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 Join-Renew-Donate page of the PAS website. Otherwise, make 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 Join-Renew-Donate 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, 2nd September, 2016. 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.

**Prescott Audubon Society**

**Website**

[prescottaudubon.org](http://prescottaudubon.org)

**Cover**

[Flammulated Owl, 2016-04-30, Mint Wash, by Dave Frechette.](image)
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, 22nd to Friday, 24th: Field Trip: Birding on the Rim. This is an overnight trip (hotel charges) to the Payson region to enjoy the cooler air and active birds of the high country. We will be staying at Kohl’s Ranch Lodge, which has good birding right from your porch as well as cooking facilities. We will explore the region, including a nearby fish hatchery. Limit 8 participants. Contact Kathy Wingert at (928) 445-5062 or Sue Drown at (928) 227-3720 to sign up.

Saturday, 9th, 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.

Tentative Dates: Wednesday, 13th & Wednesday, 20th: Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Surveys on the Upper Verde River. The Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been federally listed as threatened and we want to do our part to monitor this rare species in its rare habitat. This will be a full morning trip and involves some medium-difficulty riverside hiking followed by debriefing and lunch at Little Thumb Butte B & B. ($10). For more information and to register contact Karen O’Neil at jandkoneil@gmail.com.

Wednesday, 27th: Field Trip: Mingus Mountain Revisited. Norma Jenkins will again be leading this ¾-day trip. Approximate times are 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., so plan on bringing your lunch. Please call trip leader Norma Jenkins for details at (928) 925-7221.

Tentative Date: Wednesday, 3rd: Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey on the Upper Verde River. The Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been federally listed as threatened and we want to do our part to monitor this rare species in its rare habitat. This will be a full morning trip and involves some medium-difficulty riverside hiking followed by debriefing and lunch at Little Thumb Butte B & B. ($10). For more information and to register contact Karen O’Neil at jandkoneil@gmail.com.

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.

Sunday, 21st: Watson Woods Important Bird Area Survey. This is counting birds in the morning followed by debriefing and sustenance at Wildflower Bread Company. Contact Karen O’Neil at jandkoneil@gmail.com for information and to sign up.

Tuesday, 23rd: Field Trip: A Morning in the High Country. Join us for a morning of birding in the Bradshaw Mountains. This will be a relaxed trip in the mountains south of Prescott, always refreshing and beautiful. We may try the Homestead or Kendall Camp—wherever looks the best. Contact Kathy Wingert at (928) 445-5062 for details.

Friday, 2nd – Sunday, 4th: Highlands Nature Festival. Website.

Wednesday, 7th: Upper Verde River State Wildlife Area IBA Survey. This is counting birds in the morning followed by debriefing and lunch at Little Thumb Butte B & B. ($10). Surveying involves some medium-difficulty riverside hiking. Contact Karen
O’Neil at jandkoneil@gmail.com for information and to sign up.

Saturday, 10th, 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.

Sunday, 11th: Watson Woods Important Bird Area Survey. This is counting birds in the morning followed by debriefing and sustenance at Wildflower Bread Company. Contact Karen O’Neil at jandkoneil@gmail.com for information and to sign up.

Thursday, 22nd, 5 p.m.: Board of Directors Meeting; 7 p.m.: Chapter Meeting: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge & Leslie Canyon Wildlife Refuge Manager, Bill Radke. Bill will speak about general birding opportunities in SE Arizona including birds specific to the two refuges he manages along the Arizona-Sonora border.

Wednesday, 28th: Field Trip: Page Springs Fish Hatchery. We will be visiting the always-interesting Page Springs State Fish Hatchery located along Oak Creek between Cottonwood and Sedona. We will be looking for migrants, raptors, returning ducks and more. Contact the leader, Rich Schooler (928) 379-5953 or d8@prescottaudubon.org for meeting time and place. Bring a lunch as this is a most-of-the-day trip and is also limited to 12 birders.

Saturday, 1st, 8 a.m. to Noon: Field Trip: Hawk Watching in Chino Valley. Early October is prime hawk migration time, and the Chino region can be a magnet for raptors. Norma Jenkins and Nancy Silacci will lead this morning trip. Contact Norma at (928) 925-7221 for details.

Saturday, 8th, 8:30 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.

If you shop with Amazon, go through the AmazonSmile link - another easy way to donate to Prescott Audubon

When you shop at AmazonSmile, you can have a portion of each eligible Amazon purchase donated to our chapter. Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and designate Prescott Audubon Society as your charity of choice. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to PAS. Same Amazon prices, same shopping experience, but you can support PAS with each purchase when you shop through the AmazonSmile site!

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Rhoden at treasurer@prescottaudubon.org or (928) 776-4514.
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. (Please note that we are changing the focus of the scholarship program next year to students who are already attending college.) 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 $2,380 to date, compared to last year's total of $2,005. The Monday Women Birders have a slight lead over the Mohave County Chick-a-Deedees. The Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club and the Sullivan Count team are virtually tied for third place. Carl Tomoff's team joined the field at the last minute, and we don't have the figures for them yet. Final results will be announced in the next Wingtips.

