruz Flats can be accessed from five exits on I-10: Red Rock (Exit 226), Picacho (Exit 212), Sunshine Road (Exit 208), Toltec Highway (203), and Sunland Gin Road (Exit 200). Details about getting to the sod farms and other locations are included in *Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona* (revised eighth edition), published by the Tucson Audubon Society. ■

Doug Jenness, a long-time activist in Arizona Field Ornithologists. Coordinator of the annual Santa Cruz Flats Raptor Count. Author of articles on Crested Caracaras and Tropical Kingbirds for Arizona Birds.



Black-bellied Plover; Keith Kamper



Crested Caracara; Mark Sharon

Before the Santa Cruz Flats was settled by farmers in the late 1800s, much of the land was dominated by Sonoran savannah grasslands, where native grasses were a couple of feet high and grassland fauna could be found, including pronghorns, jackrabbits, and even White-tailed Hawk. The course of the Santa Cruz River was different than it is now. It periodically flooded, spreading out over the flat land and drained by distributaries. In 1910, William Greene, a mining and cattle magnate, financed the construction of a 13-mile canal



Juvenile Crested Caracara, Sheep Dump; Rich Glinski

Bye Bye Butter Butt

Chris Benesh



Audubon's Warbler, Marcel Holyoak



Goldman's Warbler, Dominic Sherony



Myrtle Warbler, Kelly Colgan Azar

You may have heard news of it through the birding grapevine. "I hear they are going to split Yellow-rumped Warblers!" In fact, you may feel as though you heard the same thing a few years back. If you thought that, you'd be correct. Back in 2010, a proposal was put forth to reassess species limits within Yellow-rumped Warbler. It failed owing to uncertainty as to whether the split should be three way or four way. Now that this has been largely cleared up through further research, a new proposal is before the American Ornithological Society (formerly AOU) to split Yellow-rumped Warbler into three species.

As birders, we've long been aware that there are two sorts of Yellow-rumped Warblers to be found in southern Arizona, those common yellow-throated Audubon's and the rarer white-throated Myrtle. Audubon's and Myrtle were lumped together back in 1973, after researchers concluded that the degree of hybridization evident where their ranges came into contact in Alberta warranted merging them into one species. And this was the state of things for many years. But a few things have happened in the intervening years. Researchers examining the hybrid zone have found that it has not changed in 40+ years, suggesting that the hybrids (intergrades) are not as successful as the respective subspecies. Furthermore, there has been some extensive examination of the mitochondrial and nuclear DNA, which has added new insight into how various populations are related. And while the picture of species limits is fairly clear, there remains a small degree of uncertainty regarding one of the subspecies, uncertainty that is potentially relevant to the sky islands of southeast Arizona.

But first, the basics. There are four major groups in total of what is currently Yellow-rumped Warbler. The most distinctive lives in the cool, high-elevation fir forests of Guatemala. Known as Goldman's Warbler, this form is quite striking, being extensively black with a flared yellow throat with white corners. Not surprisingly, it also has a distinctive chip note and song. Its breeding range is separated by many hundreds of miles from any other form. There is the wide-spread Myrtle Warbler, which consists of two subspecies ranging from Alaska across a broad swath of boreal North America and into the northeastern United States. Breeding males are distinctive in having a whitish eyebrow and a flared white throat patch. Next is

the Audubon's group, one or more subspecies breeding in forested mountain ranges throughout the western states and into British Columbia and Alberta (where they bump into Myrtle). While generally thought to be of one subspecies, birds breeding in Arizona up through the Rockies are sometimes described as another, slightly larger and darker subspecies, *memorabilis*. Birds that breed in Arizona average more extensively black than Audubon's elsewhere, leading to speculation that this might be the result of shared genes with a fourth major group, known as Black-fronted Warbler (subspecies *nigrifrons*). It is this fourth enigmatic form that has recently caught my attention. As is so often the case for subspecies, this rather distinctive population has been largely ignored by birders traveling to its breeding grounds in the mountains of the northern Sierra Madre. Nearly as striking as Goldman's Warbler, the breeding males are extensively black below and have largely black heads, accented by white eye crescents and a flared yellow throat.

It seems likely that Yellow-rumped Warbler will be divided up into three species as described above. But the relationship of Black-fronted Warbler to our Audubon's Warblers remains somewhat of a mystery. Studies indicate that Audubon's and Black-fronted share a lot of genetic markers not found in other Yellow-rumps indicating that gene flow has occurred at some point in the past. Is this form truly sedentary or does it occasionally wander north into Arizona? Do darker individuals seen in the Chiricahuas and Huachuclas represent Audubon's X Black-fronted intergrades? These questions will likely keep these two populations lumped together under Audubon's for the time being. I know I will be paying much closer attention to the appearance of "Yellow-rumped Warblers" during the breeding months in Arizona as well as making an effort to see and learn more about Black-fronted Warblers in northwestern Mexico. To learn more about this topic and to see images of the various forms, see bit.ly/yellowrump. ■

Chris Benesh is a tour leader for Field Guides Incorporated (fieldguides.com) and a long time Tucson resident. An avid birder with a keen interest in bird taxonomy, identification, and education, Chris has served several terms on the Arizona Bird Committee and has taught numerous workshops focused on improving identification skills.

TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2016 Tucson Audubon took flight on a newly updated strategic plan, formally adopted in September. We reorganized and realigned accordingly, and took on new roles and responsibilities to achieve ambitious outcomes for people and birds. With our updated strategic plan we reestablished a commitment to "inspire people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation and restoration of the environment." It was a big agenda for our little organization and we handled it well!

During the year, we said goodbye to Tucson Audubon staff who migrated on to new opportunities and greeted new people who came onboard. We were saddened by the loss of friends who passed away, including staff member Juliette Connelly, even as our hearts were warmed by their thoughtful provisions for our continued work. We worked hard, celebrated when possible and began gearing up for what we anticipate will be a tough few years as a new administration takes office. 2016 was a year of change, transition and certainly adaptation.

You will see that Tucson Audubon continued to engage in diverse projects and programs, including a new pond in the beautiful Richard Grand Memorial Meadow at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds,

incredibly successful outreach in Benson to engage people with the San Pedro River, numerous citizen science projects like monitoring Azure bluebird nest boxes and the Tucson Bird Count, two Tucson Meet Your Birds events at Sweetwater that drew in nearly 1,000 people to view local birds, and a fascinating day with author Paul Bannick as he released his latest book, *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. These activities, and others like them, honed our skills and fed our excitement about offering 2017's initiative: The Year of the Hummingbird.

Above all, we are so very grateful to our members, donors, volunteers, community and partners, whose support, inspiration and energy give wings to our work. You make this work possible and we thank you with heartfelt gratitude. It is an honor to serve you through Tucson Audubon.

With warmest regards,


Karen Fogas, Executive Director


Les Corey, President

Azure Bluebird Box installation at Las Cienegas IBA, Jennie Macfarland



Trekking Rattlers in the Chiricahua Mountains, Andy Bennett



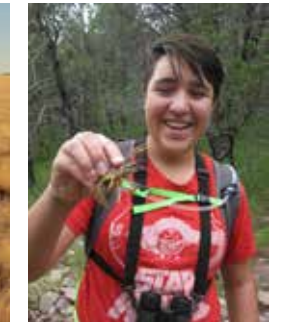
Viewing an Elegant Trogon, Southeast Arizona Birding Festival



Installing a monarch waystation at Paton's Center for Hummingbirds



San Rafael IBA, Chestnut-collared Longspur survey crew 2017, Deanna MacPhail



Youth volunteer cuckoo surveyor Dorian Escalante, Matt Griffiths

Tucson Audubon inspires people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the environment upon which we all depend.



WE CARE FOR WILD BIRDS AND INSPIRE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME!

CONSERVATION

We study and protect wild birds and their habitats

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

- Over 800 point count surveys to document Threatened Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Sky Island habitat (in collaboration with Coronado National Forest) as well as lower elevation riparian zones. Over 400 hours of survey time, 20 routes covered by 25 volunteers and 8 staff.
- Wrote one resource brief for the Sky Island Restoration Cooperative annual report regarding our work on Yellow-billed Cuckoos. Also produced updated annual report on Sky Island cuckoos based on surveys on forest service lands, Pima County, Tucson Audubon, and The Nature Conservancy properties.
- Based on 2015 anecdotal results, we piloted research on trogon aggression toward cuckoos using playback calls. Initial results showed no aggression response to cuckoos by trogon; however, due to constraints the experiment had to be performed before cuckoos had returned to the area and before the breeding season for either species which may have impacted results.

NEST BOX PROGRAMS

- Volunteers (including Cub Scouts and the Desert Woodworker's Club) built roughly 450 nest boxes for Lucy's Warblers, Azure Bluebirds, screech-owls, and kestrels
- Installed and monitored 150 Azure bluebird nest boxes on ranches, vineyards, and people's yards
 - 5 active bluebird nests, also nests of Ash-throated and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Bridled Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, Bewick's and House Wrens
 - One site an experiment with UA bluebird researchers
 - Collected roughly 150 hollow logs (oak and elderberry) to use for natural cavity vs. artificial nest box experiment in 2017
 - Sold 30 Lucy's Warbler nest boxes at fall Tucson Meet Your Birds
- Awarded two grants for nest box research experiments in 2017—one with Lucy's Warblers (Tracy Aviary) and one with Azure Bluebirds (North American Bluebird Society)
- Over 3,500 hours of survey time donated by 171 volunteers in our Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program, which is one of the most citizen-science driven and active IBA programs in the United States.
- 187 species were counted by 60 participants during 1,283 point counts surveys for the Tucson Bird Count.
- 5,000 "Recipe Cards" for creating yard habitat for 5 types of birds were distributed to the public with help from partner, Saguaro National Park.
- 1,200 people reached during Spring and Fall SAHBA Home & Garden Show where information on creating bird supporting landscapes was shared

ADVOCACY

We speak out for wild birds and their homes

- 325 "I love the San Pedro River because ..." postcards completed by the public and sent to Benson City Administrators, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and The Army Corps of Engineers
- 6,000 citizens informed by Tucson Audubon about pressing threats via email alerts, the *Vermillion Flycatcher* and our coalition networks
- Numerous additional units of critical habitat designations for the Threatened Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo in multiple sky island mountain ranges
- One 404 Permit suspended by The Army Corps of Engineers for Whetstone Ranch (a.k.a Villages at Vigneto)
- Two legislative attacks on Arizona's Groundwater Management Act defeated by conservation partners, including Tucson Audubon
- Numerous coalition letters on important policy issues. Examples include: window stirkes/federal buildings introduced legislation, pollinator-poisoning pesticides/neonics, Migratory Bird Treaty Act incidental take permitting, proposed Resolution Copper mine at Oak Flat, protecting the Endangered Species Act, the value of distributed energy generation, EPA authority over mining-related financial assurance, strengthening the take rule for bald and golden eagles, and more.

