The mission of Prescott Audubon Society is to preserve and protect our environment for all who inhabit it. The Society pursues these goals through education, field work, social activities, and activism.

Membership dues are $20.00 per address. Click here to go to the Membership page of the PAS website. Otherwise, make a check out to Prescott Audubon Society and mail to:

Membership Chairperson Prescott Audubon Society, PO Box 4156, Prescott, AZ, 86302.

Dues may be paid at Chapter meetings as well.

Meetings

All are welcome to attend Prescott Audubon Society monthly meetings that take place, unless otherwise stated, on the 4th Thursday of each month, September through May, at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, on the NW corner of Park Avenue & Copper Basin Rd. (630 Park Avenue), Prescott, Arizona. The November & December meetings are combined with the date to be announced. The Board of Directors meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at the same location, at 5 p.m. Audubon members are always welcome to attend Board meetings.

Wingtips

Wingtips is published five times a year. Prescott Audubon Society members receive Wingtips by e-mail. Subscriptions for print copies are $10.00 for five issues. Click here to go to the Membership page of the website to order a print subscription or send payment, name(s) and address to:

Wingtips Subscriptions
PO Box 4156
Prescott AZ 86302

Print subscriptions may also be paid for at Chapter meetings.

Submit items for publication in Wingtips any time; the deadline for the next issue is 5 p.m., Friday, 4th September, 2015. Please send submissions to David Moll at: wingtips@cableone.net.

Photographs submitted for publication should be full size, unedited, files.

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Opinions expressed by authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policy of the National Audubon Society or Prescott Audubon Society.

Field Trips

Please contact the trip leader to register for a particular trip. (This does not apply to bird walks at the Highlands Center for Natural History.) Weather, road or trail conditions may cause cancellations.

Field trip tips include:
- stay behind the leader
- wear neutral clothing
- bring water, food & sun screen
- avoid loud noises including slamming of car doors
- don’t forget binoculars!

Participation in Prescott Audubon Society (PAS) field trips is voluntary; any injury or illness while on an outing is the responsibility of the participant. Food, drink and other items are not provided by PAS. Car pooling is done so fewer vehicles are driven. PAS assumes no liability for accidents, injuries, damage to vehicles or loss of property while on field trips. Suggested compensation for drivers of private vehicles is .20¢ per mile round trip, the total divided among the passengers. This compensation is meant to cover vehicle depreciation, routine maintenance, as well as gasoline.

Cover

**JUNE**

Saturday, 13th, 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk. For our monthly Highlands Center for Natural History bird walks, meet Nancy McMahon & Kathy Wingert in the Highlands Center parking lot, 1375 S Walker Rd., Prescott. Access is easy and all are welcome.

Saturday, 27th, 7 a.m. to 12 noon: Photography Workshop. Learn how to responsibly find, track and photograph diverse wildlife with minimal intrusion, based on Stephen Bruno's many years experience as a professional wildlife photographer. This is open to everyone, fancy cameras not required. Visit Stephen’s website at http://www.stephenbrunophotography.com/. Limited to 12 participants. To register, contact Stephen at stephenbruno@yahoo.com or call him at (928) 458-5737.

**JULY**

Wednesday, 1st: Upper Verde River State Wildlife Area IBA Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey. This is counting Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the morning followed by debriefing and lunch at Little Thumb Butte B&B. Contact Karen O'Neil at jkoneil9@msn.com for information and to sign up.

Saturday, 11th, 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk. For our monthly Highlands Center for Natural History bird walks, meet Nancy McMahon & Kathy Wingert in the Highlands Center parking lot, 1375 S Walker Rd., Prescott. Access is easy and all are welcome.

Wednesday, 15th: Field Trip: Mingus Mountain. Join trip leaders Norma Jenkins and Rich Schooker to explore birding hotspots along the Mingus Mt. road. Some walking required, but this trip is easy and open to all. We should find some young birds out of the nest, or adults feeding young, as we enjoy the cool of the mountains. Contact Norma at (928) 925-7221 to register. Limit 12.

