

# THE TROGON NEWS

HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Post Office Box 63, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636  
Volume XXXIV, Number 6, June 2006



## President's Message

My last president's message to members of HAS after a number of years of pondering what to put in them. I want to again express my extreme gratitude to Renell Stewart, who has been the newsletter editor for a number of years. I think it may be the job that involves the most work for HAS. I know Renell has occasionally struggled to find articles to put in. And almost every month, she has had to wait until the last minute to get her front page article (the president's column!).

And my thanks also to the officers, directors, and committee chairs of the HAS board. They have arranged walks for your pleasure, set up classes, done surveys, coordinated the Christmas Bird Count, and shared opinions and ideas at board meetings. They have been a great and helpful group.

Please consider coming to our annual membership meeting/picnic/potluck. Those of us who come have a good time and we would always enjoy meeting you and getting to know you. There are so many names on the membership rolls that don't have faces attached in our minds. We don't see you at monthly meetings or on the walks. Why not? Come share the fun!

## Welcome to New HAS Members!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest HAS members: James and Kathleen Jones, Dorothy Ashwell, and Richard Crane of Hereford, Virginia Schnell of Klondyke, AZ, Evelyn F. Bos, Barbara Burton, Willard Troyer, Robert Pratt, Kimie Gill, and Jackie Redus of Sierra Vista, Virginia Brooks of Bisbee, Mr & Mrs M.A. Cooper of St. David, Joel Fago of Prescott Valley, Sandy Garrett of Willcox, Jeanne Harmon of Douglas, John C. Hilliard of Scottsdale, Joan Morrissey, and Joan Tavares of Benson, Mary Tryon of Pearce, Ardis Zander of Naco, and Melody Madden of Safford.

## Local Programs and Events

**Jun 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Thursday, Southeast Arizona Volunteer Education (SAVE) Program, 7:00 p.m., Mona Bishop Room of the Sierra Vista Public Library. **Geology of the San Pedro Valley and Beyond.** Using a variety of media, geologist Sandy Kunzer will show that geology is understandable, interesting and can help us understand other natural systems around us.

**Jun 24<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, Annual HAS Picnic Potluck Meeting, see below for details.

**Jul 27<sup>th</sup>**, Thursday, Southeast Arizona Volunteer Education (SAVE) Program, 7:00 p.m., Mona Bishop Room of the Sierra Vista Public Library. Ted Mouras will cover the natural history of the SPRNCA.

**Aug 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>**, Southwest Wings Birding Festival headquartered in Bisbee.

**Aug 24<sup>th</sup>**, Thursday, Southeast Arizona Volunteer Education (SAVE) Program, 7:00 p.m., Mona Bishop Room of the Sierra Vista Public Library. Mike Foster will talk about arthropods of the Upper San Pedro Basin.

## Field Trips

**Jun 10<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, 7:00 a.m., HAS field trip to Carr Canyon & Comfort Spring. Meet at the first parking lot in Carr Canyon to arrange car pools. High clearance vehicles necessary. Bring snacks and water, wear boots for minimum of two miles hiking, steep in places. Leader: Erika Wilson, 234-4359 or [terika88@cox.net](mailto:terika88@cox.net) for information.



**Jun 11<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday, 7:00 a.m. FSPR bird walk. Meet at San Pedro River Inn.

**Jun 14<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. FSPR bird walk. Meet at San Pedro House.

**Jun 19<sup>th</sup>**, Monday, 7:30 a.m. Ash Canyon Bed & Breakfast, Turkey Track Rd. Join local area birders at Mary Jo Ballater'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.

**Jun 24<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. FSPR bird walk. Meet at San Pedro House.

**Jun 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<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.

**Jun 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>**, Mondays, Ramsey Canyon Preserve, 7:00 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.

## Annual Picnic Potluck Meeting

Annual picnic potluck meeting - June 24 at Gray Hawk Ranch on the San Pedro River. Come meet folks, make new friends, catch up on what's happening with old friends. You can drift on in anytime after 4 in the afternoon, particularly if your potluck contribution is appetizers. Plenty of time to snack and talk. HAS will supply beverages (sodas, wine, beer). Dinner chow line will open promptly at 5 pm. Be sure to bring your own plates and utensils in addition to your potluck contribution. Annual business meeting, including election of officers and directors, will begin at 5:30. Then relax, talk some more, or head to the river with hostess Sandy Anderson to do some hot summertime birding. Don't know where Gray Hawk Ranch is or how the heck to get there? Call Sandy at 458-0542 for directions.

### **Nominating Committee Presents Slate for June Election**

The Nominating Committee of Alan Blixt, Director, and Erika Wilson, member, have been hard at work over the past month preparing a slate of willing and able HAS members to stand for election at the annual meeting, Saturday, 24 June 2006. The following slate was recommended to the members attending the last monthly meeting, Tuesday, 23 May 2006.

#### **OFFICERS:**

President: Mike Guest; Vice-President: Rick Romea; Secretary: Sandy Kunzer; and Treasurer: Phil Tucker.

