



# The Cactus Wren • dition

Volume LVII, No. 3

Fall 2007

Cassin's Kingbird



Zone-tailed Hawk

# Maricopa Audubon Meetings and Programs

Cynthia Donald

Please join us for another exciting year of speakers covering a wide range of topics – African predators, condors, cranes, birds of Alaska, Fossil Creek, Cape May and more!

Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month, September through May. Due to the holiday, our January meeting this year will be on Wednesday, January 2, 2008. Our May meeting is our Annual Banquet with a location to be announced. Please check our web site or newsletter for the location of the May 2008 banquet.

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m., and feature a general membership meeting, guest speaker, sales tables, refreshments and a chance to socialize with MAS members. Visitors are most welcome! Our September through April meetings are held in Dorrance Hall at the Desert Botanical Garden. The Garden is located at 1201 North Galvin Parkway in Phoenix, which is approximately ½ mile north of the Phoenix Zoo. Dorrance Hall is located off the main parking lot and entry to the Garden.

There will be signs directing you to the meeting. Although there is no charge to attend our general membership meetings, the Annual Banquet does require a dinner reservation and associated cost.

A pre-meeting dinner will be held at Rolling Hills (formerly Pete's) 19th Tee Restaurant, 1405 N. Mill Avenue in Tempe (at the Rolling Hills jGolf Course) for the September through April meetings. Come and join us at 6:00 p.m. for a delicious meal (no-host), meet our guest speaker and say "howdy" to other birders. Meals average \$5.00 to \$7.00.

This year Maricopa Audubon will be holding a raffle for a Swarovski scope that was donated to us. Tickets will go on sale at our September meeting and the drawing will be held at our December meeting.

**September 4, 2007**  
David and Diane Reesor Predator!

**October 2, 2007**  
Mike Foley Birds of South-central and Southeast Alaska

**November 6, 2007**  
Taldi Walter Alaska Treasures and National Audubon

**December 4, 2007**  
Michelle Harrington A River Reborn: The Restoration of Fossil Creek

Swarovski Scope Raffle

**January 2, 2008**  
Bob and Peggy Wenrick Crazy About Cranes!

**February 5, 2008**  
Tyler Loomis The Cape May Experience

**March 4, 2008**  
Joe Yarchin Watchable Wildlife Program

**April 1, 2008**  
Kurt Rademaker Baja Birding

MAS Elections

**May 6, 2008**  
Kathy Sullivan Condors!

Please see our website for program summaries.

## Committees/Support

Activist Alert  
Shawn Baur  
602-828-3607

[shawnbaur@hotmail.com](mailto:shawnbaur@hotmail.com)

Arizona Audubon Council Rep

Herb Fibel

[herbertsfibel@aol.com](mailto:herbertsfibel@aol.com)

Book Store

Field Observations

Janet Witzeman

602-840-6089

[jwitzeman@aol.com](mailto:jwitzeman@aol.com)

Hospitality

David Chorlton

602-253-5055

Web Page

Kurt Rademaker

480.837-2446

[kurtrad@mexicobirding.com](mailto:kurtrad@mexicobirding.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.

## From the Editor, Deva Burns

This issue I want to share three ideas for helping birds at home.

The first is a recipe I received from Mary Jo Ballator, the proprietress of the Ash Canyon Bed & Breakfast. She has used this recipe for years and has given it to countless birders. She originally found it in a book on back yard feeding by Cornell University. I have used it the past two winters and have found the birds in our neighborhood love it.

### Peanut Butter/Lard Cakes for the Birds

Melt together on low heat, and stir to blend:

2 cups chunky peanut butter

2 cups lard

When fat is melted, turn off heat. Add dry ingredients one at a time, mixing well after each addition:

1/2 cup sugar (optional)

2 cups flour

4 cups corn meal

4 cups oatmeal ("quick" is best) Blend all ingredients thoroughly. Press mixture into a 9-x-13-inch pan. Cool and cut into squares. Or, press into empty plastic commercial suet containers. Chill. Remove from containers as needed and place in suet baskets.

The second is a list from the folks at Casa del Caballo Blanco in Belize. (See information on them in Notes and Announcements.

### Ten Tips for Biodiversity

- Plant a tree so that local birds can nest, seek shelter and forage for food.
- Plant a sunflower or other plants that comprise bird friendly gardens; watch them gather food for their families and by dispersing the seed, create new gardens.

- Restore habitat and watersheds whenever possible rather than develop.
- Volunteer with local community organizations to assist with the care of wild birds or to participate in 'green activities' to learn ways to assist wildlife and to minimize your own footprint on the landscape.
- Recycle all of your paper and plastics; make sure old batteries, like those from flashlights and shop tools, etc. are disposed of properly – not in landfills.
- Avoid purchasing cans and bottles in six-packs with plastic collars; if you must, then be sure and cut each of the six enclosures so that birds, and other wildlife, will not become entangled and choke on them.
- Minimize or discontinue the use of products containing toxic compounds such as certain fertilizers and herbicides that accumulate in our water supply and atmosphere and threaten wildlife habitats.
- Reduce your use of critical resources by selecting products and vendors that manufacture and package with sustainability in mind.
- Consider re-use and remodeling prior to new development.
- Encourage your family to study the biodiversity in your community and learn, conserve and protect.

The third is a reminder of something much in the news recently. Land fills are filling up much more rapidly nowadays because of . . . bottled water. It is recommended that we all stop buying bottled water because most of the plastic bottles are not being recycled. If you don't trust our municipal water supplies, put filters on your sinks or install whole house systems.



Zone-tailed Hawk harassed by Cassin's Kingbird; photographed by Jim Burns near Sunflower, AZ, June, 2007, with Canon EOS 1D body and Canon 600mm f/4 lens.

# Notes & Announcements

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

Swarovski Scope and Tripod Raffle!--Maricopa Audubon will be conducting a raffle for a Swarovski scope and tripod that were donated to us. Tickets will be available at our monthly meetings, beginning September 4, 2007 and continuing through December 4, 2007. The scope is an 80 mm model with angled, 20-60x zoom eyepiece and carrying case. The tripod is Gitzo G1228 with a Bogen 410 head.

National Audubon Board of Directors election--Roger Wolf is the nominee for the Southwest Region. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting of Members in January, 2008.

Audubon Celebration--September 14-16, Tempe, AZ. Checkout Field Trips for details or on the web.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum "Bio-Blitz" Survey Day September 15  
Arboretum staff and volunteers will conduct a wide-ranging census identifying as many organisms as possible within a 24-hour period on Saturday, Sept. 15. Here's an opportunity to learn about Sonoran desert biodiversity while helping researchers gather baseline data on creatures at the Arboretum. Separate survey teams will concentrate on categories such as reptiles and venomous arthropods; bats, birds, lichens, odonates and butterflies; moths, ants, orthopterans (grasshoppers, crickets, katydids), mammals, and native plants. To sign up as a participant with one of these particular surveys or to learn more about this event email Arboretum Instructional Assistant Jana Baldwin at [jana@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:jana@cals.arizona.edu), or

else Education Coordinator Chris Kline at [ckline@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:ckline@ag.arizona.edu)

Arboretum Bird Walks--Resume  
September 23 Superior, AZ: Boyce Thompson Arboretum has a species checklist of more than 270 birds which have been confirmed over the years, with recent field observations including a Winter Wren, Black-throated Green Warbler, Brown Thrasher -- and a beautiful hybrid hummingbird (Broad-billed x. Violet-crowned) in residence from September, 2006 all the way through May. Birders of all skill levels, from novice to expert, are invited to join 8:30 a.m. Autumn guided bird-walks to learn about native bird species and habitat. The rotating cast of bird walk guides includes Cynthia Donald and Pete Moulton, Marceline Vandewater, Troy Corman, Carl Tomoff, Rich Ditch, Tice Supplee and many more. Wondering what has been reported around the gardens and trails lately? Read checklist reports on the website! Autumn bird walks resume September 23 at 8:30 a.m. and continue October 6, 14, 20, 28; and also November 3, 11 and 17. Read more online at <http://ag.arizona.edu/BTA>

Boyce Thompson Arboretum carpool website--<http://btacarpool.proboards74.com> Car pool and save gas when visiting the Arboretum. Just check out the above site for details.

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

box building, maintenance and feeding as well as trail building and signage. A percentage of each cabana rental will be donated to the CASA center to assist with medical and other expenses related to the management of the facility. Casa also organizes day-long tours that in addition to an educational and scientific focus can include bird-watching, horseback riding, cave tubing and visiting archeological and World Heritage Sites in Belize and Guatemala. For more information, call 707-974-4942 or visit [www.casacaballoblanco.com](http://www.casacaballoblanco.com).

A 4-night / 5-day vacation program from the recently opened Casa del Caballo Blanco Eco-Lodge in Belize allows you to take your conscience on vacation - and have fun too.

"Toucan Eco-Tour" available through Nov. 30, 2007 is \$815 per person. Included are a supervised participatory avian / biodiversity learning experience, breakfasts, dinners and some lunches, accommodations, off-site archeological tours and airport transfers. Local taxes, bar tab, optional activities and service charges are not included.

