



the Cactus Wren·dition



VOLUME LXXVI NO. 4

WINTER—2022



American Kestrels -
Pint-sized Hunters
p.13-14

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On the Cover

Female American Kestrel with Prey
Photo by Tom Mangelsdorf

Camera: Canon 5D Mark IV
Lens: Canon EF 100-400 II
Extender: Canon EF 1.4 III
ISO: 640
Shutter Speed: 1/2500

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Emily Thomas

Welcome back winter residents! You were missed and we are happy to have you back. With the cooler weather we spend more time outdoors, wandering our favorite wild spaces. I enjoy visiting local ponds in search of shorebirds that have chosen to winter in Arizona's desert oases. Can you blame them? Arizona is a wonderful winter parking spot, for birds and people alike.

MAS is very pleased to introduce our new Membership Chair Trinity Moll, and new Publicity Chair Suzanne Crabb. MAS is keeping active in our conservation efforts.

We are in a climate emergency and it is more important than ever to stand up for our defenseless natural world. We are still working to save the San Pedro River from overpumping, sacred Oak Flat from international mining devastation, and the lower Salt River riparian habitat from the explosion of feral horses.

Helping the birds helps us all. It supports clean water and wild spaces, provides a retreat for birders that benefits mental and physical health, and naturally regulates pests that have negative economical and ecological effects. Birds make our lives better.

There are many ways you can help with just a few simple actions. It's estimated over 1 billion birds die each year from window strikes. MAS Education Chair Jason Struthers has been studying, documenting, and educating the public about the effect of window strikes on the bird population. To make your windows safer during the day, you can install screens or add decals two inches apart, and support conservation legislation. I am pleased to announce that last October, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego signed the Urban Bird Treaty which promotes bird conservation, and community engagement.

Another simple way you can help is to keep your cats indoors. Cats make great pets but the reality is they are introduced, invasive species and responsible, along with the feral population, for over twice as many bird deaths in North America annually as window strikes. Please keep your cats indoors, on a leash, or in a "catio".

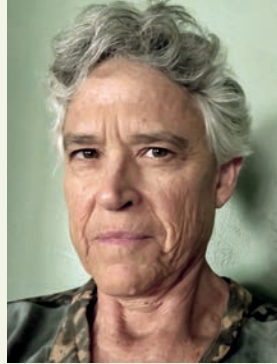
As Maricopa County continues to grow, birds are finding fewer hospitable places. As columnist Tom Gatz discusses in this issue, a rewarding gesture and a way to make a difference would be to plant more native species in your yard, add a water feature, and "leave the leaves". Once you do, sit back and watch the magic. This will attract a variety of local wildlife, add appeal to your yard, equity to your home, and shelter and food for the birds. Also, winter is the best season to trim or remove problem trees to protect nesting wildlife and lower the risk of disease or harm to your trees. Keep your snags if you can. They attract cavity nesters and offer important perches.

I invite you to visit our website for current information on meetings, events, field trips, and our conservation efforts. Our hybrid member meetings are held on first Tuesdays. I look forward to seeing you there or out and about in our beautiful outdoors.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Laurie Nessel

This Wrendition contains an eclectic mix of articles. Matt van Wallene's article on color aberrations in birds, Tom Mangelsdorf's photo-essay on kestrels, Michael J. Plagens' description of symbiosis between birds and plants, and Tom Gatz's tips on creating a 'viewshed'. Mia Angelique Felix describes her Costa Rican research project and Wild Arizona details their progress restoring Arnett Creek.



MAS pauses field trips in December so you can participate in the Christmas Bird Counts across the state. The schedule is on p.21. There are many MAS field trips beginning in January. You can also enjoy birding while helping with the annual AGFD Phoenix Area Waterbird Survey, Saturday 21 January. Your survey data helps monitor winter populations, and identify potential urban management conflict areas and future urban wildlife viewing areas.

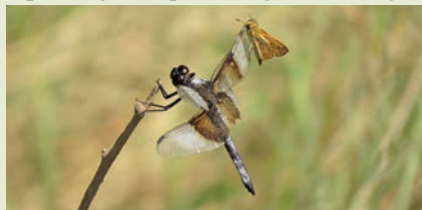
I urge you to join the Gila River Winter Bird Count, Saturday 3 December. It offers a rare opportunity to bird the GRIC and to share your knowledge and enthusiasm with tribal members. Our tribal hosts always include many youths.

I hope you enjoy your Wrendition, and remember that submissions of articles, announcements, book reviews, photography, and artwork are welcome.

The 26th Annual Herb Fibel Big Sit! Fundraiser Report

Thirteen birders counted species at Granite Reef Recreation Area on 9 October to benefit MAS youth scholarships. When I arrived at dawn there were two headphones connected to Ash Ponders (photographer extraordinaire, @ashponders), sophisticated sound equipment. As soon as I donned a set I heard the eerie call of an Elf Owl that no one else heard. Thank you, Ash, for your generous effort to make our fundraiser more enjoyable and profitable! And thank you to everyone who helped with the count and especially Kathe Anderson for organizing, carpooling, and providing interesting birding banter.

We counted **54 species**, above average!- including Bald Eagle, Bewick's Wren, a kettle of Black Vultures, and heard only Barn and Elf Owls. The final amount of funds raised will be posted in the Spring Cactus Wrendition.



An interesting sighting of the Big Sit! - from the insect class - a fiery skipper perched on a widow skimmer. Photo by Laurie Nessel

PLEDGES!

Don't be an Amber! Please send in your pledged funds with three easy pay options: by credit card on our website (see Events - Big Sit!), or pay cash at the next member meeting, or mail a check payable to "Maricopa Audubon Society (please write "Big Sit" in the memo line) to: MAS Treasurer Vicki Hire PO Box 603, Chandler, AZ 85244.

COMMITTEES/SUPPORT

Bookstore

Sochetra Ly
503 860-0370

Poet Laureate

David Chorlton
480 705-3227

www.maricopaaudubon.org

"The one process now going on that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us"

-E. O. Wilson, Myrmecologist, 1929 - 2021

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.



Support Maricopa Audubon as part of **Fry's Community Rewards Program**. Register your Fry's VIP card and select Maricopa Audubon #WW583 as your non-profit organization at no cost to you. Please visit Fry's Community Rewards online or visit your local Fry's to register.

Sign up for the e-newsletter!

To subscribe, email:
laurienessel@gmail.com

Note: We do not use the email list for anything other than the described purpose.



MEETINGS . . .

We are conducting hybrid meetings, both in-person and via zoom. Links are posted on our website and Facebook page a few days before the meeting.