Birdathon supporters—so far—are: Jim Adkins, Julie Appletree, Keith & Judy Archibald, Sharon Arnold, Sue Arnold, Julie Bare, Camera Works Photography of Bullhead City, Carol Clayton, Judy Couch, Laureen Davidson, DeeDee DeLorenzo, Sue Drown, Laurel Freeman, Paul & Jo Glaves, Bill & Elizabeth Hohman, Norma Jenkins, Connie Johnson, Toni Kaus, M. Kellogg, Sue Lord, Kathy Malm, Delores & Art Manburg, Laurie McCoy, Nancy McMahon, Cheri Nestrick, Karen O'Neil, Jan Parrott, Marge Penton, Bonnie Pranter, Martha Prumers, Leslie Quinechet, Laura Rhoden, Marilyn Saxerud, the Scott family, Nancy Jo & Art Silacci, Brenda & Roy Smith, Nancy Smith, Jeanann Stokes, Claudette Thommen, Carl & Joan Tomoff, Mary Trevor, Charles & Crystal Wical, Kathy Wingert, Beverly Womack, and Anonymous. Any outstanding pledges and additional donations will be acknowledged when the final results are reported.

You may be aware that Jay's Bird Barn has a hummingbird feeder by the counter to collect donations for local organizations. Their first collection in February and March was for the Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club, and Prescott Audubon Society was the beneficiary of April's collection. Many thanks to Jay's Bird Barn and their generous customers!

Thanks to Prescott Audubon from Our Community

Prescott Creeks has thanked us for our sponsorship of their April Granite Creek Cleanup; they had another very successful day, removing just over a ton of trash from our creeks.

Several of the care facilities who participate in our "Feed the Feeder" program have let us know how much their residents appreciate the bird seed they receive through that program. The Pineview Adult Care Home wrote "Our residents love to see the birds at the feeders and to hear their chirping. You have made this possible. Thanks so much!" Adult Care Services, with locations in Prescott, Prescott Valley, and the Margaret T. Morris Center, said "The Green Thumb participants and all the birds appreciate your generous donation of bird seed!"
Hi All,

I just wanted to send a huge shout-out to all of the generous and amazing naturalists who have donated an hour or two to the Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Clubs at Abia Judd this past quarter!

Once again, a genuine thank you to Russ Chappell for not only creating our logo for both clubs, but for also providing each student with their very own name badge. Russ supplies each child 2 different cards/images, one to take home right away and one for the quarterly club to wear for special guest speakers and presentations. This past quarter, I had every student bring a wallet from home so they could put their name badge/ID in it—they love them and are able to take them home on the last day of club!

Diane Olsen, a naturalist from The Highlands Center, once again did two fabulous presentations on the coyote over at the Comunity Nature Center, as well as Mara Kack and her high school mentee instructed a wonderful Grand Canyon watercolor clinic and a journaling flora and fauna activity at the CNC.

Nancy Silacci and Laura Rhoden form Prescott Audubon Society both were our birding guides for the annual PAS Bird-A-Thon at the beginning of May over at the CNC. With their knowledge and guidance, we spotted/heard 21 different bird species in less than an hour:) Several of our young naturalists donated to the cause—which I really appreciated! Laura also did two spectacular presentations for the PJANC—the Grand Canyon Club—on her backpacking treks down into the canyon and also brought along all of her gear and educated the students on backpacking survival skills. One of my students asked me last week if he could get Laura's cell number to see if she would guide his family this summer down the canyon—no, I didn't give it out to him, Laura, but a high compliment!

A big thanks to Leah Wacks, her docents and Mr. Wilson from the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary! The students love interacting up close with a living Great Horned Owl and I do believe Mr. Wilson enjoys AJ after 8 visits this year:)

Matt Bucholtz, community outreach director at Yavapai Humane Society did an incredible presentation on domesticated pets vs. wild canines and felines and their similarities and differences. He also brought a friendly canine and taught the students proper etiquette with domesticated animals.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to graciously thank Eric, Ryan and all of the staff at Jay's Bird Barn for their generous donation to both clubs from the monthly fund-raiser they did in March and April. With the donation, I was able to purchase sanitized owl pellets for both clubs and purchase some supplies from the store! Many, many thanks for your support!

This school year, our after school clubs went quarterly, instead of semester long. As a result, between both clubs, 120 young naturalists were members, instead of 60/year, as in the past. Your outreach has made their lives so much richer—I am so thankful for all of your dedication and generous support!!!!

NOW, FOR THE SEGUE...