Expanded Book Store Selections--We also need a Book Store Committee chair volunteer--please contact a Board member if you are interested. We now have a full selection of books on birding topics for adults and children alike. Maricopa Audubon logo items will include binocular harnesses, tote bags, UV-protection caps, and baseball caps. We will also have bird-themed sandstone coasters and note-cards. Newly-designed t-shirts will also be available. Remember that Friends of Maricopa Audubon members get a 10% discount and that your purchase helps to support our event, education and conservation efforts

Arizona Watchable Wildlife Tourism Association (AWWTA)--Check out their website for events around the state--[www.azwildlife.com](http://www.azwildlife.com).

Museum of Northern Arizona--They sponsor Venture trips that explore and discover the Colorado Plateau in the Four Corners area. For more information contact Lisa Lamberson at 928-774-5211 x241 or [llamberson@mna.mus.az.us](mailto:llamberson@mna.mus.az.us).

continued on page 4

# Notes & Announcements

continued from page 3

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

Donation Wish List--Maricopa Audubon Society is looking for a donation of a laptop computer in order to provide educational presentations to youth groups and classes. To donate please contact any board member.

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

a contribution to ABA. If interested, contact [www.americanbirding.org](http://www.americanbirding.org). I think Audubon should offer something like this! The Dovetail Directory ([www.dovetailbirding.com](http://www.dovetailbirding.com)): The Directory is an online catalogue of world birding tours, and our goal is to help birders locate that special birding tour, to any of 85 countries around the world. This is a free service. There are no hidden costs or surcharges. Tours are offered at the operators price. In addition to tours, the Directory also carries a comprehensive inventory of birding-related books. For your further convenience we maintain a North American, toll-free number (877) 881-1145, and someone will always happy to take your call.

Shade-grown coffee: If you are searching for a source to purchase shade-grown coffee and haven't been successful, try ABA Sales. They carry seven kinds of Song Bird Coffee. For information call 800-634-7736. Also, Trader Joe's carries shade grown coffee, as does Sunflower Market. Another source is Toucanet Coffee/Avian Ecologist. They are in the business of serving Smithsonian certified, bird-friendly

coffee. All of their varieties are organic and shade grown. They also have fair trade varieties. Please visit [www.toucanetcoffee.com](http://www.toucanetcoffee.com) for more information about their goals or to place an order. The website also includes an online community for bird and/or coffee lovers. They invite you to join. Another websites for shade grown/organic coffee is [www.cafebritt.com](http://www.cafebritt.com).

More birding and nature festivals. [www.americanbirding.org](http://www.americanbirding.org). and [www.birdinghotspot.com](http://www.birdinghotspot.com).

Maricopa Audubon T-Shirts--For information, contact Laurie Nessel at (480) 968-5614 or mail to: [laurienessel@hotmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@hotmail.com)

Do you have an interesting story to tell about birding? Please forward your submissions to the Editor--Deva Burns. Check the back page for address/e-mail. Actually, attaching an article to an e-mail is the absolute easiest way to submit an article. If you have pictures or slides, you do need to send those to me directly. Remember, all articles may not be published the first month after receipt.

## Annual Banquet and Silent Auction

Over 40 Maricopa Audubon enthusiasts were entertained by a delightful and very informative program on Birding by Ear with Larry Liese at our annual spring banquet last May. Larry helped break down that virtual barrier of learning all the myriad bird calls and songs by organizing them into smaller packages. First become familiar with the local species, then gradually add more species to your repertoire. Keep a journal. Learn their habitat, behavior and migration patterns to further reduce auditory clutter. Most importantly, watch a bird vocalizing. This helps to recall what sound accompanies which species.

Nearly 20 items were donated by members for our Silent Auction including several stunning, dry mounted wildlife photographs by our own David Reesor! We raised \$533, a drop from last year. This is my plea for a volunteer to step forward and help make next years Silent Auction even more successful. Please contact any board member if you can take on this or any other fundraising activity such as the Birdathon, which has languished these past few years. The money we raise is used to support all of our programs. Recently over \$2,000 was spent on a biological inventory of Devils Canyon to better understand what is at stake in the fight to save that precious habitat from another copper mine. We are still in need of a laptop so we can take our programs to classrooms and other venues. In June the Board of Directors voted to sponsor 14 year old Tyler Loomis to attend the ABA Bird Camp. This money came from our Gertrude Mills Fund that is dedicated to education. We look forward to hearing Tylers' report of that experience at a membership meeting next winter.

A huge thank you goes out to the following donors to our Silent Auction:

Anita Van Auken  
 Cynthia Donald  
 Josie Lazarus  
 Laurie Nessel  
 Charlotte Norrid  
 David Reesor  
 Gloria and Don Traicoff  
 Janet Witzeman



# Photo Quiz

Jim Burns

photo quiz

## THIS ISSUE'S CLUE —

I'm guessing this will be a difficult quiz for all but the most hard core field birders, so here are three clues which may help. I'm calling this quiz "confusing fall migrants." Think about what is possible in Arizona in the fall, think grassland, and think outside the box. All three photos were taken in Arizona during the fall.



A) Good photo, difficult bird



B) Bad photo, difficult bird



C) Good photo, easy bird

All Photos by Jim Burns

# Bridled Titmouse

Jim Burns

Just when you thought you'd heard all the things that make Arizona's special species really special, along comes a little band of Bridled Titmice to give us one more reason, over and above the vagaries of geography, to appreciate the birds on this list. Bridled Titmouse is an interesting little bird to be sure, but it isn't colorful, melodious, rare, or particularly unique in any aspect of its life history. What it is, often in southern Arizona it seems, is a "marker bird" for a mixed species flock of small passerines traveling together in loose association, sometimes over a period of several days. In short, a "feed."

These feeds sometimes include an individual of some out-of-range or out-of-season species, highly sought by birders, which would be more difficult or nearly impossible to find were it traveling by itself. How many times have you heard a hotline report similar to this: "The (rare bird) is being seen in a mixed flock working the canyon behind the lodge. Look and listen for the titmice."

In this particular case, "this bird" was a Golden-winged Warbler, extremely rare in Arizona, feeding with Bridled Titmice and others behind the Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon one November. I personally have been the beneficiary of Bridled Titmice on three other occasions: a Crescent-chested Warbler in Patagonia; a Northern Parula in Harshaw Canyon; and a Rufous-capped Warbler in Sycamore Canyon. Without the presence, visual and vocal, of Bridled Titmice to mark these feeding flocks, that's four great birds I would have missed. Every birder has stories like these, and in southern Arizona *Baeolophus wollweberi* is, as often as not, the marker bird.

Bridled Titmice are resident from the Sky Islands of southern Arizona and extreme southwestern New Mexico south to southern Mexico. They are common and widespread breeders in oak and pine/oak habitats in the mountains to elevations of 6500 feet, less common in canyon and lowland riparian groves. In winter there is an altitudinal migration downslope by family groups into these lower zones. At this season they are often in combined flocks with Mountain Chickadees in Arizona, Mexican Chickadees in Mexico. And whatever other small birds may hook up (serendipitously for the birds and the birders) with these feeding aggregations.

There are two primary Bridled Titmouse vocalizations. The song, heard primarily during nesting season is a high, rapid series of two syllable "fee-bee" notes. As with the song of the Bridleds' eastern counterpart, Tufted Titmouse, it is sometimes hard to believe this big,

bright, and energetic sound emanates from this tiny (5 & 1/4 inches) bird. The call of the Bridled is a low, rapid, and slurred "chick-a-dee-dee-dee." This is the usual contact call for the winter flocks, alerting birds and birders alike to the direction the flock is heading.

The adjective "bridled" is actually one of the better descriptives in the world of bird names. Obviously the distinctive black and white markings on this

species' face resembles the reins on a horse. "Titmouse," of course, is something else again, a name that draws nothing but snickers from the uninitiated.

Here's the history behind it. The Old Icelandic word, "titr," meant

something small. The Anglo-Saxon "mase" meant a kind of bird. Simple and logical if you knew the languages.

Titmice, like the chickadees with which they share the family name, Paridae, and their allies, the bushtits and Verdin, have short, strong legs and short, strong bills, and are comfortable around humans to the point of being tame. Bridled Titmice spend much of their time in oaks, patrolling the branches and leaf clusters, foraging for small insects--primarily beetles and spiders--and their eggs and larvae. In winter they will eat seeds and a few berries. Specialized leg muscles enable them to hang upside down to feed on the underside of limbs and leaves which other species can't access. The short, strong bills allow them to hammer open seeds which, much in the manner of jays, they hold down on a horizontal surface with their feet. They readily come to backyard suet and seed feeders, particularly in winter.

It is thought that Bridled pairs remain together throughout the year, joining other pairs in the winter flocks, then going off on their own to nest early in the spring when the flocks break up. Bridled Titmice are cavity nesters. They will use natural cavities and old woodpecker holes or enlarge small openings or crevices in

rotting snags, and they will also utilize birdhouses. Nests may be as low as four feet off the ground up to a height of twenty to thirty feet. The female builds the actual nest inside the hole using plant materials, spider webbing, and animal hair. Half a dozen eggs is the norm, incubated by the female while the male brings her food. Both parents feed nestlings and fledglings.

In Arizona look for Bridled Titmice from the mountains below the Mogollon Rim, such as the Mazatzals and Bradshaws in the central part of the state, south through the Sky Islands such as the Chiricahuas and the Huachucas. If you spend a day in either of the latter locations, where they are probably most common in the state, and don't see a family or a flock of Bridleds, be very surprised. In winter I have seen them at Montezuma's Castle in the Verde Valley, in the old apple orchards at Reevis Ranch in the Superstitions, and in the South Fork of Cave Creek outside of Portal.

