

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

Vermilion

FLYCATCHER

October–December 2011 | Volume 56, Number 4



Evolving

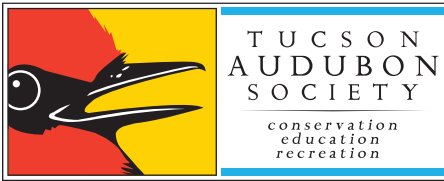
Birds of Prey in
Urban Tucson

Lawns, Landscaping,
and Native Birds

Avra Valley Wastewater Ponds
Still Produce the Birds

What's in a Name? Lesser Nighthawk

PLUS special four-page holiday gift ideas pull-out



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.

Tucson Audubon Society
 300 E. University Blvd. #120, Tucson, AZ 85705
 629-0510 (voice) or 623-3476 (fax)
 All phone numbers are area code 520 unless otherwise stated.
www.tucsonaudubon.org

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 Hours: 9 AM–3:30 PM, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
 (October, November, December)

Vermilion Flycatcher is published quarterly. For address changes or subscription problems call 629-0510, or write to Membership Coordinator, Tucson Audubon, 300 E. University Blvd, #120, Tucson, AZ 85705. Submissions are due the 1st of the month, two months before the date of the issue. Please send submissions as Microsoft Word or RTF documents, or plain text files, to Matt Griffiths at mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org.

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Our Changing Forests

Paul Green, Executive Director

The fires that swept through the forests of the Southwest this year leave behind a mosaic of impacts of varying degrees, from the clearing of the accumulated understory to the deaths of large areas of trees, sometimes followed by severe erosion of the exposed soils and large amounts of deposited sediments in canyons with associated changes.

Our natural world is never at rest, and change is the constant. Some areas already show the extensive green of germinating plants as the process of regeneration begins. While birders mourn the birds that are no longer present now that their food and shelter have gone, of course the future holds a great deal of interest as regenerating vegetation may bring increased plant diversity



FRONT COVER: Buff-breasted Flycatcher photographed in Carr Canyon by Robert Royse. Robert is a professional musician and photographer specializing in birds based in Columbus, OH. He regularly travels throughout North America for his photography and SE Arizona is one of his favorite areas.

To have your photographs considered for use in the *Vermilion Flycatcher*, please contact Matt Griffiths at mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org.

and new ecological opportunities for species that specialize in exploiting the dead trees, the young ones that will come with time, and associated structural changes.

Future issues of *Vermilion Flycatcher* will feature materials written by experts in the field of fire ecology, explaining some of the changes we will see over the coming months and years. The population of the Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*), our front-cover feature bird, has been in continuous decline throughout its restricted range in Southeast Arizona but has shown increases in areas following fire-induced thinning of trees. Today it inhabits less than ten percent of its former US range. We watch what the future holds with great interest. **W**



REGENERATING FOREST AFTER 2003 WILDFIRE ON MT. LEMMON, WIKIMEDIA.ORG

COMMENTARY

PAUL GREEN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Highest and Best Use: Celebrating the Intangible



When discussing a piece of biologically rich land in Tucson, a representative for the home-building industry told me that conserving the land for its natural values was out of the question because the “highest and best use” (HBU) for the land was probably to support homes for people rather than for wildlife.

Ever since that conversation, I have often wondered what HBU means to society at large. I realized later that the developer assumed that the use that made the most money for him was also the highest and best use for our community at large. We as a community should challenge this simplistic approach.

How do we determine the HBU for a piece of land? For example, how does value for wildlife connectivity, viewing opportunities for wildlife, or the ability to walk in nature to relieve the stresses of modern life feed into HBU assessment? The answer is that, right now, such values do not enter the calculation, though land-use policy buffs are working on it.

Tucson Audubon’s recent Bird & Wildlife Festival sought in part to focus the minds of our local government and business leaders on the economic benefits that derive from natural areas in our region. Total annual economic impact of wildlife tourism in Arizona was valued in 2001 at \$1.5 billion, and for Pima County at \$325 million. These earnings depend on natural areas that provide places that wildlife can use for breeding, feeding, shelter, stopover, and as linkages.

Governments have long recognized the need to preserve open space lands in part to counteract the effects of suburban sprawl. The growing use of habitat conservation plans, as in Tucson and Marana, for reconciling environmental and economic objectives also draws attention to the importance and value of open space in comparison to alternative land uses.

Local governments are heavily dependent on property tax for operating revenue. So fiscal and economic implications of open space preservation

decisions come under great scrutiny. Conservationists are frequently called upon to demonstrate to local communities the economic value of preserving open space. This is probably an impossible and unfair question to answer because open space contains such hugely significant non-monetary and intangible values.

Those who try to assess a monetary value on open space take many disparate approaches. Some recognize that it often plays an important role in the provision of “public goods” though it may be difficult to put a dollar value on these “goods.” For example, there are many users of open space and one person’s use does not diminish that of another (if I watch birds in a public space I do not diminish the ability of others to do the same).

Others study the economic value associated with open space activities like recreation (including hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife watching, camping, boating and nature photography). These may provide an important source of revenue for businesses and state and local governments, and have income and job multiplier effects. They usually occur in rural areas which have limited commercial opportunities.

Open space may provide valuable ecological services when it delivers processes such as ground water storage, climate moderation, flood control, storm damage prevention, and air and water pollution abatement. What would be the cost of these services if they were not provided by “nature?” As an example, 8,500 acres of wetlands were acquired and preserved in the Charles River Basin, MA, to provide a storage area for flood control at a cost of \$10 million. An alternative proposal to construct dams and levees to accomplish the same goal would have cost \$100 million.

The HBU doctrine often underestimates the costs of development to society. A review of fiscal impact studies (Burchell & Listokin, 1995) concludes that residential development does not pay for itself in the long-term, and nonresidential

development generally does but serves as a magnet for residential development. Open space falls at the break-even point. A study of eleven towns by the Southern New England Forest Consortium shows that on a strictly financial basis the cost of providing public services is more than twice as high for residential as for commercial development or open space.

Proximity to preserved natural open space (space that is not intensively developed for recreation purposes) enhances property values. Enhancement value is important to the local property tax base because it offsets the effects of open space, which is usually tax-exempt or taxed at a low rate.

In conclusion, one thing is clear: we need to reassess the conventional wisdom of the economic consequences of development and conservation, and it will include a mix of sophisticated disciplines, methods, and approaches.

Tucson Audubon is seeking \$7,500 to update the 2001 analysis of the total economic impact of wildlife tourism in Arizona using 2011 US Fish and Wildlife Service economic data, available next year. This will provide up-to-date county level data on the total economic impacts of watching wildlife. ■

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NATURAL WASH AREA ADJOINING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, KENDALL KROESEN

TUCSON AUDUBON EVENTS AND CLASSES

Tucson Audubon's Birding Classes and Specialty Workshops



COSTAS HUMMINGBIRD, DORIS EVANS MOVING TO MASTERY CLASS, KENDALL KROESEN



Moving to Mastery

October 12–November 9, 2011

Take your birding to the next level with our popular Moving to Mastery class. If 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.

Classroom sessions: Wednesdays, October 12–November 9, 2011, 6:00–9:00 PM

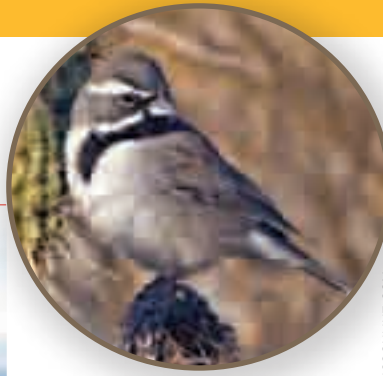
Field trips: Saturdays, October 15–November 5, 7:00 AM; locations/times TBA
Cost: \$250 for TAS members, \$285 for non-members.

Backyard Birding and Beyond

January 14–February 18, 2012

Learn 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, this course is designed for beginners. The focus will be on identifying local birds and discovering their interesting characteristics, adaptations, and charms. Lynn will address how to separate birds by habitat, seasonal occurrence, and behavior. Get an overview on binoculars and field guide use, birding vocabulary, and etiquette in the field. The course includes three two-hour classroom sessions and two field trips, up to 3 hours in length.

Classroom sessions: Saturdays, January 14, January 28 (NO CLASS), February 4, 11, 9:00–11:00 AM
Field trips: Saturdays, January 21, February 18; locations/times TBA
Cost: \$135 for TAS members, \$170 for non-members.



BLACK-THROATED SPARROW, ELAINE R. WILSON, WWW.NATURESPICSONLINE.COM

Specialty Workshops

February–March 2012

Intended as stand-alone classes, these workshops are a great way to follow-up on Moving to Mastery techniques (though MTM isn't required). Each class focuses on a specific group of birds, and goes into detail on similar species, ID techniques, and vocalizations. This is a great way to gain skills for identifying those difficult bird groups. Each class consists of a Wednesday evening class followed by a Saturday field trip and is limited to 10 participants. Pick and choose several Instructors: Homer Hansen (Sparrows, Raptors), Larry Liese (Ducks and Geese), William Mannan (Protecting Raptors in Urban Tucson)

Sparrows: February 1 & 4, 2012
Raptors: February 8 & 11, 2012
Ducks and Geese: February 14 & 17, 2012
Protecting Raptors in Urban Tucson: March 21 & 24, 2012

Classroom sessions: 6:00–9:00 pm
Field trips: locations/times TBA
Cost: \$110 per workshop, \$145 for non-members

CRESTED CARACARA, ALAN D. WILSON, WWW.NATURESPICSONLINE.COM



Birding By Ear

May 2 & 5, 2012

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

Classroom session: 6:00–9:00 PM
Field trip: location/time TBA
Cost: \$110, \$145 for non-members

ALL CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Location: Tucson Audubon offices on University Blvd.

Contact: education@tucsonaudubon.org or 520-629-0510 x 7012.



CURVED-BILLED THRASHER, DORIS EVANS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR SUITE OF EDUCATION CLASSES, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.TUCSONAUDUBON.ORG/EDUCATION



Tucson Audubon's Flagship Education Program: The Institute of Desert Ecology

April 19–22, 2012

Ever wanted to get up close and personal with a Gila monster? Or learn about the many incredible insects of the Sonoran Desert? Or discover how grasshopper mice can eat scorpions? You can do all of these things and more in a fabulous outdoor setting at the next Institute of Desert Ecology. Whether you consider yourself a desert expert or a desert newbie, you will come away from this program with new knowledge and a sense of wonder at the desert surrounding us. Desert ecology will be right at your fingertips in this hands-on, four-day institute. Learn from local experts in the fields of herpetology, entomology, ornithology and more. This is a wonderful chance for you to interact with like-minded, inquisitive adults in the unique landscape of southern Arizona. For 42 years, our amazing faculty has been teaching Sonoran

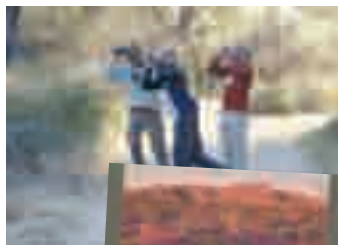
Desert ecology to people from around the continent. Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience.

Space is limited, so sign up today! Don't miss the opportunity! For more information, contact Matt Brooks, Institute Director, at 629-0510 x7007 or education@tucsonaudubon.org. Online sign-up and more information is available at www.tucsonaudubon.org/ide. Cost \$425 Tucson Audubon member, \$460 non-member.



ONLINE SIGN-UP NOW AVAILABLE!

Now it's easier than ever to sign up for the Institute of Desert Ecology! Visit www.tucsonaudubon.org/ide to sign up today.



AVAILABLE IN OUR NATURE SHOPS

Want to get a leg up on Sonoran Desert facts? *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert* is the perfect book to read prior to attending the Institute of Desert Ecology! \$24.95



Visit tucsonaudubon.org for updates and more.



Come Count Birds at the BioBlitz at Saguaro National Park!

October 21–22, 2011

On October 21–22, 2011, Saguaro National Park will be hosting the fifth annual BioBlitz that National Geographic and the National Park Service are presenting as a lead-up to the National Park Service's centennial in 2016.

The BioBlitz is a two-day celebration of biodiversity centered around a 24-hour race to count all of the plant and animal species in Saguaro National Park. Teams of expert volunteers and participants will explore the park's mountains, valleys, cactus forests, drainages, and tinajas to identify as many species as possible. This fun event is part scientific endeavor, part festival and part outdoor classroom with a special emphasis on educating the public, especially children, about the amazing biodiversity in Saguaro National Park.

