

# THE TROGON NEWS

HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Post Office Box 63, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636  
Volume XXXIV, Number 4, April 2006



## President's Message

Well, spring is officially sprung. Just one short day after a fairly substantial snowstorm (for us) hit Cochise County. We'll surely be busy with lots of migrants through our valley this month. The irony is that International Migratory Bird Day isn't until May 13, by which time most of ours have already passed through. Nevertheless, BLM is planning a celebration day in May, and Friends of the San Pedro will coordinate it with their spring festival, so save the date for some Audubon outreach.

April 22 is Earth Day and HAS will have a table at the West End Fair/Earth Day party/farmer's market opening day in Sierra Vista. Friendly people to chat with anyone who wanders by are needed to help for a 1 or 2 hour shift. Please contact Tricia at 378-4937 to volunteer.

The evening before, April 21, HAS will sponsor a water forum that will focus on political and legal issues surrounding water. Robert Glennon, Professor of Law and Public Policy at U of A and author of "Water Follies" will be speaking and answering questions, along with Sierra Vista Councilman Bob Strain and Supervisor Pat Call. The goal is to have lots of time for audience questions, so put your thinking caps on and come to the forum.

## Welcome to New HAS Members!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest HAS members: George Koepke, Ethel Krause White, Melody C. Allan, Dee and Bob Parks of Hereford, Mr & Mrs Donald Campbell, and David Holden of Bisbee, Herbert P. Crispell of Benson, Dorothy L. Harry, Richard E. Marquardt, and Ann A. Williams of Sierra Vista, Emma Huff of Safford, Richelle Jamison of Huachuca City, Dennis Moroney of McNeal, Ted Scott of Pearce, and Robert C. Vanderpool of Douglas

## Local Programs and Events

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**, Friday, HAS sponsored Water Forum, 7:00 p.m., Cochise College, Room 314. See "President's Message" for details.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**, Tuesday, HAS monthly program, 7:00 p.m., Oscar Yrun Community Center. Local U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge Manager Bill Radke will be the guest speaker. Bill has worked at various national wildlife refuges for over 20 years, and spent part of his career as a Wildlife Biologist in the Pacific Northwest. He will speak about Columbia National Wildlife Refuge and Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, both located in eastern Washington's Columbia River Basin. Surrounded by spectacular natural history and a very interesting human history, both refuges were established primarily to provide habitat for wintering waterfowl.

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**, Thursday, Southeast Arizona Volunteer Education (SAVE) Program, 7:00 p.m., Mona Bishop Room of the Sierra Vista Public Library. John Millican, Arizona Game and Fish Department wildlife manager, will discuss the reintroduction of Gould's turkeys in southeastern Arizona, and work he's done in conjunction with the National Wild Turkey Federation on turkey-related projects here.

## Field Trips

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, 7:30 a.m., HAS field trip to French Joe Canyon in the Whetstone Mountains. Meet at the City Hall parking area for car pools – high clearance vehicles necessary. Bring snacks and water, wear boots for minimum of two miles hiking, rough in places. Note: Due to the high cost of gas, car pool passengers are expected to provide adequate compensation to their drivers, about 7 cents per mile. Leader: Mike Guest, 378-0667.



**April 9<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday, 7:00 a.m. FSPR bird walk. Meet at San Pedro River Inn.

**April 12<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. FSPR bird walk. Meet at San Pedro House.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. FSPR bird walk at Holy Trinity Monastery, St David.

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**, Monday, 7:30 – 10:30 a.m., Ash Canyon Bed & Breakfast, Turkey Track Rd. Join local area birders at Mary Jo Ballator's remarkable yard for a review of the many hummingbirds and other area specialties drawn to her feeders. \$5 suggested donation. Call Rick Romea at 803-1160 for directions or further information.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. FSPR bird walk. Meet at San Pedro House.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday's, 7:00 a.m. Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park bird walks. Tours will be limited to 20 participants plus 2 docents.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Mondays, Ramsey Canyon Preserve, 7:30 a.m.** "Early Bird" Walks.

Join Rick Romea or other excellent birders for a walk up the canyon before normal opening time.

Standard admission fees apply. Call Rick at 803-1160 for further information.