Bridled Titmice respond readily to pishing and owl calls. As you would expect of a marker bird, if titmice find a real owl, or even hear your poor imitation, they will call the troops to investigate and harass. Just remember that there are some areas in southern Arizona, such as Madera Canyon, where pishing and owl calls are not allowed because of the large amount of birder traffic.

Most birds with crests such as Bridled Titmice, can raise or lower their crests at will, and a "full crest" usually indicates aggression or at least agitation. I have most often seen Bridled Titmice with their crests raised in food competition, particularly around feeders where several species may congregate and "take turns" at seed or suet. Crests are also raised in the presence of danger and act as a distraction device to make the threatened bird appear larger and to draw predators visually to the least important part of the bird in case of attack.

Next time you run into a feed with Bridled Titmice, linger awhile to savor this little bird's handsome facial markings and to see what fellow travelers might be with it. You never know when the next Yellow-green Vireo or Fan-tailed Warbler will show up in southern Arizona, but when it does the chances are good that sooner or later it will join up with a titmouse foraging flock.



Photo by Jim Burns



# Photo Quiz Answers

Jim Burns

**M**any birders, with only a quick look at our three quiz birds and an unawareness of the calendar and migratory patterns through our state, might dismiss them as sparrows. They all look darker and streaky on top, lighter underneath, with rather distinctive facial markings. That description would surely fit many, if not all, of our sparrows, but a photo quiz without color should cut it's participants some slack, so let's eliminate the sparrows because of the context presented with this quiz's title--"confusing fall migrants."

Sparrows certainly migrate through our state for destinations south, but generally we think of Arizona sparrows in two contexts, breeders and winter residents. In exchange for the concession that these are not sparrows, you must heed this caveat--until you become familiar with seasonal distribution of Arizona birds and study sparrow jizz, these three species will all be sparrows to you.

A)--Good photo, difficult bird

If we begin with structural clues, as we always should, the one noticeable difference between our three quiz birds is the shape of the bill and the slope of the head from crown to bill. What we see in the first photo is a bird with a very thick bill which is relatively long as well. This is a bit out of the ordinary as we're used to bills this thick being short and stubby. This bill seems almost an extension of the crown itself so that the bird appears not to have any forehead at all. It has what might be called a "Roman nose" and, indeed because of this, this particular species is known to experienced field birders as having one of the most distinctive head profiles of all the passerines.

Plumage features we see include bold and contrasting upper back markings, some light streaking on the breast, and an indistinct supercilium (eyebrow) set off by bright arcs both above and below the eye. Many field guides suggest this bird looks like nothing so much as a female House Sparrow. While this may be true at a glance, female House Sparrows are drabber overall with less contrast, and a dumpier body profile. Our quiz bird is a leaner, cleaner looking bird and, of course, we know House Sparrows are neither migratory nor associated with grassland.

The first species that comes to mind in a grassland perspective is probably meadowlark, but our meadowlarks, seen in a rear view like this, are even cleaner and more contrasty than this bird and have a completely different bill. No, this is a photo of the "little meadowlark," often so called because it associates with true meadowlarks in their grassland habitat and

has a yellow breast and a black bib like the larger meadowlarks. At least the breeding males do.

This immature Dickcissel on migration was photographed in September, 1993 in the thistle field adjacent to Becker Lake near Springerville. Other photos, in color, of this same bird from a more frontal angle show a warm, golden suffusion beneath the breast streaking and even a touch of rufous on the shoulder. Typically there is no black bib on fall Dickcissels, but watch for the white throat outlined with vertical, dark malar (moustache) lines.

To my knowledge there are no breeding records for Dickcissel in Arizona, but this species is probably much more common than realized during fall migration throughout state, easily overlooked or passed off as just another sparrow in the weedy, lowland habitats it prefers. Beginning in late August and through September, check carefully in places like the Pinal Air Park pecan grove, the grasslands around the San Pedro House east of Sierra Vista, and ditches and old fields in the northeast corner of the state. Becker Lake is obviously a good place as Charlie Babbitt has recorded Dickcissels there on the exact same date in at least four different years--9/11!

B)--Bad photo, difficult bird

Our second quiz bird was more distant and partially hidden by vegetation. Hence, the blow-up to approximate the size of the other two birds has rendered it more grainy and softer focus, and we don't have the lower half of the bird's body to help us with the identification. This bird's head jizz looks superficially like the Roman-nosed Dickcissel, but a closer look shows that this bill is neither as thick nor as long as that in the first photo, and because the bird is looking up, the slight tilt to the head may be hiding a greater angle between head and bill than we would see on a Dickcissel.

The supercilium here is very bold and contrasts sharply with the crown. It appears there is a light central stripe on the crown which matches the supercilium and there is a strong, dark eyestripe which matches the sides of the crown. We cannot really see this bird's back, but it appears the streaking along the side of the breast is darker and bolder than that on our first bird. Though overall this bird is much more boldly marked than our fall Dickcissel, it certainly could pass for one of our sparrows, except perhaps for the obvious pale lores (the patch of feathers between the eye and the bill).

Now that you're tuned in to grassland species and remembering that fall passage birds may not resemble breeding males, I'm guessing you're flipping around in your

Kaufman or your Sibley in the meadowlark area. You're right there. This fall Bobolink was photographed near the San Pedro House in September, 2003. The color slide of this bird shows a rich, creamy buff as the background for the bold streaking on the back and the bold face pattern, and this species may undergo a bigger plumage change from breeding to fall than any other North American passerine.

Bobolinks nest in hayfields and wet meadows, and there are a few nesting records for them in Arizona, mostly from the White Mountains near Show Low and Eagar. Look for them in fall migration in the same places you're now going to look for Dickcissels. I've seen them near Many Farms Lake and Kayenta in the northeast, and in the weeds around Kino Springs in the southeast.

C)--Good photo, easy bird

I photographed this bird in September, 2006 at the Gilbert Riparian Area while standing near three novice birders who passed it off as, you guessed it, "some kind of sparrow, probably a song sparrow because it's dark and all streaky underneath." Their logic was reasonably good for a quick glance, but this is definitely not a sparrow bill evolved for crushing weed seeds, and notice the heavy streaking extends all the way down through the belly to the vent area.

This is yet another species which some of the guide books tell us may be mistaken for a sparrow. This is a migratory species, but we don't think of it as such because it is ubiquitous throughout North America. And, the major plumage changes in this species do not occur from breeding season to fall migration, but from male to female. In the hundreds at Gilbert, the thousands in some winter flocks, this species occurs in grasslands, marshes, farm fields, and most open areas, and you know the distinctive male of the species quite well.

Larger than our sparrows, and with the spikey bill profiled in the photo, female Red-winged Blackbirds look nothing like their male counterparts if you're just looking at plumage. But next time you see a pair together, take a good look at their shape and structure--same outline, different paint by numbers colors. Beneath the female's malar stripes there may be warm buffy tones, and some birds even show a hint of pink on the throat and chin. Red-winged may be seen any of the places you might find Dickcissels and Bobolinks this fall.

If you can separate these three quiz birds from our sparrows, you'll be on your way to understanding how shape, structure, and jizz can help you with identification. And you'll have a head start on even the most difficult photo quizzes.

# Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

Laurie Nessel

field trips

Attention Field Trip Enthusiasts: Please check our website for changes and additions to the field trip schedule <http://www.maricopaaudubon.org/calendar.htm>.

Impromptu Birding Trips: Post your own outings or get notified of others planned field trips on short notice. Founded by naturalist 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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/az_nature_fldtrips/)

The following field trips are sponsored by the Maricopa Audubon Society who have an organized program of trips throughout the year. They are open to the public and are free and include all skill levels. All the trips are Difficulty Level 1 unless noted otherwise.

## CAR POOLING:

Maricopa Audubon strongly encourages carpooling on field trips. 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 5 to 10 cents per mile.

## LEGEND:

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 distances, considerable birding from vehicle and possibly multiple birding stops. 5 equals very high level of difficulty with respect to exertion. Longer hiking distances are expected with possible steep trails.

## REMINDERS:

- Wear neutral colored clothing and sturdy walking shoes
- Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, head protection and water
- Avoid wearing bright colors
- Bring your binoculars
- Don't forget to have FUN!!!

