



The Cactus Wren·dition

Volume LXII, No. 2

Summer 2011



Black-chinned Hummingbird

Photo by Christofer Bang

Programs 2011

September 6, 2011

Bob Witzeman

Peru

Manu Road, Amazonia Lodge, Manu National Park and Manu Wildlife Center Rio Manu oxbow lakes. Canopy birding from towers. Famous macaw clay lick. Virgin rainforest. There is no place in South America that compares to Manu! Located southeast of Cusco, the immense park covers elevations from high páramo in the Andes to an amazing expanse of lowland Amazonian rainforest. The bird list for the park exceeds

1000 species, and it is one of the few wild places left on Earth that have huge areas undeveloped and even unexplored, with indigenous people living within the park that have never had any contact with the outside world! Despite the seeming remoteness of Manu, it is actually quite accessible by way of the Manu Road, that traverses from Cusco to the Amazonian Lowlands, and then along the Madre de Dios River to the Manu River. Some of the species in this presentation include Scarlet



Many colorful birds fill the canopies.
Photo by B. Witzeman



Hoatzin

Photo by B. Witzeman

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A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." John James Audubon

An Investment in the Future

Bequests are an important source of support for the Maricopa Audubon Society. Your chapter has dedicated itself to the protection of the natural world through public education and advocacy for the wiser use and preservation of our land, water, air and other irreplaceable natural resources.

You can invest in the future of our natural world by making a bequest in your will to the Maricopa Audubon Society. Talk to your attorney for more information on how this can be accomplished.

Macaw, Sunbittern, Curl-crested Aracari, Pied Lapwing, Scarlet-bell, Spotted Tanager, Sungrebe, Versicolored Barbet, Paradise Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, sapphire-spangled Emerald, Blue-headed Parrots and Golden-tailed. Webster Auditorium



Paradise Tanager

Photo by B. Witzeman

October 4, 2011

David Mackay

Where the Sonoran Desert meets the Tropics: Birdlife and Natural History of Sonora, Mexico.

From Sonoran Desert habitat to the Sierra Madre Occidental, the shores of the Sea of Cortez and the fantastic diversity of the Tropical Deciduous Forest, Arizona's southern neighbor has more than 400 species of birds (including a number of wonderful northwest Mexican endemics) as well as a dizzying array of plants, butterflies, insects and animals. With an emphasis on the rich birdlife of their adopted home state, David and Jennifer MacKay of Solipaso Tours and El Pedregal

Nature Lodge in Alamos, Sonora will share colorful anecdotes and images from their 17 years of living in Sonora. It is difficult to explore the natural wonders of Mexico without touching on the human history and traditions of Mexico and its people. In this fascinating presentation the MacKays will explore the warm culture and abundant nature of Sonora.

David and Jennifer moved to Alamos with their two young daughters in 1994 seeking a life change and new opportunities. The magic of Alamos took hold of them and they began to create a life there. In their time in Alamos, they have renovated two historic buildings and created two bed and breakfasts and a restaurant. In 1998 they launched Solipaso Tours, and have been offering bird watching tours to numerous locations throughout Mexico. In 2005 they purchased 20 acres and began construction of their dream location, El Pedregal Nature Lodge and Retreat Center, which is now their base of operation. Webster Auditorium

November 1, 2011

David and Diane Reesor

Botswana and the Okovango Delta

This program is sure to please with images from seasoned travel photographers David and Diane Reesor. See Cape Hunting Dogs with newborn pups, Malacite and Giant Kingfisher, Southern Carmine Bee Eater, Pink Backed Pelican, Copper Tailed Coucal, Nubian Woodpecker, Crested Barbet, Swamp Boubou, African Barred Owllet, Taita Fiscal Shrike, Sable, Red Lechwe and Tseseebe. Dorrance Hall

December 6, 2011

Larry Morgan

Dauphin Island

Webster Auditorium



On the cover: Black-chinned hummingbird feeding on *Pachycereus marginatus* cactus flowers, Desert Botanical Garden, AZ
Exposure: 1/800 sec at f/4.0, Focal length 265mm, ISO400, No flash, Camera: Canon EOS-1D Mark III, Lens: EF70-200mm f/2.8 IS Mark II + 1.4x extender

President's Message

Mark W. Larson

Our lovely spring days highlighted by birds returning from the Neotropics are quickly coming to an end for another year. Soon, just like the birds, some of us will be headed to cooler regions, not to return until the fall.

But, what about the summer for those of us left here in the sizzling Valley of the Sun? Your Board of Directors, with few exceptions, will be here working for you. We might leave for a few days to cool off in the high country, but we will return to continue our duties for Maricopa Audubon.



Mark W. Larson

For the rest of you, I would like to lead an extended field trip in late summer to Southeastern Arizona where we might see, among other things, shows of hummingbirds that rival anything in the United States and Canada! Some of you have lived here for years but have never

experienced our desert Sky Islands and their Mexican-influenced birds, wildlife, and plants. You need to see this part of the state.

If you would be interested in participating in such a trip, contact me soon so that I can begin planning it.

Of course, there are many conservation issues that will occupy us over the summer—Oak Flat mining threats, Desert-nesting Bald Eagles, and the San Pedro River, to name just a few. You, as a member, can be proud that the Maricopa Audubon Society not only has excellent field

trips to see birds, mammals, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and other wondrous species of our natural world, but also Maricopa Audubon *is working to protect those vital elements of our environment for future generations.*

From The Editor

Emily Morris

Have you been getting outside as much as you would have liked or as much as you promised yourself? I hope so! I have been joining in on some field trips (as you can read in my field trip report) and have several more scheduled for the summer. I know many of you will be leaving our warm city, but I hope you will continue to bird with fervor wherever you are. I will be visiting my family in Connecticut very soon and hope to see some new birds.

I hope that as you relax during the summer months you will think about all that you have been given by the Audubon community and the conservation community in general. How much have you learned? How many friends have you gained? How many wonderful places have you visited? Now, think about how much you have given

back. I love Maricopa Audubon because so many people in our community give so much of themselves. Just think about our terrific end-of-year banquet; so many people contributed their time, money, donations and photos.

For next fall, I think it would be great if everyone could make a pact with themselves to give something back to the Audubon community. This could be in the form of signing up to bring snacks to a monthly meeting, offering to teach your neighbors how to use binoculars, helping to run a field trip or an educational program, or bringing a friend with you to a monthly meeting. It feels so good to be part of a community that gives back.

I hope you all have a great summer! Happy birding.

