

Wingtips

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESCOTT AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

January/February 2005

News from Our Education Committee

Bonnie Pranter

Feeder-Feeders, Thank You! Audubon Adventures Alive!

We appreciate all the donations made to the feeder at our general meetings. That money goes directly to purchase bird seed to be given to local care centers. Thanks to your contributions, we have an additional \$62, and thanks to Eric Moore of Jay's Bird Barn another \$47 has come in from his customers. We also received a check in mid-December from Armand Page, one of our Kingman members.

Following are some excerpts from the thank you messages we received after the last deliveries (made by Sylvia and Bill Neely): Mountain View Manor: "...the residents enjoy watching the birds come and feed in the courtyard and on their window sills!" Pinecrest Adult Care Home: "...we appreciate your kindness..." The Center Adult Day Services: "...our clients receive much joy from watching the birds in our backyard." Prescott Samaritan Village: "...our residents really enjoy watching the birds. As you know, some of them don't get involved in many other activities." Arizona Pioneer Home: "Our feathered friends do a lot of entertaining and if they are fed adequately they perform even more!"

WE THANK Leslie Loomis for her donation of a pair of binoculars to be used with our education programs.

Thanks go to more PAS donors for supporting this outstanding environmental education program: Roy and Barb Houser, Helen and Frank Parsons, Steve and Penny Govedich, and Albert and Eunice Lovejoy. We appreciate all contributions for Audubon Adventures and continue to accept donations large and small for the current school year. Each classroom kit costs \$41.50 (\$35 plus \$6.50 shipping), and we have ordered 51 kits for 2004-05. If you wish to make a donation (of any amount), please send a check made out to Prescott Audubon Society and send to P.O. Box 4156, Prescott, AZ 86302. Please indicate on the check that it is for "Audubon Adventures". Thank you!!

After-School Bird Club

"For the Birds" after-school bird club is starting up again this month (January) at Abia Judd Elementary School under the direction of teacher Bronwyn Butterfield. PAS will again supply materials, speakers, and other support for this semester-long program.

More "Thank You's" to Loyce Thompson, Karen O'Neil, Diane Thornbrugh, and Lois Battin. Thank you so very much!

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Activities & Announcements

January

Cancellations

1/13-18 trip to the Salton Sea has been cancelled. See 3/4-7 for details of a new trip.

1/13 Chino Valley trip was cancelled - see 1/27 for new trip.

1/15 - 9am - Highland Center bird walk. Lynx creek site. Just come!

1/20 - 9am 3/4 day trip to Skull Valley, Kirkland, Date Creek, Congress and Yarnell. Meet at Waffles n'more (Marler's) parking lot toward Iron Springs side to carpool. Bring lunch, water, etc. Call Roy Houser to sign up - 445-7212.

1/22 - Watson Woods - Cancelled due to wet ground.

1/27 - 9am. 1/2 day trip to Chino Valley, Sullivan Lake. Meet at Waffles n'more parking lot on Iron Springs side to carpool. Plan to meet Chino Valley group at Safeway, at the north end, at 9:30. Call Roy Houser to sign up.

1/27 - 7pm - Regular meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Park Ave.

PAS member Eunice Lovejoy grew up in Virginia where her love affair with wildflowers began. She found many of the same flowers when she lived in Ohio, but when she and her husband moved to Prescott sixteen years ago identifying local flowers became a

challenge. Join us on January 27 for her slides and talk on "The Joys of Wildflower Watching in the Thumb Butte Area."

February

2/6 - 6am. All day thrasher trip to the Valley. Meet at Basha's to carpool. Call Roy Houser(445-7212) or Jim Morgan (445-1502) to sign up.

2/19 - 9am - Highland Center bird walk. Lynx creek site. Just come!

2/22 - 8am. Gilbert Water Ranch and that vicinity. Meet at Basha's for carpooling. Call Roy Houser (445-7212) to sign up.

2/24 - 7pm - Regular meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Park Ave.

Learn about saving the southwest's last five percent of old growth and protecting the special forests of Arizona. We will show historic and current photos of Arizona's forests with an overview of the importance of rare large and old trees. The presentation will include a discussion of what can be done to protect old growth in the face of threats from poor management approaches and the misnamed "Healthy Forests Initiative".

2/26 - 9am. Watson Woods and upper lake. Meet at the trailhead parking lot.

March

3/4-7 - Salton Sea area. Travel Friday, bird Saturday and Sunday, return Monday or whenever you choose. Some will stay in an RV park and some in motels. If you are interested call Roy Houser (445-7212) by Feb 5 for details.

... and into the future ...

July 13 - 18 - Flycatchers 101 Russell Duerksen will lead a 5 day camping trip based out of Patagonia Lake State Park, Arizona, from July 13-18, 2005, just prior to the American Birding

Association Convention as a fundraiser for Prescott Audubon. Motel lodgings may be available nearby if you reserve in advance. We will look for 14 species of flycatchers, along with all of the other wonderful southeastern Arizona specialties including trogons and hummers. Over 180 species possible for the trip. We will be done in time for you to register for the beginning of the ABA convention. The only fee is \$50.00 payable to Prescott Audubon Society.