Tucson Audubon and the Arizona Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program will help inventory the birds of Saguaro National Park during the BioBlitz. This is where you come in! We especially need volunteer team leaders (known as "scientists" in the event) who would be in charge of a team of participants scouring a hiking route in the national park for bird species.

If you would like to contribute your birding expertise to this event and become a volunteer team leader or a participant, please contact Jennie MacFarland as soon as possible at jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org so we can get our group organized. More information about the BioBlitz can be found at www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz.

October 1. Blazing Trails at Arthur Pack Park (see p 6)

October 10. *Living with Nature* lecture (Tucson): One Bird Biologist's Big Year with Chris McCreedy (see p 7)

October 12–November 9. Moving to Mastery (see p 4)

October 15. Fountaingrass Removal at Esperero Canyon (see p 6)

October 21–22. BioBlitz (see left)

November 5. Mesquite Milling at Mason Center (see p 6)

November 5. *Living with Nature* lecture (Green Valley) (see p 7)

November 12. Planting at Prickly Park (see p 6)

November 14. *Living With Nature* lecture (Tucson): Ecuador: World's Hottest Hummingbird Hotspot with Scott Olmstead (see p 7)

November 21–26. Tucson Audubon's Nature Shop Thanksgiving Sale (see p 27)

December 3. Habitat Restoration at Ironwood National Forest (see p 6)

December 3. *Living with Nature* lecture (Green Valley): Hummingbirds with Karen Krebs (see p 7)

December 5 *Living With Nature* lecture (Tucson): Seabirds and Marine Mammals in Your Backyard with Tad Pfister plus Member's Holiday Potluck (see p 7 & 10)

December 14 Tucson Audubon Holiday Volunteers' Cookie Exchange (see p 10)

January 7. *Living with Nature* lecture (Green Valley)

January 9. *Living with Nature* lecture (Tucson): Living with Predatory Birds in an Urban Environment with Dr. Bill Mannan

January 14–February 18. Backyard Birding and Beyond (see p 4)

January 16. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Volunteer Project (see p 6)

January 28. Beat Back Buffelgrass Day (see p 6)

February 1 & 4. Specialty Workshop: Sparrows (see p 4)

February 4. *Living with Nature* lecture (Green Valley)

February 13. *Living with Nature* lecture (Tucson)

February 7. Tucson Audubon's Fourth Annual Gala (see p 28)

February 8 & 11. Specialty Workshop: Raptors (see p 4)

February 14 & 17. Specialty Workshop: Ducks & Geese (see p 4)

February 25. Ash Canyon B&B Volunteer Project (see p 6)

March 21 & 24. Specialty Workshop: Protecting Raptors in Urban Tucson (see p 4 & 14)

April 19–22. Institute of Desert Ecology (see left)

May 2 & 5. Birding By Ear (see p 4)

June 16–24. Special Birding Trip to Ecuador for Tucson Audubon Members (see p 9)

Mesquite Milling at Mason Center

Saturday November 5, 7 AM–noon

7 AM: Free bird walk

8 AM–noon: Mesquite milling

On November 5 join the Pod People at Tucson Audubon's Mason Center. Not people who use iPods, but people who use mesquite pods! Milling mesquite pods into mesquite meal is a much more ancient "pod" technology that will be around long after iPods are all in the landfill.

Probably the most abundant native food of the Sonoran Desert, mesquite can be ground into meal and used in a marvelous variety of recipes. All you need is some mesquite meal and a cookbook! Tucson Audubon can help you get both.

On Saturday November 5 bring your own mesquite pods and have them put through a stamp mill, which will be provided for the event by

Desert Harvesters. Take home your mesquite meal and get cookin'. There will be a small charge for the milling.

Dry mesquite pods can be harvested from mesquite trees in early summer (after the spring bloom) and again in August toward the end of the monsoon season. Pods should be clean. For instructions on how to collect mesquite pods, go to www.desertharvesters.org, click on "mesquite" on the left side of the screen, and then scroll down to "native mesquite harvesting basics."

If you haven't harvested any pods, come anyway! We will have enough mesquite meal on hand to give small samples to those who come without their own pods—while supplies last. We hope to make this a tradition at the Mason Center, and we'll remind



KENDALL KROESEN



SEARCHNET/MEDIA



you next year of when to harvest your pods.

Eat Mesquite: A Cookbook, will be for sale at the event. You may also buy it at the Tucson Audubon Nature Shop anytime before the event. This book, published by Desert Harvesters, is the definitive guide to incorporating this cheap, abundant desert food into your diet. We plan to have other

vendors at the event, so that you can buy additional mesquite meal or other native food products.

Whether you have pods to grind or not, come join us for a memorable event.

Kendall Kroesen,
Habitats Program Manager



ARTHUR PACK PARK, KENDALL KROESEN

TogetherGreen Volunteer Days

Saturday October 1, 7:30 AM–noon
Blazing Trails at Arthur Pack Park

Volunteers will help establish a path for a new nature trail along the south edge of Arthur Pack Regional Park. Work will involve removing vegetation where necessary, smoothing the trail alignment and spreading decomposed granite. The trail will connect with other park trails, increase nature walking opportunities in the area, and provide a safe route home for students at Tortolita Middle School. Trail construction will always avoid native vegetation where possible. The work location is on the south edge of Arthur Pack Regional Park along Hardy Road. Meet at Tucson Audubon's Mason Center, 3835 W. Hardy Road (just west of Thornydale).

Saturday October 15, 8 AM–noon
Fountaingrass Removal at Esperero Canyon

Volunteers are needed to help end the fountaingrass infestation in the final stretch of Tucson Audubon's property in Esperero Canyon (between Ventana and Sabino Canyons). Fountaingrass is clogging the canyon

bottom and excluding native grasses and other plants..

Saturday November 12, 8 AM–noon
Planting at Prickly Park

Volunteers will help plant a hummingbird garden at the new Pima Prickly Park, located at the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation office at 3500 East River Road. We will do some terracing of the ground for rainwater harvesting next to a ramada, and then plant several species of hummingbird-attracting plants. Tucson Audubon is working with Pima County and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society to improve this area for wildlife.

Saturday December 3, 8 AM–noon
Habitat Restoration at Ironwood Forest National Monument

Tucson Audubon joins Arizona Native Plant Society and Sierra Club volunteers to install rock berms, check dams, and tree planting holes in an 18-acre scar at the base of the Waterman Mountains once infested with buffelgrass and now under restoration. Formerly known as the Harlow Jones site, the site has been renamed the Allyson Kumataka Memorial

Restoration Site. Meet at 8 AM at the Marana Airport on Avra Valley Road about 5 miles west of I-10.

Monday January 16, 8 AM–noon
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Volunteer Project
Location and project TBD.

Saturday January 28, 8 AM–noon
Beat Back Buffelgrass Day
Location and project TBD.

Saturday February 25, 8 AM–noon
Ash Canyon Bed and Breakfast
Details to come.

Sunday April 22, 7:30 AM–noon
Earth Day
Location and project TBD.

NOTE: For details, directions and to sign up for any of the above events, contact Kendall Kroesen at 520-971-2385 kkroesen@tucsonaudubon.org. All volunteers will sign a liability waiver. Please wear appropriate work clothing, work shoes, and hat, and bring a water bottle and gloves if you have them. We will provide additional water, snacks, gloves, and all the necessary tools.

Tucson Audubon's Living with Nature Lecture Series

TUCSON Living with Nature Lecture Series and Member Meetings

Traditional venue of DuVal Auditorium (NE section of the University Medical Center, Bldg. 501 N Campbell Ave) may change. Please check tucsonaudubon.org for updates. Program begins at **7 PM, SECOND MONDAY** of each month **October through May**.

GREEN VALLEY Living with Nature Lecture Series 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, **NOVEMBER–APRIL. November 5. December 3. January 7. February 4. March 3. April 7.**

For more information, contact Erin Olmstead, 520-629-0510 x7009 or eolmstead@tucsonaudubon.org, or visit tucsonaudubon.org.

October 10 • Tucson

ONE BIRD BIOLOGIST'S BIG YEAR with *Chris McCreedy*

Join us for a sneak peek into the life of a bird biologist (and those of his avian study subjects) as we kick off the 2011/2012 Living with Nature Lecture Series! Chris McCreedy has worked for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory since 1999, and is currently enrolled in the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and Environment's graduate program. An expert on desert ecology, he's worked in the Great Basin, the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Deserts, and Antarctica, and conducted his thesis research at the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in western Arizona.

At the Kofa, he has studied the effects of drought on the nesting success of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers and Verdins. From several years of



KOFA NWR, AZGFD

previous research, PRBO has found links between winter rainfall and nest success and the timing of nest initiation, and he will connect these findings to his Kofa work. He'll follow with photographs from his research adventures in the Sonoran and at Mono Lake, CA, as well as from his current big year.

November 14 • Tucson

ECUADOR: WORLD'S HOTTEST HUMMINGBIRD HOTSPOT with *Scott Olmstead*

What makes Ecuador, home to a whopping 130 hummingbirds, the birdiest country on "The Bird Continent?" In this celebration of Ecuador's amazing bird diversity, we'll take a closer look at the factors such as geography and climate that have joined forces to produce a spectacular list of almost 1600 bird species in a country roughly the same size as Arizona! Join us on a photographic journey as we explore Ecuador's various habitats and sample the stunning birds that inhabit them. We'll take in the steamy rainforests, mist-shrouded cloudforests, and snow-capped volcanic peaks that together make this extraordinary country home to roughly 18 percent of the Earth's bird species. Expect to be dazzled by toucanets and trogons, motmots and manakins, and of course, hummingbirds of all shapes, colors, and sizes.

A naturalist and lifelong birder, Scott Olmstead has birded far and wide throughout Latin America. He spent three all-too-short years living and birding in Ecuador, exploring forgotten corners of the country in search of lifers, leading birding tours, and becoming hopelessly addicted to digiscoping. Now based in Tucson, Scott is a high-school Spanish teacher and Tucson Audubon volunteer, and



GREEN-CROWNED WOODNYMPH, SAMI WOODS

is leading a special birding trip to Ecuador in June 2012 for Tucson Audubon members only (see p 9).

December 3 • Green Valley

HUMMINGBIRDS: FLYING JEWELS OF ARIZONA with *Karen Krebs*

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's Conservation Biologist Karen Krebs will entertain you with hummingbird facts and fun! Karen will talk about hummingbird identification, behavior, nesting biology, and ways to attract these tiny jewels to your garden and home. Arizona is home to an exciting diversity of hummingbird species and these small energetic pollinators will make you smile and laugh!

December 5 • Tucson

MEMBERS' ANNUAL POTLUCK / SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS IN YOUR BACKYARD! with *Tad Pfister*

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE: St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church (see p 10 for details)

The Gulf of California is one of the most productive marine ecosystems on earth, supporting an incredible diversity and abundance of marine life including whales, dolphins, sea lions and seabirds. AND, it is right in our backyard! Many Gulf islands are important nesting grounds for seabirds such as Blue-footed and Brown Boobies, Double-crested Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, Black and Least Storm Petrels, Osprey, and Yellow-footed Gull. The spectacle of over one million Heermann's Gulls,



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD, JIM FLYNN

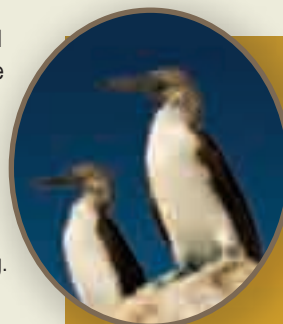
Royal Terns, and Elegant Terns nesting on Isla Rasa during the peak breeding season is a sight, sound and smell that is not to be missed and will not be forgotten. Join us as we explore the islands and offshore waters of the Gulf of California where seabirds and marine mammals abound!

Tad Pfister has been exploring the Gulf of California for over 25 years as a student, teacher, researcher, naturalist and boatman. He was one of the founding members of the Prescott College Center for Cultural and Ecological Studies, located in Kino Bay, Sonora, on the shores of the Midriff Island Region of the Gulf. Tad has worked with Mexican researchers to study fin, sperm and blue whale movement patterns in the Gulf as well as assisted in sea bird research projects on San Pedro Martir, Rasa and Alcatraz Islands. More recently, he helped facilitate the largest rat eradication project conducted in Mexico, to protect the important seabird nesting colonies on San Pedro Martir Island. Since 2008, Tad has worked at the University of Arizona as program coordinator for a bi-national fisheries management initiative that aims to improve the health of fisheries and overall ecological conditions in the Northern Gulf of California.