Notes & Announcements

Flagged Shorebirds

Although not common in our area, please be aware of color-flagged Hudsonian Godwits, Whimbrels, and any other shorebird species which you notice have color bands. You can also contact Dave Krueper, Ass't. Nongame Migratory Bird Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103, (505) 248-6877 or dave_krueper@fws.gov

Unwanted Catalogs

Is your mailbox full of unwanted mail? Catalog works collaboratively with the catalog industry to embrace voluntary measures to reduce unwanted mail by honoring your mail preferences. Catalog Choice has become a significant consumer voice in the direct mail industry. Nearly 200 catalog mailers are participating in Catalog Choice, and this number grows every day. Please go to <http://www.catalogchoice.org/pages/merchants> to reduce the mailing of unwanted catalogs.

E-mail Alert System

Maricopa Audubon Society has established an e-mail alert system to notify members of upcoming events and activities. E-mail addresses were obtained from both the "Friends of Maricopa Audubon" roster and the National Audubon roster. There were several addresses that were returned, most likely because the e-mail addresses were not updated. If you would like to be included in or removed from this notification system, please let Laurie Nessel know at laurie@laurienessel.com. The list will only be used for the stated purpose and not sold or used for any other reason.

Birding Community E-Bulletin

A monthly bulletin with rare bird sightings and other birding information. If you would like to be put on the monthly emailing list please contact either Wayne Petersen (Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas Program) at 718-259-2178 or wpetersen@massaudubon.org or Paul Baicich at 410-992-9736 or paul.baicich@verizon.net. They never sell the recipient list and you will receive a lot of interesting information.

Casa Del Caballo Blanco EcoLodge – Belize

A new six-cabana, eco-friendly accommodation in Belize - Casa del Caballo Blanco is a 23-acre former ranch 9.5 miles from the Guatemalan border near San Ignacio. It also shelters the not-for-profit Casa Avian Support Alliance (CASA) <http://www.casaavian.org/>. Its purpose is to understand and support the biodiversity of Belize that attracts and sustains over 530 species of migratory and resident birds spotted in a given year. Jodi and Vance Benté, owners of the property, also established The Alliance whose motto is: "Birds are the farmers of the world - help us to help them continue to sow their seeds." Their work has been undertaken in cooperation with the Government of Belize's efforts to protect critical habitat, the loss of

which threatens the avian population. Guests are invited to share in the responsibilities of supporting the avian program. They can assist in nest-box building, maintenance and feeding as well as trail building and signage. A percentage of each cabana rental will be donated to the CASA center to assist with medical and other expenses related to the management of the facility. Casa also organizes day-long tours that in addition to an educational and scientific focus can include bird-watching, horseback riding, cave tubing and visiting archeological and World Heritage Sites in Belize and Guatemala. For more information, call 707-974-4942 or visit www.casacaballoblanco.com.

Land of the Quetzal

Rich Kern and his brother, Jim, are looking for twenty partners to join us in the purchase of the 486 acre parcel, which is adjacent to Los Quetzales National Park and across the Savegre River from Los Santos National Preserve in Costa Rica. Preserving an important piece of quetzal habitat is a big part of our motivation in choosing the Savegre tract; the area is one of the best places to see this beautiful bird. Besides birds, it is also possible to see puma, ocelot, the little margay, jaguar and tapir. Half of the shares for the project have been spoken for. If you would like more information and a copy of the DVD please contact Rich Kern at kernnature@aol.com. (N.B. The Kern brothers project is independent from Audubon.)

Book Store Selections

We now have a selection of books on birding topics for adults and children alike. Remember that Friends of Maricopa Audubon members get a 10% discount and that your purchase helps to support our event, education and conservation efforts.

Arizona Watchable Wildlife Tourism Association (AWWTA)

Check out their website for events around the state--www.azwildlife.com

Museum of Northern Arizona

They sponsor Venture trips that explore and discover the Colorado Plateau in the Four Corners area. For more information contact Lisa Lamberson at 928-774-5211 x241 or llamberson@mna.mus.az.us.

Environmental Fund

Green At Work--Thousands of employees can now support Maricopa Audubon Society (MAS) in their annual fall charity campaign. The Environmental Fund for Arizona get thousands of Arizona employees involved with our group and many other conservation groups through payroll deduction workplace campaigns. Help spread the word at your office about checking off "Green" choices this fall! If your employer does not yet include environmental/conservation groups, please contact Laine Seton at the Environmental Fund for Arizona: efaz@efaz.org or (480) 510-5511.

Credit Card

The American Birding Association has negotiated an agreement with US Bank to provide ABA members a distinctive US BANK VISA Card. Using your card will not only show your connection to ABA and birding but also, at no additional cost to you, provide a contribution to ABA. If interested, contact www.americanbirding.org.

The Dovetail Directory

(www.dovetailbirding.com): The Directory is an online catalogue of world birding tours, and our goal is to help birders locate that special birding tour, to any of 85 countries around the world. This is a free service. There are no hidden costs or surcharges. Tours are offered at the operators price. In addition to tours, the Directory also carries a comprehensive inventory of birding-related books. For your further convenience we maintain a North American, toll-free number (877) 881-1145, and someone will always happy to take your call.

Shade-grown Coffee

If you are searching for a source to purchase shade-grown coffee and haven't been successful, try ABA Sales. They carry seven kinds of Song Bird Coffee. For information call 800-634-7736. Also, Trader Joe's carries shade grown coffee, as does Sunflower Market. Another source is Toucanet Coffee/Avian Ecologist. They are in the business of serving Smithsonian certified, bird-friendly coffee. All of their varieties are organic and shade grown. They also have fair trade varieties. Please visit www.toucanetcoffee.com for more information about their goals or to place an order. The website also includes an online community for bird and/or coffee lovers. They invite you to join. Another website for shade grown/organic coffee is www.cafebritt.com. An additional website is Thanksgiving Coffee Co--www.thanksgivingcoffee.com or 800-648-6491. And another from Kenn Kaufman is www.birdsandbeans.com

More Birding and Nature Festivals

www.americanbirding.org. and www.birdinghotspot.com

SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an interesting story to tell about birding? Please forward your submissions to the Editor – Emily Morris. Check the back page for address/email. Attaching an article to an e-mail is the absolute easiest way to submit an article. Please send any pictures to complement your article directly to me as well. Remember, all articles may not be published the first month after receipt.

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

Mike Plagens

field trips

MAY – AUGUST 2011

CAR POOLING: Please make every effort to organize your own carpool; consolidate vehicles at meeting places and/or contact leaders for car pooling assistance. It is recommended that passengers reimburse drivers 10 cents per mile. Be courteous to the trip leader and help cover their gas costs.

Limit: Maximum number of participants per field trip. Please call early to make your reservations.