**AUGUST**

Saturday, 8th, 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk. For our monthly Highlands Center for Natural History bird walks, meet Nancy McMahon & Kathy Wingert in the Highlands Center parking lot, 1375 S Walker Rd., Prescott. Access is easy and all are welcome.

**SEPTEMBER**

Saturday, 12th, 8 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk. For our monthly Highlands Center for Natural History bird walks, meet Nancy McMahon & Kathy Wingert in the Highlands Center parking lot, 1375 S Walker Rd., Prescott. Access is easy and all are welcome.

Wednesday, 16th: Field Trip: Migrant Birds. This is a morning trip emphasizing migrant warblers, tanagers, vireos, and many other bird species somewhere in the Prescott area. Some walking involved. Contact trip leader Bonnie Pranter at (928) 445-7502 for time, car-pooling and destination information and to register. 🎈
Thanks, Birdathon Sponsors - and other Contributing Members and Supporters!

Congratulations to our five Birdathon teams and their wonderful sponsors!

The PAS Birdathon is our major fund-raiser for our educational programs, which include Audubon Adventures for elementary school teachers (science education kits from National Audubon), Science Fair Awards, supporting the Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club at Abia Judd, and the scholarships for high school seniors that we offer. This year, with the help of Jay's Bird Barn and Vortex Optics, we funded the purchase of 8 binoculars for use by a Humboldt Elementary School class. You still have time to contribute, if you haven't already done so: please support an individual team or just the event itself by sending your donation to PAS Birdathon, PO Box 4156, Prescott, AZ 86302, or via PayPal on our website.

The five teams have raised $1,640 to date, compared to last year's total of $2,600. The Mohave County Chick-a-DeeDees have just edged out the Monday Women Birders for first place. Our newest team, the Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club, and Roy's Boys & Girls are virtually tied for third place, and the Sullivan Count team has also received contributions. Final results will be announced in the next Wingtips.

Birdathon supporters - so far - are: Julie Appletree, Sharon Arnold, Sue Arnold, Carol Clayton, Mary Curran-Perkins, DeeDee DeLorenzo, Sue Drown, Laurel Freeman, Sue Gabosch, the Gulliksons, Doug & Diane Iverson, Norma Jenkins, Connie Johnson Kramer, Sue Lord, Nancy McMahon, Tori Multon, Karen O'Neil, Sara Anton North, the Pagnianos, Jan Parrott, Marge Penton, Bonnie Pranter, Martha Prumers, Laura Rhoden, Marilyn Saxerud, Art & Nancy Jo Silacci, Barb Stewart, Carl & Joan Tomoff, Mary Trevor, John West, Kathy Wingert, and Anonymous. Any outstanding pledges and additional donations will be acknowledged when the final results are reported.

We also have many members who have generously donated their time to:
- judge and present awards at the Northern Arizona Science Fair hosted by Tri-City Prep
- participate in Prescott Creeks' Granite Creek Cleanup
- staff our Earth Day Booth at Prescott Unity Church
- staff our booth at the Affinity RV Expo in early May
- lead a bird walk at the Highlands Center International Migratory Bird Day (as well as the second Saturday of every month except December and January)
- organize and participate in the Watson Woods and Upper Verde IBA counts in April and May
- organize and lead both local and out-of-town field trips
- sell donated items on eBay
- write bird-related articles for the monthly free paper 5enses
- remove invasive weeds from the Community Nature Center, Highlands Center for Natural History, and Stricklin Park

Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Last but not least, many thanks to those who "Feed the Feeder" at our meetings. As you know, the Feed the Feeder program allows Prescott Audubon to supply bird seed and feeders to many of our local assisted living and convalescent facilities. We get many notes of appreciation from the recipients.

Recycle News

Coincident with spring migration, there have been first-of-season reports of new phone book deliveries. The City of Prescott has placed a bin to recycle phone books near the cardboard recycling bins at the Sundog Transfer Station. It is usually there until early June. Combine your next outing to the Watson Woods & Lake Important Bird Area with a phone-book drop! You might just catch an oriole or a Blue Grosbeak in Watson Woods, if you can see past the Yellow Warblers.

