

Our Chapter: 1968-2006

MARICOPA AUDUBON



Jim Burns

The Maricopa Audubon Society: 1968-2006

This is the second publication about the history of the Maricopa Audubon Society. It follows the first book covering our chapter's early history from 1953 to 1968.



Robert K. Turner

This book is dedicated with respect and gratitude to our chapter's Intermountain States Regional Representative and Vice-President, Robert K. Turner who guided our chapter from 1970 to 1996.

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Copies of this document may be obtained from:

The Maricopa Audubon Society, P.O. Box 25451, Phoenix, AZ 85060

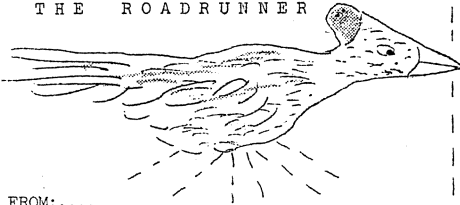
Forward

Robert K. Turner was our chapter's intermountain NAS Regional Representative and Vice President from 1970 to 1996. Bob provided our chapter with wisdom, guidance and encouragement for protecting our state's vulnerable environments. He was unique in his ability to organize meaningful intermountain state, Arizona, and National Audubon conventions.

Bob understood what birdwatching was. He spoke our language. Now in non-retirement, Bob leads birding trips worldwide. Like the founders of our Audubon Society who changed the law allowing bird feathers on hats, and sent fearless game wardens to protect heron rookeries, Bob's habitat protection convictions were an inspiration to us here in Arizona and the intermountain west.

Thanks to Laurie Nessel who designed this book's cover to match Jack Wetmore's 1953-1968 cover. Thanks to Jim Burns for the Cactus Wren photo on the cover.

It is also a privilege to include our thanks and praise for those many organizations and individuals who have tirelessly supported the efforts to protect Arizona's fragile environments including: the National Audubon Society, Arizona's Audubon chapters, the National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, Center for Biological Diversity, Elvis Stahr, Russ Peterson, Rupert Cutler, Charles Callison, Peter Berle, John Flicker, Ed Osann, Brock Evans, Charlene Dougherty, John Fitzgerald, Dan Beard, Liz Raisbeck, Gene Knoder, Scotty Johnson, Steve Sedam, Ron Klataske, Glen Olson, Dede Armentrout, Paul Howard, Brent Blackwelder, Ann Graham, Ollie Houck, Frank Welsh, Gil Venable, Dave Campbell, Tom Powers, Dixie Davis, Carolina Butler, Rob Smith, Joni Bosh, Scott Burge, Charles Babbitt, Monica Szostak, Bill and Sue Ahearn, Ron Schilling, Kevin Dahl, Tom Danielsen, Jack Simon, Mike Perkinson, Ace Peterson, Jerome Pratt, Bob Croft, Don Farmer, Anita MacFarlane, Mac MacFarlane, Steve Gallizioli, Michael Nixon, Mark Hullinger, Jim Breck, Bob Waltman, Bill Butler, Hiawatha Hood, David Hodges, Kimberly Williams, Norman Austin, Wendsler Nosie, Christina Butler, Steve Devereux, Chris Sheffield, Lee Kohlhase, Shane Jimerfield, Rod Mondt, Nancy Zierenberg, Jean Eisenhower, Connie Mahan, John McComb, Ola Cassadore Davis, Keith Basso, Elizabeth Brandt, Scott and Lee Burge, Charles and Sue Monroe, Elaine Mayer, Dan Schreiber, Clemens Titzck, Eleanor Zoellner, Robert Norton, Gene Bauer, Ann Anderson, Peggy Spaw, Lois Becker, Jim Becker, Herb Fibel, Tony Anthony, Richard and Karen Kaiser, Patricia Beal, Ruth Patterson, Richard Todd, Robin Silver, Kieran Suckling, Ruth Russell, George Pickard, Edward Chalif, James Stowe, Carroll Peabody, Linnea Holland, Mary Schreiber, Hiram Parent, Alma Williams, Sharon Galbreath, Anne Carl, Deva and Jim Burns, John Welch, Michael Nixon, Eric Glitzenstein, Chris Gelcker, Paul Hirt, Peter Herkenrath, Elizabeth and Jerry Hatcher, Joel Helfrich, Sky Jacobs, Anka Kramer, Winona LaDuke, Mary Reinthal, Lucile Rice, Paul Nellen, Naomi Mudge, John Patterson, Brenda Norrell, Paul Nosie, Brian Nowicki, Peter Galvin, Giovanni Panza, Carol Owens, Pam Pawlak, Bob Perciasepe, Paul Pierce, Laurie Nessel, Peter Warshall, Sandra Rambler, Theodor Rathgeber, Martina Roels, Wiltrud Roesch-Mesatzler, Ron Sell, Bob Rhodes, Paul Roland, Burnette Rope, Sr., Mike and Terry Seidman, Tim Ryan, Theona Vyvial, Bob Robb, Tom Slaback, David Yetman, Jim Sell, Mary Cosaboom, Steve Boyd, Brian Evans, David Weary and too many others to fit into this document.