DIFFICULTY LEVELS 1 THROUGH 5:

1 equals very low level of exertion, short walking distance, considerable birding from vehicle and possible multiple birding stops. 5 equals very high level of difficulty with respect to exertion. Longer hiking distances are expected with possible steep trails. Trips are level 1 unless noted otherwise.

REMINDERS:

- Be courteous to the trip leader and help cover their gas costs.
- Wear neutral-colored clothing and sturdy walking shoes.
- Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, head protection and water.
- Avoid wearing bright colors.
- Always bring your binoculars. Bring a scope if recommended.
- Submit trip and leader suggestions to the field trip chair.
- Unless stated otherwise, reservations are required.

***Day Passes Required for National Forests.** Many favorite spots in our National Forests now require Day Use Passes. You are responsible to acquire a day pass (\$6) in advance of field trips with an asterisk (*). Passes are available by phone or mail, at FS district and ranger offices, Big 5, some Circle K's, the Shell station at Tom Darlington and Cave Creek Road and elsewhere. Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/tp/where.shtml> for more information.

Impromptu Field Trips: Post your own outings or get notified of others planned field trips on short notice. Also get reminders of MAS field trips by email. Founded by naturalist and field trip chairperson Mike Plagens, membership is easy, free and open to those who have an interest in the flora, fauna, and ecology of Arizona. Not just a trip listing, view the website for trip reports, flora and

fauna databases, maps, links to Google Earth including Gilbert Water Ranch, and photos. Trips focus on plants, animals, mycology, geology, biology, entomology, herpetology, ecology, paleontology, birding, anthropology or microbiology. Share expenses, experiences and expertise with like-minded travelers. Proposed trips should include a brief description of the destination, ways, means, purpose, hiking difficulty, departure location, date and time. Drivers and riders will negotiate between themselves any shared expenses, but it is recommended that riders at least cover the cost of gas. Users can share via e-mail questions and experiences they have encountered while hiking through the wonders of Arizona's landscapes. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/az_nature_fldtrips/

Saturday, May 28

Beginning Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies at Gilbert Water Ranch. Learn to identify local spring butterflies including Checkered White, Painted Lady, Queen, and Marine Blue, as well as common dragonflies and damselflies such as Western Pondhawk, Flame Skimmer, Blue-ringed Dancer and Familiar Bluet. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Dragonfly Ramada just south of the parking lot, east of Greenfield Rd. off Guadalupe Rd. in Gilbert. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring binoculars (close-focus preferred), water, and hat. *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest* by Kathy Biggs will be available for sale for \$10. No reservations. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Janet and Bob Witzeman

Saturday, June 4

Oak Flat, Pinal Co. We will explore for birds, wildflowers, dragonflies and butterflies in this National Forest recreation area east of Superior, Arizona, which could be traded away to a private mining concern and be negatively impacted by removal of ground water and collapse of overlying rock. Meet at the Oak Flat USFS Campground (5 miles east of Superior, AZ on I-60) at 7:15 a.m. Optional carpooling will take place at the parking lot at 6:00 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant on west side of Rural Rd. just south of I-60. Some walking, Difficulty 1.
Leaders: Bob Witzeman & Mike Plagens Contact mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for details, directions & reservations.

June 4th, July 30th, Aug. 13th, Sept. 10th

Chandler Veterans Oasis Park Dragonflies and Butterflies. While birdwatching slows down in the summer heat, insect populations increase. The urban wildlife habitats at Veterans Oasis Park are quickly becoming a haven for birds and insects. We will see which beautiful and fascinating butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies have found the park's 113 acres of Sonoran Desert and wetlands habitat. Bring binoculars (close-focus preferred), water, and hat. The walks are not fast-paced, and the terrain is easy. Reservations not required. \$5 suggested donation to support the Environmental Education Center. *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest* by Kathy Biggs will be available for sale for \$10. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Red-tailed Hawk Ramada just east of the Environmental Education Center. Veterans Oasis Park is on the northeast corner of Lindsay and Chandler Heights Rds. Done by 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Laurie Nessel

Friday, June 17th

Needle Rock and Rio Verde Ranch on the Verde River. Meet about 5 a.m. and wrap up about 9:30 a.m. We should see a nice collection of desert denizens, and hope for bald eagles and vermilion flycatchers. Limited to 8 participants. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Kathe Anderson Limit 8 participants and must register with Kathe: Kathe.coot@cox.net

Tuesday, June 21st

Bat Colony off Camelback Rd. Bats emerge from a flood diversion tunnel near 40th St. and Camelback Road just as the sun sets. We'll celebrate the summer solstice with a walk along the Arizona Canal about 1/2 mile to the colony. Birds along this stretch might include Lesser Nighthawk and Peach-faced Lovebird among others. When the light is almost faded the bats stream out to feed on insects often many miles away. We will refresh with some ice cream afterwards for those who wish. There is nearby parking @ southwest corner of Camelback & 40th St. Good shoes, water (it will likely be quite hot!) and maybe a small flashlight are suggested. Difficulty 1 to 2.
Leader: Mike Plagens mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for reservations.

Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips cont.

Mike Plagens

Saturday, June 25

Beginning Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies at Gilbert Water Ranch. See description for 5/28. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring binoculars (close-focus preferred), water, and hat. *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest* by Kathy Biggs will be available for sale for \$10. No reservations. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Janet and Bob Witzeman

Friday, July 15th

Prescott. Meet about 5 a.m. and wrap up about 2:30 p.m. We'll visit the Highlands Center, plus Watson Woods and at least one lake, depending on time and temperature; hope for a nice variety of summer birds (tanagers, warblers, grosbeaks, flycatchers) actively raising young. Please bring a lunch and single dollars to share entrance fees. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Kathe Anderson Limit 8 participants and must register with Kathe: Kathe.coot@cox.net

Saturday, July 16th

Beginning Bird and Nature Watching in Phoenix. Grenada Park in Phoenix near 20th St. and Glendale has ponds, desert landscaping and open lawns. This will be a chance for beginners to learn mostly easy birds that are accustomed to the presence of people. Learn to find the bird and focus binoculars correctly. We'll look at other creatures plus insects, butterflies and plants. Difficulty 1.
Leader: Mike Plagens mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for reservations for early morning meeting at 5:30am.

