



HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 63
SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA 85636

December 2009

Volume XXXII Number 4

Trogon News

Ramsey Canyon CBC December 19 by Ted Mouras & Robert Weissler

This year the Ramsey Canyon CBC will be held on Saturday, December 19. We will meet for breakfast at 6:30 am at the Lone Star Cafe at the intersection of Highway 92 and Hereford Rd. Find maps and other information at <http://www.huachuca-audubon.org/CBC/RCCBC.php#breakfast>. At breakfast, participants will receive checklists and maps. We will also collect \$3 per head for breakfast along with \$5 per CBC participant at that time. PLEASE BRING \$3 IN CASH for breakfast and either a check made out to National Audubon Society or cash for the CBC fee. (Be sure to check your name on our list to indicate that you have paid.) We need to know how many folks will be having breakfast, so please phone or email one of us if you plan to eat.

Dinner and the count tally take place at the Country House (4373 S. Highway 92—east side at Choctaw). We have reserved the banquet room at the right rear of the Country House. Dinner service starts at 5:30 pm. There will be a set menu of four entrees from which to choose, namely Grilled or BBQ Pork Chops, Spaghetti and Italian Sausage, Salmon

Calendar Highlights

- Thursday January 7 / HAS Trip/ Joe's Canyon/ Coronado NM
- Tuesday January 19 HAS Program Moez Ali / Ecuador
- Tuesday February 16 HAS Program Rick Thompson / Alaska Birding
- Tuesday March 16 HAS Program Priscilla & Hank Brodtkin / Colombia

Filet (optionally blackened), and Sizzling Fajitas. Learn more at <http://www.huachuca-audubon.org/CBC/RCCBC.php#dinner>.

For any of these entrees, the cost for the complete dinner is \$14.95 per person, including non-alcoholic beverage, dinner salad, and gratuity. You will NOT need to pay for the dinner in advance. Each party can pay at the cashier at the end of the dinner. Seating is limited, so please let us know by phone or e-mail if you plan to join us for dinner, which entree you prefer (for a rough count), and how many will be in your party. Contact Ted Mouras at tedmouras@mindspring.com (520-803-0221) or Robert Weissler at weissler@aves.org (520-803-0794) with the names of members of your party. Thank you to those of you who have already responded regarding attending the breakfast and/or dinner (no need to respond again).

We will reserve space for the first 30 in the banquet room. Others may dine in a neighboring area and join us after dinner for the compilation in the banquet room. Please pass this information to whomever you feel might be interested in joining us.

We look forward to a terrific dinner to cap a satisfying day of counting birds in the field or at home!

Party at the Research Ranch December 6

Once again our annual Holiday Party/Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 6th at the Audubon Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch south of Elgin in the beautiful Sonoita Valley.

Meet at 11 am at the Sierra Vista City Hall to carpool. So we can plan the event, please RSVP to Mike Guest at mwguest@juno.com or by calling 378-0667 if you plan to join us (or want directions to the ranch). Festivities begin at noon. Please bring a dish to share plus your own dishes and utensils. Don't forget to study up for Erika and Jim's quiz!



Post-fire renewal at the Research Ranch, May 2009. ARR photo.

Quarterly Program Lineup (third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm)

Cochise College Room 313

January 19, 2010 **Moez Ali**

Ecuador: The Northeast and Northwest Andes...and the Amazon

The mighty Andes, the vast Amazon rainforest—lush tropical habitats teeming with mixed flocks of brilliantly colorful tanagers, hummers, toucans, antpittas, manakins, barbets, cotingas, antbirds and so much more. This variety exemplifies the fantastic and easy birding in Ecuador, a birder's paradise and small country with nearly 1600 avian species and spectacular scenery.

A marvelous variety of birds can easily be enjoyed in the NE and NW Andes at the many mega hotspots and famous bird reserves at unique elevations and habitats, including must-see sites in the endemic-rich Choco bio-region, home to over 550 species, the high windswept paramo, lush subtropical and temperate cloud forests and lowland foothills. Hummingbird diversity in the Andes is mind-boggling, with dozens of dazzling gems like Sword-billed Hummer and Violet-tailed Sylph abundant at feeders. Also receiving top billing are Cock-of-the-Rock larks, Giant Antpittas hand-fed right on the trail, Andean Condors soaring over volcanoes, and scores of gaudy tanagers in mixed flocks.

