

THE TROGON NEWS

HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY
Post Office Box 63, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636
Volume XXX Number 1, March 2008



President's Message

Hello. After my last message complaining about the poor attendance at our Fall field trips, December was even worse! I was the only one for the annual Patagonia Lake State Park visit, where the birding was OK. 2008 started off better with eight visiting Sulphur Springs Valley. This spring we are having two trips in both March and April to better our chances of spotting migrants; I hope many of you will join us.

The Holiday Party Potluck in December at the Research Ranch was well attended and enjoyed by all; we hope to return to their hospitality again this year.

Friends of the San Pedro River have generously given us permission to share their Bird/Mammal trunk. We are augmenting their collection thanks to the grant received from Arizona Audubon. If you would like to be involved with school visits; getting youngsters excited about local nature with the aid of the trunk, please contact our Education Chair, Ginny Bealer (378-6341).

June and the election of Officers is fast approaching. Even if all of the present officers remain, we are still short of an Outings Chair, Conservation Chair, and two Board members. Also, my two year term ends. I urge each one of you to consider becoming actively involved in running our Chapter, this includes our new, and not so new, members who have had previous experience with other Chapters.

Regards, Mike

Committee News

The chairpersons for the chapter committees are as follows: Conservation: <vacant>; Education: Ginny Bealer; Programs: Kerrie Kirkpatrick; Membership: Ginny Bealer; and Outings: <vacant>. Please contact the relevant chairperson if you would like to find out more information about the activities of a particular committee.

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) 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 welcome our newest HAS (and Friends of HAS) members: Pat Chance, Amy K. Mead, Annie Phillips of Benson; James. L. Riley, Michael Turisk of Bisbee; Mary Buhot of Cochise; Barbara Hanson of Dragoon; Glen Klingler of Elfrida; Jean Dall, Merce Dostale & Michael Tarachow, Robert Duval, Kathleen Heard, Marian Smith of Hereford; Mr. & Mrs. Don King of Safford; Patty Walmann of St. David; R. Abrahamson, Bob Brooks, Robert D. Brunt, Kristen Campbell, Tom Clancy, Gerald Coppola, Jean Gray, Ann Hartfeil, Stephanie Johnston, Melvyn Kloor, Ms. Ryan Miele, Donna Perry, Mary Anne Somerville of Sierra Vista; Jim & Gloria Lawrence of Sonoita; Shirley R. Villarin of Tombstone; Mr. & Mrs. Jon Samuelson of Willcox. And from out of state, welcome Mary Lou Feldt of Livingston, TX; Bill & Kathy Thomas of Missoula, MT; and Janice N. Swarm of Canon City, CO.

Volunteer Opportunities with Huachuca Audubon: Get Involved!

New members in particular may be interested in getting involved with our organization. There is currently a vacancy for the Outings Committee chairperson. If you enjoy planning field trips to interesting birding destinations – and there is no lack of those in southern Arizona – then consider taking on this role with our chapter.

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. Useful skills for this position include document editing and layout using a word processing package like Microsoft Word, OpenOffice (free download), or NeoOffice for the Mac (also free download). Also, modest photo editing skills are helpful, e.g. iPhoto for the Mac.

Help and guidance are readily available for any volunteer position of interest. If you wish to join 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.

Wednesday evenings in March, starting the 5th, **Introduction to Birdwatching** class at Ramsey Canyon.

Mar. 18th, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. HAS Monthly Meeting, **Cecile Lumer on Cochise Native Plants**.

Wednesday evenings in April, starting the 2nd, **Birding by Ear** class at Ramsey Canyon Preserve.

Apr. 15th, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. HAS Monthly Meeting, **Betsy & Sandy Kunzer on Iceland**.

May. 20th, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. HAS **Gordon Lewis describes the Burrowing Owl Reintroduction**.

Upcoming Field Trips



Mar. 12th, Wednesday, 8:00 am. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

Mar. 22nd, Saturday, 8:00 am. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

Mar. 25th, Tuesday, 8am. HAS Field Trip, **Hummingbirds at Ash Canyon B&B**.

Apr. 9th, Wednesday, 7:00 am. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

Apr. 15th, Tuesday, 7pm. HAS Monthly Meeting, **Betsy & Sandy Kunzer on Iceland**.

Apr. 21st, Monday, 7am. HAS Field Trip to **San Pedro River**.