MAS holds meetings (membership is not required) on the first Tuesday of the month from September through April at Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren, 2450 N. 64th Street, Scottsdale (north of Oak Street on the west side, between Thomas and McDowell roads). If southbound, turn right from 64th Street, ½ mile south of Thomas. If northbound, turn left (west) at Oak Street, ½ mile north of McDowell, and then right at the Elks Lodge. Continue past the lodge and turn right into the church parking lot. Look for the “Audubon” sign. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM, come at 7:00 PM to socialize. Pre-meeting dinners (September through April) are held at 6:00 pm at Saigon Bowl Restaurant, 8213 E. Roosevelt St Scottsdale AZ 85257, at the southeast corner of Roosevelt and Hayden Roads in the north side of Scottsdale East Plaza. The May meeting is our annual banquet. Please check the Spring Wren-dition or our website for banquet details.

Dave Pearson

So Many Species, So Little Time. Can we save more by focusing on only a few?

4 December

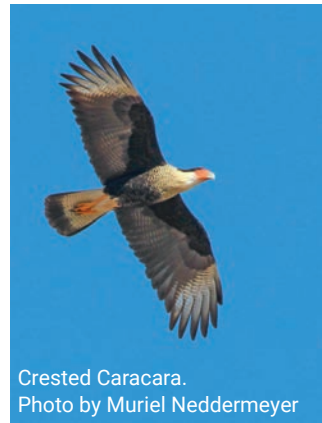
For effective conservation and habitat management of biodiversity, it is not enough to know a species is present or that it is declining. We must know why it is in trouble. The detailed knowledge to answer the “why” relies on in-depth studies that are unavailable for most species. One way to deal with this problem is to use a few well-studied species as stand-ins or surrogates for the species in trouble. What are the qualifications for these surrogates, and what are the advantages and limitations of this policy? Is it reliable, and is it accurate?

Dr. Pearson’s research is focused on ecology, conservation, and environmental education. Although he has worked on a breadth of organisms from crabs to Paramecium and birds, and a range of habitat types from coral atolls to desert grasslands, much of his research concentrated on a small group of insects, tiger beetles, in tropical lowland rain forests around the world. He has worked with the Gila River Indian Community the last five years surveying seasonal changes in the bird populations at their artificial wetlands. Dr. Pearson has taught 28 biodiversity workshops in 18 countries, and has written 15 books including a series of travelers’ wildlife guides for various countries.

Nominating Committee

The Maricopa Audubon Society’s annual election of Board of Directors will take place at the April monthly meeting. Any Society member may submit nominations to the Nominating Committee. You can even nominate yourself!

Tim Flood (602) 618-1853 tjflood@att.net
Brian Ison (602) 909-0541 lwrkenai@cox.net
Elias Esquer (480) 968-4934 ojo68@cox.net



Crested Caracara.
Photo by Muriel Neddermeyer

Doug Jenness

The Status of the Crested Caracara in Arizona

3 January

Doug Jenness is editor of the Arizona Field Ornithologist online journal Arizona Birds, and is a founding member of the Arizona Field Ornithologists. He has been involved in field work on Crested Caracaras in

Arizona for the past 15 years and authored articles on them.

Harriet and Dr. Andrew T. Smith

Magnificent Majestic Mono Lake

February 7

The authors of The Astonishing, Astounding, Amazing Sonoran Desert will present their latest book, Magnificent Majestic Mono Lake, an introduction to the ecosystem and wildlife of California’s Mono Lake and its basin. It tells the inspiring story of the 50-year effort to save Mono Lake from being drained by Los Angeles. The book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Andrew Smith is President’s Professor Emeritus and a Distinguished Sustainability Scientist in the School of Life Sciences at ASU. His conservation biology work includes the behavioral ecology of mammals (notably pikas), effects of habitat fragmentation, and ecosystem services of small mammals. Smith served on the IUCN Species Survival Commission. He has published books on the mammals of China and lagomorphs. He is an Aldo Leopold Conservation Award recipient.

Harriet Smith is a retired clinical psychologist and author of Parenting for Primates, 2006, with an avid interest in the ecology and conservation of wild places. She hopes that writing about threatened ecosystems will help contribute to their conservation.

FIELD TRIPS

by Mark Horlings

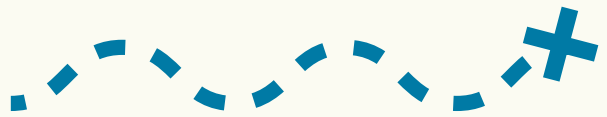


Photo by Tom Cheknis

- Participation in field trips risks exposure to infectious diseases. If you have any symptoms of illness or have been exposed to Covid-19, stay home.
- For Tonto National Forests Day Use Passes, visit USDA Tonto Pass.
- MAS encourages carpooling. Please cover your driver's gas at the recommended rate of 10¢/mile per rider.
- The ABA has adopted principles of birding ethics. Check them online or ask your field trip leader.
- Wear neutral colors and sturdy walking shoes.
- Bring binoculars, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, and water.
- Dress in layers for winter trips.

Registration required unless otherwise noted. Search Ticketleap online under "Maricopa Audubon", or find links on the MAS Field Trips webpage. If you cannot attend, please cancel your reservation so someone on the wait list can join. To cancel, contact the leader (see Ticketleap) or Field Trip Chair Mark Horlings 602 505-3455, markhorlings@yahoo.com

Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden Wednesday, January 4

We'll meet at the Fountain Hills Botanical Garden, hoping to see common desert birds. We will then move to the lake, where we should find a variety of waterfowl, plus waders, shorebirds and surprises.

Time: 7:30 - 10:30 AM

Limit: 7

Difficulty: 2 (uneven surfaces at the Garden)

Restrictions: All participants must have been vaccinated against Covid 19.

Leader: Kathe Anderson

The Thrasher Spot Saturday, January 14

Join us for a chance to see four species of thrashers on the State Trust Land proposed for a solar farm. LeConte's and Bendire's Thrashers breed on this site, and Sage and Crissal Thrashers may be seen as well. We will crisscross the desert where MAS surveyed thrasher populations during 2021 and 2022. Loggerhead Shrikes and Sagebrush Sparrows were also observed here. Dress in layers and bring water. Meet NW corner of Baseline Road and Salome Highway west of Phoenix.

Time: 7:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Limit 10

Difficulty: 3 (desert walking off-trail for a couple miles)

Leader: Emily Thomas

Lake Pleasant Friday, January 20

Charles Babbitt, former MAS President and author of *Birding Arizona* will lead. Spend the morning scanning the lake from various locations looking for water birds - ducks, grebes, loons, and gulls. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet at the

entrance to the Regional Park (41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Rd.) \$7 entrance fee per car. Bring a snack or early lunch.

