



The Cactus Wren·dition

Volume LXII, No. 4

Spring 2011

Drake Northern Pintail

Photo by Pierre Deviche



“Be like a duck.

*Calm on the surface, but always paddling
like the dickens underneath.”*

~ Michael Caine

Programs 2011

March 1, 2011

Gary Rosenberg
Uganda: Mountain Gorillas
to Shoebill

Webster Auditorium

Uganda is a tiny country the size of Oregon, located along the equator west of Kenya. The incredible diversity of birds and mammals is directly related to the diversity of habitats, from papyrus swamps along Lake Victoria, to lush montane cloud forest at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, to lowland rainforest at Kibale National Park, to rich open savannah at Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls National Parks. Mr. Rosenberg will



Shoebill
 Photo by Gary Rosenberg

share his images of the amazing wildlife and scenery from his first African tour. This three week trip concentrated on birds, mammals, and butterflies.

Gary Rosenberg has birded since a child and lead bird trips across the western hemisphere for Wings for many years. He currently leads trips through Avian Journeys International Bird Tours. He combines his passion for and knowledge of birds with phenomenal photographic skills that includes digiscoping. He is co-editor for *North American Birds* (formerly *American Birds*) and is secretary of the Arizona Bird Records Committee.

areas just north and west of modern day Phoenix. We will learn about the interesting inhabitants including Sonoran green toads, lowland burrowing frogs, Great Plains narrow-mouthed toads, Arizona mud turtles, and antelope jackrabbits of the Vekol Valley Grassland and Table Top Mountain. Mr. Hulen will focus on how they survived the pressures of historic grazing and efforts to reintroduce the endangered Sonoran pronghorn.

The monument contains magnificent examples of untrammled Sonoran Desert landscape, capturing a significant portion of the most biologically diverse desert in



Photo courtesy BLM

North America. The monument contains three distinct mountain ranges separated by wide valleys, three congressionally designated wilderness areas, many significant archaeological and historic sites, and remnants of several important historic trails.

Thom is the Executive Director of the Friends of the SDNM.

Committees/Support

Arizona Audubon Council Reps

Emerson Stiles
estiles2@hotmail.com

Book Store
 Mel Bramley
 480 969-9893

Hospitality
 David Chorton
 602-253-5055

Web Page
 Michelle Peppers
 480.968-5141
burge@burgenv.com

Maricopa Audubon web site
<http://www.maricopaaudubon.org>

Maricopa Audubon Phone
 480-829-8209

"Man's greatest joy is to teach the love of nature." Anon

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.

May 3, 2011

Program: Members Choice

The annual banquet will have a new twist. Instead of a featured speaker, you, Maricopa Audubon Society members, will be highlighted. Share your favorite bird pictures, or other interesting sightings along the birding trail. Do you have good quality images or video (must be edited) of a favorite place, favorite species or family? Send your files to me by April 15th to be compiled into a slide show. If you will not be attending the banquet you must provide an explanation of your submission. Smaller files can be emailed to laurie@lauriinessel.com. Larger files can be mailed to Laurie Nessel, 1632 E. Cedar St., Tempe, AZ 85281. All discs and thumbdrives will be returned at the banquet. If you need them mailed back, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

At the end of the show, we will award prizes based on audience applause for the best image, best story and most unusual sighting.

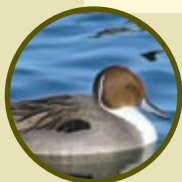


Cinnamon-chested Bee-Eater
 Photo by Gary Rosenberg

April 5, 2011

Thom Hulen
Sonoran Desert National Monument
 Webster Auditorium

Tucked away in the SDNM are fragments of a once more common Arizona biotic community: semi-tropical desert grasslands, which once extended from Mexico to



Cover photo: Northern Pintail Male by Pierre Deviche
 Jan 1, 2008, Canon PowerShot S5 IS, ISO: 80, Exposure: 1/400 sec, Aperture: 3.5, Focal Length: 35.4mm



Mark W. Larson

As I am writing this in mid-January, it is only a week since the tragic shootings in Tucson. When President Obama spoke the following Wednesday he urged everyone to live their political lives as little Christina Taylor Green would have imagined. It struck me that we also need to ensure that her generation, and those after it, has a natural environment that is at least as diverse and beautiful

on the San Pedro River, and the Desert Nesting Bald Eagle are among those heroic efforts.

But, there is more that we can do.

Recently, for example, we were contacted by the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy to assist with surveys of flora and fauna in the McDowell Mountains. I am confident that our members have the desire and ability to make such contributions to the wise management of our natural systems, so this spring I may be calling for volunteers to help with these surveys.

This spring I will also be asking for members to share some of their knowledge in a brief "teachable moment" before each meeting. We have some exceptionally accomplished birders, nature photographers, botanists, herpetologists, and butterfly experts who might give us some tips about their fields of interest. Please contact me if you are willing to contribute something!

And, many of you have visited one of the best birding locations in the Valley of the Sun: Gilbert Water Ranch. Maricopa Audubon Society, working with Desert Rivers Audubon, is helping to remove feral housecats from the preserve. The Town of Gilbert recognizes this problem and is taking charge of this effort.

Having tragically lost Cecilia Esquer this fall, I am looking for a volunteer to fill her position of Secretary on the MAS Board of Directors. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, please contact me.

Later this spring I will be looking forward to seeing you at our annual banquet in early May. (Please see the details below.)

as what we have enjoyed in our lifetimes.

To that end, Maricopa Audubon Society is pursuing several critically important court cases, as you have been hearing about for several years from our Vice President, Robin Silver, and our Conservation Chairman, Bob Witzeman. The proposed mega-copper mine at Oak Flat, the loss of essential riparian habitat

Maricopa Audubon Society Annual Meeting and Banquet

Amaricopa Audubon will hold its 57th Annual Meeting and Banquet on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at Shalimar Golf Club, located at 2032 E. Golf Avenue in Tempe. This is one block north of Southern Avenue, midway between McClintock Drive and Price Road (The 101) You can access Shalimar from Southern by turning north on either Country Club Way or Fairfield Drive, There is a sign for Shalimar at the intersection of Southern and Fairfield. If you turn north on Country Club (that's Country Club in Tempe) there is a sign for Shalimar at the west end of their parking lot.

There will be a no-host bar starting at 6:00 p.m. We'll have both a raffle and a silent auction, so plan to arrive early and peruse the auction and raffle tables. Tickets for the raffle will be available at the door.

Rather than a guest speaker this year, our program will be

"Members' Choice". For details, see "Program 2011" on Page 2 of this edition of the Cactus wren-dition. Prizes will be awarded to the most outstanding contributions to the program, according to rankings by our distinguished panel of judges.

The buffet dinner begins at 7:00 p.m. and advanced reservations are required. The buffet menu will include salads, bread, vegetable selections, main course selections and desserts. The cost once again will be \$25.00 (\$22.50 for "Friends of Maricopa Audubon") (You may send payment in advance or pay at the door—cash or check, only, please.)

Please contact Herb Fibel at (480) 966-5246 hsfibel2004@q.com or Mark Larson at (480) 474-4439 laronwarren@gmail.com to make your reservations. Dress is casual. We look forward to seeing you at the banquet.

Nominating Committee Formed

By Mark Larson

The By-Laws require me to appoint a Nominating Committee prior to election of the Board of Directors. This year the elections will take place at the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2011. Any adult member in good standing seeking nomination will have his or her name placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving, call any of the following members of the Nominating Committee and let him or her know of your interest in running for a particular position on the Board. Your name will be placed on the slate as a candidate for that position, and your candidacy will be announced by the Nominating Committee.

All Board positions, except the Wren-dition Editor, are elected by

the membership. Our Bylaws also require that nominations be open from the floor at our annual elections. As a courtesy, please let the Nominating Committee know in advance of your interest. Please do not nominate someone else unless you have his or her consent and know that he or she is a member in good standing of this Chapter. To learn more about the job description for any particular Board position, please feel free to contact the Board member who currently holds that position. Contact information for current Board members may be found on the back cover of this edition. This year's Nominating Committee is: Doug Green, chairman, (480) 998 5638, Barbara Daniels, (602) 943-4661, and Brian Ison, (480) 315-9031.