Apr. 26th, Saturday, 7:00 am. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

Apr. 28th, Monday, 6:30am. HAS Field Trip to **Garden Canyon, Ft Huachuca**.

May 12th, Monday, 7am. HAS Field Trip to **St. David Monastery**.

May. 14th, Wednesday, 7:00 am. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

May. 24rd, Saturday, 7:00 am. **FSPR bird walk**. Meet at San Pedro House.

May 29th, Thursday, 7am. HAS Field Trip to **Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve**.

June 8th, Sunday, 7:30am. HAS Field Trip to **Carr Canyon/Comfort Spring**.

July 14th, Monday, 8am. HAS Field Trip, **Hummingbirds at Ash Canyon B&B**.

Aug. 10th, Sunday, 7:30am. HAS Field Trip to **Miller Canyon & Beatty's Orchard**.

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 am October through March (7 am during summer months). **Bird Walk at Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park**. Limited to 20 participants with two docents.

Every Monday at 8am in March, 7am from April, **Birdwatching Field Trips to the San Pedro River**. 2-3 hour birding field trips to Gordon Lewis' property on the San Pedro River. Meet at the pull-off just west of the bridge on the north side of Highway 92 (near Palominas, gate numbered 10663).

Monthly events

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

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

Huachuca Audubon Society 2008 Field Trips

The HAS Outings Committee has planned many interesting outings for the 1st half of 2008.

March 25th - Ash Canyon B&B

Morning hummingbird identification workshop at Mary Jo Ballator's well endowed yard starting at 8am. We can expect 4-6 hummer species, depending on the weather. Sorting out hummers by size, shape, bill, face pattern, and behavior will be discussed. Bring binoculars, your hummingbird field guide, if you have one, sun hat, and water. Directions from Sierra Vista, take Highway 92 south to mile marker 332.7; turn right (west) on Turkey Track Road; continue to its 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.

Leader: Erika Wilson (234-4359, terika88@cox.net)

April 21st - San Pedro River Area

Spring migration in full swing in prime riparian habitat. Field trip covering the river, Green Kingfisher and Black Phoebe Ponds, and adjacent grasslands We can expect 60-65 species, including many neotropical migrants, especially flycatchers and warblers, on our 2.5 mile walk. Bring binoculars, sun hat, and water. Meet at San Pedro House at 7am. Trip is free and open to the public.

Leaders: Alan Blixt (515-9458, alanblixt@hotmail.com) and Erika Wilson (234-4359, terika88@cox.net)

April 28th - Garden Canyon, Fort Huachuca

Spring migration in full swing in prime mountain habitat. Field trip covering ponds, grasslands, and riparian areas in lower Garden Canyon. Target birds will be Elegant Trogon, warblers, and tanagers. Bring binoculars, sun hat, and water. Meet at Gateway Park 6:30am to car-pool. Photo identification is required to access Fort Huachuca. Trip is free and open to the public.

Leaders: Erika Wilson (234-4359, terika88@cox.net) and Alan Blixt (515-9458, alanblixt@hotmail.com)

May 12th - St. David Monastery

Field trip covering the monastery grounds, ponds, and adjacent San Pedro River. Meet at Sierra Vista City Hall 7am to car-pool. Trip is free and open to the public.

Leader: Alan Blixt (515-9458, alanblixt@hotmail.com)

May 29th - Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve/ Patons

Field trip to the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve plus. Meet at Sierra Vista City Hall 7am to car-pool. Bring lunch and water for a flat easy 3-mile stroll around the preserve, looking for Patagonia specialties such as the Gray Hawk, Thick-billed Kingbird, Black Vulture and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet. We'll also stop at the Patagonia Rest Area for lunch and a second chance at the kingbird, and then at the Paton's yard for hummingbirds, such as the Violet Crowned Hummingbird. Trip is free and open to the public, but standard preserve entrance fees apply: \$5/person non-members, \$3/person members, plus a donation at the Paton's to help maintain the feeders.