Time: 8:00 AM to about noon.

Limit: 10

Leader: Charles Babbitt

Difficulty: 1

Granite Reef Recreation Area Saturday, January 28

Granite Reef, on the Salt River in the Tonto NF northeast of Mesa, offers many different species of ducks, warblers, sparrows, shorebirds, and more. Probable sightings include Gadwall, Bufflehead, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Lesser Goldfinch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bald Eagle, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. Dress in layers. Bring water, sunscreen and a snack. Meet near the bathrooms at Granite Reef Recreation Area off Bush Highway, 2.8 miles north of Loop 202 / Power Road exit. Tonto Recreation Pass required in advance.

Time: 7:00 AM - about 11 AM

Limit: 10

Difficulty: 3. Walk several miles on mostly level paths. Some sloping or difficult terrain.

Leader: Jacob Bagley

Agua Fria National Monument Tuesday January 31

Explore part of Agua Fria National Monument, 40 miles north of Phoenix. The Monument features many canyons with riparian vegetation which, in summer, bring nesting Yellow-billed Cuckoos. We will visit surrounding plateaus and hillsides, looking for wintering sparrows and other grassland birds. Meet 6:30 AM at a central Phoenix location to carpool to the Monument, arriving about 8:00 AM.

Time: 6:30 AM - about 11:00 AM

Limit: 10

Difficulty: 2 (moderate walk down a trail to the river)

Leader: Larry Langstaff

Ponds at Higley and Ocotillo Roads Saturday February 4*

These ponds will reveal wintering waterfowl and shorebirds, along with passerines and raptors. There are other good spots to bird nearby if you want to stay in the area longer. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

*The date may change by a week, with a final date set by 10 January.

Time: 8:00 AM - around 10:30 AM

Limit: 10

Difficulty: 2 (walk just over a mile on level trails)

Leader: Larry Langstaff

Mini Big Day Monday, February 13

From Top of the World to the Gilbert Water Ranch, with spots in between. A fast-paced field trip to a variety of habitats to see as many birds as we can before lunch at about 1:30 PM. We usually tally 65-75 species, always including a few surprises. We'll start from Gilbert, head east to the oak/juniper habitat of Top of the World at about 4,500' and work our way back to Gilbert to bird at least 3 different habitats. Locations will be chosen right before the trip, with Oak Flat and Queen Valley likely. We'll finish at the Water Ranch. Meet at the Gilbert Water Ranch parking lot, 2757 E. Guadalupe Rd, Gilbert. Carpooling logistics, suggested donation for gas, and lunch plans will be determined a few days before the trip.

Time: 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Limit: 7

con't

Tales from the Field: Stewart Mountain

Photo and Text by Laurie Nessel



Juvenile Sonoran Desert tortoise

14 June, 2022

The 10 September hike began at sunrise under a setting harvest moon. Hours earlier, Tropical Storm Kay clipped the area, leaving the ground damp and plants and animals refreshed.

We admired the diversity of plants, many edible for tortoises. Some were struggling or fallen – ocotillo, barrel cacti, and saguaro. Many triangle leaf bursages were leafless since they are drought deciduous. Other plants had rallied with the recent rains and bloomed, attracting pollinators such as Prionyx wasps on desert milkweed. We saw one Loggerhead Shrike chasing another one, and Black-throated Sparrows, Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, Lesser Nighthawks spooked from their ground roosts, and other desert species. We also saw 4 ode species - white-belted ringtail, flame skimmer, familiar bluet and pale-faced clubskimmer.

con't on p. 14

field trips con't from p. 5

Difficulty: 3+, for fast pace and miles covered.

Restrictions: All participants must have been vaccinated against Covid-19.

Leader: Kathe Anderson

Northsight Park, Scottsdale

Saturday, February 18

Northsight Park offers lush desert habitat. Desert residents, wintering sparrows and a few migrants can be expected. Last year's sightings included Green-tailed Towhee, Lark and Brewer's Sparrows, Western Tanager, Wilson's Warbler, and Harris's Hawk. Meet at the Park's south lot off Thunderbird.

Time: 6:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Limit: 10

Difficulty: 2 (one mile walk on unpaved, level path)

Leader: Brian Ison

Tres Rios Overbank Wetlands

Saturday, February 25

You never know what you may find at Tres Rios Wetlands! We should see many different species as Tres Rios is one of the best birding spots in the metro area. Winter waterfowl may include Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Common Merganser. We also have a chance of seeing Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Red-naped Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, White-throated Sparrow, Black-and-white Warbler, and Northern Parula. We will also see dozens of common species. Meet in the Tres Rios Wetlands parking lot on South 91st Avenue.

Time: 6:30 AM - around 11:00 AM

Limit: 12

Difficulty: 2. (Walk 2 miles on mostly flat ground.)

Leader: Jacob Bagley

Scottsdale Ranch Park

Saturday, March 25

Scottsdale Ranch Park (10400 East Via Linda, Scottsdale) is an urban park with sports facilities and nice stands of mesquite, oak and palo verde, as well as Aleppo pines and olive trees. We will also visit Lake Serena on the north side of the park to check for ducks and other aquatic birds. Past trips have yielded Lewis' Woodpecker and Black-and-white Warbler as well as an assortment of juncos, vireos and other warblers. Meet at the east parking lot just south of the tennis courts.

Time: 6:30 AM

Limit: 10

Difficulty: 1. Easy walking on mostly level, concrete paths.

Leader: Brian Ison



WINTER BIRD COUNT

DECEMBER 3, 2022

Huhugam Heritage Center- 23159 S. Maricopa Road



7 AM: Meet at the location nearest you to receive your field assignment

District 5: Casa Blanca Chevron Station
(Casa Blanca Rd. & I-10)



District 6: Komatke Chevron Station
(51st Ave. & Pecos Rd.)

District 7: Service Center
(83rd Ave. & Baseline Rd.)

Huhugam Heritage Center

23159 S. Maricopa Rd.

11 AM: Cultural Activities Begin

1 PM: Bird Count Concludes



Please Note: Transportation is not provided for this event.

ALL MINORS must be accompanied by an ADULT



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Photo by Tom Taylor

Grazing Lease Revoked

In the Summer Cactus Wren•dition, Kathe Anderson's article "Cow Birds?" (p. 21) describes how encountering a bull at Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve forced her group to reroute. On 27 July 2022, the Arizona State Land Department cancelled the grazing permit of Oro Blanco Ranch owned by Robert Noon for unauthorized use. This landmark action followed a letter-writing campaign that was precipitated not only by the egregious damage the cattle cause in the Preserve, but by an incident in which a hiker was attacked and injured by a bull in another area of the Preserve.