Backyard Birding

By Paul Halesworth

Being a wildlife rehabilitator (hummingbirds and songbirds) has its ups and downs—and one big down is not being able to get away and go birding. My wife, Gloria, and I operate WildWing Rehabilitation out of our home, and our busy season extends from mid January through the end of September (we received our first call about baby hummingbirds this past December 21st!). When September rolls around Gloria and I are definitely ready for some quiet time. When we completed our federal report this January our intakes for 2010 were just over 850 birds, with 180 of that number being hummingbirds. So, time-wise, backyard birding is about it for us!

My wife and I have always been interested in birds, and this interest expanded quite a bit when we began rehabbing almost ten years ago. Our landscaping is somewhat overgrown when compared to the norm, and we have a small water feature which makes our yard even more attractive to birds. A liberal dose of mealworms several times a day completes the attraction.

In the last several years some interesting species have appeared out back in the late fall, and several have stayed through the winter. Our first fall arrival is usually a Hermit Thrush, and we assume that it is a returnee because it understands the mealworm dispersal routine. Another returnee this year is a male Orchard Oriole, and he makes his presence known by draining the hummer feeders—no mealworms for him as of yet. Also new to the backyard this winter is a Green-tailed Towhee, equally as excited and feisty as the Hermit Thrush when mealworms are being served. Arriving (and leaving) on the same day as the Towhee was a small flock of Cedar Waxwings.

A first-time sighting for us occurred with the arrival of a Gray Catbird the first week of December. A steel gray bird darted out of the Pittosporum bushes to grab some mealworms, and I knew it was something we had not



Photo by Paul Halesworth

seen before. Being very speedy and preferring dense cover makes the Catbird difficult to photograph, and is wary of our local Mockingbirds who aggressively defend their mealworms. We have heard some songs and calling that are similar, yet different from the usual Mockingbird and Thrasher repertoires, and know it must be the Catbird.

Our most unusual bird sighting first happened in the summer of '09 . . . I was checking on some Mockingbirds in one aviary, and saw a bird perched in an adjacent pepper tree being harassed by some hummers. The bird was partially obscured by foliage, but I could still make out a bright red patch around its vent. I managed to

photograph it, and then e-mailed the picture to experienced birders who might possibly be able to identify the bird. Troy Corman from Arizona Game and Fish replied, identifying it as a Red-vented Bulbul, a songbird native to South East Asia! How it got to our house would most likely be a very interesting story in itself. Upon further inquiry we learned that Bulbuls are in south Florida, and another source mentioned southern California. Also, a rehabber in east Texas took in a fledgling Red-vented last year. Bulbuls are considered a highly invasive and adaptable species, but to us it is doubtful it will find a mate here in Arizona.

Each passing year seems to bring a new avian species to our yard, and we look forward to each fall season almost as much as our busy baby bird spring!



Photo by Karen Wood

Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festivals 2011

The five day event includes; a welcome reception, daily tours, lectures, bird art show, and keynote speaker dinner. During the five day event enjoy birding in the most nature rich areas of the Southwest Four Corners region of Colorado. 166 bird species were sited during the 2010 festival. This year's event dates are May 11th through May 15th.

The Birding Festival is a benefit for Cortez Cultural Center, a non- profit organization Promoting arts and culture.

For information; online, www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com or call the Cortez Cultural Center at 970-565-1151.

UTE MOUNTAIN MESA BIRDING FESTIVAL

2011

Birding Festival

MAY 11-15

info@cortezculturalcenter.org
utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com

MAR - MAY 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/

Tuesday, March 8

Mesquite Wash and Spring: Fresh water emerging into the hot Sonoran Desert is a magnet for wildlife, birds, wild flowers and tall riparian trees. We will start with birding at dawn then divert to looking for plants, insects and semi-aquatic plants. This oasis is just 40 miles from Phoenix and gets a lot of abuse by weekend visitors. We will document and advocate for this beautiful spot. Meet at 7:00 AM at Denny's in Fountain Hills. Reservations required. Difficulty 2
Leader: Craig Anderson (info & reservations w/Mike mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224).

Sunday, March 13

Chandler Veterans Oasis Park. We will take a leisurely walk around the park's 113 acres of Sonoran Desert and recharge basin wetlands habitat looking at plants, birds and insects. Bring binoculars (close-focus preferred), water, and hat. The walks are not fast-paced, and the terrain is easy. \$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 8:30 a.m. at the south entrance of the Environmental Education Center building west of the main parking lot. Veterans Oasis Park is on the northeast corner of Lindsay and Chandler Heights Rds. Done by 11:30 a.m. Reservations not required.

Leader: Laurie Nessel

Sunday, March 20

Gilbert Water Ranch & Riparian Preserve: a water treatment facility that attracts wintering waterfowl, shorebirds

and resident and wintering passerines. Limit 10. Reservations required. Difficulty 1
Leader: Cindy West (info & reservations w/Mike mjplagens@arizonensis.org /602-459-5224).

Friday, March 25

Fountain Hills Lake and Rio Verde Ranch. With luck we'll catch some late waterfowl (perhaps eared grebes with "ears") before heading over to Rio Verde with the hope of seeing the bald eagles nesting in the usual area along the Verde River. A short morning trip, ending about 11am in Fountain Hills. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Kathe Anderson Limit 8 participants. Kathe.coot@cox.net for reservations

Saturday, April 9

Butterflies and Wildflowers - Rackensack. We will meet at 7:30 A.M. at the s. e. corner of Carefree Highway and the road to Bartlett Dam. This trip is in conjunction with CAzBA. Difficulty 1
Leaders: Janet Witzeman Contact mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for details, directions & reservations.

Sunday, April 17

Chandler Veterans Oasis Park. The urban wildlife habitats at Veterans Oasis Park have become 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 recharge basin wetlands habitat. Bring binoculars (close-focus preferred), water, and hat. The walks are not fast-paced, and the terrain is easy. \$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 8:00 a.m. at the south entrance of the Environmental Education Center building west of the main parking lot. Veterans Oasis Park is on the northeast corner of Lindsay and Chandler Heights Rds. Done by 11:00 a.m. Reservations not required

Leader: Laurie Nessel

Wednesday, April 20

Mesquite Wash and Spring: Five different riparian canyons and a dripping spring converge on this spot some 30 miles out Bee Line Highway from Mesa towards Payson. The result is an abundant diversity of flora and fauna which we will explore and appreciate. Spring flowers, butterflies, migrating birds and

Field Trips cont.

By Mike Plagens

field trips

many aquatic animals should be found. This oasis is just 40 miles from Phoenix and gets too much abuse by weekend warriors and ORVs but is peaceful during the week. We will document and advocate for this beautiful spot. Meet at 6:30 AM at Denny's in Fountain Hills. Reservations required. Difficulty 2

Leader: Craig Anderson (info & reservations w/Mike mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224)

Monday, April 25

*** Salt River & Sonoran Desert northeast of Mesa.** We will begin by looking for our common desert denizens like black-throated sparrows and phainopeplas. Near the water we ought to find orioles, vermilion flycatchers and other colorful avian migrants. Fee per car: \$6 for the Tonto National Forest pass required. Difficulty 1

Leaders: Kathe Anderson Limit 8 participants. Kathe.coot@cox.net for reservations and more details

Sunday, May 1st

Dragonflies And Butterflies Of Chandler Veterans Oasis Park. The urban wildlife habitats at Veterans Oasis Park have become 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. \$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 south entrance of the Environmental Education Center building west of the main parking lot. Veterans Oasis Park is on the northeast corner of Lindsay and Chandler Heights Rds. Done by 10:30 a.m.. Reservations not required. **Leader: Laurie Nessel**

Sat-Sun, May 14-15

Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery and Upper East Verde River: Two days including sleep over at Mel's cabin (bring your sleeping bag) in the lush pines and riparian woodlands above Payson. Begin 8:00 am, Saturday, at entrance to the hatchery 21 miles east of Payson. By afternoon we will convene at Mel's above Houston Mesa where we will find plenty of floor space. Bring and share foods for supper & breakfast. On Sunday morning we can

bird stretches of the East Verde River or go over to Tonto Natural Bridge. Migrating warblers should be easy as well as early nesting activity for montane and riparian birds. We will look for early wild flowers, trees and shrubs. Difficulty 2+

Leader: Mel Bramley. Contact mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for details, directions & reservations. Limit 10 persons.