January 9 • Tucson

LIVING WITH PREDATORY BIRDS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT with *Dr. Bill Mannan*

Read about Dr. Mannan's work on p 14 and see p 4 for details of a Specialty Workshop that he will be leading in March. ■



BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES

TUCSON AUDUBON NEWS ROUNDUP

Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival

Erin Olmstead, Special Projects

On August 17–21, Tucson Audubon and the Riverpark Inn hosted the first-ever Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival, to showcase the great watchable wildlife opportunities near Tucson and around Southern Arizona. We welcomed 175 registrants from 20 states, who joined hundreds of local “walk-in” birders and nature enthusiasts to bird and butterfly field trips, workshops, free talks, and evening programs. Besides the wonderful biodiversity of the Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands, this fun-filled event also highlighted the significant economic impact that watchable wildlife activities have on our region. This is a message we will continue to promote to our local business leaders and government officials, while encouraging stewardship within our community and beyond.

We hope you will join us next year! Please mark your calendars for August 15–19, 2012!

Thanks to our Festival Sponsors and Partners: The Riverpark Inn, Arizona Game & Fish Department, Sonoran Joint Venture, Leica Sport Optics, Brooklyn Pizza Company, Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors' Bureau, Princeton University Press, Tucson Lifestyle Magazine, Wildlife Rehab of Northwest Tucson, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Parks, and Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.

Thanks to our great Nature Expo exhibitors: Tucson Audubon Nature Shop, Three Star Owl, Copper Hummingbird, Solipaso Tours, Leica Sport Optics, Arizona Game & Fish Department, Tropical Birding, B.R.E.A.T.H.E., Pima County NRPR, Tucson Herpetological Society, Friends of Madera Canyon, and Coronado National Forest. And of course, thank you to the many volunteers whose countless hours of cheerful service made everything go smoothly!

Thank you to Greg and Cat Greene, whose art and design talents came together fabulously to create the popular Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival logo!

THANK YOU to our talented leaders and seminar experts, whose enthusiasm and generosity made the inaugural event so memorable: Moez Ali, Sergio Avila, Jeff Babson, Richard Bailowitz, Chris Benesh, Gavin Bieber, Cameron Cox, Doris Evans, Richard Fray, Brian Gibbons, Paul Green, Homer Hansen, Bob Hernbrode, Sam Huselton, Keith Kamper, Kenn Kaufman, Kimberly Kaufman, Kendall Kroesen, Ken Lamberton, Jake Mohlmann, Scott Olmstead, Bruce Prior, Meg Quinn, Lisa Reid, Sandy Reith, Bob Scarborough, Karen Simms, Rick Taylor, Sheri L. Williamson, John Yerger

Highlights included:

- Three intrepid teams of birders took on the 1st Annual Sky Islands Birding Cup challenge which benefited the Patagonia Lake State Park fencing project. “Birding the Midnight Oil”, comprised of Keith Kamper, Jake Mohlmann, and John Yerger, clinched the Big Day title with 162 species. For more info on the fencing project, please visit tucsonaudubon.org/cup.
- We celebrated Tucson’s “Bird Day” at Birds & Beer, with pizza, cake, and awesome bird photos. Live education birds and their volunteer handlers from Northwest Tucson Wildlife Rehab stole the show!
- The two-day Nature Expo featured free natural history talks, live critters, and great vendors!
- Participants took in the sights and sounds of Southern Arizona on full-day and half-day field trips to nearby birding hotspots. Over the course of the weekend, the groups recorded 170 bird species.



MATT BROOKS



JENNIE MACFARLAND



MATT BROOKS



MATT BROOKS



BECKY APARICIO



CHRISSEY KONDRAT-SMITH



MATT BROOKS

Clockwise from top: Sales were brisk at the Nature Shop booth; The free natural history talks, including Meg Quinn’s Wildflowers of the Sky Islands, were well attended; Volunteer storyteller Laura Cotter entertains a young participant; Tucson Audubon Board President Cynthia Pruett presents Kenn Kaufman the education award that is named after him; A group of young birders joined Kenn Kaufman for a morning at Sweetwater; Kai Pfister made a new friend at the Nature Expo; This birding group ventured further afield to Fort Huachuca.

- Local youth birders spent the morning at Sweetwater with Tucson Audubon and Kenn and Kim Kaufman, then returned to the Riverpark Inn to learn about desert adaptations from Sam Huselton and other experts.
- Rick Taylor regaled us with a virtual tour of southeastern Arizona’s habitats, by elevation, and the fabulous diversity of species found here.
- Tucson Audubon Board President Cynthia Pruett presented a speechless Kenn Kaufman with the very first Kenn Kaufman Award for

Excellence in Education Relating to the Natural World.

Again, see you next year, August 15–19, 2012!





GIANT ANTPIPPA, SCOTT OLMSTEAD



ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK, SCOTT OLMSTEAD



TOUCAN BARBET, SCOTT OLMSTEAD



CRIMSON-RUMPED TOUCANET, SCOTT OLMSTEAD

Special Ecuador Tour for Tucson Audubon Members Only

June 16–24, 2012 (Saturday–Sunday) • Ecuador: The Northern Andes
 \$2295 per person from Quito, based on double occupancy; \$160 single supplement

Tucson Audubon and Birds & Business Alliance member Tropical Birding are pleased to announce a summer 2012 tour to the Andes of Ecuador, led by Scott Olmstead. Safe and accessible, Ecuador boasts abundant birdlife, friendly people, and delightfully cool temperatures. Based out of comfortable lodges renowned for an appealing mix of good food,

warm hospitality, and superb birding, this customized itinerary offers an introduction to unique and fascinating Andean landscapes. Our tour explores a range of ecosystems from moss-draped cloudforests of the foothills to dense windswept elfin forests of the higher elevations that finally give way to open páramo above treeline.

We'll search for birds that live up to their evocative and superlative names like: Velvet-purple Coronet, Empress Brilliant, Powerful Woodpecker, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Glistening-green Tanager, Golden-headed Quetzal, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, and Giant Antpitta!

Explore birdy South America with other Friends of Tucson

Audubon! For a full tour itinerary, visit tucsonaudubon.org/ecuador; for more information and reservations, please contact Tropical Birding directly at 1-800-348-5941.

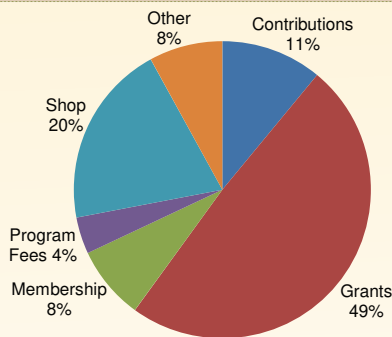
Learn more about exciting Ecuador birding and meet Scott at the November Living with Nature Lecture in Tucson! See p. 7 for details.

Tucson Audubon's Fiscal Year 2010 Revenue and Expenses Summary

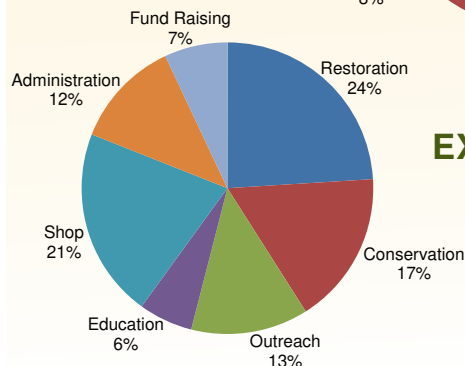
Brad Paxton, Finance Manager

Revenue	\$1,108,986
Expenses	(1,124,381)
Investment Activity	29,690
Net	\$14,295

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Unaudited

Paton's Hummingbird Haven

Richard Fray

Most Tucson Audubon members will be aware of the Paton house in Patagonia, and Wally and Marion's incredible story. For more than twenty years the property has been open to the public, who visit in their thousands to watch the stunning variety of birds in the famous backyard. Many of you will have visited and seen your first Violet-crowned Hummingbird there, and a host of other wonderful species.

Since Marion's passing in 2009, the property has remained open to birders, charmingly maintained on behalf of the Paton family by Michael Marsden and Donna Knox. Now, a new non-profit organization has been formed with the intention of buying the property and running it as a birding destination for many years to come.

We need your help. We have great plans and the full backing of the Paton family, Michael and Donna, Tucson Audubon Society and many other organizations. We also have the

backing of the wider birding community with top names such as David Sibley signing up for our Advisory Panel along with prominent local birders and community leaders.

What we need now is finance. We have to raise enough money for at least a deposit on the house and running costs for the immediate future. And we need to raise it quickly.

Please consider making a donation, large or small (we need both). As a member of the Arizona birding community, it's a gift to yourself. Keeping the Paton house open to the public is in all our interests. For full details and to make a donation, please go to: www.patonshummingbirdhaven.org

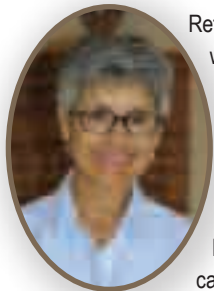
Or mail a check to Paton's Hummingbird Haven, P.O. Box 817, Patagonia, AZ 85624-0817



BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, TIM LENTZ

Volunteer News Roundup

Becky Aparicio, Volunteer Coordinator



Retirement is the point where a person stops employment completely. This old crone (a woman coming of age) is putting aside her laptop, pencils, cash register, Excel spreadsheets, and will make her "swan song." A part of me regrets the thought of not being involved with the inner workings of Tucson Audubon and in particular the camaraderie of the staff, but the bigger part of me is welcoming the possibilities that a freer existence entertains. To the volunteer staff at Agua Caliente Park—Larry, Lexie, Sharon, Liz, Laura, Fran, Shirley, Maggie and Tom—special thanks for their hard work and friendship as I continued overseeing the "best little nature shop" in Tucson while also tackling the position of Volunteer Coordinator. My work with all the volunteers that make Tucson Audubon such a success has been a joy.

New Volunteers

Welcome to Mike Sadatmousavi; Ed and Linda Bartlett; Carly Campbell; Pete and Betty Bengston; Kate Reynolds

Volunteers Needed

Agua Caliente Park Nature Shop

Additional assistance is needed to keep this little volunteer shop running smoothly. This wonderful outreach for Tucson Audubon is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with needs

Farewell Becky

During a time when Tucson Audubon has to do much more with much less, Becky Aparicio has been a real star in our circle. Becky is the first Volunteer Coordinator for Tucson Audubon in recent times, and has forged our volunteer program very successfully. While organizing our volunteer program, she continued to run our

for responsible help willing to learn administrative and managerial skills. For more details, contact Becky baparcio@tucsonaudubon.org or 520-629-0510 x7011.

United Way Days of Caring

October 1, 7:30 AM–noon
Arthur Pack Regional Park. See p 6 for details.

BioBlitz

October 21 & 22
Join National Geographic and the National Park Service, together with Friends of Saguaro National Park and Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, for the Saguaro National Park BioBlitz. Ten volunteers are needed to interact with Tucson third through sixth grade students to share their birding skills for Friday's education day. To lead or join a volunteer bird survey team, see p 5.

TogetherGreen Volunteer Days

Volunteers are needed for various TogetherGreen projects on the following dates (8 AM–noon):
October 1 & 15, November 12, December 3, January 16 & 28, February 25
See p 6 for details.

Save the Date

Holiday Cookie Exchange for All Volunteers

December 14, Wednesday
2–3:30 PM

Tucson Audubon library. You bring the cookies; we supply the lunch goodies for this great way to enjoy each others company. RSVP: Jean Barchman, jbarchman@tucsonaudubon.org or 520-629-0510 x7002.

Agua Caliente Nature Shop as well as turning her hand to all manner of outreach opportunities for which we thank her greatly. We'll miss Becky's entrepreneurial spirit and energy, and her cheerful presence at all activities. We all wish her the best in her retirement, and we hope to recruit her soon as a volunteer!

Meet **Sherry Massie**, Volunteer of the Quarter at Tucson Audubon.

Sherry is a California Native who worked previously as the Librarian and Archivist for the Department of Defense. She became a birder in 2002, shortly after moving to Tucson and then became a member of Tucson Audubon in 2004.

Sherry recently began volunteering, and bringing us her wonderful knowledge and experience, for the Tucson Audubon Library at the University Location. She conducted research on software for our library to soon bring our collection online, and has put together procedures for the future of our library to make it more accessible to our members. (See p 11 for more about the new Library Software.) She will soon be helping us to upload our entire library collection to the new online software, and will be getting our check-out process in order.

Favorite bird: Her favorite bird, at the moment, is one we see all the time, the Cactus Wren. She is intrigued by how curious they are about their environment and how they always seem to be moving at full tilt!

