

# Index to the History of the Maricopa Audubon Society, 1968-2007, (Book Two)

Cover photo, Cactus Wren, by Jim Burns.

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*Sierra Vista Herald*, 8-24-80, **UA signs telescope contract amid threats of lawsuits [Robin Silver, MAS spokesperson vows suit against project]**-----131

*AUDUBON ACTIVIST*, May/June 1990, **Mount Graham Red Squirrel Gets Reprieve [contact Bob Turner, NAS Regional Representative]**-----132

*San Carlos Apache Moccasin*, 7-17-90 **San Carlos Tribal Council opposes Mt. Graham telescopes [Apaches Ola Cassadore Davis, Wendsler Nosie, & Charles Babbitt (MAS) state opposition]**-----133

*AUDUBON ACTIVIST*, March/April 1990, **New controversy erupts over Mt. Graham squirrel;**  
*Phoenix Gazette*, 7-6-90, **Letter to the Editor: Congress misled [Robert Witzeman, Cons. Chair, MAS]**-----134

*Arizona Daily Star*, 4-5-90, **Udall seeks hearing on squirrel study, McCain DeConcini want GAO analysis [Robin Silver of MAS says “If the hearings are conducted with integrity, they’ll confirm what biologists have already said.”]**-----135

*Arizona Republic*, 2-27-91, **Letter to the editor, “Studies do not support the telescopes” [Charles J. Babbitt, President, MAS]**-----136

*Arizona Republic*, 12-14-92, "Audubon Seeks bird-count help, Sightings aid study on health, numbers." MAS members Bob Bradley, Janet Witzeman describe details of count-----137

*Phoenix Gazette*, 3-28-92, Charges fly in final debate over telescope controversy, MAS' Charles Babbitt calls project corrupt: "UA lobbied for exemptions from federal environmental laws..."

*Arizona Republic*, 3-28-92, Telescope opponents won't quit, But construction to resume Monday, MAS President "...this fight will go on..." -----138

*Arizona Republic*, 6-15-93, "WORST SPOT CHOSEN FOR UA TELESCOPE, SCHOOLS OWN REPORT FAULTS SITE SELECTIONS" UA Steward Observatory "said the study was stolen from the observatory. A copy was provided to The Republic by observatory opponents, members of the Maricopa Audubon Society, who received it anonymously in the mail...Roger Lynds (esteemed astronomer) of the National Optical Astronomy Observatories in Tucson said time would not have made a difference because the University knew years ago that Mount Graham was not an optimum site for astronomy...They've had to slide to get around the environmental stuff and slide to get around the cultural stuff. What has happened is all of astronomy has gotten a bad name for all of this..."-----139

*Arizona Daily Star*, 7-29-94, Graham scope work barred pending further study ["The ruling by US. District Judge Alfredo Marquez was a victory for a coalition of 18 environmental groups that sued the U.S. Forest Service." "This is a major victory, and it means an all-out assault on the project" said Robin Silver of the Maricopa Audubon Society...;"]

*Arizona Daily Star*, 8-25-94, U.S. court halts UA telescope work at Mount Graham ["Silver said: "The only thing they can do up there that would not interfere with future reforestation is to start packing up and moving."-----140

*Arizona Republic*, 8-25-94 Construction freeze is upheld. Ruling jeopardizes Mt. Graham Project [That gives us hope. As far as we're concerned, this is just another nail in the coffin of a project that should never have gotten off the ground," said Robin Silver, a Phoenix physician who has fought the MT. Graham International Observatory for the past decade."-----141

*Phoenix Gazette*, 6-10-94 Letter to the editor. We need to act now to save the last big trees; Charles Babbitt (Pres. MAS) advocates responsible forest management-----142

*Tribune Newspapers*, 6-12-94 Pro & con: Tale of the trees: Environmentalists employing myths to discredit logging, letter by Gerald Freeman, Forest industry exec. - Timber industry's exploitative ways threaten economy, letter by Chas. Babbitt, Pres., MAS-----143

*Arizona Republic*, 8-19-94, Accountability in activist suits sought [AZ Gov. Fife Symington: "They have created economic damage and harm to individuals and private enterprise." Chas. Babbitt, Pres. MAS: "The deed of the public lands belongs to all of us...it does not

**belong to Gov. Symington and Mr. Killian and all of their wealthy corporate friends...the lawsuit is simply trying to make the Forest Service follow federal law. "If the court finds this is a frivolous lawsuit I will polish Mr. Killian's shoes on the courthouse steps"-----144**