Friday, May 20

Madera Canyon. We will be looking for elegant trogons, hummingbirds, lazuli and painted buntings, and all sorts of lovely neotropical visitors. An all-day trip, leaving the Scottsdale area about 4am, with short stops at Sweetwater Wetlands and Proctor Road, before continuing all the way to the top of the canyon first, then working our way back down the canyon for the balance of the day. Return about 7-8pm. Difficulty 1

Leaders: Kathe Anderson Limit 8 participants. Kathe.coot@cox.net for reservations

Saturday, May 21

Beginning Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies at Gilbert Water Ranch. Bring binoculars (close focal point preferred). 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 7:30AM 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 groundwater and collapse of overlying rock. Difficulty 1

Leaders: Janet and Bob Witzeman Contact mjplagens@arizonensis.org or 602-459-5224 for details, directions & reservations.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

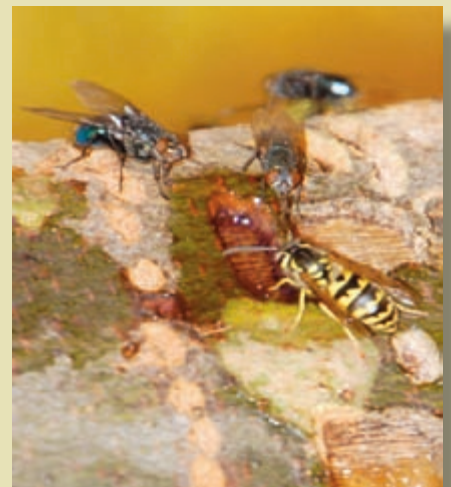
Correction: Huachuca Highlands, July 2010

This field trip was organized and led by Richard Kaiser. Richard was the author of the report that appeared in the Winter 2010 issue.

Friday Nov. 26th, 2010.

RACKENSACK WASH by Michael Plagens

The most fascinating birds to watch were the Red-naped Sapsuckers. These woodpeckers were actively creating and revisiting sap wells in the smooth bark of Arizona Sycamore trees. The birds were hard to spot as they remained silent and quickly skittled to the opposite side of the tree from where we were. But their wells were very numerous and apparent with abundant oozing sap. On closer inspection we observed that the wells were drawing numerous insects including Red Admiral butterflies, paper wasps, honey bees, and many large, fearsome tarantula hawks. We watched the sapsuckers closely for some time and saw them catching these insects from the wells. The wells are drilled primarily to attract insect prey and so the sapsuckers return frequently hours or days later. Besides insects there were other birds enjoying the flowing sweet sap: Anna's Hummingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warbler.



A Western Yellowjacket and several blowflies take sap from a freshly drilled well made by a Red-naped Sapsucker in the trunk of an Arizona sycamore.

Arizona Winter Bird Quiz

By Emily Morris



© Gary Kramer

Phoenix is a great place to practice your water birds. What have you learned this winter?



Photo by Len Blumin

Answers

A) Northern Pintail B) Female Ring-necked Duck
C) Female American Wigeon D) Greater Yellowlegs

In Memory: Cecilia Esquer 1942-2010

By Herb Fibel

Our beloved Maricopa Audubon secretary, Cecilia Esquer, passed away Saturday, December 4, 2010, from complications of West Nile Virus. Cecilia is survived by her husband, Elias, daughter, Andrea, son, Marcos, and a large extended family. She was born in Superior, Arizona, in 1942. Cecilia earned a Bachelor of Business Education degree, and a Master's degree in Spanish from ASU. Years later she went back to school, and graduated from the ASU College of Law with her JD. She prided herself as being known as a "Chicana Activist" and was successful in advancing the cause of Latinos in the East Valley and throughout the state. She was an awesome and beautiful lady and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.



Cecilia Esquer

Book Review: Cecilia's Memoir

By Herb Fibel

Cecilia Esquire, recently published her memoir, entitled, "*The Lie About My Inferiority*;" Her book tells how, time after time, because of her organizing abilities and unique perspective, she was recruited to take on long term responsibilities, that were represented to her as not being hugely complex and time consuming, only to discover that they were both, and that they detracted from her wish to have a family life outside of her work and volunteer obligations.

But the foregoing is only a sideline to the story of her life and career that she describes in her book. Cecilia's story tells of her struggles as a dark skinned U.S. born Hispanic, preferring to refer to herself as a "Chicana," who because of her sex and her race—more so her race—was thought by many males in powerful political positions—to be intellectually inferior; the book explores her lifetime career dedicated to proving them wrong, not only about her, but about all Hispanics in the East



Valley, in Arizona, and in the U.S.

In her book she speaks of numerous accomplishments of which she is justly proud, and in my opinion rightly so. Foremost among them is graduating from the ASU

College of Law and becoming an attorney. Much of her success in graduating from law school while trying to raise her young family she attributes to her husband and life partner, Elias.

Her greatest regrets are that she was not able to do more.

Here is a woman who took on a frequently disregarded bias in our community and, by her example, changed the attitudes of many in positions of authority who did not even realize that there was a problem.

Copies of Cecilia's book will be available at the sales table at our monthly meetings.

Greetings From New Representative To National Audubon Board

By Joy Haynes-Heste

letters

Thank you, Maricopa Audubon, for giving me this opportunity to introduce myself to your members. As your new representative on the National Audubon board of directors for the Southwest Region (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas), I look forward to getting to know your chapter. I was able to meet some of you in October of last year at the excellent Audubon Roundup held at the Saguaro Ranch near Phoenix, and I look forward to meeting more of you during future trips to Arizona. I have much to learn about your chapter and other chapters in the Southwest Region, as well as how things work at the national level.



Joy Haynes-Heste

My experience with Audubon so far has been primarily in Texas as a volunteer, staff member, and board leader with Houston Audubon. I also served on the Audubon Texas board for three years. My Audubon experience began with an avid interest in birds and the slowing down of my law practice in the mid 90's that led to some free time on my hands at last. I decided to take up birding and began with beginning birding

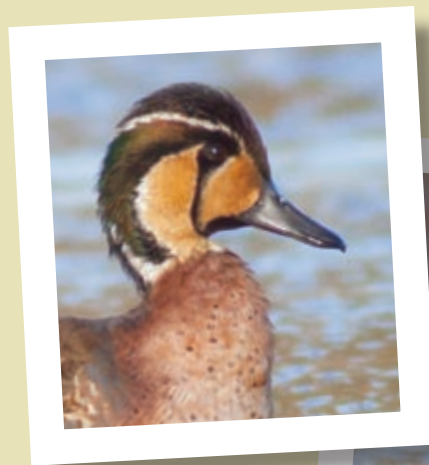
lessons with Houston Audubon. I birded carefree and happily for a couple of years before having what I call my "High Island Epiphany" – the realization in a moment of absolute clarity at Houston Audubon's High Island sanctuary that I needed to give back to Audubon in some way for the thrilling experiences they were providing to me. It wasn't long before I was on what I fondly call the "slippery slope of volunteerism," a quick slide from volunteer legal work to a full time commitment to Audubon and its conservation goals. That involvement has taken many forms over the last 10 years and has been a joyful and meaningful experience for me. I'm sure many of you have had similar experiences that led you to a deeper involvement in your chapter and bird conservation.

I'm very impressed with what I've learned so far about Arizona chapters in general and Maricopa Audubon in particular. Your advocacy work has been outstanding. I look forward to learning more and to sharing with you what I learn about the workings of Audubon at the national level. The national Board of Directors meets quarterly at different locations around the country, and my first meeting as a member of the board will be in Naples, Florida, in late January 2011. I plan to report to all chapters in the Southwest Region after each national board meeting, and any other happenings of significance at the national level, so that we can all learn and work together to save our birds. I look forward to hearing from you and to working with you toward that end.