Favorite place to bird: She loves to go birding up Mt. Lemmon and to Madera Canyon because of the variety of birds and wildlife both places offer while being so close to home.



KENDALL KROESEN

Unusual event that happened while birding: Recently, Sherry walked into her backyard at night and saw a female peacock sitting on her roof! The peacock stayed there all night, and was there in the morning long enough for her to prove the sighting with photos. The peacock proceeded to walk around the neighborhood a bit, and hasn't been seen since.

Something most people don't know about Sherry is that she really doesn't like to do the same thing twice. She likes new experiences and adventures (new travel destinations, new restaurants, new movies, learning new things, etc.) However, she will occasionally repeat something if it was really special.

Sherry also enjoys astronomy, hiking, camping, travel (anywhere!), good dining, origami, beading, pottery making and reading.

Wow, we are so excited to have Sherry as part of our volunteer team! Thanks, Sherry, for all of your efforts.

Member's Annual Holiday Potluck

December 5

We invite all members to attend Tucson Audubon's Annual Holiday Potluck, on Monday, December 5, at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Murphey Gallery East Room, on the northeast corner of Campbell Avenue and River Road. There is plenty of parking at this location behind the church. You can access the lot from either Campbell Ave or River Road. Please call the Nature Shop at 520-629-0510 x7015 or Jean Barchman at 520-209-1802 to reserve your place as soon as possible or to volunteer for the event.

When you RSVP, be prepared to designate the potluck item you would like to bring--salad, main dish, vegetarian dish, or dessert. Please bring plates, cutlery and serving utensils from home. We will provide the punch and tea. (No alcoholic beverage will be served due to church regulations). In addition to a wonderful presentation and awesome food, we will also be holding a raffle of unique one-of-a-kind items and other collectables, so bring your checkbook! We look forward to seeing you there!

Important Bird Areas

Changes in the Arizona Important Bird Area Program

Jennie MacFarland, IBA Conservation Biologist



After ten years of seeking out and identifying the habitats in Arizona that are most critical for birds, the Arizona Important Bird Area (IBA) Program has entered a new phase. The emphasis has switched from seeking out the locations most important for birds to monitoring those that have already been identified. While new IBAs will be added, much more time and effort will be committed to visiting existing IBAs, especially those that have never been surveyed. We need to make sure that the elements that made these habitats IBAs remain intact and useful to our native birds.

At the upcoming IBA science committee meeting in Phoenix, three new IBAs and one expansion will be proposed. Hopefully, the San Rafael Valley, Aubrey Valley and Cliffs, and the Patagonia Mountains will be designated as new IBAs and the Sabino Canyon IBA will be expanded to include Tanque Verde Wash. At this meeting, the new monitoring plan will also be decided. IBAs will be ranked by both their biodiversity and vulnerability which will help the committee to determine which IBAs need to be monitored first. Once this is established, a schedule will be made so these IBAs can each be visited four times and surveyed. We will soon be recruiting new volunteers to help us conduct these surveys. Watch for announcements of training workshops this winter if you are interested in conducting bird surveys.



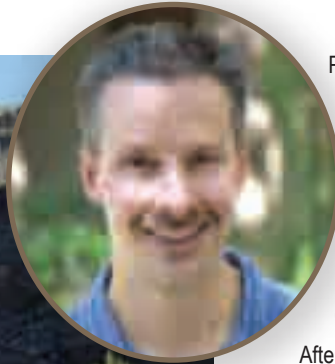
ESPERERO CANYON, MATT BROOKS

Another new emphasis on the Arizona IBA program is public awareness of and involvement with the Important Bird Areas. We will soon be using e-Bird as a tool for the general birding public to help us monitor the birds in IBAs and thereby gather more data than we ever could on our own. There will also be several celebration events centered around specific IBAs in Spring 2012 where the

public is invited to visit these habitats and experience why these areas are so important for birds. To further increase public awareness of this program, there will be an e-newsletter for the Arizona IBA Program circulated twice a year along with a pocket-sized guide to all of Arizona's IBAs and what birds visitors can possibly see there.

This is a very exciting time for the Arizona Important Bird Area

Program! If you are interested in joining the monitoring effort in the future, please contact Jennie MacFarland at jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org



Goodbye Scott!

After ten years of being an absolutely invaluable member of the Tucson Audubon Society and the driving force of the Arizona IBA, Scott Wilbor has decided to open a new door and we wish him well! Scott has left Tucson Audubon to continue his education at the University of Arizona and learn all about GIS (Geographic Information Systems) which he will be able to use to see wildlife ecology in a whole new light.

Scott leaves behind a program of which we can be proud. The AZIBA program would not be in the place it is now, with 40 (hopefully soon to be 43) identified IBAs, without his continuous hard work and vision. Scott has been with the Arizona program since its inception in 2001 and he set the tone for the scientifically rigorous committee-based program it is today, utilizing citizen science to help identify habitats vital to bird species of conservation concern.

While this is a sad day for Tucson Audubon, it is hopefully the beginning of a grand new adventure for Scott. Good luck Scott!

Tucson Audubon Awards

Several years ago Tucson Audubon instituted three awards to honor people and institutions in Southern Arizona for outstanding work in conservation, education, and recreation. Each of those awards was named for someone who had contributed to that area. The first award in each category was awarded to the named individual.

Visit tucsonaudubon.org for updates and more.

We are now looking for nominations for the 2012 award to be presented at our gala on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. The nomination form is available on the website at www.tucsonaudubon.org, at the Nature Shop, or by calling 520-629-0510 x7002 and requesting one to be sent. Nominations will close on December 1, 2011. Selection will be

by committee with the approval of the Board of Directors.

The awards are The Wally and Marion Paton Award for Outstanding Contributions to Birding, The Kenn Kaufman Award for Excellence in Education Relating to the Natural World and The David Yetman Award for Exhibiting or Promoting Conservation in Southern Arizona.



MICHAEL COCKER PRESENTING THE FIRST DAVID YETMAN AWARD, KENDALL KROESEN

Happy Birthday!



Best wishes to our October birthday members: Kathy Olmstead, Barbara Schneidau, Rich Barchman, Karen Nickey, Marilyn Malone, Michael Septoff, Max Jarrett, John Donoghue, Marcia Johnson, Jacqueline Caird, Carol Westberg, Patricia McAlamen, Beverley Prentice, William Davies, Patricia Monahan, Norman Sherman, William Wieboldt, Frances Cox, Joseph Bartell, Melinda Irvin, Karen Carlson, Rosie Bennett, Marylee Peterson, Trudi Wieduwilt, Gary Wilson, Joyce Bolinger, Jim Burns, Jim Easter, Pamela Baum, Mary Mareck

Best wishes to our November birthday members: G. Donald Kucera, Sally Wills, Liz Harrison, Arlene Helsel, Mary Lerner, Jane Lombardo, Paula Schlusberg, Joseph Ornstein, Silvine Farnell, Sylvia Foster, Peggy Wang, Joan Warfield, Chris Harrison, Thomas Rehm, Nancy Trimmer, Margo Lightfoot, Bob McKay, Marilyn Bicking, Debra Rosko, Martha Sewell, Bruce Weise, Marilyn Snyder, John Woods, Gail Hershberger, Rob Hastings, Carol Eagle, Patricia Meyers, Molly Pollock, Mary Jane Magee

Best wishes to our December birthday members: Walter Alexander, Mary Ellen Bartholomew, Ervine Munroe, Douglas Higgins, Art Quinn, Gail Gibbon, Douglas Evans, Elaine Padovani, Sharon Tice, Christine Eggert, Doris Evans, Margaret Wilch, Anne Davis Latham, Kelly Bales, Myrna Beards, Matt Griffiths, Brenda Burton, Denise Lanuez, Sharon Mathers, Julie Miller, Don Elvestrom, Marjorie Flory, Harvey Deardorff, Anthony Rodriguez, Jean Smith, Thomas Purdon, JoAnna Westmoreland, Clint Harrold, Jan Newlin, Lia Sansom, Ilene Thompson, Anita Stafford, John Lamey, Peggy Portman, A. Robin McGee, Cheryl Goodberg, Bette Richards, Ginny Sherman, Jennifer Turner, Timothy Walsh, Larry Spooner

We wish to thank Jean Barchman, Aaron Pie, Barrie Ryan, Lynda Smith, and Martha Wiewel for their generous donations to the birthday fund.

Have you remembered Tucson Audubon Society in your estate planning? Please let us know.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Shelly Ann Abbott, Ross and Marianne Adams, Walter and Susan Alexander, Martha Anderson, Theodore Bahn, Jennifer Bappert, David Bass, Nancy Biggins, Bruce Bixler, Nancy Blunck, Ann Brace, Sue Bush, Kacey Carleton, Fiona Clark, Richard Clingaman, Christopher Cokinos, Patricia Cummiskey, Noni Davis, Shelia DeVoe Heidman, Amy Finkel, Susan Fishburn, Murray Fisher and Carroll Mager, Jessica Gabriel, Cathy Goodwin, Sarah Grubaugh, Jim and Christine Hackley, Judy Herndon, Joseph Hill, Suzi Hollingsworth, Pete and Sharon Irish, Ronna Laager, Kathryn Lance, Marlene Lasko, Thomas Lawler, Leica Sport Optics, Marie Levy, Shelley Long, Lois Manowitz, Tony and Pat Mathios, Larry and Karen Morrison, Pam Hyde-Nakai, Don and Ellen Nakano, David and Celine Olvera, Thomas Olvera, Benjamin Rackham, Shannon Radke, Bette Richards, Kay Richter, Heather RoDee, Carl Russell, Vikas Saxena, Delores Schultz, Susan Scott, Larry Selman, Jolie Sibert and Gino Lampini, Larry Spooner, Gary and Sharon Stacey, Laura Stafford, Susan Thickett, Jason Thompson, Dianne Tribo, Linda Verbiscar, Barbara and John Walker, Caryl Wallin, Mo Walters, Dick West, Mary Zaldkar

We welcome Leica Sport Optics as a new Birds & Business Alliance Copper Level Member.

Jean Barchman, Membership Coordinator

Vermilion Society

Create a legacy that will benefit others for generations by including Tucson Audubon Society in your estate planning. Your gift will express, in a lasting way, your commitment to preserving the diversity of Southern Arizona's rich avifauna and the habitats they call home.

The contribution of Dr. John Madden is a good example of the generosity and foresight of Vermilion Society members. Dr. Madden turned to Tucson Audubon to fulfill his vision

that his home should always be filled with research, education and life-long learning. His remarkable property, at the confluence of Bear Creek and Sabino Canyon, is now a fledgling Tucson Audubon nature sanctuary, with endowed funds to support its stewardship in perpetuity.

For more information on the benefits of becoming a Vermilion Society member, please contact Executive Director, Paul Green at 520-235-1796.



VERMILION FLYCATCHER, PABLO LEAUTAUD

Library Software

Sherry Massie, Volunteer Librarian

Tucson Audubon is purchasing a library automation package called ResourceMate Plus. This package will allow the society for the first time to automate the library collection for the membership. Items in the collection will be cataloged according to Library of Congress standards, and will be fully searchable from a weblink on the Tucson Audubon website. Members will be able to search the collection by the usual fields (author, title, subject) as well as location (Mason Center or Tucson Audubon Main Office), ISBN, publisher, etc. Members can find out what items are available and call in a request to reserve a book for checkout.

The software will also help enhance the collection for the membership by allowing us to track what items seem to be the most popular for check-out, where we have gaps to fill, and where there is too much duplication. A 'guestimate' for going live with the Tucson Audubon Library link is early 2012.

Dedicated monetary donations to the library have made this software purchase possible. Thanks should also go to all of those volunteers and staff who have kept the library going, to include the late David West who set up a subject-based classification scheme which served the society well for many years. 📖

Lesser Nighthawk

LARRY LIESE

Nighthawks and their kin are intriguing birds, filling an ecological niche between regular daytime birds and owls. They capture nearly all their food in flight, mostly near dusk and dawn. They don't patrol a well-defined territory but travel widely, taking advantage of whatever prey is available and abundant. They are well adapted for aerial foraging with a huge gape and high maneuverability. Though their visual system is not geared for operating in near total darkness, it is adapted to focus attention upwards so as to better detect insect prey against the twilight sky. During the day, they roost either on the ground or sometimes on tree branches sitting lengthwise along the branch. When doing so, their cryptic plumage makes them quite hard to see. Swainson gave this species the scientific name *Chordeiles acutipennis*. The genus derives from the Greek words *Choros* and *deile*, which together give us "an evening dance" or "circular moving about," with the species name (common to a number of other birds) coming from the Latin *acutus* and *penna* for "sharp feather." I find this latter naming choice slightly puzzling. Though all nighthawks have relatively long, narrow, pointed wings, the lesser has a shorter end primary that makes its wingtips appear more rounded than other nighthawks. I certainly do agree

that this bird's typical flight while foraging for insects is marvelous to behold. It has light wing loading and often flies slowly just over the tops of bushes hunting for insects. Using a combination of fluttery flight and gliding with wings in a dihedral it flits about in an erratic style, reminiscent of a huge moth. It often reminds me of Northern Harrier's flight, which shares some commonality in hunting style. The bird's common name is self-explanatory—the Lesser weighs about twenty percent less than the Common Nighthawk. "Night," directly from Middle English, was used as the bird is most often seen as darkness approaches. "Hawk" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *hafoc*, which came to mean both "a hawk" and to seize or grasp.