RESTORATION

We create sustainable wild bird habitat

- Completed a baseline survey and report on the Arnett Creek for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. Report focused on Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Lowland Leopard Frogs, endangered minnows, and vegetative characteristics of the project reach.
- Salvaged 15 Saguaros, 15 barrel cactus, 5 hedgehog cactus, and 70 pincushion cactus from road expansion along Cortaro Rd; plants were relocated to the Mason Center for Education and Ironwood Preservation.
- Completed baseline surveys for In-lieu Fee Mitigation project on lower Santa Cruz River, completed multiple scoping options for project.
- Awarded two grants through Partners for Fish and Wildlife for projects around Patagonia to support cuckoos, hummingbirds, and pollinators, including on the 5-acre parcel adjacent to the Paton Center for Hummingbird rds.
- Installed Monarch Waystations in collaboration with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds and at the Mason Center for Education and Ironwood Preservation.
- Presented on Tucson Audubon restoration work along the Santa Cruz River at the Santa Cruz River Research Days Symposium.

ENGAGEMENT

We help people connect with wild birds

- 2,808 participants went on 182 birding field trips to 49 Arizona hotspots
- 377 volunteers put in 9,627 volunteer hours in support of our mission
- We had 361 Southeast Arizona Birding Festival participants from 37 states and 2 foreign countries. There were 37 field trips led by 31 trip leaders
- 19 adult education classes and workshops were offered
- 5 youth education classes and workshops were offered
- Engaged 326 youth in various programs and 14 outings
- Our Nature Shops welcomed 5,326 members and other visitors
- Our Storytelling on the San Pedro event drew 140 people
- Totally Owlrageous: A Day with Paul Bannick drew 133
- 900 people came to Tucson Meet Your Birds in February, 425 to the October edition
- The 20 Living With Nature Programs drew 1131 people

Over 3,500 hours of survey time donated by 171 volunteers in our Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program



Tucson Meet Your Birds at Sweetwater Wetlands, Sara Grimm

Over 800 point count surveys to document Threatened Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos



187 species were counted by 60 participants during 1,283 point counts surveys for the Tucson Bird Count

Axhel Munoz teaches youth about riparian ecosystems

325 "I love the San Pedro River because ..." postcards completed by the public



Grand Canyon IBA event, October 2016



Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, Rincon Mountains

Salvaged 15 Saguaros, 15 barrel cactus, 5 hedgehog cactus, and 70 pincushion cactus from road expansion along Cortaro Rd

361 Southeast Arizona Birding Festival participants from 37 states and 2 foreign countries. There were 37 field trips led by 31 trip leaders



Volunteers Peter Bengtson and Nancy Young Wright, Joanna Strohn

377 volunteers put in 9,627 volunteer hours



Trekking Rattlers exploring southeast Arizona

Officers, Board and Staff

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND BOARD

Les Corey - President, Retired
 Mary Walker - Vice President, Retired
 Deb Vath - Secretary, UA Director for Water Sustainability Program
 John Kennedy - Treasurer, Retired
 Matthew Bailey - Tucson Electric Power
 Ardeth Barnhart - UA Renewable Energy Network
 Lydia Bruening
 Ed Curley - Retired
 Kimberlyn Drew - Realtor, Long Realty
 David Dunford - Retired
 Jesus Garcia - Education Specialist with Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
 Tricia Gerrodette
 Laurans Halsey - Self-employed
 Kathy Jacobs - Director of Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions with the Institute of the Environment
 Cynthia Pruett
 Nancy Young Wright - former AZ legislator

STAFF

Keith Ashley, Director of Resource Development & Strategic Operations - 4 years
 Andy Bennett, Restoration Project Manager, K-12 Youth Engagement Coordinator - 6 years
 Karen Fogas, Executive Director - 2 years
 Matt Griffiths, Digital Media Coordinator - 11 years
 Kari Hackney, Restoration Intern - 6 months
 Jan Holder, Engagement Director - 1 year
 Debbie Honan, Retail Coordinator - 1 year
 Jonathan Horst, Director of Conservation & Research - 5 years
 Helen Kim, Membership & Communications Director - 1 year
 Mark Krietemeyer, Finance Director - 1 year
 Rodd Lancaster, Field Crew Supervisor - 15 years
 Daniel Lehman, Restoration Crew - 9 years
 Kim Lopez, Accountant - 6 months
 Jonathan Lutz, Paton Center for Hummingbirds Coordinator - 1 year
 Jennie MacFarland, Bird Conservation Biologist - 7 years
 Kimberly Matsushino, Retail & Operations Assistant - 2 years
 Olya Phillips, Bird Survey Assistant - 2 years
 Diana Rosenblum, Membership Coordinator - 3 years
 Luke Safford, Volunteer and Field Trips Coordinator - 1 year