Baikal Teal Observed at the Gilbert Water Ranch

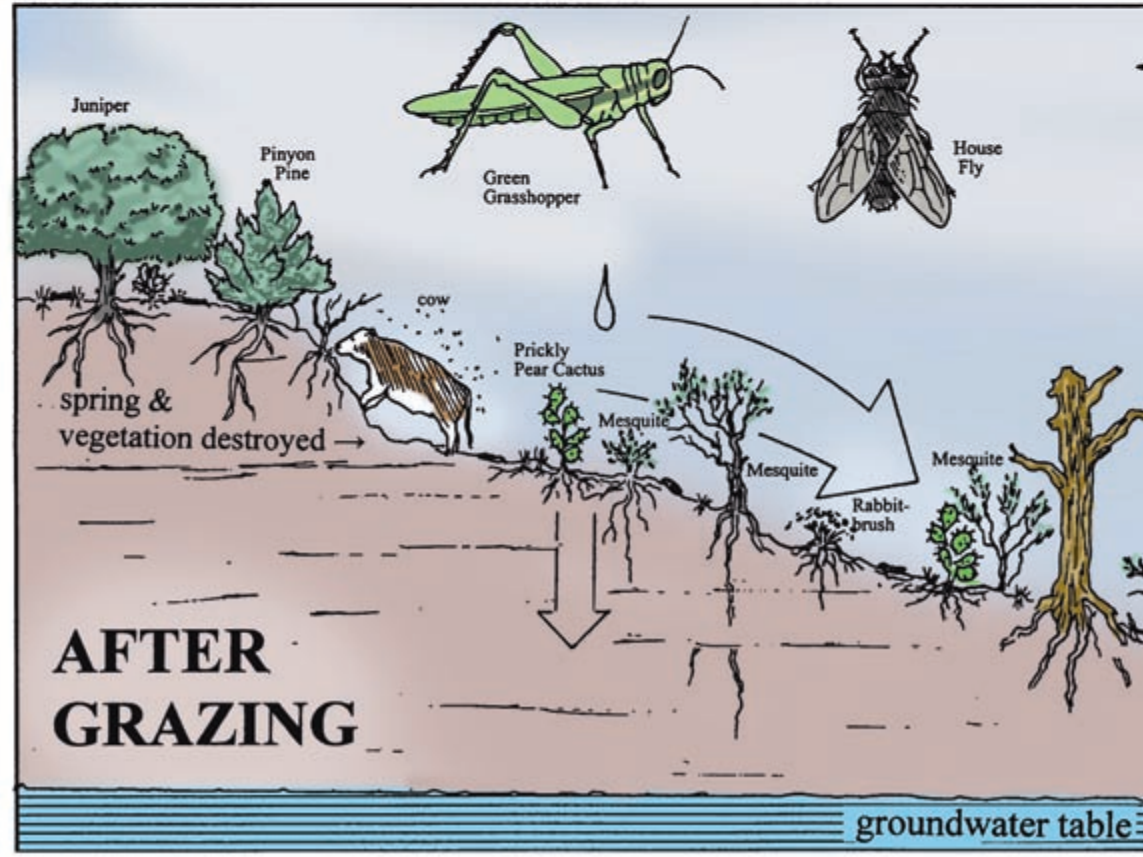
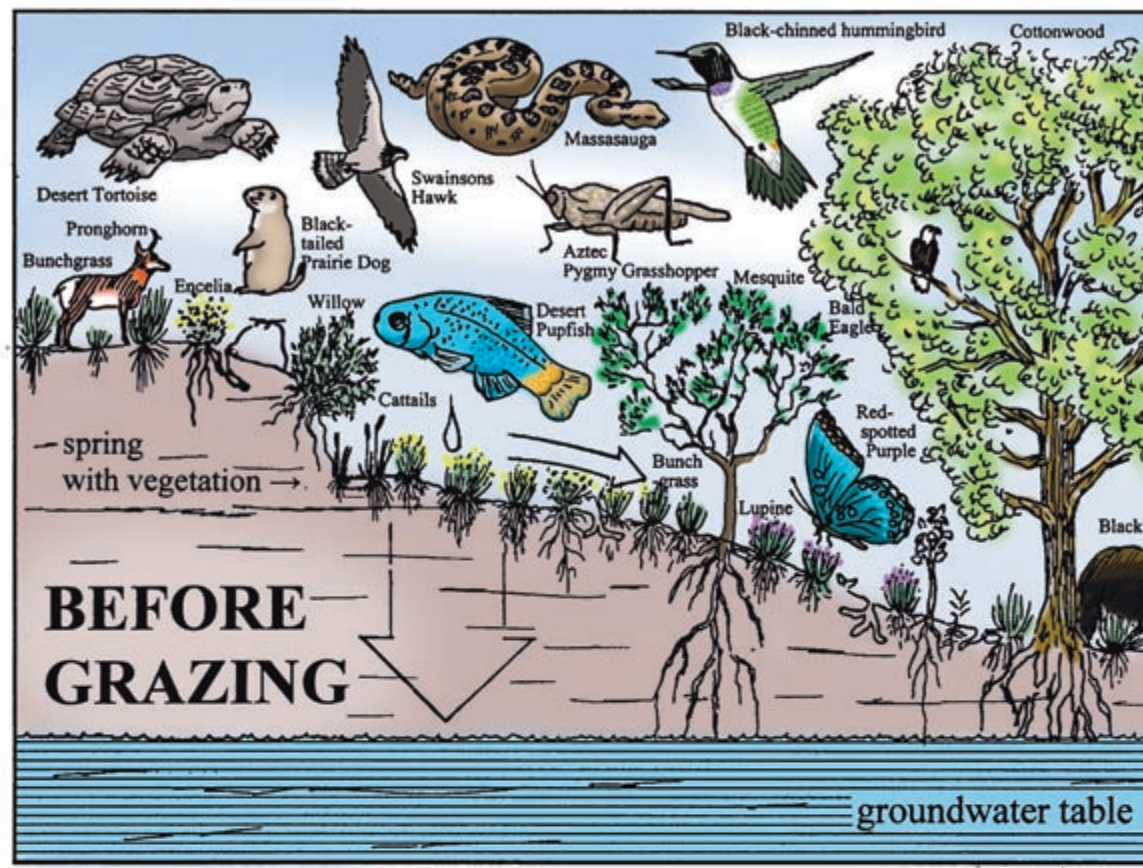
By Emily Morris