Now, that you have enriched the lives of so many Abia Judd young naturalists, you now have the opportunity to do the same for other Yavapai County children:)

Continued on next page
As I have mentioned to most of you, I will be teaching 12 classes at Yavapai College for Kids this summer. I will be teaching Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club in June and PJANC—The Grand Canyon Club in July. Both clubs will be similar to what I do here at AJ and I would love to have some expert outreach folks come and share their knowledge with my classes. The dates are 6/13-6/16/16, Mon-Thursday, 1-4 p.m. and 7/18-7/21/16, Mon-Thursday, 1-4 p.m. Last year, Cathy Palm-Gessner came and did a super Monarch Butterfly presentation and activity and the kids really enjoyed it. If you are going to be in town for either of these classes, please, let me know and I would love to have you join us. Last year, after doing the PJANC at Yavapai College, I had two students that actually transferred to AJ so they could take the club year round. It really does have an impact and a lot of it is because of all of you, our amazing outreach folks!

Please, let me know if you're interested via email or phone (cell#928.458.9189) in the June or July class for College for Kids.

Warmest regards and thanks~
Sue 🦃
On February 26, Prescott Audubon judges viewed and evaluated the many projects presented by kindergartners through sixth-graders from schools across northern Arizona. They selected the following students/projects to receive awards from Prescott Audubon. Our award winners were able to come to the April Chapter meeting and show the displays of, and discuss, their science projects.

Top to bottom are:

- Suli Sherman, kindergarten, Skyview, “Earthworm’s Habitat”
- Madelyn Brandon, fourth grade, Lincoln Elementary, “Water Filtration”

Winners received a framed personalized Certificate of Excellence, an Audubon Field Guide to the Southwest, a PAS patch, and a check for $25.00.

The Fair is hosted by Tri-City College Prep High School. Thanks to our judges: Harry & Debbie Allen, Fred Arndt and Jerry & Corinne Shaw.
Eight of us ventured over Mingus Mountain to the Verde Valley on May 5th to explore the Jail Trail Riverwalk in Old Town Cottonwood. Our first sighting occurred as we were leaving Jerome: a quartet of Pink Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) decked out for Cinco de Mayo. Come graduation time, watch for them in their caps and gowns.

The Jail Trail Riverwalk, officially a part of the Arizona State Parks system, begins at the town parking lot next to an old stone building at 1101 N. Main Street in Old Town Cottonwood. The building, now a tea house, was originally the Cottonwood jail. A tall metal gate at the street side of the parking lot announces the area as the "Gateway to the Verde."

The trail crosses through several vegetation zones: deciduous woods including oak, cottonwood and mulberry trees; a small meadow; the Verde River flanked by willows and reeds. This diversity attracts a wide range of bird species.

At the start of the trail, a large mulberry tree engaged us for quite a while with a delightful spectrum: Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, Summer Tanager, Lazuli Bunting. As we moved along, we heard Yellow-breasted Chats and one even gave us some good looks. Oak trees partially hid Lucy's Warbler, Bridled Titmouse, and Warbling Vireo, and we found other warblers and vireos higher in the cottonwoods.

We reached the Verde and, in the reeds and willows, we found Song Sparrow, Wood Duck, and Spotted Sandpiper. Cedar Waxwings were impersonating flycatchers above the river, sallying out from tall cottonwoods. Common Yellow-throats gave us brief glimpses but were heard more than seen.

Leaving the river's edge, we continued on the trail into the part of Dead Horse Ranch State Park which is on the west side of the river; from this area there is no access to the main part of the park on the east side. In a small meadow between the river and a stand of cottonwoods we found Brown-crested Flycatcher, Green-tailed and Abert's Towhees, and Ladder-backed and Gila Woodpeckers.

Several other sightings during the morning drew special interest. Most of us had a quick view of a Common Black Hawk as it flew low along the river. Later, we got longer looks at a Zone-tailed Hawk soaring in a thermal over the meadow. A Myrtle type Yellow-rumped Warbler surprised us among several of the more common Audubon's type. One member of our group noticed a cottonwood tree with an unusually-shaped branch which, on further examination in the scope, turned out to be a well-camouflaged Great Horned Owl.

From the birds that drew our attention with their bright colors and exuberant songs to the quiet surprises like a hummingbird on her nest and the owl hiding in plain sight, we had quite a variety of avian encounters. It was a most enjoyable morning. We finished the outing with 58 species identified and a great lunch at The Red Rooster Café down the street. 🍗
On May 7th, Northern Arizona Audubon Society (NAAS) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) dedicated the Bubbling Ponds Preserve Important Bird Area and the Anita MacFarlane Ramada at the Preserve.

This was the perfect motivation for the two of us to visit the Bubbling Ponds, and we mixed with about 60 other people from all over Arizona. Just before the 10:00 ceremony, a Bald Eagle made a quick dive to one of the ponds and then circled overhead. It was joined by a vocalizing Common Black Hawk—what a great start!