Lesser Nighthawks have unusually effective adaptation to both extremely hot and also cold environments. They nest on open bare ground avoiding shaded areas, which is thought to be for predator avoidance. The female (only) incubates and broods throughout the day without a break for shade or water. She cools herself with sometimes continuous gular-fluttering plus makes use of other adaptations to lessen the sun's effect. She will always point her tail towards the sun to minimize heat absorption and so as not to cast a shadow which might attract predators. The birds will sometimes raise the feathers on their uppersurface as a unit (dorsal pteryloerection), helping to keep absorbed energy away from their bodies. Gular-fluttering can be particularly effective for these birds for cooling—without raising their metabolic activity significantly. Due to their enormous gape, the ratio of their mouth cavity area to their body surface is about fifteen percent, heightening the cooling effect compared to other bird species. The resulting evaporation does increase their water needs of course, and as these birds are not otherwise adapted for minimizing water loss, access to water is a key factor in their distribution. Nighthawks prefer to drink on the wing—you can watch them make repeated passes to skim from your swimming pool if you find a quiet spot to watch from at

Lesser Nighthawks have unusually effective adaptation to both extremely hot and also cold environments.

dusk. Another fascinating adaptation is a blood vessel arrangement that keeps their brains more than two degrees F cooler than their body temperature!

On the cold side, they are one of the few groups of birds (notably hummingbirds and the other caprimulgids) that have developed the ability to go into torpor in response to cold weather or repressed food sources. It's not clear how important this is in the bird's ecology, but it's known to help them when they encounter extended periods of inclement weather.

From May through September in our area, Lesser Nighthawks are easy to find in small numbers at dusk in summer, aerially foraging over most desert lowland areas. In mid-summer they can sometimes be seen in flocks of hundreds over the Santa Cruz River near the Ina Road Bridge. It's quite a sight! Getting a view of a nighthawk nest is another matter. They sometimes nest fairly close to urban areas, but don't seem to tolerate pedestrian traffic. If while walking off the beaten path you flush one or a pair from the ground or a low perch, it's good to crouch until they settle back down and slowly retreat from that area.

As fall approaches, Lesser Nighthawks nesting here migrate south for the winter to at least as far as Costa Rica. There are seven non-overlapping subspecies spread out from southwestern U.S. all the way to central South America, with those in more tropical regions tending not to migrate.

Though vastly outnumbered, our area does include small numbers of Common Nighthawk. Many subtle plumage differences exist between the two species, detailed in field guides and quite well in the Cornell BNA series. My favorite field mark in flight is the shorter outermost primary in the Lesser giving the wing a more rounded look. If you're lucky enough to find one while perched, look for the white bar on the wing to look more rectangular than staggered on the Lesser. Regardless of which you're looking at, these are quite fun birds to encounter. Good luck! ■



GEORGE WEST

Birds of Prey in Urban

Challenges for their survival and opportunities to en

WILLIAM MANNAN AND BETE PFISTER

Over the last two decades, predatory birds have become common residents of towns and cities across the United States. Their presence has increased the likelihood that birds and people will interact. The results of these interactions are both positive and negative for the bird populations and for people.

Most people are keenly interested in the wild animals that live around them, and birds of prey that live in urban areas can be seen up close. Residents are often able to watch the nesting cycle from nest building to fledging. The opportunity to watch fledglings bathe, learn to hunt, and interact with their siblings and parents is tremendously enjoyable. Furthermore, these situations provide priceless educational opportunities; especially important in a world where people have less and less contact with nature.

The primary benefit to birds of prey that live in towns and cities is a rich and stable habitat. Nesting densities of some species, such as the Cooper's Hawk, can be far greater in some urban areas than in natural environments. However, rich resources (lots of food and water) that birds of prey encounter here are in an environment that is very different from the environment in which they evolved. Thus, the urban landscape can present "environmental challenges" to which they are not well adapted. Electrocutation on utility poles, poisoning, urban-related diseases, and collisions are among these challenges. Another problem for nestlings, especially Cooper's Hawks and Great Horned Owls, is that when they fledge, they sometimes spend a day on or near the ground. Well-meaning people collect these birds and take them to wildlife rehabilitators, when they should be left in the care of their parents.

Dr. Mannan and his graduate students at the University of Arizona have been studying predatory birds in Tucson for over 20 years. The primary purposes of the work are twofold: to assist Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) in reducing the number of electrocutions of



LISABREWSTER



PAUL & ENGLI GREEN



GRAHAM LENTON



NORM SMITH

Top left & right: It is common to see Harris's Hawks and Cooper's Hawks perched on top of utility poles around the city. Electrocutation is a real threat to these birds if they make contact with two wires.

Above and right: Large birds of prey have adapted well to living in an urban environment; a Harris's Hawk is successful in finding an alternative source of water and a Cooper's Hawk at finding food.

Bottom: A Great Horned Owl perches atop a saguaro cactus.

large-bodied birds of prey and to assess the effect of an urban-related disease, trichomoniasis, on Cooper's Hawks.

Electrocutions occur when large birds make contact with two phase wires (wires that carry current) or with a phase and a ground wire. From a study done on Harris's Hawks by James Dwyer, we know that most electrocutions occur within 300 meters of nests and that if poles are safe-guarded before nestlings fledge, the number of electrocutions can be substantially reduced. Based on this



BOB WENRICK

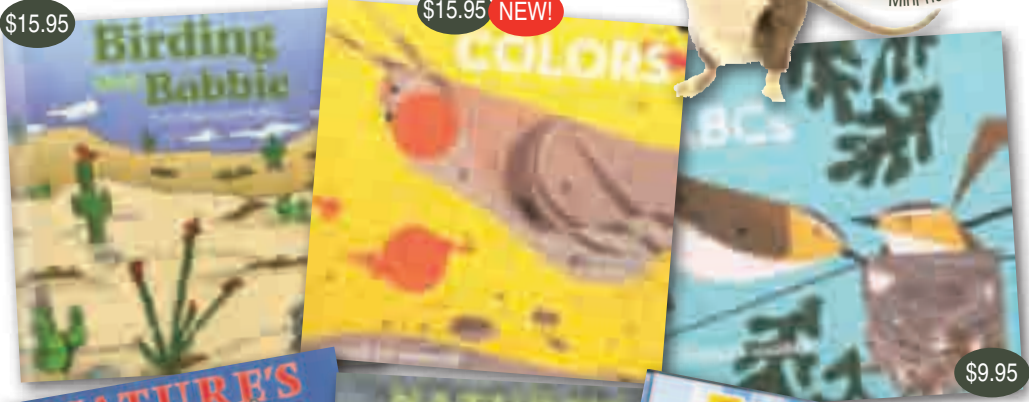
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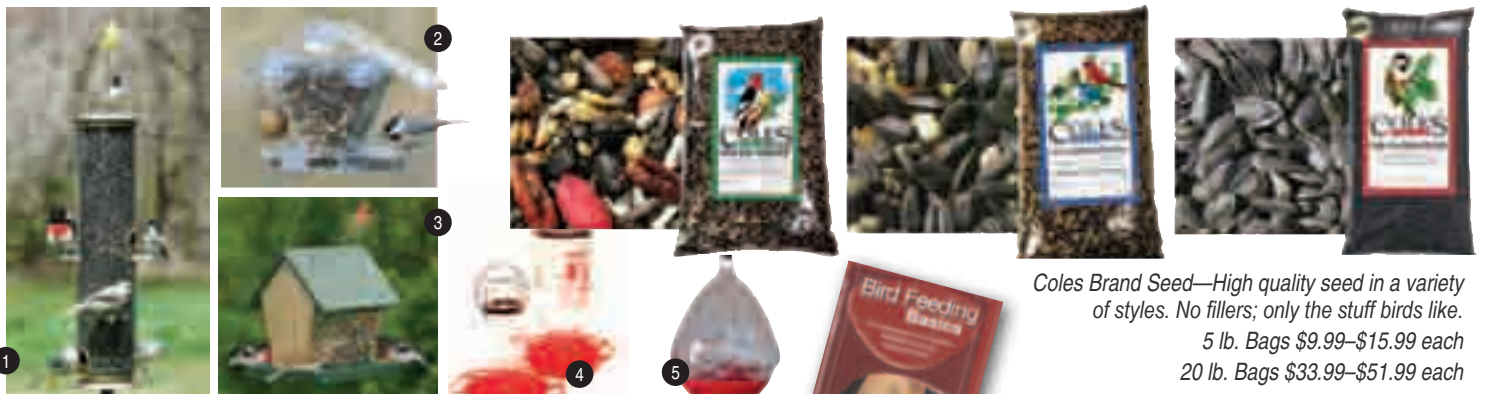
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n Tucson

gauge in their protection



NORM SMITH



ELIZABETH WILLOTT

A researcher puts a leg band on a fledgling Cooper's Hawk. This band remains on the bird throughout its life and allows us to obtain valuable information on whether bird populations are increasing or decreasing.

information, TEP developed protocols to safe-guard 1) all poles that have killed a raptor, including poles within 100 meters of the offending pole; and 2) all poles

within 300 meters of active nests of Harris's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls, before the nestlings fledge if possible.

Studies have also determined that in the 1990s approximately 40 percent of Cooper's Hawk nestlings were killed every year as a result of trichomoniasis, an avian disease caused by a parasitic protozoan. The fledglings contract the parasite by ingesting doves, which in urban Tucson make up the majority of their diet. However, despite the problem that trichomoniasis poses to Cooper's Hawks in Tucson, the population is increasing. Their success is a product of high survival of fledglings in the first year of life (if they survive the disease

as nestlings). This is the reverse of what usually happens in more natural environments where nestling survival is high but survival after fledging is low, primarily due to lack of food.

Determining whether a bird population is increasing, decreasing or remaining stable requires information on how many nests there are, how many young are produced and how many survive. This information is gathered by monitoring nests to count viable nestlings, marking breeding birds with leg bands to determine life span, and radio-tracking birds to document their movement.

There are probably more than 200 breeding pairs of Cooper's Hawks in Tucson, 40–50 breeding groups of Harris's Hawks, 20–25 Red-tailed Hawk nests, and an undetermined number of nesting Great Horned Owls. Monitoring all of these nests, and keeping track of all marked birds, are overwhelming tasks. Tucsonans have helped Dr. Mannan and his students immeasurably by reporting locations of nests, window strikes, hawks with leg bands, and utility poles that might have electrocuted a hawk or owl. This work will continue for several more years, and citizen involvement will be invaluable.

If you have information on Cooper's Hawks, Harris's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks or Great Horned Owls regarding nest locations, electrocutions or collisions with cars or windows, please join our effort to protect these important raptors and contact Dr. Bill Mannan at 520-621-7283 or mannan@ag.arizona.edu. Information about nest locations and electrocutions can be reported directly to TEP at 520-623-7711.

To learn more about living with hawks and owls in urban Tucson, come hear Dr. Bill Mannan speak in January at our Living with Nature Lecture Series and take his workshop in March to learn more about how to monitor their populations and become an active participant in their protection! Visit our website at tucsonaudubon.org/education. ■

Bill Mannan is a Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona, and Chair of the Wildlife and Fisheries Resources Program. He and his graduate students are currently working on a variety of subjects, but the focus is on habitat quality and population dynamics of birds in the urban environments of Tucson, Arizona.

Lawns, Landscaping, and How Tucson is Evolving

RACHEL MCCAFFREY

While my previous articles have focused on the value of native plants and natural vegetation for sustaining healthy populations of our desert birds, other types of landscaping can also significantly impact birds. Of all of the habitat features I looked at, the amount of lawn had the most negative impact on the number and diversity of birds found at a site. Often, bird abundance at these sites is much lower than in adjacent natural areas and many of the birds present are non-native species such as House Sparrows and Eurasian Starlings. In fact, all ten of the native species that I studied preferred sites without any lawn present, and three (Gila Woodpeckers, Pyrrhuloxia, and Verdins) had drastically lower abundances at sites dominated by lawns.