FEDERAL LANDS FOCUSED STAFF

Moez Ali	Nicole Gonzales	Alecio O'Day
Matt Christensen	Cassandra Hall	David Pinigis
Ben Cooper	Andrea Hazelton	Ethan Sandoval
Bethany Derango	Melanie Jones	
Elise Dillingham	Jessica McGarey	



Tucson Audubon Society Board of Directors



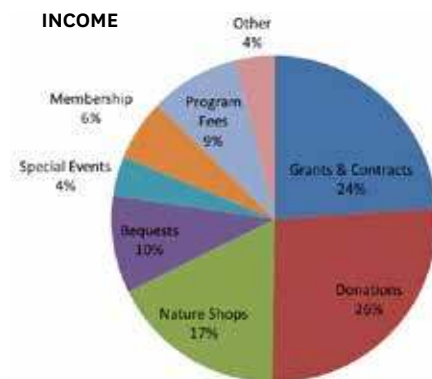
Tucson Audubon Society Staff, December 2016

Tucson Audubon Society Income & Expenses Summary

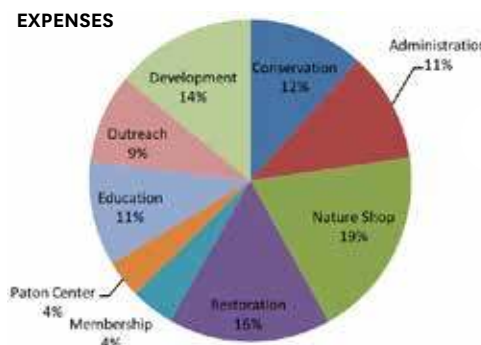
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

Income	\$1,484,676
Expenses	(1,458,725)
Investment Activity	(10,474)
NET	\$15,477

INCOME



EXPENSES



BIRDS
BENEFIT
BUSINESS
Alliance

Tucson Audubon thanks our **Birds Benefit Business Alliance** Members, who have shown their support for bird conservation through annual contributions and in-kind donations. **Please show you appreciate their support for us by supporting them.** Visit tucsonaudubon.org/alliance for more information, including links to member websites.

LEADING

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics
 Circle Z Ranch
 Crown Community Development—Arizona Farmers Investment Co (FICO)
 GeolInnovation LLC
 Riverpark Inn
 Tucson Electric Power
 Western National Parks Association

SUSTAINING

Celestron
 Kimberlyn Drew, Realtor
 Leica Sport Optics
 Rockjumper BirdingTours
 Swarovski Optik

SUPPORTING

Heartstone Ranch/La Cocina

CONTRIBUTING

Affinity Wealth Management
 Arizona Birder Casitas
 Candlewood Suites
 Chuparosa Inn
 Financial Architects
 Opticron USA
 Originate Natural Building Materials Showroom
 Santa Fe Ranch Foundation
 Solipaso Tours
 Sundance Press
 Tucson/Lazydays KOA
 Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
 Visit Tucson
 WINGS Birding Tours Worldwide

SMALL BUSINESS

Borderland Tours
 The Birdhouse

BIRDING TRAVEL FROM OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

ROCKJUMPER—WORLDWIDE BIRDING ADVENTURES

rockjumperbirding.com

PAPUA NEW GUINEA – BIRDING IN PARADISE V 2017

Date: July 25–August 11, 2017 (18 Days)

Price: \$8,256

Tour Leader: Wayne Jones

3 Spaces Available

Traversing by air, road and boat, our 18-day tour through Papua New Guinea is set to enchant participants with the truly immaculate avian highlights available in this remarkably under-travelled country. No less than 25 Bird-of-paradise species are possible as we move through habitats of winding lowland rivers, sprawling grasslands, rich highland ecosystems and lush forested valleys.

COSTA RICA – CLOUD FOREST & QUETZALS 2017

Date: May 15–28, 2017 (14 Days)

Price: \$4,300

Tour Leader: Dušan Brinkhuizen

2 Spaces Available

Our comprehensive tour of Costa Rica aims to explore a myriad of incredible habitats in search of the striking bird species available here. Two extensions are also available: the preceding extension takes us to Rancho Naturalista—one of the premier birding lodges in Central America, and the succeeding extension explores the remote Caribbean shores of neighbouring Nicaragua.

SOLIPASO TOURS solipaso.com

BAJA BIRDS AND WINE

Date: September 17–23, 2017

Price: \$2900

Leader: David MacKay.

This fun trip is a winning combination of birds, fine Mexican wines, gourmet food and the rugged beauty of northern Baja! The Valle de Guadalupe wine country is becoming well-known for its high quality wines and is also on the cutting edge of innovative gourmet cuisine in Mexico. Birds of interest are Gray and California Thrasher, Clark's Nutcracker and Black Oystercatcher. We visit the wine region, Ensenada, the valley of San Quintin, Bahia de San Quintin and San Pedro Martir, starting and ending in San Diego.