The permit cancellation is good news, but it is tempered by the reality that much work is required to maintain fences, keep trespass cattle out (there are other allotments adjacent to the cancelled allotment), remove invasives and restore the riparian habitat.

According to George Wuerthner, ecologist and author of *Welfare Ranching: The Subsidized Destruction of the American West*, "Up to 70% of the native species in the West rely on riparian areas at some point in their life cycle..." Trespass livestock are a perennial problem across Arizona and the West. You can help by supporting organizations that advocate for endangered species and by eliminating beef from your diet.

17th Annual Phoenix Area Waterbird Survey

Saturday, 21 January

Abundant food and ice-free waters, plus local bans on hunting, give the otherwise urban desert the highest diversity (60 species) and density of wintering waterbirds in the state. Survey data assists in monitoring populations, conflict management and designation of future wildlife viewing areas. To participate, contact Tracy McCarthey tmccarthey@Tazgfd.gov. To learn more, visit azfo.org

Winter Birdwalks at Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior has delighted Arizona naturalists and birdwatchers for decades. At a higher elevation than Phoenix, the Arboretum promises a mixture of high desert species and winter residents. **On 29 January, 26 March, and 30 April 2023**, the Arboretum will sponsor morning birdwalks led by former Maricopa Audubon Society Board member Veronica Heron. We will walk a mile + along easy paths. Register (required) on the Events page of the BTA website. BTA entry fee plus \$6 non-member/ \$4 member event fee.



26th Great Backyard Bird

Count

17-21 February 2023

The GBBC is a snapshot of global bird populations and provides data to aid in bird conservation.

Simply watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days. Submit your data on Merlin or eBird. If you already use these apps, your 17-21 February entries count towards GBBC.

Register at birdcount.org.

Abert's Towhee photo by Tom Cheknis



Photo by AR Donaldson

Review of the Eared Quetzal in Arizona and New Mexico by Peg Abbott

The free Arizona Field Ornithologists online journal (arizonabirds.org) has posted a comprehensive review of the 66 known occurrences of Eared Quetzal in AZ and NM from 1977 to 2021. The article by Peg Abbott particularly details the extraordinary six months of observations in 2020 of two Eared Quetzals in the Chiricahua Mountains and two quetzals in NM. This is the first comprehensive description of the Eared Quetzal in the US.

A Snapshot Into Costa Rica's Diverse Avifauna

Photographs and Textt by Mia Angelique Felix



Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*



Turquoise-browed Motmot
Eumomota superciliosa

In January 2019, I visited Costa Rica as an undergraduate student to complete a biology research project. Catalyzed by my passion for birding and interest in avian medicine, I spent three weeks exploring Costa Rica's avian biodiversity.

Costa Rica is a hotspot with abundant and diverse avifauna. Because of the country's varied ecosystems and the secretive nature of some species, the distribution of endemic birds may differ across the country. My research aimed to compare the diversity of avian families and species among four regions: El Zota Biological Field Station, Barra del Colorado Wildlife Refuge, Carara National Park, and Corcovado National Park (Figure 1). I hypothesized that urban areas have less avian diversity. I identified 140 species from 42 families over 13 days. Data collection occurred for 2 hour periods at dawn and dusk. A Canon PowerShot SX530 HS

cont



Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*



Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*

Avian Deliveries

by Michael J. Plagens



This newly germinated lantana came from a seed that passed through the gut of a frugivorous bird, perhaps a Northern Mockingbird.
Photo by Michael J. Plagens

If your yard is bird-friendly and with generous summer rains in the Sonoran Desert, you are bound to find some new plants coming up in your garden. Among these might be lantana with slightly prickly stems and triangular leaves with rounded teeth along the margins. These are volunteers from seed, but not seeds you planted yourself.

Besides lantana, you may also find young seedlings of African sumac, white mulberry, willow-leaf acacia, Chinese pistache, fan palms, Vitex, and ficus among others. The common denominator is that each of these plants has a fruit that is edible to birds. We forget that fruit is an evolutionary bargain between plants and dispersers such as birds. Birds want high energy foods like sugar which these fruits contain. The birds swallow the fruit, digest the sugars and other nutrients, and pass the durable seeds in their droppings. The seeds are still quite viable. Indeed, some seeds won't germinate until after they have passed through a mammal or bird. Gardeners can sometimes bypass this requirement by acid-treating seeds before planting.

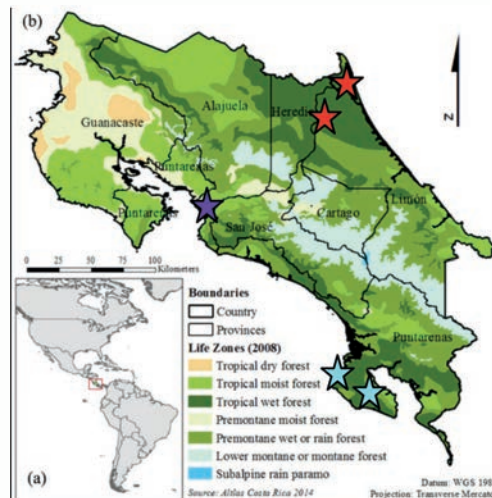
Most of these plants share another characteristic, namely they are not native to the Sonoran Desert and would not grow here without additional water. Our roofs and driveways shed rainwater, so even without irrigation some of these woody weeds can take hold. Lantana is native to tropical America, has related plants

con't on p. 11

con't from p. 9

allowed me to zoom in on these birds to aid in identification and documentation. Analysis revealed no statistically significant difference between the number of families and species per region.

It was an amazing experience and privilege to identify so many endemics in a foreign country. My favorite was the Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa* such unique morphology and striking colors. Poor lighting initially showed only the characteristic racket-like rectrices on the motmot. But then the sun came out and allowed a positive ID. I will always cherish this opportunity to explore Costa Rica.



Locations





-  1. El Zota Biological Field Station
-  2. Barra del Colorado Wildlife Refuge
-  Carara National Park
-  Corcovado National Park

Figure 1.



Mia Felix is a third-year veterinary student at Midwestern University's College of Veterinary Medicine in Glendale, AZ. She has a BS in biology from Albright College, Reading, PA. She is passionate about exotic birds and reptiles, which motivates many extra-curricular activities and inspires her to become a small and exotic animal veterinarian.

DESIGNING YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN - A ROOM WITH A VIEW

by Tom Gatz



Rosy-faced Lovebirds live up to their name on this gently flowing backyard water feature placed near a bedroom window. Photo by Dan Smith

We all want our homes to look nice inside and, as gardeners, strive to have an attractive garden outside as well. What is sometimes overlooked, however, is the interplay between the two areas. Referred to as a ‘viewshed’ by designers, this is just a fancy word for what you see when you look out of your window. Is it a boring block wall or are there colorful perennials that attract hummingbirds and butterflies?