#### **DIRECTORS:**

Sandy Anderson; Alan Blixt; Tricia Gerrodette; Kerrie Kirkpatrick; Rick & Rikki Thompson (joint directors); and Robert Weissler.

The HAS Bylaws state that the President's term is two years, while all other terms are for one year. We are happy to have some new members stepping forward to serve on our club's board. Nominations from the floor are welcome in June, of course, but check with your nominee to be sure they are willing to stand for office. The President will be naming Standing Committee chairs (one year terms) after the June election. If you want to help with any of the club's activities, contact any director or officer--volunteers are much needed to keep our club going.

-Erika Wilson

### **May Field Trip Report**

Birders! Insomniacs! Was how the trip was advertised but in actuality it was so much more. Yes we got up early and yes we saw birds (63 species) but the weather, the company and the bird spotting natural history discourse provided by Sandy Anderson were outstanding. While no rarities were sighted, views of her heron rookery and Common Yellow Throats and Yellow-Breasted Chats repeatedly *in the open*, were much more interesting. How often can one study these birds for minutes at a time without visual obstruction of cattails, reeds or willow branches? After the walk Sandy showed us around her new Herps House and brought out several of her teaching animals for the gathering to observe, admire, hold and learn about. Thank you, Sandy Anderson, for a marvelous time.

-Sandy Kunzer, Outings Committee

## 2nd Sunday Bird Walk – 14 May 2006

The participants of the May 2nd Sunday Bird Walk found the shade and slight breeze under the canopy of the gallery forest along the San Pedro River most comfortable as they tallied numerous migrating, breeding, and resident birds. Among the interesting sights and sounds were brief glimpses of MacGillivray's Warbler, the calls of Gray Hawk, and many colorful Summer Tanagers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Bullock's Orioles, and Blue Grosbeaks. Yellow Warblers were heard all throughout the riparian area, along with the calls of Gila Woodpeckers. Brown-crested Flycatchers tested birders skills at distinguishing them from similar Ash-throated Flycatchers.

Some winter birds still present included Green-tailed Towhee that were still numerous along the river, although they are soon to depart to breed elsewhere. While white-lored "Gambels" White-crowned Sparrows have migrated north, the dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow subspecies turned up in the vicinity of the river. These birds are migrating through to breed in the Rocky Mountains. Meanwhile, the Pyrrhuloxia have dispersed to breed more locally. And the winter sparrows, like Vesper's, Brewer's, and Lincoln's, have moved north already. In the midst of all the migrant and breeding birds, residents continued to occupy their usual haunts, including Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Curve-billed Thrasher, Northern (red-shafted) Flicker, Bewick's Wren, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Canyon and Abert's Towhees. Male Vermilion Flycatchers were fluttering high above in aerial breeding displays. White-winged Doves were heard calling throughout the walk. Meanwhile back at the inn, the Barn Owl fledglings were still occupying the nest box.

The next 2nd Sunday Bird Walk is scheduled to depart from the San Pedro River Inn at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 11, 2006. Please note that the Hereford Road bridge over the San Pedro River officially has re-opened, so access to the inn from Sierra Vista is much easier. Once again, birders of all levels of experience are welcome to join us!

-Robert Weissler



Come join the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival held in Bisbee, Arizona. The mission of the Southwest Wings Birding Festival is to promote environmental education, nature-based tourism and the protection of urban and rural habitat, through lectures, workshops, field trips and exhibits. This year's keynote speaker, Jon Dunn, a highly recognized author, editor, field ornithologist and senior field trip leader for Wings(r) will be leading trips, presenting and will be available for book signing. A variety of new programs on topics not yet covered in past festivals will be offered, along with new and exciting field trips. This year's theme is Mountain Reds. Further info is available at <http://www.swwings.org/>.



## Map Beckons Birders to Southeastern Arizona

Thanks to a collaborative effort between a number of government agencies, businesses, and private organizations, southeastern Arizona will receive heightened visibility as one of the top birding destinations in the nation. The Southeastern Arizona Birding Trail showcases 52 birding sites on a colorful new map that provides valuable information about each location.

The map, unveiled on Saturday, May 13, 2006, at the annual International Migratory Bird Day celebration at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area near Sierra Vista, is a stunning publication. The map/brochure, the result of a two-year revision and redesign that added colorful artwork by renowned artist Narca Moore-Craig to the brochure, is both visually appealing and packed with valuable information. The new format is also easier to use, with site descriptions placed close to their locations on the map.

Five major sponsors funded the map's publication: the Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Fund, Bureau of Land Management, Cochise County Tourism Council, Sonoran Joint Venture, and Wings Over Willcox Birding and Nature Festival. Dozens of public and private partners contributed their time to the effort.

Five counties – Cochise, Santa Cruz, Pima, Graham, and Greenlee – are featured on the map. They all stand to benefit from the birders that will visit, or stay an extra day or two, as a result of the map. Nature tourism is a vital part of the rural economies of these counties. Each year, millions of dollars are spent in Arizona on wildlife viewing and much of that is in southeastern Arizona.

