

THE QUARTERLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY | TUCSONAUDUBON.ORG

# Vermilion

## FLYCATCHER

July–September 2012 | Volume 57, Number 3

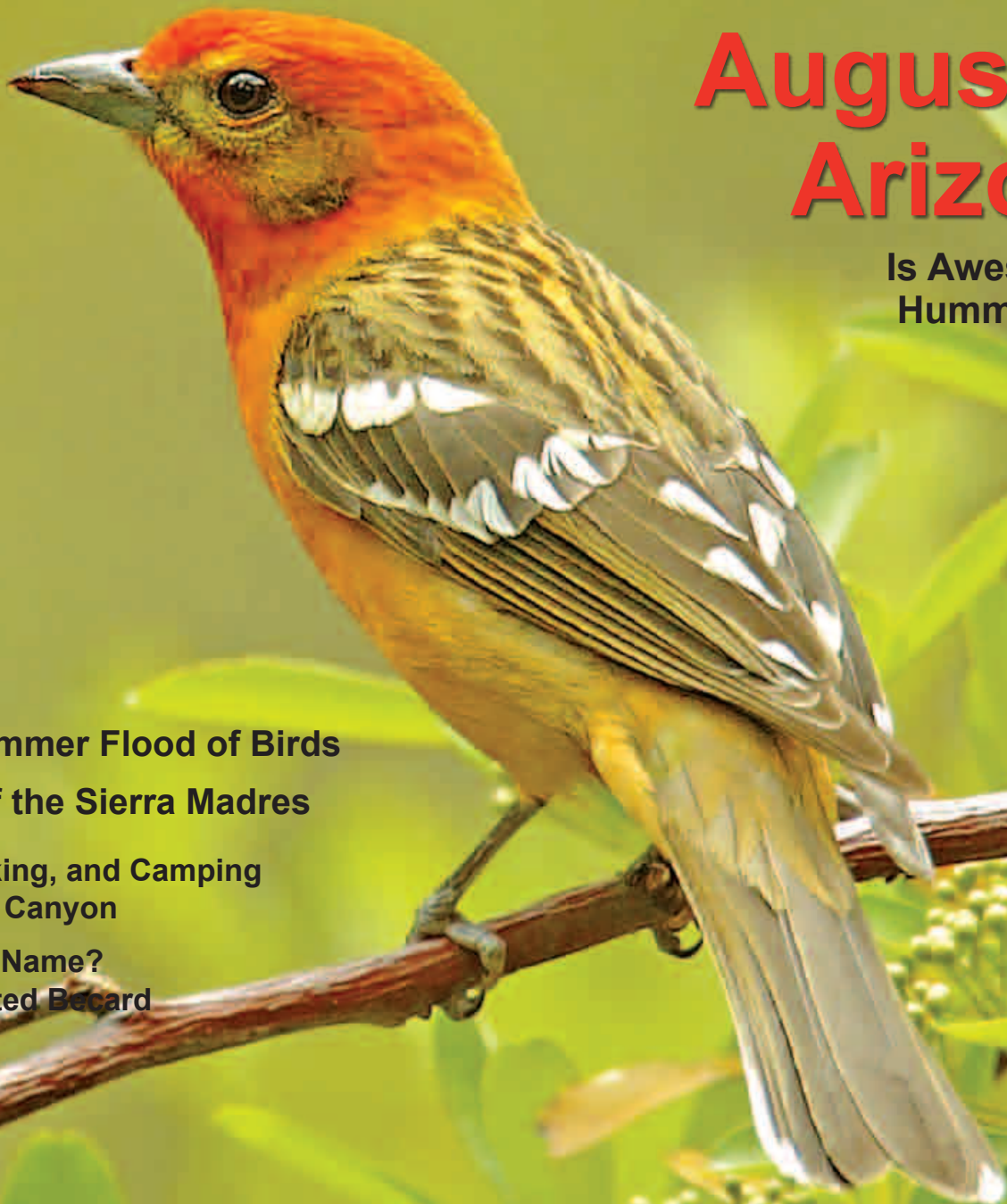
## August in Arizona

Is Awesome for  
Hummingbirds

**A Late Summer Flood of Birds  
Field ID of the Sierra Madres**

**Birding, Hiking, and Camping  
in Aravaipa Canyon**

**What's in a Name?  
Rose-throated Becard**





Tucson Audubon Society is dedicated to improving the quality of the environment by providing education, conservation, and recreation programs, environmental leadership, and information. Tucson Audubon is a non-profit volunteer organization of people with a common interest in birding and natural history. Tucson Audubon maintains offices, a library, and nature shops in Tucson, the proceeds of which benefit all of its programs.

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**FRONT COVER:** Flame-colored Tanager © Jim & Deva Burns, Scottsdale, AZ. To see more of their work visit their website, [www.jimburnsphotos.com](http://www.jimburnsphotos.com) and follow Jim's birding blog at <http://jimburnsphotos.com/pages/columns.html>.

To have your photographs considered for use in the *Vermilion Flycatcher*, please contact Matt Griffiths at [mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org).

## Explore Tucson's Other Gem Show





Birding and watchable wildlife activities in Arizona

### \$1.5 billion

economic impact\*

**BIRDERS MEAN BUSINESS** for Tucson

- Our region is among the Top 3 birding destinations nationwide
- Southeast Arizona is the best place in the U.S. to see hummingbirds
- Birding is a big deal and growing! To learn more about birding and its economic impact, visit [www.tucsonaudubon.org/birdingeconomics](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/birdingeconomics)

Our Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands offer the best August birding in the US. Join the fun at the 2nd annual Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival August 15–19, 2012.



Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

—Aldo Leopold



# COMMENTARY

PAUL GREEN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival—In Context

Stephen R. Covey, writing on how we assess our roles in life and our value to our community, focuses on relationships and functions. I wonder: why don't we do the same when we consider our natural world? Too often nature is viewed as a commodity resource: for example, a tree may be valued for its lumber alone rather than the many roles it plays as a living organism.

Local conservationist Nancy Freeman has estimated that the proposed Rosemont copper mine would destroy at least 10,000 trees, including some oaks that are more than 100 years old. These trees absorb carbon dioxide, bind the soil and reduce erosion by wind and water, enabling the soil to act as a sponge to absorb and slowly release water (100 mature trees can reduce runoff caused by rainfall by up to 100,000 gallons). They reduce air flow and filter out contaminants, support recreational and social functions for us, and of course they produce oxygen and contribute to maintaining the clean air that we need to live healthy lives. Our trees are providing a broad range of services to our community. Are we ready to sacrifice them?

When contemplating the potential loss of natural services, some communities consider how much they would have to spend to develop artificial systems to replace some of the ecological services provided by the natural services before making a decision on a development. For example, Ugandans spared a Kampala wetland from agricultural development after calculating it would cost \$2 million a year to run a sewage treatment facility—the same job the swamp does for free.

New York City opted to restore the polluted Catskill Watershed that had previously provided the city with clean water. The cost of this investment in natural capital was estimated at \$1.5 billion, which contrasted dramatically with the estimated \$8 billion cost of constructing a water filtration plant plus the \$300 million annual running costs.

Ecological services do many things for us: they provide (e.g. food, water);

regulate (carbon sequestration, water purification); support (pollination, nutrient cycling); and enhance (cultural, spiritual, recreational functions). Some recognition of these realities was acknowledged by the US Forest Service at the end of June when it indicated that it was considering the effects of the proposed Rosemont copper mine on our air quality, water quality, water quantity, seeps, springs, riparian resources, dark skies, and socioeconomics (see p 19).

Socioeconomics (as a cultural service of our natural habitats) is of particular interest to Tucson Audubon. At last count, wildlife watching was worth \$1.5 billion to our state. Wildlife watchers contribute more to Arizona's economy than golfers, hunters, the gem show, anglers, or hosting the Super Bowl. Our community has the opportunity of growing the pot of monies and increasing Tucson's share of regional Watchable Wildlife income. We have a unique resource with our diverse habitats and wildlife (including many species found nowhere else in the US), first class destination services, information, and expertise in the region. And wildlife watching is only one way of putting a value on the land that could be buried in mine tailings.

A new report values ecosystem services provided by natural habitat in the 48 contiguous United States at \$1.6 trillion annually, which is equivalent to more than 10 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). It estimates that the loss of about 9.9 million acres of wetlands in the U.S. since the 1950s has resulted in an economic loss of more than \$81 billion in all wetlands-related ecosystem services.

The same report finds that outdoor recreation, conservation, and historic preservation activities for 2011 created a minimum of 9.4 million jobs, generated federal, state and local tax revenues of \$107 billion, and resulted in total economic activity (equivalent to GDP) of \$1.06 trillion.

In Pima County, Tucson Audubon was a founding member of the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection [www.csdp.org](http://www.csdp.org).

BÉTÉ PFISTER



[sonorandesert.org/](http://sonorandesert.org/), focusing on these issues for the last 15 years. The community-driven Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is the most valuable planning and policy tool we have to establish a balance between development and maintaining ecological services and the quality of life we all value so highly. We all need to remain vigilant of political moves to weaken the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan in the name of “the economy”.

It is Tucson Audubon's goal to help and encourage our elected officials and our business community to comprehend and then formally embrace the value of the wide range of ecological services provided by intact, fully functional natural ecosystems. We would especially like to see a strong voice from our business community, working with us to protect our health and safety by safeguarding meaningful conservation of our natural systems.

The Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival is perhaps the most conspicuous part of Tucson Audubon's work in this area, and our *Birds & Business Alliance* is a growing part of that process. See page 17 for some details of new funding we have received to move our mutual community agenda forward.

### References:

- The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation and Historic Preservation in the United States. For: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation By: Southwick Associates October 10, 2011
- Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Overview. Retrieved 2012. <http://www.pima.gov/cmo/admin/Reports/ConservationReport/>

# TUCSON AUDUBON EVENTS AND CLASSES

## Lifelong Learning Opportunities with Tucson Audubon



Birding is captivating with Homer Hansen!

### Specialty Workshops 2012–2013

Intended as stand-alone classes, these workshops are a great opportunity to focus on a specific group of birds and brush up on your identification skills. Homer Hansen is the instructor and he will go into detail on similar species, identification techniques, and vocalizations. These workshops are designed for advanced beginner to intermediate birders.

All specialty workshops take place over the course of two days. **In the workshop summaries below, the first date listed is the day of the classroom session and the second date listed is the field trip outing.** The cost for all specialty workshops is \$110 for members and \$145 for non-members. All classroom sessions take place from 5:30 PM–8:30 PM in the Tucson Audubon library in our main office on University and 5th. Workshops are limited to 10 participants.

#### Fall Programming

Our specialty workshops start on the heels of the Tucson Bird and Wildlife Festival! Homer Hansen is offering the opportunity to focus on two species

groups that often leave us confounded in the field!

#### Warblers: August 23 & 25, 2012

You will be taken through the steps of how to accurately identify and distinguish challenging fall warblers. Key structural characteristics and similar species comparisons will be taught during this workshop, along with an introduction to learning warbler vocalizations.

#### Flycatchers: September 13 & 15, 2012

Ready to leap into the identification of Empidonax and Myiarchus flycatchers? This workshop introduces you to the diverse family Tyrannidae and highlights the ways to separate the kingbirds, pewees, empids and flycatchers of southeastern Arizona.

#### Spring Programming

**See our website for more detailed descriptions of each workshop.**

All taught by Homer Hansen

Sparrows: February 7 & 9, 2013

Raptors: February 13 & 16, 2013

Birding by Ear: April 18 & 20, 2013

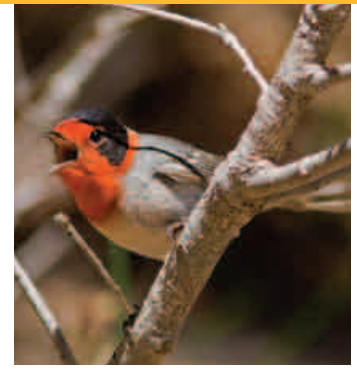
Visit our Nature Shops to discover a whole world of resources to support your learning experience.

DAVID MITCHELL



L to R: Savannah Sparrow; Red-faced Warbler.

LOIS MANOWITZ



### Education Courses for Fall and Winter: 2012–2013

#### For Beginners 2013

##### Backyard Birding and Beyond

Open yourself up to the natural world by gaining skills and knowledge about birding that you can take with you into your backyard or to any corner of the globe! Topics to be covered include: principles of identification, binoculars and field guides, birding vocabulary and etiquette, local bird I.D. and lore, seasonal occurrence, family characteristics, and gardening to attract birds. You will learn firsthand why southeastern Arizona is such a great place for birds and why bird watching is so rewarding. Taught by Lynn Hassler, longtime birder, educator, and noted author. Course limited to 15 participants.

Classroom sessions: Saturdays, January 12, 19 (no class January 26), February 9, 16; 10 am–12 noon  
Field trips: Saturdays, February 2, 23; 9:00 AM; Location to be announced  
Cost: \$150 for members, \$185 for non-members

##### Birding by Habitat

Southeastern Arizona offers such excellent birding opportunities in part because of its variety of habitats. Elevation contrasts result in different temperature and moisture levels, which in turn make for different assemblages of plants and animals. Riparian areas support their own cast of avian characters. Come experience the fun of birding in different natural environments with instructor Lynn Hassler. One classroom session is followed by three field trips to

different habitats: desert, riparian and Sky Island. Course limited to 12 participants.

Classroom sessions: Saturday, April 13; 10 AM–12 noon

Field trips: Saturdays, April 20, 27, May 4; TBA; Carpooling encouraged

Cost: \$125 for members, \$160 for non-members

#### Moving to Mastery 2012

##### An advanced beginner to intermediate level birding course

Take your birding to the next level with our popular Moving to Mastery class. If you feel like you are ready to move your birding skills beyond the basics, this is the class for you. Taught by Wings Over Willcox chairman, Homer Hansen, this class will build upon knowledge that you've acquired through experience in the field, in a beginning birding class, or from private study. Homer's techniques focus on structure and behavior to bring you to a better understanding of bird identification. Over the course of five weeks, you'll learn how to identify some of the more difficult bird groups, how to use technical references, and how to understand bird topography. Course limited to 16 participants.

Classroom sessions: Thursdays, October 18–November 15, 5:30 PM–8:00 PM

Field trips: Saturdays, October 18–November 10, 7:00 AM–5 PM

Cost: \$250 for Tucson Audubon members; \$285 for non-members

Contact for all education activities: Bété Pfister at [bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org), 520-209-1812

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR SUITE OF EDUCATION CLASSES, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.TUCSONAUDUBON.ORG/EDUCATION](http://WWW.TUCSONAUDUBON.ORG/EDUCATION)



## Education Program Sampler at our Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival!

Come meet our instructors and get a preview of our beginning birding class and our specialty workshops!