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Page two...

Norton, Janet and Bob Witzeman, this time without our children. A fine opportunity to study the juvenile to adult plumage changes of the pomarine jaeger (not seen in the bird books) was provided from the specimens collected at the bow of the boat. Likewise the dark rumped and light rumped Leache's petrels were better observed in the hand than thru the glass.

The beautiful Sabine's gull was abundant and easy to view. More difficult views were had of the parasitic jaeger and Craveri's murrelet. All the previously mentioned species seen on the July trip were also seen on the September trip with the exception of the pale-footed shearwater.

The sky was overcast and many lost and exhausted migrating passerines (mostly warblers) landed on the boat. More tragic were the number of individuals who were too tired or frightened to land on our boat and dropped exhausted into the sea at the stern.

* * * * *

THE SEPTEMBER 21st FIELD TRIP...

Much to the leader's surprise, twenty-four persons turned out at the unfashionable hour of 6 AM for the September 21st shorebird tour of some of the less well known scenic spots in the valley. Visited were the sewage lagoons at 35th Avenue, 91st Avenue and Sun City, as well as the Arrowhead Ranch ponds. A good selection of waterbirds was seen but the outstanding find was a landbird. At the largest of the Arrowhead Ranch ponds on a small log overhanging the water a large sparrow sized bird with a yellow chest posed obligingly for 15 minutes while it was studied from a 40 foot distance thru binoculars and telescopes. With careful study of the bird and the guides, it was obvious that the strongly streaked head, the streaked back and dusky wash across the upper chest indicated that we were observing a relatively bright fall Bobolink. This is probably the first sight record of the Bobolink for Maricopa County. Bobolinks are rare fall migrants in extreme western Arizona (Birds of Arizona, Phillips, Marshall and Monson) and a small breeding colony was found near Show Low in 1937 (Birds of Arizona) and a pair near Snowflake this past year (personal observation).

The 50 species seen on the trip were: Pied-billed Grebe (2), Great Blue Heron (11), Common Egret (2), Green Heron (1), Pintail (1), Teal (either Cinnamon or Blue-winged) (6), Ruddy Duck (1), Turkey Vulture (6), Gambel's Quail (20), American Coot (2), Semi-palmated Plover (1), Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper (5), Greater Yellowlegs (1), Lesser Yellowlegs (3), Baird's Sandpiper (10), Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher (1), Western Sandpiper (30), American Avocet (20), Black-necked Stilt (15), Wilson's Phalarope (20), Northern Phalarope (4), Mourning Dove, Ground Dove (4), Roadrunner (2), Burrowing Owl (8), Western Kingbird (3), Black Phoebe (1), Tree Swallow (1), Bank Swallow (hard to differentiate from the usually much more common immature Tree Swallow but the complete breast band was well seen on several) (10), Rough-winged Swallow (2), Barn Swallow (200), Cliff Swallow (1), Loggerhead Shrike (4), Starling, House Sparrow, Bobolink (1), Western Meadowlark (1), Yellow-headed Blackbird, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Cardinal (1), Lazuli Bunting (1), House Finch, Green-tailed Towhee (1), Savannah Sparrow (3), Vesper Sparrow (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (3).

Bob Norton, Leader (Co-leaders Bob Witzeman, Janet Witzeman, Bix Demaree)

* * * * *

CONSERVATION CLIPS

From Clem Titzck & Peggy Spaw

The last three weeks of September 1968 have been constructive days for the cause of conservation.

1. The REDWOODS bill passed Congress, and the reservation of these great trees is secured for all generations.
2. The North Cascades (671,000 acres) is similarly secured by an act of Congress.
3. The Great Swamp (3,700 acres), Mt. Jefferson in Oregon, and Biscayne Bay National Monuments are now taken into our National Wilderness System.