Participation in Prescott Audubon Society field trips is voluntary; any injury or illness while on an outing is the responsibility of the participant. Food, drink, and other creature comforts are not provided by Prescott Audubon Society. Car pooling is done so fewer vehicles are driven. Prescott Audubon Society assumes no liability for accidents, injuries, damage to vehicles, or loss of property in vehicles while on the field trip. Compensation for drivers of private vehicles is suggested as follows: 0-20 miles: \$2.00; 21-50 miles: \$4.00; and 51-100 miles: \$6.00. Over 100 miles is \$8.00, or by agreement with the driver.



Birding & Nature Festival
Cottonwood • Central Arizona • Sedona

APRIL 21-24, 2005

Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Cottonwood, Arizona

COME BIRD THE VERDE !

Field Trips * Workshops * Special Events

Registration starts February 1st

www.birdyverde.org

(928) 282-2202

Prescott Audubon Society meets the 4th Thursday of each month, September through May, 7:00 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Park Ave. & Copper Basin Rd. (630 Park Ave.), Prescott, Arizona. The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the same location, at 7:00 p.m. Audubon members are always welcome to attend Board meetings.

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.nazas.org/PAS>

For a wonderful online birding experience, visit www.jaysbirdbarn.com

In addition to the commercial enterprise where you can see what is for sale at the physical store, Eric Moore keeps archives of articles that he has written for his weekly Daily Courier column, a page for reporting your unusual bird sightings, and a form for asking him questions about birds.

He has been keeping a bird feeder at his store where his customers can make donations to our seed program for care centers (see page 1 - "Feeder Feeders"). Thank you Eric!

Simple Prescott Audubon Fundraiser

All types of copier and printer cartridges (except Epson) may now be turned in to Doug Iverson at each chapter meeting and will be recycled locally. Eric Moore, at Jay's Bird Barn (located at Watters Nursery), and Sue and Henk at Birds Unlimited will also collect your ink cartridges at their stores. If you prefer, you may take them directly to thINK 4 ink, a local printing supply business at 237 W. Walker St., four blocks south of the square. Simply tell them to credit your recycled cartridges to the Prescott Audubon Society account. Thanks for caring.

Connect with Nature in Maine - summer 2005

(888) 325-5261 ext 215
www.maineaudubon.org

President's Letter

Larry Bickford

I am experiencing my fifth winter in Prescott. As I write this at the start of a new year, I am impressed by the presence of the continuous flowing (or at least trickling) of water through our property since mid-October. This is longer than any other period of time since we moved here. This water feeds into Manzanita Creek, which is a tributary of Granite Creek.

Granite Creek and its sister feeder creeks are a relatively unique Arizona occurrence. This drainage system (which, in turn, flows into the Upper Verde River) provides a relatively healthy ecosystem of riparian habitat. This means that it is dependent upon the existence of perennial, intermittent and ephemeral surface or subsurface water flows. Combined with man-made Watson Lake and Willow Lake, which exist on the waters from the creek drainages, these riparian areas provide a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which can only be found under such conditions.

Getting out and experiencing local riparian habitats can truly expand one's appreciation of this biodiversity and the habitat's resiliency and beauty. Many of Prescott Audubon's field trips include exploring aspects of this riparian world. To cite two: our monthly birdwalks at the Watson Woods Preserve and at the Highlands Center facility at Lynx Lake.

We have also been active in the development and support of Stricklin Park which includes a portion of Butte Creek. From this small park there is a trail that meanders west in the direction of Butte Creek providing an interesting convergence of riparian and Ponderosa Pine forest habitat. If you take this trail far enough, and are willing to do a little bush-whacking, you will encounter two interesting waterfalls when the Creek is in good flow. I encourage you to become more familiar with the local riparian areas and its wildlife.

Note: more information is available at prescottcreeks.org.

Institute of Desert Ecology

**April 14-17, 2005
Catalina State Park
Tucson, AZ**

Contact: Jessie Shinn, Institute Director

(620) 628-1730

jessieshinn@qwest.net

www.tucsonaudubon.org/education
Register early, this fills up fast - it is a wonderful experience!

We need HELP! Be active in your organization. Volunteer for one of the following for next year:

Vice President - call Larry Bickford at 777-0308 or Jim Morgan at 445-1502

Treasurer - call Helen Parsons at 771-2733.

Membership Chairperson - call Jan Gebhard at 445-7857.

Program Chairperson - call Laurel Freeman at 442-3326.

Education Chairperson - call Bonnie Pranter at 445-7502.

Editor of Wingtips - call Penny Govedich at 636-1786.

Hummingbird Jubilee with bird carver Donald Templeton

Canyon Ridge Gallery
7077 E. Main St.
Scottsdale, AZ
(480) 946-0044

February 17, 18, & 19

Opening reception Thursday Evening (2/17)
6 to 9 pm

Music (Bird Songs) and refreshments
www.canyonridgegallery.com

Opinions expressed by authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policy of the National Audubon Society or Prescott Audubon Society.

Prescott Christmas Bird Count, December 21, 2004

Carl Tomoff

On a mild, relatively calm day with clouds decreasing during the afternoon, 47 field observers in 26 parties and 11 feeder watchers recorded nearly 26,000 individuals representing 116 species of birds.

The biggest surprise was our first Curve-billed Thrasher, often a neighbor of chattering Cactus Wrens in cholla-clad desert habitats of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. Jim Morgan photographed one in Diamond Valley that has visited his yard since early December. This bird may have dispersed from a small breeding population that has become established in Prescott Country Club in recent years. Northern Cardinals also breed in Prescott Country

Club; so they may become resident in Prescott fairly soon, considering the ever-increasing availability of feeders here.