*If you are a beginning birder, here is where to start:*

- Beginning Birding Workshop with Lynn Hassler—Thursday, August 16
- Go Batty! with Ronnie Sidner—Friday, August 17
- Learning to Look Workshop with Richard Crossley—Saturday, August 18
- Hummingbirds 101 Workshop with Sheri Williamson—Saturday, August 18
- Hummingbird Safari for Beginners with Sheri Williamson—Sunday, August 19
- Youth Sweetwater Outing with Richard Crossley—Sunday, August 19

*If you are an intermediate birder, sample Homer Hansen's specialty workshops and accompany him on a field trip!*

- Sparrow Workshop—Friday, August 17
- Raptor Workshop—Friday, August 17
- Field trip to Las Cienegas National Conservation Area—Saturday, August 18

See pullout for more details on how to register!



SWAINSON'S HAWK, DOUG ZWICK

### BRING YOUR mPODS!

Start collecting your mesquite pods and get them milled at the **Tucson Audubon Harvest Festival** on Saturday, November 3, at the Mason Center. See p 8 for details of this fun event.

## Living with Nature

Mark your calendars for next season's Living with Nature Lectures

**ANNOUNCING A NEW VENUE FOR OUR TUCSON LECTURES! EASY PARKING! CENTRAL LOCATION! SPACIOUS ROOM!**

Tucson Audubon is partnering with the Pima Community College Downtown Campus to bring you next season's Living with Nature Lecture Series! All lectures will be held in the Amethyst Room on campus at 1255 N. Stone Ave. The program begins at **7 PM**, the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month October through April. Please check our website for details on topics and speakers.

### GREEN VALLEY

Joyner-Green Valley Library, 601 N La Canada Dr. 594-5295. The Green Valley talks will now be at **10 AM** on the **FIRST SATURDAY** of the month, **October through April**.

A big thanks to our 2011/2012 presenters who transported us to exotic birding destinations, heightened our awareness of the lifestyles of urban birds and how we interact with them, and gave us insight on how to continue protecting the precious natural resources we have in the Southwest: **Kirby Bristow, Joan Cass, Karen Krebbs, Bill Mannan, Christopher**



BOTH PHOTOS PCC



**McCreedy, Pinau Merlin, Doug Moore, Scott Olmstead, Jonathan Overpeck, Anne Peyton, Tad Pfister**

The Living with Nature Lecture Series will resume in October. Stay tuned for the schedule in our next issue. If you are seeking out opportunities for free natural history talks this summer, join us at our Tucson Bird and Wildlife Festival on August 17th and 18th at the Riverpark Inn to hear about a variety of topics that will be discussed as a part of our FREE Nature Expo! (see pullout p IV).

For more information, contact Bété Pfister, 520-209-1812 or [bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org), or visit [tucsonaudubon.org](http://tucsonaudubon.org).

## Institute of Desert Ecology Hits the Road

Creating opportunities for you to learn about ecology, how all the living and non-living parts fit together to form our amazing natural world, is one thing we do with our Institute of Desert Ecology (IDE), heading into its 43rd year. For a number of years now the Institute has been hosted on the mountain slope habitats of Catalina State Park. But our Sonoran Desert has many diverse habitats and, over the next three years, IDE is going on tour!

The IDE will focus in turn on Grassland, Sky Island, and then

Riparian habitats, before returning to the Catalina mountains. We'll be partnering with friends to deliver these exciting new programs.

- **2013**—Focus: Grasslands habitat; Partner: Audubon Arizona's Research Ranch at Elgin, south of Sonoita (pictured above right)
- **2014**—Focus: Sky Islands habitat; Partner: Southwestern Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History in Portal

- July 4.** Offices and shops closed
- August 1–11.** Main Shop closed for inventory and software update
- August 15–19.** Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival (see pullout for full details)
  - 8/15.** First Annual Sky Islands Birding Cup
  - 8/15.** Wild & Scenic Film Festival
  - 8/16.** Birds & Beer Social
  - 8/16.** Workshop: Beginning Birding with Lynn Hassler
  - 8/17.** Workshops: Sparrows and Raptors with Homer Hansen; Go Batty! with Ronnie Sidner
  - 8/17.** Welcome Reception and Presentation by Rick Taylor
  - 8/17–8/18.** Nature Expo with free presentations throughout the day
  - 8/17–8/19.** More than a dozen expert-led half-day and full-day field trips
  - 8/18.** Workshops: Learning to Look with Richard Crossley; Hummingbirds 101 with Sheri Williamson
  - 8/18.** Keynote Banquet and Presentation by Richard Crossley
  - 8/18.** Youth Birders' Outing with Richard Crossley

**August 17–18.** Main shop closed, but open at Festival!

**August 23 & 25.** Specialty Workshop: Warblers (see p 4)

**September 3.** Offices and shops closed

**September 13 & 15.** Specialty Workshop: Flycatchers (see p 4)

**October 18–November 15.** Moving to Mastery course (see p 4)

**November 3.** Tucson Audubon Harvest Festival (see p 8)



KENDALL KROESEN

- **2015**—Focus: Riparian habitat; Partner: The Nature Conservancy, in Aravaipa Canyon.
- **2016**—We will return to Catalina State Park. Details of dates will be published in due course. Further information from Bété Pfister at [bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org)

# TUCSON AUDUBON NEWS ROUNDUP

## Birdathon was a Blast!

Kara Kaczmarzyk, Volunteer and Development Coordinator



Many thanks and congratulations go to the 67 Birdathoners and hundreds of personal sponsors who helped make the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Birdathon spectacular. Thanks to you, we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$25,000! This year, we really shook things up, with a shorter Big Week of birding, and it worked! Best of all, the birds get the benefit from funds raised for Tucson Audubon's conservation and education programs.

Among the awards presented at the Birdy BBQ was the coveted title of Most Species Seen. This year's winners were The Wrenegades, led by Tucson Audubon's IBA Program Coordinating Biologist, Jennie MacFarland, who guided her team to 147 species. The Grand Prize winner, whose combined fundraising and bird finding total outdid the competition, was our own Kendall Kroesen!

Special thanks goes to our All-Star Team leaders, Gavin Bieber,

Richard Fray, Jennie MacFarland, Scott Olmstead, and John Yerger. A huge thanks goes to our Phainopepla Sponsor, Pima Federal Credit Union. We would also like to thank George Andrejko and Bryan Holliday for serving as photo contest judges, and thank our prize, AV, and restaurant sponsors, Audio Visual Management, Barrio Brewing Company, Bedroxx, Bookmans, Casa Video, Chuy's, Fourth Avenue Yoga, Golf N' Stuff, Green Mountain Digital, Lotus Massage & Wellness Center, REI, Summit Hut, Sunglow Ranch, Pima Air & Space Museum, Renee's Organic Oven, Sabino Cycles, Texas Roadhouse, Titan Missile Museum, Thunder Canyon Brewery, Tucson Audubon Nature Shop, Tucson Touch Therapies, Vantage Bowling, and Vortex Optics.

Mark your calendars for Birdathon 2013, April 19–28!



ALL PHOTOS KENDALL KROESEN



Clockwise from left: The crowd looks in anticipation at the next award winner; Quinn Agnew shows off the prize he won as Youngest Birder; Carsten Wintsch with his prize for Most Money Raised by Young Male Birder; Birdathoners Brad Paxton, Laura LePere, Michael Byers, and Becky Aparicio



**Winning Photo in the Birdathon Photo Contest:** Rufous-capped Warbler by Dick Tipton. Taken March 3, 2012 with a Canon EOS 50D Camera with a Canon EF 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 L IS USM. The photo was taken at 1/1600 sec at f 8.0. ISO 400. "I was lucky enough to see a pair of these Warblers in Florida Canyon just above the work site camp. The conservation of places like Florida Canyon and other areas of critical habitat is essential if we and future generations expect to continue to enjoy birding in the wild."

## Tucson Audubon Gala: January 30, 2013

David Wilcove will be the keynote speaker at our 2013 Gala, to be held at the Hilton El Conquistador Resort.

David is Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University, and author of *The Condor's Shadow: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America*

(1999), and *No Way Home: The Decline of the World's Great Animal Migrations* (2007). Tony Paniagua will be our Master of Ceremonies.

From 1991 to 2001, David Wilcove was Senior Ecologist at Environmental Defense in Washington, DC, where he focused on developing economically and scientifically sound policies for

protecting endangered species. David previously served as Senior Ecologist for The Wilderness Society (1986–1991), where he developed the scientific foundation for the Society's successful campaign to protect the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest. He has served on the board of directors of the RARE

Center for Tropical Conservation, the American Bird Conservatory, and the Society for Conservation Biology.

Listen to the interview with David Wilcove by Terry Gross on NPR at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=16919118>.



# River Pathways Successfully Piloted in Tucson!

Bété Pfister, Environmental Education Coordinator

This spring, Tucson Audubon partnered with Audubon Arizona and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Tucson Field Office to pilot the River Pathways curriculum in two Vail district high schools: Empire High School and Cienega High School. River Pathways is an experiential education program that was developed by Audubon Arizona and funded by the BLM. The goals of the curriculum are to get students outdoors, introduce them to Arizona's native habitats, and build their interest in careers managing public lands and natural resources.

In the classroom, students completed a five module curriculum focused on riparian ecology and

resource management. The students then participated in two field trips. The first field trip was to Sweetwater Wetlands, where they were trained in riparian monitoring techniques. Then, they took a second field trip to Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, a riparian area administered by the BLM, to apply what they learned at Sweetwater and assist agency scientists in collecting data used to make management decisions.

At both field trip locations, the students engaged in three activities: water quality and invertebrate sampling, riparian woody species monitoring, and a bird walk/survey. We reached 52 students this spring from Grade 10-12, in the two high schools.

We have one more classroom from Cienega High School scheduled for a fall program and this summer we will be planning for the next phase of River Pathways. If you are a high school teacher who is interested in engaging with high school students in the field, contact Bété Pfister at [bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:bpfister@tucsonaudubon.org) or 520-209-1812 for more information on how to become involved.

Right, top to bottom: Amy Markstein, BLM employee monitoring birds at Empire Gulch with students from Empire High School. River Pathways students from Empire High School monitoring invertebrates with Tucson Audubon's Kendall Kroesen.



BOTH PHOTOS BÉTÉ PFISTER



# EXPERIENCE Southeast Arizona's Birding at its Best

**AUGUST 15-19, 2012 • TUCSON, ARIZONA**

**Incorporating the Sky Islands Birding Cup  
ARIZONA'S NEW WORLD-CLASS BIG DAY BIRDING COMPETITION**

### FEATURING

**Keynote Banquet and Presentation by Richard Crossley, author of *The Crossley ID Guide***



**Welcome Reception and Presentation by Rick Taylor, author of *Birds of Southeastern Arizona***



**Check the pullout and visit [tucsonaudubon.org/festival](http://tucsonaudubon.org/festival) to register**

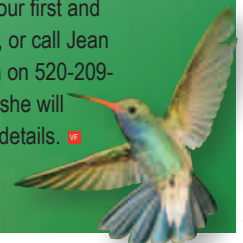


ERIN OLMSTEAD

## Sign up for Tucson Audubon's eNews

Tucson Audubon sends out a weekly email of news updates to a list of around 2,500 people. In addition, we send our supplemental emails to this list, for example for urgent conservation action or special invitations.

You can sign up for this list in a number of ways. The easiest is to go to [tucsonaudubon.org](http://tucsonaudubon.org) and click on the link that says Sign-Up E-newsletter. Otherwise send an email to [pgreen@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:pgreen@tucsonaudubon.org) with your first and last name, or call Jean Barchman on 520-209-1802 and she will take your details.



JOHN HOFFMAN

ROW 1, L TO R: MONTEZUMA QUAIL (ROBERT SHANTZ), WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD (LOIS MANOWITZ), RED-FACED WARBLER (JOHN HOFFMAN), RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER (RICHARD FRAY), FIVE-STRIPED SPARROW (RICH C. HOFER/WINGS), GRAY HAWK (JAMES PRUDENTE)

# Mason Center Movements

Kendall Kroesen, Habitats Program Manager

## Way to Use Your College Degree

It's a good thing I have a Ph.D. ("pile it higher and deeper") because the maintenance of the Mason Center composting toilets seems to have fallen to me. Sometimes I feel like I get buried in work here at Tucson Audubon, but I'm hoping that won't happen in this case.

Among my toilet duties are the monthly dose of bacteria, keeping the wood shavings underneath damp, and "raking the pile." Once the material has been raked to the fourth quadrant

of the bed (which may take years at our slow rate of "accumulation"), it is supposed to be ready to use as mulch. I'll keep you posted.

## Cactus Relocation

A big "thank you" to Ed Bartlett for single-handedly relocating hundreds of cacti from the east edge of the Mason Center property.

Eventually, we are going to lose acreage there to the widening of Thornydale Road, so we have started early with the relocation of mammillarias, hedgehogs, barrels, small saguaros and other cacti.

CAROL PALMER



KENDALL KROESEN

Some of the cacti have gone into an area of the demonstration gardens along the path from the pedestrian gate, where you can visit them and admire Ed's work.

## Plant Signs

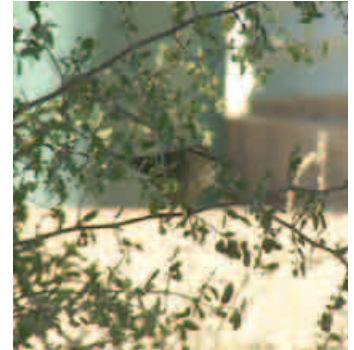
We've got a lot of cool plants around the Mason Center, ones that grow there naturally and others we've planted in the demonstration gardens. And now everybody will know what they are!

Our collaboration with Kathleen Neighbor's Service Learning Class at Tortolita Middle School is paying off. They received a grant from Marana Rotary Club to buy small signs to label plants.

Plants in our demonstration gardens and along the nature trails will be labeled over the summer. Please come and enjoy!

## Mason Hummer Haven

We're making the front porch of the house at Mason a hummingbird viewing platform. There are now hummingbird feeders hanging around the edge of the roof. In addition, we've planted hummingbird plants just below the porch in a subtly depressed rainwater harvesting basin. These consist of Sierra Madre lobelia, Parry penstemon, Fremont wolfberry,



CHRIS MIRACLE

Clockwise from top left: Butterfly on burroweed (left) and composting toilet (right) at Mason Center. Paul Green and Erin Olmstead's lucky sighting of Worm-eating Warbler on May 22. When Tucson Audubon's Mason Center was featured on KGUN9 News as part of their Southern Arizona Experience series a rare visitor decided to make an appearance! Check out the clip and the warbler cameo at [tucsonaudubon.org/news-events/tasnews.html](http://tucsonaudubon.org/news-events/tasnews.html)

fairy duster, red justicia, chuparosa, hummingbird trumpet, snapdragon vine, and desert honeysuckle. Come sit on the porch and help us document the hummingbirds that come!

We're also going to remodel the area with the water dish behind the house. We're hoping to make it better for birds as well as for the coyotes, javelinas and bobcats that come to drink.

## Harvest Festival, Saturday November 3

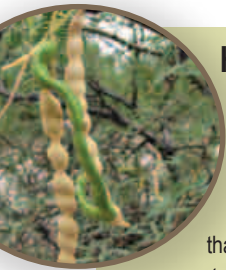
Last November's mesquite pod milling at the Mason Center was so successful that we're building an event around it: **The Tucson Audubon Harvest Festival!**

There will not only be mesquite milling, but a variety of native food displays, food vendors, lectures and hands-on activities to keep you busy while you are waiting for your mesquite flour. So come on Saturday, November 3, with mesquite pods in hand, and join in the celebration. You can help us put up a rainwater harvesting system, plant Kino Heritage Fruit Trees, and much more.