Mrs. Alice Shultz, Secretary of the Maricopa Audubon Society is the new alternate representative to the Arizona Conservation Council. Alice has been appointed by Clem Titzck to replace him in this assignment. A public-minded, skilled teacher of biology, Alice is also serving the interests of the Audubon philosophy as a member of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's new teachers' council on conservation curriculum.

Before November 1st, write your approval of the proposed classifications of Paria Canyon Primitive Area; Vermillion Cliffs Natural Area; and Aravaipa Canyon Primitive area to: Mr. Fred J. Weiler, Director, BLM: 3022 Federal Building, Phoenix 85025. Audubon was well represented at the recent public hearings on the proposed classification of these lands.

Notice has been received from the National Parks Department, that the Chiricahua National Monument (Wilcox area) has been scheduled as the subject for proposed Wilderness review. The public hearing on this is set for November 5, 1968 in Wilcox. Our Audubon Society will be positively represented through the Conservation Council.

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FROM:....

Wm. H. Patey, Editor
111 East Royal Palm Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85020
Tel. 943-7880

Official Publication of the Maricopa Audubon Society
NOVEMBER - 1968.....Volume XVI - Number Nine. Price \$3.00 per year.

OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY - TO TEACH THE LOVE OF NATURE

* * * * *

THE NOVEMBER MEETING...

will be held Tuesday, November 5 at 8 P.M. in Goettl Bros. Auditorium, 2005 East Indian School Road, with Mrs. Charlotte Eberhardt, specialist in the basic structure of birds and other animals our leader. MAS is indeed fortunate in procuring this lady (through the efforts of our Program Chairman, Mrs. Otto Mayer.) as our speaker of the evening. We understand living specimens as well as skeletons will be on display. Oh Yes - IT'S ELECTION DAY, but the polls will be closed before meeting time so there will be no confliction.

* * * * *

THE OCTOBER MEETING...

in charge of MAS member Clifford Dayton. Everyone who saw the Dayton pictures and heard the narrator, Mrs. Dayton, realize that this was indeed an exceptional program, giving the detailed life pattern of birds, insects and animals. Pictures taken by the Daytons gave a complete exposition of the full life pattern.

We thank these folks for the excellent achievement.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIPS...

Wednesday, November 13th to Verde River. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at corner of Scottsdale Road and Shea Boulevard. Mrs. Demaree, leader. Bring a lunch.

Saturday, November 23rd, over the Apache Trail to Roosevelt Lake. Meet at Stuckey's Pecan Shop parking lot at APACHE JUNCTION 8:30 A.M. Bring a lunch. Bob Norton, leader.

PELAGIC SEA TRIPS...

For we landlubbers who may not know, PELAGIC means "OF THE SEA" and refers to ocean waters as distinct from coastal waters. The following is by Robert A. Witzeman...

This past summer several MAS members were present on two pelagic birding trips out of San Diego. A sixty foot charter fishing boat was contracted for a 24 hour period on each trip. This gave sufficient time to visit the fishing banks ninety miles off shore.

The July trip was scheduled at the peak of the albacore season, so bird watchers had to pay out a cool \$1000.00 for the boat. Fortunately there was no difficulty finding in excess of fifty west coast birders with which to share this expense.

The trip was ably organized by Mr. Allan Craig and had as its leader and guide the knowledgeable Mr. Guy McCoskie. These two men were the co-compilers of the now famous San Diego Christmas count which finally topped Cocoa, Florida (Allan Cruikshank et al) for the highest number of species in the U.S. Also along were a few professional ornithologists who did a limited amount of collecting.

I had my doubts about the boat on the first trip when it arrived in harbor an hour late with fifty jubilant but blood-spattered fishermen. To my surprise, in less than twenty minutes the decks were washed clean, the fish scales were (mostly, that is) brushed from the naughyde bunks, and even clean pillow cases were added.

We all slept in our clothes since charter fishing boats are coeducational in design. At 5:30 A.M. we were awakened from a sound Dramamine sleep by a shouting, enthusiastic Guy McCoskie. He lured us on deck, proclaiming we were missing the shearwaters; petrels, and albatrosses. But the weather was cold, windy, and with very rough seas during the early morning hours. Many of those who came up on deck quietly made their offerings to the sea and returned below to the lesser agony of their bunks. During rough weather, holding the binoculars on a bird is challenging.

As seas calmed the July 20th trip turned out favorably with large numbers of pelagic birds being seen with ease at close range. Seen were the pink-footed shearwater, sooty shearwater, arctic tern, black-footed albatross, Leach's petrel, black petrel, and Xantus' murrelet. Red-billed tropic birds seen sitting in the water close to the boat were stunningly beautiful. The rarest bird of the trip was a single pale-footed shearwater which flew directly over the boat. Other birds seen, but with some difficulty were the red phalarope, pomarine jaeger, and least petrel.