Lawns can present special challenges for birds that have evolved to thrive among the cacti and thorny shrubs of the Sonoran Desert. Most lawns are composed of non-native, introduced grasses that have been purposely planted in place of native desert plants. While some lawn-covered areas include other plants, these also tend to be non-native species like Eucalyptus and Palm trees or ornamental bushes like Oleanders. For birds like Verdins and Pyrrhuloxia, which are strongly associated with native thorn trees like Acacias, Ironwoods, and Palo Verdes, the presence of a lawn typically means the absence of these trees. Similarly, the Saguaro Cacti that Gila Woodpeckers prefer to nest in are rarely found at sites covered by grass. Additionally, the pesticides and herbicides frequently used in lawn maintenance can reduce local abundances of insects and seeds from weedy plants, important food sources for many birds.

Yet, as Tucson has grown over the past century, both local governments and residents have become more aware of the importance of water conservation and reducing our impacts on our desert environment. As a result of this increased



KENDALL KROESEN

Lawns and other non-native landscaping negatively affect bird abundance and diversity. Common birds such as Verdin, Pyrrhuloxia, and Gila Woodpecker have a more difficult time finding preferred food sources and nesting sites. Interestingly, Vermilion Flycatchers seem to thrive in urban parks where native vegetation is incorporated into the landscape.

awareness, many homeowners have actively worked to reduce the amount of their property covered in lawn or entirely replaced their lawn with xeriscape landscaping. While about half of the homes built in Tucson prior to World War II had lawns, only about 20% of houses built since the mid-1980s have had lawns as part of their landscaping, and the number has been steadily decreasing. In a 1992 survey, only 8% of Tucson homeowners indicated that most of their properties were covered in grass. Correspondingly, the size of the average residential lawn in Tucson has decreased from about 2,000 square feet in 1960 to 400 square feet in 1998. Many communities have even passed landscaping guidelines prohibiting



JOAN GELLATLY



LOIS MANOWITZ

d Native Birds:




JOAN GELLATLY



JOAN GELLATLY

residents from planting lawns on all or part of their properties.

As a result of these initiatives, most of the large, lawn-covered areas in Tucson are now found at sites like golf courses, playing fields, and cemeteries. The management of many of these sites has also progressed, as effluent and greywater are increasingly used for irrigation and more organic approaches to insect and weed management are being experimented with. Many new golf courses and parks are now being designed to incorporate native trees and plants in addition to minimizing lawn areas, allowing them to fulfill both their recreational purposes and serve as wildlife habitat. For birds, one great example of the success of these changes is the Vermilion Flycatcher (this newsletter's namesake!). Typically found in riparian areas and desert scrub, data from the Tucson Bird Count indicates that one of the highest concentrations of Vermilion Flycatchers in Tucson is at James Kreigh Park in Oro Valley, where they can often be spotted making periodic flights to catch insects from perches on fences and native trees surrounding the playing fields. 

Rachel McCaffrey has served as coordinator of the Tucson Bird Count since 2003, and completed her doctorate at The University of Arizona. Her research has focused on issues related to urban birds.

AVAILABLE IN OUR NATURE SHOPS



Avra Valley Wastewater Ponds Still Produce the Birds

JOHN HIGGINS

The Avra Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility (AVWTF), fifteen miles southwest of Tucson, has long been a local birding hot spot, especially for migrating shorebirds and ducks. But the facility was closed in 2007 for almost two years of major renovations. The two large ponds, which were several feet deep and inhabited by tiger salamanders, were replaced by a dozen shallow ponds. Water is now released for percolation into the ground in only three narrow ponds at a time. A row of large irrigated passerine-attracting cottonwood and ash trees on the west end were also cut down as part of the construction.

So, is it still worth a birder's time to drive out to the Avra Valley ponds? Are there still birds to see out there? To find out, I visited the site 94 times (almost weekly) since it was re-opened in August of 2009. I also reviewed the sightings reported by the Tucson RBA, AZ-NM Listserv and eBird during the past two years.

The bottom line is that AVWTF is still a good spot to look for sandpipers during migration, sparrows during the winter and raptors all year.

Before the construction, thirty-one kinds of shorebirds and small waders had been recorded, including Red

Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked and Red Phalarope. Since the re-opening, twenty-one species have shown up, including Dunlin, Long-billed Curlew, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope and Semipalmated Plover and Sandpiper. Black-necked Stilts and Killdeers have been nesting and raising young. The new basins with their steep walls actually make it easier to look down on the shorebirds.

Before 2007 eighteen kinds of sparrows, grosbeaks, finches, longspurs and buntings had been reported in the grassy shores of the ponds and in the mesquite scrub near the fence lines. The state's first Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was photographed there in 2003. Now ten species are being seen. Vesper, Lark and White-Crowned Sparrows are common in the winter, as well as Lark Buntings. Savannah, Brewer's and Lincoln's Sparrows were also reported. Blue Grosbeaks and Lazuli Buntings are seen in the summer. However, no winter longspurs have been reported since the reconstruction.

Before the renovations, eighteen kinds of raptors and owls had been sighted at AVWTF, including kites, Osprey, Golden Eagle and Burrowing Owl. Since then, a dozen species have been seen, including Merlin, Crested Caracara, Peregrine Falcon, Black Vulture and Swainson's Hawk. No owls have been reported. Before the construction, thirty species of ducks, swan and geese had been recorded, including scoters, Long-tailed Duck and Tundra Swan. With the water now being always shallow and no more salamanders to eat, the "fish-eating" and diver ducks have stopped visiting. Since the re-opening, eleven species of surface-feeding ducks have showed up, mostly teals, wigeons, Mallards and Northern Shovelers. One kind of geese, White-fronted, was reported.

Before the 2007 closure, Common Loons, both cormorants, both pelicans and six kinds of grebes would feed off the salamanders in the three-foot deep



AVWTF is still a good spot to look for sandpipers during migration, sparrows in winter, and raptors all year.

RICK WRIGHT

ponds. None of these birds have been reported since the re-opening. Ten kinds of ibis, egrets and herons, including Reddish Egret, had also fed on the salamanders. Since the construction only five kinds of large waders have visited, mostly White-Faced Ibis. Now also hard to find are gulls and terns. Before the renovation, a dozen species had been recorded, including Elegant, Caspian and Common Tern, as well as Sabine's, Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gulls. Since August 2009, only one gull, a Franklin's, has been seen. No terns have been reported.

Despite the dramatic changes to this habitat, one hundred and thirty kinds of birds have been observed since the reconstruction. Some things remain the same. Gambell's Quail and Greater Roadrunners are still running around. The variety of woodpeckers, flycatchers and warblers appear unchanged. AVWTF is still one of the easiest places to find a Bell's Vireo in the summer. During the winter of 2009, both Western and Mountains Bluebirds provided color. And there is the additional treat of occasional sightings of coyotes and javelinas coming in for water. If you visit the AVWTF, please follow the access information in Tucson Audubon's *Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona*. ■

John Higgins has been taking fellow birders, especially beginners, out on field trips for Tucson Audubon for twenty-five years. Introduced to nature while growing up in Colorado, he has been lucky enough to see birds from Austria to Alaska to the Amazon.



AMERICAN AVOCETS AND BLACK-NECKED STILT, DAVID QUANRUD

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION NEWS

CHRIS MCVIE, PAUL GREEN, KENDALL KROESEN

Put Your Stamp on Conservation... Buy Duck Stamps!



New 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 the handsome Greater White-fronted Goose. Pick up yours today from Tucson Audubon's Nature Shop.

Wings Over Willcox Festival

January 11–15, 2012

The annual celebration of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and other wintering birds is coming soon. This is your opportunity to learn more about the birds and other natural history subjects as well as past and present human life in the Sulphur Springs Valley. Tours include Sandhill Cranes—thousands up close and personal, southwest mountain birds, wildlife photography, beginning birdwatching, Muleshoe ranch, Eurofresh greenhouse and valley farming, Willcox walking history, hawk stalks, sparrow seeks, grassland birds, ghost towns, botany, a working cattle ranch, local archeology,

wetlands and woodlands and Chiricahua geology. Free seminars cover kids and the outdoors, wildlife photography, Willcox history, dragons & damsels, Arizona jaguars, the Sonoran desert, National Wildlife refuges, sandhill cranes, and nest box building. Registration, tour departures and seminars are located at the Willcox Community Center on Stewart Street.

The daily trade fair at the Community Center has booths ranging from birding and field trip accessories, original art and photography to arts and crafts and natural resource and local history displays.

The banquet speaker on Saturday night, Ted Floyd will present "Birding at Night: The Final Frontier". Floyd is the author of the Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America.

Wings Over Willcox has something for everyone. Come learn more about our winter visitors as well as your surroundings and natural history of the valley. Registration opens on September 1. Tours are limited and many fill early. Contact the Willcox Chamber of Commerce at 520-384-2272, 800-200-2272 or go online at www.wingsoverwillcox.com for further information and registration.

Register for AZFO State Meeting

October 22, 2012



The October 22 annual meeting of the Arizona Field Ornithologists (AZFO), at the AZ Game and Fish office north of Phoenix on the Carefree Hwy., is shaping up to be a stimulating and fun event. Following a day of presentations about Arizona birdlife and research, a report from the Arizona Bird Committee, photo and audio ID contests, and a used book sale, there will be a catered buffet dinner featuring Richard Glinski, editor of *Raptors of Arizona*. He will speak on "Arizona Raptors: Off and On the Radar." On Friday afternoon and Sunday morning many participants will join mini-field expeditions to lesser known birding areas in northern Maricopa and southern Yavapai counties. For information about accommodations, schedule, registration, and paying in advance for the dinner online go to:

http://azfo.org/annual_meetings/2011/meetingpage_2011.html

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

After climate change, loss of biodiversity is the foremost environmental concern of our age. Recent calls for an intergovernmental panel, like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to find international consensus on protecting biodiversity have led to the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES; see IPBES.net). IPBES will be an interface between the scientific community and policymakers that aims to build capacity for, and strengthen the use of, science in policymaking. Biodiversity supports ecosystem services including air quality, climate (e.g., CO₂ sequestration), water purification, pollination, and prevention of erosion, all of which are essential for our continued survival on earth.



SANDHILL CRANE

Why would our Community want the Proposed Rosemont Copper Open-pit Mine?



DAVID ANDERSON

Coronado National Forest land in the Santa Ritas

If you have seen Pima County's model of the proposed Rosemont mine, you will likely be shocked by its physical scale, nestled within the rolling hills and oak woodlands of the Santa Rita Mountains. It is an open pit, more than a half-mile deep. With tailings and waste rock, it would consume 4,500 acres of our natural landscape just 30 miles southeast of Tucson.

What might our community receive from this project? We would receive a pit lake, up to 1,000 feet deep that would lower the nearby aquifer by draining groundwater into the pit and effectively dewatering the downslope area in perpetuity. There is a strong likelihood that the water will violate groundwater and surface water quality standards, as well as risk seepage of arsenic in liquid leached from waste rock and mine tailings. Water toxic to wildlife could run off into Davidson Canyon and Cienega Creek in the event of a large storm. Pit lakes have been responsible for the deaths of significant numbers of birds in Arizona in the recent past.

Pima County estimates that costs for road repair and construction would be in the region of \$28 million, due to 88 daily heavy truck trips on Arizona

83. At Saguaro National Park East, the mine's emissions would noticeably impair visibility 34 days a year and contribute to impaired visibility up to 91 days annually.

West of the Santa Ritas, the proposed project would pump at least 5,400 acre feet of ground water annually for 20 years. (One acre-foot is enough for three families for a year at current use levels.) The water table would drop 70 feet in areas adjacent to Rosemont's wells and 10 to 15 feet in areas three to four miles away, affecting up to 350 wells.

East of the Santa Ritas, groundwater levels would drop more than 100 feet near the mine's open pit, and from 10 feet to 100 feet in nearby residential areas. This would reduce the flow in Davidson Canyon and Cienega Creek, both of which have legal status as outstanding waters in Arizona. The notion that Rosemont will compensate for this use of groundwater with the extension of the CAP pipeline to Green Valley is unlikely at best, and even if the CAP was extended the recharge would not be in the same place as the drawdown.

