

# THE TROGON NEWS

HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Post Office Box 63, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636  
Volume XXIX Number 8, March 2007



## President's Message

Hello. This has been a very exciting quarter with old activities continuing, new activities opening up and even more in the planning stages. The San Pedro River and EOP Bird Walks, our monthly field trips and chapter meetings have all been well attended and enjoyed. Our recycling efforts by Director Alan Blixt at the Amerind Foundation, Coronado National Memorial, and Apache Middle School have now been joined by printer cartridge and cell phone drop-offs at The San Pedro House, Ramsey Canyon Preserve, and Wild Birds Unlimited. (The first three cell phones were dropped just one day after the project commenced!) Also thanks to Secretary Sandy Kunzer and Director/Editor Robert Weissler, by ordering through our web site, now anyone can make on-line purchases at hundreds of stores for a huge variety of items, with a small part of their purchase cost being rebated to HAS.

Looking ahead are continuing bird walks, field trips and meetings, plus Vice-President Rick Romea will present a new *Beginner's Birding Class* and a repeat of last year's popular *Birding By Ear Class*, both to be held at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve. Later in the spring HAS Director and local naturalist Mark Pretti and volunteers will initiate our new Bird/ Mammal Trunk project at two Sierra Vista elementary schools. This project will expand in the fall. And for the birder who has everything – a *Cochise County Birdlist* is well in hand.

The entire proceeds from the classes, on-line purchase rebates, and the (likely small) revenue from the new recycling program will together help support our education outreach projects, which will include sponsoring a bird box construction class at this years Southwest Wings Birding Festival in August.

My sincere thanks are offered to the above named and all of our other Officers, Directors, and individual members who are making HAS so successful. To the rest of my readers – join in, participate, and consider helping us.

Regards, Mike.

***Shop at our Marketplace and raise money for Huachuca Audubon!***

Help raise funds for the Huachuca Audubon Society by shopping at our online [Marketplace](#). Just click on the shopping bag banner on the left side of the Huachuca Audubon Society home page ([www.huachuca-audubon.org](http://www.huachuca-audubon.org)) and raise money for us! Please remember that ONLY purchases made online at participating merchants accessed by clicking on our website Marketplace banner first will raise money for us. Otherwise, the merchants will **not** be able to return a portion of the purchase cost to Huachuca Audubon.

**Welcome to New HAS Members!**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest HAS members: David and Brenda Witham, Nancy Docherty, Lee Sullivan and Betsy Checchia of Sierra Vista, and James Hays of Tucson.

**Committee News**

The chairpersons for the chapter committees are as follows: Education: Ginny Bealer; Programs: Kerrie Kirkpatrick; Membership: Ginny Bealer; and Outings: Rick Romea. Note that the new Conservation chairpersons are Pat and Verna Berry (check out the [Conservation page](#) for the latest issues). Please contact the relevant chairperson if you would like to find out more information about the activities of a particular committee.

**HAS Vacancies**

New members in particular may be interested in getting involved with our organization. Currently we have openings for an Historian (previous experience in another chapter would be a plus, but is not necessary. Interest in supporting our goals is more important).

We continue to seek an Editor for the Trogon News. Currently, due to a full time job and his other commitments, Robert Weissler can accommodate only quarterly issues. We would prefer to return to our customary monthly publication schedule if an interested person steps forward.

Help and guidance is readily available for any of these positions. If you have any thought about joining us, please discuss with Mike Guest or any other officer listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

**Local Programs and Events**

Check the web site (<http://www.huachuca-audubon.org>) for the latest updates to the schedule of events. HAS monthly meetings are in the Horace Steele Conference Room at Cochise College.