The September 13th trip was represented by MAS members Bix and Dave Demaree, Bob



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OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY - TO TEACH THE LOVE OF NATURE

SEPTEMBER OUTING...

Our Program Chairman, Mrs. Elaine Mayer, has set Tuesday, Sept. 9th for our regular September outing to be held at Squaw Peak Park from 5:30 P.M. -- Ramada - Apache, Tables 1 and 2. An informal Pot Luck supper will be had and we would remind you to bring your own utensils.

SCREEN TOURS EDUCATIONAL...

The combined effort of all members of our society is obligatory in the chief educational effort we provide in the sponsoring of AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS. These programs have been increasingly interesting and informative and the Phoenix public is patronizing them more and more. Certainly any member should support them. Last year's programs were 'TOP-BRACKET' and this year's series are likewise exceptional. Below are the program dates with the names of the naturalists and their subjects. All of the programs are held at Phoenix College Auditorium, 1001 Thomas Road. Ample parking space conveniently located is now provided, and

improvement (NINE ACRES JUST WEST OF THE AUDITORIUM on the south side of the Bullock's Office Building) with an additional capacity of ONE THOUSAND cars. she is using 1 1/2 quarts. In addition, that each member buy tickets and also grosbeaks, redstarts, kinglets, tanagers, and other birds. \$1.25; STUDENTS Season

The Violet Crowned Hummingbird that so many people love. May 31. Mrs. Hon wrote again to say the White-eared Hummingbird appeared. We wish to thank Bix Demaree, Eleanor Radke and Fletcher Sillick for help on this field trip. Bob and Janet Witzeman, Leaders.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS...

- May 4 - Bix Demaree saw two Black Vultures on South 51st Ave. near St. John's Indian Mission.
- May 6 & 7 - Eleanor Radke reported that large flocks of Violet Green Swallows passed through Cave Creek.
- May 8 - Fred Miller saw 28 Forster's Terns at the Sun City Sewage Pond.
- May 10 - Bix Demaree reported that the Avocet nest at the 35th Ave. Pond was flooded out.
- May 16 - Bix Demaree and Eleanor Radke found a Zone-tailed Hawk nest at Camp Creek, the same day they saw an Elf Owl in Rackensack Gulch.
- May 31 - Bix Demaree reported a late Avocet, four Snowy Egrets and three young Stilts at the 35th Ave. Pond.
- June 18 - Bix Demaree and Eleanor Radke found a Gray Vireo at Seven Springs. It has not been reported in Seven Springs before. They also found a nesting Bush Tit at Rackensack Gulch, a Black Phoebe with young and a nesting Bewick's Wren at Camp Creek; a Bridled Titmouse feeding young, and a nesting Western Wood Peewee at Seven Springs. There was at least one young Zone-tailed Hawk in the nest at Camp Creek. They also saw a Bell's Vireo feeding a baby Cowbird.

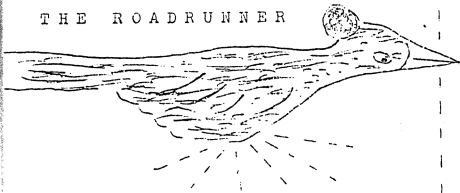
In early June, 5 members of MAS took part in a breeding bird census conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Demarees did a census for 25 miles on the road from Zeniss to northeast of Heber. Bob Norton's census was 25 miles from east of Snowflake to Hunt. The Witzeman's 25 mile census was on the road from House Rock (near Jacob Lake) north toward the Utah border. This was the second year this census has been conducted in the West.
Janet Witzeman

In addition to these birds seen, Pres. Titzck and Ellis Jones - (also a member of the Tucson society) reported seeing a BUFF BREASTED FLYCATCHER in Ramsey Canyon - May 25th in bright sunlight at a distance of thirty-five feet - and were afforded a lengthy study of the bird through binoculars. This rare sighting was positively identified after a lengthy and close study of this BUFF BREASTED FLYCATCHER, which is a rare bird in the area.

SEVEN SPRINGS MAY 31st...

Pres. Titzck, Ellis Jones and William Patey report the following birds seen on a trip

September 1969 Janet Witzeman starts her Field Observation reports



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THE SEPTEMBER MEETING...

will be held at North Mountain Park, Area 5, at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday - Sept. 15th, when a pot-luck meal has been planned. The purpose of the usual first meeting in September is social. Bring food and utensils for the pot-luck.