Attention Field Trip Leaders! If you have a field trip scheduled that is not listed, please contact the Field Trip chair, Laurie Nessel, 480.968.5614 or [laurienessel@hotmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@hotmail.com)

## Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips July-November

### Saturday, July 21

Gilbert Water Ranch-Dragonfly and Butterfly walk. Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) assists in the control of insect pests and in turn are a food source for birds. They breed in water but can be found far from it. GWR has proved to be a very productive odonata habitat. Their remarkable morphology, brilliant colorations and curious behaviors inspire and amaze observers of these fascinating aerialists. The GWR is s.e. of Guadalupe and Greenfield Rds. Meet 7:00AM at the Dragonfly Ramada, south of the east side of the parking lot. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring binos, water, hat. No reservations will be taken. Leader: Bob Witzeman

### Saturday, July 28 & Sunday, July 29

White Mountains. Enjoy two days of birding. From juniper grasslands to mixed conifer and spruce-fir forests, elevations from 6,000-11,000'; the White Mountains harbors species from Gray Jays, Blue Grouse and Three-toed Woodpecker to Gray Catbird, Pinyon Jay and Lewis's Woodpecker. We will bird Sunrise Ski Area and the Little Colorado River. Limit 15. Leader: Scott Burge, 480.968.5141 for information and reservations

### Saturday, August 11

Page Springs. We will visit the Page Springs fish hatchery near Camp Verde and bird other nearby locations. Possible Yellow-billed Cuckoo, American Redstart and Prothonotary Warbler. Spotting scopes are helpful. Bring lunch. Call leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Herb Fibel. 480.966.5246, [herbertsfibel@aol.com](mailto:herbertsfibel@aol.com)

### Saturday, August 25

Rio Salado. The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area is centered on the restored permanent flow in the Salt River in central Phoenix. Since opening in

November, 2005, it has attracted 191 bird species, about 50 of which breed there. A typical morning at the Rio produces 50-60 species (although 70 is possible). Our leader, Tom Gaskill, has been monitoring bird populations since the project opened. The channel has extensive reedbeds and willows, with breeding populations of Cinnamon Teal, Black-crowned Night Herons, Moorhens, Black-necked Stilts, Yellowthroats, and Song Sparrows, among others. A rich variety of nearby habitats provide a remarkably diverse array of species in a small area. Constructed wetlands and a cottonwood forest attract a warblers, sparrows, tanagers, orioles and Lazuli Buntings. Desert scrub and grasslands have Lark Sparrows, Rock Wrens, Bendire's Thrashers, Horned Larks and Peregrine Falcon. Rarities include little Blue Herons, Glossy and White Ibis, Hooded and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Sprague's Pipits. Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Avenue (one and a half blocks south of I-17) at 6:30AM. Difficulty 2. Easy, two mile walk. Bring a snack, plenty of water and wear a hat and comfortable shoes. Finish about noon. Limit 15.

Leader: Tom Gaskill, [gaskillt@MINDSPRING.COM](mailto:gaskillt@MINDSPRING.COM), or 480.968.5614

### Saturday, August 25

Rio Salado. The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area is centered on the restored permanent flow in the Salt River in central Phoenix. Since opening in November, 2005, it has attracted 191 bird species, about 50 of which breed there. A typical morning at the Rio produces 50-60 species (although 70 is possible). Our leader, Tom Gaskill, has been monitoring bird populations since the project opened. The channel has extensive reedbeds and willows, with breeding populations of Cinnamon Teal, Black-crowned Night Herons, Moorhens, Black-necked Stilts, Yellowthroats, and Song Sparrows, among others. A rich variety of nearby habitats provide a remarkably diverse array of species in a small area. Constructed wetlands and a cottonwood forest attract a warblers, sparrows, tanagers, orioles and Lazuli Buntings. Desert scrub and grasslands have Lark Sparrows, Rock Wrens, Bendire's Thrashers, Horned Larks and Peregrine Falcon. Rarities include little Blue Herons, Glossy and White Ibis, Hooded and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Sprague's Pipits. Meet at the visitors' plaza on the north bank at Central Avenue (one and a half blocks south of I-17) at 6:30AM. Difficulty 2. Easy, two mile walk. Bring a snack, plenty of water and wear a hat and



# Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

comfortable shoes. Finish about noon. Limit 15.

Leader: Tom Gaskill,  
[gaskillt@MINDSPRING.COM](mailto:gaskillt@MINDSPRING.COM), or  
480.968.5614

## Saturday, August 25

Gilbert Water Ranch-Dragonfly and Butterfly walk. Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) assists in the control of insect pests and in turn are a food source for birds. They breed in water but can be found far from it. GWR has proved to be a very productive odonata habitat. Their remarkable morphology, brilliant colorations and curious behaviors inspire and amaze observers of these fascinating aerialists. Checklists (free), Common Dragonflies of the Southwest by Cathy Biggs (\$10) and childrens coloring/activity books (\$5) will be available. The GWR is s.e. of Guadalupe and Greenfield Rds. Meet 7:00AM at the Dragonfly Ramada, south of the east side of the parking lot. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring water, hat and binos. No reservations will be taken. Leader: Bob Witzeman

## Saturday, September 8

Hassayampa River Preserve- We will look for Tropical Kingbirds, Hutton's vireo and other riparian species at this Nature Conservancy property near Wickenburg. Meet at the preserve parking lot at 7:00AM, finish by 11:00, when the trails close. There is a \$5 entry fee, \$3 for TNC members. Bring binos, sunscreen, water, hat, etc.  
Leaders: Cynthia Donald and Pete Moulton, 480.283.4515 for reservations.

## Saturday, September 15

Gilbert Water Ranch-Dragonfly and Butterfly walk. Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) assists in the control of insect pests and in turn are a food source for birds. GWR has proved to be a very productive odonata habitat with various species occurring as the season progresses. They are much more approachable than birds and make terrific photographic subjects. We will look for butterflies as well, though they are not found in abundance there. Checklists (free), Common Dragonflies of the Southwest by Cathy Biggs (\$10) and childrens coloring/activity books (\$5) will be available. The GWR is s.e. of Guadalupe and Greenfield Rds. Meet 7:00AM at the Dragonfly Ramada, south of the east side of the parking lot. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring close focus binos if you have them, water, hat. No reservations will be taken.

Leaders: Cynthia Donald and Pete Moulton.

## Sunday, September 16

Birding Tours of Audubon Celebration 2007, Sept 14-16. Select from the following field trips. Pre-registration (\$85) is required and includes most workshops, box lunch, banquet dinner. Fiesta Inn Resort, Tempe AZ. Note: All trips leave from the Fiesta Inn unless otherwise noted.

West Valley Salome - Baseline Roads Thrasher Site (full day), Sycamore Creek, Mt. Ord and Slate Creek Divide (full day) led by Jim Burns, Tres Rios (half day): Tracey McCarthy, Agua Fria National Monument (full day): led by Bob McCormack, Gilbert Riparian Preserve at Water Ranch (half day): led by Kathe Anderson, Rio Salado (half day): led by Tom Gaskill.

Butterflies, birds and more (full day): At Sycamore Creek at Sunflower and Mt. Ord, join us for butterflies, birds and reptiles along the foothills of western Maricopa County. Our first stop will be along Pine Creek near the Ballantine Trail; the habitat here is a mixture of chaparral and Sonoran Desert with a healthy Saguaro forest. Next we head to in Sunflower for a leisurely walk along the old highway adjacent to Sycamore Creek; the habitat here is upper Sonoran transition zone Pinyon-Juniper and along the creek is a mixture of Oak, Willow and Arizona Sycamore. We will check the foothills of Mt. Ord for hill toppers and pine forest critters. If there is time we may hike the road to the crest. Lots of walking and some strenuous hiking. Plan on an all day trip. Some possibilities include: Mead's Wood-nymph, Red-bordered Satyr, Red-spotted Admiral, Variable Checkerspot, Tiny Checkerspot, Elada Checkerspot, Painted Redstart, Olive Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Plumbeous Vireo, Gila Spotted Whiptail, Northern Plateau Lizard, Ornate Tree Lizard, Zebra-tailed Lizard, Desert Spiny Lizard, Chuck-walla, Western Whiptail. Meet at Fountain Hills Lake in Fountain Hills at the north side parking lot Hills at 6 AM. The parking lot is on El Lago near the corner of Saguaro Blvd and El Lago Blvd. Tour led by Kurt Radamaker.

Desert Botanical Gardens (half day): At the border of Phoenix and Tempe, next to the Phoenix Zoo in Papago Park is the Desert Botanical Gardens, a lush showcase of desert botanical specimens both native and exotic. Paved and dirt walks allow easy access throughout

the gardens. Because of the year-round blooming season, nectar is always available and seeds are always ripening. Resident birds include Gambel's Quail, Inca Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Gilded Flicker, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Abert's Towhee, and occasionally Loggerhead Shrike. Black-chinned Hummingbird and Hooded Oriole are possible, Lesser Nighthawks are active at dusk, and Elf Owls nest in saguaro cavities around the parking lot. There are productive areas to bird both the zoo ponds and outside the gardens before the 7:00AM opening. \$10 entry fee for non-members. Tour led by Andre Tarby.

## Friday, September 28

Sonoita Creek Natural Area- We will hike both riparian (3,750') and upland areas of the newly opened 5,000-acre site adjacent to Patagonia Lake State Park. More than 130 species of butterflies and 315 species of birds have been documented there. To control human impact and maintain a wilderness experience, only a limited number of permits are granted daily. Park Ranger Bill Adler will lead us on a 6 mile loop trail to look for fall migrants and residents including Gray Hawk, Common Black Hawk, tanagers, warblers and grassland species. Botanist may want to reserve time to peruse the herbarium in the Visitors Center, open 7AM-5PM daily. Meet 8:00 at the Visitors Center. Bring snacks, water, lunch, hat, scope. Difficulty 2, easy but long hike (about 5 miles). Return to trailhead mid-afternoon. Camping available at Patagonia Lake State Park. Park entry fee is \$7/carload. Limit 8. Difficulty 2, easy but long hike.  
Leader: Park Ranger Bill Adler  
Laurie Nessel, [laurienessel@hotmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@hotmail.com)  
480.968.5614 for reservations.