**March, Introduction to Birdwatching class** at Ramsey Canyon.

**Mar. 20**, Tuesday, 7pm. HAS Monthly Meeting, **Program on the Mexican Wolf**.

**April, Birding by Ear class** at Ramsey Canyon.

**Apr. 17**, Tuesday, 7pm. HAS Monthly Meeting, **Program on the Bears of the Huachucas**.

**Apr. 19-22**, 2007. Tucson Audubon **Institute of Desert Ecology**.

**May 15**, Tuesday, 7pm. HAS Monthly **Program on the Biomes of Brazil**.

**Hummingbird Banding** on Ft. Huachuca. Check out [Hummingbird Monitoring Network](#) for details.

### Upcoming Field Trips

**Mar. 8**, Thursday, 8:00 am. HAS field trip to **Environmental Operations Park**.

**Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro River Inn.

**Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

**Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

**Mar. 31, Schoolhouse Grand Opening** at Fairbank Ghost Town with all day events including bird walks, hikes, re-enactments, rides.

**Mar. 31**, Saturday, 8:00 am. HAS field trip to **Amerind Foundation**.

**Apr. 1-3**, Huachuca Audubon Field Trip to **Northern Sonora**.

**Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro River Inn.

**Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

**Apr. 11**, Wednesday, 7:00 am. HAS field trip to **Ash Canyon B&B**.

**Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

**May 5**, Saturday, 7:30 am. HAS field trip to **Miller Canyon/Beatty's Orchard**.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro River Inn.

**May 18**, Friday, 7:30 am. HAS field trip to **Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve/Patons**.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

**June 7**, Thursday, 7:30 am. HAS field trip to **Carr Canyon**.

**June 9**, Saturday. **HAS Annual Picnic** at SPH.

Note: Due to the high price of gas, car pool passengers are expected to provide adequate compensation to their driver, about 8 cents per mile.

### Weekly events

Every Sunday at 8:00am October through March (7am during summer months). **Bird Walk at Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park**. Limited to 20 participants with two docents. Note: Owing to acts of vandalism, public entrance to the EOP is restricted to 7:00am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday only.

Every Monday (at 8:00am in March, 7:30am April-August) **Bird Walk at Ramsey Canyon Preserve**. Standard admission fees apply. Contact Rick Romea at 803-1160 for further information.

### Monthly events

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 8am Oct-Mar, 7am Apr-Sep. **Bird Walk at San Pedro River Inn**.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8am Oct-Mar, 7am Apr-Sep. **Bird Walk at San Pedro House**.

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 8am Oct-Mar, 7am Apr-Sep. **Bird Walk at San Pedro House**.

### **Patagonia Lake State Park-Dec. 2006**

Cool, crisp, still, with reflections in the lake. This was the weather for HAS's 7<sup>th</sup> annual boating, birding and walking trip to Patagonia Lake State Park. Each year this is an opportunity to take advantage of birding from a quiet, slow moving pontoon boat captained by Ron Hummel whose intimate knowledge of the local birds and their preferred lurking places, presents an opportunity to observe species which are uncommon or completely missing from the most visited places in our San Pedro valley. Merganzers, Common moorhens, Night herons, a golden eagle, Peregrine falcons, coots that approached the boat in apparent attempts to mooch handouts, the opportunity to try to visually separate Dusky and Hammond's flycatchers were some of the enjoyments. A total of 41 species were identified within the Park by one of the groups either from the boat or on shore. Since the boat can only carry 9 we split the group and also have the opportunity to bird along the incoming Sonoita Creek riparian area.

Thanks to Ron and the Park staff for their help.

Look for this trip in 2007 or try a visit on your own. I know you will enjoy it.

Sandy Kunzer

### **Huachuca Audubon Society 2007 Field Trips**

The HAS Outings Committee, Mike Guest (Chair), Sandy Kunzer, Rick Romea, and Erika Wilson have planned a slate of interesting outings for the spring 2007.

#### **Ramsey Canyon Preserve Monday morning bird walks**

Join us each Monday morning for a 2-3 hour bird walk at The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve, led by local area birders. Meet at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve parking lot, located at the upper end of Ramsey Canyon Road, starting at 9 am (February), 8 am (March), 7:30 am (April-August). The walk will go about 1 mile up through the preserve at a very relaxed pace; there is some uphill walking, and sturdy shoes are recommended. The walk is free and open to the public, but standard preserve entrance fees apply: \$5/person for a weekly pass, \$3 Nature Conservancy members and Cochise County residents, \$25 for a yearly family pass. For more information, contact Rick Romea (803-1160, rickorcindy@hotmail.com).