Saturday, July 23

Beginning Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies at Gilbert Water Ranch. See description for 5/28. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring binoculars (close-focus preferred), water, and hat. *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest* by Kathy Biggs will be available for sale for \$10. No reservations. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Janet and Bob Witzeman

July, August date TBA

Stewart Mountain Desert Tortoise Quest. Have you ever seen a Sonoran Desert tortoise in the wild? Increase your chances of stumbling upon one of these iconic desert creatures by searching in their preferred habitat after a summer monsoon. For this reason, we are not setting an exact date for this trip near Saguaro Lake until the monsoon has

begun and conditions are right. We will collect email addresses and phone numbers and contact you when rain is imminent, sometimes the evening before the hike. Learn about the behavior, life cycle and status of this keystone species. Limit 10. Difficulty 3- steep, rocky terrain and hot, humid weather. Bring snacks, sun protection, hat, sturdy hiking shoes, plenty of water. We will start near daybreak and be back before noon.
Leader: Laurie Nessel, 480.968.5614, laurienessel@gmail.com to get on the call list.

Saturday, Aug 6th

Bird and Nature Watching on Mt. Ord. This, the highest point in Maricopa Co., is the summer home for some great little birds, namely Red-faced Warbler, Grace's Warbler and occasionally Olive Warbler. No guarantee but we might see one or all three in addition to more common montane species. In any case, we will enjoy cooler temperatures, moist monsoon conditions, and plenty of insect and flowering activity. Bring good hiking shoes, lots of water, and a lunch to enjoy. We'll have to combine into high-clearance vehicles for the final driving leg. Meet at 5 a.m. and return by 5 p.m. Difficulty 2.
Leader: Mike Plagens mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for reservations and carpooling.

Thursday, August 11th to August 14th

Guided trip at The Q Ranch. A 320-acre private ranch in Gila County at an elevation of 5600-6200 feet, Q Ranch dates from 1894 and log buildings from that era still exist. The comfortable, two-story ranch house has six upstairs bedrooms with three large, shared bathrooms. This is an exceptionally rich habitat: 15 mammal species, over 125 bird, 40 butterfly and 12 dragonfly species (and counting) have been recorded. For those interested in the heavens, the Q's remote location and lack of light pollution allow naked eye viewing of the Milky Way and a host of celestial orbs.

Cost of the trip is \$380 per person for double occupancy (single occupancy add \$120). The bunkhouse sleeps 2 and has a private bath and kitchen facilities; it may be reserved for a \$50 surcharge, single or double occupancy. Reservations require a \$110 deposit with the remainder due on arrival. The Q happily accepts personal checks made out to Q Ranch Lodge or cash (no credit cards). Deposits will be refunded for cancellations made 15 days in advance, minus a \$20 processing

fee. Cancellations made later than this are subject to the full cost unless the space can be filled. Trips include meals, guides, lodging, a wine tasting, a tour of the 220-room Q Ranch Pueblo and a \$20 donation to the sponsoring Audubon chapter. Trip will be canceled and deposits fully refunded if fewer than 8 people register. Maximum registration limit is 14 people.

Leader, Cynthia Donald at planres@earthlink.net or 480-283-4515 for reservations and a detailed itinerary. Carpooling is highly recommended!

Friday, August 26th

Flagstaff. Meet about 5am and wrap up about 4pm. We'll spend the first part of the day at Kachina Wetlands, enjoy a bag lunch at the Arboretum at Flagstaff and wander around there until about 1-ish. Kachina Wetlands can be full of surprises, but some waterfowl, raptors and lots of bluebirds and swallows are predictable. At the Arboretum, we could add some robins, hummingbirds and higher elevation warblers (red-faced?) to our list.
Leader: Kathe Anderson Limit 8 participants and must register with Kathe: Kathe.coot@cox.net

Saturday, August 27

Beginning Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies at Gilbert Water Ranch. See description for 5/28. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring binoculars (close-focus preferred), water, and hat. *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest* by Kathy Biggs will be available for sale for \$10. No reservations. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Janet and Bob Witzeman

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday, April 20th, 2011

Mesquite Wash by Craig Anderson
Twenty nature enthusiasts convened at Mesquite Wash on a Wednesday morning, and from there hiked up Rock Creek Wash. We hiked 2.3 miles some along the Old Hwy 87, got 41 birds including good looks at a yellow-breasted chat, vermilion flycatcher, orange crown warbler, wilson's warbler and harris' hawk. We also stopped to appreciate many other species such as flowers, butterflies, trees, animal tracks and reptiles such as the beautiful Regal Horned Toad. More than 50 species of open wildflowers were noted. I also appreciate that some of the hikers stopped to pick up and haul out cans and plastic bottles.

The Myriad Birds of the Salt River: A Field Trip Review

By Emily Morris

As I had vowed in my last “From the Editor” section in the spring *Wrendition*, I have been scheduling more Maricopa Audubon field trips for myself; and, let me tell you, I have not been sorry. On Monday April, 25th I met up with twelve birders



The group relaxes after a great day of birding along the Salt River.

including Kathe Anderson and Mark Larson, who were the two leaders of a fabulous morning along the shores of the lower Salt River.

We were good environmentalists and carpooled to the sites after splitting into two groups to allow for everyone to see as many birds as possible. The first stop was Granite Reef, the site of a “diversion dam” on the Salt River. Mark and Kathe directed our

respective groups along the shore of the river, taking long looks out over the water with spotting scopes to find the last remaining winter ducks including Ring-necks, Ruddy Ducks and a lone Redhead. Through the mesquite bosque hopped Song Sparrows, Wilson’s, Yellow and Lucy’s Warblers, and angry-sounding Bell’s Vireos. We

had a fabulous look at a Hooded Oriole and learned the call of the Bullock’s Oriole.

The next stop was Phon D. Sutton camp ground and picnic area. Though

this area does get a lot of human traffic, it can be a perfect spot for finding Bald Eagles. Though we didn’t see an eagle, there were many herons and egrets stalking along the edges of the water. We also tracked down a Common Yellowthroat by following its distinctive “witchity witchity” song.

The last stop brought us to Coon Bluff, another mesquite bosque along the Salt River. On the east side of this site are the steep sides of the bluff, and one group got some good looks at a Great Horned Owl as it flew to another roost along the cliff’s face. Bronzed and Brown-headed Cowbirds perched next to each other to allow for excellent comparisons, and the rattle of a Belted Kingfisher drew our gaze back to the water. Along the water were two Canada Geese, Killdeer, and several Spotted Sandpipers. The bosque itself was filled with warblers, Vermilion Flycatchers, and Ladder-backed and Gila Woodpeckers.

All in all, this was a truly wonderful day of birding. We saw about sixty species, got to enjoy the company of fellow birders, and learn from two skilled guides. What could be better?