From the Pacific Northwest, a stunning male Varied Thrush wandered into Granite Basin, where it found an extensive patch of manzanita loaded with berries. Granite Creek supported a secretive Red-shouldered Hawk and a Gray Flycatcher, both accidental here in winter. A Downy Woodpecker and an Orange-crowned Warbler were noted in Granite Dells near where they visited a suet feeder before the count. Recent immigrant Eurasian Collared-Doves have established breeding colonies in Prescott and Chino Valley, so this year's record high reflects their growing populations. Two White-winged Doves south of Willow Lake may be lingering from their summer residency there this year. A small flock of Band-tailed Pigeons in Ponderosa Park had found a well-

stocked feeder; they are casual in winter. Forest-dwelling Steller's Jays and Mountain Chickadees were sparse, but Acorn Woodpeckers were abundant.

High water levels of Willow and Watson Lakes provided habitat for high numbers of American Coots, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, American Wigeons, and Common Goldeneyes. A solitary Tundra Swan and one Bonaparte's Gull rested at Willow Lake before count day. Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks were more common than usual. Most sparrows were uncommon though House Finches and House Sparrows were relatively abundant.

I want to thank those who contributed their time, energy, and experience to make this year's count so successful.

Tundra Swan, Bonaparte's Gull, Olive Warbler, and Red Crossbill were seen during count week.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Pied-billed Grebe | 70 | Ring-billed Gull | 11 | Canyon Wren | 16 | "Oregon" Junco | 788 |
| Eared Grebe | 18 | California Gull | 3 | Bewick's Wren | 84 | "Gray-headed" Junco | 242 |
| Great Blue Heron | 19 | Band-tailed Pigeon | 6 | House Wren | 1 | Northern Cardinal | 3 |
| Canada Goose | 44 | Rock Pigeon | 678 | Winter Wren | 1 | Red-winged Blackbird ... | 1365 |
| *Tundra Swan | cw | Eurasian Collared-Dove ... | 59 | Marsh Wren | 2 | Eastern Meadowlark | 3 |
| Wood Duck | 51 | White-winged Dove | 2 | Golden-crowned Kinglet | 6 | Western Meadowlark | 189 |
| Gadwall | 123 | Mourning Dove | 1265 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 197 | Brewer's Blackbird | 255 |
| American Wigeon | 1040 | Inca Dove | 1 | Western Bluebird | 380 | Great-tailed Grackle | 99 |
| Mallard | 594 | Greater Roadrunner | 5 | Townsend's Solitaire | 1 | Cassin's Finch | 5 |
| Northern Shoveler | 1012 | Great Horned Owl | 5 | Hermit Thrush | 4 | House Finch | 1881 |
| Northern Pintail | 274 | Anna's Hummingbird | 2 | American Robin | 224 | *Red Crossbill | cw |
| Green-winged Teal | 267 | Belted Kingfisher | 8 | Varied Thrush | 1 | Pine Siskin | 109 |
| Canvasback | 408 | Acorn Woodpecker | 225 | Northern Mockingbird | 5 | Lesser Goldfinch | 146 |
| Redhead | 6 | Red-naped Sapsucker | 48 | Curve-billed Thrasher | 1 | American Goldfinch | 58 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 549 | Williamson's Sapsucker | 2 | Crissal Thrasher | 22 | House Sparrow | 550 |
| Lesser Scaup | 121 | Ladder-backed woodpecker . | 34 | European Starling | 539 | Total individuals | 25,891 |
| Bufflehead | 160 | Downy Woodpecker | 1 | American Pipit | 159 | Total species | 116 species |
| Common Goldeneye | 49 | Hairy Woodpecker | 59 | Cedar Waxwing | 7 | + 4 species during count | |
| Hooded Merganser | 9 | "Red-shafted" Flicker | 126 | Phainopepla | 8 | week | |
| Common Merganser | 40 | Gray Flycatcher | 1 | *Olive Warbler | cw | | |
| Ruddy Duck | 1822 | Black Phoebe | 18 | Orange-crowned Warbler . | 1 | | |
| Bald Eagle | 5 (4ad, 1 im) | Say's Phoebe | 40 | "Audubon's" Warbler | 101 | | |
| Northern Harrier | 4 | Loggerhead Shrike | 2 | "Myrtle" Warbler | 1 | | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 8 | Hutton's Vireo | 1 | Spotted Towhee | 258 | | |
| Cooper's Hawk | 23 | Steller's Jay | 32 | Canyon Towhee | 121 | | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1 | Western Scrub-Jay | 518 | Rufous-crowned Sparrow ... | 5 | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 45 | Common Raven | 744 | Chipping Sparrow | 65 | | |
| American Kestrel | 26 | Horned Lark | 6 | Black-chinned Sparrow | 1 | | |
| Merlin | 1 | Mountain Chickadee | 57 | Vesper Sparrow | 10 | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | Bridled Titmouse | 87 | Savannah Sparrow | 28 | | |
| Prairie Falcon | 1 | Juniper Titmouse | 37 | Fox Sparrow | 1 | | |
| Gambel's Quail | 642 | Bushtit | 688 | Songs Sparrow | 24 | | |
| American Coot | 3509 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 4 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 6 | | |
| Killdeer | 8 | White-breasted Nuthatch . | 160 | White-throated Sparrow | 1 | | |
| Least Sandpiper | 7 | Pygmy Nuthatch | 198 | White-crowned Sparrow . | 1078 | | |
| Wilson's Snipe | 5 | Brown Creeper | 12 | Dark-eyed Junco | 705 | | |
| *Bonaparte's Gull | cw | Rock Wren | 26 | "Slate-colored" Junco | 1 | | |



Noteworthy Bird Sightings November/December 2004

Bob Thomen

Northern Cardinal, female 11/2 - 12/31 at Virginia Miller's in Ho-Kay-Gan.