Thick-billed Parrot, Mark Dumont

MADERA: THICK-BILLED PARROTS

Date: August 14–17

Price: \$1250

Leader: David MacKay

A short trip into northern Chihuahua to see the highly endemic Thick-billed Parrot and Eared Quetzal. Summertime in the Sierra Madre is a sight to see with green meadows, lakes, blue sky vistas and monsoons! The trip starts in Tucson and we bird the pinyon-juniper habitat on the way to Nuevo Casas Grandes. We visit the remote Paquime ruins site, Cuarenta Casas then spend two nights in the Madera area to see the Thick-billed Parrots in their nesting habitat, along with many other high elevation species.



Resplendent Quetzal, Tom Benson

THE TAS-ifieds—CLASSIFIED ADS

A custom home on an acre near Oro Valley is waiting for you, sitting on a private one-acre lot, in unincorporated Pima County with no HOA. Pad with 35-amp hookup for your RV. MLS#21703203 Call Kimberlyn. Kimberlyn Drew, Long Realty Company (520) 237-1408 www.KimberlynDrew.com

Classified and display ads are accepted from individual members and members of our Birds Benefit Business Alliance. Visit tucsonaudubon.org/flycatcher for rates or contact Matt Griffiths at mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org to book an ad.

Partners in Conservation

American Birding Association
 American Bird Conservancy
 Arizona State Forestry
 Arizona Wilderness Coalition
 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
 ArtPlace America
 Audubon Arizona
 Audubon Urban Chapter Network
 Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School
 Biosphere 2
 Borderlands Restoration
 Bureau of Land Management
 Cascabel Conservation Association

Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
 Community Water Coalition
 Conserve to Enhance
 Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 Coronado National Forest
 City of Tucson Parks and Recreation
 Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
 Desert Rivers Audubon
 Desert Survivors
 Farmers Investment Company
 Friends of the San Pedro River
 Green Valley Recreation, Inc.
 Ironwood Tree Experience
 Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance
 Manzo Elementary School
 National Audubon
 National Park Service
 Nature and Culture International
 Nighthawk Natives
 Patagonia Area Resource Alliance

Patagonia Creative Arts Association
 Pima Association of Governments
 Pima Community College
 Pima County Department of Sustainability
 Pima County Department of Community and Economic Development
 Pima County Natural Resources, Parks, and Recreation
 Pima County Regional Flood Control District
 Richard Grand Foundation
 Santa Cruz County
 Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
 Sky Island Alliance
 Sonoran Audubon Society
 Sonoran Institute
 Sonoran Joint Venture
 The Nature Conservancy
 Town of Marana
 Trust for Public Land
 Tucson Water

Tumamoc: People and Habitats
 University of Arizona Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 University of Arizona School of Geography & Development
 University of Arizona School of Natural Resources and the Environment
 University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service
 Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
 Watershed Management Group
 Western National Parks Association
 Western Rivers Action Network
 Wildlands Restoration
 WOW Arizona

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION NEWS

Karen Fogas, Executive Director; Images from America in Crisis in the 1970s, Alan Taylor, November 26, 2011



Near Ogden, Utah, in April of 1974



Off-shore oil wells in Galveston Bay, off the Texas shore, in June of 1972



Smoke and gas from the burning of discarded automobile batteries pours into the sky near Houston, Texas, in July of 1972



North Birmingham, Alabama, July of 1972. Sitting adjacent to the U.S. Pipe plant

We Know From Experience That Our Waters Aren't Unlimited Resources That Can Handle Whatever We Dump in Them. Protecting America's Waters Protects Us

DDT, fish kills due to toxic discharges, a burning river and contaminated drinking water samples and untreated sewage discharged into waters are just a snapshot of the conditions that prompted the creation of America's Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) was enacted in response to growing awareness and concern for public health and safety problems caused by pollution of our nation's waterways. The CWA enables the federal government to regulate pollutant discharges into the "waters of the United States" and gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to: establish programs to control pollution and to set pollution standards for all contaminants in surface waters and industry wastewater; curtail unlawful pollutant discharges from a "point source" into "navigable waters;" address problems posed by "nonpoint source" pollution; and create a grant program that has since provided billions of dollars to fund sewage treatment plant construction.

Since enacted, the CWA has roughly doubled the number of waters meeting quality goals, and sewage discharges, once commonplace in the 1960's, are now rare occurrences. What were once rivers

fouled by all manner of toxic chemicals and bacteria are now safe for swimming and fishing, dramatically improving their ecological health and increasing their recreational and economic value for communities. However, there is still room for improvement. Today, 40 percent of the waters surveyed by the states fail to meet national water quality standards.

Additionally, which water bodies qualify as "waters of the U.S." has been a source of confusion and legal disputes. To clarify these "muddy waters," the EPA issued a new rule in 2015: "The rule ensures that waters protected under the Clean Water Act are more precisely defined, more predictably determined, and easier for businesses and industry to understand. The rule does not protect any new types of waters, regulate most ditches, apply to groundwater, create any new permitting requirements for agriculture, or address land use or private property rights." This rule has never been utilized as it is currently being litigated. Indeed, litigation continues to impede the CWA, as do current efforts to rollback and de-fund these vital protections.