Leaders: Erika Wilson (234-4359, terika88@cox.net) and Mike Guest (378-0667, mwguest@juno.com)

June 8th - Carr Canyon/ Comfort Spring

Field trip to the high Huachucas. Meet at the Perimeter Trail parking lot, Carr Canyon 7:30am to car-pool. Be prepared for a 2-mile hike at a relaxed pace; the trail is rough with some steep sections, so bring water and sturdy shoes. We will be looking for high elevation specialties such as Greater Pewee, Virginia's and Olive Warblers, and the Buff-breasted Flycatcher. Trip is free and open to the public. Leader: Robert Weissler (803-0794, weissler@aves.org)

July 14th - Ash Canyon B&B

Field trip for hummingbirds at Mary Jo Ballator's well endowed yard starting at 8am. From Sierra Vista, take Highway 92 to mile marker 332.7; turn west on Turkey Track Road; continue to the end, turn right on Spring Road; the B&B is the last place on the right. Trip is free and open to the public, but a donation to help maintain the feeders is requested. Leader: Alan Blixt (515-9458, alanblixt@hotmail.com)

August 10th - Miller Canyon

Meet at 7:30am at the Forest Service parking lot, located just below 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 some 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. Trip is free and open to the public, but a small fee is required to access the upper feeders at Beatty's.

Leader: Robert Weissler (803-0794, weissler@aves.org)

2007 Ramsey Canyon Christmas Bird Count Results

Once again we had another very successful Ramsey Canyon Christmas Bird Count (RCCBC). We recorded 160 species, which ties our all time high recorded in 2000, and 82 participants which is a new record for participants. Overall bird numbers, however, were lower (12,664). This is largely the result of very low numbers of grassland sparrows and icterids. The numbers of ravens recorded in our winter counts also appears to be steadily declining. Duck numbers, however, continue a slow but steady rise and we did record a number of unusual species including Elegant Trogon, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Zone-tailed Hawk and Swainson's Thrush, to list the rarest.

For all of the details of the RCCBC, please visit the CBC website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>.

Please mark your calendars now for **the next RCCBC scheduled for Saturday, December 27, 2008.**

-Ted Mouras & Robert Weissler

2nd Annual Appleton-Whittell Christmas Bird Count Results

The Appleton-Whittell Christmas Bird Count (AWCBC) took place amid strong winds, but mild temperatures on Saturday, January 5th, 2008. The final species total stands at 120, an improvement over last year despite much lower numbers of grassland sparrows (owing in part to the weather conditions perhaps, but also noticeable elsewhere under better climatic circumstances). The total number of individuals encountered is 5,306. This is noticeably lower than the 8,746 a year ago. Please visit the CBC website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> for complete details about the AWCBC (use CBC code AZAW to search for results).

Some of the highlights of the count include a male Elegant Trogon and a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets in upper Blacktail Canyon and four Harris's Hawks and a Swainson's Hawk in the Sonoita Valley. On the other hand, a lone Grasshopper Sparrow was an indication of low winter grassland sparrows in general.

We thank all of the participants for a count well done. **The next AWCBC is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 3, 2009.** Mark your calendars for next year. We are excited already!

-Robert Weissler

Meetings of the Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association

March 18th. Brian Prescott will speak on "Insects from Around the World", and give a short photo essay on the nectar feeding birds of the world. He will present a photo odyssey of insects from the US, Thailand, Spain, China, Panama, Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela, and Sth Africa.

April 15th. The topic is "Members' Choice: The Best of Our Butterfly and Nature Photography". Members will show off their favorite personal photos.

May 20th. Karen Nickey will present "The Butterflies and Moths of Peru", an illustrated lecture of butterflies seen on a recent trip.

All meetings are held at the Tucson Botanical Gardens Education Room, 2150 N. Alvernon Way. They are free and open to the public. More information from 520/762-8015 or www.naba.org/chapters/nabasa/home.html.

Conservation News

For all those with an interest in the San Pedro River, the URL below will lead to wet-dry maps for the Upper San Pedro since 1999 and the 2007 maps for the whole basin. These procedures are now being expanded to other rivers statewide under the auspices of The Nature Conservancy and the University of Arizona. One caution, from this site, **the download is over 13 MB so be careful if you do not have a high-speed line!**

http://azconservation.org/downloads/data/san_pedro_wet_dry_mapping/

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.

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.

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/.

"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 at azcatsally@aol.com.

Huachuca Audubon Society Class

Introduction to Birdwatching

Instructor: Rick Romea

Four Wednesday evening classes (6:30-8 pm) and one Saturday field trip. Classes will be held at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve Visitor's Center (located off Highway 92 at the upper end of Ramsey Canyon Road).

This is a great 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 first two classes will focus on the basics of birdwatching; the last two classes will target specific groups of local birds. The field trip will visit an important local birding area, and will allow us to practice what we have learned.