Several NAAS board members and AGFD's Director of Programs spoke about their partnership, and thanked the many people who helped establish the Preserve. Then NAAS board member Dena Greenwood introduced Anita MacFarlane and described her many contributions. These included her help in initiating the relationship between NAAS and AGFD, and her involvement in creating the ramada, a perfect spot for school outings and picnics.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremonies, we went on one of the guided bird walks. The first stop was a mulberry tree, which was full of fruit and many birds. These trees are somewhat messy, making them unpopular in urban areas, but they are excellent bird magnets. We each tried a mulberry and agreed they were pretty tasty.

Continuing on, we heard Yellow-breasted Chats everywhere but—surprise—none popped into view. Some birds, like Scott's Oriole and Green-tailed Towhee, were seen briefly and by just a few participants. However, Western Tanagers, Ms. MacFarlane's favorite bird, were plentiful and very cooperative. An Osprey flew by just as the walk was ending for a terrific finish. Despite our late-morning start, the group saw and/or heard forty species.

To cap off the day, we ate lunch at the Up the Creek Grill & Bar, across the road from the Preserve. We sat next to the windows overlooking Oak Creek and we were very lucky to observe a female Wood Duck with two ducklings. What a fabulous day!

Prescott Audubon has led several field trips to this wonderful area, and if you can't wait for the next one, it's worth a trip on your own. The Black Hawk Trail through the Preserve starts off in a shady mesquite thicket, proceeds through a meadow, and eventually parallels Oak Creek. There are viewing platforms and conveniently-located benches along the mostly level 1.8 mile trail. For more information and a video tour, please visit the NAAS website, and choose Conservation from the top menu, then Bubbling Ponds Preserve.
Scanning the second pond from the gate at Pintail Slough, HNWR, DeeDee DeLorenzo found three **Marbled Godwits**, 25th March. This bird is a rare spring transient from the end of March to early May in the LCRV. A large flock of 164 in Topock Marsh was reported in 1953, but since 1976 only one to seven birds have been found each year.

A FOS **Lesser Nighthawk** was reported March 26th by David Vander Pluym as it flew over Saratoga Ave., LHC. This species is a common summer resident and breeder between April and September.

At the north end of L. Havasu, Lauren Harter discovered a **Heermann's Gull**, 10th April. This bird is a rare fall transient with only one April report occurring in 1983.

Two **Vaux's Swifts**, irregular spring migrants in April and May, were seen flying over the Beal Restoration Plot, HNWR, 19th April by Lauren Harter. On 30th April, Lauren counted nine from Interior Rd. north of the Fire Break Canal, HNWR. Few come through the LCRV and when they are spotted they are usually in larger flocks of swallows.

With water still in Pintail Slough, HNWR, two **Willets** were able to drop in before heading to their breeding grounds somewhere between northern Utah and Nevada and southern Canada. These common transients from early April to mid-May were discovered by DeeDee DeLorenzo 19th April.

A **Townsend's Warbler** (FOS) was in a large palo verde tree in DeeDee DeLorenzo's yard, BHC, 23rd April. It is an uncommon to fairly common transient from mid-April to late May, and is more abundant in the spring than in the fall.

A species that breeds at somewhat lower elevations in central and northern Arizona, migrates through the LCRV between mid-April and late May. Martha Prumers reported a FOS **Lazuli Bunting** in her yard in Kingman, 25th April.

The **Common Ground-Dove** is primarily found in the southern half of Arizona, so the report of one at Brown's Crossing, Alamo Lake by Anne Pellegrini, 11th May is noteworthy.

East of Alamo Lake a **Northern Cardinal** was found 11th May by David Vander Pluym. About five days later Tyler Walcheff reported a **Northern Cardinal** on Planet Ranch Road, BWRNWR. These birds had reached what is presently considered the northern and western edges of their range, but according to Atlas, this species has been expanding its range since the 1870s.

During the Arizona Global Big Day, 14th May, Jan Parrott observed two **Painted Buntings** in Pintail Slough, HNWR on the right side of the first pond. The Painted Bunting has seldom been reported in the LCRV and all sightings are from La Paz or Yuma counties. These few sightings occurred between July and November, so the report of two in Pintail in May is extraordinary. It should be noted that Carl Tomoff and Carol Fritzinger reported one at Phantom Ranch, 10 May 1983.

David Vander Pluym spotted a **Black Tern** at the north end of L. Havasu 14th May. This species can be seen in the LCRV from late April through May and again from mid-June through mid-September. If seen in early June, the bird could be either a north- or south-bound migrant.

Near Hualapai Lodge, 14th May, Jan Parrott, Marge Penton and DeeDee DeLorenzo discovered a pair of
Olive Warblers high in a Ponderosa Pine. On the same day Paul Mackesey reported one on South Potato Patch Trail, also in the Hualapai Mts. Rosenberg makes no mention of this species appearing in the LCRV and the map in Atlas shows none breeding in Mohave County. This warbler may be expanding its territory westward.

Four Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at the north end of L. Havasu 14th May by David Vander Pluym. This species is rare in spring, with most reports occurring from August to mid-October. Rosenberg cites only five spring sightings between 1952 and 1982.