Soon it will be time to harvest your mesquite pods (most are harvested in late June, though the monsoon bloom often results in late summer pods as well). Refer to the last issue of the *Vermilion Flycatcher* for more on this, or go to [www.desertharvesters.org](http://www.desertharvesters.org).

At the Harvest Festival we will also be celebrating the new Conditional Use Permit that allows us to open the Mason Center to the public on a more regular basis.

We look forward to publishing regular hours that the center will be open, and having more people enjoy it on a regular basis!



SEARCHNET MEDIA

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Quinn Agnew, Jan Ajemian, Judie Albano, Jean Andrews, Paula D Arnold, Matt Bailey, Paul Bannick, Michael and Betsy Boxer, Robert Brower, M.D., Susan Campbell, Anne Carnahan, Sandra and Stewart Chan, Country Inn & Suites Tucson City Center, Jeremy Doschka, Melanie Emerson, Nancy Everist, Jim Falvey, Rick Fletcher, Keith and Cheryl Ann Friendshuh, Marc Goodman, Carolyn and Gerald Greshuk, Robert Goodrich, Elizabeth

Gricus, Diane Griffiths, Chad Hahn, Ronald Hansen, David and Dorothy Hart, Dewey Herndon and Bea Forbes, Phyllis Hibdon, Barbara Hurley, Carol and Keith Jasberg, Christina Jasberg, Betty Jones, Jessica Jubin, Diane Kelly, Marilyn Kern, Victoria Khalidi, Jorie Kollauf, Karen Lake, Carol Lamoureux, Jeff Lark, David Larson, Joe La Tourrette, Troy Loftin and Natalie Scott, Barbara Loos, Lyn Loveless, Karen Marchi, Patricia McDaid, Merrill Lynch Wealth

Management, Louise Misztal, Anne Moore, Eduardo Moreno and Jessica Lambertson, Sue Myers, Ann Parker, Teresa Parker, Ronald Prasek, Norma Price, Steven Ramshur, Donna Ribka, Maria Rosati, Gerald and Carol Rucks, Rick Saling, Tim Schirber, Maria Schuchardt, Luke Schwarz, Charles Seniawski, C. A. Shomaker, Lynne Skelton, Bob and Mary Beth Slivka, Judith Ann Strahler, Jim and Laura Sullivan, Joyce Sutay,

Gloria Sutela, Allison Titcomb, Bill and Claudia Turner, Larry Venable, Janice Warne, David Weeks, Donald and Helen Weeks, Earl Wettstein, Molly Wheelwright, Lisa and Paul Williams, Deb Woelky, Bob Womack

We welcome Country Inn & Suites Tucson City Center and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management as Copper Level Birds & Business Alliance members.

Jean Barchman, Membership Coordinator



## Volunteer News Roundup

Kara Kaczmarzyk, Volunteer & Development Coordinator

### Welcome New Volunteers

Barbara Hurley, Emily Litvack, Susan Matsushita, Fred Moss, Chelsea Powers, Sally Reeves, and Bonnie Wong

### It's Festival Time!

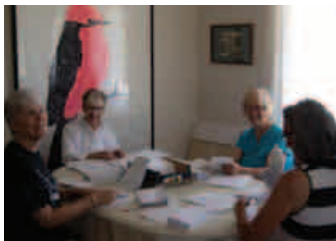
In August, the second annual Tucson Bird and Wildlife Festival hits town with a flutter! This simply could not be possible without a cadre of volunteers helping to make it happen. From the festival planning committee to registration processing to publicity help to all the volunteers who will be on-site during the festival, as speakers, field trip leaders, shop staff, registration helpers, van captains, AV go-to people, Emcees, and even more, thank you for supporting Tucson Audubon in this new endeavor, and for bringing the festivities! If you are interested in being part of this dynamic event, we would love to have you.

### Current Opportunities

Contact [volunteer@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@tucsonaudubon.org) or 520-629-0510 x7011

### Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival, August 15-19

There's still room to help on-site.



BOTH PHOTOS KARA KACZMARZYK

Top, L to R: Jan Labiner, Olga Harbour, and Sylvia Foster, with Membership Coordinator Jean Barchman, make sure our members get their birthday cards and welcome letters. Bottom: An eager crowd prepares for the Field Trip Leader Appreciation Excursion to Willcox on Memorial Day weekend. Thank you for leading trips throughout the year!

Visit [tucsonaudubon.org](http://tucsonaudubon.org) for updates and more.

### Harvest Festival

We've added another festival to the Fall line-up, be part of it!

### Silent Auction

Bring your creativity and help revamp the auction for our 2013 gala, it'll be lots of fun!

### Fundraising

Help "make the ask" to different local businesses for small material donations.

### Nature Shops

Get started this summer to learn all you'll need for the fall rush!

### Tabling Crew

Join a dedicated group that are the face and voice of Tucson Audubon at outreach activities.

### Southwest Wings, August 1-4

Swing by Sierra Vista with outreach materials for this festival.

### TogetherGreen Restoration Workdays

As the weather cools, volunteers get back outside to restore our lands.

Don't forget to join our volunteer email list to get timely news and opportunity updates!

Some of our most active volunteers also help at Tucson Wildlife Center, and they've let us know that the Center is looking for volunteers to help raise injured and orphaned baby birds. Details at [www.tucsonwildlife.com/volunteer](http://www.tucsonwildlife.com/volunteer).

Our volunteer spotlight here shines on **Dennis and Bonnie Weeks**.

This outstanding couple joined our team only a year ago, but caught on quickly! In addition to being the bright, cheery presence every Tuesday at our University-area nature shop, the Weeks have been indispensable in heading our offsite sales booths at festivals. They took on five days at Wings Over Willcox with gusto, and then, in May, did the same for the Santa Cruz Nature and Heritage Festival (and in between at the March Tucson Festival of Books)! One of the volunteers who worked with Dennis and Bonnie at Wings Over Willcox gushed after that event, "They are the best!" Matt Brooks, our former Nature Shop Manager, agrees, "Dennis and Bonnie truly are a dynamic duo. They've jumped into volunteerism with Tucson Audubon in a big way, and we're lucky to have them. What a great team!"

The first time Dennis and Bonnie went birding was in 1999, and they haven't looked back! The fateful event occurred at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in Olympia, WA, where the Weeks' also volunteered in a nature shop. At the Refuge shop, they did ordering and management, and are glad to be bringing that experience to volunteering at Tucson Audubon. Now, their favorite place to go birding is Madera Canyon. It's close, relaxing, there is a wide elevation range, and they can bring their dogs too!



I wanted to find out something most people don't know about the Weeks. Bonnie's past life, come to find out, was filled with drag racing and horse farming! What car did she race? A 1969 Plymouth Barracuda with a 440 engine. "It went really fast."

In his spare time, Dennis enjoys yard work, walking, sight seeing, vacations, and reading (he's currently fascinated by *Freakonomics*). Although he denies it, Bonnie claims that Dennis has read every birding book. Plus, she says, he retains it all (which must come in handy when fielding questions at the nature shop).

I asked Dennis and Bonnie why they love to volunteer at Tucson Audubon. They think it's a great place to make friends, meet people, and (in their own words) the people that work here are exceptional. Well, Dennis and Bonnie, we staff think the same about our volunteers!

## Thank You to Our Donors

**Birthday Fund:** We wish to thank Mary Andrews, Betty Bengtson, Jean Barchman, Edmund Caldwell, Mary Caldwell, and Nancy Tuhey for their generous donations to the birthday fund in the second quarter of the year.

**Gifts In Honor/Memory:** We would like to thank these donors for their gift in honor/memory of a special person.

In memory of Dr. Ben Brown from Sam Campana

In memory of Marjorie Cleveland from Linda Closs, Elva Cunningham, and Larry and Pam Cunningham

In memory of June Hirsch from Mary and Edmund Caldwell

In memory of June Hirsch from Stella and Phillip Hotchkiss

In memory of Dr. Arnold Hollander from Martha C. Brasher

In memory of Dr. Arnold Hollander from Donald Jeck

In memory of Dr. Arnold Hollander from Patricia Morgan and Peter Salomon

In memory of Dr. Arnold Hollander from Jeanne and Frank Rabey

In memory of Grace Nettie Jones from Mark and Jean Hengesbaugh

In memory of Stewart Lancaster from Matt Griffiths

In memory of Stewart Lancaster from Mrs. Janet C. Millar

In memory of Mimi Landwehr from Barbara Klein

In honor of Larry Liese from E Marguerite Howard

In honor of Cynthia Pruett from the Brookdale Senior Living Inc.

In honor of Cynthia Pruett from the Los Cerros Garden Club

# eBirding Important Bird Areas

Jennie MacFarland, IBA Conservation Biologist

The Arizona Important Bird Area (IBA) program distinguishes itself among other state IBA programs in the number of surveys we conduct. This program, co-administered by Tucson Audubon Society and Audubon Arizona, has one of the most extensive databases of any IBA program in America. This effort has only been possible due to the amazing IBA volunteers who have generously given their time and skill to this program and helped carry out these surveys. In the past, this idea of training groups of volunteers on IBA survey protocol and assigning them to areas with a schedule of when surveys should be completed was the only logical way to monitor what was happening in these areas. But now the future is here! Advances in modern technology have allowed birders to share their observations with conservationists quite easily, especially with eBird. When birders create a free account at [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org), they can enter checklists of where they were birding and the species they observed and in what

abundance. This is a great (and free!) way to keep track of your lists and the website has some amazing features and interactive maps based on the huge amount of data that birders submit every day. This is a remarkable website and if you are not already using it, I highly recommend it.

eBird has also made it possible for the Arizona IBA program to gather data from existing IBAs as well as potential IBAs in a whole new way. When any birder visits one of these locations and reports what they find to eBird, the Arizona IBA office can then see that data and use it to monitor these areas. Such information is extremely helpful because there is so much of it from so many areas. This data becomes an extremely powerful tool when used in conjunction with the data that the IBA program volunteers gather on their surveys.

These new data portals such as eBird also make it possible for all interested birders to help with the conservation initiative of the Important Bird Area Program. When you bird in any of the 42 IBAs in Arizona, or the

several potential IBAs, and submit your checklists with quantities to eBird, you are helping the program and Arizona's native birds. There is also a way for you to let us know that you purposefully birded in an IBA to gather information on the species there. Once you have completed a checklist, there is a feature called "share checklist," here you can enter the usernames or email addresses of other birders who were with you. If you make **ArizonalBA** (no space!) one of the observers, your checklist will come straight to the IBA office along with your name. In the future we will recognize those birders who go out of their way to help the IBA program in this way. Happy eBirding!

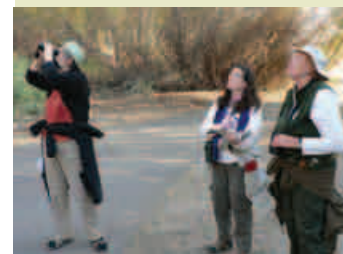
## Areas of particular interest

A complete list of Arizona's IBAs with detailed profiles can be found at [www.aziba.org](http://www.aziba.org) but several areas of particular interest this year are: the Patagonia Mountains, the Pinaleno Mountains (Mount Graham), the Chiricahua Mountains and the San Pedro River.



## BirdLog app, eBirding is easier than ever!

The new BirdLog app from BirdsEye for iPhones, iPod Touch and Droid makes it easier than ever to create and submit an eBird checklist. Instead of writing down your whole list on paper and then later entering it all in your computer, you can electronically enter it as you go with this app. When you use it in the field, it pinpoints your location and creates a custom list of the species most likely to be in that area. This app also works well if you are in a remote area without coverage or are using an iPod Touch (requiring wi-fi) and easily creates an "off-line" checklist. This app is very easy to use and recommended.



JENNIE MACFARLAND

# Tucson Audubon's Online Library Catalog About to Take Flight!

Sherry Massie, Tucson Audubon Volunteer

Did you know that Tucson Audubon maintains a library for members with books located at our University and Mason locations? And now, the Tucson Audubon Society Online Library Catalog is almost here!

With this online catalog, you will be able to search the collection from the comfort of your personal computer by title, author, subject, keyword, and other fields.

Basic and advanced search options, similar to what you would find in your public library online catalog, will be available. In the next two months most of the cataloging will be completed, as well as book relabeling with Library of Congress Classification numbers, with book pockets and cards all in place.

If you have used the Tucson Audubon library in the past you will remember that it was arranged in very broad, general categories. You will now see items arranged as they would be in a college library. There will be a call number list in the library to point you in the general direction, or ask a volunteer if you can use a computer to search online while you are visiting.

The planned launch date for the live link is September 1st! It will be accessible from a link on our website.

What kind of books can you find in the Tucson Audubon library? Everything from general field guides for flora and fauna in the Southwest to bird finding guides for national and international locations, to specific reference catalogs such as the Birds of North America, to nature sound CDs (including *The Bird Songs of Southeast Arizona and Sonora*.) This library is a member benefit and we are always updating our selection of books for you to use and checkout.

Sherry Massie, Hal Myers, Carol Eagle, and Olga Harbour are the volunteers bringing the catalog to fruition. Sara Pike and Matt Brooks are the staff members supporting

the project. The project to make the library more accessible to Tucson Audubon members and the broader public got a boost with a bequest from the estate of member and volunteer Eugene Loring. Mr. Loring also made a gift of books from his personal library. Mr. Loring's donation enabled Tucson Audubon to purchase library-cataloging and management software.

*Special accolades go to Sherry Massie for heading the Tucson Audubon library online catalog project. Sherry put countless number of hours doing research, working with the online catalog company, organizing the update, cataloging books and training volunteers to help with the effort. This could not have been done without Sherry's dedicated work!* 🐦

BOTH PHOTOS SARA PIKE



L to R: Tucson Audubon library volunteers extraordinaire Olga Harbour, Carol Eagle, Sherry Massie, and Hal Myers



# Birding, Hiking, and Camping In Aravaipa Canyon

JIM GESSAMAN

As a prime example of the Southwest's desert country, narrow and twisting Aravaipa Canyon has few if any equals. Aravaipa Creek, shaded by cottonwoods, sycamores, willow, and ash, has cut Aravaipa Canyon up to 1,000 feet deep in the 7,500-foot Galiuro Mountains. The canyon walls are wondrously carved; canyon widths usually range from 300 to 600 feet, but sometimes constrict to less than 100 feet. Sonoran Desert vegetation, including saguaros, lines the dry canyon walls that surround this riparian oasis. The creek runs year-round from springs, seeps and tributary streams, and along the water grows one of the lushest riparian habitats in southern AZ. The main canyon's length is about 11 miles, and the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness extends well beyond the canyon to include surrounding tablelands and nine side canyons. Aravaipa Creek is a tributary of the San Pedro River.