CLASS 1 Getting started March 5

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, Cameras
How to dress and behave in the field

CLASS 2 How to identify birds March 12

Field marks
GISS (general impression of size and structure)
Molt sequences: age and time of year
Habitat
Status and occurrence
Field Guides: how to use them
Checklists: how to use them
Behavior Listening : Bird vocalizations

CLASS 3 & 4 Some important families of birds March 19 and March 26

Hawks
Ducks
Doves
Hummingbirds
Woodpeckers
Flycatchers
Owls
Warblers
Sparrows
Blackbirds

Field Trip : San Pedro River March 29, 8-11 am

The total cost for the classes and field trip is \$30 (100% of this money will be used for Huachuca Audubon Society educational programs). For additional information, or to register for the class, contact Rick Romea: 803-1160, rickorcindy@hotmail.com or (Huachuca Audubon Society education coordinator) Ginny Bealer: 378-6341, vbealer@mindspring.com.

Huachuca Audubon Society Class

BIRDING BY EAR

Instructor: Rick Romea

Four, Wednesday evening classes (6:30-8 pm) and one Saturday field trip
Classes will be held at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve Visitor's Center, 6:30-8 pm (located off Highway 92 at the upper end of Ramsey Canyon Road).

Have you ever wondered 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. We will then take a field trip to a local area to practice birding-by-ear in the field.

CLASS 1 April 2

Developing a common language
Basic Acoustics
Steps to birding by ear
Bird vocalization types
Describing vocalization quality
Name-sayers
Mnemonics & memory tricks

CLASS 3 April 16

Flycatchers
The 'easy' ones
The Pewees
The 'empids'
The 'Myarchis'
The Kingbirds
 Doves
 Woodpeckers
 Nuthatches and Titmice
 Wrens

CLASS 2 April 9

Songs with an obvious cadence
Songs with obvious sound quality
Robin Sound-alikes
Trillers and Mockers (mimids)
Chicken-like birds

CLASS 4 April 23

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 26 8-11 am San Pedro River

The total cost for the classes and field trip is \$30. (100% of this money will be used for programs).

For additional information, or to register for the class, contact Rick Romea: 803-1160, rickorcindy@hotmail.com or (Huachuca Audubon Society education coordinator) Ginny Bealer: 378-6341, vbealer@mindspring.com

Alan Blixt's Winter Bird Walks and Hikes

An intrepid group of 5 left the San Pedro House a little after 9 AM on January 26th. We were out for about 3 hours and recorded 41 species of birds. There were lots of waterfowl on Green Kingfisher Pond. South of Garden Wash, along the river, we visited two beaver dams and saw lots of raptors and woodpeckers. Every Saturday the Friends of the San Pedro lead an interpretive walk from San Pedro House. Our walks are free and open to the public. Go to <http://www.sanpedroriver.org> for complete schedules on walks, hikes, bird banding, etc.

On 1/12/2008 18 intrepid souls walked several miles south of Hereford Bridge on the first FSPR hike of the new year. What a great day! We had beautiful weather, a great group of folks, lots of birds and beaver dams, and great fun and exercise. That part of the San Pedro River is filled with woodpeckers and raptors. We have hikes scheduled on the conservation area each month except December.

On 1/9/2008 we recorded 44 species of birds on our first 2nd Wednesday of the month bird walk for 2008. We saw Mexican White-tailed deer, 2 Red-tailed Hawks soaring (one a dark morph), a Great Horned Owl, lots of woodpeckers, and lots of waterfowl on Green Kingfisher Pond and the river (Mexican Mallards, Gadwall, Northern Shovelers, Canvasbacks, and American Coots). The eight of us visited a beaver dam near Kingfisher Pond and one man asked to see the beaver dams north of Highway 90 so we walked up there and visited two large, well constructed beaver dams. The bird walks the second week of the month will continue in the new year.

The EOP walks in January have been fantastic. On one walk we watched a Peregrine Falcon do battle with a Red-tailed Hawk. We've also seen Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Cooper's Hawk, and Northern Harriers. On another walk we recorded 13 species of ducks- the Buffleheads have been great fun. We usually see 40 to 45 species and regularly have great groups of folks to bird with.

These walks are offered regularly throughout the year. Come take a walk with us.