June, July & August, 2015
Granite Creek Cleanup Team Report

On the beautiful morning of April 18, the Prescott Audubon team met at Granite Creek Park. Prescott Creeks, the sponsor, was very organized and made it easy for the twelve of us to collect our t-shirts, gloves, and bags for trash and for potential upcycle-to-art items. We car-pooled to our assigned section, an area that is near and dear to our hearts: Watson Woods! Splitting up, we fanned out over the area north of the red bridge, in between the Peavine Trail and Highway 89. It was amazing to see how much water there was, and it was great to see kayak crews at work too; they could get to places we couldn’t reach without wading.

We all had to work pretty hard to find trash to pick up, which actually is great news. Prescott Creeks reported that almost 500 volunteers came out this year, collecting just under 2.4 tons of litter and debris. Consistent with our team’s experience, this is down from prior years; Prescott Creeks’ efforts to educate about protecting and preserving our watersheds are paying off.

In addition to collecting trash (and maybe doing a little birding, based on the binoculars some of us were sporting), our team raised $180 to donate to Prescott Creeks. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and money to help improve our habitat!

Annual Report from the Prescott Audubon Society's Scholarship Committee

2015 would have been the tenth year that the Prescott Audubon Society awarded a $1000 Environmental Scholarship to a qualified high school senior. Unfortunately, we did not receive a single application. In January at the start of the college and scholarship application season, we sent out information to all the high schools in the Quad Cities area, plus Mayer and Bagdad. Our main contacts have been school guidance counselors. We also placed a notice in the Daily Courier, which appeared in the March 1 edition. In early April, follow-up emails were sent to each counselor. This tactic was successful in 2014, but it was not so this year. This is only the second time in ten years that we have not had applicants, the other year being 2013. While that's not a bad track record, the apparent lack of interest in the Environmental Scholarship suggests that we should re-think and/or restructure it to appeal to today's students. The PAS board has formed an ad-hoc sub-committee to review the scholarship, particularly our advertising efforts, and to make recommendations as to next steps. Doug Iverson, Laura Rhoden, Suzette Russi, and Mary Trevor have agreed to serve on the sub-committee. Thoughts and suggestions are welcome from PAS members.

On a more upbeat note: we recently received the first year report from our 2014 scholarship recipient, Alexes Niekamp. She reports that she has been enjoying her freshman year at Northern Arizona University – Yavapai, earning a 4.0 GPA. She is currently on the dean's list and was invited to the Flagstaff campus to receive the NAU First-Year Scholars' award. Alexes is considering getting a Bachelor's of Science degree. She says, "It seems like an amazing opportunity, and I would be able to benefit from getting my BS… when I go further in the science field. Thank you [PAS] again for this brilliant opportunity. I am on the road to making my dreams come true." Good to know we have helped further this young woman's enthusiasm for science!

Submitted by Mary Trevor, Chair; Committee Members: Suzette Russi, Sylvia Neely, Bill Neely
Prescott Audubon holds its annual fund-raising birdathon (our most important fund-raiser) the first weekend in May and had five teams in the field. While four teams confined their searches to Yavapai County, the Chick-a-deedees covered the western extent of our chapter's territory along the Colorado River.

Russell Duerksen again led the original "Sullivan Team" and totaled 126 species. Highlights included three owls, three tanagers, five shore birds at Sullivan Lake, a late Sage Thrasher, eight sparrow species, twelve warblers and a Goshawk! The I.B.A. group surveying Watson Woods the same morning added seven species.

New this year was a team from the Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club at Abia Judd Elementary School, led by Prescott Audubon member, Nancy Silacci, and their teacher, Sue Lord. Twelve students braved a windy afternoon and found 16 species at the Prescott City Nature Center adjacent to their school, with some students correctly identifying several bird calls as well.

The Monday Women Birders traveled Perkinsville Road from Highway 89 to the Verde River at Perkinsville Bridge, and identified 68 species. The grassland areas yielded Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Western Kingbird and Loggerhead Shrike. Later a large flock of Lark Sparrow, a crowd-pleasing Vermillion Flycatcher male and a River Otter were seen. They also tallied a mature and immature Common Black Hawk.