Gary and Betty Heckman reported two continuing Harris's Hawks on E. Yucca Drive, Yucca, on 14th May. This report is significant since this species has been absent from the LCRV since 1964.

At Hualapai Lodge, 14th May, DeeDee DeLorenzo, Marge Penton, and Jan Parrott spotted a Rose-breasted Grosbeak moving around in a tree along with a Black-headed Grosbeak, its western counterpart. This species is a regular spring migrant throughout Arizona, and has been reported in Arizona all 12 months of the year. In June of 1994 a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a female Black-headed Grosbeak shared a nest near Portal, but there is no record that the nesting attempt was successful.

The Osprey winters in the LCRV between mid-October and mid-March, so one flying over Beal Lake 14th May as reported by DeeDee DeLorenzo and Marge Penton may have been a late migrating individual. On the other hand, the two Ospreys DeeDee observed circling over Old South Dike Rd., HNWR, 25th May, may be residents.

East of Mt. Trumbull, Shawn Langston located two Flammulated Owls, 16th May. This owl is a common summer resident found in Ponderosa Pine and mixed conifer forests throughout the Grand Canyon region between 20 April and 15 September.

A Peregrine Falcon was observed flying over South Dike, HNWR 17th May, by Lauren Harter. Atlasers found nesting Peregrine Falcons in Topock Gorge, HNWR, between 1993 and 2000, so this individual could be a resident bird.

At Hualapai Lodge, 14th May, DeeDee DeLorenzo, Marge Penton, and Jan Parrott spotted a Rose-breasted Grosbeak moving around in a tree along with a Black-headed Grosbeak, its western counterpart. This species is a regular spring migrant throughout Arizona, and has been reported in Arizona all 12 months of the year. In June of 1994 a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a female Black-headed Grosbeak shared a nest near Portal, but there is no record that the nesting attempt was successful.

The Spotted Sandpiper is seldom seen in the LCRV after April, so the report of one along the edge of the lake near Peninsula Trail, BWRNWR by Glenn Klingler 17th May is noteworthy. DeeDee DeLorenzo also found a Spotted Sandpiper 25th May, at the Firebreak Canal, HNWR.

First detected in 2011 in the Riparian Corridor near Pintail Slough, HNWR, the Tropical Kingbird has once again returned to this part of the refuge. Two were found 25th May by DeeDee DeLorenzo. One was sitting on a cottonwood tree branch overhanging the water and another was seen flying almost straight upward from its perch snagging insects. ☀
The Prescott Audubon Society's Birdathon, our most important fund-raiser of the year, fielded five teams that observed a total of 195 species within our Chapter's areas in Yavapai and Mojave Counties.

On May 1st, Russell Duerksen again led the Sullivan Count. The weather, with a light mist, made this team work for each of the 135 species found. They encountered exceptional birding at the Sedona Wetlands including Wilson's Snipe, Red-necked Phalarope, and Ring-billed Gull, species unique to this team, as well as Marbled Godwit, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, and Forster's Tern. Exceptional birds included the Red-necked Phalarope and an Eastern Phoebe below the dam at Sullivan Lake.

On May 2nd, the Monday Ladies Birding team traveled Perkinsville Road from Highway 89 in Chino Valley to the Verde River bridge. Among their 75 species (group motto: "Bird every bird."), birds unique to this team included Mississippi Kite, Pinyon Jay, and Savannah Sparrow.

Our newest team, the Abia Judd Junior Audubon Birding Club, spent the afternoon on May 2 at the Community Nature Center on Williamson Valley Road, lead by their teacher, Sue Lord, and P.A.S. members Laura Rhoden and Nancy Silacci. Though birding during afternoon hours, they discovered 21 species with Spotted Towhees and Lesser Goldfinches being particularly vocal. Upon seeing a large ant hill, they took time to learn about the ecological importance of ants.

Carl Tomoff demonstrated how ecologically rich the Prescott area is by finding 153 species, mostly within six miles of downtown Prescott, during a 12-hour period on May 2nd. He limited his travel to grassland and ponds near the airport, Granite Dells and nearby lakes and creeks, residential areas in town and the foothills, the forest at Goldwater Lake, Mountain Club and along Aspen Creek, and chaparral slopes of Copper Basin. Species not found by others included: Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Great Egret, Neotropic Cormorant, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Willet, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Bronzed Cowbird, Purple Finch, and American Goldfinch. His report is in this issue.

DeeDee DeLorenzo, Jan Parrot and Marge Penton, in the field from 3:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on May 14th (Global Migratory Bird Day), discovered 102 species. Birds seen only by this team included: Redhead, Clark's Grebe, Least Bittern, Osprey, Virginia and Ridgeway's Rails, Inca Dove, Lesser Nighthawk, Bell's Vireo, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Hepatic Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Painted Bunting, again highlighting the diversity of species within our chapter's region. Unusual sightings for the area covered included Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, and Cassin's Finch. For details of their outing, please see the companion article in this issue written by DeeDee.