## Saturday, September 29

Gilbert Water Ranch-Close-up Wildlife Photography. We will cover SLR, digiscoping and point and shoot using cooperative dragonflies, damselflies and whatever else is available as subjects. Learn to identify the odonata and maybe see a bird or two as well. The GWR is s.e. of Guadalupe and Greenfield Rds. Meet 7:00AM at the Dragonfly Ramada, south of the east side of the parking lot. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring your camera, water, hat. No reservations will be taken.  
Leaders: Cynthia Donald, Pete Moulton and Laurie Nessel

continued on page 10

# Maricopa Audubon Society Field Trips

continued from page 9

field trips

**Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7**

Bill Williams River NWR and Havasu NWR- In Celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week

On Saturday, DeeDee DeLorenzo will guide us around Havasu NWR at Topock Marsh - Topock Marina, South Dike, Catfish Paradise, Five Mile Landing, and Pintail Slough looking for waterfowl such as White Pelicans, Blue-Wing Teal, Gadwall, Redheads, raptors and passerines. The marsh represents over 40% of the remaining backwaters of the Colorado River and serves as a critical resting place for migratory waterfowl as well as resident songbirds, waterbirds, and other wildlife. Bring snacks, water, and a sack lunch. Scope optional. Meet 6:15AM at the Topock Marina, exit 1 off I-40. We will bird until mid-afternoon.

On Sunday we visit the Bill Williams River NWR near Parker, Az. This ecotone between the Sonoran and Mohave Desert biomes is the only location on the Lower Colorado River with the entire complex of riparian obligate species left. Over 349 bird species confirmed as well as a diversity of butterflies and plants. Join Refuge Ecologist, Dr. Kathleen Blair, for an easy hike up Mineral Wash to look for neo-tropic migrants, Grasshopper, Savannahs, Lincoln and Sage sparrows, and Crissal, Bendires and LeContes Thrashers. An afternoon "Gardening for Birds and Butterflies with Native Plants" program is available by request. Prepare for high temperature and river crossings. High clearance vehicle recommended. Bring water, snack and lunch. Scope optional. Bring your own canoe or kayak for an afternoon launch into the marsh area. Meet at Coffee Ern's Cafe/Kofa Motel on the south end of town off Hwy 95 at 6:00AM. We will bird until early afternoon. For information and reservations contact Laurie Nessel 480.968.5614 or [laurienessel@gmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@gmail.com)

**Saturday, October 20th**

Gilbert Water Ranch-Dragonfly and Butterfly walk. Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) assists in the control of insect pests and in turn are a food source for birds. GWR has proved to be a very productive odonata habitat with various species occurring as the season progresses. They are much more approachable than birds and make terrific photographic subjects. We hope to see some butterflies as well, although they are not found in abundance there. Checklists (free), Common Dragonflies of the Southwest by Cathy Biggs (\$10) and childrens coloring/activity books (\$5) will be available. The GWR is s.e. of

Guadalupe and Greenfield Rds. Meet 7:00AM at the Dragonfly Ramada, south of the east side of the parking lot. There is a suggested \$5 donation to support the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. Bring binos, water, hat. No reservations will be taken. Leaders: Cynthia Donald and Pete Moulton.

**Saturday, October 27**

Oak Flat and Boyce Thompson Arboretum-We will look for late fall migrants at the unique Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park and then on to the 4100' elevation chaparral of Oak Flat Campground for possible Crissal Thrasher and Black-chinned Sparrow. \$7 entry to BTA for non-members. Difficulty 2. Meet at Dennis s.e. of Rural and US 60 at 7:00AM to carpool, or by the BTA bookshop at 8:00AM. Leader: Bob Witzeman, 602.840.0052 for reservations and information.

**Saturday, Nov. 3**

Fossil Creek- Join AGFD biologists on a tour of this Verde River tributary whose travertine lined waters were recently restored to their natural channel after nearly 100 years of diversion. Focus will be on the plant community starting with the chaparral plants on the upper slopes. Prepare for water crossings and moderate to difficult hiking of about 3 miles. Bring water, hats, binos, and suitable footwear. Meet in Payson at 9:00 AM in the parking lot to the east of the McDonalds on the southeast corner of SR 87 and SR 260. We can arrange additional carpooling there. Limit 20. Difficulty 3.

Leaders: Russ Haughey and Gene Sturla. For information [russellhaughey@cox.net](mailto:russellhaughey@cox.net)

For reservations and carpooling from Phoenix: Laurie Nessel 480.968.5614, [laurienessel@gmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, November 7**

Santa Cruz Flats- We will leave from the s.e. corner of the Tempe Library (Southern and Rural) at 6 am and drive south on I-10 to the Arizona City area (just beyond I-8). After checking the artificial lake here for waterfowl (last year we had a Surf Scoter), we will drive toward the flood plain of the Santa Cruz River and the agricultural fields that extend down to the Santa Rosa Mountains. On the sod farms the MOUNTAIN PLOVERS should be back. Flocks of MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS and HORNED LARKS are often common. On the telephone poles and flying over the fields, we have good chances for many hawks, including CRESTED CARCARA, FERRUGINOUS HAWK, PEREGRINE FALCON, MERLIN and perhaps WHITE-TAILED KITE. Flocks of seven species

of sparrows and LARK BUNTINGS will give us practice distinguishing LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs). In the pecan groves, we will look for LEWIS WOODPECKER, and in the patches of native scrub vegetation we may find SAGE THRASHER, BENDIRES THRASHER, and CURVE-BILLED THRASHER. Bring your scopes as we will often be seeing things at a distance in the open country side. There are no McDonalds here, so also bring lunch and drinks. We should be back in Tempe about 3 pm. Limit -- four cars. Leader: Dr. Dave Pearson

For information and reservations contact Laurie Nessel 480.968.5614 or [laurienessel@gmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@gmail.com)

**Monday, Nov. 12**

Gilbert Water Ranch-Beginning bird walk. Gilbert Water Ranch has 7 acres of water recharge basins ringed with easy, dirt trails. Beginning birders will have the patient expertise of Kathe Anderson to teach them how to identify the wintering waterfowl and resident species and perhaps a surprise visitor that flock to this urban oasis. Bring binoculars, water, snack. Meet 8:00AM at the Dragonfly Ramada south of the parking lot. GWR is at the southeast corner of Guadalupe and Greenfield Rds. in Gilbert, just east of the public library. Done by 10:15AM. Limit 12 Leader: Kathe Anderson, 480.951.4890 or [kathe.coot@cox.net](mailto:kathe.coot@cox.net) for reservations.

**Saturday, November 17**

Sunflower Area-Join us for a pre-holiday meander to desert areas near Sunflower, north on the Beeline Highway, to include Mesquite Wash, Bushnell Tanks, and Sycamore Creek. Expect to see Phainopepla, Say's Phoebe, Lesser Goldfinch, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Other possible bird sightings include Townsend's Solitaire, Loggerhead Shrike, Harris' Hawk, and Juniper Titmouse. Meet at Denny's Restaurant parking lot on the south side of Shea Boulevard just west of the Beeline Highway (State Route 87) in Fountain Hills at 7:30 A.M. Bring a lunch, binos, water. Limit: 15; Difficulty: 2 Leader: Richard Kaiser, (602) 276-3312 or [rkaiserinaz@aol.com](mailto:rkaiserinaz@aol.com) for reservations or information.

Continuing:

Third Saturdays: Family Bird Walks at the Gilbert Water Ranch sponsored by Friends of Audubon Arizona, 8AM-12AM. Begins again in October.

Mondays: Bird Walks at the Desert Botanical Gardens, free with admission to the garden. Call the Garden for time--time varies with the season.



# Six Tribes Sign Resolution Opposing Oak Flat Land Exchange

Bob Witzman

In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.  
John Muir (1838-1914)

On June 20th representatives of six Native American Tribes signed a historic resolution east of Superior, AZ at the USFS Oak Flat Campground. The document stated their opposition to the proposed Resolution Copper Company's (RCC) Congressional land swap legislation. Present that day under Oak Flat's massive and ancient Oaks were some 300 Native Americans. In addition, non-Indian opponents of the exchange were present to witness a historic signing.

The ceremony started with an Apache prayer session a mile from Oak Flat. It was conducted by a medicine man, drums and sacred songs. In the background, defiling the ceremony was an active RCC test drilling tower.

Signing the formal resolution were Tribal Chairpersons of the San Carlos Apache, White Mountain Apache, Hopi, Hualapai, Yavapai Apache, Camp Verde, and Tonto Apache Tribes. Speakers from each tribe stated their opposition to the mine.

Reading of the 1200-word, multi-tribe resolution by Vernelda Grant, San Carlos Historic Preservation Director was deeply moving (copies available on request). The drama intensified as Native American with digital cameras photographed their six tribal leaders. Those leaders seated at the table proceeded to sign the document and pass it from one to the other. The ceremony was photographed and covered in the East Valley Tribunes.

Excerpts from the resolution stated: "The proposed mining operation will, among other things, result in the destruction, violation, and desecration of certain lands sacred to these Native Nations, including areas referred to by non-Indians as Oak Flat, Apache Leap and Devil's Canyon, and adversely impact our

ability to continue important practices of our religion and culture.

"In addition, the mining project proposed by Resolution Copper will wrongfully deplete or contaminate the water resources found in nearby watersheds and aquifers, leaving the neighboring Native Nations and nearby communities in Southeastern Arizona to deal with the permanent religious, cultural and environmental damages of this massive mining project – damages that will continue long after the parent companies of Resolution Copper, foreign mining interests Rio Tinto PC and BHP-Billiton, Ltd., have reaped the profits from the copper ore and water removed from



Seated from left: San Carlos Apache Tribal Chair Wendsler Nosie, Sr., Tonto Apache Tribal Chair, Hubert Nanty, Hopi Vice-Chair Todd Honyaoma Sr., White Mountain Apache Tribal Chair Ronnie Lupe, Camp Verde Apache Tribal Chair Jamie Fullmer and Hualapai Tribal Chair Charles Vaughn. Standing: San Carlos Apache tribal dignitaries. (Bob Witzman photo)

these lands...