**Birding:** I have birded in Aravaipa several times in May, October, and November. Birding is exhilarating in May when migrants and summer residents are abundant; their showy breeding plumage and boisterous singing is awesome. On Aravaipa Road at 6.6 miles from Highway 77, carefully pull over to scan the lower

cottonwood trees for nesting Common Black-Hawks in March to June. At 11.4 miles, the road swings close to the cottonwoods. Scan for another Common Black-Hawk nest. In late fall, bird numbers and diversity are much reduced from May levels. I have tabulated a list of 126 species seen in Aravaipa Canyon by me and others reporting on eBird (find it online here: [tucsonaudubon.org/birding/aravaipa\\_birds.pdf](http://tucsonaudubon.org/birding/aravaipa_birds.pdf)). In *Vertebrates of Aravaipa Canyon: A Checklist* (a BLM pamphlet no longer available), 239 species of birds are listed.

I recommend either of two options: (1) birding from the west trailhead, starting at sunrise, to Horse Camp, a side canyon 4.9 miles from the west trailhead (about a 4-hour hike), and returning the same day; or (2) birding to Horse Camp Canyon and camping out two nights as you explore the canyon eastward toward Turkey Creek, 1.8 miles from the east trailhead. Good camping areas, well above the flash-flood line, are easy to find at the side canyons of Horse Camp and Booger (6.5 miles from the west trailhead); ground fires are permitted. All water must be filtered or purified.

**Hiking:** It is not possible to hike Aravaipa Canyon without getting your feet wet; hikers must cross the creek many times during a hike. The trail appears in segments (typically the trail segments on the south bank are easier to follow than those on the north); you will end up bushwalking a bit when the trail segment suddenly fades or ends at the bank of the creek. Look for a continuation of the trail on the opposite bank. From the west trailhead at 2,630-foot elevation, a continuous 430-foot elevation gain can be expected over uneven terrain to the east trailhead at 3,060 foot. Stream wading and numerous stream crossings, as well as hiking through dense riparian brush, can slow travel time. It would take a strong hiker about ten hours to hike the 11-mile length of the canyon to the east trailhead. Although there is little elevation



gain, it is not an easy hike, as the creek bed is rocky and sandy in spots so the footing can be tricky.

To preserve the wild and remote character of Aravaipa Canyon, no signs are posted. It helps to carry a map and count the prominent nine side canyons along the stream to keep track of your location.

**Logistics:** Directions from Tucson and Phoenix to the west and east trailheads are available on BLM's Aravaipa Canyon website ([www.blm.gov/az/st/en/aro/rls/main/aravaipa/driving.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/aro/rls/main/aravaipa/driving.html)). At the trailheads you will find a dirt parking lot, information board, primitive toilets, but no drinking water nor campsites.

A \$5 per person per day permit is required to hike/camp in Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. You can make a reservation up to 13 weeks in advance of the day you wish to hike by going to the BLM website ([www.blm.gov/az/aravaipa](http://www.blm.gov/az/aravaipa)). ■

*Jim Gessaman, who was a Biology professor at Utah State University for 35 years, retired to Tucson in 2006. He leads bird walks at Tucson Audubon's Mason Center, surveys birds for the IBA program and the Tucson Bird Count, and hikes regularly in the mountains and deserts of Southeastern Arizona.*



ALL PHOTOS BY JIM GESSAMAN EXCEPT COMMON BLACK-HAWK (INSET ABOVE RIGHT) BY NED HARRIS

Visit [tucsonaudubon.org](http://tucsonaudubon.org) for updates and more.

# August in Arizona is Awesome

GEORGE C. WEST

Southeastern Arizona has the highest number of hummingbird species north of Mexico with 18 species having been recorded here. The best time to see the most hummingbirds is in August and September. Their reproductive cycle is completed and the young birds are on the move, ranging widely from their nests looking for possible places to establish territories when they come back in spring. The rarer species often come up from Mexico at this time when they wander after nesting. And the migration of birds from the north pours down the Rocky Mountain chain heading for the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico and beyond where they will spend the winter. All of these birds are taking advantage of the renewed food sources available during the “second spring” of summer rains.

Of the 18 species, two were only seen once. The Bumblebee Hummingbird was documented in the Huachuclas and the Cinnamon Hummingbird was reported once from Patagonia but was not documented with photograph or specimen.

That leaves 16 species, five of which are rarely seen: White-eared, Berylline, Ruby-throated, Allen’s Hummingbird, and Plain-capped Starthroat. These species are often found in summer or fall at one of the popular feeding stations in Madera Canyon, Miller Canyon, Ash Canyon, and Patons’ in Patagonia. Both White-eared and Berylline Hummingbirds have nested in Arizona and we thought they might become more common but that seems not to be the case. White-eared are seen almost annually in Miller and Madera Canyons. Berylline is rarer than White-eared and has been recorded in Miller, Ramsey, and Madera Canyon more frequently than at other Arizona locations. Allen’s Hummingbird, which is identified regularly at Hummingbird Monitoring Network (HMN) banding stations, requires a close look to note the differences between this and Rufous Hummingbird. It is more common than the Ruby-throated that has only been documented a couple of times in the state. Because a close look is needed to make a definite identification



MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD, JIM & DEVA BURNS, WWW.JIMBURNSPHOTOS.COM



LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD, MURIEL NEDDERMEYER

These are just six of the incredible array of hummingbirds found in southeast Arizona during the late summer months. A trip to any “Sky Island” can yield Magnificent and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, while the more rare Lucifer and White-eared will likely be found in the Huachuca Mountains or in Madera Canyon. Equally impressive are the more-common species such as Broad-billed and Costa’s which inhabit the region year-round.

of female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that closely resemble female Black-chinneds, there may be more here than have yet been documented.

The 11 remaining species range from abundant to uncommon. The most abundant is the Black-chinned that arrives in late March into April and returns to Mexico in September. This species is the western version of the widespread and only common species in the eastern United States, the Ruby-throated. Black-chinneds breed from the desert into the low mountains and depending on food availability, may have two broods of two young each year. Broad-billed Hummingbirds are common in southern Arizona in the lower elevation riparian zones but rare to the north. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are also abundant but mostly at higher elevations like the top of Mt. Lemmon and north in the Rocky Mountains. Large numbers migrate south along the Rocky Mountains and many spill over into Miller and Madera Canyons. Magnificent and Blue-throated Hummingbirds also breed here and many overwinter in southeastern Arizona but remain in the mountains. Some Costa’s

Hummingbirds also overwinter and nest early in spring in the desert and move to higher elevations in summer during their annual molt. Anna’s Hummingbird is expanding its range east and north. Many overwinter here, particularly in the urban areas and low elevations but many more migrate through in September and October heading southeast out of California. Violet-crowned and Lucifer Hummingbirds are uncommon but regular nesters in southern Arizona. Violet-crowned Hummingbirds prefer watercourses with sycamores while Lucifer Hummingbirds nest in the drier desert but wander into the mountains after breeding. Finally, Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds are uncommon in spring migration but are abundant fall migrants through Arizona, concentrating in the eastern Mogollon Rim and heading southeast at higher elevations from there to end up in central Mexico.

As the weather cools from the heat of summer, be sure to spend time during August and September in the Huachuca and Santa Rita Mountains where hundreds of hummingbirds will be loading up their fat reserves for migration.



# for Hummingbirds



SEARCHNET/MEDIA

AVAILABLE IN OUR NATURE SHOPS:  
Hummingbird books and feeders

\$21.95 *Do Hummingbirds Hum?*  
\$14.95 *Hummingbirds at Butterflies*  
\$22.95 *Hummingbirds of North America*  
\$29.95 *Hummingbirds of North America*  
\$8.95 *Hummingbirds*  
\$12.95 *Hummingbirds*  
\$9.95 *RUFOUS*  
\$4.95 *Hummingbirds*

## FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS IN THE DESERT SOUTHWEST

**SUGAR SOLUTION:** Use one part plain white table sugar to four parts water (1:4). Bring the water to a boil, add the sugar and stir until it dissolves. Remove from heat and let cool before filling feeders. Extra solution can be held in the refrigerator for up to one week. Plain white table sugar most closely mimics the nectar produced in flowers utilized by hummingbirds and research has shown that sugar does not hurt the birds. However, never use honey, sugar substitute, food coloring or flavored nectars.

Always clean your feeders thoroughly before you refill them EVERY time! A good scrubbing with a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) followed with a good rinse and allow to air dry will do the trick. Many people keep an extra feeder they can fill and hang up while they bring in the dirty one for clean-up.

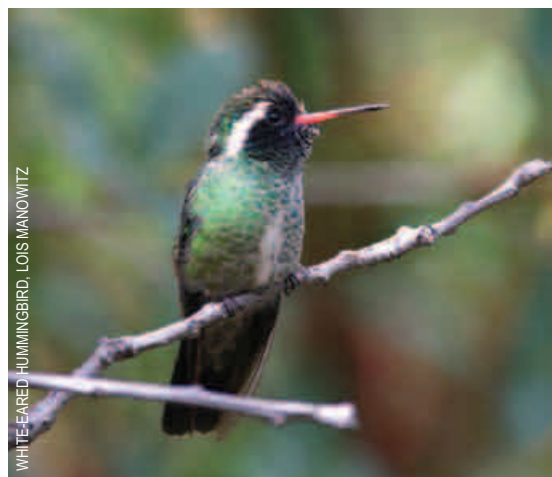
The mold that grows in untended feeders can be fatal to hummingbirds. Please change and clean your feeders regularly. We suggest at least once a week in the cooler months and every three days in our hot summer. Try to hang your feeders in shady locations. If the solution is cloudy or you see any sign of mold it is time for a cleaning. If you cannot remove mold from the feeder, it's time to replace it!



BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, LOIS MANOWITZ



COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, LOIS MANOWITZ



WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD, LOIS MANOWITZ



BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, DONNA SIMONETTI

Please support the non-profit HMN ([hummonnet.org](http://hummonnet.org)) whose research will inform public and private land managers of the need to preserve and protect hummingbird habitats that will help to insure the future survival of hummingbirds. ■

*George C. West, Professor of Zoophysiology, Emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks, authored the American Birding Association's Birder's Guide to Alaska, and cofounded the Hummingbird Monitoring Network. He recently published Do Hummingbirds Hum?, a question and answer book covering all aspects of hummingbird behavior and biology.*



# A Late Summer Flood of Birds

GAVIN BIEBER

As a professional bird tour leader for Tucson-based WINGS birding tours, a Tucson Audubon Board member and resident of Tucson for more than a decade I often find myself fielding questions regarding Arizona birding from actual or potential visitors to Arizona. One of the more popular questions seems to be “When should I visit?” My stock answer seems to surprise a lot of non-Arizonans, but rarely surprises locals; “If I were you I would try to come to SE Arizona in August”. The follow up question usually becomes “Why August, isn’t that one of the hottest months?”

Unlike most of the United States the desert southwest is highly influenced by a late summer monsoon. From late July through September, moisture-laden air streams up from the south, bringing frequent and often intense rains to the largely parched Sonoran Desert. This rain stimulates a wealth of plant growth, as palo verdes and ocotillos leaf out, grasslands turn green and lush, and a profusion of flowers sprout. Usually dry desert washes fill with water, and at night a chorus of frog song bursts forth seemingly from thin air. Small mammals and reptiles are much more in evidence, and a host of birds turn their attentions to breeding. It seems like virtually all of our resident bird species also respond to the increase in water, insect life, and forage by setting about the business of raising a second (or in some rare cases a third) brood of the year. It is in August when usually cryptic species such as Botteri’s, Cassin’s and Five-striped Sparrows are in full song, when Montezuma Quail chicks begin roaming the hills, and when we reach our peak hummingbird diversity. With some diligent searching and a few requisite hours looking at arrays of feeders it is possible to tally 12 or 13 species of hummingbirds in a day within 100 miles of Tucson! Our breeding warblers, gems such as Red-faced, Painted Redstart, Grace’s, Black-throated Gray, Olive and Virginia’s are joined in mid-August by the first of the southbound migrants such as Townsend’s and Hermit Warblers and can often be found in active feeding flocks plying the upper



AL TOZIER



JOAN POWELL



JIM & DEVA BURNS, WWW.JIMBURNSPHOTOS.COM

Clockwise from top: The summer monsoon sometimes brings vagrant birds such as Aztec Thrush up from Mexico; It is in August when cryptic species such as Five-striped Sparrow are in full song; In mid August, the first of the southbound migrants such as Townsend’s Warbler can often be found in active feeding flocks on the upper slopes of the Sky Islands.

slopes of the Sky Islands. The rains also sometimes bring vagrant birds such as Aztec Thrush or Plain-capped Starthroat up from Mexico.

It is a vibrant and dynamic time of year, and although still hot, the afternoon rains break up the oppressive nature of our summers.

It is no coincidence that Tucson Audubon elected to hold the Tucson Bird and Wildlife Festival during the monsoonal months! Come join us for what

is arguably one of the richest and most exciting birding areas in the country, but remember to bring an umbrella! ☔

*Gavin Bieber leads birding tours throughout the New World as a staff leader for WINGS. He serves as a member of Tucson Audubon’s Board of Directors and will guide field trips during the Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival. Check out his full bio at: [tucsonaudubon.org/who-we-are/board/288.html](http://tucsonaudubon.org/who-we-are/board/288.html)*



# Field Identification of the Sierra Madres in Southeastern Arizona

RICK TAYLOR

Once upon a time—in 1884—ornithologist W. E. D. Scott reported an Elegant Trogon in Arizona. Ever since, the avifauna of Arizona has been known for its tropical affinities. First described as a “a kind of Bird-of-Paradise,” trogons represented the iridescent feathered edge of a Mexican invasion.

**Birds:** A summering trogon in Madera Canyon is using Sierra Madrean pine-oak woodland, the same habitat an Elegant Trogon uses in the *barrancas* of Yecora less than 200 miles south, and the same community of plants that occupies 26 percent of Mexico. Back in 1959, in his *Wildlife of Mexico*, A. Sarker Leopold described pine-oak woodland as our southern neighbor’s largest single biome. Other avian indicators of the Sierra Madres include Whiskered Screech-Owl, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Blue-throated Hummingbird, and Arizona Woodpecker. Passerine birds include Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Mexican Jay, Mexican Chickadee, Bridled Titmouse, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, and Yellow-eyed Junco. For U. S. birders, all of these birds are most common in the mountains of Southeastern Arizona.

In his 1957 monograph *Birds of Pine-Oak Woodland*, Joe T. Marshall found that the bird communities in the northern ranges of the Sierra Madre shared more than 95% of their birds with the Arizona border ranges—the Chiricahua, Huachuca, and Santa Rita Mountains. Twenty years after Marshall’s book was released, Eared Quetzals arrived in the Chiricahuas. The intervening years have seen first records of Short-tailed Hawk, Aztec Thrush, Crescent-chested Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Rufous-capped Warbler, and Flame-colored Tanager. In 2008 a Tufted Flycatcher pioneered a stretch of Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, and in 2009 both Gray-collared Becard and Brown-backed Solitaire sortied into Southeastern Arizona. The Sierra Madres are still creeping north.

**Habitats:** The trees most often associated with Madrean woodlands are Chihuahua and Apache Pines, and spring deciduous oaks. Oaks include

Emory, Nettleleaf, Silverleaf, and Arizona White. In favorable locations such as Bog Springs in Madera Canyon, Madrean oaks may attain a height of nearly 100 feet. Anyone looking at the immense trunks of these ancient patriarchs would never associate them with the stunted communities of “scrub oaks” clinging to the surrounding hillsides. Most birds are just as discriminating.