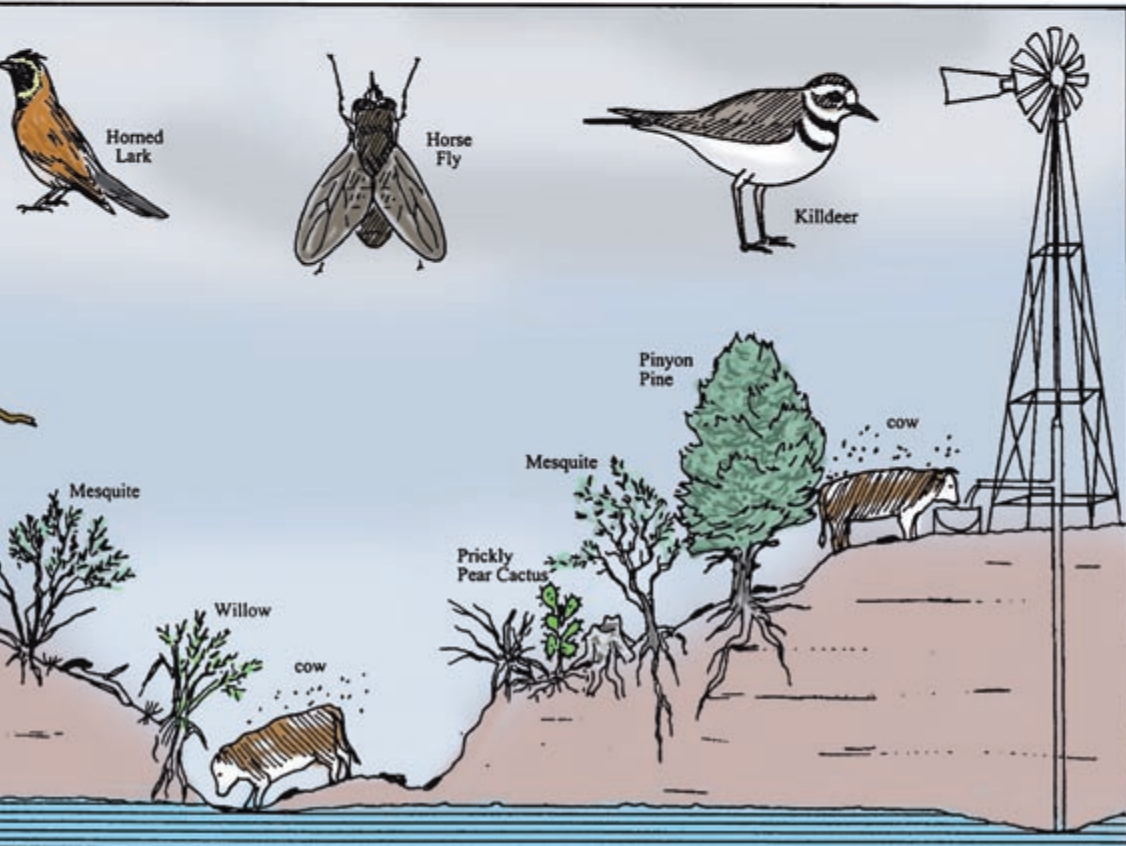
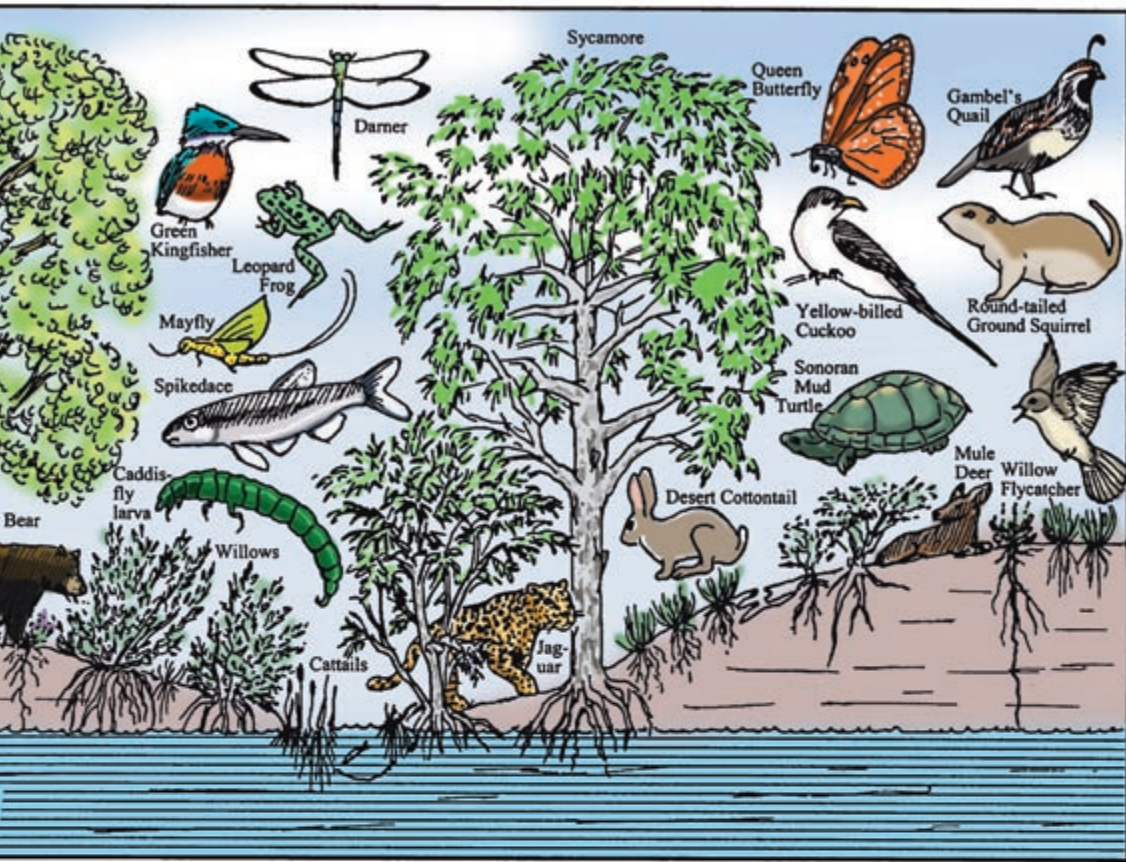
On December 2, Gary Nunn located a male Baikal Teal at the Gilbert Water Ranch and Riparian Preserve. This news spread quickly with the help of many rare bird alerts and list serves. Birders from across the Arizona and many other states converged at GWR to potentially add the teal to their life lists or just to marvel at the exotic traveler. The Baikal Teal breeds in Siberia and winters in Korea, Japan, and eastern China. Individuals have occasionally be sited in Alaska but most inland records have usually been dismissed as escaped captive birds. Captive birds are normally banded and have their halluxes (hind toes) clipped; this bird had neither of these. According to Arizona Field Ornithologists, "None of this proves that the bird is of wild origin, but the bird does not appear to have any of the obvious signs that would indicate captive origin." Though I do not normally chase rare birds, I enjoyed marveling at this beautiful bird with the small crowd on the banks of the GWR ponds. I really felt like part of a big birding family!



Photos by Brendon Grice,
at Gilbert Riparian Preserve
(Gilbert Water Ranch) in December 2010

Impacts of Grazing on the Sonoran Desert





Karen Klitz

The U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1969 cont.

By Bob Witzeman

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

Aldo Leopold (1887 – 1948)

Signed by Richard Nixon in 1969, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has undergone many changes affecting its ability to protect our nation’s endangered species. At times Congress steps in to pass legislation to either strengthen or weaken that law. Likewise, U.S. Presidents, particularly their Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, intervene to weaken or strengthen the law.

Past Presidential Administrations have had greatly differing roles in implementing that law. Also Congress has actively asserted oversight. The results have ranged from catastrophic to fortuitous.

One historical guideline has been the number of species listed per year by each president.

ESA species listed/year in office.

Nixon/Ford 69-77	15
Carter 77-81	32
Reagan 81-89	32
Bush I 89-93	58
Clinton 93-01	65
Bush II 01-09	8
Obama 09-11	31

An “endangered species” may be a full species (e.g. jaguar, *Panthera onca*), a subspecies, Mt. Graham Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus grahamensis*), or a “distinct population segment,” for example, Arizona’s desert-nesting Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, a Southwestern biota. Doesn’t biota refer to an entire region, not just a single sub-species?



Arizona Desert-nesting Bald Eagle family taken on the Verde River. Efforts to provide federal endangered species protection for Arizona’s tiny, distinct and disjunct highly endangered Bald Eagle population have been difficult. Competition for its vital in-stream flows and riparian habitat from grazing, mining, logging, groundwater pumping, agribusiness, and water developers has been formidable. Photo by Robin Silver.

A species may be listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These agencies are under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, the U.S. President, and Congress.

Congress and the president both play major roles in listings. In 1978 Congress almost halted President Carter’s new listings when Congress tied in economic considerations. That nearly precluded the listing of 2,000 potential species. However, Congress also reversed President Reagan’s ruling that economic analysis play a role in listing.

Citizens or organizations may petition a listing. It may be ruled “warranted,” “not warranted,” or “warranted but precluded.” The latter may be recycled to an indefinite 12-month agency stalling process.

Habitat loss is the primary cause of species endangerment. The USFWS or NOAA may designate “critical habitat” for a species. While sounding good in theory, agency decisions may be circumvented by a Secretary of Interior not in sympathy with the ESA.