"The Tribal Coalition cannot, on any basis, support a legislative land exchange which would allow for the destruction of these culturally significant and environmentally important lands, especially where the devastating impacts from the mining activities to be conducted on, around and underneath Oak Flat and Apache Leap will continue forever, leaving future generations to suffer from the legacy of damage left behind...

"Rio Tinto has a long history of serious environmental problems and is known throughout the world for its alleged human rights violations and mistreatment of indigenous cultures from the Americas,

to Australia and Papua New Guinea...

"Once the sacred lands and environment of Oak Flat, Apache Leap and Devil's Canyon have been desecrated and destroyed by the mining operations of Resolution Copper, they can never be restored..."

Oak Flat and its adjacent Devil's Canyon are ecologically unique and important bird habitats. As has been pointed out before in the Cactus Wren-dition, neither Audubon Arizona nor NAS have ever shown the courtesy of consulting with the geographically proximate Maricopa Audubon or Tucson Audubon Societies before embracing this NEPA-exempt,

Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act-weakened land exchange.

Here is a location only an hour from metro Phoenix where chapter members have led Christmas Counts over the last seven consecutive years. Species-wise it is extraordinary. In recent years the area has documented: Rufous-backed Robin, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Slate-colored Dark-eyed Junco, Varied Thrush, Lewis's Woodpecker, Harris's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Sooty and Slate-colored Fox Sparrows. That this biologic, botanic, and ecologic treasure is not part of the Boyce-Thompson IBA is beyond comprehension.

Tucson Audubon has noted the horrendous potential dewatering impact upon priceless Lower San Pedro's endangered species riparian habitat by RCC's partner, BHP-Billiton. BHP would dewater the exchange's San Pedro River land swap property as well as endangered species mitigation properties of SRP, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and Nature Conservancy properties located there. How our beloved National Audubon Society and Audubon Arizona could embrace this land swap legislation without prior consultation with their local chapters is difficult to understand.



# Field Observations

Janet Witzeman

MARCH, APRIL, & MAY 2007

Two pairs of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen at Hunter's Ponds Apr. 19 (TC). Two very tame Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks frequented the Arizona Canal between 32nd and 48th Streets from summer 2006 through the period into June 2007 (MP,R&JWz). These may or may not have been part of the group of three tame individuals seen in a Scottsdale yard May 10 (JB). The tame individual at ponds in Scottsdale all winter, was still present May 12 (R&JWz). The tame Fulvous Whistling-Duck, at ponds in Scottsdale since at least the fall of 2005, was still present at McCormick Ranch May 12 (R&JWz). The Ross's Goose that wintered at Chaparral Park, was still present there May 25 (MW) and provided the first May record for Maricopa County.

One "Mexican" Mallard remained at Gilbert Water Ranch (GWR) at least until Apr. 20 (MM). One male Greater Scaup remained at the ASU Research Park pond until Mar. 8 (MSc). Four late Buffleheads (rare in May) were observed on Fountain Hills Lake May 12 (TP).

Eared Grebes are not usually found after the end of April, so unusual were the high numbers (104 total) found at the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant pond, Saguaro Lake, and Painted Rock Dam (PRD) during the North American Migration Count (NAMC) May 12 (TC,BG,KR). One Clark's Grebe found at the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant pond (TC) and two, seen on Saguaro Lake (KR) May 12, were also later than usual. Large numbers of Neotropic Cormorants continued to be reported: 100-150 along the effluent channel at 91st Ave., Apr. 19 (TC), "huge flocks" at Tempe Town Lake Apr. 25 (MW), and 98 at GWR May 6 (MM). A total of 262 were counted during the NAMC in Maricopa County.

The Am. Bittern that wintered at Rio Salado, remained until Apr. 13 (TG). An adult with two young Least Bitterns were observed at 107th and the Salt River May 6 (CB). Juvenile Black-crowned Night-Herons were

observed at Rio Salado Apr. 21 (TG). The heron rookery near I-8 and Painted Rock Dam Rd. was found to be active again; on May 25 Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and a few Great Egrets were found nesting and at least one Cattle Egret was present there (TC). Large numbers of White-faced Ibis (over 1000) were seen flying west over the 91st Ave. effluent channel Apr. 19 (TC).

Individual White-tailed Kites, rare and irregular in spring, were observed near Queen Creek Mar. 18 (JMr), and s.e. of Buckeye May 14 and May 12 (TC,BBu). Individual Sharp-shinned Hawks were found in Arlington (TC) and Wickenburg (NL et al.) on the late date of May 12 and provided the first May records for the county. The pair of Red-shouldered Hawks in Wickenburg was found to be likely attempting to nest there again Mar. 10 (TC). A Gray Hawk, only a casual visitor, was found at Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP) Mar. 23, 28, & 30 (CM,G&SH); there have been five previous sightings at HRP since 1993.

Individual Broad-winged Hawks (rare migrants) were discovered at Page Springs, Yavapai County Apr. 14 (KR,MV et al.), at Rio Verde Ranch Apr. 19 (TM), and at Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA) in Pinal County Apr. 23 (CT). Unusual was a Zone-tailed Hawk seen e. of the confluence of the Agua Fria and Gila Rivers Mar. 22; the species is rarely seen in s.w. Phoenix (TC). Individual Golden Eagles (rare residents) were observed along the Lower Camp Creek Rd., Mar. 4 (WT), at nearby Columbine Mar. 26 (RWd,AV), and at Sunflower Apr. 13 & 28 (fide JA,KR). The pair of Peregrine Falcons was found nesting again (as last year) on the County Building in downtown Phoenix Mar. 14 (TC).

Between five and six Clapper Rails were heard calling at the Arlington Wildlife Management Area from Apr. 25 at least to May 12 (TC,EL). After suspecting that a pair of Snowy Plovers was nesting at Paloma Ranch May 12 (BG), four pairs were

discovered nesting there May 25 – there were at least three females on eggs and one brood of three new born chicks (BG,TC). The species has nested in the Painted Rock Dam area during four previous years since 1974 when it was first found nesting there. Black-necked Stilts nested successfully at Rio Salado and again at GWR during April and May (TG,MM,MSc). Am. Avocets also nested successfully again at GWR during the period (MM,PM,RWz). An early migrating Lesser Yellowlegs was photographed at GWR Mar. 9 & 24 (RWz,ML).

Two Solitary Sandpipers were reported in Arlington Valley Apr. 15 (BG) and one lingered to the late date of May 12 (TC); individuals were also seen at GWR Apr. 17 (MM) and 91st Ave. Apr. 19 (TC). Numbers of Willets (usually considered to be uncommon migrants) were reported: six in Arlington Valley Apr. 15 (BG), seven at Hunter's Ponds Apr. 19 (TC), seven at Tempe Town Lake Apr. 28 (MW), and one at GWR Apr. 29 (PD). Two Whimbrels were found on the Lower River Rd. ponds Apr. 22 (BG). A slightly early Marbled Godwit was seen at GWR Apr. 13 (RD,MM) and 11 were seen flying over fields west of Phoenix Apr. 25 (TC). Six slightly late Western Sandpipers and a few slightly late Least Sandpipers were observed at the Lewis Prison ponds May 12 (TC). Eighteen Red-necked Phalaropes (rare in spring) were counted at PRD May 12 (BG).

Larger than usual numbers of Franklin's Gulls were reported: 16 in Arlington Valley Apr. 15 and two there Apr. 22 (BG), at least four on the Agua Fria River arm of Lake Pleasant Apr. 20 (JY), four on the Lower River Rd. ponds Apr. 20 (TC), between one and four at Tempe Town Lake Apr. 21 – May 22 (MW et al.), and 12 at GWR Apr. 28 (RF). Individual Bonaparte's Gulls (uncommon migrants) were observed at the Power Plant pond in Gila Band Apr. 7 (CB), in Arlington Valley Apr. 15 (BG), near Arlington Apr. 22 (BG), and at PRD May 12 (BG). A Least Tern was photographed at GWR May 27 (RWz);

there have been 15 previous county records, most of which have been in May. A Black Tern, rare in spring, was observed at Tres Rios May 27 (WT).

Two Spotted Owls, rare local residents, were discovered on Mt. Ord Apr. 28 (EL). Individual Long-eared Owls, were found in McDowell Mt. Park Apr. 3 (GB) and at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG) Apr. 9 (JB). A N. Saw-whet Owl, discovered at BTA Mar. 4 - 5 (JH,PW), was perhaps the third for that area. Two Common Nighthawks, discovered at Rio Salado May 12 (TG,RL,JMn), provided the first spring record for the county.

Between one and a dozen Vaux's Swifts were observed at each of six locations in the county from Apr. 21 to May 12 (m.ob.). The hybrid Broad-billed x Violet Crowned Hummingbird, that wintered at BTA, remained through the period into June (TC,MSt et al.). A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird was found constructing a nest on Mt. Ord Apr. 8, two to three weeks earlier than usual (TC).