## New Blood Needed!

June is fast approaching, and at our June meeting HAS elects new officers. We urgently need "new blood" for officers and board members. The work is interesting and not particularly onerous. If you have any inclination at all in getting involved with the day to day operation of HAS's meetings, field trips, web site, education programs, or conservation projects, please contact Mike Guest at 378-0667 or mwguest@juno.com. Lack of previous experience is not an excuse to come forward.

### **March Field Trip to EOP**

Cool (about 44F), windy (20+), cloudy to start but with sun later, occasional precipitation to wet the glasses and birds that may have shown more sense that the four birders by staying in the cat tails and reeds. This was the luck of a Saturday morning visit to the EOP as requested by several members. Teresa Miranda, Bill and LuAnn Holiday from Indiana and I enjoyed what we could and endured the rest. Twenty eight species in about 2:15 are not very good for this time of year but the Holiday's were kind enough to say that they had enjoyed the morning and looked forward to returning. Gadwalls, Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Swainson's Hawk and Lark Sparrows were the less common species seen. That was until our return to the parking lot and what to our wondering eyes should appear, but a Peregrine Falcon circling low enough that glasses were a bonus not a necessity to watch the magnificent raptor.

-Sandy Kunzer

### **Spring in Mexico with Huachuca Audubon**

Join the Huachuca Audubon Society this spring as we visit Sonora and Chihuahua at one of the most enjoyable and bird-rich times of year.

#### **Sonora, April 29 - May 4, 2006**

After two outstanding trips in 2005, the HAS will be returning to Sonora, Mexico, in 2006 for what should be an exciting and bird-filled trip. Breeding birds and migrants should be abundant as we travel along the lush Rio Sonora, through Sonoran Desert and tropical deciduous forest, and into the pines and oaks of the northern Sierra Madre. Among the 180 species encountered in 2005 were green kingfisher, gray hawk, Sinaloa, happy, and spotted wrens, streak-backed and black-vented orioles, brown-backed solitaire, blue mockingbird, orange-billed and russet nightingale thrushes, rufous-backed and white-throated robins, black-throated magpie jay, elegant quail, rusty and five-striped sparrows, white-tipped dove, white-striped woodcreeper, gray-crowned woodpecker, slate-throated redstart, tufted flycatcher, rufous-capped brushfinch, crescent-chested warbler, and mountain trogon. Flowering plants, butterflies, reptiles, and a tremendous diversity of habitats will also be enjoyed.

#### **Chihuahua, May 23-26, 2006**

Semi-desert grassland, Chihuahuan desert scrub, oak woodland and mixed conifer forest make up the varied habitats we'll visit on this journey in northwest Mexico. In the vast pine forests and drier foothills we'll likely encounter Madrean species including elegant and mountain trogons, crescent-chested warbler, slate-throated redstart, brown-backed solitaire, Mexican chickadee, buff-breasted flycatcher, white-striped woodcreeper, russet nightingale thrush, and the stars of the show, thick-billed parrots. We'll also look for eared quetzal and striped sparrow and explore the general ecology of the plants and animals of the area. On our way into and out of the Sierra Madre, we'll stop at the excellent museum at the Paquime ruins to learn about the rich human history of the region and also the charming town of Mata Ortiz, made famous by local artist Juan Quezada who, inspired by the pottery of the Paquime people, resurrected the art which has flourished in his home town.

For more information and detailed itineraries, please contact Mark Pretti at (520) 803-6889, [mpnaturetours@earthlink.net](mailto:mpnaturetours@earthlink.net) or [www.markprettinatortours.com](http://www.markprettinatortours.com).

## Got Good Ears?

As the state coordinator for Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in Arizona, it is my responsibility to search out and find volunteers willing to conduct a one day a year road survey for breeding birds. I am in search of survey route runners in several regions of the state. For data consistency, surveyors should be committed to conducting the same route for a minimum of three years. The BBS program is the primary source of long-term, large-scale population data for over 400 of North America's breeding bird species. Since its inception in 1966, BBS trend data have played a vital role in avian conservation and have even promoted the formation of several major conservation initiatives.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process, here is a very brief description of the methods:

Each survey is conducted only one morning each year along randomly chosen 25 mile long stretches of roadway. Surveyors start 0.5 hours before sunrise. They stop every 0.5 mile along the route (50 stops) and watch and listen for 3 minutes documenting every individual bird seen and heard. This is repeated at every stop and typically takes approximately 4-5 hours to complete. Desert routes are typically run in early to mid-May with higher elevations routes run from late May to mid-June. You choose the day that the survey is conducted during the appropriate period.