The disheartening 31 species/year ESA listing record of democratic President Obama in his first two years (while having both a democratic House and Senate) may be testimony to his choice of Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar. Salazar grew up on his family’s ranch in Colorado, which for generations raised cattle. What significance might this have?

Study the centerfold diorama and also the 1996 Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) document cited at the end of this article. Both illustrate that cattle grazing is the primary cause of endangered species in Arizona (and incidentally, the other western U.S. states).

It is Salazar’s U.S. Interior Department which oversees ESA listing decisions, and also regulates livestock grazing on the vast and important federal BLM lands of the west.

Obama’s endangered species listing reticence may also be related to his choice of Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, an ex-Iowa Governor from of a state that grows corn and feeds cattle. Vilsack now heads an agency, the U.S. Forest Service, which grows trees, logs forests, and even more significantly permits destructive levels of livestock grazing on our vast Forest Service lands.

In Arizona (and western U.S.) more endangered species are harmed by cattle grazing than by any other factor including logging, mining, agribusiness and rampant urbanization. The following is from my rangenet.org webpage:

<http://rangenet.org/directory/witzemanr/seventy.html>

Seventy of Arizona’s 116 state threatened or esa-listed species have cattle grazing as a causal factor in their imperilment

There are 116 animals in Arizona listed as threatened or endangered by the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s (AGFD) “Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona,” draft, Dec. 13, 1996. Seventy of these animals have determinations of grazing as an adverse impact. AGFD’s causes for endangerment are cited in quotes. While some species may be common elsewhere, their tentative survival in Arizona is the reason for their inclusion. Sixteen additional fish and herps had adverse grazing impacts cited by sources below.



Mt. Graham Red Squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus grahamensis*, is one of a few hundred of this extremely endangered species surviving in the boreal forests of Mt. Graham, and competing for habitat with the University of Arizona telescopes on Mt. Graham, Arizona. Photo by Bob Witzeman.

Grazing as an impact in endangerment of 23 out of 29 of Arizona's T&E-listed birds:

1. American Bittern - "riparian overgrazing" p.24 (AGFD)
2. Least Bittern - "riparian overgrazing" p. 24 (AGFD)
3. Bald Eagle "loss of...riparian...habitats" p. 25 (AGFD)
4. Swainson's Hawk - "grazing practices" p. 26 (AGFD)
5. Ferruginous Hawk - "prairie dog control programs" by ranchers p. 26 (AGFD)
6. Northern Aplomado Falcon EXTIRPATED - "reduce cattle grazing" p. 26 (AGFD)
7. Masked Bobwhite EXTIRPATED - "overgrazing" p. 27 (AGFD)
8. Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo "overgrazing" p. 28 (AGFD)
9. Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl "manage grazing" p 28 (AGFD)
10. Elegant Trogon - "riparian and adjacent slope grazing" p. 29 (AGFD)
11. Green Kingfisher - "upland grazing" p. 29 (AGFD)
12. SW Willow Flycatcher - "overgrazing in riparian habitats" 30 (AGFD)
13. Buff-breasted Flycatcher - "fire suppression" [overgrazing a factor in fire suppression] p. 30 (AGFD)
14. Thick-billed Kingbird - "overgrazing" p. 30 (AGFD)
15. Rose-throated Becard - "overgrazing" p. 31 (AGFD)
16. Azure Bluebird - "overgrazing" p. 31 (AGFD)
17. Veery - "riparian overgrazing" p. 31 (AGFD)
18. Swainson's Thrush - "riparian grazing" p. 31 (AGFD)
19. Gray Catbird - "overgrazing by livestock" p. 32 (AGFD)
20. Sprague's Pipit - "overgrazing" p. 32 (AGFD)
21. Baird's Sparrow - "overgrazing" p. 32 (AGFD)
22. Arizona Grasshopper Sparrow - "reduce cattle grazing" p. 33 (AGFD)
23. Five-striped Sparrow - "overgrazing of slopes & canyons" 33 (AGFD)

Grazing as an impact in endangerment of 21 out of 25 of Arizona's T&E-listed Native Fish:

1. Mexican Stoneroller - "habitat loss and degradation due to overgrazing" p. 9 (AGFD)
2. Yaqui Shiner - "habitat loss and degradation due to overgrazing" p. 9 (AGFD)
3. Sonora Chub - "Channel degradation, siltation, and water pollution caused primarily by livestock overgrazing" p. 10 (AGFD)
4. Gila Chub - grazing a factor. W.L. Minckley
5. Yaqui Chub - "habitat loss and degradation due to overgrazing" p. 11 (AGFD)
6. Roundtail Chub - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
7. Virgin Chub - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
8. Roundtail Chub - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
9. Virgin Spinedace - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
10. Little Colorado Spinedace - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
11. Spikedace - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
12. Loach Minnow - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
13. Yaqui Sucker - "habitat loss and degradation due to overgrazing" p. 14 (AGFD)
14. Yaqui Catfish - EXTIRPATED "habitat degradation due to overgrazing" p. (AGFD)
15. Apache Trout - "erosion, sedimentation" [grazing a factor] p. 15 (AGFD)
16. Gila Trout - "erosion, sedimentation" [grazing a factor] p. 16 (AGFD)
17. Quitobaquito Pupfish - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley
18. Gila Topminnow - grazing a factor W.L. Minckley

19. Yaqui Topminnow - "habitat loss and degradation due to overgrazing" p. 17 (AGFD)
20. Monkey Springs Pupfish - EXTINCT grazing a factor W.L. Minckley

Grazing as a factor in the endangerment of 9 of Arizona's 20 T&E listed herpetiformes:

1. Plains Leopard Frog - grazing a factor - others
2. Chiricahua Leopard Frog - others
3. Northern Leopard Frog - others
4. Lowland Leopard Frog - others
5. Desert Tortoise - "overgrazing" p. 21 (AGFD)
6. Bunch Grass Lizard - "disappears from sites that are heavily grazed" p. 22 (AGFD)
7. Ridgenose Rattlesnake - "overgrazing" p. 23 (AGFD)
8. Massasauga - "grazing reduction of bunchgrass cover" p. 23 (AGFD)
9. Mexican Garter Snake - "loss of cienegas and other preferred wetland habitats" p. 23 (AGFD)

Grazing as a factor in the endangerment of 14 of Arizona's 21 T&E listed mammals

1. Water Shrew - "intense high elevation grazing along streambanks" p. 34 (AGFD)
2. Western Red Bat - "loss of riparian and other broad-leaved deciduous forest due to trampling of stream banks and increased erosion associated with grazing..." p. 35 (AGFD)
3. Western Yellow Bat - "loss and degradation of riparian woodlands due to trampling of stream banks and increased erosion associated with grazing..." p. 35 (AGFD)
4. Black-tailed Prairie Dog - EXTIRPATED "by livestock industry" p. 36 (AGFD)
5. New Mexican Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat - "intense livestock grazing" p. 37 (AGFD)
6. Hualapai Mexican Vole - "grazing" p. 37 (AGFD)
7. Navajo Mexican Vole - "grazing by livestock" p. 37 (AGFD)
8. Mesquite mouse - "livestock grazing" p. 37 (AGFD)
9. Meadow Jumping Mouse - "intense livestock grazing" p. 38 (AGFD)
10. Mexican Wolf - "extirpated...by livestock industry" p. 38 (AGFD)
11. Grizzly Bear - "conflicts with humans and livestock industry" p. 38 (AGFD)
12. Black-footed Ferret - "control programs...livestock industry" p. 39 (AGFD)
13. Jaguar - "conflicts with livestock industry" p. 39 (AGFD)
14. Sonoran Pronghorn - "livestock grazing" p. 39 (AGFD)

Grazing as a factor in the endangerment of 4 of Arizona's 21 T&E listed invertebrates

1. Yavapai Mountain Snail - "livestock grazing" p. 5 (AGFD)
2. Bylas Springsnail - "livestock grazing" p. 6 (AGFD)
3. Grand Wash Springsnail - "livestock use" p. 6 (AGFD)
4. Three Forks Springsnail - "habitat degradation due to livestock" p. 7 (AGFD)

Summary: 70 out of 116 ARIZONA T&E SPECIES IMPACTED ADVERSELY BY LIVESTOCK GRAZING

- 23 out of 29 birds
- 20 out of 25 fish
- 9 out of 20 herpetiformes
- 14 out of 21 mammals
- 4 out of 21 invertebrates

Christmas Bird Counts: Then and Now

By Gillian Rice

"The weather was the big news in the 2010 Christmas Bird Count," says Carefree Count Compiler Walter Thurber. "It was cold, windy, and mostly cloudy, and there was even a kind of snow or graupel – soft hail – but we didn't give up. Whenever the sun came out, the birds were active immediately, and we counted around 100 species!"