Maps are now available for sale from the Tucson Audubon Society, Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory, birding stores, and a variety of other vendors and locations. The map committee also offers bulk sales of quantities of 100 or more to businesses that wish to resell the map.

Maps can be ordered online through the Southeastern Arizona Birding Trail website: [www.seazbirdingtrail.com](http://www.seazbirdingtrail.com). The website will eventually host the map online.

If you have any questions regarding the Southeastern Arizona Birding Trail, please contact one of our team members:

Diane Drobka at [Diane\\_Drobka@blm.gov](mailto:Diane_Drobka@blm.gov) or 928-348-4403;

Audrey Eskue at [birdersvista@ssvecnet.com](mailto:birdersvista@ssvecnet.com) or 520-378-2493;

Jennie Duberstein at [Jennie\\_Duberstein@fws.gov](mailto:Jennie_Duberstein@fws.gov) or 520-882-0837.



**FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES & SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO –  
An Adventure to Remember  
Thursday, November 16 – Sunday, November 19, 2006**

A professional wildlife biologist specializing in birds will accompany us from Tucson to the annual Festival of the Cranes in charming Socorro, NM and at the Bosque del Apache (BDA) NWR. We will keep busy by attending the annual dinner and doing the fly-out walk, the fly-in walk, the BDA manager's tour, the mountain birding tour, the Chihuahua Desert flora tour, the BDA wonder walk, the BDA loop drives, the BDA pond bridge, a star party, and museums in Socorro. We'll also make en-route visits to the Deming Luna-Mimbres Museum and the NRAO Very Large Array (VLA) radiotelescopes on the Plains of San Augustin. Some activities will require short walks/hikes; you may participate in these as much or as little as you wish. Daytime temperatures will be 50-60 degrees, nights 20-30 degrees. Tour fee includes transportation by van, guide fees, a clean and comfy motel in Socorro, all entry fees, festival registration fee, and fees for all of the festival activities listed above. Chief Guide and Top Tyranno: Stephen H. Buck, Ph.D.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2006  
(Festival events fill up fast, so early reservations are required)

\$465 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$565 PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY

CALL 520-577-6546 TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-mail to [tyrannotours@comcast.net](mailto:tyrannotours@comcast.net)

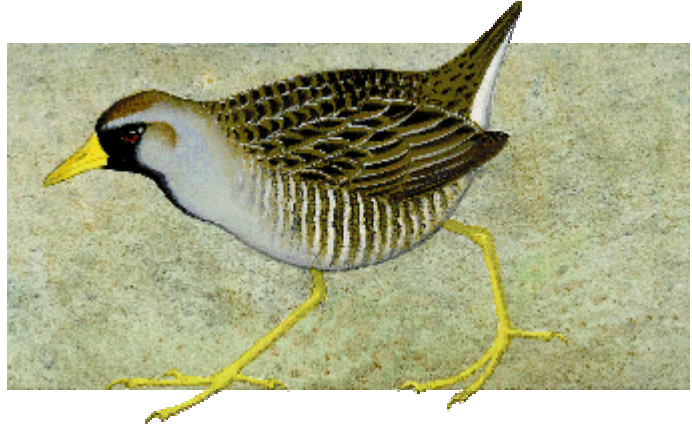
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## SORA

Searchable Ornithological Research Archive



Thanks to Sheridan Stone, Fort Huachuca Wildlife Biologist, for passing along a note about this web site - <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/>. “The SORA project is an open access electronic journal archive and is the product of a collaboration between the American Ornithologists Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Wilson Ornithological Society and the University of New Mexico libraries and IT department. This archive provides access to an extensive Ornithological literature of international scope, and detailed material documenting the history of Ornithology in North America over the last 120 years. The content of this site includes the following titles: The Auk (1884-1999), The Condor (1899-2000), The Journal of Field Ornithology (1930-1999), The North American Bird Bander (1976-2000), Pacific Coast Avifauna (1900-1974), Studies in Avian Biology (1978-1999), and The Wilson Bulletin (1889-1999).”

Of particular interest to HAS members is an article in the Pacific Coast Avifauna Journal titled “Birds of Huachuca Mountains Arizona” written by Harry Swarth. The article is an ornithological monograph on the Huachucas based on field observations and collections in the late 1800s and first few years of the 1900s.

### Have a Wonderful Summer!

As in years past, the Trogon News will now go on hiatus for the summer. However, when the newsletter resumes in the late summer/fall, it will be on a **quarterly** rather than a monthly basis. Since no one has volunteered to serve as editor, the Board has been forced to resort to fewer issues. Robert Weissler will take on this responsibility – along with his other duties. Items of importance such as meetings, field trips, and conservation issues will be inserted on our web site <http://has.hypermart.net/> or <http://www.huachuca-audubon.org/> as available. We can only avoid this scenario if someone comes forward. Training and guidance is available. Please contact any HAS officer or board member if interested.

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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.  
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