Cats and Birds: New Research and a Local Update

Gillian Rice

Background

Last November, a conversation between two of my neighbors raised uncomfortable tensions. One asked the other if her cats could be kept indoors because they roam into adjacent yards, where they sometimes damage vegetable gardens and catch birds and other creatures. The cat-owner was visibly upset – she’s devoted to her two rescue cats – and contended they couldn’t be kept inside because they were adopted as adults. The issue of cats and birds is so sensitive that everyone had to agree to disagree in order to maintain neighborly harmony

Scientific evidence that cats do harm wild birds continues to grow. In the *Journal of Ornithology* (published



online on January 23, 2011), a study by Anne Balogh, Thomas Ryder, and Peter Marra investigated nestling success and post-fledgling survival of Gray Catbirds in three suburban locations in the Washington D.C. area. They monitored fledglings that had been fitted with radio transmitters. When a bird died the researchers categorized the death as predation when the transmitter was tracked to a predator, found underground, or was associated with consumed remains. Predation accounted for 79 percent of mortality, with 47 percent of known predation events attributable to domestic cats; especially high death rates occurred in neighborhoods with large cat populations.

Cats and Birds: New Research and a Local Update cont.

Gillian Rice

Continued from page 7.

Free-roaming cats are often fed by cat-lovers; without the typical constraint of limited food availability, there is less competition between these cats. "Novel predators like the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) may disproportionately impact avian populations because they are subsidized, enabling them to exist at densities exceeding any native predator," Balogh and her colleagues suggest. They acknowledge, however, that cat predation might remove weaker juvenile birds that

"I don't think we can ever consider the cat problem solved. Unfortunately, I don't think we can totally stop people from dumping their unwanted pets."

would not have survived in the absence of predation pressure. Future research can clarify this proposition.

Educational efforts by the American Bird Conservancy, which produces a brochure (http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/materials/cat_brochure.pdf) as part of the "Keep Cats Inside" initiative, may fall short in the face of strong emotions. Would a cat-lovers' organization that advocates keeping cats indoors have better success? A message from one cat-loving peer that keeps her cats indoors to another who lets hers roam free might be a more trusted message – keen birders are suspected (often wrongly) of disliking cats.

And, according to Ted Williams in an Audubon magazine article (<http://www.audubonmagazine.org/incite/incite0909.html>), cat-lovers' funding dwarfs that of wildlife advocates. To deal with feral cats, a large lobby of cat-lovers promotes the policy of Trap Neuter Release (TNR). The National

Audubon's board resolution opposing TNR, reads: "Feral cat colony programs, wherein feral cats are captured, trapped, vaccinated, neutered, and fed, [emphasis added] do not eliminate predation on native wildlife or reduce the size of feral cat colonies; and . . . bites, scratches, and fecal contamination from feral and free-ranging pet cats pose a risk to the general public through transmission of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, roundworm, and rabies." If feral cats were not fed, then perhaps they would disperse and not form colonies. Hungrier cats might also be more willing to enter traps for food.

Working Together on the Local Issues

Locally, the most challenging feral cat problem is at Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Desert Rivers Audubon Society (DRAS) has worked with the Town of Gilbert to resolve this problem. Maricopa Audubon Society has supported DRAS by providing funding for cat traps. "I don't think we can ever consider the cat problem solved. Unfortunately, I don't think we can totally stop people from dumping their unwanted pets," says Krys Hammers, President of DRAS. "We have definitely made headway, though. In December there were over 80 cats. It is now down to 15 very wary cats that have avoided all the trapping efforts." On the March 20 MAS field trip to the Preserve I attended, we spotted one cat.



Photo courtesy of thedailygreen.com

Although Audubon helped initially, Hammers explained that the Riparian Preserve staff is now doing the trapping and will continue to do so indefinitely. She added: "We have continued to meet with representatives from the town and the cat organization, Save the Cats. Cats that are trapped are turned over to the Save the Cats

organization. They determine if the cats can be placed in sanctuaries or turned over to the Humane Society."

DRAS and MAS continue to support "Cats Indoors" education using the AZ Game & Fish brochure and brochures from the American Bird Conservancy. "We display the materials and talk to the people that we meet at the preserve about it, says Hammers. "We've run articles in our newsletter and email, Facebook, and Twitter announcements about the issue. The town has produced a PSA that runs on their Channel 11 about the cat-dumping and feeding wildlife issues. The cat folks, of course, promote spaying and neutering pets. If you have any ideas about other things that we can do, I would love to hear them."

Hammers continued, "We appreciate the support that we received from Maricopa Audubon Society and Audubon Arizona on this issue. This is a great example of a collaborative effort among the Audubon groups, the town, and the cat groups to solve this issue to the benefit of all parties."

Continued from page 7. (Thanks to Bob Witzeman for the lead on the Journal of Ornithology article).

Time to Practice Your Dragons! Dragonfly and Damselfly Quiz

By Emily Morris

dragonfly quiz

A



B



C



D



Answers:

A: Painted Damselfly
B: Familiar Bluet (Mating, Female Below)
C: Common Green Darner, Male
D: Mexican Amberwing, Male

All Photos Courtesy of Pierre Deviche

A Conversation about Butterflies with Marceline VandeWater

Gillian Rice



"My favorite butterfly?" A thoughtful expression. "I know my favorite bird: a male Vermilion Flycatcher," says Marceline VandeWater. But we're chatting about butterflies over tea. Then VandeWater grins: "The Yucca Giant-Skipper. Definitely my favorite! A 'cool dude.' Not colorful, but he's got such a personality! And he's got this black eye stripe like a robber's mask. We usually see him at Rackensack Canyon in April!"

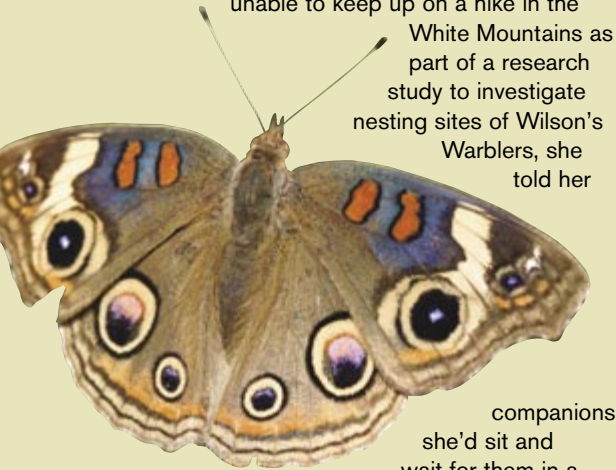


Yucca Giant-Skipper

Taking Her Hobbies Seriously

An experienced birder and skilled bird photographer, Vice President of Arizona Field Ornithologists and a long-time member of Maricopa Audubon, VandeWater got interested in butterflies by accident – literally. In 2007, she suffered an injury playing tennis. Then, unable to keep up on a hike in the

White Mountains as part of a research study to investigate nesting sites of Wilson's Warblers, she told her



Common Buckeye

companions she'd sit and wait for them in a meadow. Surrounded

by sneezeweed, she noticed stunning butterflies, and began photographing them. So began a new hobby; VandeWater takes her hobbies very seriously.