We Know From Experience That Our Air Isn't an Unlimited Resource That Can Handle Whatever We Dump into It. Protecting America's Air Quality Protects Us

Thick, hovering smog, acid rain, mercury and lead emissions, ground-level ozone and serious respiratory and cardiovascular health concerns are just a snapshot of the conditions that prompted the creation of America's Clean Air Act

Growing public concern regarding human health and safety impacts from air pollution prompted Congress to enact the Clean Air Act (CAA) in 1970. Significant amendments in 1977 and 1990 improved the effectiveness of the CAA and addressed emerging air quality problems such as acid rain and loss of the UV-protective stratospheric ozone layer caused by ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

The CAA requires the EPA to "establish national ambient air quality standards for certain common and widespread pollutants based on the latest science." The EPA established standards for six common criteria pollutants: particulate matter, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and lead. The CAA requires states to "adopt enforceable plans to achieve and maintain air quality meeting the air quality standards... and control emissions that drift across state lines and harm air quality in downwind states."

The CAA seeks to minimize pollution increases from motor vehicles and from new or expanded industrial plants. The CAA requires new

"stationary sources" of air pollution, such as power plants and factories, to utilize the best available technology, while allowing less restrictive standards for existing stationary sources. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are pollutants that can be regulated under the CAA, and in 2014, the court re-affirmed the EPA has the authority to regulate stationary sources responsible for 83% of greenhouse gas emissions nationwide.

According to EPA, "From 1970 to 2015, aggregate national emissions of the six common pollutants alone dropped an average of 70 percent while gross domestic product grew by 246 percent... The emissions reductions have led to dramatic improvements in the quality of the air that we breathe. Between 1990 and 2015, national concentrations of air pollutants improved 85 percent for lead, 84 percent for carbon monoxide, 67 percent for sulfur dioxide (1-hour), 60 percent for nitrogen dioxide (annual), and 3 percent for ozone."

Despite its many successes, the CAA is under threat by special interests, lawsuits, and legislative proposals to rollback and de-fund the Act's implementation.



A Crown Zellerbach pulp mill dumps solid waste into a pond it formerly used for log storage in June of 1973



National Water Quality Laboratory June 1973, severely deformed spine of a Jordanella fish, methyl mercury present in water

We Know From Experience That Biological Systems are Complex and the Loss of Species is Forever. Protecting Endangered Species Protects Us

The impending loss of our nation’s symbol of freedom, the bald eagle, and the American alligator, Peregrine Falcon and the Brown Pelican are just snapshots of the conditions that prompted the creation of the Endangered Species Act

In 1973, in response to a growing recognition there was no legal safety net for native plants and animals at risk of extinction, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA), recognizing our rich natural heritage and wildlife are of “esthetic, ecological, educational, recreational, and scientific value to our Nation and its people.” The ESA’s purpose is to, “protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend.”

If qualified under the Act’s provisions, a species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. “Endangered” is the most precarious status, indicating a species “is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.” “Threatened” status indicates a species “is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.”

The Bald Eagle’s recovery is one of the ESA’s greatest success stories. The Bald Eagle went to the brink of extinction from habitat loss from extensive forest clearing, overhunting of its prey, direct mortality from shooting and widespread use of the insecticide DDT, which caused the thinning of egg shells that cracked before chicks were developed. After being listed as endangered, killing of eagles was prohibited, nest sites were protected, water quality in our rivers and

lakes was improved, eagles were reintroduced into former habitat, and the deadly chemical DDT was banned in the U.S.

Contrary to some mischaracterizations, the ESA is *not* stopping a significant number of development proposals or creating unwarranted delays. Proposals can only be stopped if a determination is made that “an action is reasonably expected, directly or indirectly, to diminish a species’ numbers, reproduction, or distribution so that the likelihood of survival and recovery in the wild is appreciably reduced.” A 2015 Defenders of Wildlife study evaluated government data and found that between 2008 and 2015, “Only two consultations resulted in “jeopardy” findings... All jeopardy/destruction/adverse modification findings were accompanied by reasonable and prudent alternatives, so none of the projects was stopped... The median duration of consultations was 13 days for informal and 62 days for formal.”

Less than 1% of the more than 2,000 plants and animals protected by the ESA have gone extinct, an impressive success rate that proves the efficacy of this landmark legislation. Despite its success, the ESA is continually threatened by special interests, political interference in scientific findings, and legislative proposals to weaken or render the Act ineffective through de-funding its implementation or carving out exemptions.

WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY?

Created by President Richard Nixon via executive order in December, 1970, the mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment.

EPA’s purpose is to ensure that:

- all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work;
- national efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information;
- federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively;
- environmental protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy;
- all parts of society—communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments—have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks;
- environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable and economically productive; and
- the United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.

A TRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION HERO MICK MEADER

Norman “Mick” Meader passed away in Tucson, Arizona on February 10, 2017 at the age of 65 after 5-month struggle with non-smoking-related lung cancer.