Elegant Trogons are scarcely found away from the tall trees that flourish in the deep, moist soils of major canyons. Comprised of the same species of pines and oaks as the hillsides above, the riparian zone is interwoven with the supple white limbs of Arizona Sycamore. Sycamore’s soft heartwood makes it an ideal substrate for woodpecker cavities. Aside from Elegant Trogons, woodpecker holes provide homes for Whiskered Screech-Owl, and Brown-crested and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers. Most Violet-crowned Hummingbird nests are placed under the protective shadow of a large sycamore leaf that also serves as a ramada roof during the summer monsoons.

Aside from tall trees like sycamores, canyons offer other advantages. Permanent water, both above and below the surface, fosters a lush understory that produces the succulent fruits of Canyon Grape, Southwestern Chokecherry, and Birchleaf Buckthorn. Frugivorous species like Elegant Trogons share the bounty with Flame-colored Tanagers some years, and with periodic pulses of Aztec Thrushes—sometimes in the same years. With fruits and new leaves available, herbivorous insects reach peak abundance in these natural mountain salad bowls, and they in turn provide proteins for hungry nestlings.

Towering canyon walls also protect the canyon floor from the worst of the winds. The tiny but incessant *seep* notes of male Blue-throated Hummingbirds defending a favorite patch carry over 100 yards for human ears, and probably much farther for inquisitive female Blue-throats. In the still air of the canyon zone, approaching predators are audible farther away and



ELEGANT TROGON, RICK TAYLOR

their movements much easier to detect. Shelter, food, water, and safety: the canyon riparian is where almost all Sierra Madrean pine-oak woodland birds reach their maximum numbers.

**Locations:** Uneven rings of habitat ripple away from the mountaintops of Arizona’s border ranges. Most Southern Arizonans know that Rocky Mountain coniferous forest caps the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Chiricahua Mountains. Almost everyone knows that broad arid valleys—usually described as a homogenous “sea of desert”—divide these “sky islands.” At mid-elevations, Sierra Madrean pine-oak woodland is the meat of the sandwich between the pines and the spines.

Road accessible examples of pine-oak woodland occur in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, Garden and Huachuca Canyons in the Huachuca Mountains, and all five branches of Cave Creek above Portal. Anomalously, at an elevation below 4,000 feet in the Atascosa Mountains and requiring a hike, a superb example of Sierra Madrean pine-oak woodland flanks Sycamore Canyon for about three miles before yielding to subtropical thornscrub.

Elegant Trogons skirmished with birds of temperate zone origins in the pine-oak woodlands of our border ranges well over a century ago. Other Sierra Madrean species have followed, and more are bound to come. For me, nothing beats a springtime saunter up Madera Canyon, listening for a new voice from Sonora, the next flash of color from the treasure trove of the Sierra Madres. ■

*Rick Taylor is Managing Director of Borderland Tours [www.borderland-tours.com](http://www.borderland-tours.com). His photographic field guide, Birds of Southeastern Arizona, is available at Tucson Audubon’s Nature Shops.*

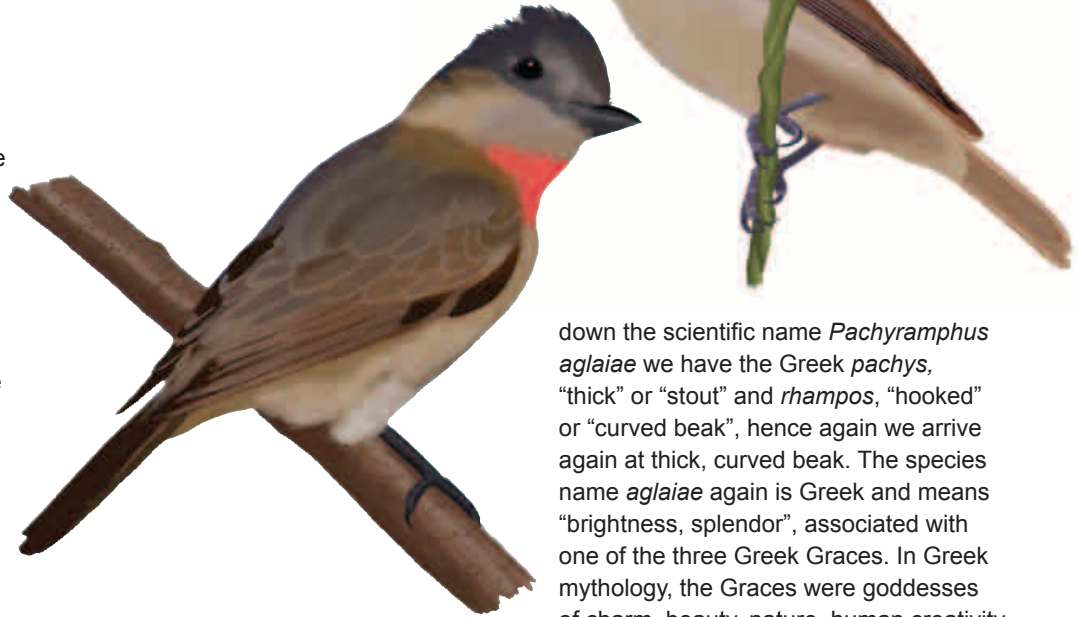
Interesting stories about birds with interesting names

# Rose-throated Becard

LARRY LIESE

Back when I started birding, it used to be said that 99% of ABA birders got their life bird Rose-throated Becard at the Roadside Rest just south of Patagonia. Sometime in late May or early June the word would get out that a pair was there nest-building and birders would flock to that magical stretch of riparian habitat that the becards called home and there they would be. Mine was in 1993 and the nest was right over the short trail there and pretty hard to miss. Convenient for me, the male just perched on top of the nest while the female's head would occasionally poke out of the nest hole. It was around then that I truly realized how special southeast Arizona was to the birding world. Seeing visiting birders making their trek to that particular spot on the face of this earth, just to see that one special bird—their faces lighting up with delight following success. For us it was just an hour or so drive to get there—spoiled we were!

In more recent times the roadside rest hasn't been a reliable spot for this bird, but other riparian stretches in our area have had sightings—some in unseasonable months. Coupled with a surprise visit by the much rarer congener



Gray-collared Becard, one wonders if we might see these birds more often in the future. Researchers believe the northern edge of their range might be expanding.

Probably the most conspicuous aspect of this species to birders is its nest. An immense bushel-basket sized globular nest up to 30" long, it is composed of strips of bark, lichen, vines, spider webs, and feathers. The nest is always placed near the tip of a slender branch for predator avoidance, often over water. The cavity inside is small compared to the nest dimensions with a low entrance, which makes one wonder if this construction helps reduce the extent of swaying in breezes. It is built mostly by the female, with continued addition of material through incubation (~20 days). Young fledge in 20–30 days. After fledging the birds can be much harder to find— foraging high in the canopy overhead they can be quite tough to see and confidently identify.

Long grouped with cotingas, becards have more recently been put with tyrant flycatchers, though recent research suggests that a move to tityras would be the best fit. The word *becard* (which, to set things straight—rhymes with *checkered*), is derived from the French word *bec*, “beak” and the High German *-ard*, “bold, hardy” (an intensifying suffix), thus we get “big beak”, which certainly is apt for this group of birds. Breaking

down the scientific name *Pachyramphus aglaiae* we have the Greek *pachys*, “thick” or “stout” and *rhapos*, “hooked” or “curved beak”, hence again we arrive again at thick, curved beak. The species name *aglaiae* again is Greek and means “brightness, splendor”, associated with one of the three Greek Graces. In Greek mythology, the Graces were goddesses of charm, beauty, nature, human creativity and fertility. They ordinarily number three, (from youngest to oldest) *Aglaea* “Splendor” (associated with our bird), *Euphrosyne* “Mirth”, and *Thalia* “Good Cheer”.

If seeing this bird has eluded you here in southeast Arizona, here are some hints to help you with success. Best of all is to keep tuned to the BIRDWG05 Listserv postings or the Tucson Audubon rare bird alert recordings, as sightings of this species will always be carried on those. Visit the Patagonia Roadside Rest and get familiar with where these birds have built their nests in the past (most birders you bump into there can point these out). Though I don't believe nesting has been observed along the upper Santa Cruz River, that area may be the best bet for where new lifer-seekers will be headed. Good luck to them and you! 🍀

## AVAILABLE IN OUR NATURE SHOPS

Tucson Audubon's updated 8th edition of *Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona* is your best source of detailed information that will help you plan your birdwatching adventures throughout southeast Arizona. \$24.95



PHOTO AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY GEORGE WEST



# CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION NEWS

CHRIS MCVIE, PAUL GREEN, KENDALL KROESEN, AND BÉTÉ PFISTER

## Death Pipes Need Attention

A while back, the grate blew off the top of my chimney on a windy night. I did not put it back in a timely fashion. Big mistake! A few days ago a White-winged Dove flew in and descended to the bottom of the flue (just above the fireplace and just behind the flue shutter). I was eventually able to get it out and set it free, but it wasn't easy.

It turns out that very large numbers of birds die when they enter vertical pipes of one sort or another. We are not sure why they enter. Maybe they follow a bug they are chasing, maybe they seek shelter on a hot day, or maybe they see it as a possible nest site. When they get to the bottom they can't spread their wings sufficiently to fly out. Reports document more than 45 species of birds dying in pipes, many of them cavity-nesters.

Perhaps the biggest culprits are plastic pipes set up at mining claims. A study of 854 of these in Nevada found more than one dead bird per pipe. Bureau of Land Management documents suggest there are more than three million mining claims in the state. Nevada now prohibits pipes that are not capped, and a law allows anyone to pull up claim markers that are improperly set.

While old mining claim markers are particularly numerous, any vertical, uncapped pipe (like my chimney) will trap birds. These include rooftop plumbing and heating vents, vent pipes for large irrigation systems, vertical exhaust pipes on tractors, outhouse and well vents, and metal pipes used for fence posts.

Tucson Audubon recently realized that there are scores of metal pipe fence posts on land where we do habitat restoration. We peered into some of them with flashlights and saw dead birds. Recently we started capping them with metal screen, though we're still experimenting with what kind of cap will last the longest.

Please be aware of this problem and cap any pipes that you find. More information is available at several sites such as [http://kern.audubon.org/death\\_pipes.htm](http://kern.audubon.org/death_pipes.htm) and [www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/111122.html](http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/111122.html).

*Kendall Kroesen,  
Habitats Program Manager*



TOP PHOTO NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE; LOWER PHOTOS KENDALL KROESEN

Top to bottom: Dead birds from mining claim pipes in Nevada. Board members Sandy Elers and John Kennedy cap dangerous pipes at the Simpson Farm habitat restoration site managed by Tucson Audubon.

## Birding Ethically

We all get excited about the possibility of seeing new or rare species of birds. Most questionable birder behavior happens in those moments when you are trying to find lifers or unusual species, especially when you think you might be close to seeing one.

This is where birding ethics come into play. The first priority for birders should be the health and safety of birds and of bird populations. This should come before your own life list or desire to see a bird. Here are the basics of birding ethics:

**Private Property:** Do not enter private property unless you are absolutely sure you have been invited by the property owner or a representative of the property owner. If you are not sure if you have been invited, or if you are not sure exactly where a property line is, be on the safe side and do not enter. Permission for birders to enter some properties has been lost because of trespassing.

**Habitat:** If you succeed in seeing a bird but in the process are one of a crowd of birders that trample and degrade habitat for birds, you are working against your own best interest. Stay on roads or established trails whenever possible. Beware of new, unofficial trails in a heavily birded area that may have been made by just a few people walking into the grass or shrubs. Don't follow.

**Nests, Colonies and other Congregations of Birds:** Stay back from birds' nests and places where birds congregate such as nesting colonies and roost areas. Avoid excessive movements and use blinds or natural cover.

**Playback:** There is a plethora of electronic gadgets these days that can contain recordings of bird vocalizations. Many more people now have these devices than a few years ago. Sometimes a bird can be



DORIS EVANS

called in close by playing a recording of its song. While this can be an effective way of getting a look at a bird, remember that you are pretending to be another bird of its species that is entering its territory. When that bird comes to take a look at you, you are taking it away from what it would normally be doing (foraging, eating, nesting, resting).

Use playback sparingly. Do not use it in heavily birded areas where many others may have been tempted also to play recordings. In these areas birds may spend an awful lot of time defending their territory against fake intruders to the detriment of other tasks they must do. The same is true of some owl calls that cause birds to congregate to try to drive off the predator.

Playback can be construed as harassment or harm of a threatened or endangered species and, for those species, it is illegal, with

consequences, and to be used only by specially trained and certified surveyors. There are certain sensitive or popular areas where playback is prohibited including all Nature Conservancy properties and all units of the National Park Service. Locally, Pima County Parks and Natural Resources properties, South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua mountains, and Fort Huachuca all ban the use of playback.

**Photography:** Use natural light whenever possible, avoiding the use of artificial light. Do not approach birds so closely that it causes birds to flush or otherwise be disturbed.

**Groups:** When in a birding group or on a tour, please follow the directions of the group or tour leader.

Other information about birding ethics and about leading birding groups can be found in the American Birding Association Code of Ethics at [www.aba.org/about/ethics.html](http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html).

*Kendall Kroesen*

## The Lower San Pedro River Valley: Threats and Conservation Opportunities



Lower San Pedro River

MATT GRIFFITHS

The proposed SunZia transmission line would consist of two 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines originating in Corona, New Mexico, and terminating in Coolidge, Arizona. It would transport electricity generated from various resources to western power markets and load centers. The SunZia transmission line was originally proposed by the Southwestern Power Group (SWPG), of which Tucson Electric Power is a minor partner, to transmit energy from its gas fired, non-renewable Bowie Power Plant. SWPG could not build investor support for that proposal and so extended the SunZia line to central New Mexico, stating that the extended line would provide “renewable energy”. That inaccurate claim has since been retracted on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website.

The BLM has selected the west side of the Lower San Pedro River valley as its preferred alternative route while evaluating other alternatives, including two through Tucson. The SunZia Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is open for public comment until August 22: see [www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands\\_realty/sunzia\\_southwest\\_transmission.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands_realty/sunzia_southwest_transmission.html). The preferred alternative bisects Pima County’s keystone conservation property in the area, the A-7 Ranch, as well as skirting its Six Bar Ranch.

The DEIS notes that as many as three resource management plans will need to be amended in part because of the up to 175 foot height of the power-line towers in order to “achieve conformity with land use plans and allow for a grant of a major utility right-of-way for this proposed transmission line.”

Representative Raúl Grijalva, the ranking member on the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, expressed dismay at the choice of preferred route despite being a staunch supporter of alternative energy. Grijalva said, “We need, and the public demands, a final route that has the fewest negative impacts to archaeological resources, migratory birds and rural communities.” Over four million birds migrate through the Lower San Pedro River Global

Important Bird Area (IBA) yearly [aziba.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=461](http://aziba.org/wordpress/?page_id=461).