Captivated by butterflies, VandeWater began to research. "It's easy for birders to make the transition," she explained.

Reakirt's Blue



"We look for field marks like beak shape, wing bars, or eye stripe. Butterflies also have distinctive field marks. I take photos for identification references. I read about host plants and flight season to learn more." She keeps careful notes in a field journal – time of year, elevation – and then copies them out so she has a permanent record of what she has seen, when, and where. "When I return to a location, I know what to expect. Taking notes helps me with the research process and helps me learn," she says.

Birding and Lepping Together

Her two interests are especially compatible on field trips. VandeWater comments: "I focus on birds early in the day and when it starts to warm up around 10 am, I can switch to 'lepping.'" (Butterflies are in the large order of insects, Lepidoptera).

"I keep a life list for butterflies," she explains. "But I only count something for my life list if I see it well enough to be able to identify it myself. I'm happy to see species again and again. I just enjoy being there. On a particular trip, if I get 45 species and only one life butterfly, this life species is like the 'icing on the cake.'"

Where to Go to See Butterflies

Good places to observe butterflies are often the same places we seek out birds. Early spring: Spur Cross and Rackensack and locations along the Beeline Highway;

in May and June, VandeWater enjoys searching along the Mogollon Rim, and in the heat of the summer, the White Mountains.

Different butterflies have varying behaviors. Some butterflies nectar; others engage in "mud puddling" – they take minerals from the mud. "The Arizona Sister butterfly is found in oakland and loves mud. They'll even land on your skin to find minerals," VandeWater tells me. "Particular butterflies perch often: the Weidemeyer's Admiral and the Empress Leilia, and you also might see some of them on the sap of trees," she adds. "You can see butterflies 'hilltopping,' patrolling the highest point in an area for a mate. Great Purple Hairstreak and Painted Lady butterflies hilltop at the Sears Kay Ruin, about three miles north of Bartlett Lake in the Tonto National Forest."

Host Plants

Butterfly populations are often localized because a certain species needs a



Xami Hairstreak

particular host plant, which needs just the right conditions to thrive. A host plant is where the butterfly lays her eggs, so

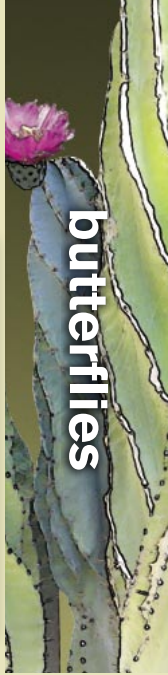
it can serve as food for the hatching caterpillars. VandeWater describes an example: "On the top of the cliff overlooking the Highline Trail at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA) is a succulent plant favored by the rare Xami Hairstreak. The butterflies come down to sit in the shade of the cliff during hot summer days, and that's where I could photograph them, and identified six different individuals. Last summer, we couldn't find any Xami, but it might return when conditions are favorable".

Education and Conservation

VandeWater devotes much time to educating the public about butterflies. She belongs to the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) and the local Phoenix chapter, Central Arizona Butterfly Association (CAzBA). She leads butterfly walks at the BTA and is helping develop butterfly gardens at

Q Ranch and Double Circle Ranch. She has also published butterfly checklists for several areas including Oracle State Park (now closed) and Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.

She participates in the yearly "July 4th Butterfly Count" for NABA. "This is held at the BTA and includes Superior and Oak Flat – we do it in September, though, because after the monsoon begins is the best time to get the most butterfly species and July is just far too hot for us," says VandeWater. "It's so important to monitor butterflies because they are closely linked to plants and are way more sensitive than birds to environmental factors like climate change and pollution. They act as early indicators that something might be going on," she adds.



Field Guides

She recommends two field guides. Her "butterfly bible" is the western edition of *Butterflies through Binoculars* by Jeffrey Glassberg. An additional reference is *Butterflies of North America* by Jim Brock and Kenn Kaufman. Binoculars are very helpful, and one of the close-focus binoculars to be considered is the Pentax Papilio 8.5 x 21.

Photography

VandeWater shares how to photograph butterflies: "You must learn how to get close. Butterflies will be frightened by sudden movement so you need to go slow. You must also appear small. I often go on all fours! Be careful that you don't cast a shadow over the butterfly with your body. This way you often can get so close that you can touch them! Butterflies are solar-powered. They are slower earlier in the morning, so that's a good time to photograph them." A particular challenge when photographing butterflies with a macro lens is the depth of field. Perpendicular to the top (open-winged) or the side (when wings are closed) is the best. To capture field marks, "You should try for a top view and an underwing view if possible," explains VandeWater. "This is especially important with the 'blues,' tiny butterflies that often look the same from the top, but have the distinguishing marks on their underwings."

Today's digital cameras mean that butterfly photography is open to everyone. Butterflies make super subjects: "Even with a little point and shoot camera, you can take great butterfly pictures," says VandeWater, "and they are so colorful."



Dainty Sulphur

All photos by Marceline VandeWater

Oak Flats

Bob Witzeman

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land!”

— Aldo Leopold (1887-1948)

Recently Maricopa Audubon Society members, Bob Witzeman and Lisa Fitzner, visited with Tonto National Forest officials and also with officials of the Resolution Copper Company (RCC) regarding the proposed mine and the current management of Oak Flat. Lying five miles east of Superior, Oak Flat has unique environmental, cultural and historical features. So highly regarded is the campground and the surrounding environment, that Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon declared it off limits to mining.

Despite the protection afforded by previous administrations, our government is now considering trading over 3000 acres of protected USFS land, in and around Oak Flat, for inferior lands owned by Resolution Copper. If the proposed RCC land swap were approved by Congress, a mine would obliterate the Oak Flat Campground area with a hole a mile across and deeper than

the Empire State Building. Currently, this NEPA-compromised and environmentally and culturally destructive congressional land exchange is being promoted for passage in Congress by Senator McCain and others as a job source. However, the *Arizona Republic*, before the market crash, reported on March 26, 2005 that it would produce only 450 jobs. It is apparent that such multinational mining companies either ignore or do not wish to conform to U.S. environmental and human rights laws.

While the future of Oak Flat lies in limbo, the beautiful upland habitats and wetlands, along with the USFS



Photo taken at Oak Flat USFS campground entrance in front of the first two campsites. Heavy cattle grazing by the Resolution Copper Company's livestock permittee has destroyed the grasslands and riparian vegetation at this USFS campground.