*Arizona Republic*, 1-20-95, **Lawyer's tips aid fledgling bird watchers [Herb Fibel, past president, MAS, and teacher of the ever-popular Basic Birding class- Tempe's parks and recreation div. [many of Herb's students have joined MAS and served on our Board]----145**

*Tucson Citizen*, 12-19-95, **It's time to develop a state forest restoration plan [Ch. Babbitt, MAS Past President]-----146**

*Arizona Daily Star*, 4-25-95, **Appellate court upholds ban on telescope site: Project may go elsewhere. Robin Silver of MAS: "The real question is when will the university start acknowledging that it's time to move on, find an alternative site, and start behaving like a university should respecting preservation of special places and Indian people."-----147**

*Tucson Citizen*, 4-25-95, **UA dealt a setback on site of telescope. A Court ruling will force more impact studies for the Mt. Graham project. "What a great victory for public and the mountain." said Ann Hodges ASU Student Action Environmental Coalition member----148**

*Phoenix Gazette*, 4-28-95, **Editorial, Phx. Gazette "The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit's ruling on the site for a Mount Graham telescope is a stunning setback for UofA's controversial project." "The law sides with the mountain...UA chose the worst (astrophysical) of six possible mountain locations"-----149**

*Arizona Republic*, 8-31-95, **Deadline clouds telescope, Environmental Exemption sought, Steve Yozwiak, staff writer [Charlie Babbitt, Board Member of the Maricopa Audubon Society "They're not willing to stand by and trust scientific, biologic studies, Instead, they're running off and trying to get the thing exempted by Congress again."**

*Arizona Daily Star*, 8-24-95, **Kolbe to push completion of Mt. Graham telescope [Robin Silver (of MAS) said Kolbe is rewriting history. "It was expressly the intent to lock them (UA astronomers) into a site because everybody felt so strongly that they should never be in the Emerald Peak area anyway."] -----150**

*Maricopa Audubon Society flyer (brought up-to-date as of Nov. 2010): "What is on Mt. Graham today...One small optical telescope (Vatican) and one radiotelescope plagued y Mt. Graham's bad weather and marginal visibility..." LBT construction schedule slippage: planned in 1987, it still as of Nov. 2010 has only one of two needed secondary mirrors. That one secondary barely functions, and the LBT's two main 8.4 meter primary mirrors are part of a telescope plagued with one of the worst sites for optical visibility in Arizona and the U.S. -----151*

Chronology of Universities Rejecting UA/Mt. Graham telescopes: bad visibility, evasion of: U.S. environmental law, Native American/cultural protection law, bad mirror technology (LBT is still incomplete to this day).

Schools dropping out of project: Harvard/Smithsonian, OSU, U. of Toronto, Mich. State, Pittsburgh, Texas, Penn State/Stanford, U. of Chicago, CalTech/NASA, Carnegie Institute, Harvard, MIT, Michigan, Georgia State, U. Florida, Dartmouth, Wisconsin/Carnegie-Mellon, N. Carolina-Chapel Hill, Rutgers, Max Planck reduces partnership-----152

*Official GAO documents*, May 18, 1989, “understanding” between McCain and USFS to expedite UA Mt. Graham scopes regardless of environmental laws-----153

*Canyon Echo, Grand Canyon Chapter Sierra Club*, Jan. 1996: article by Bob Witzeman. NAU School of Forestry professor sells “Pre-Settlement Restoration” and “fireproofing” removal of mature trees to pay for “thinning” of pole-thickets and laddering fuels.-----154

*Canyon Echo*, Dec./Jan. 1996: photos of ASU Professor Wallace Covington’s “pre-settlement Restoration” with resulting logging of old growth.-----155

*Arizona Republic*, 1-23-96, Guest Column by Chas. Babbitt (Phx. attorney, Past President, MAS), **“Drought, fire danger no reason to cut old-growth trees.” Recommendations: prescribed burning, under control let some fires burn, stop logging big, fire-resistant trees, start thinning, reduce grazing, restore grasses that carry low-intensity fire.”**-----156

*Tribune Newspapers*, 8-17-96, Guest Column by Chas. Babbitt, (Phx attorney, Past President, MAS, **“95% of our big fire-resistant Ponderosa Pines have been cut...Logging won’t restore health of forests”**----- 157

*Canyon Echo (Grand Canyon Chapter, Sierra Club)*, March 1997, Bob Witzeman, MAS Conservation Chair, **“Leave our burned trees alone Smoky” (Burned, remnant trees important for forest health, bird species).**-----158