Though team birders have an exciting day in the field, the birdathon is most important as a fund-raiser for the chapter's education efforts including the $1,000.00 scholarship, Audubon Adventures classroom sets for teachers, science fair awards, and others. Please check our website for methods by which to contribute, or see Laura Rhoden, treasurer, at a meeting. And, thank you for caring.
On May 2nd, while participating in a worthy community effort, I wanted to show how diverse our bird life is in the Prescott area while traveling as little as possible. The remarkable variety of habitats and plant communities within a few miles sets the stage for an interesting drama. Most of my 153 species were within six miles of downtown. My 12-hour survey took me to grassland and ponds near the airport, Granite Dells and nearby lakes and creeks, residential areas in town and the foothills, the forest at Goldwater Lake, Mountain Club, and along Aspen Creek and chaparral slopes of Copper Basin.

I also wanted to show that finding new species takes longer as the day progresses. I detected 112 species (73%) during the first four hours of the day (33% of survey time). After that, I found few species per hour, illustrating the species-time relationship or the principle of diminishing returns, a well-known phenomenon among birders. Hourly new species totals are summarized in the graph below.

The suburban evergreen and riparian woodland along Butte Creek at Stricklin Park added Chipping Sparrow, Mountain Chickadee, Acorn Woodpecker, Pygmy Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, Lesser Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, and Bridled Titmouse.

While driving past Prescott College, I heard Eurasian Collared-Dove and Say's Phoebe. Near Prescott High School I saw a Swainson's Hawk on its nest as well as Great-tailed Grackle, European Starling, Cassin's Kingbird, House Sparrow, and Common Raven.


Along Granite Creek south of Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, I noted Song Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Cassin's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Northern "Red-shafted" Flicker, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

A Crissal Thrasher sang in chaparral near the Sundog sewage treatment ponds that hosted Great Blue Heron, Cliff Swallow, Lesser Scaup, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Killdeer, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Eared Grebe, Bank Swallow, and Tree Swallow.

At 7:30 a Peregrine Falcon perched on a utility pole above Watson Lake where Canada Goose, American Coot, Ruddy Duck, Western Grebe, and Black-crowned Night-Heron also appeared. In the open habitat mosaic at Watson Lake Park and in adjacent coves I added Pied-billed Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Double-crested Cormorant, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, Phainopepla, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Gray Flycatcher, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Brief stops at Willow Lake and Prescott Lakes produced Western Kingbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, American Wigeon, Franklin’s Gull, and Great Egret. At Willow Creek in Granite Dells I recorded Green-tailed Towhee, White-throated Swift, Hammond’s Flycatcher, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker.

At 9:05 I reached the grassland and ponds near the airport and recorded Western Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, Willet, Wilson’s Phalarope, Greater Roadrunner, Brewer’s Sparrow, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Lark Sparrow, Cooper’s Hawk, American Kestrel, House Wren, Great Horned Owl, Marsh Wren, American Pipit, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Back in Granite Dells at 11:00, I found Hermit Thrush, Dusky Flycatcher, and Zone-tailed Hawk. Then a return to Willow Lake yielded White-faced Ibis, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Cinnamon Teal, and Western Wood-Pewee.

Purple Finch, Hooded Oriole, and Bronzed Cowbird appeared along Willow Creek west of Willow Creek Road.

Arriving at Aspen Creek along Copper Basin Road at 1:25, I surveyed for an hour in pine-oak forest and recorded Steller’s Jay, Plumbeous Vireo, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Virginia’s Warbler, Red-backed Junco, Olive Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Townsend’s Warbler, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Hutton’s Vireo. At 2:30 I found Black-chinned Sparrow on the upper chaparral-clad slopes of Copper Basin before retracing my route along Aspen Creek and driving to Goldwater Lake. There I saw a Hooded Merganser and a Neotropic Cormorant during my 5-minute stop at the shore.

Walking along Willow Creek and the shoreline from 4:00 to 5:00, I discovered Green Heron, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Black-necked Stilt, and Forster’s Tern.

I finished my adventure seeing roosting Turkey Vulture and calling Cassin’s Finch at Boyle-de Busk preserve in Mountain Club. Delighted and contented, I returned home at 5:30 p.m., wondering what the other teams had experienced during their day.

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**Arizona Global Big Day 2016 with the Chick-a-deedees**

*By DeeDee DeLorenzo*

It was still dark. Oh, that's right; it usually is at 0330 in Arizona in May. The sky was clear. That's good. I could hear the wind. That's not good. But we were committed. Our goal? One-hundred-and-twenty bird species.