Simultaneously, the Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCDS) and the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Working Lands for Wildlife Habitat Initiative [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/whip/?&cid=stelprdb1046975](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/whip/?&cid=stelprdb1046975) is focusing on cooperative efforts to assist ranchers in preserving their heritage and way of life, strengthening rural economies while conserving the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

The Department of Interior’s American Great Outdoors Initiative [americasgreatoutdoors.gov](http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov) is focusing on three areas in the desert borderlands: the Malpai Borderlands, the Upper San Pedro River, and the Lower San Pedro River. This Initiative operates from the premise that protection of our natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. It turns to communities for local, grassroots conservation initiatives that also promote recreational opportunities which support sustainable economies based on working landscapes, cultural and historic heritage, and ecotourism.

Most importantly, the Lower San Pedro River Collaborative Conservation Initiative (contact

[jeannie\\_wagnergreven@fws.gov](mailto:jeannie_wagnergreven@fws.gov)) is in the public scoping phase (see below). This voluntary Initiative will be a landowner driven venture focused on restoring and conserving rural working landscapes while enhancing local economies along the Lower San Pedro River corridor. The USFWS has already reached out to dialogue with local landowners, ranchers, NRCDS, governmental agencies, Congressional delegation staff, the San Carlos Apache Nation, and the Pinal Partnership’s Open Space and Trails subcommittee. If private landowners choose to participate, collaboration could offer a variety of tools and partnership opportunities to improve habitat and management for sensitive species of plants and animals while contributing to a healthy river system. Cooperation would also contribute to sustainable ecotourism via such uses as interpretation, educational outreach, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and photography. Based on recent biometric studies conducted by the EPA, the USFWS and other scientific experts, the San Pedro River watershed’s ecosystem services are extraordinary and offer tremendous biodiversity at the confluence of four different ecosystems. The entire river is a “Keystone” Transition Zone ([tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/conservation/339-lsprcci.html](http://tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/conservation/339-lsprcci.html)).

## Comments Sought on Collaborative Conservation Initiative and Refuge

Three public meetings on the Lower San Pedro River Collaborative Conservation Initiative were recently held in Tucson, Cascabel, and San Manuel, as part of the 60-day scoping period under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The tone at the three meetings could be summarized as follows:

Tucson: Cautiously positive with suggestions to ensure the greatest ecological benefit for any refuge land acquisition, and concern over potential loss of local land tax base to the county.

Cascabel: Mixed support—from the positive side, particularly concern

for protecting the valley from landscape fragmentation from new housing development and proposed infrastructure projects (e.g., SunZia and new highway/road proposals), to opposed, particularly worries about possible impacts to traditional grazing operations and leased lands.

San Manuel: Opposition to the federal government doing anything in the valley; ranchers feared federal condemnation of their lands and new direct and indirect regulatory burdens, along with “outside” interference by environmental groups or new visitors.

Unspoken was how the collaborative conservation initiative

may bring landowners together to visualize a future for the valley; how USFWS financial resources and technical assistance may help traditional working lands stay productive and economically viable; and how proposed developments (threatening rural unfragmented landscapes) and their associated water extraction impacts could be addressed collaboratively (the USFWS would actually work to conserve high ground water levels in the valley).

Also unspoken was the potential for economic benefits to be gained, not only by local communities (through

new visitors), but also to landowners through new grant opportunities, conservation easements, and to landowners owning multiple parcels, having new opportunities for conservation sales.

Comments will be taken on the collaborative conservation initiative and refuge proposal through August 6th by Jeanie Wagner-Greven, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

See [tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/conservation/339-lsprcci.html](http://tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/conservation/339-lsprcci.html) for more information



## Arizonans Support Safeguards for Arizona's Natural Beauty and Public Health

A survey of Westerners for Colorado College's State of the Rockies Project shows overwhelming support for conservation of the landscape, with strong pluralities agreeing that "national parks, forests, monuments and wildlife areas, are an essential part" of their state economies. Sixty-five percent of Westerners identify themselves as "conservationists" and 78 percent said land protection and conservation can go hand-in-hand with a strong economy. See [www2.coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewestsurvey\\_e.html](http://www2.coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewestsurvey_e.html).

The survey found that 9 in 10 Arizona voters agree that public lands such as national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are "an essential part" of the state economy, and the quality of life of residents. Additionally, 72 percent of voters indicate support for the EPA implementing the Clean Air Act and updating clean air standards—the highest level of support among Western voters polled. They view industry regulations as important safeguards for public health, and the natural beauty of Arizona.

The survey found strong support in Arizona for a 20-year moratorium on new uranium mining near Grand

Canyon National Park, with 70 percent of voters saying that the impact of mining on land and water is a serious problem in Arizona.

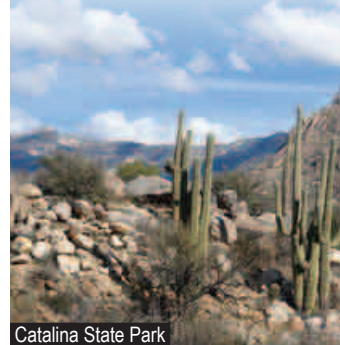
"Spending by Arizona hunters and anglers directly supports 21,000 jobs and generates \$124-million in state and local taxes... Why wouldn't we take steps to protect our parks, national forests, and wildlife habitat?" asked Tom Mackin, president of the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

Contrary to the recent passage of the Bishop Bill in the US House of Representatives, 73 percent of Arizonans opposed suspending environmental regulations in the battle against illegal immigration. See [www2.coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/Conservation\\_West\\_Survey/CCArizonaPR.pdf](http://www2.coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/Conservation_West_Survey/CCArizonaPR.pdf).

Homeowners near parks and protected areas are repeatedly seen to have property values more than 20 percent higher than similar properties elsewhere. Local data reveal increases in property values and property tax revenues associated with proximity to healthy urban riparian corridors.

In Pima County, Tucson Audubon was a founding member of the Coalition for Sonoran Desert

Protection [www.sonorandesert.org/](http://www.sonorandesert.org/), focusing on these issues for the last 15 years. The community driven Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is the most valuable planning and policy tool we have to achieve these ends. Pima County has been recognized as a national leader in planning that conserves existent resources, restores some of what we have lost by reframing the elements of regional planning to encompass the relationship that land has to natural and cultural resources, and acknowledges the interdependence of human, plant and animal communities. Soon Pima County's application for a federal Section 10 Incidental Take Permit and Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan will be published in the Federal Register and be available for public comment.



Catalina State Park

SEARCHNET/MEDIA



Rincon Mountain Wilderness Area

MATT GRIFFITHS

## HR 4089 "Sportsman's Heritage Act"

H.R. 4089, the so-called Sportsman's Heritage Act, would "fundamentally shift" the legal framework under which national parks and monuments are managed, said lawyers at the Washington, D.C.-based firm Arnold & Porter LLP. Their analysis found the bill would require national parks and monuments to undertake lengthy, expensive and legally vulnerable analyses in order to justify bans on hunting, fishing and recreational shooting in places such as the Ironwood Forest and Sonoran Desert National Monuments, Saguaro National Park, Pusch Ridge and Rincon Mountain Wilderness Areas, and national historic sites. In other words, those places would be open to those activities without any review, unless there was "a case-by-case determination to limit these activities in any unit," the firm writes.

Ninety-five percent of BLM's 245 million acres are already open to shooting despite concerns for public health and safety, noise, trash, and potential irreparable damage to cultural, historic, and natural resources. A proposed ban on indiscriminate recreational shooting in the Sonoran Desert National Monument was reversed under pressure from the National Rifleman's Association, Safari Club International and a sportsman's advisory council. A proposed management plan for the Ironwood Forest National Monument, where irresponsible shooters have seriously damaged petroglyphs and old growth saguaros, is pending. HR 4089 would also curtail presidential authority to utilize the 106 year old Antiquities Act which has been invoked by 16 presidents of both political parties to preserve and protect America's most precious public lands for current and future generations.

## Constitutional Amendment HCR 2004 State Sovereignty

The Arizona legislature is proposing a constitutional amendment for the November 2012 ballot to claim exclusive state sovereignty over all air, land and water—basically to take control of any federal public lands or waters and to supersede federal laws protecting public health and safety, such as the Clean Air and Water Acts, and the management of public lands. Though it is contrary to the U.S. Constitution and the Arizona enabling act, and the legislature has shown itself unable to manage the resources currently under its jurisdiction for the public benefit in a fiscally responsible manner, the legislature and Governor are moving forward.

## Rosemont Copper Project Analysis Update

The Coronado National Forest is reviewing more than 25,000 comments received during the public input period for the Rosemont Copper Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Substantive comments have been identified, coded, and organized, and responses are being developed as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process as the Forest moves toward a final decision on the project.

"Public comments have helped to identify the additional work now in progress to further analyze and determine effects for a number of topics related to the project," said Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch. Upchurch has asked for additional analyses of air quality, water quality and quantity, seeps and springs,

riparian resources, dark skies, socioeconomics, and transportation. The additional analysis is necessary to see whether the project could meet applicable law, regulation, and policy.

The Forest is working with local, state, and federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to identify and obtain the information necessary to prepare a complete, high-quality analysis of the effects of the project. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is underway to determine effects on threatened and endangered species.

A date has not been set for publication of the Final EIS. When the additional reports and analyses are received and reviewed, a timeline for the Final EIS and Record of Decision will be reported.

PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK, ANTHONY CITRANO / WWW.ZIGZAGLENS.COM



## Arizona Natural Resources Protection Act

Citizens to Save Arizona's Natural Resources is seeking signatures in support of an Initiative for the November 2012 state ballot that would provide voter-protected funding for the management and protection of our state's natural resources.

**The Arizona Natural Resources Protection Act** would: voter-protect the entire \$10 million Game and Fish Heritage Fund; establish a new State Parks granting fund for \$10 million to be used for habitat protection and purchase as well as environmental education and historic preservation; and protect all Arizona State Parks funds from future legislative sweeps. It would ensure that all Arizonans and visitors are able to enjoy the natural splendor, historic heritage and outdoor recreational opportunities offered at our Arizona parks and recreational areas, now and in the future.

A 2007 study estimated that 224 jobs were directly supported by Parks Heritage Fund grants. Heritage-funded improvements to parks and

historic sites help attract more than 2 million visitors, about half from out of state, who add \$266 million to our state's economy each year and support an additional 3,000 jobs, mostly in rural areas that have been among the most heavily impacted by the economic downturn. "The Heritage Fund has a huge economic impact," said Beth Woodin, President of the Heritage Alliance and former Arizona Game & Fish Commissioner. Parks was previously asked by the Governor and legislature to operate like a business and make its own money. It did just that but the legislature took all the money.

If successful, the Act will be funded by donations from generous citizens when they renew their drivers' registrations. The fee suggested is \$14, but you may opt out of it. This is not a tax. It is voluntary. It is hoped that citizens will donate so that State Parks may once again keep all parks open and in good repair. ■

## TUCSON AUDUBON'S FUNDING SUCCESS

Tucson Audubon has received significant funding through seven awards from a number of organizations in the last three months.

We received a TogetherGreen Innovation Grant of almost \$30,000 for *Nourishing the Community: Enhancing Urban Bird Habitat by Reconnecting to Our Roots*, a project that will work to establish gardens for people and wildlife and use rainwater harvesting techniques to support food production. It will involve us in partnerships with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the Community Food Bank.

Kendall Kroesen received his fifth consecutive TogetherGreen grant for volunteer activities, this time for \$9000, the maximum award available. Kendall also received a \$20,000 US Forest Service grant focused on Buffelgrass removal.

We received just under \$20,000 from the Arizona Game & Fish Heritage Fund Grant program for our *Birders Mean Business* initiative to develop activities around the economics of wildlife watching, and we are in the running for an additional \$6000 grant to round out our capacity here. We thank the City of Tucson for partnering with us on this project.

We are also part of another TogetherGreen Innovation Grant to develop a *Bird City* concept. The grant will support Executive Director Paul Green as he initiates the program with the Mayor, Council, and staff of the City of Tucson.

Finally, we are part of another Arizona Heritage Fund Grant award, in partnership with Manzo Elementary School and Tucson Unified School District, for schoolyard bird habitat creation.

Erin Olmstead, in her role as Development Manager, has been instrumental in our grant successes. We are working to match this success by raising funds from individual donors to ensure the longterm success of our outreach and program work in conservation and education. ■



TOGETHERGREEN VOLUNTEER DAY, KENDALL KROESEN

## Conservation Corner!

Don't let the controversy over mercury in compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) stop you from using them.

Calculations show that over its lifetime a typical CFL releases only about one quarter the amount of mercury into the atmosphere than an incandescent bulb assuming a worst-case scenario if the CFL is sent to a landfill rather than being recycled.



Here's why. Lighting is nearly 20 percent of household electricity use. Compact fluorescent bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy. Changing even one bulb in each house would create a huge reduction in electricity use.

The biggest man-made source of mercury in our environment is electricity, because most electricity comes from burning fossil fuels that contain mercury. So reducing electricity use is the best way to reduce mercury in the environment.

But what about the four milligrams of mercury inside each CFL? There are safe ways of disposing of CFLs so they don't break open at landfills.

To dispose of CFLs when they burn out, do not throw them in the trash. Take them to the "returns desk" at either Home Depot or Lowes Home Improvement, where they will dispose of them properly.

You may also drop them off at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. It is located at 2440 W. Sweetwater Drive and is open 8 a.m. – noon every Friday and Saturday. This is a good option for

birders because it is very, very close to Sweetwater Wetlands!

Contact Tucson Clean and Beautiful at 791-5000, or [www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org](http://www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org), with any questions about recycling or hazardous waste. Additional information on CFLs and mercury is found at [www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change\\_light/downloads/Fact\\_Sheet\\_Mercury.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf).

As prices of new LED bulbs come down, you might consider them. They use even less energy than CFLs and do not contain hazardous waste. ■

Kendall Kroesen,  
Habitats Program Manager



# TUCSON AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

KATE REYNOLDS | FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

KENDALL KROESEN



Empire Cienega

## July

July 12—Thursday 6:30 AM

### Sweetwater Wetlands

Join us for a walk through Sweetwater Wetlands where we will look for summer resident birds and any surprises the monsoon (if it has started) may bring in. We will also enjoy other fauna we may encounter. Please remember sun protection and water. We will meet in the parking lot. Access to Sweetwater may be limited due to the ongoing construction on the access road. Please sign up in advance. Leader: Michael Skinner 520-743-2403 wolfwtch@msn.com

July 17—Tuesday 6 AM

### Catalina Mountains

Mid-July is the perfect time to head up Mount Lemmon, following the commencement of the monsoon. We'll stop at Bear Canyon, Rose Canyon, the Upper Sabino Riparian Area, upper Mount Lemmon, and possibly other sites where we can expect most of the Santa Catalina specialties like Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Hepatic Tanager, Painted Redstart, Olive, Virginia's, Grace's, and plenty of Red-faced Warblers. We'll also look for the Buff-breasted Flycatchers and Orange-crowned Warblers and talk about the migration research I conduct at the University of Arizona. With luck we might encounter something more unusual like a Northern Goshawk or even a Short-tailed Hawk. Expect short hikes from various trailheads but nothing strenuous. Special bonus: We have permission to enter the observatory grounds. Meet at 6:00 at the McDonald's on the corner of Tanque

Verde and Catalina Highway. Back home by 3:00 PM. Bring a packed lunch, plenty of water, sun protection, and a hat! Trip limited to 20 participants. \$5/car Rose Canyon fee. Sign up with leader. Leader: Carl Lundblad carl.lundblad@gmail.com

July 21—Saturday 6 AM

### Empire Cienega & Ranch

Join Tucson Audubon for a monsoonal check of the grassland and riparian species at Empire Cienega and Ranch just north of Sonoita. We'll meet at the northwest corner of Houghton Road and I-10 at 6:00 AM. Back by noon. Bring lots of water and sunscreen. Contact the leader Cliff Cathers AZCliffy@Q.com or 520-982-3272 to register. Limit of 20 participants.