A male Elegant Trogon was discovered as it flew over the ridge from Gila Co. into Maricopa County at Slate Creek Divide May 26 (TC,B&LB) and provided the first record for Gila County and only the second for Maricopa County. A Belted Kingfisher was seen carrying fish to a burrow at Rio Salado Apr. 15 and the pair was seen in the same vicinity May 12 (TG et al.), indicating possible breeding. There is one nesting record for the county (before 1928) and a probable breeding record along the Salt River above Granite Reef Dam in late May and June 1993 (TC). A lingering Red-naped Sapsucker was seen in a Scottsdale yard on the late date of May 12 (BJ).

Again, as last year, Olive-sided Flycatchers seemed to be more numerous than usual, or there may be more birders reporting them than in previous years. No fewer than 10 were seen in nine different localities from Apr. 21 to May 26 (m.ob.). A Greater Pewee, an uncommon migrant in the higher elevations of the county, was observed at Slate Creek

Divide May 12 (K&CR,DPO) & May 16 (LH,RWd et al.). A Willow Flycatcher, an uncommon migrant, was seen at Paloma Ranch May 12 & 25 (BG,TC). Numbers of Hammond's Flycatchers were reported from seven locations between Apr. 15 and May 12, with a high of 10 at Morgan City Wash (MCW) Apr. 21 (TC, m.ob.).

An early Dusky Flycatcher was observed at HRP Mar. 16 (LH,RWd); individuals were also reported from seven other areas between Apr. 13 and May 12 when a high of seven were reported on the NAMC in Maricopa Co. (TC, m.ob.). Individual Gray Flycatchers were found in seven areas between Apr. 19 and May 26, with a high of five recorded on the NAMC (m.ob.). The first Pacific-slope Flycatcher was seen at Tres Rios Mar. 22 (TC), seven were heard singing at MCW Apr. 21 (TC), and one was reported at Sycamore Creek Apr. 22 (DPe). Three Cordilleran Flycatchers were recorded on the NAMC May 12 at higher elevations (fide TC). A Thick-billed Kingbird was found back at HRP for the fifth consecutive year May 3 (CM).

Two Warbling Vireos were heard singing on territory May 16 among the maples atop Slate Creek Divide, where the species was first found nesting in 1999 (R&JWz et al.). A Red-eyed Vireo, a rare transient, was discovered at Paloma Ranch May 25 (BG,TC). Five Mexican Jays irregular visitors to the higher elevations in the county, were seen at Slate Creek Divide May 12 (C&KR,DPO) and May 26 (TC,B&LB). Two Barn Swallow nests were discovered at Rio Salado May 12 (fide TG); there have been only two previous nesting records for the county.

Bridled Titmice are irregular wanderers to the lowlands, so of interest were a dozen that were counted at HRP Mar. 10 and one at MCW Mar. 31 (TC). Brown Creeper is also uncommon in the lowlands; two were seen at HRP Mar. 10 (TC). A House Wren was found at Eldorado Park on the late date of May 7 (JB). A Winter Wren was discovered again

at HRP (as was one a year ago) Mar. 10 (TC).

Western Bluebirds breed in only very small numbers on Mt. Ord, so it was reassuring to learn that two were seen there Apr. 15 (EH). Individual Swainson's Thrushes (uncommon transients) were observed at Tres Rios May 6 (CB), at MCW, May 6 (TC), during the NAMC May 12 (fide TC), and at Paloma Ranch May 25 (TC,BG). A Rufous-backed Robin was found and photographed at DBG Apr. 22 - 23 (GR,DH,CC), providing the first record for that area, The Brown Thrasher, at BTA for the seventh consecutive winter, was last seen there Apr. 28 (CT). Fifteen Cedar Waxwings (irregular visitors), were observed in a yard in Gilbert Mar. 19 and one remained until May 19 (P&GH); one was reported at HRP Mar. 24 (MH), three were seen at Fountain Hills Mar. 30 (JA), and three were recorded on the NAMC (fide TC).

Individual Tennessee Warblers, rare transients, were discovered Mar. 3 at Rio Salado, where it remained until Apr. 13 (TG,TB) and at GWR Apr. 29 - May 1 (MM,PD,MSc). A N. Parula was found at Tres Rios May 20 (MH). Two "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers were observed at Seven Springs Mar. 26 (RWd,AV) and one was reported at Rio Salado Apr. 5 (MSc). A Townsend's Warbler, seen at Lower Camp Creek Mar. 4 (WT), provided the first March record for the county and was likely one of the two which wintered in the area. Many Townsend's Warblers were reported during migration from Apr. 13 to May 19, with a high of 51 on the NAMC (m.ob.).

More than the usual number of Hermit Warblers was reported: eight were found between Apr. 22 and May 12 (m.ob.). An early returning Grace's Warbler was observed on Mt. Ord Apr. 8, about five days earlier than the previous early date (TC). Another Grace's Warbler (rare in the lowlands), found at MCW, Apr. 21, was the second for this location (TC). Five individual Black-and-white Warblers were reported: at Eldorado Park Mar.

continued on page 14

# Field Observations

Continued from page 13

19 – Apr. 20 (JB), at MCW, Mar. 31 & Apr. 7 (TC,BI) at Rio Salado Apr. 13, at Agua Fria Nat'l. Mon. Apr. 29 & May 7 (BM,DW), and in a Scottsdale yard May 15 (JB).

A Worm-eating Warbler was discovered at Seven Springs Wash May 18 (TC); there have been eight previous county records – this was the first one for May. A male Hooded Warbler was found in a Tempe yard May 11 (MSc); there have been 15 previous county records. Individual Red-faced Warblers were found on Mt. Ord Apr. 15 & 22 (EH,EL), the first to be recorded there since the summer of 2003. Individual Red-faced Warblers were also found on Slate Creek Divide (where the species has been found nesting) May 12 (C&KR,DPO) and May 16 (RK et al.), the first to be recorded there since the summer of 2002. A migrating male Red-faced Warbler was found at a lower than usual location at Agua Fria Nat'l. Mon. May 7 (DW). Individual Painted Redstarts, rare transients in the lowlands, were observed at the confluence of the Salt and Gila Rivers Mar. 17 (BM) and at BTA Mar. 17 (JWk).

The Summer Tanager that returned to a Tempe neighborhood for the sixth consecutive winter, remained until Mar. 23 (BEn).

Many more than the usual number of migrating Green-tailed Towhees were reported during April and early May; in fact “many” was the word used to report the species at each of the usual birding areas such as Tres Rios, MCW, GWR, Rio Salado, and other areas (m.ob.). Six were recorded during the NAMC on the late date of May 12 (fide TC) and five were counted at GWR on the late date of May 13 (PD).

Individual Cassin's Sparrows were discovered near the road to Slate Creek Divide May 7 (HB) and a singing male May 18 n. of Camp Creek in the new open grassy habitat that was a result of the Cave Creek Complex Fire two years ago (TC). There have been only three previous spring records in the county. Perhaps they were headed to the higher

elevation grasslands near Cordes Jct., where the species was found to be breeding during the Breeding Bird Atlas (fide TC). The Fox Sparrow at GWR remained until Mar. 11 (MM) and the one at BTA was last seen Mar. 9 (MSc).

The White-throated Sparrow that wintered in a Mesa yard remained until Mar. 16 (JMc) and one was found in a Scottsdale yard Apr. 17 – 27 (JB). The two Harris's Sparrows at GWR were last seen there Mar. 24 (ML,RWz) and one remained until Apr. 25 (MM), nine days later than the previous record. A Golden-crowned Sparrow, a rare winter visitor, was observed in a Scottsdale yard Apr. 25 until May 6 (JB), providing only the second May record for the county. Four Gray-headed Juncos (rare in May) were counted at Seven Springs May 12 (DY et al.).

A Pyrrhuloxia was found Mar. 9 at BTA, where it is considered to be rare (MSc). Another Pyrrhuloxia was observed Apr. 5 along the Verde River below Horseshoe Dam, where there are no known breeding records, but close to the northernmost breeding area in s.w. Yavapai Co. (TC). More Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (rare transients) than usual were reported: a male was photographed in Hidden Valley, just e. of Maricopa Co. in Pinal Co., Apr. 17 (NLa), a malwe was observed in a Sun City yard May 12 (DS), a male was seen in a north Phoenix yard May 24 (BI), and a male was observed at BTA May 13 – 15 (PS,MSc,HB,MM,RD). Two male Blue Grosbeaks were seen near Avondale Apr. 20, two weeks earlier than usual and provided the first April record for the county (TC). Four individual Indigo Buntings (rare transients) were found: a female in Avondale along the lower Agua Fria River Apr. 20 was ten days earlier than previous records (TC), a male at HRP May 3 (CM), one at Mesquite Wash May 12 (DPo), and one at MCW May 19 (TC).

The Streak-backed Oriole that wintered at GWR was last seen there Apr. 20 (PB).

A small group of Cassin's Finches (irregular transients) were observed

on Mt. Ord Mar. 23 (KR). Three Red Crossbills (irregular visitors) were found on Mt. Ord Apr. 28 (KR). Twelve Pine Siskins (irregular visitors to the lowlands) were counted at Sycamore Creek Mar. 4 (TC). One Lawrence's Goldfinch was seen between Avondale and Arlington Mar. 14 (TC,BB). Fifteen Lawrence's Goldfinches were counted at BTA Mar. 11 (BEi), and by Mar. 17 there were only two there (TC,RD).

Farther afield, a singing male Prothonotary Warbler was discovered in the courtyard at the Cameron Trading Post in northern Arizona May 15 (CB,BJ).