*Mesa/Chandler/Tempe Tribunes* 3-12-99, **Bird lovers picket to protest sun-grown coffee [MAS, et. al. protest “Rainforest” café in Phoenix for not serving shade coffee while advertising that they are eco-friendly].**-----159

*The Tribunes, Scottsdale and Northeast Valley*, 9-23-99, **Audubon group fights delisting of bald eagles, Claims plan threatens Arizona’s population. [Photo Herb Fibel asserting delisting threatens survival of species here in AZ, Ron Sell, Chandler physician says “competition for using water here...” is a key threat.]**-----160

*Arizona Republic*, 9-15-00, **Sonoran Park Proposal is unique plan [Op-Ed by Charles Babbitt, past president of MAS] recommends a preserve to “pass on to future generations--a biologically priceless piece of Sonoran Desert habitat...”**-----161

*News from Indian Country*, July 2001, **Mt. Graham “found to be historic Apache site” [USFS has declared Mt. Graham eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a traditional cultural property];**

*Arizona Republic*, 5-12-99, **Retired physician honored... Bob Witzeman, “played key role in the state’s major environmental confrontations. In the 1960’ and ‘70s, it was stopping**

**dams along the Salt, Verde, Gila and San Pedro rivers. In the “80s he championed limits on telescopes on Mt. Graham...shade grown coffee...protecting migratory songbirds.” The award was presented on behalf of the SW Forest Alliance, the SW Ctr. for Biological Diversity and AZ chapters of the Sierra Club and the NAS;**  
*Canyon Echo (Grand Canyon Chapter, Sierra Club) by Chris Gehlker, “Tribute to Bob Witzeman” “Think of any important struggle of the last two decades...and Bob Witzeman was leading the charge.”-----162*

*Arizona Republic, 3-10-02, Op-Ed by Charles J. Babbitt, To save forests, we must let fire be fire: “Phoenix Attorney...board member and past president of the Maricopa Audubon Society.” “Arizona’s Ponderosa pine and higher elevation conifer forest have always had naturally occurring forest...frequent and of low intensity...If we continue to suppress fires we can expect even bigger fires...” Deciding when and where to fight fires is complex, but we must do a better job picking our fights with nature.” -----163*

*Sierra Club, “Canyon Echo,” Grand Canyon Chapter, May-June 2001, “Pre-settlement restoration” – the Trojan horse of the logging industry, by Bob Witzeman [Witzeman and MAS President Scott Burge and others visited the remote Mt. Trumbull area of “pre-settlement restoration” of NAU Professor Wallace Covington. Witzeman/Burge summarized: “...it becomes undisguised old-growth logging under the pretense of fireproofing.”-----164*

*Arizona Republic, 6-30-2002, “Drought created this nightmare; it will end with patience, wisdom” Op-Ed, Charles Babbitt, Phoenix attorney, board member and past president of the Maricopa Audubon Society, “This fire (Rodeo-Chediski) should not be used to stampede people into making ill-advised, short-sighted forest management decisions. Forest problems hat have been decades in the making will take decades to fix. There will be no quick or easy solutions.”-----165*

*East Valley Tribunes, 7-20-02, Bird habitat protected in SRP plan [As a result of a “Habitat Conservation Plan under NEPA, and expressions of concern by MAS and the “Center for Biological Diversity”] SRP has undertaken habitat restoration on both arms of Salt for endangered species, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, fish species, etc. and purchase and restoration of wetland habitats on the Verde, Salt and San Pedro Rivers. MAS’ Witzeman “said he has reviewed parts of the SRP’s plan and believes it is going in the right direction.”-----166*

*Arizona Republic, pg. 1, 2-5-05. “Salt River’s lost runoff helps state, after all.” SRP run-off stored in Painted Rock Dam and released to meet U.S./Mexico treaty obligations*

*Phoenix New Times, June 2-8, 2005, “Reservoir Dogged” Letter Bob Witzeman, Cons. Ch., MAS, SRP’s claims of “67,000 families to go without water” because of releases from SRP dams to protect Willow Flycatcher etc. were misleading since all water released was saved in Painted Rock Dam to meet U.S./Mexican water treaty obligations. Witzeman decries agribusiness-dominated SRP misleading the public. Audubon Arizona asserts Witzeman’s letter threatened loss of a pending SRP \$100,000 grant to Audubon Arizona.”-----167*

*Tribunes*, undated, April '05, "SRP's \$20M is for birds, Utility must provide new habitat for flycatcher." SRP to mitigate for Willow Flycatcher habitat to be flooded by SRP reservoirs; *Arizona Republic*, 4-28-05, USFWS estimates a \$29.2-39.5 price tag to mitigate for various threatened species to be flooded by SRP reservoirs. Editors note: "As a result of the threat of legal proceedings by the Center for Biological Diversity, MAS and others, mitigation for habitat of threatened species was undertaken by SRP."-----168