Oak Flat campground, are being severely impacted by overgrazing. Not surprisingly, this abuse appears to have coincided with RCC's taking over grazing operations in the Oak Flat cattle allotment and the purchase of the nearby JI cattle ranch. The USFS told MAS that their livestock management program is now grazing both sides of U.S.60 simultaneously and even the campground.

Currently, many plants that host butterfly larva and provide essential nectar for butterflies have been destroyed by RCC's livestock. Maricopa Audubon's dragonfly and damselfly field trip to Oak Flat last fall was discouraging. Oak Flat's once lush marsh grasses and reeds had been grazed to stubble and dust. Many damselflies are epiphytic and require reeds for egg-laying. Dragonfly species lay eggs directly in the water. Subsequently, the mature odonata must have reeds and cattails upon which they ascend and remove themselves from their exuvia (exoskeletons).

Oak Flat, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, and the area surrounding



Heavy overgrazing by Resolution Copper Company's livestock of wetlands habitat at Oak Flat has destroyed vegetation needed by dragonflies for perching, foraging and mating.



Maricopa Audubon's Lisa Fitzner discusses cattle destruction of wetlands and uplands vegetation by Resolution Copper Company cattle with USFS personnel at Oak Flat. A cattle salt block put out by Resolution's livestock permittee is visible in foreground at the edge of the lake.

Superior, have been regularly studied for their dragonfly, damselfly, butterfly, wildflower, and bird biota. For over twelve years the Maricopa Audubon Society, the Arboretum and other individuals and groups, have participated in the annual Christmas Bird census in the Oak Flat area. Similarly, the annual summer North American Butterfly Association census centered at Boyce Thompson Arboretum includes members of the Central Arizona Butterfly Association, Maricopa Audubon Society and others. It includes the unique eco-region of Oak Flat, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Devil's (Gaan) Canyon, Apache Tears, and Picket Post Mountain.

In addition to Maricopa Audubon and other nature organizations, Oak Flat is well known to Apache tribal members as a place for gathering acorns, traditional medicines and spiritual renewal. Between Oak Flat and the town of Superior is the site of the notorious 19th century Apache Leap massacre of tribal members by the U.S. Cavalry. Six Native American nations officially signed a document of opposition to the proposed RCC mine at a ceremony at Oak Flat (June 20, 2007).

The fact that two of the richest, largest mining companies in the world, BHP (Australian) and Rio Tinto (British), must set this example

of lack of environmental concern by overgrazing and destroying the vegetation and surrounding wetlands in this USFS campground is troubling. A brief perusal of the Web reveals the horrendous environmental and human rights abuses of these two companies worldwide. It begs the question of the fate of the many Oak Flat land exchange "swap" properties which are claimed by RCC to be environmental benefits. In fact, there is nothing in RCC's proposed congressional land swap for maintaining fencing and preventing livestock trespass and obliteration of those proposed USFS/BLM exchange properties.

Science Corner

Guest Columnist: Russell Ligon, ASU PhD Student

Keeping up with the Jones's: Territorial chickadees start singing earlier in the morning if their neighbors do

Among birders, the dawn chorus of singing birds is a well-known and much-loved biological phenomenon. What better way to start your day than to be out in nature, enjoying the various songs of the birds you know and love? Despite the prevalence of dawn choruses throughout the world, the biological factors responsible for stimulating early morning song are not well understood. Most work devoted to exploring the underlying stimuli responsible for synchronized early-morning singing has focused on the physiological mechanisms regulating this behavior. In a recent study, however, Jennifer Foote and colleagues discovered that social stimuli may be at least partially responsible for the dawn chorus. By playing songs of unfamiliar Black-Capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*) in the existing territories of male chickadees, fifteen minutes earlier than these males had begun singing the previous day, the researchers were able to induce males to start their own morning song sessions earlier. This effect was also exhibited by neighboring males who could hear the simulated early-bird song playback, but whose territory was not being 'invaded.' These results suggest that attempting to start singing as early as your neighbors and your rivals may be partially responsible for the evolution of early morning dawn choruses.

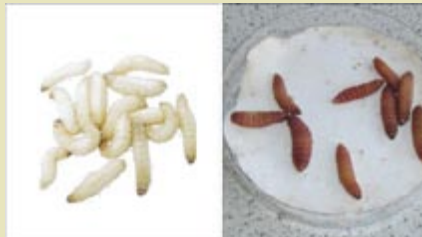
Foote JR, Fitzsimmons LP, Menneill DJ, Ratcliffe LM. 2011. Male black-capped chickadees begin dawn chorusing earlier in response to simulated territorial insertions. *Animal Behaviour*. 81: 871-877.



Black-capped Chickadee, Photo by I. Morris.

Parasites Change Host Appearance to Deter Predation

Parasites have developed a suite of adaptations to manipulate their host in ways beneficial to the parasites. Some of the best-known adaptations include the ability to modify host behavior. For example, parasitic flatworms (such as *Leucochloridium paradoxum*) infect snail hosts, causing them to leave the relative safety of the forest floor and crawl towards the canopy where they become prime



Insect larvae, without and with roundworm parasites.

targets for foraging birds. Because the snails are an intermediate host for the flatworms, whose reproductive success depends upon infecting birds, there is no benefit (from the flatworm perspective) to keeping the snails alive. In this scenario, the snails serve only as a vehicle that allows the flatworms to be transmitted to birds, the 'primary' hosts, where the parasites reproduce and spread thousands of eggs across a wide area via bird defecation. In an exciting new study, Andy Fenton and colleagues have documented a different kind of parasite-induced host manipulation. These researchers found that the nematode *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, a parasitic roundworm that lives in the soil, causes a colorful change in its hosts (usually insect larvae) which reduces predation by birds. Insect larvae are the primary host for *H. bacteriophora* and individuals can increase their reproductive success by increasing the amount of time they can live and reproduce within their host larvae. Over time, the infected larvae become bright pink and are treated cautiously by avian predators (European Robins *Erithacus rubecula* were used in the experiment). Unfortunately for the insect larvae, the decreased predation by birds offers only a temporary reprieve because it allows the nematode time to complete its reproductive cycle (several times, occasionally) and still results in the death of the host. Clearly, different parasites induce a variety of host-manipulations depending on their own specific needs.