FIRST FIELD TRIP...

Field Trip Chairman Burch has set Saturday, Sept. 19th for the first field trip of the season, which will be to the ponds of southwest Phoenix. Many birds unusual in our desert area are often seen at these ponds, and this trip promises to be most interesting. Dick Todd will be the leader. Meet at northeast corner of 35th Ave. and Van Buren at 6:00 A.M. and bring a lunch. (Editor's note) In the first years of MAS, early morning hours for field trips were the practice, because it is a well-known fact that by using earlier hours, more birds are seen. VIVA La early mornings...

JUNE OUTING...

At the June outing at Shangrila Acres, most of the folks saw a GILA MONSTER who didn't seem a bit afraid. The meeting was attended by about fifty with Pres. Titzck in charge, who reviewed much of the conservation work currently supported. Peggy Spaw reported on her trip to Washington, where she represented MAS, as well as the Wilderness Society, in an effort to secure important legislation concerning wilderness areas proposed for Arizona. Alice Shultz gave several accounts of work in conservation, and Richard Todd reported attending the Nat'l Audubon Convention at Seattle in May.

The food of the Pot-luck, in charge of Carmella Crawford, was most delectable and very ample.

William Patey recited the epic poem about Winnetago Indians of Wisconsin, and also read humorous verses regarding the bird suffragette known as the PHALAROPE, which poem we are publishing in this issue for the benefit of many of our new members. We would also report seeing a full grown COYOTE close to the Shangrila cottage June 10th, with the animal stopping and looking HACEL and I over rather nonchalantly, before walking slowly away through the desert.

This being also a 'going away party' for the Dr. Robert Norton family, Pres. Titzck commended Dr. Norton for his valuable contribution to MAS over the past years, and presented him with a gift from the Society of a year's membership in the National Audubon Society.

SCREEN TOURS...

A splendid series of AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS has been arranged for this Fall and Winter at the East Side High School on 48th Street just North of Van-Buren...Thanks to the efforts of Robert Stonoff and the OUTREACH federally sponsored nature program in Phoenix, FREE ADMISSION is provided to all of the programs. A vast parking area next to the spacious auditorium is available. The following lectures and speakers together with dates are given: Wednesday, October 21st - Albert J. Wool "COASTLINE CALIFORNIA"; Wednesday, November 18th - John Earl Taft "CENTRAL CALIFORNIA - CENTRAL PLAIN"; Tuesday, December 8th - Walter H. Berlet - "HAWAII - PARADISE OF THE PACIFIC"; Wednesday, January 27th - Robert Fultz - "ACADIAN REFLECTION"; Thursday, February 25th - John D. Bulger "SWEDEN - MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA". Time - 7:45 P.M. for each program.

NOW COMES THE HOUR!!!!

We have just read July Audubon magazine's article on a POLLUTED EARTH. Man CAN DO THE NECESSARY - and DO IT NOW. If he does not, Dr. Albert Schweitzer's prediction "THAT MAN WILL DESTROY THE EARTH" seems imminent.

OUR SOCIETY EXTENDS ITS SYMPATHY...

To Mr. & Mrs. Liscum Diven in the passing of Liscum's mother, Mrs. Marjorie C. Diven of Phoenix. Also to Floyd A. Thompson of Phoenix whose wife Bessie is also deceased.

May 20 - 2 Black-bellied Tree Ducks at 91st Ave. Pond - B. Burch. May 22 - 3 Black Vultures and a Pectoral Sandpiper at the 91st Ave. Pond. - B. Burch. May 23 - An adult Little Blue Heron west of 91st Ave. in the Salt River bed - Scott Burge. This is only the second record for Phoenix. On May 28 a young Little Blue Heron was observed as well as the adult. - B. Burch. May 27 - a pair of Zone-tailed Hawks and a pair of Black Hawks, both nesting north of Phoenix. On July 15 the Black Hawks were observed with one young, and one young Zone-tailed Hawk had just left its nest. - B. Demaree and E. Radke.

June 1 - a Black Tern at the 35th Ave. Pond - B. Burch and B. Demaree. June 1 - a Prairie Falcon and 9 Lesser Nighthawks near the Verde River - Clem Titzck and Marshall Whitmire. June 8 - a Coues' Flycatcher near Flagstaff, north of its usual range. - B. Burch.

June 10 - 3 Least Bitterns and 4 Spotted Sandpipers east of Phoenix - B. Demaree and E. Radke. June 15 - an immature Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher near Centennial Wash, east of Wenden; probably farther west than it has ever been found before in Arizona. - D. Todd.