Abbreviations: Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA), Desert Botanical Garden (DBG), Gilbert Water Ranch (GWR), Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP), Morgan City Wash (MCW), many observers (m.ob.), North American Migration Count (NAMC), Painted Rock Dam (PRD).

Observers: Jerry Allen, Charles Babbitt, Paul Bach, Jack Bartley, Harold Bond, Gary Botello, Bob & Lisa Brideau, Terwwry Brodner, Bill Burger (BBu), Carl Campbell, Troy Corman, Pierre Deviche, Rich Ditch, Bruce Eilerts (BEi), Brian Enos (BEn), Randy Forrest, Tom Gaskill, Bill Grossi, Gerald & Sharon Hammon, Liz Hatcher, Melanie Herring, Diana Herron, Bill Higgins, Jack Holloway, Eric Hough, Brian Ison, Bud Johnson, Richard Krebill, Rob Lane, Nancy Lange (NLa), Mark Larson, Eric Latternur, Nancy London (NLo), Tom Magarian, Jon Mann (JMn), Joe Marsala (JMr), Bob McCormick, James McKay (JMc), Craig Miller, Michael Moore, Pete Moulton, Dave Pearson (DPe), Mike Plagens, Dave Powell (DPO), Tim Price, Cindy Radamaker, Kurt Radamaker, Gillian Rice, Myron Scott (MSc), Pat Scott, Donna Smith, Mark Stevenson (MSt). Walter Thurber, Carl Tomoff, Anita Van Auken, Marceline Vandewater, Dennis Wall, Magill Weber, Jane Wicklund, Russ Widner (RWd), Robert Witzeman (RWz), Paul Wolterbeck, Daniela Yellan, John Yerger.



Base & Meridian Wildlife Area--Gila River--February 10. Eleven MAS members traveled to the AZ Game and Fish B&M Wildlife Area on. The day started cloudy and cool but warmed nicely by late morning. Birding was perhaps a little slow, but a nice list was collected by the end of the morning. The group also visited the "Initial Point" of the Township and Range Coordinate system at the top of nearby Monument Hill, and checked both the 121st Ave. & Southern Ruddy Dove location and El Mirage Pond without success in finding the ruddys. The day list included 43 species. Submitted by Field Trip leader Tom Hildebrandt.

Patagonia to Madera Canyon--Six of us left the Tempe Library parking lot at 4:15 am and drove down to Patagonia where we met 6 additional participants who chose to spend the night closer to the beginning of our birding route. We first went to the Patton's backyard feeders on the west side of the Sonoita Creek. The species came fast and furious with VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD, BLUE GROSBEAK and NORTHERN BEARDLESS TYRANNULET the highlights.

Then we drove the short distance to the Nature Conservancy Reserve, where Matt Killeen had graciously arranged for us to enter even though it was a day the reserve is normally closed. We spent almost two hours walking the paths with the reserve completely to ourselves. The highlights here were a pair of adult GRAY HAWKS and a juvenile calling their beautiful "song" and soaring over our heads again and again. A small kettle of BLACK VULTURES added to the aerial review. Other highlights included SUMMER TANAGERS, INDIGO BUNTING, VERMILION FLYCATCHER, many DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHERS, and

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHERS and yet another NORTHERN BEARDLESS TYRANNULET.

Next we drove south along highway 82 to the famous roadside rest area. Here we had excellent looks at a pair of THICK-BILLED KINGBIRDS, a soaring PEREGRINE FALCON, more GRAY HAWKS, and a single CEDAR WAXWING. We found last year's nest of the Rose-throated Becard, but sadly it was not back yet this year.

Kino Springs Golf course along the Santa Cruz River north of Nogales was the next stop. COUCH'S KINGBIRDS flew and called next to TROPICAL KINGBIRDS. More GRAY HAWKS soared and called. A pair of COMMON GROUND-DOVES called and then flew across the second pond.

At the two agricultural ponds on Rio Rico Road east of I-19 (exit 17) we had nearly a hundred BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS, one single MEXICAN DUCK type, 50 WHITE-FACED IBIS, and WESTERN KINGBIRDS next to TROPICAL KINGBIRDS ( a four-kingbird species day!). Among the BARN and CLIFF SWALLOWS was a single BANK SWALLOW.

In the heat of the afternoon we made our way up the Madera Canyon Road. In the savannah grasslands between mile post 9 and 10 we heard a BOTTERI'S SPARROW singing, but he would not come out in the open for us. At the Proctor Road gravesite, most of us had close looks at a pair of BLACK-CAPPED GNATCATCHERS feeding fledged young. This is probably only one of four or so pairs known to be nesting this year in the United States. At the Kudo Bed and Breakfast lodge we added many forest birds to our list, including ARIZONA WOODPECKER, BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, and

several of us saw the male FLAME-COLORED TANAGER that has nested here for the last several summers. Higher up from the last parking lot, we hiked a half mile along the trail through the forest and were rewarded with several ELEGANT TROGONS calling. Some even saw the male briefly.

Even though we missed some obvious species, the grand total for the day was 94 bird species seen and/or heard (there were no visual bigots on this trip!). Submitted by Field Trip leader David L Pearson.

Flagstaff-San Francisco Peaks--June 16. 15 people on a MAS field trip birded the San Francisco Peaks area today. The highlight was a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker at the Snow Bowl lower parking area early this morning. The group watched the bird- which flew into the base of a fir tree about 10 yards away- for about 10 minutes, seeing every detail including the yellow crown. Some of the other birds seen in the area included Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (singing), Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a chorus of singing Hermit Thrushes. At Veit Ranch we had Red Crossbills and several Cordilleran Flycatchers. At Fern Mountain we had great close-up looks at Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak.

At Little Spring we had close up looks at both male and female Williamson's Sapsuckers (about 15 yards away), as well as very close up looks at another Red Crossbill, a Band-tailed Pigeon, and a Red-naped Sapsucker. We heard a Clark's Nutcracker. Along the Kendrick Park road we had a Mountain Bluebird and a flock of Pinyon Jays. Submitted by Field Trip leader Charles Babbitt.

**Monthly Meetings**

First Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced, September through April, 7:30 p.m. Our meeting place is Dorrance Hall, 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/](http://www.dbg.org/).

Dorrance Hall is located just off the main parking lot and entry to the DBG. There will be signs directing you to the meeting place. Please contact a board member if you have any questions, or check out our web site at [www.maricopaaudubon.org](http://www.maricopaaudubon.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 Jack Follett, 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+\* \*These levels include a signed, framed, photograph by Jim Burns of your designated raptor. Mail your Friends membership application and your check made payable to Maricopa Audubon to Jack Follett, 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](mailto:CHADD@audubon.org). For all other membership questions call or e-mail Jack Follett.

**Submissions**

Copy for The Cactus Wren\*dition must be received by the editor by e-mail, (may be on computer diskette, or typed and double-spaced; however, this is not preferred) 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: Cactus Wren\*dition Editor, Deva Burns. [devaburns@aol.com](mailto:devaburns@aol.com)

**Opinions**

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

**Reprinting of material**

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

This publication is printed on recycled paper.



# Maricopa Audubon Board

**PRESIDENT**

Herb Fibel  
1128 E Geneva Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480-966-5246  
[herbertsfibel@aol.com](mailto:herbertsfibel@aol.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Robin Silver  
PO Box 39382  
Phoenix, AZ 85069-9382  
602-246-4170  
[rsilver@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:rsilver@biologicaldiversity.org)

**SECRETARY**

Maureen Stewart  
1846 E Grandview St.  
Mesa, AZ 85203  
480-898-7239  
[maureen.stewart@yahoo.com](mailto:maureen.stewart@yahoo.com)

**TREASURER**

Mark Horlings  
334 W Palm Ln.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
602-279-2238  
[mhorlings@cox.net](mailto:mhorlings@cox.net)

**FIELD TRIPS**

Laurie Nessel  
1632 E. Cedar St.  
Tempe, AZ 85281-5906  
480-968-5614  
[laurienessel@hotmail.com](mailto:laurienessel@hotmail.com)

**PUBLICITY**

Fred Stewart  
1846 E Grandview St.  
Mesa, AZ 85203  
480-898-7239  
[fspescador@yahoo.com](mailto:fspescador@yahoo.com)

**CONSERVATION**

Robert Witzeman  
4619 E. Arcadia Ln.  
Phoenix, AZ 85018  
602-840-0052  
[witzeman@cox.net](mailto:witzeman@cox.net)

**PROGRAMS**

Cynthia Donald  
2042 E. Balboa Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480-283-4515  
[planres@earthlink.net](mailto:planres@earthlink.net)

**MEMBERSHIP**

John F "Jack" Follett  
1520 E Secretariat Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85284  
480-897-7988  
cell 602-319-3071  
[jackfollett@msn.com](mailto:jackfollett@msn.com)

**EDUCATION**

Mark Larson  
17212 N Scottsdale Rd.,  
#1182  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
480-474-4439  
cell 570-768-9095  
[larsonwarren@gmail.com](mailto:larsonwarren@gmail.com)

**EDITOR**

Deva Burns  
7709 E 4th St.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4524  
480-946-2502  
[devaburns@aol.com](mailto:devaburns@aol.com)

MARICOPA AUDUBON PHONE  
480-829-8209

## Audubon Online

see us on the Web at:

<http://www.maricopaaudubon.org>

## Maricopa Audubon Society

P.O. Box 15451  
Phoenix, AZ 85060-5451



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit No. 419