Mick was born to Robert Daniel and Ruth Jeanette Meader on June 17, 1951. He attended the University of Northern Iowa, from which he obtained a B.A. in Geology in 1973. Mick worked for the Department of Geosciences at the University of Arizona as a staff member for 23 years.

Following retirement in 2010, Mick became very active in conservation of the middle and lower San Pedro River Valley, a place he had come to love deeply for its beauty and its unspoiled environment. As a property owner in Cascabel, he became a leader of the Cascabel community’s efforts to save their valley from encroaching development and degradation. He was well known for his steadfast opposition to the previously proposed I-10 bypass in the lower San Pedro River valley and the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. Regarding SunZia, Mick was a pro se intervenor and argued his case eloquently before the Arizona Corporation Commission. To his great disappointment, and ours, the Commission approved the project.

Mick served as Co-Chair of the Cascabel Working Group and chaired the Conservation Committee of the Cascabel Conservation Association. He was also a founding board member of the Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance. Mick became Co-President of the Cascabel Conservation

Association in 2012 and served as a board member until his death. He was also a long-time shareholder in the closely related Saguardo Juniper Corporation, a ranching-conservation enterprise founded by Jim Corbett of the Tucson-based sanctuary movement.

Mick was a fearless leader and a diligent investigator—shining light on critical issues facing our region. We believe such dedication and perseverance can only come from someone with a deep connection to the spirit of the land, and an appreciation for its role in sustaining our own lives and the lives of other living creatures. We at Tucson Audubon truly enjoyed collaborating with Mick over the years and value the many positive working relationships he fostered throughout our region. He will be sorely missed. Mick’s wonderful tact was reminiscent of the old adage, “speak softly, and carry a big stick.” In many ways, Mick was model citizen and will always be an inspiration to us all.



Tucson Audubon Family has Alaskan Adventure in Washington DC

Kimberlyn Drew, Tucson Audubon Board Member

This March my husband Andy, daughter Phoebe and I traveled to Washington DC representing Tucson Audubon Society at Alaska Wilderness Week. Wilderness Week is sponsored by the Alaska Wilderness League in cooperation with Audubon Alaska, the Sierra Club, Patagonia and other environmental organizations. This annual event began in the 1990s and brings volunteers from across the US and Canada to share their connections to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge with each other, and with members of Congress.

Read the rest of this story online at: tucsonaudubon.org/alaska



Arctic, Madhav Pal

TUCSON AUDUBON NATURE SHOPS

Get Ready for Spring Birding at the Nature Shops

The Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop has everything you need to celebrate spring. We have seeds from Native Seed Company to plant, hats and sunscreen to protect you from the sun, books to help you plant a water wise garden or landscape to invite native pollinators into your yard, and cookbooks with delicious recipes for your bountiful harvest and margaritas to sip on the patio while watching birds at the feeder.

We also have a terrific selection of optics to enhance your birding, hiking, and other outdoor experiences. The Tucson Audubon Society Nature Shop sets our Member Price at the minimum advertised price (MAP), which is the lowest legally allowed advertised price set by the manufacturer for dealers. Given that we also don't charge sales tax at the Shop because we're a non-profit, you can buy with confidence that you're getting quality optics at the best possible price while supporting the Tucson Audubon Society. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers will help you select the optics that fit your needs and budget while happily sharing birding tips and "insider information" on the places to go and things to do in Tucson and southeast Arizona.

Would you like to buy a gift for a child that would spark a love of nature and science? We have an amazing children's area with books for kiddos of all ages, science kits, kites, stuffed animals, and so much more.

Come by and see all the Nature Shop has to offer. Be sure to ask about our frequent seed and coffee buyer program. We're getting new merchandise in all the time, so you can find something for everyone while shopping locally. ■

TUCSON AUDUBON NATURE SHOPS

When you support your local Tucson Audubon Society you are supporting birds and bird habitat conservation. Thank you!

SHOP HOURS

MAIN SHOP

Monday–Saturday, 10 AM–4 PM
520-629-0510 ext. 7015
300 E University Blvd #120, Tucson 85705
(corner of University & 5th Ave.)

AGUA CALIENTE PARK SHOP

*Thursday–Saturday, 10 AM–1:30 PM
520-760-7881
12325 E Roger Road, Tucson 85749

**Please call to confirm hours. The shop opens earlier and closes later during certain months. Nature Shop space generously provided by Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation*

When you need a book, think of Tucson Audubon's Nature Shops first! Support your local book store.

Big Book, Little Birds A review by Rick Wright

John C. Arvin. 2016. *Hummingbirds*. Vol. 1: North America, Central America, and Caribbean. Full-page plates by Sangeetha Kadur, Raul Andrade, and Vydhehi Kadur. Brownsville, TX: Gorgas Science Foundation. 216 pages, hardcover—\$60.

The first of the great illustrated hummingbird books appeared more than two centuries ago, and the genre shows no signs of slowing down. It's easy to see why: What could be more captivating than these tiny feathered meteorites, and what more inspiring to writers and painters than the effort to capture their beauty and fascination in word and image?

The latest in this long tradition is the first volume of John Arvin's *Hummingbirds*, treating 127 hummingbird species found from Alaska to Panama. Each of the admirably compact text accounts offers information about the bird's range and habitat, feeding behavior, identification, and conservation status. The occasional citation points to a two-page bibliography, but most of the wealth of information provided here is apparently based on the author's own observations, an impressive circumstance if so.