Around 4,500 acres of wildlife habitat would be destroyed, with losses for all aquatic and riparian-dependent species, including migratory birds. Aquatic and riverfront ecosystems in the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area will be at risk of collapse from groundwater depletion. The list of species that would be seriously damaged or possibly eliminated from the area by the mine is long and includes the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. One recent estimate is that around 33,000 mature trees, including hundreds of century-old oaks that support a broad array of wildlife, would be lost.

As Tucson seeks to rebrand itself as a center for higher-paying, science-based jobs in university research, astronomy, optics, solar, and aerospace, the decrease in the value of the Santa Ritas as a recreation amenity will likely make our community less attractive to companies considering locating here.

Loss of this amenity value also affects the towns of Sonoita, Elgin, and Patagonia, which host a viable economy based on wineries, ranching, small hotels, restaurants, hunting guides, bird watching, and more.

In other words, they depend on the beautiful views, clear air, and limited traffic that the mine would destroy.

The U.S. Forest Service, in an early draft of the Rosemont mine environmental impact statement, proposes approval of the Rosemont mine. The official EIS is expected to appear in October. When it is released we should all be looking for what it does and does not say about the mine's impacts on water supplies, water quality, air pollution and traffic, our quality of life, and the sustainability of our communities.

A statement by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce that "Rosemont's 400 permanent jobs and 2,000 construction jobs outweighed opponents' concerns about water, land and other resource issues" sums up an alternate point of view. However these economic arguments are simplistic.

The jobs will last for a couple of decades, but the toxic leftovers will affect the Southeast Arizona landscape for generations to come. Two recent economic studies conclude that the loss of just one percent of our tourism dollars would not be made up by one year's worth of Rosemont payroll, and that the economy of Southern Arizona is driven by service sectors, science, technology and the attractive ambience and quality of outdoor living, not by resource extraction or exports.

As Dr. Tom Purdon, a Green Valley resident, says: "When we take into consideration the pumping of potable water from our Santa Cruz aquifer to be piped over the mountain, to run a copper mine that will send all of the copper to the orient for processing, potentially leaving us with a toxic waste dump in our Coronado National Forest, we should take a more critical and long term view of the true costs."

This is not an argument about our modern world's need for copper. It is an argument about our vision for Tucson, and the degradation of our natural environment for generations to come.

Gray Hawk Nest Failure on San Pedro River

Jennie MacFarland, IBA Conservation Biologist

This spring and summer, the Important Bird Area (IBA) team scoured the riparian zone along the Lower San Pedro River IBA for Gray Hawk nests. The team was able to locate six occupied territories in the area we searched near San Manuel on private land owned by BHP Billiton mining company which contains superb riparian habitat.

The large cottonwoods along this part of the San Pedro River are full of raptor nests, many of which are inactive or occupied by a species other than Gray Hawk. As a result, we only considered an area an occupied territory if Gray Hawks were actually observed in the immediate vicinity. After the territories were discovered and nests marked with GPS, we returned to these sites several times during the season. On each visit adult Gray Hawks were seen in the territories calling aggressively and behaving as though they had active nests. However, we never saw any



SCOTT WILBOR

signs of nestlings or juveniles as the season progressed. During one visit, we were approaching a previously located nest only to find a dead Gray Hawk at our feet. During the entire season, we did not find a single Gray Hawk nest that was successful; there were no chicks or juveniles seen.

The fact that the first part of the year, January to July, was the third driest on record seems to be the logical culprit. This drought could have caused such a shortage in prey that the females were never healthy enough to reproduce. Another possibility we discussed is that



LEN BLUMIN

perhaps the eggs needed a higher level of humidity to hatch than the dry weather permitted, a phenomenon observed in domestic birds. Whatever the cause of the universal nest failure, this was a tough year for Gray Hawks on the Lower San Pedro River.

Conservation Corner!

Do you want to improve your landscape for wildlife and sustainability? Fall is a great time for landscaping! The weather is cooler and plants have a lot of time to settle in before the hot months of the following spring and summer.

Here is a list of basic principles to remember. If you want more information, or if you would like to schedule me to speak to a garden club or neighborhood association, call me at 520-971-2385.

1. Use native plant species—on average our birds are more likely to interact with these plants.
2. Use a wide variety of plants—the more you use the more species you will accommodate.
3. Maximize “structural diversity”—i.e., use a combination of trees, big shrubs, small shrubs and

groundcover; use some dense, thorny shrubs as well as airy ones, etc.


4. Cover as much of the ground with vegetation as possible. As well as accommodating more birds, pollinators and reptiles, this will also create more shade and counteract the urban heat island effect.
5. Harvest rainwater! The more rainwater or stormwater you keep in your landscape, the less scarce potable water you will have to use. Make zero potable water use your goal once plants are established!
6. In the mature landscape, minimize pruning—the more twigs and branches there are, the better for birds and other wildlife.
7. Leave at least some areas where you do not rake up leaf litter and



Sustainable landscaping at The Nature Conservancy HQ in Tucson

8. Use rock judiciously: rip-rap and rock mulch have their place, but try to make your landscape more organic and less geologic. The mining and transportation of

landscape rock has a high carbon footprint.

9. Then sit in your landscape and watch the birds come! 

Kendall Kroesen,
Habitats Program Manager

KENDALL KROESEN

TUCSON AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

MATT GRIFFITHS | INTERIM FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR



MATT GRIFFITHS

Sabino Canyon

October

October 1—Saturday 6:00 AM

St. David, Wilcox and Benson

Keep your fingers crossed for plenty of birds and pleasant surprises. We will check out the riparian habitat at the St. David Monastery in the relative cool of the morning. Then we will head to the Willcox Twin Ponds and look for late shorebirds and whatever else drops in. We'll stop off at the Benson ponds on our return to Tucson (by 4 PM). Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. We will be walking a mile or two over mostly level ground. Check the weather ahead of time and dress appropriately. Meet at Houghton Road just north of I-10. About 180 miles roundtrip from Tucson. Leader: Dave Dunford 520-909-1809 or dddunford@dakotacom.net

October 1—Saturday 7:00 AM

Sabino Canyon

We'll bird Sabino Canyon Recreation Area walking a loop that includes both Sonoran desert uplands and the riparian area of Sabino Creek. The 4-mile walk includes paved roads and rocky uneven trails. Meet at the ramada by the Visitor's Center. \$5 parking fee required for Sabino Canyon Recreation Area or a National Park pass. Return by 11 AM. Sunhat, water and walking shoes recommended. Leaders are Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists. Leaders: Jean & Mark Hengesbaugh jhhenge@yahoo.com



October 18—Tuesday 8:00 AM

Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Hike

Come explore Patagonia-Sonoita Creek with resident volunteer as we look for outgoing/incoming resident birds and migratory birds. We will hike in and along the creek for 2 miles in an area not open to the public on private land. Be prepared to walk in uneven terrain and in water 2–10 ins.



deep. Climbing over and under large logs required. This is a rare opportunity and will be limited to ten participants. Meet in Tucson for carpooling at Houghton Rd. just north of I-10 at 7 AM (leader not present). Meet leader at the Paton's Place in Patagonia (East end of Pennsylvania Ave) 8 AM. Map: <http://g.co/maps/7dwe2>. RSVP Leader: Frank Kee birding@keesmail.com 775-453-0241

October 25—Tuesday 6:30 AM

Three Hours at Sweetwater

Join me for a birding stroll at Sweetwater Wetlands. We'll check out the paths through the wetlands, and maybe pop over to the trail along the river easement. Easy walking, good birds, and pleasant company. Bring water and sun protection. Limit of 12. RSVP after October 7th. Meet at Sweetwater, bring water and sun protection. Leader Matt Brooks 520-629-0510 mbrooks@tucsonaudubon.org

November

November 5—Saturday 7:30 AM

Sabino Canyon

We'll bird Sabino Canyon Recreation Area walking a loop that includes both Sonoran desert uplands and the riparian area of Sabino Creek. The 4-mile walk includes paved roads and rocky uneven trails. Meet at the ramada by the Visitor's Center. \$5 parking fee required for Sabino Canyon Recreation



MATT BROOKS

Sweetwater Wetlands

WEEKLY BIRD WALKS

Thursdays—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.

Fridays—8–9:30 AM

Tucson Audubon's Mason Center
Friday morning bird walks will resume **October 7**. Visit tucsonaudubon.org/masoncenter for details.

MORE FIELD TRIPS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.

Visit 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 (eg 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

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



San Rafael Grasslands

Area or a National Park pass. Return by 11 AM. Sunhat, water, and walking shoes recommended. Leaders are Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists. Leaders: Jean & Mark Hengesbaugh jhhenge@yahoo.com

November 8—Tuesday 4:30 AM

San Rafael Grasslands

This trip provides an opportunity to see raptors and grassland sparrows. The number of bird species we will see is not large, but we hope to see some birds not easily seen elsewhere. Mostly birding from cars, but some walking through tall grass and over rocky slopes. If you don't have a high-clearance vehicle, plan to carpool with someone who does. Bring lunch. Scope may be useful. Meet at Houghton Road north of I-10 before 4:30 AM. 150 miles roundtrip. Leader: Jim Hays 520-203-3489 or (email preferred) jhays@iname.com

November 15—Tuesday 10:30 AM

Reid Park

We will ramble around the park for two hours looking for wintering waterfowl, warblers, woodpeckers and raptors. Easy pace on flat ground. All ages and birding abilities invited. Meet in front of Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center, which looks like a big white tent near the zoo. Do not go to the zoo entrance. No need to sign up before the trip, but call leader if questions. Leader: John Higgins 520-578-1830. jghiggins@comcast.net

November 19—Saturday 7:30 AM

Atturbury-Lyman Bird and Animal Sanctuary

Join us to find resident and wintering birds at Atturbury Wash and Lincoln Regional Park, on Tucson's east side. This is one of Tucson's premier washes and the site of a Tucson Audubon project to improve habitat. The location is lower Lincoln Park off Escalante east of Pantano Road (not upper Lincoln Park off Pantano south of

Escalante). Meet at lower Lincoln Park at 7:30 AM. Bring water and sunscreen; finished before lunch. Call leader for exact directions or to carpool: Kendall Kroesen kkroesen@tucsonaudubon.org or 520-971-2385.

December

December 3—Saturday 8:00 AM

Sabino Canyon

We'll bird Sabino Canyon Recreation Area walking a loop that includes both Sonoran desert uplands and the riparian area of Sabino Creek. The 4-mile walk includes paved roads and rocky uneven trails. Meet at the ramada by the Visitor's Center. \$5 parking fee required for Sabino Canyon Recreation Area or a National Park pass. Return by 12 n. Sunhat, water and walking shoes recommended. Leaders are Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists. Leaders: Jean & Mark Hengesbaugh jhhenge@yahoo.com



January


January 12—8:30 to 10:30 AM

Boyce Thompson Arboretum: A Wintertime Sit

It's the ultimate in relaxed birding: two hours at the busy water features of Boyce Thompson State Park. This beautiful desert oasis is famous for its wintering birds and rarities, and we'll spend most



Boyce Thompson Arboretum

of our time together perched comfortably in the park's Demonstration Gardens, where native and ornamental plantings, fountains, and tiny streams attract a fascinating variety of feathered visitors. Those who wish to are free to wander Boyce Thompson's gardens and desert trails afterwards. Bring water, a snack, and notebook and pencil; chairs will be provided by the park. Admission is \$9 per person (free to Arboretum members). Meet at 8:30 AM in the BTA parking lot on Highway 60, three miles west of Superior and 90 minutes north of Tucson. Leaders: Rick Wright birdernj@gmail.com and Darlene Smyth. 

ARIZONA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE 2011–2012

The National Audubon Society has conducted Christmas bird counts since 1900. Volunteers from across North America and beyond take to the field during one calendar day between December 14 and January 5 to record every bird species and individual bird encountered within a designated 15-mile diameter circle. These records now comprise an extensive ornithological database that enables monitoring of winter bird populations and the overall health of the environment. Help is needed on most of these counts, so find one or more and contact the compiler for info. A \$5.00 participation fee defrays a portion of the cost of tabulating and publishing the overall count results. See tucsonaudubon.org/cbc for the full list of counts in Arizona.

Walter Thurber



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.

BIRDING TRAVEL FROM OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

ADVENTURE BIRDING COMPANY

www.adventurebirding.com
info@adventurebirding.com • 520-495-0229

San Blas: Mangrove Estuaries, Coffee Fincas, Palm Forests and More. December 10–18, 2011, \$2,195. Leader: Keith Kamper and John Yerger. The coastal fishing village of San Blas is one of the premier birding destinations in Mexico. We'll visit mangrove estuaries, coffee fincas, beaches and coastal lagoons. 25 Mexican endemics possible including San Blas Jay, Rufous-necked Wood-rail, Cinnamon Hummingbird and Golden Vireo. Jungle boat tour with oddities like Boat-billed Heron and Northern Potoo, even iguanas and crocodiles! We'll be based at one motel throughout so we can unpack, unwind and enjoy the region's natural and cultural history, fresh mariscos and green flash sunsets.