Nationally, the Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago, when nature conservation was becoming popular. Instead of the holiday tradition of the "Side Hunt," where people would choose sides and go out shooting – whichever side shot the most birds "won" – ornithologist and Audubon officer Frank Chapman had the idea to count birds rather than shoot them. "Winners" then would be those who observed the most birds. On Christmas Day 1900, 27 people held 25 Christmas Bird Counts and observed 90 species in locations ranging from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California. By 2009, there were 2160 counts involving 60,753 people! See sidebar for a history of Arizona Christmas Counts.

There has always been friendly rivalry among Arizona cities and between states at the national level. In 1956, 22 Phoenix birders identified 104 species and 81,592 individual birds, but Cocoa, Florida set the record with 155 species. However, Bert Fireman, writing in the Phoenix Gazette (Jan 27, 1956), notes that the Florida group had 42 observers that spent 500 man-hours, while the MAS report documented only 30 ½ hours of search. That year, special sightings in the circle centered near Indian School Road and 91st Avenue included Eastern Meadowlark, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, and Purple Finch.

"This year, my two-person team got 25 species in our designated area."

A 1977 Arizona Republic article reports that Tucson Christmas Count Compiler Bill Roe and Arizona Christmas Count Editor Kenn Kaufmann each participated in eight counts: "For these two zealous enthusiasts," the article reports, "this meant several stints of all-night driving, such as when one count followed another one on the succeeding day in a locality 200 miles distant." The counts are from dawn to dusk, or even start before dawn. "This year, Tice Supplee [Audubon Arizona's Director of Bird Conservation] started owling at 5:30am for the Carefree Count," says Thurber. "She got several Western

Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls for us."

Christmas Counts located at high altitudes in cold climates such as Flagstaff face challenges. In 1976, the ten birders on the Flagstaff-Mount Elden count recorded only 42 species making them 15th out of 18 counts in the state. "This year, my two-person team got 25 species in our designated area," says Diana Herron. "Cold, snowy counts make it difficult. This was the coldest count I've been on. We started at 6:30am when it was -11°F and it never reached more than 27°F all day. A foot of snow meant we couldn't hike the trails and had to drive from feeder to feeder – we had staked these out in advance."

Preliminary scouting is an important part of the count process. Many wintering hawks and owls range over the same territory daily, as do song birds. The Roadrunner (December 1972; the precursor to The Cactus Wren-dition) notes that Peregrines and Great Horned Owls seem to defy any "stake-out tactics" in the Valley, however, and sightings of these species are due to luck on the day. The Roadrunner (December 1972) describes how Bob Bradley discovered a small flock of Long-eared Owls in a row of tamarisks on Bethany Home Road. On the count day, birders sadly witnessed the flock being dispatched by rifle.

Bix Demaree, writing in The Cactus Wren-dition (Jan-Feb 1993), describes another practice unlikely to occur on one of today's counts: "One of the participants [of the 1955 Coon Bluff Count] was Dr. Alan R. Phillips who in 1964 co-authored The Birds of Arizona...Dr. Phillips is known as a collector and specimens of Black-throated Gray Warbler, an Audubon-Myrtle Warbler hybrid, Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch were taken. Today collecting is probably unacceptable on most Christmas Counts."

The Christmas Bird Count is certainly more than a game – it's a serious effort to increase knowledge of the avian winter populations of a given area. According to an article in The Roadrunner (December 1972): "It should also motivate participants to improve their ornithological skills of field identification. It will provide new and useful records of the birdlife of Maricopa County." For example, in 1966, the Phoenix count found only 13 Gila Woodpeckers, instead of the 50 or 60 usually observed. Bix Demaree attributed this to Starlings that take over the nests of the Gila Woodpecker.

The Christmas Bird Count is also a social event in which birders gather for dinner at the end of a rigorous day to tally the often exciting and unexpected discoveries of the day's "hunt." "Over the years as I've been doing the

Flagstaff Count, I've managed to get three different life birds," says Herron. "One was a Northern Goshawk. That was super!"

For the final tabulation, in the early days, compiler Bix Demaree would write results given verbally to her from each of the regional team leaders. The results were tallied on large charts in the front of her dining room. According to *The Roadrunner* (December 1972), "Mrs. Demaree, veteran compiler of ten Phoenix counts since 1959, makes interesting brief comments while the data

"I love to do the counts – I have a lot of good memories and you spend the day with nice people."

is coming in such as how changes in habitat or weather appear to have affected the relative abundance of a species."

Compare what compiler Walter Thurber does today: "I enter the data (weather, effort, and bird observations) for my count circle directly into the database on the National Audubon Society website. The data are then reviewed by a Regional Editor – for Arizona and Nevada that's Steve Ganley. If something looks strange or incorrect, he'll contact me for clarification. If he's not satisfied, he'll remove it." Thurber divides his 15 mile diameter circle into 10 sections, each with an area leader and six to eight volunteers. The volunteers go out in two parties and cover the best birding spots in their designated area. "They give their tallies to the area leader who provides me with an area report," explains Thurber. "I send my final report to my area leaders and volunteers – this isn't a requirement, but something I like to do."

The Christmas Bird Counts are for everyone – experts and novices – because people are assigned to teams. Birders can also choose count areas based on the kind of terrain with which they feel more comfortable. "Some people do half a day – usually the morning; some people stay for the whole day," says Thurber. "There's a role for everybody," adds Herron. "I love to do the counts – I have a lot of good memories and you spend the day with nice people."

Note: Many thanks to Bob and Janet Witzeman for sharing the archival information that made this article possible.

History of Arizona Christmas Counts

By Janet Witzeman

The first count I was able to find in Arizona was done in the Phoenix area, in Mesa, in 1915, which recorded 20 species of birds. The second occurred along the Gila River near Sacaton on the Pima Indian Reservation in 1917. In 1918, the only count was in Tucson. All three of these counts were done by one person. There was a Superior count done in 1922, by two persons.

In 1934, the only count done in the state was on the Papago Indian Reservation by Gale Monson. By 1935, there were two counts: one in Phoenix, conducted by early Phoenix birders Harry and Ruth Crockett; and the other in Safford by Gale Monson.

In 1936, Allan Phillips started the Santa Catalina Mountains Count, which is still done today. In the same year, Gale Monson did a count near Tuba City on the Navajo Indian Reservation. By 1940, there were four counts conducted in the state: Montezuma Castle National Monument, Santa Catalina Mountains, Tucson, and Yuma. By 1946, there were still only four counts: Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, as well as the Santa Catalina Mountains and Tucson. These four continued to be the only counts in the state until 1950, when a count was added along the Salt River near Blue Point. Counts at Flagstaff and Parker were added to the original four in 1951 and one at Prescott was added in 1952.

Abe Margolin directed the Maricopa Audubon Society's first Christmas bird count in December 1954 in two areas: one at Coon Bluff and one west of Phoenix. The Salt/Verde Rivers Count began in 1985. In 2010, five counts were held in Maricopa County and a total of 35 throughout Arizona.

Audubon Round-up Summary

By Karen LaFrance, Sonoran Audubon

Audubon Round Up took place at Saguaro Lake Ranch November 11-14, 2010. On Saturday of Round Up, attendees and guests dedicated the Salt and Verde Rivers Riparian Ecosystem Important Bird Area, a project of Maricopa Audubon, Audubon Arizona, the Fort McDowell Indian Community, Arizona Game and Fish and the US Forest Service.