**Feb 15 Las Cienegas Wildlife Recreation Area**

Huachuca Audubon Society field trip to ‘Las Cienegas’ ; the Empire Cienega Wildlife Recreation Area. February 15<sup>th</sup> . Meet at the Sierra Vista City Hall parking lot to arrange car-pools for a 7:30 am departure. Note: due to the high price of gas, car pool passengers are expected to provide adequate compensation to their driver, about 7 cents per mile. Bring lunch, water, and warm clothes (telescopes will be useful). We will be searching the native grassland for wintering birds, including sparrows, pipits and longspurs, as well as wintering hawks and falcons. The trip is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the leader: Erika Wilson (234-4359, [terika@cox.net](mailto:terika@cox.net)).

**March 8 Environmental Operations Park**

Huachuca Audubon Society field trip to the Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park (EOP). March 8<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the EOP viewing platform at 8 am for a 2-3 hour walk, at a gentle pace on mostly flat ground. The entrance to the EOP is located on Highway 90 between mileage markers 324 and 325, on the north side of the highway. The trip is free and open to the public. Leaders: Mike Guest (378-0667) and Erika Wilson (234-4359, [terika@cox.net](mailto:terika@cox.net) ).

**April 11 Ash Canyon B&B**

Huachuca Audubon Society hummingbird workshop at the Ash Canyon B&B. April 11<sup>th</sup>, 7-10 am. Join us at the amazing hummingbird feeders in Mary Jo Ballatore’s yard, for a workshop on hummingbird identification. Meet at 7 am at the Ash Canyon B&B. From Sierra Vista, take Highway 92 south to mile marker 332.7. Turn west on Turkey Track Road and continue to the end; turn right on Spring Road. the B&B is the last place on the right. The workshop is free and open to the public, but a donation to help maintain the feeders is requested. Leaders: Dave Beaudette ([drtbrdr@msn.com](mailto:drtbrdr@msn.com)) and Rick Romea (803-11160, [rickorcindy@hotmail.com](mailto:rickorcindy@hotmail.com)).

**March 31 Amerind Foundation**

Huachuca Audubon Society field trip to the Amerind Foundation, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Meet at the Sierra Vista City Hall parking lot to arrange car-pools for an 8 am departure. Note: due to the high price of gas, car pool passengers are expected to provide adequate compensation to their driver, about 7 cents per mile. Bring lunch and water. We will be walking the native grassland habitat, with an optional visit to the Amerind museum. The trip is free and open to the public; admission to the Amerind museum is \$5/person, \$4 (over 60). Leader: Alan Blixt (515-9458, [alanblixt@hotmail.com](mailto:alanblixt@hotmail.com))

**May 5 Miller Canyon/Beatty's Orchard**

Huachuca Audubon Society field trip to Miller Canyon and Beatty's Orchard. May 5<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 7:30 am at the forest service parking lot, located just below the Beatty's Orchard at the upper end of Miller Canyon Road (west off Highway 92). We will hike up The Miller Canyon trail to the 'second stream crossing', in search of Huachuca mountain specialties such as Red-faced Warbler and Hepatic Tanager, then we will spend time at the hummingbird feeders at Beatty's orchard. The trail is rough and steep, so bring water and wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for a 2 mile uphill hike at a relaxed pace. The trip is free and open to the public, but a small fee is required to access the upper feeders at Beatty's. Leader: Joe Woodley (378-0848, joe@woodly.ws).

**May 18 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve/Patons**

Huachuca Audubon Society field trip to The Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. May 18<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Sierra Vista City Hall parking lot to arrange car-pools for a 7 am departure. Note: due to the high price of gas, car pool passengers are expected to provide adequate compensation to their driver, about 7 cents per mile. Bring lunch, water and clothing for a flat, easy 3-mile stroll around the loop trail of the preserve, looking for Patagonia specialties such as Gray Hawk, Thick-billed Kingbird, Black Vulture and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet. We will also make a stop at The Paton's yard to watch the hummingbird feeders, with a good chance for Violet-crowned Hummingbird. The trip is free and open to the public, but standard preserve entrance fees apply: \$5/person for a weekly pass; \$3 Nature Conservancy members, and a small donation to help maintain the Paton's feeders is always appreciated. For more information, contact Rick Romea (803-11160, rickorcindy@hotmail.com).