The text accounts share their page with range maps for each species, with national boundaries marked but no state and province borders. Three inches square, these generously sized maps are at different scales, showing only the subregion where the species occurs. This gives the maps greater precision than would be possible on a map covering all of North America, but it can be disorienting in the case of hummingbirds with an exclusively Caribbean distribution; the range of some, such as the Blue-headed Hummingbird of Dominica and Martinique, appears on the page as a series of small green blotches.

The main point of this book, though, is not the words but the pictures. Painters and printers have recognized the challenges posed by the hummingbirds' metallic iridescence for nearly 250 years. The count de Buffon, eighteenth-century Europe's most influential natural historian, ordered his illustrators to abandon the project entirely when they discovered that it was impossible to capture the ever-changing colors on paper; at the turn of the nineteenth century, Jean-Baptiste Audebert invented a new method of printing the birds in color and then highlighting the images with the thinnest gold leaf. Towards mid-century, illustrated multi-volume works by William Jardine, René-Primevère Lesson, John Gould, and many others fed the bibliophile and ornithophile hunger for hummingbirds.

The most desirable of those books, then and now, were large-format volumes in which the birds were depicted at life size or even larger. With pages measuring a full 12 x 16 inches, Arvin's book aims to fit

squarely in that tradition. Each of the color plates here—most featuring only one species, a few two—depicts at least two individual birds, typically at least one perched, the other hovering at flowers, drinking from sapsucker wells, or plucking spiders from a web. All of the plants depicted are identified on the facing page. In a clear stylistic nod to the plates published by John Gould 150 years ago, the figures of the birds themselves are often painted well in front of a pleasingly tangled background, making it seem as if they had just emerged from the mysteriously lit forest to investigate the intruding reader.

Three artists are responsible for the plates, their styles sufficiently similar to avoid jarring contrasts as the pages are turned. Among the most striking images are Raul Andrade's elegant Broad-billed Hummingbirds (incongruously feeding at eastern red columbines), Vydhehi Kadur's sapsucking Red-billed Streamertails, and Sangeetha Kadur's dramatic Purple-throated Caribs prospecting in lush heliconia flowers.

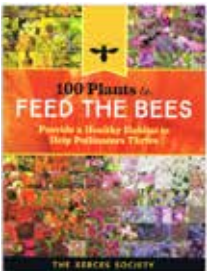


As an object, *Hummingbirds* is reasonably well made. Libraries will be pleased to see that the design of the handsome dust jacket is repeated on the boards and spine. The glossy paper used for the book block itself is not my favorite, not least because it crimps and creases so easily even with careful page-turning. The color reproduction appears to be consistently good in

the plates, and most are clear and crisp; it isn't obvious whether the blurriness of a very few images is a printing problem or the faithful replication of a "soft" original painting. The text accounts are well proofread and edited, an effort that could profitably have been extended to the short bibliography.

The first volume was published by the Gorgas Science Foundation, the venerable education and conservation organization most famous for its El Cielo Biosphere Reserve in southern Tamaulipas. If the second volume, covering the remaining 200 or so currently recognized species, rises to the level of this first, its publication will mark another milestone in the history of a very special kind of book. ■

Rick Wright leads Birds and Art tours for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. He is a widely published writer and popular speaker; among his recent publications is the ABA Field Guide to Birds of Arizona. Rick will be the keynote speaker at the Southwest Wings birding festival this August, and will lead a Tucson Audubon trip to Puerto Peñasco in the days before this year's Southeast Arizona Birding Festival.



 100 Plants to Feed the Bees \$16.95	 Abracadabra It's Spring! \$14.95	 Amethyst Jewel Hummingbird Feeder \$24.00	 Arizona Guide \$16.95	 Ben's Bells Be Kind Butterfly Bell \$15.00	 Maya Tea Prickly Pear Herbal \$8.00
 Waterwise Plants for Sustainable Gardens \$24.95	 Bee House Small \$12.00	 Celestron Hummingbird Scope \$359.99 (Member \$323.99)	 Sunday Afternoons Quest Indigo Hat \$36.00	 Native Seed Company Seeds \$10.00	 Projects for the Birder's Garden \$19.95



NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT #1345

300 E University Blvd, #120
Tucson, AZ 85705

Address Service Requested

Vermilion Flycatcher

Volume 62, Number 2, April-June 2017

© 2017 Tucson Audubon Society

The *Vermilion Flycatcher* is the newsletter of the Tucson Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. National Audubon Society members and members of other chapters may receive the *Flycatcher* by joining the Friends of Tucson Audubon. See membership at tucsonaudubon.org.



DON'T MISS MONSOON BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST ARIZONA. IT'S THE BEST FOR BIRDS!

Join us August 10-13, 2017 on a search for Broad-billed Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Harris's Hawk, Montezuma Quail and over 200 more species!

TUCSONAUDUBON.ORG/FESTIVAL

Uplands along lower San Pedro, Matt Griffiths; Broad-billed Hummingbird, Lois Manowitz



Southeast Arizona BIRDING FESTIVAL