Northern Cardinal, Female 11/3 at Grant Brown's.

Zone-tailed Hawk 11/4 at Watter's by Eric Moore.

Bald Eagle "swam" \cong 100 yards to land and ate American Coot, 11/7 Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Cassin's Kingbird 11/9 in Chino Valley by Russell Duerksen, late.

Merlin 11/12 at Lori Anderson's.

Common Goldeneye (2) 11/15 at Prescott Sewage Ponds by Russell Duerksen. First of season.

Common Merganser (2) 11/15 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen. First of season.

Cinnamon Teal, Ring-billed Gull (10) 11/17 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen. Both are first of season.

Wood Duck (2) 11/19 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Tundra Swan, adult, no yellow on bill 11/20 - 21 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Northern Cardinal 11/22 at Irene Ragen's.

Snow Goose 11/22 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Bald Eagle (2) 11/23 copulating, at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen. I suspect this is the Lynx Lake pair.

Double-crested Cormorant (3) 11/24 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen. Last of season.

Krider's race of **Red-tailed Hawk** 11/25 - 12/31 at Virginia Miller's, in Ho-Kay-Gan for 3rd winter.

Hooded Merganser (3) 11/26 in Watson Woods by Larry Bickford.

Red-breasted Nuthatch 11/27 at Arline Dodson's.

California Gull (18) 11/29 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Western Grebe 12/2 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen. Last of season.

Cassin's Finch 12/2 at Karen O'Neil's in Ponderosa Park.

Northern Mockingbird 12/3 in Willow Woods by Larry Bickford.

Lincoln's Sparrow 12/5 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Snow Goose (6) 12/8 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Curve-billed Thrasher 12/8 at Jim Morgan's property in Diamond Valley by Walt Anderson. First sighting in Prescott area. **SIGHTING OF THE PERIOD!**

Bald Eagle, 2nd year 12/21 - 12/26, adult chased 2 year old on 12/26, at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Anna's Hummingbird 12/25 at George Prehmus's.

Bald Eagle (2) one a juvenile 12/26 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Tundra Swan 12/30 - 1/3/05 on Sullivan Lake by Jessica Leach.

Bald Eagle, 3 year old 12/31 at Willow Lake by Bob Thomen.

Report your Bird Sightings to

Bob Thomen at 778-1005

All sightings in this column are tentative in nature as they have not been confirmed except by the individual reporting them to Bob Thomen.

Welcome New Members!

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Neal Applegate | Prescott Villy |
| Delores Arnold (welcome back) | Prescott Villy |
| Ronald Bayne | Prescott |
| Gloria Behnen | Chino Villy |
| Richard Brody | Prescott |
| Marge Chesler | Dewey |
| Dr. Richard Clark (welcome back) | Prescott |
| Julie Connick | Prescott |
| Steve & Nancy Davis | Prescott |
| The Dorseys | Prescott Villy |
| Thomas B. Dunmire | Prescott |
| Nancy Ingram (welcome back) | Prescott |
| Jerry & Sharon Germain | Prescott |
| Roy Grimley | Fort Mohave |
| Timothy Grumbles | Prescott |
| Cathie Hayden | Prescott |
| Michael Hecht | Prescott |
| C.L. Hendrickson | Prescott Villy |
| Martha Henry | Prescott |
| Florence Hettis | Prescott |
| Jan Hilton | Prescott |
| Natalie Houghton | Prescott |
| Laramie Jarvi | Prescott |
| Joanna Johnson | Prescott |
| Mr & Mrs David Klever | Prescott |
| Kenneth Kurt | Chino Villy |
| Eleanor Lancaster (welcome back) | BlackCynCity |
| Della Lane | Dewey |
| Billie Lauby | Kingman |
| Lloyd Maas | Prescott |
| Betty J Martin | Prescott |
| Margo Nicastro | Prescott |
| Delilha Ontiveros | Golden Villy |
| Ellen & Mike Parker | Dewey |
| Mary E Parker | Bullhead City |
| Valerie Phipps | Paulden |
| Judith C Porter | Kingman |
| Paul Poyner | Prescott |
| Gregory Preston | Keams Canyon |
| Harley Quitmeyer | Golden Villy |
| Dorothy Rice | Mayer |
| Millie Rich | Kingman |
| The Rolands | Chino Villy |
| David & Gloria Rote | Prescott Villy |
| Stephen Scotland | Ash Fork |
| Kenneth H Scott | Prescott |
| James Steinke | Prescott |
| Betty Stoesz | Prescott |
| William Taber (welcome back) | Kingman |
| Diane Thoronbrug | Prescott |
| The Verhaydens | Prescott |
| Jane Wales | Kingman |
| Ralph Wilson | Fort Mohave |
| Nancy Zorzi | Dolan Springs |
| Barbara Zuckerman | Prescott |

Some Mohave County Sightings

Dee Dee DeLorenzo

Curved-bill Thrasher 10/26/04 at Heritage Park (Laughlin Bridge).