**June 7 Carr Canyon**

Huachuca Audubon Society field trip to the high Huachucas. June 7<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the perimeter trail parking lot in Carr Canyon road (west off Highway 92; first pullout on the left after the road becomes dirt) for a 7:30 am departure. Be prepared for a 2 mile hike at a relaxed pace; the trail is rough, with some steep sections, so bring water and wear sturdy shoes. We will be looking for high altitude specialties such as Greater Pewee, Virginia's and Olive Warbler, and Buff-breasted Flycatcher. The trip is free and open to the public. Leader: Mike Guest (378-0667).

**SPARC Program: Bird-banding Along the San Pedro River**

**Schedule for Spring 2007**

The 2007 SPARC program has begun bird-banding along the river. The program kicked off on February 28 with a bang! The SPARC team netted 67 birds at the San Pedro House, including 6 previously banded birds. Banding will continue each Wednesday starting around 7 am until 11am, at the San Pedro House, until early May when the team will move their nets down to the area around Green Kingfisher Pond. Start times may move to 6:30 am as the sunrise advances and the days getting warmer. If you are interested in joining the SPARC team, volunteers are most welcome! Please contact Heather Swanson at (520) 720-9508 if you have questions or wish to participate in the SPARC program.

## Introduction to Birdwatching

### Huachuca Audubon Society Class

Instructor: Rick Romea

The Huachuca Audubon Society announces a new class being offered this March: INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING. Here is an opportunity to get a simple, practical introduction to the 'sport' of birdwatching, with an emphasis on how to identify our local Sierra Vista birds. The class consists of 4 Thursday evening classes and 2 Saturday field trips, to practice what we have learned. Classes are at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve Visitor's Center (located at the upper end of Ramsey Canyon Road), 6:30-8 pm. The classes are as follows: CLASS 1 Getting started (March 8) What is it about birds? Biology of birds. Overview of our local Specialties. Parts of a bird, and what they tell us about the bird. Choosing optics: Binoculars, Telescopes. How to dress and behave in the field. Online resources, books and magazines, clubs and organizations. CLASS 2 How to identify birds (March 15) Field marks. GISS (general impression of size and structure). Molt sequences: age and time of year. Using behavior, habitat, status and occurrence. How to use Field Guides and checklists. Listening to birds. CLASSES 3&4 Some important families of birds (March 22 & 29) Hawks, Ducks, Doves, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Owls, Warblers, Sparrows, Blackbirds. Local birding hotspots. Field Trip 1: (April 7, 8-11 am) San Pedro River. Field Trip 2: (April 14, 8-11 am) Ramsey Canyon Preserve. The total cost for the class is \$30. For additional information and to register for the class, contact the instructor, Rick Romea: 803-1160, [rickorcindy@hotmail.com](mailto:rickorcindy@hotmail.com).