Fenton A, Magoolagan L, Kennedy Z, Spencer KA. 2011. Parasite-induced warning coloration: a novel form of host manipulation. *Animal Behaviour*. 81: 417-422

Why you take your date to a scary movie

Males and females of many diverse species invest differently in reproduction. Females usually put more time and energy into creating eggs and providing for their young than males, who often provide little more than the sperm required to fertilize those eggs. This differential investment in reproduction often results in females being particularly choosy about their mates, which is hypothesized to be one of the driving factors for the elaboration of male displays (males must work harder to impress choosy females). Sometimes, males need a little help to get the attention of their intended paramours and Splendid Fairy-Wren (*Malurus splendens*) males have found a way to do just that. Emma Grieg and Stephen Pruett-Jones recently discovered that male fairy-wrens give predator alarm calls (typically given to alert family members of a predator's presence) in order to attract the attention of females *before* continuing to undertake additional courtship displays. Female fairy-wrens pay more attention to male displays after hearing the alarm calls than when these displays are preceded

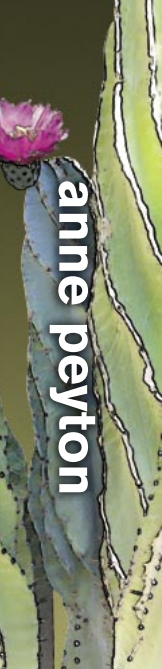


Splendid Fairy Wren

by alternative, non-predator related vocalizations. It appears that males of this species have adapted a means to use the heightened sensitivity of frightened females to increase their own chances of mating.

Grieg EI, Pruett-Jones S. 2010. Danger may enhance communication: predator calls alert females to male displays. *Behavioral Ecology*. 21: 1360-1366.

Nature through the Artist's Eye: Anne Peyton



Longtime Audubon member and avid birder, Anne Peyton has spent countless hours viewing birds around Arizona and the Southwest and capturing their likeness and behaviors in art.

"Observing birds and their habits is a way to discover more about their nature – the motions a Sandhill Crane makes during preening, the way a Golden Eagle walks along the ground instead of hopping or taking a short flight, or the frantic scolding of a House Wren guarding its nest hole," she said. "Each of these actions means something for the bird and it is these actions and their meanings that I want to convey to the viewer."

Her artwork has been seen in several shows, including the prestigious Birds in Art exhibition in Wisconsin; Western Visions Miniatures and More at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming.; and numerous Society of Animal Artists' exhibitions.

Anne dedicates several hours each month to volunteering at Liberty Wildlife, a Scottsdale-based rehabilitation and education organization that treats injured animals. Her specialty is assisting hawks and owls to become accustomed to people in educational and group settings.

"Each bird is an individual and behaves differently. Even among the same species, each bird has a distinct 'personality.' That surprised me when I first started working with these amazing creatures, but it is an aspect that has served me well in the field and in my artwork."

To see more of Anne's artwork, please visit her website, www.annepeytonart.com.



Nice Little Family - Clark's Grebes

"While driving on the levee roads around Utah's Bear River Refuge, we came across this family group of Clark's Grebes. Ever vigilant, mom kept a cautious eye on our car that stopped on the road, but we never got out and were able to snap several photos of them before they floated downstream."



Courtship - Roseate Spoonbills

"Springtime on the Texas Coast is like Christmas for an artist. Every colony of water birds is a riot of sounds and colors – white from Great Egrets, blue and gray from Great Blue Herons, with cormorants and the occasional Osprey nest nearby. In the midst of all this, the pinks and reds from the spoonbills add some pop to the canvas."



Lofty Perch - Red-tailed Hawk

"We found this stunning bird getting his first sun of the day down in Arizona's Sulphur Springs Valley on a cold winter morning. Who knew the agave stalks were strong enough to hold this raptor?"



Seven Pelicans - Brown Pelicans

"The Brown Pelican is one of the success stories of the Endangered Species Act," said artist Anne Peyton. "I remember when the Brown Pelicans were placed on the endangered list and how the residents of California took it upon themselves to pass additional laws aimed at protecting this magnificent bird."



Daytime Hideaway - Black-crowned Night-Heron

"The Black-crowned Night-Heron is one of the few species of herons in the United States that is a nighttime or dusk hunter. Most of our species of herons are seen in the daylight hours while the night-herons tend to roost in trees during the day. They are not conspicuous and it often takes patience to discover their daytime hiding places."

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Monthly Meeting

First Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced, September through April, 7:30 p.m. Our meeting place is Dorrance Hall or Webster Auditorium, at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG), except for our annual banquet in May, the location to be announced. The DBG is located at 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona. This is approximately 1/4 mile north of the Phoenix Zoo. For a map, please see the DBG website at www.dbg.org/.

Dorrance Hall is located just off the main parking lot and entry to the DBG. Webster is in the far southeast side of the gardens. Please contact a board member if you have any questions, or check out our web site at www.maricopa-audubon.org. Pre-meeting dinners (September through April) are held at Rolling Hills 19th Tee Restaurant, 1405 N. Mill Avenue, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Membership Information

There are two ways to become a Maricopa Audubon member and to receive the *Cactus Wren*dition* by mail:

1. By joining the National Audubon Society. If you live in the Phoenix metro area generally east of 43rd Avenue, or in the East Valley other than in Gilbert or Chandler, when National Audubon Society receives your check made payable to National Audubon Society and your membership application, you will be assigned to Maricopa Audubon Society, or you can send your check payable to National Audubon Society and your National Audubon Society membership application to Scott Burge, membership chair, and he will send it on in to National Audubon for you, or
2. By becoming a "Friend of Maricopa Audubon". In this case you will become a member of Maricopa Audubon Society only, and you will not receive the Audubon magazine or any of the other "benefits" of National Audubon membership, but you will receive a one-year subscription to the *Cactus Wren*dition*. "Friends" contribution categories are: Anna's Hummingbird-\$20; Verdin-\$35-\$99; LeConte's Thrasher-\$100-\$249; Cactus Wren-\$250-\$999; Harris's Hawk-\$1,000-\$9,999 and California Condor-\$10,000+. Mail your Friends membership application and your check made payable to Maricopa Audubon to Scott Burge, membership chair. All "Friends" members receive certain designated discounts. (If you reside outside the above-indicated geographical area, the only way to receive a subscription to the *Cactus Wren*dition* is to become a "Friend".) For National Audubon membership address changes or other questions call (800) 274-4201 or e-mail CHADD@audubon.org. For all other membership questions call or e-mail Scott Burge.

Submissions

Copy for *The Cactus Wren*dition* must be received by the editor by e-mail, by January 15, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Articles not received by the deadlines may not appear in the upcoming issue. E-mail to: The Cactus Wren*dition Editor, Emily Morris: monarchmorris@gmail.com

Opinions

The opinions expressed by authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policy of the National Audubon Society or the Maricopa Audubon Society.

Reprinting of material

Unless stated explicitly in the article, material in *The Cactus Wren*dition* may be reprinted on other newsletters as long as the material is credited to the original author and to *The Cactus Wren*dition*.

This publication is printed on recycled paper.



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