*Arizona Republic*, 6-27-06, Lakes a magnet for recreation, wildlife, Bob Witzeman..."said that even though the construction of the (SRP) chain of lakes ruined "priceless riparian habitat, SRP has been a good conservation partner...The Audubon Society (Audubon Arizona, the Sonoran Institute, the Nature Conservancy and Gov. Janet Napolitano have previously sent letters endorsing the trade."-----169

*Arizona Republic*, April 17, 2005, Board backs land trade for mining [Superstition Area Land Trust (SALT) "...board of directors ...voted to support a proposed land trade..." of the proposed Resolution Copper Company's congressional land exchange. [pull-out block quote, p. 170, decries MAS/NAS for support of a mine project which has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations to Audubon Arizona and offered a multimillion dollar property in the proposed land swap which will benefit the National Audubon Society Appleton-Wittel "Research Ranch" property in southern Arizona;

*Arizona Republic*, 4-18-05 LAND Outdoor exchange, "Sam Campana, executive director of Audubon Arizona, calls the exchange "an outstanding package of lands." "It seems everybody is being bought off," said Bob Witzeman of the Maricopa Audubon Society which differs with the statewide organization and opposes the land exchange." *Arizona Republic*, 3-26-05, Gov. Janet Napolitano, the Audubon Society [AUDUBON ARIZONA], the Nature Conservancy and the Sonoran Institute have all sent Hegner (chief exec, officer) letters of support-----170

*Cactus Wren-dition*, Fall 2005, and Winter 2004, "National Audubon Society at the Crossroads" NAS sent out an "Action Alert" describing the vital importance of protecting NEPA as a U.S. law but here MAS Conservation Chair Witzeman states the irony of NAS' Arizona office, *Audubon Arizona* (AA), frequently being cited in newspapers as supporting this NEPA-compromised, truncated land exchange. AA has announced receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from various Arizona mining companies, primarily those tied to this proposed, NEPA-marginalized, Oak Flat Congressional Land Exchange. NAS' would also receive in the land swap \$4,500,000 sic, actually probably some \$7,500,000 in property (950 acres) to benefit NAS' Appleton-Whittel (A-W) Research Ranch; viz. private land purchased for BLM, to be managed as part of A-W/NAS Ranch. Witzeman shows that the half dozen "exchange" lands are primarily overgrazed, abandoned, USFS inholdings with no provisions in this "Land Swap" for protection from trespass cattle, vandalism, erosion, in-stream flow threats etc.]-----171,172

*Maricopa Audubon Society flyer*: 2005, "The Proposed Oak Flat Land Exchange" [photos of the proposed-to-be-obliterated Oak Flat Campground: centuries old Arizona Oak matriarchs, *endangered* Arizona Hedgehog Cactus, and water table-threatened Devil's



**Canyon (GAAN Canyon – an Apache sacred site) – a priceless Sonoran Desert riparian habitat of cascading waterfalls, limpid pools and in-stream flows.-----172a, 172b**

*East Valley Tribunes:* 4-14-06, **Environmental organizations fight for DESERT BALD EAGLES, [MAS and Center for Biological Diversity file lawsuit to protect Arizona’s highly-threatened population of Desert-Nesting Bald Eagles.-----173**

**31 pages of MAS conservation literature mailed by MAS to Arizona conservation groups: including Audubon, Sierra Club, Arizona Wildlife Federation, etc. to follow.-----174**

*Pages 4 and 5 of 1976 MAS flyer:* **Describes proposed U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Central Arizona Project dams and canals and conservationists’ lawsuit to stop the dams.]-----175**

*Maricopa Audubon Society (MAS) brochure, 1976, Photographs from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Environmental Impact Statement of proposed Charleston Dam on San Pedro River, Hooker Dam on Gila River backing up into Gila Wilderness Area-----176*

*MAS brochure, 1976, Orme Dam site at confluence of Salt and Verde Rivers would destroy unique Desert-Nesting Bald Eagle riparian habitat and inundate an Indian tribe.-----177*

*MAS and Orme Alternatives Coalition brochure, 1980, Safer, Less Costly Flood Control NOW! [flood-prone, floodplain real estate development dependent on Orme Dam]-----178*

*MAS graphic/newsclips, Feb. 1982, Waste Western Style, [graphic on pumping water uphill for agribusiness, newsclip collage on Orme Dam federal agribusiness boondoggle.-----179*