## Birding By Ear

### Huachuca Audubon Society Class

Instructor: Rick Romea

The Huachuca Audubon Society announces a class being offered this April: BIRDING BY EAR. Ever wonder what the bird guides mean when they say: 'a noisy twittering call' or 'a thin penetrating whistle'. Or how about 'dry chip' or 'liquid trill'. In this class, we will start to develop a common language to describe bird vocalizations, using examples from common southwest birds. We will learn to characterize bird sounds as to common types and sound qualities. Then we will introduce some of the simple tricks that take the mystery out of birding by ear. The class consists of 4 Thursday evening classes and a Saturday field trip, to practice birding-by-ear in the field. Classes are at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve Visitor's Center (located at the upper end of Ramsey Canyon Road), 6:30-8 pm. The classes are as follows: CLASS 1 (April 5) Developing a common language, Basic Acoustics, Steps to birding by ear, Bird vocalization types, Describing vocalization quality, Name-sayers, Mneumonics & memory tricks. CLASS 2 (April 12) Songs with an obvious cadence, Songs with obvious sound quality, Robin Sound-alikes, Trillers and Mockers (mimids), Chicken-like birds. CLASS 3 (April 19) Flycatchers: The 'easy' ones, The Pewees, The 'empids', The 'Myarchis', The Kingbirds, Doves, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and Titmice, Wrens. CLASS 4 (April 26) Warblers: 'Easy ones': Distinct Calls, Yellow Warbler sound-alikes, Buzzy calls with accent on last note, Two-parted Calls, Accelerated Calls, Grassland Sparrows, Orioles, Meadowlarks. FIELD TRIP (April 28) 8-11 am: San Pedro River. The total cost for the class is \$25. Note that, while all are welcome, this class is designed for intermediate birders with some familiarity with our local birds. For additional information and to register for the class, contact the instructor, Rick Romea: 803-1160, [rickorcindy@hotmail.com](mailto:rickorcindy@hotmail.com).

## HAS May Program on the Biomes of Brazil

May 15, Tuesday, 7pm

Mato Grosso, Brazil, situated roughly in the center of South America, lies at an ecological crossroads where three enormous and diverse biomes converge. The world's largest freshwater wetland, the Pantanal, occupies the south, the dry Brazilian cerrado sweeps across the middle, and the incomparable Amazon basin is found in the north. Species abundance and diversity is astounding, and this program, though it will focus on birds, will give us an opportunity to see beautiful images of and learn about many of the birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and plants that can be found in the area. In the last several years, Mark Pretti and Karen Blumenthal have spent 7 months traveling in Mato Grosso and volunteering at the Cristlino Jungle Lodge. They look forward to sharing with you some of what they've seen and learned about the wildlife and ecology of this rich Brazilian state.

Mark Pretti Nature Tours 2915 Keeling Rd. Hereford, AZ 85615 (520) 803-6889

[www.markprettinaturetours.com](http://www.markprettinaturetours.com)

### Burrowing Owl Project

Help reestablish burrowing owls near the San Pedro River! On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be a work party in neighborhood Pedro River). with dirt, but now around the The party will enough Gordon Lewis:



the continuing effort to re-introduce the burrowing owl to our (Palominas on the property just north of Hwy 92 and the San Past work groups have built the burrows and covered them the finishing touches are needed. We will be placing rocks entrances to the burrows to make them more natural looking. start about 9 am and we should be done by noon (if we get volunteers). If you would be willing to help out, please contact

520-366-5560

520-266-0149 (c)

E-mail: [ranchogulag@theriver.com](mailto:ranchogulag@theriver.com)

Gordon Lewis

Rancho Gulag

P.O. Box 1327

10658 East Boundary Road

Palominas, AZ 85615

### Recycling extended

HAS now offers the opportunity to recycle Ink Jet and Laser printer cartridges, plus old cell phones. These will be mailed - at no cost to HAS - to Recycle First. Not only will this effort bring a slight remuneration to HAS, but we will in our own small way, help reduce the number of cartridges thrown aside each year, currently estimated at 400 million!

Please bring your cartridge discards, and old cell phones, to any HAS monthly meeting, Board meeting, or field trip, for collection by Mike Guest.

Any questions please call Mike at 378-0667, or email at [mwguest@juno.com](mailto:mwguest@juno.com).

## **Audubon Adventures: An Opportunity to Participate in Environmental Education**

If you've ever wanted to share your appreciation for the natural environment with youngsters by stimulating their curiosity and discovery of nature, here's your chance. Audubon Adventures is a nationally acclaimed environmental education program of informational brochures, posters, activities and action tips geared for grades 3 - 6. For example, have a look at "[The Buzz about Native Bees](#)".

Teachers who receive the kit get a guide, resource manual and a one-year subscription to Audubon Magazine. Each classroom kit contains materials for 32 students, at a cost of \$45, which includes shipping.

Subject matter and activities in the kits are in alignment with national science and language arts standards. Millions of school children have participated in this program since its inception in 1984.