Since most of the birds detected will be heard only, it is important that surveyors have good hearing and be able to identify all birds in the habitats they are surveying by voice (both songs and calls). There are 65 routes across AZ and 10 are available to be surveyed this year. Four routes are in the northeast corner of the state on Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribal lands, that pick up sagebrush, cold-desert scrub, and pinyon/juniper species. There is one route in La Paz County on Cibola National Wildlife Refuge and the remaining five routes are all in southeastern Arizona. Four of these routes are currently assigned to surveyors, but the surveyors are looking for someone to replace them. The southeastern AZ routes are:

### Cochise County

Pomerene - travels north from Pomerene to past Cascabel on the east side of the San Pedro River.

Sunizona - travels across the Sulphur Spring Valley on Courtland Road, then east along Rucker Canyon Road.

McNeal - travels on Leslie Canyon Road, then on Davis Road through McNeal and west toward Tombstone.

### Pima County

Amado - starts in Amado and travels west/southwest to Arivaca.

### Santa Cruz County

Patagonia - incredible route that begins on Blue Haven Road, past the famous Paton's home, through Patagonia to Harshaw Canyon and up onto the San Raphael grasslands. This wonderful route averages over 70 species!

If you would like to participate in this important 40+ year project conducted across the U.S. and Canada, please contact me directly at [aplomado@cox.net](mailto:aplomado@cox.net) (weekends) or [tcorman@azgfd.gov](mailto:tcorman@azgfd.gov) (weekdays). I can also forward (via email) a more thorough description of each of the available routes, including a selection of what species to expect on each route.

Thank you,

Troy Corman, AZ Breeding Bird Survey Coordinator

## National Geographic MapGuide

The National Geographic Society wants to put the Sonoran Desert Region on the map. And we can participate in creating that map. The MapGuide will cover more than 84,000 square miles of Southern Arizona, Sonora and Baja California. It will zero in on 200 to 300 special sites nominated by the public — each site remarkable for its scenery, history, culture, art or cuisine. The map, to be printed in English and Spanish, is intended to promote sustainable tourism and regional pride in an area extending south from Phoenix to Empalme in Sonora. The area reaches west to Mexicali in Baja California and east to the Bisbee area — but those general boundaries could be altered during the planning process.

The Geographic Society and its regional partners — the Arizona and Sonora offices of tourism, the Sonoran Institute and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management — are seeking nominations for items to appear on the map. "We're encouraging people to nominate everything from music, food, crafts and dance to scenic landscapes and historic sites — anything a visitor might be interested in," said James Dion, spokesman for the Geographic Society.

Nomination forms are available on a Web site — [www.sonorandesertgeotourism.org](http://www.sonorandesertgeotourism.org) — or by calling the Sonoran Institute at 290-0828. Nominations are due by April 10, and the Geographic Society will make final decisions as to which entries appear on the map. The MapGuide is expected to be available for distribution through the Arizona and Sonora offices of tourism — and on the Internet — by the spring of 2007.

The map project began in December, when the Geographic Society and its regional partners signed a charter making the Sonoran Desert region the fifth geotourism region in the world. The other geotourism projects are in Appalachia, Norway, Honduras and Romania.

Among the sites, activities and experiences that might be nominated:

- Natural areas such as rivers, canyons, waterfalls or gardens
- Cultural or traditional sites or experiences
- Festivals or celebrations
- Arts or crafts
- Music, dance, theater or storytelling
- Cuisine
- Farms or ranches
- Museums
- Archaeological sites
- Historical sites such as town centers, cathedrals or forts
- Outdoor recreation such as hiking or biking
- Lodging sites
- Visual attractions such as scenic overlooks

### **Special Request**

Local birder Dieter Kamm submits this request to our readers:

Alicia and I spent Thanksgiving weekend in the Rondo Retreat Center in the Kakamega Forest Preserve, Kenya. This is the last patch of tropical rain forest remaining in East Africa which once covered a huge swath of land all across Africa, west to east. While there we met a young man, Smith Likare, who is an accomplished naturalist just like Mark Pretti. He not only specializes in butterflies and birds but also knows many trees and plants by their scientific names. Smith owns a pair of binoculars of pre WWII vintage, one ocular held in place by duct tape. He shares these binoculars with a few friends who also guide visitors in the forest. We told Smith we would try to get him a pair of more functional and reliable binoculars when we returned to the States. Is there anyone out there who is willing to help? Smith would really appreciate a better pair of binoculars because he uses them often.