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

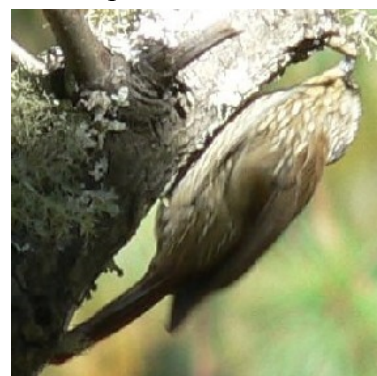
Journey to Oaxaca: Wholly Mole!



My wife Liza and I traveled to the Mexican state of Oaxaca with Mark Pretti Nature Tours (<http://www.markprettinaturetours.com>). We started the trip in Oaxaca City, the cultural center of the state with the same name. This city is perhaps best known for its Mercado de Abastos, a sprawling marketplace with a dizzying array of chiles, chocolate, moles, tamales, fruits, fish, chicken, chapulines (toasted grasshoppers!), Zapotec rugs and pottery. The first full day, we made a visit to Teotitlán del Valle, a modest community best known for its hand-made wool Zapotec rugs colored with natural dyes, especially cochineal red. We headed further upslope in the Sierra Juárez only to find

familiar species that we know well here in the San Pedro Valley and Huachuca Mountains, for example Bridled Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Scrub Jay. But in Oaxaca they are at their southern limit! One of the prized birds that we found on a slope above a reservoir near Teotitlán del Valle was Bridled Sparrow, a stunning bird! Black-vented Oriole and Yellow-winged Cacique, not to mention numerous wintering tanagers, provided additional color in the vicinity. At a bend in the road marked “El Jilguero” we found a narrow, wet canyon amidst the oaks that was loaded with birds. Slate-throated Redstart danced for us in the creek bottom, while Collared Towhee, Rufous-capped and Chestnut-capped Brush-finches darted about in the understory. Golden-browed Warbler appeared a little further up the creek. Our lunch back down in Teotitlán del Valle provided our introduction to Oaxacan mole, namely Mole Negro (black mole).

The next day we headed high into the Sierra Madre Oriental to Cerro San Felipe. As we walked along the dirt road, the sounds of White-eared Hummingbirds were frequent. The slopes were dotted with huge agaves amidst conifer forest. We enjoyed a busy flock of Mexican Chickadees, Hermit, Townsend's, Crescent-chested, and the endemic Red Warbler. Lunch at Restaurant Colibri included marvelous dishes, especially hongas (mushrooms). On the grounds, we saw a couple Crossbills and a fleeting glimpse of Blue Mockingbird, not to mention Steller's Jays with a very large and conspicuous white patch over the eye and a vast repertoire of calls beyond what most of us known from the states. In the afternoon back on the crest of Cerro San Felipe, we encountered a fruiting tree full of Gray Silky-flycatchers. Nearby, Long-tailed Wood Partridge was spied as it scurried in the ravine below, while a perching Mountain Trogon provided good scope views.



Our final full day in the Oaxaca Valley started near the Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban. The Rock Wren took full advantage of the acoustics to broadcast its song amongst the temples. Below the ruins we enjoyed the many Western Tanagers, White-throated Towhees, Gray-breasted Woodpeckers, and Nashville Warblers. White-tailed Hawk was seen in full sun soaring overhead. A Virginia's Warbler was a particularly interesting find.

The areas we visited high in the Sierra Madre Oriental above Teotitlan del Valle and at Cerro San Felipe were pretty well preserved as were the areas in the Sierra Madre del Sur (e.g. at the crest near San Jose del Pacifico where logging is small scale, while the shade-grown coffee plantations we visited have a tall canopy and varied understory). Below our room at the Puesta del Sol at the crest of the Sierra de Miahuatlán, we had close views of Russet Nightingale-Thrust, White-eared Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Hairy Woodpecker. Along a logging road nearby, we enjoyed Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Red Warbler, and Crescent-chested Warbler again. As we descended from pine evergreen forest to broadleaf evergreen forest, we found patches of tropical plants including Heliconia. In the vicinity, Emerald Toucanet and Golden-crowned Warbler were conspicuous.