Though Roy's Boys and Girls were only together for an evening of owling (our leader had college finals and a departure to Brazil the next week), "heard only" birds included Mexican Whip-poor-will, Flammulated Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl and Great Horned Owl. We also spotted new board member, Felipe Guerrero, trying to confuse us with a very good Flammulated Owl call. Thirty more species were from home feeders including eight Band-tailed Pigeon, an Indigo Bunting and a Hooded Oriole female.

Also, DeeDee Delorenzo led her Mojave County team to sites along the Colorado on a beautiful morning with clear skies, no wind and temperatures in the 60s. Among species less likely to be seen in the Prescott area were Yellow-headed Blackbird, Clark's and Western Grebe, and a "kecking" Ridgeway's Rail. After taking a break from their 5:00 a.m. start, they found Red-breasted Merganser and Hooded Oriole among the 79 species tallied for the day.

While birdathon participants thoroughly enjoy a friendly competition and their long days in the field, the birdathon is most important as the fund-raiser that makes possible Prescott Audubon's $1,000.00 high school scholarship, the elementary school science fair awards, Audubon Adventures, utilized in local elementary schools, and the Junior Audubon Club. In terms of fund-raising, the Monday Women Birders and the Chick-a-deedees have been most successful.

Contributions may be made in the name of a particular team or to the Chapter. You can mail a check to Prescott Audubon Society at P.O. Box 4156, Prescott, Az. 86302, or click here to contribute through Pay Pal via the P.A.S. website. Click here to go to a combined species list posted on the website.

Thanks for caring. 🦅
Mohave County Bird Sightings, April - May 2015

Compiled by DeeDee DeLorenzo

All sightings in this report are tentative as they have not been confirmed except by the individual reporting them to DeeDee DeLorenzo. Report Mohave County sightings to DeeDee DeLorenzo at (928) 758-2702 or deedeedelorenzo@yahoo.com

Abbreviations: Arizona Bird Committee (ABC); Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas (Atlas); Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge (BWRNWR); Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (HNWR); Bullhead City (BHC); Lake Havasu City (LHC); Lake Havasu (L. Havasu); Lower Colorado River Valley (LCRV).

A single immature or winter-plumaged Common Loon was spotted by Helen Howard on the Colorado River near Davis Dam on 1 April. David Vander Pluym reported a Common Loon at Rotary Park, LHC, 9 May. Although this species is found on L. Havasu and L. Mohave between October and early May, a few will remain through the summer months.

Vaux’s Swift is an irregular migrant in the LCRV from mid-April to mid-May. Jan Richmond found 2 at the BWRNWR Riparian Gate on 7 April and Lauren Harter reported one at Rotary Park, LHC 8 May.

Michael Lester had a Brown Pelican 13 April at Rotary Park, LHC. Since this is a rare but annual visitor in late summer and early fall, the appearance of one in April is quite unusual.

With only two records in May and a few sightings in October and November, an Evening Grosbeak near Courtwright Rd., Mohave Valley 13 April was a good find by Michael Lester.

A Pine Siskin was seen on a feeder at Glenn Klingler’s home in Havasu Heights 26 & 27 April. Another showed up at a feeder at DeeDee DeLorenzo’s in BHC, 18 April. This species is an irregular winter visitor through April, but their "numbers and timing of occurrences in the LCRV are extremely variable" (Rosenberg, et al. 1991).

Although a common summer resident of eastern, central, and northern Arizona, a Cassin's Kingbird reported by Michelle Brock in Golden Valley 28 April is noteworthy. According to Atlas, observers did find them breeding along the Bill Williams River at an altitude of about 860 ft.

Formerly considered a "very rare migrant" and now labeled an "uncommon transient" it was surprising that Lauren Harter spotted a Whimbrel 29 April at the north end of L. Havasu.

While conducting a marsh bird survey in Topock Marsh on 30 April, Bobby Wilcox heard a Black Rail. This species is usually found where cattails and bulrush provide abundant cover and large mats, and where water levels are just a few inches deep. Since the introduction of dams along the Colorado River, the fluctuation in water levels has most likely impacted Black Rail habitat.

A Black Tern was spotted 1 May by Jarrod Swackhamer near Rotary Park, LHC. Its spring migration is from late April to early June and fall migration is between early July and early October. It is possible that in June some Black Terns are headed north while others have already begun their fall migration south.