The Amazon lowlands along the Rio Napo boast over 500 species, and tall observation towers make for ideal canopy birding with vibrant macaws, aracarís, cotingas, parrots, tanagers, raptors plus even howler monkeys easy to see. Birding excursions to parrot clay licks, river islands, black-water lagoons and both terra firme and varzea forests with expert native guides yield prized lowland specialties such as the very rare Rufous Potoo, White-lored Antpitta, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Crested Owl, fascinating antswarms hosting flocks of complex antbirds, and of course noisy groups of the bizarre and comical Hoatzins.

This program delivers birding northern Ecuador in a nutshell and a great, easy introduction to the incredible diversity that can sometimes be overwhelming in the tropics. You'll also get to hear about superb bird lodges, great local cuisine, and easy travel that make for an unforgettable birding adventure.



Moez Ali grew up in Nairobi and was hooked on birds and wildlife beginning with the toddler years on safaris exploring Kenya's world-famous national parks with his naturalist and photographer dad. His active outdoor youth was spent in the wild—climbing trees with monkeys, caressing reptiles, studying bird nests and learning about all the wildlife he came across. He also traveled throughout Africa playing tennis and birding whenever and wherever he got the chance, and after searching for akalats, boubous, crombecs, drongos, and eremomelas all over the continent, he came to the southeastern U.S. in 1999 for college tennis and birding the New World.

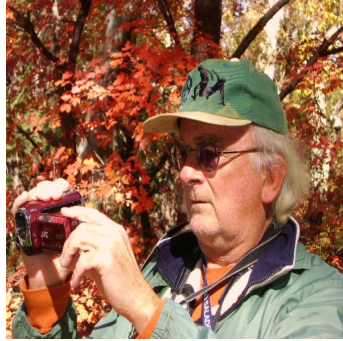
His relocation to Tucson in 2003 was all about birding, leading tours, and studying the fantastic birds and natural history of the desert southwest borderlands. He now birds nonstop while coordinating research on the birds of southeastern Arizona's sky island mountains and riparian corridors for the University of Arizona, leads bird tours, and is also an enthusiastic fieldtrip leader for the Tucson Audubon Society.

February 16, 2010

Rick Thompson

Birding in Alaska with a Video Camera

As a child in northern Minnesota I read books about birds in far off places. I grew up in a hunting family so was exposed early on to game birds. The first day trip I remember taking to actually look for birds was in about 1970 while a graduate student in Wisconsin. We went to the Horicon Wildlife Refuge in the fall to see millions of geese .



Through the years my wife Ricki and I have fed birds and recorded species seen in the yard. We moved to Sierra Vista in 2005 for the climate and adopted birding as a hobby-pastime-business. We're climbing a steep learning curve by birding several times a week. Although we have been photographing wildlife and scenic places since the late 60s, using a video camera has been a new and highly rewarding experience.

March 16, 2010

Priscilla and Hank Brodtkin

Creatures of Colombia's Emerald Mountains



Our presentation will be: "Creatures of Colombia's Emerald Mountains" featuring birds, butterflies and other insects, and plants of northern and central Colombia, arguably the world's most biologically diverse country. We spent the month of July 2008, in this beautiful country photographing butterflies for a book that a friend of ours is producing on the butterflies of the northern Andes.

President's Message

Hello,

Education outreach means different things to different people. Let me explain what it means to me and the board of directors. Our longest-standing project has been the Ramsey Canyon Christmas Bird Count; certainly our members make up the largest proportion of participants. For several years we covered the cost of breakfast for all who attended, but last year due to rising meal costs and rising numbers we required attendees to pay the first \$3, we covered the remainder. As detailed elsewhere we continue to provide *Audubon Adventures* to local, and not so local schools. For the second year we have funded a modest scholarship award at Cochise College for a science or science education student. We strongly support the SW Wings Birding Festival with many volunteers, plus guides for a Kids Walk and assistance with building Kids Birdboxes - which are purchased jointly by HAS and Ramsey Canyon Preserve. This year we helped finance the Ramsey Canyon Kids Camp, and one of our members was co-leader for the entire four weeks. We have a dedicated team visiting local schools with our jointly owned (with FSPR) bird box, introducing youngsters to nature. Then our members lead regular bird walks at the San Pedro River and the Environmental Operations Park, always open to the public as are our monthly meetings.