We often design our gardens from an outdoor perspective. This is well and good; however, we also spend a good amount of time looking out from inside, so consider the view from your windows when you place your plants. What view out your bedroom window would be most pleasant to wake up to? What will your guests see from the guestroom window? When you are rinsing dishes, is there a pot of colorful flowers in your viewshed to make the task more enjoyable?

con't on p. 12



Thrushes, like this immature Western Bluebird, sometimes fly long distances in search of fruit allowing for long distance dispersal of seeds passing through their guts. Photo by Victoria Pittman



Willow-leaf Acacia is a relatively recent introduction from Australia. Its tactic for enticing birds to disperse its seeds is a bright red and sweet appendage attached to the seed. This aril, as it is called, is digested away before the seed is excreted in the bird's droppings. Watch for House Finches feeding in these trees when the beans are mature in early May.

Photo by Michael J. Plagens

con't from p. 10

in Arizona, and has flowers attractive to butterflies. The lantana grown from these bird-delivered seeds are better for wildlife than the hybrid varieties sold by nurseries which often lack nectar and berries.

Because these seedlings are non-native and can potentially be invasive, they should be removed. Already African Sumac has become established in a few riparian habitats.

Once one of these plants matures and begins bearing fruit the birds will return. When they do, their droppings will deliver yet more seeds of the same and other species. As an example, pomegranate trees will often have an array of these same plants growing beneath and nearby - from droppings left by the birds as they were feasting. There are several native woody plants that also get their seeds dispersed by birds, namely Desert Hackberry, Wolfberry and Mistletoe. With luck you might find one of these too.

Michael J. Plagens joined Audubon soon after taking ornithology in 1978 under Stephen Russell at UofA. He continues to study all facets of natural history in Arizona, Florida and Kenya. His first interest is entomology (PhD@UofFLA), and the layered relationships between all the species in our ecosystems. Visit his guide to Arizona's flora and fauna at arizonensis.org.



Low-water, native desert plants, like this Creosote Bush, can attract both native and non-native species such as this young Rosy-faced Lovebird. Photo by Tom Gatz

favorite but climbing milkweed *Funastrum cynanchoides* does not attract Monarchs.

And, speaking of boring block walls, don't be afraid to paint them a bright color as a great contrast to the different shades of green in your yard. Be brave!

Retired biologist Tom Gatz has been a MAS member since 1981.

con't from p. 11

Sometimes it is desirable to have a tangle of thorny vegetation outside a front window as a security barrier, or a mass of tall, green growth to block the view from a nosy neighbor or of an unsightly utility pole. Just be sure to leave space for quick exits from your windows in case of emergency.

Place bird feeders close to a window - surprisingly, studies have shown that fewer bird injuries occur when feeders are within 3 feet of (or more than 30 feet from) a window; apparently because the birds are not flying very fast if they bump into the glass when flushed by a noise or a hunting hawk.

The same applies to backyard ponds and water features. Rather than hiding them in a back corner of the yard that seldom gets visited, position them near a window or edge of the patio where you can enjoy the birds coming in to drink and bathe from the comfort of your living room or patio.

I installed irrigation drippers near several of my windows so I can rotate potted perennials as they come into bloom over the seasons. An even lower maintenance alternative is to plant beds near your windows with several varieties of flowering perennials that will give you flowers over much of the year. To attract nectar-feeders such as hummingbirds and Verdins, try aloes, chuparosa, *Salvia coccinea*, and *Penstemon parryi*; Queen and Monarch butterflies can't resist blue mistflowers *Conoclinium sp.*, and carpenter bees and hawk moths come to sacred datura. To attract seed-eaters such as Lesser Goldfinches, plant desert marigolds, Angelita daisies and other composite flowers. Don't be too quick to dead-head them; leave some dried seed heads for the birds. If you can live with seeing your plants gradually be consumed by caterpillars in exchange for a view full of beautiful butterflies, try planting a passion vine for gulf fritillaries, or various species of milkweed for Queens and Monarchs near your windows. Arizona milkweed *Asclepius angustifolia* is a



If you are really lucky, a rare Calliope Hummingbird just might show up at your feeder, ideally placed within 3 feet of your window. Photo by Tom Gatz



If you have a pond or a water feature, be sure there is a shallow area for the wintering White-crowned Sparrows to drink and bathe. Photo by Tom Gatz

AMERICAN KESTRELS — PINT-SIZED HUNTERS

Photos and Text by Tom Mangelsdorf

These pint-sized residents of the Sonoran Desert have a body length of around 10 inches and weigh in at about 5 ounces which makes them North America's smallest falcon. But don't let their diminutive size fool you. They are accomplished hunters and can snatch their prey with amazing skill. Although common throughout most of Arizona (and much of North and South America), kestrels *Falco sparverius* are well camouflaged and can be hard to spot. Their diet includes butterflies, crickets, scorpions and other invertebrates, lizards, mice, and even small birds.

Kestrels are elegant, highly adaptable birds and with some patience you can



Pair basking



Mating Pair

find them nearly anywhere around Maricopa County. Watch for their swift, sometimes erratic flight on pointed wings with rapid flapping, then a glide. Listen for their shrill *klee! klee! klee!* notes, often during flight. They sometimes hunt by kiting over fields. While perched, they resemble a Mourning Dove but with a much larger head.

Tom Mangelsdorf is a 30-year resident of Scottsdale who enjoys photographing all aspects of the Sonoran Desert. Since 2012, he has concentrated on the beauty of the area's bird life.

Kestrel Conservation

Kestrel populations have declined 53% since 1966. Mangelsdorf said that the pair featured on this page returned to the same area for several years. Their territory was bladed last year and he never saw them again. Primary threats are loss of snags (they are cavity nesters) and prey. You can help kestrels by providing backyard nest boxes and species data to CornellLab NestWatch, and by donating to American Kestrel Partnership. Search Arizona Game and Fish - Kestrel to learn more about nest boxes.





White-belted ringtail dragonfly



Female desert tortoise on Janusia

tortoise con't from p. 6

After 4.5 hours we found the first tortoise of the day, an old female splayed atop a leafless bush hosting a Janusia. Scat was below her, and scattered nearby. We surmised that this Janusia was a regular stop on her foraging route. MAS President Emily Thomas found tortoise #2, feet up and headless. Had he been flipped by a rival? Tortoises can go over a year without drinking but perhaps he succumbed from lingering damage during the 2020 drought. Or perhaps he simply reached his natural lifespan?