Colima and Jalisco: West Mexican Endemics from Beaches to Volcanoes.

March 10–18, 2012, \$2295. Leader: Keith Kamper and John Yerger. The states of Colima and Jalisco comprise perhaps the most biologically diverse region in Mexico, where the mountains of the Sierra Madre Occidental meet with the central volcanic belt. This volcanic belt bisects Mexico on an east-west axis, straddling a boundary along the northernmost or southernmost edge of many species' ranges. By scouring this region from its unspoiled coastlines up to volcanoes with cloud-enshrouded montane forest, we should see upwards of 40 endemics and specialties, including Balsas Screech Owl, Red-breasted Chat, Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, and Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer.

SOLIPASO TOURS

www.solipaso.com

Alamos...Two Ways! Come to Alamos and enjoy the great hospitality of El Pedregal, the beautiful Spanish colonial town and the many endemics birds! In January, we offer a unique trip that combines birding with the annual Music Festival. In April, we go up to mountain town of Yecora then to Alamos and the coast for a complete sierra to sea tour! No one runs tours to Sonora like Solipaso! **Alamos Birds and Music:** January 22–28, \$1900. **Yecora-Alamos:** April 14–22, \$2250. Leader: David Mackay.

Durango Highway and San Blas: February 4–13, \$2850. Leader: David Mackay. We live in Alamos, but our second home is San Blas! We have run more than 40 trips to this area ...and it shows! Starting in Mazatlan, we go up the Durango Highway for the Tufted Jay among many others. In San Blas, we stay at the wonderful family run Hotel Garza Canela and bird the many hot spots of this famous tropical birding destination. Great guides, great birds, lots of fun and delicious food throughout!

ROCKJUMPER—WORLDWIDE BIRDING ADVENTURES

info@rockjumperbirding.com
www.rockjumperbirding.com

Chile—Birds, Wildlife & Andean Landscapes. Tour Dates 7–21 Jan

2012 (15 days). Tour Price (Per Person) US\$4,750 • £2,990 • €3,390 • ZAR32,500. Single Supplement US\$700. Flights (Approx cost) US\$600. Our tour of Chile covers the birding highlights of this fabulous country as we search for endemic birds and other specialties, including the unique Chilean tapaculos called huet-huets and turcas and the unique Diademed Plover. The accommodations, meals and wines are excellent throughout and the Chileans offer great hospitality. Combined with outstanding scenery, excellent coastal desert and rich Patagonian forest, this is undoubtedly one of South America's most memorable destinations!

Borneo—Island of Pittas, Broadbills & Orangutan. Tour Dates 1–17 Feb

2012 (17 days). Tour Price (Per Person) US\$6,250 • £3,940 • €4,460 • MYR18,800. Single Supplement US\$890. Flights (Approx cost) US\$150. Borneo! This tour offers an in-depth exploration into the wonders of this extraordinary island, where our focus is especially geared towards the region's endemic birds and mammals. We visit some of the most famous birding sites on Earth, including the magnificent Danum Valley, Mt Kinabalu and the associated Crocker Range, and the beautiful Kinabatangan River. A rich mix of South East Asian birds and Bornean endemics combine to make this a superb and thoroughly recommended birding and wildlife tour.

SOUTHWESTERN RESEARCH STATION—BIRDING AND NATURE TOURS

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

Chiricahua Mountains, Portal, Arizona.

22–28 April; 5–11 May; 23–29 May. 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

Costa Rica: The Introtour. February 10–20, 2012, \$2990. If you are looking for your first venture into the Neotropics Costa Rica is the perfect destination. 11 days covering the best sites in the country will yield many of the bird families that define this region from multicolored tanagers to dazzling hummingbirds to confusing woodcreepers and striking antbirds. However, the star of the show is likely to be the Resplendent Quetzal, arguably one of the most stunning birds in the world. Comfortable lodges, a bird list of more than 350 species, in a tour that covers everything from the northernmost paramo on Earth down to the lowland jungles of La Selva!

Sri Lanka: Ceylon Sojourn. February 21–5 March, 2012, \$3600. Easy birding awaits in the "teardrop of India", where we are likely to see all of the 30 or so Ceylon endemics from striking Red-faced Malkohas, to stunningly indigo Ceylon Magpies, and the Ceylon Junglefowl. For those looking for an introduction to Asian birds, Sri Lanka provides relaxed birding, great photography opportunities, and many endemics for the dedicated lister. Other attractions include jewel-like Indian Pittas, streamer-tailed Asian Paradise-Flycatchers, and cryptic Ceylon Frogmouths. Birds are not the only thing on offer, as herds of Asian elephants and leopards are very real possibilities. ■

SOUTHWESTERN RESEARCH STATION



TUCSON AUDUBON'S BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

LEICA SPORT OPTICS

Maker of legendary lenses, Leica is a 163 year old German optics manufacture. Leica Sport Optics produces binoculars, spotting scopes, and digiscoping products of exceptional quality and durability that are superbly suited to the needs of avid birders. Keenly aware of the issues that

concern birds and birders, Leica is pleased to support the work of Tucson Audubon Society.



Only a few more weeks to cash in on a SPECIAL PROMOTION FROM LEICA!

TRADE UP to a Leica Ultravid HD binocular! This promotion, ending October 31st, offers a trade-in program on new full-sized Ultravid HD binoculars. You can trade in any working binocular for instant savings (up to \$200!) toward the purchase of Ultravid HD binoculars. See <http://bit.ly/Ultravid> for more information on this great deal.

The best part is that any pair brought in for trade-in stays with Tucson Audubon for use in our Education and children's programs. What a winning combination!



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 for rates or contact Matt Griffiths mgriffiths@tucsonaudubon.org to book an ad.

BIRDS & BEER Third Thursdays at Sky Bar: 5-7 PM, October 20 & November 17. Get a free slice of pizza (from Brooklyn Pizza) and beer at happy hour prices. Bring your bird photos to share.

HIGH-SPEC LAPTOP COMPUTERS NEEDED! Tucson Audubon's staff are in urgent need of high-specification recent-model laptop computers for their work. If you can help please call Jean Barchman on 520.629.0510 ext 7002.

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT TUCSON AUDUBON

We are seeking a person who would bring experience as a Volunteer Coordinator as well as support our Development Manager in work related to fundraising. If you have an interest send your resume and letter to pgreen@tucsonaudubon.org.

SMALL COUNTERTOP REFRIGERATOR

needed for the environmental education classroom at Tucson Audubon's Mason Center. If you can help please call Jean Barchman on 520.629.0510 ext 7002.

THE OASIS AT WAY OUT WEST B&B/Private Nature Preserve. A secluded trail side location offers close-up wildlife observation and colorful mountain sunsets. Bird our trails (135+ House List) or the Catalinas. 20+ feeding stations, Naturalist/Photographer on-site, Wi-Fi, Hydrotherapy spas, Bike rentals, Eco-Excursions. WOWArizona.com. 520.825.4590.

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 www.tucsonaudubon.org for more information about our Birds & Business Alliance members, including links to their websites.

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• www.rockjumperbirding.com

Southwestern Research Station
• 520-558-2396 • research.amnh.org/swrs

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- New membership Renewing membership
- Please email me about Tucson Audubon events and conservation issues.
- Please do not share my contact information.
- Please do not mail me *Vermilion Flycatcher*. I'll read it online.

DONATION

- I would like to support Tucson Audubon Society with an additional contribution of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250.
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Please send your application with payment to
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OR join, renew or donate online at
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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.

The Big Year — Mark Obmascik

On October 14, a movie version of this classic birder's caper will arrive in theaters. The movie, starring Jack Black, Steve Martin, and Owen Wilson, will take a fictional look at this incredible non-fiction tale of birders competing to break the record for seeing the most species of birds in North America in one year.

For those who prefer to read the book before seeing the movie, stop by the Nature Shop to pick up your copy!



Quick Reference Guides for Southeast Arizona

NEW! This wonderful new series of foldout guides is tailored for southeast Arizona. Butterflies, birds, snakes, and wildflowers are each covered, and provide easy to carry, useful guides for field use. Each subject is authored by local talent, and produced at a professional scale. Also available for Southern California and South Texas. \$7.95 each



Tucson Audubon Society's NATURE SHOPS

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The new Eighth Edition

Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona

No other discounts apply. Expires 12-31-11.

Bring in this coupon to the Nature Shops to get 20% off a copy of the new eighth edition of *Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona*

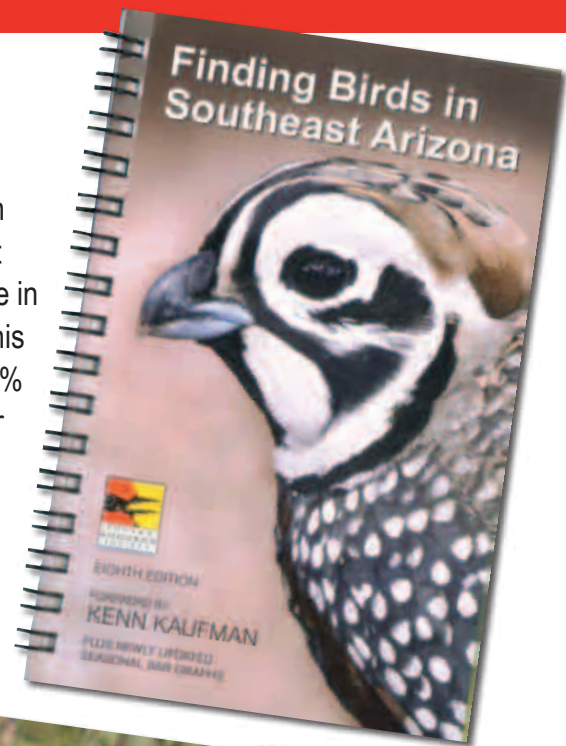
Out Just in Time for the Holidays!

Tucson Audubon's 8th edition of *Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona*.

Over the last year we've worked hard to update our fine bird-finding guide with all the latest info, including the inclusion of new sites. We've kept features that make our book a best seller, including the spiral binding so it'll lay open for use in the field. In keeping with our commitment to sustainability and conservation, this edition is printed locally on 55% recycled paper using soy-based inks and 100% renewable energy. We are proud of our book that should remain a key item for every birding trip you take in our wonderful corner of the country.

New for the eighth edition:

- ✓ 15 new birding sites across Southeast Arizona
- ✓ New maps and updated older maps
- ✓ Updated contact information and web addresses
- ✓ Updated information on existing site locations
- ✓ Updated information on entering Mexico
- ✓ Updated IBA (Important Bird Areas) information, including sites
- ✓ Information pertaining to areas affected by the 2011 fires
- ✓ New Classifieds section for businesses catering to birders
- ✓ Updated bar graphs and species accounts for all species
- ✓ Added a basic butterfly checklist
- ✓ Easier to use index with bolding of key pages
- ✓ Printed locally on recycled paper using renewable energy
- ✓ Bold new cover
- ✓ New photos



Tucson Audubon Nature Shop's ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SALE!

Take advantage of incredible savings on special gifts, field guides, optics, and more.

ONE WEEK ONLY! November 21st–26th, 2011
25% off shop merchandise*
15% off optics, seed, and coffee

Due to the success of last year's extended sale, we're doing it again. Come by any time during the week (closed Thursday) to stock up on holiday gifts, avoid mall crowds, and support birds and other wildlife. See your catalog insert for gift ideas. Open to members and non-members. Available in-store only.
*some items excluded

Check the special pullout for holiday gift ideas!

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

October–December:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
9 AM–3:30 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.



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Vermilion Flycatcher

Volume 56, Number 4, October–December 2011

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



Our Changing World

TUCSON AUDUBON'S FOURTH ANNUAL GALA • FEBRUARY 7, 2012 • LOEW'S VENTANA

Silent Auction
Live Birds
Banquet
Presentation by
Prof John Kricher,
author, researcher, birder

We can only understand our natural world in the context of change, and not as some kind of "balance" that once attained remains fixed.

~ Prof John Kricher

Reservations from \$150. For sponsorship information or to reserve your place, please contact Erin Olmstead at 520-209-1809 or eolmstead@tucsonaudubon.org

EVENTS CALENDAR page 5 • LIVING WITH NATURE page 7 • Visit tucsonaudubon.org for event updates