Regards, Mike

HAS Trip to Joe's Canyon in Coronado National Memorial Thursday January 7

Watch the website for details:
huachuca-audubon.org

Annual Wings Over Willcox Festival January 14-17

The annual celebration of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and other wintering birds is coming soon. This festival is your opportunity to learn more about the birds and other natural history subjects

as well as past and present human life in the Sulphur Springs Valley. Tours include Sandhill Cranes—thousands up close and personal, southwest mountain birds, beginning birdwatching, Muleshoe Ranch, Eurofresh greenhouse and valley farming, Willcox walking history, hawk stalks, sparrow seeks, grassland birds, ghost towns, botany, a working cattle ranch, local archaeology, wetlands and woodlands, and Chiricahua geology. Free seminars cover backyard native landscaping for wildlife, wildlife photography, astronomy, ice age animals and humans, sky islands, basic bird watching, bats, sandhill cranes, lizards, butterflies and nest box building. Registration, tour departures and seminars are located at the Willcox Community Center on Stewart Street.

The daily trade fair at the Community Center has booths ranging from birding and field trip accessories, original art and photography to arts and crafts and natural resource and local history displays.

Our banquet speaker on Saturday night, Rich Glinski, will present "Getting a Clue from Burrowing Owls" demonstrating that the very existence of Burrowing Owls is dependent upon an array of critically important conservation decisions. He received his B.S. from the University of Arizona and began studying Gray Hawks, later Mississippi Kites, Common Black-Hawks and raptors of the Gila watershed. He managed the nongame bird program for the Arizona Game & Fish Department from 1980 to 2000. Since 2003 he has managed an environmental education facility for Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department.

Wings Over Willcox has something for everyone. Come learn more about our winter visitors as well as your surroundings and natural history of the valley. Tours are limited and many fill early. Contact the Willcox Chamber of Commerce at 384-2272, 800-200-2272 or go online at www.wingsoverwillcox.com for further information and registration.

February 12-15, 2010. Join the Great Backyard Bird Count www.birdsource.org/gbbc/

Note: Carpool passengers are expected to provide adequate compensation to their drivers, about 8 cents per mile. ¡Gracias!

November 17 on the River by Alan Blixt

A group of 11 toured the San Pedro House grasslands on a beautiful fall day. We recorded 41 species. Resident birds are doing very well despite the lack of rainfall, but the numbers are way down for our winter guests. Highlights included a Louisiana Waterthrush, a Great Egret, and a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. It is interesting to compare the November 17 results with the tally from September 16. Highlights then were two Northern Waterthrushes, two Olive-sided Flycatchers, a Dickcissel, a Crissal Thrasher, and three Snowy Egrets. We recorded 60 species of birds on the September grasslands. We hope to continue these bird walks every other month throughout the year so please check the website for dates.



Regular Events

Check the web site (<http://www.huachuca-audubon.org>) for the latest updates to the schedule of events.

WEEKLY

Sundays at 8 am (October through March) **Bird Walk at Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park**. Limited to 20 participants with two docents. Sponsored by Huachuca Audubon, Friends of the San Pedro, and Southeast Arizona Bird Observatory.

STARTING IN JANUARY, join HAS for 2-3-hour **Monday bird walks on the San Pedro River** on the Lewis/Prezyna property. Meet at 8 am at the pulloff just west of the Hwy 92 bridge over the river in Palominas. Look for the Quonset hut just before the turnoff and a gate numbered 10663. Bring water, sunscreen, and warm clothes—it will be COLD.

Friends of the San Pedro

Every Saturday Interpretive Walk, 9-11:30 am. Meet at the San Pedro House just west of the river, south off Hwy 90.

Third Saturday Hike. January 16, February 20. See details at www.sanpedroriver.org.