This year's topics for in-depth study are: "Home is Where the Nest is", "The Buzz about Native Bees", "Bats: Mammals on the Wing", and "Wild About Birds".

Following are just two among the many accolades the program has received from teachers. These and other information about Audubon Adventures are posted at the website: [www.audubon.org/educate/aa/](http://www.audubon.org/educate/aa/).

"I have been using the Audubon Adventures educational materials for many years and have always found them to be well designed and appropriate to the educational needs of my students. Young minds always seem to be eager to learn all they can about nature. Audubon Adventures can motivate even the most reluctant learners. "

-Susan Campbell, Fourth Grade, Webutuck Elementary, New York.

"Audubon Adventures reading materials and lesson plans help students understand and respect the natural world around them. We are matching the kit materials with our sixth grade science curriculum. "

-Pasadena Unified School District K-12, Program Specialist, Pasadena, CA

Huachuca Audubon has a list of local teachers who have used Audubon Adventures in the past, and would like to continue to do so, plus several others who would like to receive a package. If you would like to donate a kit to any of these teachers, please send your check to our treasurer, Phil Tucker, HAS, P.O. Box 63, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-0063. Your donation to Huachuca Audubon for this kit is tax deductible.

If you would like a particular teacher in our area to receive a kit, please include the following information with your payment: a. school name and mailing address, b. teacher's full name and c. grade taught.

Please address any other questions regarding this education outreach project to Sally Rosen, 459-0430.

### **Ornithology Development Workshops for k-12 teachers**

Homer Hansen of Wings Over Willcox (<http://wingsoverwillcox.org>) and Birdland Ranch (<http://www.birdlandranch.org>) are coordinating [Ornithology Development Workshops](#) for k-12 teachers, community nature centers or any interested group (4H, garden clubs, bird-friendly businesses, etc.) from April 11 to April 16 presented by project leader, Jennifer Schaus of Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The workshops utilize Cornell's "Bird Sleuth" curriculum ([www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth)) inquiry-based science units designed primarily for elementary and middle school children, but adaptable for nature centers. Please take advantage of this opportunity to educate and involve your children and community in tracking changes in bird populations and habitat.

To schedule a workshop, we need to have a minimum of 6 attendees with each participant or sponsoring organization purchasing a Bird Sleuth curriculum kit (reference materials, modules, etc.) for \$75. Workshops are presented in 2 or 4 hour increments. Please refer to the attached course outlines for a brief description. A flyer and sign up sheet will be sent to you all by the end of next week for circulation.

We have already organized the following workshops:

Willcox - Saturday, April 14, 9 to 1:30pm, Willcox High School biology class room

Sierra Vista - Wednesday, April 11, 5 to 7pm, University of Arizona South, observatory computer room

Please forward this information to anyone who may be interested. Jen's schedule has yet to be confirmed, so please get back to me as soon as possible. We may be able to extend her stay thru April 17th to accomodate additional workshops.

Kate Scott  
Birdland Ranch  
520.455.5190  
[ksh@birdlandranch.org](mailto:ksh@birdlandranch.org)  
<http://birdlandranch.org>

### **Reminder: Trogon News is now a quarterly newsletter**

**With the advent of the web, we have an effective means for reaching our membership in a more timely fashion. As a result, we have moved the schedule of events front and center on the home page of our web site (<http://www.huachuca-audubon.org/>) where it can be updated on a moment's notice. We will continue to offer the newsletter as a vehicle to highlight stories on recent field trips, programs, and other activities of Huachuca Audubon, albeit quarterly instead of monthly.**

# Audubon Celebration 2007

Co-sponsored by *Arizona Audubon Council* and *Audubon Arizona*

**You are invited --- let's flock together!**

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> 2007

Fiesta Inn Resort, Tempe AZ

*Join with friends old and new for a weekend of fun and opportunity to include the following:*

**John Flicker**, President and CEO of the National Audubon Society.

**Jerry Jackson**, renowned ornithologist, author, and popular writer for *Birdwatcher's Digest*.

**César Mazier**, President of César Mazier Landscaping & Consulting and past director of horticulture for the Desert Botanical Garden.