June 17 - a Long-billed Dowitcher at the 35th Ave. Pond - Z. Brighton, B. Demaree, E. Radke and J. Witzeman. June 24 - an Osprey, 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 12 Great Blue Herons, a Green Heron, and a Common Egret near the confluence of the Verde and Salt Rivers - B. Burch, Z. Brighton, B. Demaree, H. Longstreth, and E. Radke.

July 2 - about 10 Ruddy Ducks, 5 Pintails, 1 Shoveler, Cinnamon Teal, about 15 Wilson's Phalarope, 1 Hared Grebe, 1 Pied-billed Grebe at the 35th Ave. Pond - B. Burch and B. Demaree. July 5 - a Common Egret along the Salt River west of 91st Ave. - J. and R. Witzeman. July 9 - two early Rufous Hummingbirds at Witzeman's feeder.

July 18 - a Lark Sparrow in E. Radke's yard in Cave Creek. July 21 - 3 Baird's Sandpipers, 10 Long-billed Dowitchers, 1 Western Sandpiper, about 50 Least Sandpipers, 3 Spotted Sandpipers, about 50 Wilson's Phalaropes, 6 Hared Grebes, 10 Redheads, 3 Pintails, 15 Ruddy Ducks and 3 Shovelers at the 35th Ave. Pond - R. Witzeman.

July 23 - 2 White-faced Glossy Ibis, a Black Tern, and 1 Wilson's Phalarope at 91st Ave. Pond; 20 Long-billed Dowitchers at 35th Ave. Pond - R. Witzeman.

This has been another interesting summer in southern Arizona. The Five-striped Sparrow came back to Patagonia. Early in July a pair of nesting Buff-breasted Flycatchers were found in a canyon on the west side of the Huachuca near Parker Canyon Lake. On July 23 a female Lucifer Hummingbird appeared at the Peabody's feeders in Ramsay Canyon; also 2 Allen's Hummingbirds and a White-eared Hummingbird. Bill Harrison had an Allen's Hummingbird at his feeder in Nogales in July. ...Janet Witzeman

MRS. DAVID DEMAREE HONORED...

From childhood years, Bix Demaree has been vitally interested in ornithology. Her physician father of Vermont spent a lifetime in the study of birds, and his daughter accompanied him on birding trips for many years. In this Valley of the Sun, she has made a worthy contribution to our society with field trips, Christmas Count directing, and a valuable part in the educational work of MAS of which she is Educational Chairman.

Last Spring she received encomiums from one of the oldest ornithological societies in the country - the WILSON Society, whose publication, the 'Wilson Bulletin' is known throughout the nation. Her work and study with the Black Chinned Hummingbird, regarding the period of incubation, nest building, and fledgling care has been found valuable, and it is said that previous to this work, practically nothing had been written on the subject.

The Wilson Society is named for Alexander Wilson (late 1700s and early 1800s), father of American Ornithology, who has been called the first American ornithologist. The bulletin is published in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Congratulations, Bix. MAS shares with you the gratification this honor brings.

PROGRESS...

Scientists tell of ancient huge animals who dominated the earth 150 million years ago, as revealed by imbedded skeletons. Maybe its a good thing to have a short span of life for mankind, which may admit of more rapid progress. And again, some of our wisest men ever we are on our way out, and that our 'mistaken wisdom' will result in the destruction of our environment, and include mankind. The great 'LEVELER' TIME will tell... We deem it a fair guess to say that if man rises above the physical, and even the mental, to his spiritual potential, he may be given a SECOND CHANCE.

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AUDUBON NATURE PROGRAM...

William Patey and Lloyd Shuttleworth appeared before the LYDLA CLUB of business and professional women at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 4th Ave. and Monroe, Tuesday, June 16th, showing slides of many Arizona birds with an accompanying nature talk.

ADVERTISING CONTROL...

An Arizona bill to take effect immediately was signed in June, whereby all OUTDOOR advertising WITHIN VIEW of interstate, primary, and secondary highways, except within certain designated zones, are PROHIBITED.

YOUTH'S PESSIMISM...

Pessimism is a luxury of self-conscious and SELF-IMPORTANT YOUTH. Goethe said - "No man is a pessimist after THIRTY and hardly before twenty. Youth finds the realities of life HARD, and yearns for MOTHER." Goethe believed that youth tries to ESCAPE realities, and tries to evade the rough and harsh ways of growing development. The hedonistic life of pleasure beckons, and with the freedom of choice, Youth often seeks the EASY way.