A "brood parasite", the Bronzed Cowbird’s primary host is the Hooded Oriole. It was first discovered in the LCRV in 1950 and has become a rare summer breeder from mid-April through July. Two were recently found in the area: one by David Vander Pluym at Rotary Park, LHC on 9 May, and the other on 20 May in the HNWR north of the inlet canal by Lauren Harter.

Purple Martins are annual spring migrants in the LCRV from mid-April to mid-May, but it was still exciting to learn that three were seen flying north along the Colorado River in BHC by Bruce and Susie Hatinger on 9 May and that a single Purple Martin was spotted by Bobby Wilcox 15 May at the Boston Lighthouse, LHC.
Trip Report: Lower Grapevine Creek, May 6th, 2015

By Bonnie Pranter

On a pleasant Wednesday morning, eight of us visited the lower Grapevine Canyon area near Poland Junction, birding this region of diverse habitats. Beginning in the expansive chaparral, we observed Black-chinned Sparrows, Spotted Towhees, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow up and singing. As we explored the creekside trail and on up the canyon, we were treated to several flycatcher species — Olive-sided, Wood-Pewees, Ash-throated, and a plethora of “empids” (among them Hammond, Dusky, and "Western", with many left unidentified)! Twelve warbler species were seen or heard with Hermit and Townsend’s as highlights and many Black-throated Grays singing all along the way.

For much of the morning we were "serenaded" by a calling Greater Roadrunner from the hillside, which we were never able to see. In the mix of vegetation were Plumbeous, Cassin's, and Hutton's Vireos, both titmice species, two types of wren, and an active Anna's Hummingbird nest. Further up canyon among the ponderosas we encountered the colorful Western Tanager and Painted Redstart.

Before heading back to Prescott we made a stop at Big Bug Creek where a few species were added — Lark Sparrow, Cassin's Kingbird, Northern Cardinal, and Phainopepla, among others. In all we tallied 55 species for the day.
Crescent-chested Warbler Visits Granite Basin

By Carl Tomoff

On May 16-17, 2015, a male Crescent-chested Warbler visited Granite Basin, about seven miles northwest of downtown Prescott. This is the farthest north the species has been recorded. As I arrived at the lake on Saturday, the woods were alive with a symphony of bird songs and calls. I entered the grove of deciduous trees at the southwest end of the lake. I first saw the warbler high in the willow canopy and thought it was a Northern Parula. Its bright yellow-green back, bluish head, yellow throat, and chestnut blotch on its chest were striking in the sunlight. I thought its song was incomplete, perhaps from a first-year male. Its soft, strident, trilling song lacked a terminal rising component. I continued birding in the woods and walked along the west tributary to the Wilderness boundary and back, recording 66 species during the next few hours. Later, I got another glimpse of the bird and thought it had more white above the eye than usual. That night after realizing the bird might not be a Parula, I called some birders to join me the next day to clarify the identification.

When David Moll and I arrived on Sunday, we heard the bird sing briefly in an exposed ponderosa pine before it flew into the pine-oak woodland south of the lake. We couldn't find the bird while searching for over an hour in that habitat. To our surprise, on our return to the lake, the warbler had returned to the deciduous grove and was singing there as we met Steve Burk. We eventually found and photographed it before it became silent and slipped from view in mid morning. When I returned from the field, I reported the sighting on the Prescott bird alert. Other birders who searched for the warbler throughout the afternoon until sunset did not relocate it.

The warbler sang while foraging almost exclusively in willow foliage in the upper and middle strata of the woodland. It used a variety of techniques to capture its prey, including gleaning from stems and hanging and probing at clusters of leaves and developing fruit.

Continued on next page
On Monday morning, numerous local birders were joined by others who had traveled from as far away as the Colorado River, Flagstaff, Sedona, and the Phoenix area. Eager anticipation filled the air. Individuals and small groups stood peering and listening intently, moved about quietly, and strolled under the trees, occasionally chatting with others. They were respectful of each other and of the setting. There was little evidence of their presence in the woods after the crowd had departed.