**Homer Hansen**, chairman of the annual "Wings Over Willcox" birdwatching festival and sparrow expert.

**Jim Burns**, wildlife photographer and writer of "Bird Is a Verb," a bimonthly birding column for the *Arizona Republic*.

**Betsy Loyless**, Senior Vice-President for Policy in Audubon's Washington office.

**David L. Pearson**, Research Professor at Arizona State College and author and co-author of books in the Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide series.

**Rose Ann Rowlett**, of Field Guides- professionally guided bird-watching trips to 100 destinations worldwide.

**Leadership training for Chapter leaders**, such as fund raising, planning and implementing an education program, attracting new members, etc.

**Important Bird Area** training on Friday.

**A variety of Sunday field trips** such as Rio Salado, Gilbert Riparian Preserve, Tres Rios, Boyce Thompson Arboretum and more...

**Silent Auction, Raffle**, more fun...and, of course, **great birding!!!**

**Conference Registration is \$85 per person** (includes box lunch, banquet dinner, attendance for all Saturday workshops and Sunday field trips ~ Friday workshops extra). For further details and to request a registration packet, call **Donna** at **602-468-6470** or email [egret@cox.net](mailto:egret@cox.net). Early registration is encouraged as some events will be limited.

Discover the upbeat charm of Tempe's **Fiesta Inn Resort**. A splendid oasis with more than a hint of Frank Lloyd Wright's design influence, all the Resort's rooms have been recently updated with pillow top mattresses, complimentary wireless internet, and oxygenic showers. The Conference Rate is **\$86 per night** plus tax (conference rate must be booked by phone). Call **1-800-528-6481** ~ [www.fiestainnresort.com](http://www.fiestainnresort.com).

*Register for the Conference prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> and your name will be entered into a drawing for a special prize.*

### Endemic Birds of Jamaica

February 2007

The opportunity to bird a biodiverse island is a special treat indeed for novice or experienced birder alike. And so my wife Liza and I embarked on a one-week tour with [Victor Emanuel Nature Tours](#) led by Brennan Mulrooney and by Brandon Hay, a local conservation biologist working to protect Portland Bight and birds like the Bahama Mockingbird that are local and threatened on the island. Among other birds, we were seeking 28 endemic Jamaican birds, plus several Caribbean island endemics.

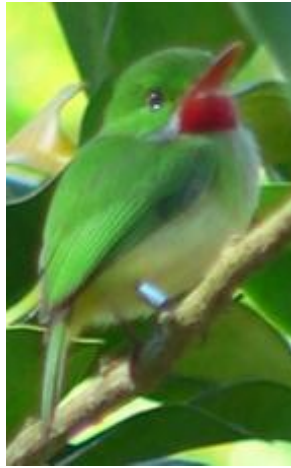
Our journey started south of Montego Bay. During our overnight stop there, we started with Magnificent with numerous egrets the bay. Smooth-billed Pigeon and Zenaida tropics. The white-surprise, but we would once scarce on morph Kestrel eluded also our introduction to Bammy, a pancake-and Callaloo, a leafy and Salfish followed



Frigatebird over the bay, along and herons roosting on an island in Ani and especially White-crowned Dove let us know we were in the bellied American Kestrel was a see many of these birds which were Jamaica. Unfortunately, the dark us on this trip. This first stop was Jamaican cuisine with Steamed shapped, deep-fried cassava bread, green similar to kale. The Ackee the next morning.

The next day we headed south, then east towards Marshall's Pen and the nearby ranch of Ann Sutton who is at the forefront of conservation in Jamaica. we made a stop at Rockland's Bird Sanctuary our first Red-billed Streamertail and Jamaican sipping nectar perched from our hands. These were joined by numerous, colorful Bananaquits and also had our first views of Jamaican Oriole and J. only species of their kind on the island. At the we had some terrific birds. The Jamaican Tody

not particularly shy, a rewarding photo The more elusive Ruddy finally located and seen its brief traverse of the Caribbean Dove was likewise shy. By contrast, comical Jamaican Lizard Meanwhile, the Chestnut-colorful. The cryptic occasions. On the other identified from a distance Greater Antillean readily identified too. The



uttered a call similar to that of a Cactus Wren. Likewise, the Jamaican Becard was quickly identified by its call, a sound like a finger swept across a comb. And Olive-throated Parakeets were conspicuous among the showy orange blossoms of a tree identified as belonging to genus Erythrina (or possibly Piscidia).