Bix Demaree honored

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OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY - TO TEACH THE LOVE OF NATURE

THE ANNUAL MEETING

May 4th was well attended and the slate prepared by the MAS nominating committee was elected and the following officers will serve during the '71---'72 year: President, Marshall Whitmire, Vice Pres. Robert Witzeman, Mrs. Verna Stevens, Secretary, Lloyd Shuttleworth, Treasurer, Screen Tour Chairman, Lloyd Shuttleworth, Field Trip Chairman - Ellis Jones, Program Chairman Mrs. Otto S. Mayer, Conservation, Mrs. Scott Spaw, Membership Mrs. James A. Crawford, Education Mr. Hal Perry, Public Relations, Mr. Jack Wetmore. The status of the Roadrunner was not brought before the meeting for a determining vote and the membership of MAS will therefore declare its choice. Your present Editor has offered to continue to serve.

The June meeting will be held Tuesday, June 1st, 6:00 P.M., at SQUAW PEAK PARK, with Hopi Ramadas 1 and 2 reserved by our program chairman, Mrs. Mayer, with a POT LUCK dinner to be served. Installation of the elected officers and chairmen will be had at this meeting, and members may decide on any other action they deem pertinent..Program Chairman Mayer has arranged for a most interesting speaker for the evening, in the person of the well known architect, Paul Van Cleave, who had much to do with the landscaping and building sites and structures in Squaw Peak Park. The business meeting will be important to every member of our Society, and each member is urged to be present to voice their sentiment and ideas for the future.

FIELD TRIPS....

The summer months are upon us, and no field trips are scheduled for these months.

APRIL 14 FIELD TRIP TO COON BLUFF...

Although a thick haze of blowing dust was covering most of Arizona the cloudy overcast skies kept temperatures comfortably cool all day, never rising above 85°, and eighteen people came out to see a total of 64 birds. The trip included Coon Bluff, Phons Sutton (confluence of Salt & Verde Rivers) and Granite Reef Dam Area. An Osprey delighted the birders flying overhead at Coon Bluff and again one seen at Coon Bluff. A particularly high number of Green-tailed Towhees were observed at Coon Bluff. The trees be the Salt River, evidently in migration.

Those birds seen at Coon Bluff and along the Salt River were ELEVEN acres of (Saguaro Lake meeting place), Turkey Vulture, Osprey (2), Sparrow Hawk, Gambel's Quail, but THREE acres per capita. (2), White-winged Dove, Black-chinned Stilt, and many others. H.F. AMIEL...

It has been noted that various branches of 'environment' and 'conservation' seem to be without co-ordination in many parts of the country, and they seem to be without a unified TARGET, or basic concept of what is desired to achieve. There is evidently a need for co-ordination and long term goals for which purposeful direction is needed.

New proposed cities and sub-divisions, looming on the horizon, need to study the environmental impact their building will have on the community such as disposal of waste material, scenic character, and the hopes and wishes of adjoining municipalities.

Past-President Titzck has proposed forming a new constitution for our society and has appointed a committee of three - Incoming president, Marshall Whitmire-- Robert Witzeman, and Peggy Spaw to work on the revision. MAS members will have the final say of approval or disapproval and may also suggest features they desire.

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A new format and logo for our newsletter!

THE ROADRUNNER

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the ROADRUNNER

OCTOBER 1971



CAP WILL INUNDATE THIS BALD EAGLE NEST...See page 5.

Conservation Chair Peggy Spaw alerts our chapter to the CAP dams

the **ROADRUNNER**

FEATURE ARTICLE

OCTOBER 1971

The proposed Orme Dam, located close to Phoenix, at the confluence of the Salt and Verde Rivers is part of the chain of water control imperatives that go with the Central Arizona Project, the CAP.

As a refresher: The CAP is simply a plan to import Colorado River Water into the central Arizona area. Central Arizona, in rough boundary, means that this water project relates to the Phoenix area at the North, and the Tucson area at the South. The Central Arizona Project was authorized by Congress in 1968. (see attached CAP map)

The Orme Dam will be an impediment to the Verde and Salt Rivers that will halt the free-flow of these rivers and change the ecosystem that has established and flourished bankside for centuries. The waters of the Verde, a particularly thrifty river, hold large mouth bass, channel catfish and carp. The Arizona Game and Fish Department plants 20,000 trout a year below Stewart Mountain Dam, and muledeer, javelina, cottontail, bobcats and coyotes relate their daily existence to the free-flow of the river within this proposed Orme Dam floodsite.