This is the fifth dead tortoise found on this walk in three years. Only one was seen the 12 previous years. After contemplating his fate we moved on, and found the missing skull - adorning a rock-sheltered white-throated woodrat midden about 20 yards away. Perhaps the rat preferred the entire carcass but, not managing that, gnawed off the prized skull, now crowning its nest, upside down like the rest of the carcass.

Two nights later, lingering Kay dropped enough rain to scour the washes, puddle on rocks and dampen the ground into the afternoon. This is prime time to see tortoises as they emerge to hydrate.

On 12 September, hoping to recover a cooling towel I dropped on Saturday, I backtracked, but then veered off to where I'd seen a tortoise four years ago. Just a few steps in was the first tortoise of the day, in the open. She had the bicolored scutes of a young adult. Almost three hours later I saw, also in the open, a juvenile tortoise - a hopeful sign after so many dead ones. At 4.5" it was too young to sex. I filmed it walking towards me until it nestled in a rock crevice (see my YouTube channel for video of it running). I found my towel splayed on the ground, halfway between the juvenile and tortoise #3, an adult male with a green-stained jaw, sheltered in a north-slope burrow buttressed by palo verde roots.

By the time you read this, most tortoises will be brumating deep in their burrows, not to emerge until spring to feed on annuals, as they have for thousands of years in the Sonoran Desert.



Young adult female



Prionyx wasp sp. on desert milkweed

Laurie Nessel is editor of this newsletter. Contact her to get on a call list for desert tortoise hikes.

**Annual Report for Fiscal Year
Ending May 31, 2022**
by Vicki Hire, Treasurer

Income

Friends Memberships	8,670
Donations	7,652
National Memberships	6,258
Birds of Phx & Maricopa Co.	3,261
Investments	2,996
Book & Table sales	299
Interest	6
Total Income	\$ 29,142

Expense

The Cactus Wren*dition	13,029
Conservation	6,612
Program	6,350
Education	3,165
Administrative	2,123
Property Tax	87
Total Expense	\$ 31,366



Where the Waxwings Are

Photo and Poem by David Chorlton

A path flies beneath the snow.
A deer stops to listen.
A mountain looks down from its misty peak
at land once opened up to search
for wealth, but

 was given back to the birds
when men discovered it contained
only darkness: the jays
blue as the future and the Juniper
Titmouse as elusive as
the grey past. The path remembers
every groaning wagon wheel,
 the blows
inflicted on the ground
and the sigh the streambed gave
on the day the last
miner spat his goodbye and mystery
returned to the trees. Winter
emptied out its pockets
of every currency except

 crystals on an oak
branch where two Cedar Waxwings
have settled for the moment
with their subtle shades of warmth.

Maricopa Audubon Society is registered on Amazon as a charitable organization. Sign up and 0.5% of your purchase will go to MAS! For details, go to the MAS Facebook page, website (About Us - Shop to Donate), or

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-6040458>.



✕ Boyce Thompson Arboretum

2016-2018 Wild Arizona converged with numerous partners and volunteers to conduct **three weeks of intensive invasive species removal** along 1.6 miles of Arnett Creek. The 32-acre treatment area was monitored and retreated over the next two years.

Queen Creek



Tamarisk was cut, piled, and burned



Oleander was cut, bagged, and manually hauled out of Arnett Creek



Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)



Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*)



Herbicide was applied to stumps to prevent regrowth



Tamarisk stumps treated with herbicide

✕ Picketpost Mountain



The Gila watershed holds year-round flows—a rare characteristic in this arid state

Arnett Creek
Telegraph Canyon Trail
Telegraph Canyon

RESTORING ARNETT CREEK

Wild Arizona's multi-year initiative to eradicate invasive tamarisk and oleander from Arnett Creek's riparian woodlands

End of 2020 & 2021 A highly successful retreatment of the entire project area in Arnett Creek and Telegraph Canyon was completed. The majority of the treated invasive plants did not survive. Monitoring and retreatment continued throughout 2021, and efforts were expanded an additional two miles upstream of the confluence of Arnett Creek and Telegraph Canyon.

Superior



Arnett Creek represents vital desert riparian habitat



Zone-tailed Hawk Photo by Matt van Wallene



Lowland leopard frog



BEFORE

AFTER

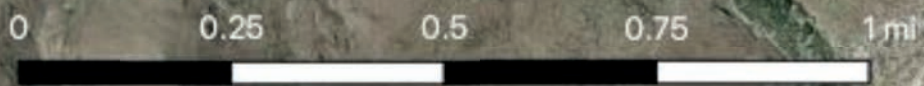
2020 Removal efforts were expanded into Telegraph Canyon, adding 20.5 acres to the initial project area. In areas where the use of herbicide would have posed an increased risk to the populations of threatened or endangered aquatic species, the *forced darkness* technique was used to inhibit the plants' ability to photosynthesize.



Oleander treated with forced darkness

FINAL STATS

- 52 acres treated along a 6-mile section of Arnett Creek
- 7 tons of vegetation slash hauled out
- \$350,000 contributed by funders
- 20,000 hours of work completed



looking forward

Recent funding received from the Arizona Department of Forestry & Fire Management's Invasive Plant Grant will support Wild Arizona's plans to (1) retreat tamarisk and oleander in the existing 52-acre project area, (2) revegetate native plants within the burn scar left by the 2021 Telegraph Fire in Arnett Creek, and (3) conduct *Early Detection* (monitoring) and *Rapid Response* (treatment) of new invasive weeds within the Telegraph burn scar.



volunteer

Volunteer opportunities in Arnett Creek will be posted to the WildAZ calendar of events in the coming months, so please check back regularly.

<https://www.wildarizona.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

donate

Join Maricopa Audubon Society and others in helping to fund WildAZ's upcoming restoration efforts in Arnett Creek, a place teeming with birds.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/restoring-arnett-creek>

share

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with Wild AZ and spread the word about projects like the restoration of Arnett Creek.

 @Wild4Arizona
 @wild_arizona_
 @arizonawild



Wild Arizona's mission is to protect, unite, and restore wild lands and waters across Arizona and beyond, for the enrichment and health of all generations, and to ensure Arizona's native plants and animals a lasting home in wild nature.

We are tremendously grateful to the numerous partners who have been coming together since 2016 to support the restoration of Arnett Creek!