The first day trip from Marshall's Pen to the coast and back through the Black River valley yielded the locally endangered West Indian Whistling Duck, along with Masked Duck, and immature white-morph Reddish Egrets, while Least Bitterns and Sora could not be coaxed out of the marsh. By contrast, a the vicinity of Portland Bight, Clapper Rail was seen well On the drive back to Marshall's Pen, at least four Barn perched by the road. That evening, the Jamaican Owl, genus owl, is a resident of the Sutton property. It was it moved from its roost tree into an enormous West Indian Cedar.



Along the way, where we had Mango, some striking birds Orangequits. We Woodpecker, the Sutton Home, was stunning and challenging, but opportunity! Quail Dove was fleetingly during trail behind us. beautiful, but the noisy, almost

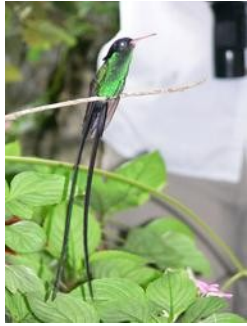
Cuckoo sounded similar to a Barred Antshrike. bellied Cuckoo was even larger and just as Arrowhead Warbler was seen well on several hand, the Jamaican Spindalis was readily given its bright, unmistakable field marks. The Bullfinch and Yellow-shouldered Grassquit were Jamaican Euphonia, while plain to behold,

were heard well, but couple days later in in broad daylight. Owls were seen similar to a Strix seen well at dusk as

The second day trip started early as we drove to reach Cockpit Country by dawn. It is so named because the limestone cliffs are very steep, creating the impression of pits used for cock-fights. This rugged land made a hideout for the Maroons who escaped slavery. Here we had both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Parrot, along with the "gobbling" Jamaican Crow, and Jamaican and Blue Mountain Vireo. On the drive back, the yam stakes on the hillsides were covered with leafy vines shining with dew, an unusual sight.

We left Marshall's Pen to make our way to Kingston with a detour to Portland Ridge to see Bahama Mockingbird. We also had remarkable views of Clapper Rail. This day, we had a sweep of Myiarchus flycatchers with Sad, Rufous-tailed, and Stolid Flycatcher all encountered. This area had been hit particularly hard by Hurricane Ivan a few years ago.

Our first journey out from Kingston was to the nearby Blue Mountains. Although close, the drive into the mountains was tortuous with the road climbing along the contour, often clinging tenuously to rocky abutments on the steepest slopes. Our first stop at Woodside Rd was very productive. We had outstanding views of Crested Quail Dove along the road. Both Jamaican Antillean Elaenia were lured into view. As for thrushes, we had all three, namely Rufous-throated Solitaire, White-eyed and White-chinned Thrush. Perhaps the most numerous of the endemic birds is the Jamaican Blackbird. We had great fortune, with this otherwise scarce bird for built soon thereafter. After we descended on us, we enjoyed Starlight Chalet, then we sampled Blue Mountain coffee and beans on our way back to Kingston.



Throughout the island, Loggerhead Kingbird, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Black-and-White, and Black-throated Blue Warbler were common and seen well. Likewise, Red-billed Streamertail, Jamaican Tody, and Jamaican Woodpecker could be found easily and appeared to be distributed widely in the mountains.

On the final day of the trip, we left early for the journey around the eastern end of the island to seek the specialties of the John Crow Mountains. We had great views of Worm-eating Warbler, a lifer birder notably weak on eastern warblers. We had lunch at a Jerk Centre, a specialty of Jamaican cuisine. After lunch, a distant white speck was the best view we could manage of White-tailed Tropicbird which nests in a few protected sites near the shore.



were rewarded of the Red-billed Jamaica. We also celebrated with yours truly, a cuisine. After could manage of protected sites

-Robert Weessler

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