Northern Harrier 12/27/04 at DeeDee DeLorenzo's in Bullhead City.

Burrowing Owl 1/3/05 at Diamonback Elementary School by DeeDee DeLorenzo.

Cooper's Hawk 1/5/05 at Tedi Tumlinson's in Bullhead City.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is Back!

During the weekend of February 18 through 21, people across the North American continent are encouraged to count the birds in their backyards and report them over the Internet, as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. In addition to its value as a research study, the GBBC allows people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate birds and provide vital information about North America's birds.

This is the eighth year of the popular event, developed and managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited store owners. This year's theme, "North America's Great Backyard," was chosen as a way to celebrate the beauty of birds found across the continent. People are encouraged to enjoy the birds around them by going out into the "Great Backyard" during any or all of the count days and keeping track of the highest numbers of each bird species they see. People then report their sightings over the Internet at www.birdsource.org/gbbc

We call it the Great Backyard Bird Count to make the point that anyone can participate," says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "But really, a 'backyard' can be anywhere you happen to be, a schoolyard, a local park, the balcony of a high rise apartment, a wildlife refuge. No matter where you go in this 'Great Backyard,' you're almost certain to find birds in all their beauty. By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you can help researchers better understand bird population numbers and distribution across the continent."

An important part of North America's Great Backyard is the 730 million acres of land (around one-third of the land area of the United States) held in trust by federal agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, Department of Defense, and Bureau of Reclamation are among the stewards of lands that support significant populations of wild birds. For this year's Great Backyard Bird Count, Cornell and Audubon, along with these federal agencies, are encouraging families and individuals to visit their local national wildlife refuge, national forest,

national park, and other federal wild lands, in addition to reporting the birds they see in their own backyard."

In addition to counting the birds in your own backyard, this remarkable event gives you the opportunity to visit some of our most special places and wild lands," says Bob Perciasepe, Audubon's chief operating officer. "In this way, the Great Backyard Bird Count reminds us that North America's birds consider the whole continent to be one great big backyard; and in a sense, it is our backyard as well."

To encourage the public to enjoy their public lands, federal agencies are getting involved in the Great Backyard Bird Count by encouraging visitors in what can be a slow period for visitation. "Although the Great Backyard Bird Count takes place during just four days in February, our public lands are important areas for birds at all times of year," Perciasepe says. "Many act as important breeding areas, some as stop-over sites, and some as winter residences. They also serve as wonderful places for people to connect with the birds and other animals that are part of our great natural heritage."

The Great Backyard Bird Count helps everyone prepare for their trip to the backyard, whether they choose to watch birds only around their home or make the effort to see which birds are using public lands. The web site is full of tips of all kinds, including information on bird feeding; how to use binoculars; how to make your yard bird-friendly; and how to identify birds, especially those tricky, similar-looking species. There are even tips on how to be a bird-friendly family."

Kids are the future caretakers of the environment upon which we all depend," says Fitzpatrick. "The Great Backyard Bird Count is a terrific way to nurture their inborn curiosity about birds and nature." Educators and parents alike will find the bibliography, vocabulary, and geography sections useful and handy, and there are suggestions on how to conduct the count with groups of children.

Researchers hope that by learning more about the birds and habitats in their own backyards, families will decide to become part of Project FeederWatch, a winterlong survey of birds that visit feeders. FeederWatch data have been instrumental in our scientific analyses of winter finch movements and Varied Thrush cycles, and have even helped researchers discover a new avian disease, mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, or House Finch eye disease. These findings

were possible thanks to dedicated FeederWatchers."

Taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count takes as little or as much time as participants wish," says Audubon's director of citizen science Paul Green. "The important thing is to just take part, count for the birds, and enjoy North America's Great Backyard."

Instructions for participating can be found at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. There's no fee or registration. Those who would like to participate but who aren't online can try their local library, and many Wild Birds Unlimited store owners who are online will be accepting observations made by their customers. Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800/843-2473 (outside the U.S., call 607/254-2473), 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or the National Audubon Society at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16, Audubon Science Office, 545 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974.

Last winter, as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, bird enthusiasts across North America submitted almost 50,000 checklists totaling more than four million birds of 512 species during the February count. The event, one of the largest citizen-science projects in the world, documented regional declines of the American Crow that may be the result of West Nile virus in those regions. These crows were reported in alarmingly fewer numbers in Illinois and Ohio, where West Nile virus has had a strong presence, backing findings from the Christmas Bird Count and a winterlong citizen-science project, Project FeederWatch. "This decrease may or may not be related to West Nile, but the situation is certainly something we need to pay attention to," says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Crows are very vulnerable to the virus.

Other species showed increases last year during the GBBC. Participants in the eastern United States counted more Dark-eyed Juncos than they had since GBBC 2000, perhaps because of the massive snowstorm that hit the eastern seaboard during the weekend of the count, driving birds to feeders in high numbers. That same snowstorm apparently held early migrants like Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, and American Woodcock

farther south, compared with previous years.

In the West, Mountain Bluebirds were reported farther south than the year before, and all of the rosy-finches (Black, Gray-crowned, Brown-capped) were documented farther north. In previous years, GBBC maps of Eurasian Collared-Doves, introduced in the Bahamas before reaching Florida in the 1980s, showed the species spreading quickly northwestward. Last year's maps show no change, suggesting a slowdown in the rate at which the bird's range is spreading.