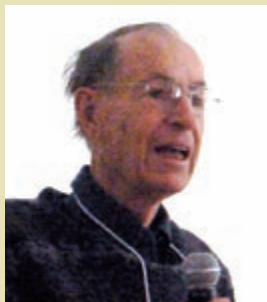
Saguaro Lake Ranch owner, Stephen Durand, speaking in front of the group with Tice Supplee and Bob Witezman looking on.

Later, at dinner that evening, Herb Fibel (Maricopa Audubon), Tice Supplee (Audubon Arizona) and Stephen Durand, owner of Saguaro Lake Ranch, presented Dr. Bob Witezman a special award for his many years of work dedicated to environmental justice and conservation.

Appropriately, Audubon Round Up took place at Saguaro Lake Ranch, situated in the shadow of the dam at Saguaro Lake at the site of the proposed Orme Dam fought successfully against by Dr. Witezman and many others. The Ranch, built in 1930, has retained its rustic charm. It was perfect for an Auduboners' gathering.

I was fortunate to receive a Together Green Fellowship in 2009- 2010 from National Audubon Society. Audubon Round Up became my Fellowship project because, in 2008, Arizona Audubon Council expressed interest in sponsoring a gathering of Arizona chapters.

Audubon Round Up had two purposes: first, to bring together Auduboners in Arizona (and adjoining states if possible) to share information about organizational development, membership retention and recruitment, leadership, social media, fund-raising and strategic planning that would help improve and strengthen chapters, and second, to explore the how to's of partnering with public and private sector entities to drive effective



Bob Witezman

local habitat preservation projects.

I visited or called all Arizona chapters and several in adjoining states last year in advance of Round Up. Issues related to membership retention, leadership, funding and the aging chapter demographics arose everywhere. But the number one piece of advice I received as guidance to structuring the conversations at Round Up was that chapter members wanted to hear from other

chapter members and not just be "talked at" by experts.

Thirty-four Auduboners registered for Round Up.



Tice Supplee talking with Saguaro Lake Ranch host, Sean A'lee Devell

Dedicated volunteers from several Audubon chapters helped make the event possible. Volunteers led daily birding trips and, of course, the

Bald Eagles circled over the Ranch most days. Attendees, presenters, friends and guests all reported the event was successful and that the goals of Round Up had been achieved.

Members from Maricopa Audubon, Sonoran Audubon, Huachuca Audubon, Northern Arizona, Desert Rivers and Tucson Audubon, Red Rock Audubon (Las Vegas), Great Salt Lake Audubon, California Audubon, several Audubon Arizona staffers and Board members, several National Audubon staff and Joy Haynes Hester, the new NAS Southwest Director, attended. Guests and presenters came from colleges and universities, public agencies and nonprofits.

Information about Round Up is posted in Google Groups. Email me at klaf@cox.net; I will sign you up!

From the Editor

By Emily Morris

from the editor

My goal for this spring is to go on more Maricopa Audubon field trips, and I challenge all of you to join me in this goal. Maybe like some of you, I always mean to go birding more or mean to explore new places, but sometimes it's hard to actually make the plans. I know that for some it helps to focus on a target species, so perhaps I will focus on seeing a Mountain Plover or several of the Arizona hummingbirds that have eluded me so far. I am also making it my goal to learn more butterfly and dragonfly species, and MAS field trips present an excellent opportunity to do so. In short, we would be silly not to take advantage of some of the really wonderful field trips offered through our chapter, not to mention the vast knowledge of the trips' leaders!



Here I am with my friend, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

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Nature through the Artist's Eye: Laurie Nessel

laurie nessel



Laurie Nessel

Award winning artist, Laurie Nessel, works with watercolors, oils, metals, photography and glass. The ancient processes of the Sonoran desert that have evolved into one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world are a source of endless inspiration to her. She makes stained glass in her Tempe studio and teaches flameworking and directs the glass studio at the Mesa Arts Center in Mesa, Arizona. Her work is in the Biennial: Glass show at the Tempe Center for the Arts Gallery through April 9, 2011 and the Tempe Historical Society. She will demonstrate core-formed vessels at the Glass Fiesta conference in Tucson April 9, 2011.

She is acutely aware of the resources consumed in pursuit of her art and mitigates her footprint by volunteering for Maricopa Audubon Society and other conservation organizations. www.laurienessel.com.



Untitled. Hollow blown glass beads



Harris' Hawk, stained glass, 13" x 17"



Sonoran Desert, stained glass, 34" x 45"



Desert Vista (detail), stained glass, 9.75" x 19"

Hedgehog Cactus Echinocereus engelmannii and White-lined Sphinx Moth Hyles lineata

Sphinx moths are large, widespread species with rapid wingbeats that allow them to hover conspicuously while nectaring.



laurie nessel



Desert Vista (detail), stained glass, 11.5" x 19"

Lesser Nighthawks Chordeiles acutipennis and Chia Salvia carnosia

Low flying nightjars glide silently, erratically as they hunt insects on the wing with mouth agape. These arid land dwellers are crepuscular, foraging alone, paired or in family groups over great distances. Uncommon by day, they are cryptically plumed and lay two eggs directly on the ground. They are tolerant of temperature extremes, fluttering their gular to cool and going into extended torpor during cold spells. North American populations migrate to Central and South America to winter. Their return to the desert heralds warm months ahead. There is an eeriness to being suddenly surrounded at dusk by stealthy aerobic nighthawks emitting only the occasional muffled trill.



Sweet Bush Bebbia juncea, New Mexico Thistle Cirsium neomexicanum, Lesser Earless Lizard.

Holbrookia maculate, stained glass, 17" x 22"



Monster Beads, frameworked glass, 9" x 8"

Gila monsters, a charismatic icon of the Sonoran Desert, are venomous and reclusive, features that jolt me with adrenaline and awe at every sighting in the wild. Their pattern can be brilliant while basking on a rock or camouflaged in dappled sunlight. It is irresistible to me to portray the striking pattern and bumpy texture in glass. These frameworked beads were made one dot at a time.

Maricopa Audubon Society

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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.

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Maricopa Audubon Board

PRESIDENT

Mark Larson

13585 N. 92nd Pl.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260-4333
Home: 480 474-4439
Cell: 480 310-3261
larsonwarren@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Robin Silver, MD

P O Box 1178
Flagstaff, AZ 86002-1178
Phone: 602 799-3275
FAX: 928 222-0077
rsilver@biologicaldiversity.org

SECRETARY PRO-TEM

Cynthia Donald

2042 E. Balboa
Tempe, 85282
480 283-4515
planres@earthlink.net

TREASURER

Herb Fibel

3255 S. Dorsey Ln, Apt. 2004
Tempe, AZ 85282-3981
Home: 480 966-5246
Cell: 480 226-6014
hsfibel2004@q.com

FIELD TRIPS

Michael Plagens

4710 N. 10th Pl.
Phoenix, AZ 85014
602 274-0129
mjplagens@arizonensis.org

PUBLICITY

Lisa Fitzner

6120 E. Redwing Rd.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
480 223-3784
LEFitzner@aol.com

CONSERVATION

Robert Witzeman

4619 E. Arcadia Ln.
Phoenix, AZ 85018
Phone: 602 840-0052
FAX: 602 840-3001
witzeman@cox.net

PROGRAMS

Laurie Nessel

1632 E. Cedar St.
Tempe, AZ 85281
480 968-5614
laurienessel@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Scott Burge

8869 S. Myrtle Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85283
Work: 480 968-5141
Home: 480 897-8608
Cell: 480 227-3965
FAX: 480 345-7633
burge@burgenv.com

EDUCATION

Mike Foley

1812 E. Pinchot
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Work: 602 914-4339
Home: 602 327-0707
mfoley33@gmail.com

EDITOR

Emily Morris

1226 W. 5th St.
Tempe, AZ 85281
203 213-5208
monarchmorris@gmail.com

miscellaneous

Audubon Online

see us on the Web at:

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