Fourth Saturday Bird Walk, 9-11:30 am. Meet at the San Pedro House just west of the river, south off Hwy 90. December 26, January 23, February 27



Want to help track birds at night, even when you can't see them? Find out how to build your own tracker at Wired Magazine's website link. Cornell University ornithologist Andrew Farnsworth would like our data and he makes the set-up sound pretty simple.

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/03/birdmonitors/>

Appleton-Whittell CBC Saturday January 2, 2010

The 4th annual **Appleton-Whittell Christmas Bird Count (AWCBC)** takes place on January 2. The count circle is centered near the Audubon Research Ranch south of Elgin in the Sonoita Valley and includes the northwest portion of Fort Huachuca, the Babacomari Ranch, Canelo, the Mustang Mountains, and Elgin. Last year 100 species and 3,274 individual birds were recorded during the AWCBC. I will be working with Linda Kennedy of the Research Ranch (lkennedy@wildblue.net) to coordinate the parties that head into the field for the count. **We are especially looking for participants who know their winter grassland birds.**

Please see the Huachuca Audubon web page for the AWCBC details <http://www.huachuca-audubon.org/CBC/AWCBC.php> (field card, maps, and party hours/miles and rare bird forms, plus a zoomable Google map of the count circle). You'll find a list of typical winter birds, most of which were recorded during previous counts.

Some of the highlights of the count last year include a male Elegant Trogon and an adult female Williamson's Sapsucker in Huachuca Canyon. Also, a MacGillivray's Warbler seen in the cantonment of Fort Huachuca is very rare in winter. Western Tanager is also a new addition to this count. A Plumbeous Vireo seen high up Blacktail Canyon near the crest of the Huachuca Mountains was also notable.

Please let me know (preferably via e-mail) if you will be able to participate in the upcoming count, who will be joining you, and what area you are interested in covering.

Robert Weissler, AWCBC compiler
weissler@aves.org / 520-803- 0794

Recycling Opportunities Grow

by Mike Guest & Alan Blixt

Huachuca Audubon Society commenced recycling several years ago, before it became a necessary and increasingly popular thing to do. We started by collecting newspapers from Apache Middle School, and until they lost their funding for newspapers, regularly picked up 1/4–1/2 ton monthly. Then before last year, when Coronado National Memorial started its own program, we recycled their plastic, glass, aluminum cans, magazines and newspapers. In their first year they recycled 11 tons of material from containers placed throughout the memorial.

We've also collected from the Amerind Foundation and the Rainbow Ridge Assisted Living house. A few years ago we started collecting and recycling cell phones and cartridges from laser and ink jet printers—a little over 400 units to date saved from the landfill. These items can still be dropped off at Ramsey Canyon Preserve, San Pedro House, or Wild Birds Unlimited in Sierra Vista.

Happily, recycling is much easier these days. Sierra Vista residents with their distinctive blue bins can donate aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, cata-

logs, phone books, cardboard, chip board, and type #1 and #2 plastics. Note participants are requested to remove all materials, packaging, and other items from inside of boxes; and empty and lightly rinse the #1 and #2 plastics (no lids).

County residents are not so fortunate and have to take their recyclables to one of the County's Refuse Transfer Stations, say Bisbee or Sierra Vista. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 am to 3 pm and Saturday, 7 am to 3 pm. Recycling is free for magazines, newspapers, white office paper and corrugated cardboard, #1 and #2 plastic, tin and aluminum cans. For a \$5 charge stations will accept refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, water heaters, and like items.

Closer to Huachuca City? Then Waste Management of Sierra Vista accepts, free of charge, paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum and tin cans, and glass, at 2183 N Coyote Place.

Huachuca Audubon encourages you to talk to family, friends, neighbors, churches, school groups, and other audiences and encourage recycling in our community.

Audubon Adventures: An Invitation to Help

By Mike Guest

For several years Huachuca Audubon, like many other chapters, has sponsored individual teachers in local schools to receive *Audubon Adventures*. This year our representative Sally Rosen enrolled 22, mostly from the Sierra Vista area but also she also reached out to Palominas, Elgin, Pearce, and Elfrida. These programs cost us \$1,004.