How will this winter compare with the last six? What will it reflect about our bird populations? The participation of novice and expert bird watchers alike will help us answer these questions. "We need every birder to participate with us," said Audubon's director of citizen science Paul Green. "The Great Backyard Bird Count has become an important means of gathering data to help birds, but it can't happen unless people take part. Whether you're a novice or an expert, we need you to help us help birds."

excerpted from http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pr/GBBC_2005.html

Post Election Message From John Flicker, President of National Audubon Society

We just completed what some described as the most important election in our lifetimes. While every national election sends mixed signals, on balance, many of the environmental issues we care about suffered a setback, or were out of the main debate. While we are a 501 (c)(3) organization that cannot take positions on candidates for elected office, many candidates that supported our issues most did not succeed.

What do we do now?

First, keep it in perspective. We are about to celebrate our Centennial. Audubon has gone through many elections, wars, depressions, setbacks and losses. Each time we regrouped, learned from what went wrong, and got back into the fight for the environment. We will do that again.

Second, remember what we stand for. We are committed to building strong communities through local programs that reflect mainstream conservation values. We believe that every community values birds, wildlife and habitat, so we work to protect Important Bird Areas, the places they need to survive. We believe that every community wants to be safe from poisons that harm both wildlife and people, so we fight pollution at every level. We believe there is an essential role for government in protecting the environment, so we advocate for strong public policies. And we believe individuals

can make a difference by what they do in their everyday lives, so we empower people to act through Audubon at Home.

Third, stay the course. The basic direction and programs we have been building are correct. Each of our state programs is building a community-based network of Chapters, Audubon Centers, and IBAs. We engage people and advance conservation through sound science, education and public policy advocacy. We have the fundamentals right.

Fourth, learn from what happened. While we may have the fundamentals right, and we can find many excuses for what happened in the election, we should not be in denial. Something went wrong, and conservation issues got lost in the noise. We need to figure out why. In the weeks ahead, we will be analyzing the messages of this election carefully.

Fifth, react strategically, strongly, and never give up. We will not lash out in anger. We will not become the "extremists" some accuse us of being. We will learn from the messages of this election, adjust our tactics, and come back stronger than ever. We will take the fight to them in every community, on OUR terms. And we will never give up.

I look forward to working together with you.

from The Audubon Newswire Volume 2, Number 20, Friday, November 12, 2004

The Tres Rios Nature Festival in cooperation with Maricopa County Parks and Arizona Game and Fish Department

Dates: March 12 - 13, 2005

Times: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: Festival admission is \$10 per car (a few classes and tours require an additional fee)

Location: Estrella Mountain Regional Park - 14805 W. Vineyard Ave.

Goodyear, five miles south of I-10 on Estrella Parkway.

Enjoy a beautiful Arizona spring day and learn about this place we call "Tres Rios", the place where three rivers: the Agua Fria, Salt and Gila meet. This two-day event is a great family excursion that is close to home! This Festival celebrates the river, wildlife, history and heritage of our community!

Come experience our extensive children's area with hands-on crafts, live wildlife, educational displays and activities, storytelling telling and more!

* Listen and talk to experts about wildlife, the outdoors and the rich

history of the area!

* Take a beginning bird walk or sign-up for a more advanced wildlife watching tour.

* Explore the many display booths and vendors.

* Enjoy a meal from our diverse food booths and listen to local entertainers!

For more information contact: Email: Tresriosfestival@cox.net

Website: www.tresriosnaturefestival.com (623) 204-2130

Lake Havasu Christmas Bird Count

December 28, 2004

Norma Miller

We had a very successful count this year with a grand total of 114 species after all the numbers were submitted and tallied. This is the highest total in 5 years. We also had the highest total of individuals at 12,260, several thousand over years past even though the 6.5-mi. river section below the interstate did not get counted this year. Add two more species for the count week which were a male American Redstart and two Red-breasted Mergansers all seen at Moabi County Park on the California side near I-40. Coincidentally, the Bill Williams NWR CBC also ended up with 114 species for their day including 9 more for the count week.

Someone did report finding the Long-tailed Duck on the day before.

New to our Havasu count history were 3 Tundra Swans and a Yuma Clapper Rail both found at Topock Marsh. Also new were a Sage Sparrow at Pintail Slough, a Sage Thrasher at 5-mile Landing, and a Townsend's Warbler at Catfish Landing. An unusual group of 75 American Goldfinches were also seen at West Topock Marsh. The rare species of the day was the 15 Eurasian Collared Doves found in suburban Needles, CA (they definitely seem to be extending their range).

My sincere thanks to everyone for their

participation in this years counts, the "two-fer" was fun and the combined efforts certainly made a difference. A special thanks to DeeDee and Keith DeLorenzo for hosting and providing us a great compilation dinner. We would like to have this year's Havasu CBC on Wednesday, Dec. 28th (meeting for assignments on Tues. the 27th). I will try to get our previous restaurant for the pre-count meeting (now called the Needles Route 66 Cafe across Needles Highway from the Wagon Wheel). Kathleen Blair will most probably have the Bill Williams CBC on the 29th to complete the "two-fer".