Although disappointed at not finding the bird, many of these curious people were philosophical about their experience. Some of their sentiments follow: what a beautiful place to spend a spring morning; we enjoyed joining others searching for this rare bird; what a remarkable variety of birds in such a small area; we got to visit with friends we hadn't seen for a while; you can't win if you don't play… and you don't expect to win every time; amidst the chorus of songs and calls, I almost forgot about the warbler as I encountered a myriad of birds; my highlight was watching a fledgling robin.

What brought this southern wanderer so far north? A major storm system that moved through the Southwest just before discovery of the bird may have played a role. The mystery of this bird’s journey remains unanswered.

The Crescent-chested Warbler lives in montane pine-oak forests from northern Mexico to Honduras and Nicaragua. It was first observed in Arizona in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, from 3 to 15 September 1983. All other state records (at least 13) are from southeastern Arizona. One lived along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia Sept 1992 to March 1993, and perhaps the same bird resided there from November 1993 to January 1994. However, most birds were present only briefly. An interesting account of the first bird was published in American Birds. Heathcote, D. H. and K. Kaufman. “Crescent-chested Warbler in Arizona.” 1985. American Birds 39: 9-11.
IBA Update
By Karen O’Neil, PAS IBA Coordinator

Since the last issue of Wingtips when no IBA surveys had been yet completed in 2015, the IBA volunteers have now completed three spring surveys, two in Watson Woods and one in the Upper Verde Wildlife Management Area (UVWMA). A second survey of the Upper Verde is scheduled for May 13, 2015.

In reviewing the data, there were some interesting findings. Chipping Sparrows were seen in large numbers in both IBA locations in April but in much lower numbers in May in Watson Woods. Lark Sparrows were seen in good numbers along the open sections of the Upper Verde, but not in the sections that are more woodsy nor in Watson Woods. Yellow-rumped Warblers were in abundance in Watson Woods in April, but in much lower numbers in May and low numbers in the UVWMA. American Goldfinches were migrating through Watson Woods in April, but not in May and not in the UVWMA. By May, the waterfowl frequently seen in good numbers on Watson and Willow Lakes all winter (and also on the northern reaches of Granite Creek just south of Watson Lake this year) had disappeared. There were still plenty of Mallards around as well as some Wood Ducks, both of which breed in Central Arizona. Along Lower Granite Creek (part of the UVWMA), a Mallard hen spooked off her nest to reveal a dozen eggs!

Hummingbirds, Vermilion and Ash-throated Flycatchers, swallows, House Wrens, Lucy's and Yellow Warblers, and Common Yellowthroats, were on their territories in April along with what seems like two early Yellow-breasted Chats on the Verde River. While probably not on a territory, a handsome Vermilion Flycatcher was even found in Watson Woods! Interestingly, only three Bullock’s Orioles were found in Watson Woods in April, but ten in early May. The only oriole found in the UVWMA at all was a Hooded Oriole. White-crowned Sparrows lingered through April, but only one was found in early May.

In some respects it seems like migration in the UVWMA was ahead of Watson Woods (a difference of elevation may account for that — at least in part). Summer tanagers were in decent numbers in April on the Upper Verde, there was only one in Watson Woods. By early May, though, that changed when a grand total of 22 were found. Warbler migration in April was certainly different in the two locations (with surveys only three days apart). In Watson Woods, other than the Yellow-rumps moving north, there was no evidence of warbler migration. The Lucy's and Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats were on breeding territory. On the Upper Verde, however, Orange-crowned, Virginia's, Nashville, a single Townsend's, Wilson's and MacGillvray's warblers were moving through. May brought Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers to Watson Woods. Townsend's Solitaires were found in good numbers on the Upper Verde, and a few Empidonax flycatchers had arrived along with a few vireos. May in Watson Woods produced an uncommon sighting — two (each in a different location) olive-sided flycatchers!