July 31—Tuesday 6:30 AM

### Madera Canyon

Let's check for possible rarities (maybe the Aztec Thrush) in Madera Canyon. Our route will depend upon what has been spotted recently, so bring a sense of adventure. Trip will probably include Proctor, Kubo and/or Chuparosa, and maybe the Carrie Nation Trail, so be prepared for some hiking. Meet at 6:00 AM at Fry's Grocery at Irvington and I-19 to carpool (leader not present). Or meet the leader at 6:30 at the McDonald's in Green Valley. Exit off I-19 and turn right to the McDonald's. Expected return about 2:00 PM. Bring binocs, lunch, plenty of water, rain gear, and a Madera Canyon Pass (if you have one). Leader: Diane Touret dctouret@comcast.net



## WEEKLY BIRD WALKS

Thursdays—April & May 8 AM;

June 7:30 AM

**Wake Up With the Birds at Agua Caliente Park.** A stroll through the bosque and along the ponds. Loaner binocs available, meet in front of the ranch house. For more info call Pima County Parks and Rec., 520-615-7855.

Saturdays—8–9:30 AM

**Tucson Audubon's Mason Center.**

Families and birders of all levels are welcome. Visit [tucsonaudubon.org/masoncenter](http://tucsonaudubon.org/masoncenter) for details.

**Resuming in October**

**MORE FIELD TRIPS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.**

Visit [tucsonaudubon.org/fieldtrips](http://tucsonaudubon.org/fieldtrips) for more trips and the latest or expanded field trip information or call us at 520-629-0510.

### General Information

Tucson Audubon field trips are free. For general information call 520-629-0510. For specific information about a trip, contact the leader of that trip.

Please dress appropriately for your field trip. Always wear sturdy shoes, a hat, and use sun protection. Bring plenty of snacks and water for yourself. Always bring your binoculars, field guide, and for most trips a scope can be useful. Bring money to cover your share of the carpooling and any required entry fees (e.g. for state parks).

### Arrival Times

Please arrive *before* listed departure times. Trips will leave promptly at the time given.

### Carpooling Sites

Tucson Audubon strongly encourages carpooling and for some trips it may be required. Check our website for frequently used carpooling sites. You are expected to reimburse the driver for the actual cost of fuel. Drivers and trip leaders are not expected to contribute.

### Rare Bird Alert

Listen to the latest rare bird alert at 520-629-0510 ext. 3. Report rare birds at 520-629-0510 or [rarebirdalert@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:rarebirdalert@tucsonaudubon.org)

**Don't forget to stop in our Nature Shop for your field and ID Guides, and other birding supplies.**

## August

August 2—Thursday 8:00 AM

### Mount Lemmon Butterfly Trip

Anyone interested in trying something new? Join us for a fun morning of bird and butterfly watching. We'll stop at Molino Basin for birding, then head up the mountain when the butterflies come out. Note that butterfly watching requires a lot of standing or walking in full sunlight, so it might be hot. Meet at the McDonald's on the northeast corner of Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway at 8 AM. Expected return about 2 PM. Bring close-focus binocs (if you have them, a hat, lunch, and plenty of water. Leader: Diane Touret [dctouret@comcast.net](mailto:dctouret@comcast.net)

August 4—Saturday 7 AM

### Sabino Canyon

We'll bird Sabino Canyon Recreation Area walking a 4-mile loop that includes both Sonoran desert uplands and the riparian area of Sabino Creek along rocky uneven trails. Meet at the ramada by the Visitor's Center. \$5 parking fee or a pass required for Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. Return by 10 AM. Sunhat, lots of water and walking shoes recommended. Leaders are Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists. Group size limited to 20, email to reserve a spot. Leaders: Jean & Mark Hengesbaugh [jhhenge@yahoo.com](mailto:jhhenge@yahoo.com)

August 7—Tuesday 6 AM

### Catalina Mountains

Let's escape the Arizona heat with a trip up into the Catalina Mountains. We'll stop at various elevations to maximize bird diversity enjoying the desert floor, manzanita/oak, pine/oak, pine, and spruce/fir forests that make up Mount Lemmon. Short hikes from various trailheads are likely, with some walking above 7000ft. Meet at 6:00 at the McDonald's on the corner of Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway. Expected return ~3:00 PM. Bring a packed lunch, plenty of water, a Catalina Mountain Pass (if you have one) and a sense of fun! Gavin Bieber [Kingbird77@hotmail.com](mailto:Kingbird77@hotmail.com)

SARA PIKE



Blacklighting

com Tucson, AZ Senior Leader, WINGS [www.wingsbirds.com](http://www.wingsbirds.com)

August 9—Thursday 5:30 PM

### A Buggy Night in Peppersauce Canyon

Join us for an evening adventure in a beautiful canyon of the Catalina Mountains. Arizona has the third highest number of insect species in the US. The sky islands of the Sonoran desert offer an especially great diversity. Come and see beautiful moths, impressive beetles, and fascinating mantids all attracted to our black lighting sheets. Bring a flash light and your camera with flash. Great outing for kids, but parents must go, too. Meet at 5:30 PM for car pooling at Trader Joe's on Oracle and Magee. Sign up with leader in advance. Leader: Margarethe Brummermann, Ph.D., Department of Entomology, University of Arizona [mbrummermann@comcast.net](mailto:mbrummermann@comcast.net)

August 21—Tuesday 8:00 AM

### Avra Valley

We will go to Avra Valley Waste Water Treatment Ponds looking for migrating shorebirds. Will be hot and sunny. Easy pace on flat ground. Beginners and non-birders are especially invited. Bring scope if you have one. We will leave at 8 AM from the Mission Library parking lot at the northwest corner of Mission and Ajo. Carpooling encouraged. 30 mile roundtrip. Back by 11 AM. No need to sign up before the trip, but call leader if questions. Leader: John Higgins 520-578-1830 [jghiggins@comcast.net](mailto:jghiggins@comcast.net)

August 25—Saturday 8:00 AM

### Madera Canyon "Monsoon" Nature & Birding

Come join Friends of Madera Canyon naturalist Doug Moore in exploring the canyon's "monsoon" flora and fauna. We'll look for the many canyon plants, flowers, invertebrates and herps that emerge with the rains, as well as keeping an eye out for birds like Varied Bunting that frequent the canyon in summer. Meet at the trailhead at the Proctor Parking Area (1st recreation area as you enter the canyon); we'll walk through several plant communities on the Proctor Nature Loop and possibly move up canyon as time and energy permit. Plan on being out until 11:30–12:00. Bring water, sunscreen, sun hat, trail snack and binocs. Bug repellent recommended (possible chiggers).

JAMES BASHKIN



Sabino Canyon

Limit 10 participants; for sign-up, contact Doug Moore at [maderaedu@q.com](mailto:maderaedu@q.com) or 520-682-0459.

## September

September 1—Saturday 7:30 AM

### Sabino Canyon

We'll bird Sabino Canyon Recreation Area walking a 4-mile loop that includes both Sonoran desert uplands and the riparian area of Sabino Creek along rocky uneven trails. Meet at the ramada by the Visitor's Center. \$5 parking fee or a pass required for Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. Return by 11 AM. Sunhat, water and walking shoes recommended. Leaders are Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists. Group size limited to 20, email to reserve a spot. Leaders: Jean & Mark Hengesbaugh [jhhenge@yahoo.com](mailto:jhhenge@yahoo.com)

September 4—Tuesday 7:00 PM

### Madera Canyon at Night

Like its avian fauna, the insect population of Madera Canyon has a touch of South-of-the-Border tropical magnificence. We will set up black lights to attract those beauties to our sheets for easy viewing of the most secretive night-prowlers. Bring flash lights and cameras with flash. Meet at the top parking lot in the canyon at 7:00 PM. If the weather is right, we should find things to see until about 10 pm. Great outing for kids, but parents must go, too. Sign up with leader in advance. Leader Margarethe Brummermann, Ph.D., Department of Entomology, University of Arizona [mbrummermann@comcast.net](mailto:mbrummermann@comcast.net)

September 7–9—Friday/Saturday/Sunday 10:00 AM

### Q Ranch/Mogollon Rim

Friday drive to Q Ranch (Leader present at ranch only). About 150 bird species have been identified, including Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatches and nesting Mountain Bluebirds. Expect lots of other wildlife. Dark clear night skies mean plenty of stars. Combine birding with brief hikes to nearby scenic locations. Tour the 1000-year-old Q Ranch Pueblo. Depart Sunday after brunch. Ranch is cell phone dead zone, but Verizon service available within a few miles. All meals included. \$135/person/night for shared room. \$175/person/night for single. Down payment due August 10. For reservations (due August 3) and more info see [www.qranch.com](http://www.qranch.com) or contact leader, Ken Furtado [ken@qranch.com](mailto:ken@qranch.com)

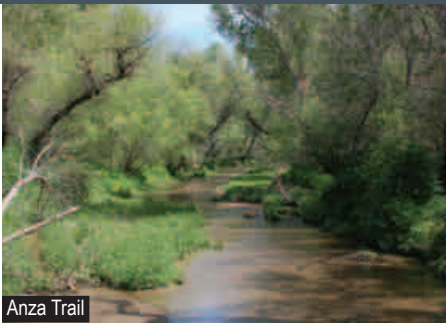


MURIEL NEDDERMEYER



Grace's Warbler





Anza Trail

September 8—Saturday 8:00 AM

### Madera Canyon

Let's go check out the flowers and plants in Madera Canyon. The post-monsoon bloom in this canyon is often spectacular. Meet at McDonald's (right-most portion of the parking lot as one faces the restaurant) in Green Valley at 8 AM. Use Continental Rd. exit off of I-19 and turn right to McDonald's. Sign up in advance with leader. Leader: Anthony Mendoza. Email if you have any questions [anthony\\_mendoza@hotmail.com](mailto:anthony_mendoza@hotmail.com).



September 15—Saturday 5:30 AM

### St. David and Willcox

Mid-September usually offers plenty of birds and occasional pleasant surprises. We will begin with the riparian habitat at the St. David Monastery in the relative cool of the morning, walking a mile or two over mostly level ground. Then we are off to the Willcox ponds to see what shorebirds are migrating through. We may stop at the Benson ponds on our return to Tucson (by mid-afternoon). Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Meet at Houghton Road, just north of I-10 (about 180 miles round trip). Leader Dave Dunford 520-909-1809 [ddunford@dakotacom.net](mailto:ddunford@dakotacom.net)



September 18—Tuesday 6:00 AM

### Clark Crossing Road / Anza Trail

Plan to spend 3–4 hours along this productive and under-birded stretch of the Anza Trail along the Santa Cruz River at the height of fall migration. Targets include Gray Hawk, Varied & Painted buntings, migrant warblers. Who knows what else? Sun protection and water are a must, and chiggers and muddy trails are likely. Meet at the Fry's Grocery Store at Irvington and I-19 on the north side of Irvington just east of I-19. Limit of 12 participants. Sign up with leader. Leader: Dave Stejskal [dstejskal@cox.net](mailto:dstejskal@cox.net)



September 22— Saturday Time TBD

### Parent/Offspring Trip

Let's try something new with a first day of fall trip to Pena Blanca Lake near Nogales. Bring along your kid for a morning outing with other birding parents and their offspring. Registration is limited to 10 adults, each with one or two young birders. Contact Cliff and Austin Cathers (my 10-year old son) at [AZCliffy@Q.com](mailto:AZCliffy@Q.com) or 520-982-3272 to register and for information on when and where to meet.

## A Fun Follow-up to the Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival with Solipaso!

### POST-FESTIVAL EXTENSION TOUR: THE THICK-BILLED PARROTS OF MADERA

**August 20–23, 2012.** \$900 per person (based on double occupancy)/\$190 single supplement. This is a special price for Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival and a percentage of the trip price will go to benefit Tucson Audubon.

A short but very special trip into the Mexican states of Sonora and Chihuahua to see the endemic Thick-billed Parrot and Eared Quetzal (among some other sought-after specialties that won't count in the ABA area).

The old growth forests of the northern Sierra Madre Mountains of Chihuahua are the nesting grounds for the Thick-billed Parrot. This wonderful bird is often difficult to find throughout most of its range; however, in the area



near Madera, these birds can be found in high numbers during the breeding months of August and September.

Although our main targets on this trip are the parrots, there is a lot more to be seen. The forests around Madera hold many other interesting birds, including Eared Quetzal, Pine Flycatcher, Spotted Wren, and Aztec, Slate-throated Redstart, Rufous-capped Brush-finch, Black-headed Siskin, Mountain Trogon, Russet Nightingale-thrush, Flame-colored Tanager, Striped Sparrow, Spotted Wren, Brown-backed Solitaire, Gray-silky Flycatcher and Montezuma Quail.

For more information or to reserve your space on this exciting trip, contact Jennifer MacKay at [jennifer@solipaso.com](mailto:jennifer@solipaso.com) or by calling 1.888.383.0062

September 29—Saturday 6 AM

### Nugget Canyon

Among the sycamores, oaks, ash, and junipers, this is a great location for fall migrants, two miles past Peppersauce Canyon off the Mt. Lemmon Rd. We'll be looking for tanagers, flycatchers, warblers, vireos, etc. Golden Eagles have sometimes been seen soaring above the canyon. The trail is very rugged with lots of rocks so not advisable for folks with walking difficulties. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. We will finish around noon. Meet the leader at Bashas' parking lot in Catalina, on the northeast corner of Oracle Rd. and Golder Ranch Rd. Trip limited to first 12 who contact leader beginning September 1. Leader: Doug Jenness [d\\_jenness@hotmail.com](mailto:d_jenness@hotmail.com) 520-909-1529

### ADDITIONAL BIRD WALKS IN TUCSON AND SOUTHEAST ARIZONA

For information on weekly regional bird walks from Agua Caliente Park to Ramsey Canyon Preserve, please see our website, [www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/birding/128.html](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/birding/128.html).



In May, while leading a Tucson Audubon field trip at Sweetwater, staff members Sara Pike and Matt Brooks found this gorgeous male Prothonotary Warbler working the trees on the west side of the facility. It was a lifer for many!