A Review of Nomenclature for Avian Color Aberrations by Hein van Grouw

Article Review and Photographs by Matt van Wallene

Recently, *North American Birds* 73(1): 36-51, 2022, published by the American Birding Association, featured "A Review of Nomenclature for Avian Color Aberrations" by Hein van Grouw. I have encountered some of these aberrations in the field so it was exciting to learn the biological mechanics involved. What follows is a summary of that article with some additional facts about bird colors and examples of color aberrations I've encountered. Three pigment groups are found in birds - psittacin, carotenoid and melanin. Psittacin is only found in parrots and not covered in this article. The second, carotenoid, results in yellow, orange, red, and greenish hues. Birds extract these pigments from their diet. It is rare to find a carotenoid mutation and thus also not covered here. We will only cover the third pigment, melanin, from the Greek melanos - dark-colored, which comes in two forms: eumelanin and phaeomelanin. Eumelanin is seen as black, gray, or dark brown. Phaeomelanin creates warm reddish brown to pale buff. A melanin cell can produce both eumelanin and phaeomelanin pigments but not at the same time.

Melanin cells produce pigments which are transported as granules and deposited to feather cell walls. Think of a feather cell as a white canvas. The cell color comes from pigment granules of various colors and quantities accumulated in the cell. All three pigments can be deposited in the same cell.

Melanin strengthens feathers. Birds like the Snow Goose, White Ibis, and most gulls have black outer primaries or feather tips that take advantage of this trait.

So where do Blue Jays and Green

Jays get their colors? Blue in birds is not a pigment; it is created through refraction like light passing through a prism. Green Jays combine blue refraction with a yellow carotenoid to create their green appearance. Hummingbird gorgets also use refraction to create their color and iridescence. Blues, violets, and white are all structural rather than pigments.

Melanin is the pigment most often associated with avian color aberrations. There are four categories of melanin mutations. They are:

1) Cell development defects come in two groups. In the first group, melanin cells, which create the pigment granules, are absent. This results in **leucism**. The carotenoid pigments, if any, remain present. The extent can vary from just one feather to completely white, and lasts for the life of the bird. As a side note, *leucocephalus*, the species name for Bald Eagle, is Greek for white head. In the second group, **progressive graying**, melanin cells disappear or become less

con't



Curve-billed Thrasher, Kearny, AZ. **Ino** or **brown**. The remaining color in the plumage suggest a brown-tone rather than a gray-tone, so it is most likely a melanin synthesis affecting mutation. The plumage is heavily bleached further by the light. Most likely it was a darker form of Ino, or the mutation Brown. Would require in-hand inspection to determine the specific mutation.



Eurasian Collared-Dove, Gilbert Dairy, AZ. **Ino**.



Female Vermilion Flycatcher, White Water Draw, AZ. **Leucistic**.



Eurasian Collared-Dove, Gilbert Dairy, AZ. **Leucistic** partly juvenile plumage, all large wing feathers (primaries, secondaries and tertials) juvenile and still 'grizzled' due to the mix of white and colored barbs, whereas in adult plumage these feathers are either all white or fully colored.



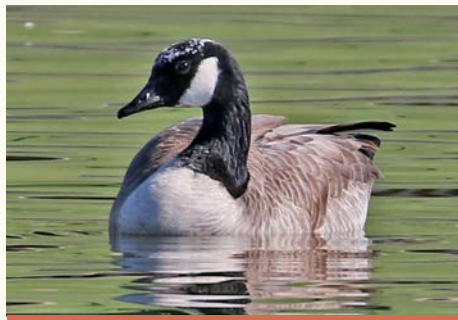
Brown-headed Cowbird, Santa Cruz Flats, AZ. Progressive graying.



Northern Cardinal, Laguna Atascosa NWR, TX. Juvenile feathers bleached by sunlight.



Northern Flicker, Las Vegas NWR, NM. Stained feathers.



Canada Goose, Sun Lakes, AZ. Progressive graying.

con't from p. 19

productive progressively. The bird is normal as a juvenile but becomes progressively whiter with age, usually starting with the head.

2) There are three types of defects in melanin synthesis due to the problems with the enzyme tyrosinase that should be naturally present in melanin cells. When tyrosinase is totally absent the defect produces **albinism**. An albino lacks melanin in feathers, eyes, and skin, resulting in white feathers and pink eyes and feet. Albino birds still show carotenoid pigments if they are present. Albino birds usually don't live long due to eyes that are highly sensitive to light with poor depth perception.

The second melanin synthesis defect occurs when the synthesis is incomplete due to less active tyrosinase. The eumelanin pigment makes black feathers appear brown, or brown feathers appear buff brown, and thus is labeled **brown**. It is the most common defect in birds but difficult to classify as the feathers bleach easily and become very pale to white within months of a molt.

The third melanin synthesis defect results from a reduction of melanin and the remaining melanin shows reduced color. This condition is called **ino** and manifests as pale brown replacing black, while reddish or yellowish brown is barely visible.

3) Defects in pigment deposit into feathers results in granules being clumped together

instead of evenly deposited in the feather cell. So the melanin color is correct, but the distribution causes the color to change from black to blue-grayish tones. This is called **dilution** and is rare.

4) Defects in the type of melanin produced results in the over/under production of granules. Through a mutation, the melanin cell may only produce one or the other of the two pigment types, or over produce one. The typical result is an increased dark pigmentation which is called **melanism**.

I hope this wasn't too technical and what came through is the variety of ways that aberrant plumage can be created. Make sure that you are mindful of these possibilities when confronted by a strange looking bird. Finally, not all plumage discoloration comes from mutations. Sticking your beak into flowers will give you a yellow face, rooting around a burned tree will blacken your feathers, and applying iron-rich mud while preening your gray feathers, a practice of Sandhill Cranes, will turn them rufous. Have fun out there!

Matt van Wallene is a regular contributor to the Cactus Wren-dition. His website "hollandwest.com" delves into the fascinating and quirky world of birds through his captivating photography.

Editors note: van Grouw's article was originally published in Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club and is open access. Van Grouw is Senior Curator, Bird group, Natural History Museum, London.