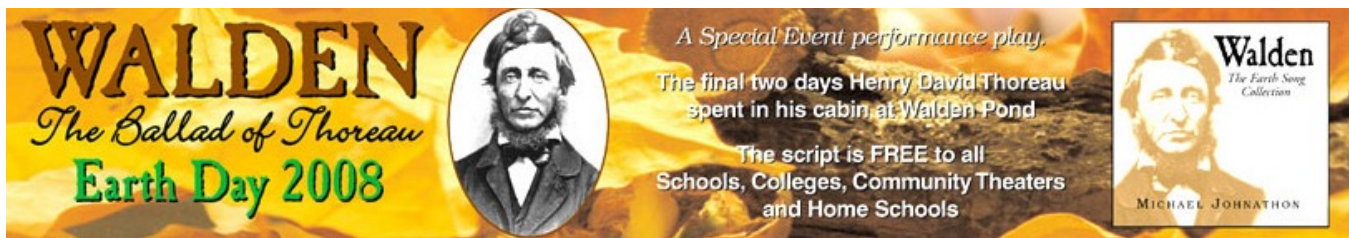


The tropical deciduous forest (TDF or thorn forest) along the Pacific Coast produced a prodigious number of Citreoline Trogons, Orange-breasted and other buntings, Banded and Rufous-naped Wrens, and Spot-breasted and Streak-backed Orioles, among other interesting birds. We stayed at a charming, rustic beach resort called Rancho Cerro Largo which had a view over the Pacific Ocean that included a sea stack full of breeding Brown Boobies and Red-billed Tropicbirds, with Magnificent Frigatebirds soaring overhead. All too soon it was time to head to Puerto Escondido for the conclusion of our trip.

We got some good birds that are often tough to get like Mangrove Cuckoo at Laguna de Manialtepec, Long-tailed Wood Partridge at Cerro San Felipe, Fan-tailed Warbler (many!) at Finca el Pacifico, Emerald Toucanet and Golden Vireo nearby at another coffee plantation, and Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird (Woodstar) where we were hoping for Blue-capped Hummingbird a little higher in the Sierra de Miahuatlán. All in all, this was a diverse and satisfying taste of Oaxaca, in terms of cuisine, a dash of history, and the tropical, thorn scrub, and cloud forest flora and fauna.

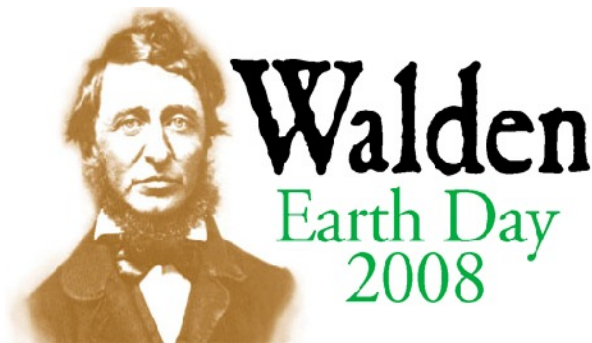
-Robert Weissler





WALDEN: The Ballad of Thoreau
An Opportunity to Share Your Passion For the Environment

This two act, one set, four character play is designed for use by high schools, colleges, community theaters and home schools. The play script and all the production materials are provided free. Walden can be performed at any time, but we encourage you to consider it as an Earth Day 2008 event.



Thoreau is America's original "tree hugger" and forefather of our environmental movement. Yet, the generation in schools right now haven't a clue about Thoreau. He was a gentle naturalist, earth lover, author, pencil maker ... and is the most quoted American writer in history. Yet, when he passed, he was more well known for having helped market the pencil than for a single word he wrote with it.

Why is Thoreau and this play relevant to students in 2008?

“In an age of global warming, bio-fuels, hybrid cars and oil wars,” says play author Michael Johnathon from his farmhouse home in Kentucky, “the play can introduce students to Thoreau as well as environmental concerns in their own home towns at a time when, frankly, they need it.”

How can my school and my students participate?

Two ways:

By **PERFORMING** the play as a community/school event. This will involve young folks, teachers, actors, musicians and more. It is a great hometown project!

By **STREAMING** the online version of the Walden play in the classroom and using the provided lesson plans to engage students in a discussion about Thoreau, the earth and our place in it.

The use and performance of this original stage play is free to any school wishing to participate. It can be as small as a classroom (the two acts are 35 minutes long each) or in front of hundreds in the school theater or auditorium. Educator's can simply download all the scripts, music and promotion materials from this website ... put on a show and have a great time!

How do I start?

You need to get a **PASSWORD** to download the materials. Simply email us with you name and school or theater information and we will send it to you: producer@waldenplay.com.

Mail Correspondence to:
HUACHUCA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 63
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

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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.

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

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