By 0430, Jan Parrott, Marge Penton, and I were in my Jeep headed south to the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, more specifically, Beal Lake. We were anticipating our fifth annual Big Day. Our count actually began before we were all together. Jan had spotted a Killdeer in the middle of the road on her way to my house. Why a Killdeer would be in the middle of the road at 0415, I have no idea, but we listed it. As we entered the Refuge and made our way along Levee R.d., we began to hear Lucy's Warblers and Abert's Towhees. Several Lesser Nighthawks zig-zagged above us and a Great Horned Owl glided across the road in front of the car. We were off to a pretty good start.

Of course, we could have spent at least an hour getting to Beal Lake, but we needed to get to this marshy area as soon as possible in hopes of hearing rails. So, I grabbed the steering wheel, pulled out all the stops, and made a beeline to South Dike, where, as we turned the corner, we came to a screeching halt. The gate to the refuge was shut and locked! Only one thing to do—grab all the stuff we would need and hoof it. As we got out of the car we were greeted by the sound of howling coyotes soon followed by attacking mosquitoes. But we are used to both, sort of, so no big deal.

Jan decided to stay near the car and ended up listing 22 species that included a Sora, Northern Flicker, and Bullock's Oriole. It didn't take Marge and me long to get to Beal. Our first species was a Least Bittern cooing softly in the distance. Two pairs of Redhead ducks slowly paddled around and several rafts of Eared Grebes floated by. An unexpected Osprey flew over as
Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens, and Common Yellowthroats serenaded the rising sun. Marge and I listed 25 species. We missed some, but we were optimistic that we would pick them up elsewhere.

By 0730 we were at one of my favorite spots—Pintail Slough. Well, it's usually one of my favorite spots, but this particular morning it wasn't. The slough had dried up. That meant no ducks, no shorebirds. I was extremely disappointed. Then there were the dad-gum mosquitoes; thousands of them. Even the best bug juice was not going to deter these tenacious little pests. But a few inconveniences were not going to stop us.

We headed to the first dry pond, walked along the east side, and decided to split up. Jan went ahead to the cottonwood revegetation area and Marge and I headed north in hopes of finding a pond with even a little bit of water in it. One duck, a Mallard, was all we found. Poor thing was in a tiny pool of water in the corner of a dried up pond. But things did get better. Among the 25 species we tallied here, we found Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Bell's Vireos, and Blue Grosbeaks. I was hoping the Tropical Kingbirds had arrived at the Riparian Corridor, but we couldn't find one. Jan, on the other hand, had one of the bird species of the day—a pair of Painted Buntings. She also found an Indigo Bunting, but none of us picked up the Lazuli.

Knowing that we needed to find some water birds, we decided to head to Catfish Paradise where we were sure there would at least be some water. Upon arrival we added to our list Clark's and Western Grebes, one Double-crested Cormorant, and a Great Blue Heron.

We were not finding as many different species of birds as we thought we were going to find in the Refuge and were beginning to panic. Well, sort of. Only one thing to do—head to Oatman. We knew we could get species along Rt. 66 that were not in the Refuge and we did! Black-throated Sparrows, Rock, Canyon, and Cactus Wrens, Curve-billed Thrashers, and Scott's Orioles. Perhaps our best find along this route ended up not being a bird, but rather a mammal—Desert Bighorn Sheep. As we went up and over Sitgreaves Pass and started down the switchbacks, two adult males were spotted high above us, peering down from the ridge. Then we looked down and discovered a herd of 10 more sheep, females and young males, on an outcrop just below.

I have no idea how many species we had listed by the time we made it to Golden Valley, but we pressed on. We knew we had to go to the Hualapai Mountains outside of Kingman if we were to get even close to one hundred species. So up the mountain we went and as we climbed, our luck began to change—Green-tailed Towhee, Hepatic and Western Tanagers, and then a soaring—no, that's not a Turkey Vulture; it's a Zone-tailed Hawk! At Hualapai Lodge things got even better for us low desert dwellers. We listed nuthatches, titmouse, Acorn Woodpeckers, then a Black-headed Grosbeak that was joined by another notable bird species of the day, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Marge counted the birds on the list. We were in the ninetys. Maybe, just maybe, we could break one hundred. After dinner at the Lodge we went further up the mountain where we knew we would at least hear the Black-chinned Sparrow. Then on the way down, another great find—a pair of Olive Warblers, our eighth warbler species of the day.

Hoping to return to Bullhead before it got dark we left the Hualapais, made a quick stop at Camp Beal Springs, and then at Davis Camp to get the Cliff Swallows. It was now almost 1900. We were at 99 species and we were running out of daylight. But luck was in our favor. As we drove past the pond along the Parkway at Laughlin Ranch (LR), Jan calmly announced, "I think there's a Ruddy Duck on the pond." I made a quick U-turn (don't tell Keith) and headed back, turned into LR, and parked next to the water. And there we got not just one, but three new species: Black-necked Stilts, Spotted Sandpiper, and three Ruddy Ducks, two adults and a baby. One-hundred-two species!