'22-'23 ARIZONA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Count Name	Compiler	Phone	Email*
12/14/22	We	Salt-Verde Rivers	Kurt Radamaker	480-585-1606	kurtrad at mexicobirding.com
12/14/22	We	Tucson Valley	Keith Kamper	520-495-9564	keithkamper at gmail.com
12/15/22	Th	Buenos Aires NWR	Bonnie Swarbrick	520-240-3737	bonnie.swarbrick at gmail.com
12/15/22	Th	Patagonia	Donna Edmonds	719-369-9704	dymonds215 at gmail.com
12/15/22	Th	Gila River	Ryan O'Donnell	435-232-8146	tsirtalis at hotmail.com
12/15/22	Th	Sedona	Richard Armstrong	928-282-3675	richarmstrong at q.com
12/15/22	Th	Bill Williams River NWR	Jessica Samuelson	928-271-0253	jessica_samuelson at fws.gov
12/16/22	Fr	Ajo-Cabeza Prieta	Stephanie Doerries	520-387-4989	stephanie_doerries at fws.gov
12/16/22	Fr	Havasu NWR	Marge Penton	928-201-0619	malgaep at gmail.com
12/16/22	Fr	Safford	Diane Drobka	928-298-0004	sunny1az at yahoo.com
12/16/22	Fr	Willow Beach	Clayton Merrill	702-371-7548	clayton_merrill at nps.gov
12/17/22	Sa	Phoenix-Metro	Kathy Balman	678-457-0802	nerdyforbirdies at gmail.com
12/17/22	Sa	Avra Valley	George Montgomery	520-609-0245	gmontgomery at desertmuseum.org
12/17/22	Sa	Nogales	Bill Lisowsky	520-987-0187	ykswosil at gmail.com
12/17/22	Sa	Hassayampa River	Chrissy Kondrat	623-451-1250	ckondrat at azgfd.gov
12/17/22	Sa	Santa Catalina Mountains	Kendall Kroesen	520-971-2385	kkroesen at cox.net
12/17/22	Sa	Organ Pipe Cactus NM	Daniel Martin	928-210-2420	daniel_j_martin at nps.gov
12/18/22	Su	Lukeville	Daniel Martin	928-210-2420	daniel_j_martin at nps.gov
12/18/22	Su	Saint David	Heather Swanson	520-307-4405	SPRNCAbird at hotmail.com
12/18/22	Su	Jerome	Rob Gibbs	240-780-1318	robgibbs54 at gmail.com
12/18/22	Su	Grand Canyon	Brian Gatlin	928-638-7723	brian_gatlin at nps.gov
12/19/22	Mo	Ramsey Canyon	Steven Tracey	408-966-3860	stracey53 at yahoo.com
12/19/22	Mo	Chino Valley	Russell Duerksen	928-925-5567	duerksen at msn.com
12/20/22	Tu	Tres Rios	Marceline VandeWater	602-689-4356	marceline at ermaroni.net
12/21/22	We	Prescott	Carl Tomoff	928-778-2626	tomoff at northlink.com
12/26/22	Mo	Superior	Joy Bell	480-760-1393	joyabell_az at yahoo.com
12/28/22	We	Green Valley-Madera Canyon	Malcolm Chesworth	203-947-2440	malcolmsc at yahoo.com
12/28/22	We	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Nancy Meister	928-872-3552	yaspresident at yahoo.com
12/30/22	Fr	Carefree	Jen Bruening	480-239-2917	jen at mcdowellsonoran.org
12/31/22	Sa	Portal	Bonnie Bowen	520-558-0038	Bonnie.Bowen at gmail.com
12/31/22	Sa	Flagstaff-Mount Elden			
12/31/22	Sa	Timber Mesa	Mary Williams	480-235-1792	mary.williams at arizonachristian.edu
01/01/23	Su	Atascosa Highlands	Jake Mohlmann	610-390-2424	mohlmann2 at yahoo.com
01/02/23	Mo	Camp Verde	Kay Hawkleee	432-703-0007	khawkleee at gmail.com
01/02/23	Mo	Dudleyville	Doug Jenness	520-909-1529	dougjenness at gmail.com
01/04/23	We	Lake Pleasant	Eric Hough	928-684-2772	eric.hough at maricopa.gov
01/05/23	Th	Appleton-Whittell	Suzanne Wilcox	520-455-5522	swilcox at audubon.org
01/05/23	Th	Payson	David Hallock	928-474-9475	eldoradh at rmi.net
		Glen Canyon	John Spence	928-608-6267	john_spence at nps.gov
		Tonto NM - Roosevelt Lake			

NATURE THROUGH THE ARTIST'S EYE: FARRADAY NEWSOME

Newsome grew up in the redwood forests of California in a very rural and beautiful area. Her family lived on a deeply rutted dirt road that was miles from the town of Boulder Creek, home of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Much of her free time was spent hiking the forested ridges and exploring creeks and ravines surrounding her home. She was an avid wildflower collector from the age of seven, pressing and identifying with great enthusiasm.

Newsome earned her BA in Biology at the UC-Santa Cruz. Ten years later she earned an MA in Art, Ceramics Emphasis at San Francisco State University. Newsome is a master of Majolica, a pottery technique in which red terra cotta clay is sculpted, bisque fired, coated with a base of white or black glaze, and then painted with multiple layers of colored glazes.

Newsome loves nature, it inspires her thoughts in the studio. The pieces featured here are part of a series of wall pieces with a unifying theme of nature's beauty, fertility, and generous abundance. These themes are often in association with underlying metaphors relating to psychological states of love, joy, and loss.

View more of Newsome's work, and notes on desert gardening, or book an appointment to see her studio at Indigo Street Pottery online or at jrclayaz@yahoo.com.

My Body is Your Nest
glazed terra cotta, hanging platter
24.5" x 9"
2022



Deer Sky
glazed terra cotta, hanging platter
25" x 12"
2021



Brilliant Flashpoint
glazed terra cotta, hanging platter
24"x 12.5"
2021

Red Pollinator
glazed terra cotta, hanging platter
23 x 24 x 7"
2022



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MONTHLY MEETING

Please see meeting information on page 4 or maricopaaudubon.org. For questions or speaker suggestions, contact a board member.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND HOW TO RECEIVE THE CACTUS WREN • DITION

There are two distinct memberships: National Audubon Society (NAS), and Maricopa Audubon Society (MAS) Friend memberships.

If you join National Audubon Society through our Chapter, MAS will receive your first year's NAS dues to help offset The Cactus Wren • dition costs. Or you may call NAS direct at 1-844-428-3826 and ask to be assigned to MAS Chapter B00. Currently NAS members assigned to MAS receive The Cactus Wren • dition as a courtesy.

Annual membership in MAS as a Friend gives you discounts on merchandise and books at our meetings, and guarantees a print subscription to The Cactus Wren • dition. 100% of your dues goes directly to MAS and its mission.

To become a Friend of MAS sign up at our Book Table at a monthly meeting; join online at maricopaaudubon.org/join; or send your name and address, phone or email along with a check to the MAS treasurer (right). We offer student/youth memberships for \$10/year, and base memberships for \$20/year. All dues above the base fee are considered tax-deductible donation.

SUBMISSIONS

Copy for The Cactus Wren • dition must be received by January 15, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Articles not received by the deadlines may not appear in the upcoming issue. Some issues feature a theme. Feel free to enquire and take the theme into account. Editor: Laurie Nessel laurienessel@gmail.com

OPINIONS

The opinions expressed by authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policy of NAS or MAS.

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