This year's all new edition of *Audubon Adventures* is entitled *Action for Planet Earth*. *Action for Planet Earth* is a standards-based classroom curriculum supplement that focuses on conservation action. Content will be rooted in the core elementary science, language arts, and social studies (civics) curricula. *Action for Planet Earth* contains four study units:

- Action for Planet Earth: Caretaking Our World's Water
- Action for Planet Earth: Power from our Planet
- Action for Planet Earth: At Home in a Habitat
- Action for Planet Earth's Species: Pennies for the Planet!

Audubon Adventures integrates reading with science and other core disciplines, and meets national science and language arts standards for grades 3 - 5.

Audubon Adventures classroom kits include:

- Nature News tabloid, 4 editions, 32 copies of each edition
- One classroom resource manual
- Endangered habitat poster
- Guide for a healthy schoolyard.

A year's membership in the National Audubon Society (for the teacher).

Several of our members have already contributed a sum close to \$500. Will you please join them and help us grow that number? Individual classroom kits cost \$45 each. But any amount you care to contribute will be much appreciated. Send contributions to HAS Treasurer, P.O. Box 63, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636. Amounts over \$40 will be acknowledged as charitable donations for tax purposes by a letter from our Secretary.

Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY: \$20 New Member \$30 Two Years \$35 Renewal \$15 Seniors
Make checks payable to: National Audubon Society
FRIENDS OF HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY: \$10 Year - Individual Member \$15 Year - Household
Make checks payable to: Huachuca Audubon Society

TOTAL: \$ _____



Mail all applications to: Huachuca Audubon Society • P.O. Box 63 • Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-0063

Please get involved with Huachuca Audubon Society!

Check your area of interest: Publicity Programs Conservation Hospitality Board of Directors

Welcome New Members

Martha Bakarich, Sierra Vista
Leanora Benson, Sierra Vista
Charles Bianco, Sierra Vista
Kathryn Deiss, Douglas,
Clara Finn, Bisbee
Dana Graves, Safford
David Hinkel, Hereford
Rebeca L. Hooker, Hereford
Edna Hoseman, Sierra Vista
Linda Hufford, Douglas

Evelyn Kurtz, Hereford
Steve Marlatt, Willcox
Lyla Offield, Sierra Vista
Ronald A. Stewart, Sierra Vista
Will Troyer, Sierra Vista
John C. Yarwood, Sierra Vista

And thanks to all of you loyal renewing members, too.

2009-2010

Committee Chairs

Field Trips, **Alan Blixt & Robert Weissler**
Conservation, **Tricia Gerrodette**
Education, **Ginny Bealer**
Membership, **Ginny Bealer**
Audubon Adventures, **Sally Rosen**
Webmaster, **Robert Weissler**
Trogon News Editor, **Brooke Gebow**

Do you get out regularly for bird walks and field trips? If so, you might wish to join the Outings Committee at 4 pm on Tuesday afternoon, December 15 when we get together to plan winter and spring events!

We already have lots of ideas, but we need additional folks to lead those walks to make them a reality! If you wish to attend, please contact Robert Weissler for directions (weissler@aves.org or 803-0794).

Binocular Box Available

Huachuca Audubon Society, in partnership with Audubon Arizona, is pleased to offer a free educational resource to the community. We have a portable box containing 24 binoculars, several field guides and a copy of the "Science Takes Wing" lesson set. HAS co-sponsored Kid Camp at Ramsey Canyon Preserve used our binoculars this past summer, and a bunch of new birders were born.

Teachers are encouraged to check out the box for use with their students. Scout and other community groups may also use the box. Conservation starts with understanding so share the wonder of birds with your favorite club or class this year! The box is available for one-week periods.

To reserve the box, please contact Tricia Gerrodette in Sierra Vista at triciag2@cox.net or (520) 378-4937.

HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 63
SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA 85636

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Alan Blixt	515-9458
Mel Emeigh	458-4588
Tricia Gerrodette	378-4937

Arizona Audubon Council Representative

Tricia Gerrodette

Audubon Adventures Representative

Sally Rosen

Visit the website for current information:

www.huachuca-audubon.org

Webmaster, Robert Weissler

Submit Trogon News items to:

has_admin@huachuca-audubon.org

“Print” Trogon News Editor, Brooke Gebow

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Programs	vacant		