For those who have used the region for varied bird observations, recognize that this area which is only 25 miles from town, via the Beeline Highway, is irreplaceable. It bears the only remaining large stand of mature cottonwoods and mesquite thickets along the Salt. Palo Verdes, Ironwoods and streamside annuals all make places of retreat and nourishment for creatures ranging from anthropods, through birds up to large game animals.

The cattail marshes make a rare stopover for wintering birds, particularly for rails.

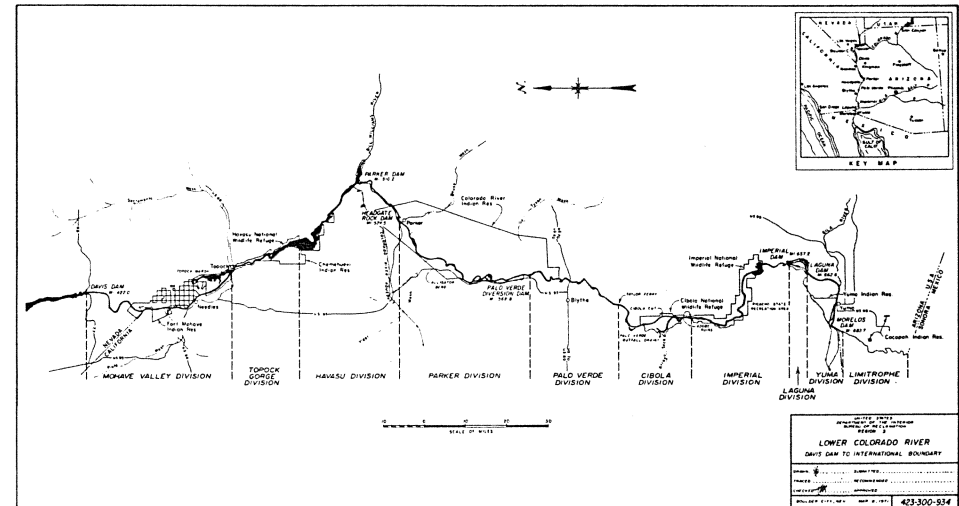
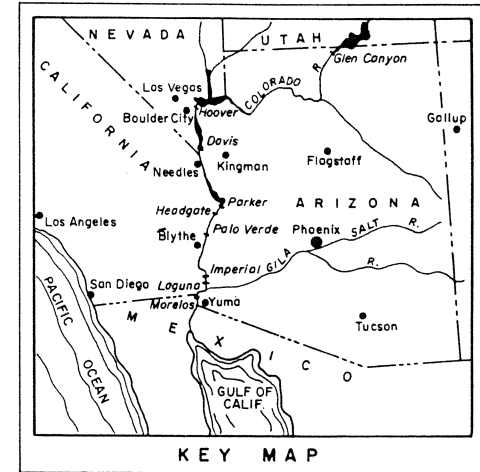
Other birds whose nesting and presence in our environment will be disturbed or completely eliminated by the Orme floodsite include the BALD EAGLE; LEAST BITTERN; GREEN HERON; YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO; BELL'S VIREO; YELLOW WARBLER; YELLOWTHROAT WARBLER; SUMMER TANAGER; and the BLUE GROSBEAK.

The Orme Damsite has its "cousins" on the drawingboards too: Buttes Dam on the Gila River; the Charleston Dam on the San Pedro River and Hooker Dam, on the Gila River in New Mexico. The network of aqueducts and the thermal power plant that is projected to pump water from Lake Havasu into Granite Reef Aqueduct, thence into the Orme Reservoir, complete the complex. (see map)

Your conservation committee refers you to the map entitled LOWER COLORADO RIVER.

At its September meeting, the Arizona Conservation Council heard the Regional Director (Region 3) discuss the condition of the Lower Colorado River with its history of dredging and phraeatophyte removal. In summary, the Director stated that he believed dredging and manipulation of the river had reached its saturation point. It is the aim of his organization to begin a program of restraint on dredging and restoration of vegetation, particularly in the Cibola and Imperial sections as indicated on this map. Of course, "revegetation" would be a matter of generations, and a matter of experiment too. Maybe they'll succeed and maybe they won't. From the standpoint of wildlife health and preservation, most of the damage is long-since done.

Peggy Spaw





The Cactus Wren•dition

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Summer 2003

Our chapter's newsletter has been greatly enriched by Jim Burns' cover bird portraits and photo quizzes.

Black-capped Gnatcatcher