# BIRDING TRAVEL FROM OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

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**Big Bend Nat'l Park, Texas: Colima Warbler short tour May 1–5, 2013, \$1095.** Leader: John Yerger. Big Bend is one of the most remote birding hotspots in the U.S., and home to some of its most spectacular scenery! It's the only place in the country to find Colima Warbler, the focus of one long day hike. A surprising number of habitats and oases are found within Park boundaries. Ideal for anyone desiring lots of birding and sightseeing on limited vacation time. Lucifer Hummingbird, Painted Bunting and Golden-fronted Woodpecker are just a few others we'll seek on this fun-filled adventure!

**South Texas: Rarities and Specialties short tour Feb 27–Mar 3, 2013, \$1195.** Leader: John Yerger. Limited vacation time? This "short tour" will target some of the rarest birds in the ABA region! Our main focus: find mega-rarities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. In recent years, species included Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Golden-crowned Warbler and Black-vented Oriole. In addition, we'll seek rare residents like Brown Jay and Red-billed Pigeon. And of course, spectacular South Texas specialties like Green Jay, Altamira Oriole and Buff-bellied Hummingbird will round out the trip! See website for details and extended alternative to this tour.

## ROCKJUMPER—WORLDWIDE BIRDING ADVENTURES

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(USA & Canada toll-free): 1-888-990-5552

**Guyana—Birds & Wildlife** 30 September to 11 October 2012 (12 days). Price: US\$5,230 \* £3,340 \* €4,010 \* ZAR41,800 (Single supplement US\$400, approx cost of flights US\$400). Please note: these prices are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations. Guyana is fast becoming recognized as one of South America's top birding and wildlife destinations. Our comprehensive birdwatching adventure includes some of the last relatively unexplored wildernesses on Earth. Those wishing to visit Kaieteur Falls and view it from the air will have the opportunity to do so before starting the main tour, while a post tour extension to remote Lethem will allow us to see the endangered Sun Parakeet.

**Japan—Dancing Cranes & Winter Birding** 2 to 19 December 2012 (18 days). Price to be announced. Our Japan—Dancing Cranes and Winter Birding tour explores the main islands of Honshu, Hokkaido and Kyushu where some of the world's most spectacular and sought-after birds can be found, whilst simultaneously enjoying the wonderfully diverse scenery and excellent local cuisine in "The Land of the Rising Sun". We will also spend time with endearing families of Japanese Macaques, better known as Snow Monkeys, at their hot spring hangouts.

## SOLIPASO TOURS

www.solipaso.com

**Northwest Mexico: August 25–September 1, 2012.** \$1900. Summertime in the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua and Sonora is a beautiful sight to see! Green meadows, blue sky vistas, lakes and waterfalls everywhere! In Madera, we see the endangered Thick-billed Parrot and Eared Quetzal. We visit the ruins of Cuarenta Casas and the magnificent Basaseachic waterfall, the highest in Mexico. In Yecora, we pick up more montane species including Mountain Trogon, Montezuma Quail, Rufous-capped Brush-finch and Aztec Thrush. Starts and ends in Tucson.

**Copper Canyon: September 11–25, 2012.** \$2350. Leader: David MacKay. The world famous Copper Canyon is a great destination for birding in the summertime! In Los Mochis, (start and end point) we explore the botanical garden and take a trip into coastal islands of the Sea of Cortez. We board the train in El Fuerte traveling through the tropical deciduous forest into the pine-oak. We stop along the way in Cerocahui, Cusarare and Creel. Target birds are Eared Quetzal, White-striped Woodcreeper, Mountain Trogon, Rufous-capped Warbler, Striped Sparrows and more. We'll see some of the Tarahumara villages and purchase their crafts.

## SOUTHWESTERN RESEARCH STATION—BIRDING AND NATURE TOURS

research.amnh.org/swrs • tglore@amnh.org

### Chiricahua Mountains, Portal, Az. tours

**2012: 9–15 Sept.** Our experienced guide, P.D. Hulce, is a local of the area and will take you on daily field trips, optional owl walks at night, and provide talks on the natural history of the region. Our rates are \$1250 per person, double occupancy; \$100 single supplement, when space allows: Single participants may be assigned a same-gender roommate to qualify for double occupancy rate.

### Birding Tour: The Chiricahua Mountains of S.E. Arizona

afford some of the best birding in the United States. Each tour is limited to 10 persons or 5 couples. Tours include: Roundtrip transportation from Tucson airport, double-occupancy in our newly remodeled rooms with kitchenettes, professional guide, and three full meals daily. We offer a newly added day trip to historic town of Bisbee. For itinerary see above contact information or call 520-558-2396.

## TROPICAL BIRDING

www.tropicalbirding.com  
info@tropicalbirding.com • 1-800-348-5941

Stay tuned for highlights from the just-concluded Tropical Birding / Tucson Audubon Ecuador tour led by Scott Olmstead. We'll share photos on Facebook and at Birds & Beer in July. ■

## Post-Festival Extension Tour: Thick-billed Parrots of Madera

**August 20–23, 2012** A short but very special trip into the Mexican states of Sonora and Chihuahua to see the endemic Thick-billed Parrot and Eared Quetzal (among some other sought-after specialties). See p 23 for details

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# TUCSON AUDUBON'S BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

COPPER

**COUNTRY INN & SUITES** by Carlson Tucson City Center is centrally located in Tucson just west of I-10 and Speedway Blvd Exit 257. Our location provides an easy access to many of many of Southern Arizona's birding and nature-walk sites like Tohono Chul Park, Sweetwater Wetlands, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Saguaro NP, Catalina SP, and Sabino Canyon. Country Inn & Suites Tucson City Center features upgraded guest room amenities, complimentary hot breakfast buffet or Grab & Go Breakfast along with ice cold bottled water, business & fitness center, new LCD screen TVs, outdoor heated swimming pool and spa, complimentary wired/wireless internet throughout the hotel. [www.countryinns.com/tucsonaz\\_citycenter](http://www.countryinns.com/tucsonaz_citycenter). **Special TBWF rates available this summer!**

**MERRILL LYNCH** Merrill Lynch advisors take a dynamic and individualized approach to helping clients address their financial needs. One that combines knowledge, experience, and a deep understanding not just of a client's goals and objectives, but of their lives, family, interests and passions. It's an approach based on "know-how" and "know-you", reflecting the Merrill Lynch philosophy of working closely with clients to help them live the lives they want and plan for the future.

Financial Advisor Lori Pascarella focuses on helping a select group of individuals and retirees to manage all aspects of their financial lives, from implementing tax-efficient strategies for concentrated stock positions to retirement and educational planning.

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



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## THE TAS-IFIEDS CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified and display ads are accepted from individual members and members of our Birds & Business Alliance. Visit [tucsonaudubon.org/vfly](http://tucsonaudubon.org/vfly) for rates or contact Matt Griffiths [mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org) to book an ad.

**BIRDS & BEER** Third Thursdays at Sky Bar: 5-7 PM. Get a free slice of pizza (from Brooklyn Pizza) and beer at happy hour prices. Bring your bird photos on a USB stick or disk to share.

**COOLERS FOR TUCSON BIRD & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL.** Donate or lend a cooler in good condition, ~ 22" L x 18" H x 14" W, with handles and drain spout, no wheels. Contact Kara at [volunteer@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@tucsonaudubon.org) or 520-629-1811.

**JOIN THE FALL TRAINING CLASS FOR SABINO CANYON VOLUNTEER NATURALISTS** Share the delights of Sabino Canyon's world with children and adults. See "Join Us" on our website: [www.scvtucson.org](http://www.scvtucson.org) or call Jeanne Granger 520 760 0127

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## Support Tucson Audubon... Become a Friend Today!

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- Please do not share my contact information.
- Please do not mail me *Vermilion Flycatcher*. I'll read it online.

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[www.tucsonaudubon.org](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org)



# TUCSON AUDUBON NATURE SHOPS

Tucson Audubon's Nature Shops provide for your needs in natural history books and guides, birding optics and accessories, and gifts right here in Tucson. We offer a great selection, the best prices, and member discounts. Remember to shop locally.

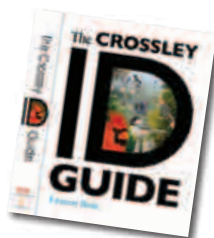
## Festival Books

Upcoming speakers at our Tucson Bird and Wildlife Festival, August 15–19. Be sure to pick up a copy of each at our Nature Shop booth and get them signed by the authors.

### Richard Crossley

*The Crossley ID Guide—Eastern Birds.* \$35.00

“Turning Birding Upside Down”. This renowned author and speaker brings his unique in-habitat approach to birdwatching to Tucson. If you haven't seen his new book yet, it's worth checking out for yourself. He will be headlining our festival this year, so be sure to get tickets for his keynote presentation on August 18th.



### Homer Hansen

*G.I.S.S. series—Flycatchers, Raptors, and Sparrows.* \$6.95 each

Homer has two Friday (August 17<sup>th</sup>) workshops at the festival this year; Raptors and Sparrows. Pick up his unique, tear- and water-proof quick reference guides to Arizona's representatives of these families.



### Rick Taylor

*Birds of Southeastern Arizona.* \$19.95

Rick's newest book has been a hot seller since it was published last year, bringing a pocket sized field guide to our local birds into the hands of birders. Rick will be kicking off the festival with a Friday night (August 17<sup>th</sup>) talk, bringing his wit and wisdom to the table.

### Sheri L. Williamson

*Peterson Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America.* \$22.00

Sheri brings her extensive knowledge of our “winged wonders”, hummingbirds, together in this Peterson series guide. Be sure to get a copy and sign up for her workshop on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.



### Lynn Hassler

*Birds of the American Southwest.* 14.95

Lynn's bibliography is long and varied. Her wonderful style is accessible to all levels of birding ability, as her book, *Birds of the American Southwest*, shows. Be sure to catch her beginning birding workshop on August 16<sup>th</sup>.



### 2012–2013 Federal Duck Stamp

New 2012–2013 Federal Duck Stamp now on sale! When you buy the new Migratory Bird and Conservation (aka Duck) Stamp, all of your \$15 goes toward the purchase of new wetlands that benefits all wetland species. Hang it on your binoculars with pride using our special binocular keychain! This year's stamp features a handsome male Wood Duck. Pick up yours today. \$15.00

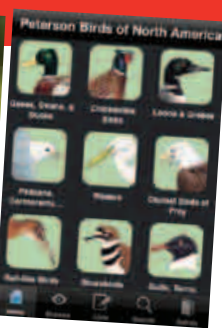
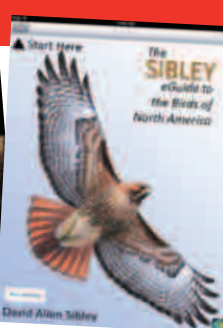


## What's in an eGuide? Full Field Guide Birding Apps

With the proliferation of the use of smart phones and tablets these days, it's only natural that an explosion of applications (or "Apps") has followed this trend. Sorting through all of these to see which might be the most useful to the average birder takes time and the recommendations of others who have them. In this article, I'm only going to focus on five Apps that are considered "full" field guides, rather than on Apps that have a more focused birding purpose, such as bird song, bird-finding, or listing (for an overview of a great new listing App that posts directly to eBird.org, read Jennie MacFarland's article on page 10). All Apps are only available through each device's online "store", so unfortunately you can't pop on down to your favorite Tucson Audubon Nature Shop and pick them up.

All of these Apps follow a basic format: illustrations or photos (or both), species information, searchable listings by name or ID points, range maps, and recordings of songs and calls.

- **National Geographic Guide to Birds** (Reg. \$14.99)—This App uses the images from its famous field guide, and features arrowed text pointing out key ID points. Pretty simple and straightforward to use. One disadvantage (that I'm assuming will be fixed in an update) is that, unlike the other apps, the sound recordings aren't divided out into calls and various songs for each species.
- **Sibley eGuide to Birds of North America** (Reg. \$29.99)—The obvious advantage of this App is its use of Sibley's famous drawings. An intuitive



interface and the ability to "localize" the guide by choosing a state are nice features. A "compare" feature lets you view two species at the same time. Being able to quickly page through species is useful in the field.

- **iBird Explorer Pro 5** (Reg. \$29.99)—This was the original digital field guide, and has a strong following because of its early entry into the App market. It was the only one available when I first purchased it. As it has evolved, it has become more user-friendly and intuitive. In my opinion, the drawings are cartoony and not at all useful for keying out ID features, but the good species information and photographs make up for it.
- **Audubon Birds: A Field Guide to North American Birds** (Reg. \$14.99)—Unlike the other Apps mentioned here, Audubon's bird App relies solely on photographs of birds rather than illustrations. A classy layout and an assortment of photos makes this App easy to use. A slick new feature is the "Find with eBird" option, which (when connected to Wi-Fi or a cell signal) can search the eBird database for recent sightings of any birds in the App.
- **Peterson Field Guide to the Birds of North America** (Reg. \$14.95)—This is a newer entry into the birding App market, and the designers have learned some things from earlier Apps. In general, the App layout is intuitive, and has some nice features such as being able to rearrange family icons to get to frequently seen species easily. Personally, I've never been a big fan of Peterson's art, but that doesn't change the usefulness of this App. A good entry level choice.

Note: Several of these Apps have free or cheaper versions of their products, which are a good way to test the waters before making a purchase of a full guide.

Each of these Apps are "self-contained", meaning they will work without a cellular or wireless (Wi-Fi) signal. This is obviously incredibly useful in the field. Some, like iBird, have easy access to additional information and photos if you do happen to have a signal.

Perhaps one of the most useful aspects of Apps (vs. books) is that they are dynamic. You can actively search and narrow down likely species with key ID features. Bird song is right there for you to learn by. Most importantly, however, is that the Apps have the ability to be updated, so they

are constantly being improved based on user feedback. Taxonomy changes can take place with the click of the update button.

In my opinion, these Apps aren't replacements for physical field guides (at least not yet). They are useful in the field and much lighter to carry, but after being out in the field I often find myself following up with unanswered questions in a book. Still, this is the wave of the future, and interactive Apps are brilliant additions to the tools for birding. Any one of these Apps (or all!) would be most welcome in the field.

Matt Brooks

### NOTICE OF SHOP CLOSURE

The Main Nature shop will be closed August 1st–11th for annual inventory and update of our inventory software.

The shop will be closed on August 17th and 18th at the University Location, but OPEN at the FESTIVAL! (See pullout).

We're also closed on July 4th and September 3rd (Labor Day)

### 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,  
Phone: 629-0510 ext 7015

On the southeast corner of University Blvd and 5th Avenue.

##### AGUA CALIENTE PARK SHOP

June–September:

Thursdays only

9 AM–1:30 PM

Phone: 760-7881

From Tanque Verde Rd and Houghton, continue east on Tanque Verde 2 miles. Turn left (north) onto Soldier Trail, continue north for 2 miles. Turn right (east) onto Roger Rd, continue ¼ mile to the park entrance on the left (north).

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

**TIP!** Watch for sales. These apps can be expensive, but occasionally they will go on sale, and if you time it right, you can get an App that retails for \$15–\$40 for \$1–\$2.

**TIP!** For those interested in these Apps but leery of the high phone bill and data plan of an iPhone or other smartphone, consider getting an iPod Touch. The iPod Touch is basically an iPhone without the phone part, so there's no monthly fee associated with its use. You can download the Apps over a Wi-Fi connection and you are good to go!



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