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Pied-billed Grebe | 57 | Gambel's Quail | 84 | Bewick's Wren | 2 |
| Eared Grebe | 2 | Yuma Clapper Rail | 1 | Marsh Wren | 14 |
| Western Grebe | 69 | Virginia Rail | 1 | House Wren | 1 |
| Clark's Grebe | 37 | Sora | 2 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 54 |
| American White Pelican | 257 | Common Moorhen | 16 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 10 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 247 | American Coot | 2853 | Black-tailed Gnatcatcher | 51 |
| Great Blue Heron | 39 | Killdeer | 21 | Northern Mockingbird | 13 |
| Great Egret | 55 | Black-necked Stilt | 3 | Sage Thrasher | 1 |
| Snowy Egret | 26 | Least Sandpiper | 3 | Crissal Thrasher | 12 |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | 1 | Greater Yellowlegs | 5 | American Pipit | 9 |
| White-faced Ibis | 24 | Western Sandpiper | 7 | Phainopepla | 27 |
| Tundra Swan | 3 | Spotted Sandpiper | 1 | Loggerhead Shrike | 12 |
| Snow Goose | 1801 | Long-billed Dowitcher | 12 | European Starling | 513 |
| Canada Goose | 46 | Wilson's Snipe | 1 | Yellow-rumped (Aud.) Warbler | 59 |
| Green-winged Teal | 228 | Ring-billed Gull | 44 | Townsend's Warbler | 1 |
| Cinnamon Teal | 6 | California Gull | 8 | Orange-crowned Warbler | 2 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 4 | Forster's Tern | 4 | Common Yellowthroat | 6 |
| Mallard | 281 | Rock Pigeon | 453 | Abert's Towhee | 57 |
| Northern Pintail | 174 | Mourning Dove | 272 | Brewer's Sparrow | 10 |
| Northern Shoveler | 333 | Eurasian Collard Dove | 15 | Vesper Sparrow | 10 |
| Gadwall | 66 | Greater Roadrunner | 3 | Sage Sparrow | 1 |
| American Widgeon | 57 | Great-horned Owl | 1 | Savannah Sparrow | 30 |
| Canvasback | 3 | White-throated Swift | 10 | Song Sparrow | 17 |
| Redhead | 165 | Anna's Hummingbird | 14 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 1 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 112 | Belted Kingfisher | 6 | White-crowned Sparrow | 145 |
| Lesser Scaup | 2 | Gila Woodpecker | 1 | Dark-eyed Junco (OR) | 1 |
| Common Goldeneye | 25 | Red-naped Sapsucker | 1 | Red-winged Blackbird | 783 |
| Bufflehead | 86 | Ladder-backed Woodpecker | 12 | Western Meadowlark | 50 |
| Common Merganser | 46 | Northern Flicker (Red Shafted) | 19 | Brewer's Blackbird | 188 |
| Ruddy Duck | 29 | Vermilion Flycatcher | 5 | Great-tailed Grackle | 1258 |
| Turkey Vulture | 1 | Black Phoebe | 41 | House Finch | 245 |
| Osprey | 3 | Say's Phoebe | 37 | Lesser Goldfinch | 2 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | Horned Lark | 45 | American Goldfinch | 75 |
| Northern Harrier | 42 | N. Rough-winged Swallow | 14 | House Sparrow | 122 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 3 | Tree Swallow | 30 | Total Individuals 12/28/2004 | 12260 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 5 | Violet-green Swallow | 10 | Unidentified Duck sp. | 359 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 12 | Barn Swallow | 2 | Unidentified Gull sp. | 24 |
| American Kestrel | 18 | Common Raven | 39 | Unidentified Accipiter sp. | 1 |
| Merlin | 2 | American Crow | 1 | Sandpiper sp. | 1 |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | Verdin | 12 | | |

Chino Valley Christmas Bird Count

January 2, 2005

Russell Duerksen

Over 30 participants took part in this sixth year of the Chino Valley count circle on a cool but clear day (just before the storm came in.) The count total of 91 is pretty close to the average for the count. Highlights included the Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Geese and the Chestnut-collared Longspur. Notable was the significant amount of waterfowl on recently filled lakes, and the widespread lack of sparrows, with totals only about 10% of the annual average. Significantly high numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds and Mountain Bluebird were also notable.

Thanks to all that participated and made this a great trip. I look forward to working with all of you next year on January 2, 2006.