With sadness we report that the Great Horned Owl nest in Watson Woods that has been watched for months and which had a nestling on the April survey was totally gone in early May. No owls were to be found. The Burks reported...
that it appeared that the nest had been blown out of the tree. Even if the nestling was out of the nest, it seems unlikely that it had fledged, and it is assumed that it did not survive. On a happier note, the Lower Granite Creek (UVWMA) team found a Barn Owl. The Verde Springs team found a Zone-tailed Hawk on a nest as well as two Ravens (different nest!). In Watson Woods, the team that does the middle section along Granite Creek found a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers tending a cavity hole. It is presumed there were young in the hole as the parents were observed taking turns bring food to the nest hole. Common Black Hawks are back in both IBA locations. The Golden Eagles were observed again this year along the Upper Verde River, one near the nest site. A second eagle was observed as it flew up from the ground carrying a large prey item! That was an exciting find!

While each season has its own special reasons to go birding, Spring and Fall are such great times to go as things can change daily! It will be fun to see what mid-May brings to the Upper Verde! Prescott Audubon is indebted to its dedicated volunteers. Many, many thanks to Steve & Sue Burk, Nancy Jo Silacci, Kathy Wingert, Sue Arnold, Cathy Levine, Norma Jenkins, Keith Archibald, Bonnie Pranter, David Moll, Sue Drown, Mary Trevor, Mary Curran-Perkins, Doug Perkins, Leslie Loomis, Sharon Arnold, Eugene Zielinski, Dave Frechette, and Dave Kuipers. We are also grateful for the assistance provided by the Arizona Game & Fish Department biologists, Jennifer Cordova and Heather Heimann.

A Gambel's Quail Family

*Story by Bob & Maxine Tinney, The Ranch at Prescott*

During the courtship period in April, the male Gambel's Quail will strut and bow to the female to “court” her. The female then builds a shallow depression formed in the ground lined with dead leaves, twigs, and grass. Gambel's Quail are monogamous, meaning that once a pair is formed the two birds will stay with each other for the rest of the breeding season. Over the next 21-24 days the female Gambel's Quail incubates her eggs in the nest which may be concealed by vegetation. The newborn chicks are precocial, born with their eyes open and are covered with down.

Young Gambel's Quail follow the parents for a few days to learn how to find food. On the morning of May 29 about 9:30 a.m., this monogamous pair of Gambel's Quail appears in the Tinneys' yard accompanied with their 10-12 camouflaged chicks. This morning is mayhem for a few minutes as they scatter themselves, and proceed to devour seeds from the ground. Both parents take part in caring for the young and guard them as they eat. The young will be able to fly when they are ten days old and will need that skill to escape from predators. Hopefully the dense shrub coverage will help protect them from the snakes, bobcats, coyotes, raptors, and human hunters.
Clockwise from top left:

**Migration:** it was a big season for Cedar Waxwing; here some descend on Desert Hackberry trees at Fain Park; a Yellow-rumped Warbler with strong Myrtle characteristics, large, white throat patch, white supercilium with a black mask in between.

**Breeding:** resident species such as Northern Cardinal (eggs) and Bushtit (adult with fledgling) get an early start as do early migrants such as Lucy’s Warbler (adult with fledgling), Painted Redstart (on nest and carrying food) and American Robin (fledgling).

**Center:** Virginia’s Warbler with chokecherry blossoms.

Following page: Long-eared Owl owlet bears witness to its first spring.

All photographs from April & May, 2015, in Yavapai County, by David Moll.
To link your V.I.P. card to Prescott Audubon:

1. Either start at the main Fry’s screen ([www.frysfood.com](http://www.frysfood.com)) and click on “Community” in the top menu, or go directly to [www.FrysCommunityRewards.com](http://www.FrysCommunityRewards.com).

2. Click on “Sign In” (upper right corner) and enter your email and Fry’s password.

3. Click on “My Account” (upper right corner).

4. Scroll down to the Community Rewards section, and click on “Edit”.

5. In the Search Box on the “Find your Organization” page, type either “Prescott Audubon” or our number “37295”, and click “Search”.

6. In the results area, click on the circle to the left of Prescott Audubon Society, and then click “Enroll”.

7. When you return to the “Account Summary” screen, you can review your choice; and then Sign out (upper right corner).

That should do it!

If you have any questions, or have difficulty setting up the link, please contact Laura Rhoden at treasurer@prescottaudubon.org or (928) 776-4514.