Smith lives five kilometers from the Center where he originates his income. When we were there his bicycle did not function. When he could not get a ride on someone else's bike, or borrow one, he walked to and from work. In rural Kenya people walk or ride a bike, often two or three people on one bike. I do not know if any of you can imagine the widespread poverty there. We have a contact who travels frequently to Kenya and would deliver the binoculars to Smith. Your help would be appreciated, please contact me if you have any question. Happy Birding. Dieter. 520-452-8811 or [aliciakamm@hotmail.com](mailto:aliciakamm@hotmail.com)

### **Arctic Fight Returns and Continues**

Pro-drilling supporters eked out a win on March 16 on a budget resolution that was specially crafted to allow oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. But keep your chin up! There are many more rounds of this fight ahead of us. We must all be committed to blocking this newest sneak attack on America's greatest wildlife refuge. The House of Representatives will act next when it decides whether or not to include Arctic drilling in its version of the budget resolution later in March.

The Senate vote was extremely close: 51 to 49. Due to activist efforts from many environmental organizations, several Republicans voted with nearly all the Democrats against this Arctic drilling budget. Unfortunately, McCain was not one of them. The Senate will have to cast at least two more votes on the budget bill this year if they hope to open the Arctic Refuge to drilling. So it is absolutely critical that you keep the pressure on them, no matter how they voted.

Please contact Senator McCain's office and express your disappointment in his vote that will allow drilling in ANWR. You could contact Kyl's office as well, just to register your position. But McCain has been supportive of ANWR in the past and he needs to hear from plenty of Arizona constituents just how important that area is to us. This year's fight to defend the Arctic Refuge is shaping up to be a replay of last year's all-out battle. Join forces and join the fight! To send an e-mail, you can go to the Senate website

[[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)].



**Audubon Arizona  
invites you to our  
BIRDS & BREAKFAST EVENT**


Celebrate John James Audubon's 221<sup>st</sup> birthday AND the eve of International Migratory Bird Day with birding, breakfast and a talk about the future Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center by its architect, Phil Weddle!

- Date:** May 12, 2006
- Time:** 6:00 am - guided birding expeditions  
7:30 am - continental breakfast and talk
- Place:** Site of the future Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado  
Audubon Center  
Northeast corner of Central Ave and Salt River Bridge
- Cost:** \$15 per person
- RSVP:** Donna Sauer, Arizona Audubon  
Tel: 602-468-6470  
Email: [dsauer@audubon.org](mailto:dsauer@audubon.org)
- Misc.:** Bring your binoculars!

**To volunteer as a birding guide:**


please contact Janice Miano at [egret@cox.net](mailto:egret@cox.net) or (480) 946-1327.

Please join Sky Island Alliance at:





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(2202 W. Anklam Rd)

This event is **FREE** for the price of a stamp! Or bring your own.  
It will be used in the call to action, penning a note to your Congress person about the Endangered Species Act.

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For more information contact Nicole at 520-624-7080 x209

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### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**National Audubon Society** - New Member - \$20, two years - \$30, renewals - \$35, Seniors - \$15. Membership includes subscription to *Audubon Magazine*. Make check payable to National Audubon Society. For NAS membership changes and status call 1-800-274-4201.

**Friends of Huachuca Audubon Society** - Individual - \$10 annually, Household - \$15 annually. Provides no affiliation to National Audubon. Make check payable to Huachuca Audubon Society.

The *Trogon News* newsletter is provided to all members via the HAS web site - [www.huachuca-audubon.org](http://www.huachuca-audubon.org).

Mailed copies or monthly email notification is available upon special request to HAS editor and/or secretary.

Send all checks to Huachuca Audubon Society, PO Box 63, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636.