Species seen, and the number of individuals are as follows:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Brewer's Blackbird | 1,469 | Eurasian Collared-Dove | 97 | Pied-billed Grebe | 5 |
| European Starling | 1,167 | Mallard | 96 | Northern Harrier | 5 |
| Mountain Bluebird | 579 | Gambel's Quail | 93 | Bewick's Wren | 4 |
| House Sparrow | 499 | American Wigeon | 73 | American Pipit | 4 |
| House Finch | 446 | Great-tailed Grackle | 72 | Black Phoebe | 4 |
| Western Bluebird | 304 | American Robin | 64 | Mountain Chickadee | 4 |
| Mourning Dove | 299 | Green-winged Teal | 51 | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 4 |
| Common Raven | 253 | Red-tailed Hawk | 51 | Crissal Thrasher | 4 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 252 | Northern Flicker | 49 | Greater White-fronted Goose | 3 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 237 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 44 | Bald Eagle | 3 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 232 | Canvasback | 43 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 3 |
| Western Meadowlark | 174 | Say's Phoebe | 34 | Lesser Scaup | 3 |
| Bushtit | 134 | Killdeer | 33 | Northern Mockingbird | 3 |
| Canada Goose | 117 | American Goldfinch | 29 | Cooper's Hawk | 3 |
| Horned Lark | 112 | Western Scrub-Jay | 27 | Bufflehead | 3 |
| American Coot | 110 | Gadwall | 27 | Brown Creeper | 2 |
| Rock Dove | 102 | Pine Siskin | 25 | Merlin | 2 |
| Greater Roadrunner | 97 | Ring-necked Duck | 23 | Barn Owl | 2 |
| | | American Kestrel | 19 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | 2 |
| | | Canyon Towhee | 19 | Great Horned Owl | 2 |
| | | Ferruginous Hawk | 18 | Great Blue Heron | 2 |
| | | Song Sparrow | 18 | Gila Woodpecker | 1 |
| | | Townsend's Solitaire | 17 | Savannah Sparrow | 1 |
| | | Chipping Sparrow | 14 | Greater Yellowlegs | 1 |
| | | Ruddy Duck | 12 | Hairy Woodpecker | 1 |
| | | Loggerhead Shrike | 12 | Belted Kingfisher | 1 |
| | | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 10 | Canyon Wren | 1 |
| | | Lesser Goldfinch | 9 | Cassin's Finch | 1 |
| | | Northern Pintail | 9 | Chestnut-collared Longspur | 1 |
| | | Juniper Titmouse | 8 | Northern Shoveler | 1 |
| | | Rock Wren | 8 | Common Merganser | count week |
| | | Spotted Towhee | 8 | Spotted Sandpiper | 1 |
| | | Brewer's Sparrow | 7 | Prairie Falcon | 1 |
| | | Golden Eagle | 6 | Osprey | count week |
| | | Sage Thrasher | 6 | Tundra Swan | 1 |
| | | Redhead | 6 | | |
| | | Ladder-backed Woodpecker | 6 | | |
| | | Rufous-crowned Sparrow | 5 | | |



Red-tail Hawk by Jim Morgan
<http://www.wingsofnature.com>

Lawmakers

President

President George Bush

..... (202) 456-1414

Fax (202) 456-2461

president@whitehouse.gov or
[https://sawho14.eop.gov/PERSdata/
intro.htm](https://sawho14.eop.gov/PERSdata/intro.htm)

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Tucson Audubon Society Secures Permanent Protection of 300-Acres of Riparian Habitat on Santa Cruz River

Tucson, AZ, Friday, November 12, 2004 - Through a recent agreement with Devon Energy Corporation and local landowner Jim Olson, Tucson Audubon Society has secured permanent protection for 300-acres of riparian habitat at the Esperanza Ranch in northern Santa Cruz County.

US Representative Raul Grijalva (D) applauded this innovative agreement saying "This type of partnership, where the private sector voluntarily bears the burden of conservation, is what will be necessary to achieve conservation goals in the next four years. I applaud the parties to this agreement for their leadership and foresight in this area."

Parties to the agreement are Devon Energy Corporation from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Tucson Audubon Society, based in Tucson, Arizona, and developer Jim Olson of Green Valley, Arizona. An agreement between Devon, Mr. Olson and Tucson Audubon, allowed for a 300-acre easement to be created on a portion of the 800-acre Esperanza Ranch. The ranch is located between Amado, and Tubac, Arizona. The easement encompasses portions of the Santa Cruz River riparian corridor along 2 miles of the Santa Cruz River, riparian habitat along 1/2 mile of the Chivas Wash, and a 10-acre interconnected pond site.

For more information, contact Jessie Shinn at 520-628-1730 or jessieshinn@qwest.net.

From Audubon Newswire Volume 2, Number 20 Friday, November 12, 2004



The Curve-billed Thrasher seen and photographed by Jim Morgan



Sign Up Now and Start Earning for PAS!

Fill out this form and mail it to:

Prescott Audubon Society

PO Box 4156

Prescott, AZ 86302

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Safeway Club Card Number _____

Signature _____

Visit www.exscrip.com on the web, call one of our Board members (phone#s on back page), or call an eSrip representative at 866-884-6892 for complete program information. Also see our November/December *Wingtips*, page 3.

CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBER APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM

Membership Includes: Bimonthly issues of Prescott Audubon newsletter, *Wingtips*, and **100% of your dues stays in our Chapter to support our local education, conservation, and recreation projects**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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Dues for the first year are \$12.00 for Seniors (60 +), \$15.00 for Regular. After the first year, \$15.00 for Seniors and \$20.00 for Regulars. Junior Memberships (ages through 18) are \$7.50.

I wish to join for: 1 Year ___ 2 Years ___ More ___ I am a: Senior ___ Junior ___ Regular ___ This is a Renewal ___

Additional Tax-deductible Donation for my local Chapter: \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$40 ___ Other _____

Make check out to Prescott Audubon Society and mail check and application to: Membership Chairperson, PRESCOTT AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4156, Prescott, AZ 86302

I do not want NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY to solicit me for membership in their organization _____

PRESCOTT AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4156
Prescott, Arizona 86302



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The Prescott Audubon Society has dedicated its resources to education and advocacy for constructive use and preservation of our environment. Bequests have been an important source of support to the ongoing project. You can invest in the future by making a bequest in your will to the Prescott Audubon Society. Talk to your attorney for information on how this can be accomplished.

Please send **material for publication** in *Wingtips* to Penny Govedich, PO Box 903, Paulden, AZ 86334, by the first Thursday of the month.
E-mail to:
ctowhee@mindspring.com

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