As we sat looking at the Ruddy Ducks, the sun slipped down behind the mountains. It had been a good day. We were tired, no exhausted, but we had found some really "good" birds as well as enjoying the sights and sounds of three male peacocks, cottontail rabbits, black-tailed jackrabbits, lizards, coyotes, burros, big horn sheep, and Mule Deer. Yes, this had certainly been a good way to spend a lovely Saturday in May.
It is always such fun to see the amazing increase in bird activity in the spring, and doing Important Bird Area (IBA) surveys is one way to see, not only increasing activity, but also who is coming and who is going! It is also interesting to observe the differences and similarities between Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and the Upper Verde Wildlife Management Area in Paulden. While both are riparian areas, Watson Woods is approximately 1000 feet higher in elevation than the Upper Verde River. And, our wonderful Prescott Audubon volunteers have completed two surveys each on these IBA's.

In late April (24th in Watson Woods and 27th on the Upper Verde), among the residents, of course there are always House Finches and Lesser Goldfinches in numbers. And, in Watson Woods a pair of Great Horned Owls with three (!) nestlings was found and photographed. Additionally, an adult Great Horned Owl with a nestling was found in a hole in the cliff (in the uplands away from the river) on the Upper Verde. And, in Watson Woods, the Common Black Hawks are back, presumably to nest as they have now for several years. (Although not observed on the nest, we found out later from Peter Pierson of Prescott Creeks that they are indeed nesting). Also, on Lower Granite Creek in the Wildlife Management Area, a Zone-tailed Hawk was found on a nest. Additionally, on the Upper Verde River, the pair of Golden Eagles were soaring over the cliffs where they have nested in the past (ever since we have been keeping records). In both areas, Cassin's and Western Kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers were back to nest as were Lucy's Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers, and on the Verde Springs transect of the Upper Verde, three Yellow-breasted Chats. Also, the Summer Tanagers and a few Bullock's Orioles were spotted.

Migrants were not to be outdone by the returning nesters. Wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers were apparently joined by those wintering further south on their northern migration as the numbers were abundant—26 in Watson Woods and 32 on the Upper Verde IBA. The same can be said for Ruby-crowned Kinglets on the Upper Verde although not in Watson Woods. Empidonax genus of flycatchers were also sparse in Watson Woods, but were numerous on the Upper Verde. Hammond's, Gray's, and Dusky's were all in abundance as were those that didn't cooperate with observers long enough to determine which Empidonax species they were. A few Western Wood-Pewees were also found. Plumbeous Vireos, Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned Warblers, Virginia's Warblers, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Wilson's Warblers, Brewer's Sparrows and Lark Sparrows, and a few American Goldfinches were also on the move as were a few Green-tailed Towhees in the Upper Verde. While a few Vermilion Flycatchers are commonly seen on the Upper Verde, a stunning male in Watson Woods was an exciting surprise for one team. Another surprise was a male Costa's Hummingbird on the Campbell North transect of the Upper Verde River. He was perched high on a mesquite tree.

The May surveys (11th on the Upper Verde and 15th in Watson Woods) also produced some surprises, and a number of species were either on nests or carrying nesting materials. Blue Grosbeaks had returned to both IBA's, and Yellow-breasted Chats (41) were everywhere on the Upper Verde!

The May 15th survey in Watson Woods produced some surprises as well. Only one baby Great Horned Owl was found with no adult seen nearby, but further south on Granite Creek, a large, brown bird flying low, best guess being an adult Great Horned Owl was spotted. And, the biggest surprise of all was the discovery of female Vermilion Flycatcher sitting on a nest with the male perched nearby! To our knowledge, this is the first known nesting attempt of Vermilion Flycatchers in Watson Woods. Additionally, two fully-plumed Great Egrets were apparently foraging in a wetland right beside the Rosser Road parking lot for Watson Woods, and a Red-tailed Hawk on a nest with one chick observed was located near the south end of the Preserve. To convince volunteers that it really was time to raise families (although we really didn't need any convincing), one team watched a male American Kestrel give his mate a small rodent!

Not to be outdone, the Verde Springs transect team had a fascinating show from a pair of Peregrine Falcons.
The two were flying around and vocalizing and were observed copulating. One of the pair entered a hole in a ledge and the other perched nearby. Although the team continued on their route (although it was tempting to just stay and watch), when they returned a Falcon in the hole flew out. The team speculated that the pair may have a nest in the hole. And, the Zone-tailed Hawk was still on the nest.

Migrants were still plentiful with Townsend's Warbler and MacGillivray's Warbler added to the warbler mix along with some Cedar Waxwings, and one Indigo Bunting was found on one of the Upper Verde transects. In abundance were Green-tailed Towhees on the Upper Verde with 14 spotted. Another unusual find was three Scott's Orioles. Although not a surprise, the most abundant species, at least on the Upper Verde IBA was Yellow Warbler with a grand total of 102!

Next up are late summer surveys to catch fall migration and, on the Upper Verde IBA, we have four Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys scheduled. These are quite specific and require special training for the team leaders. Fortunately, we have four volunteers this year who have agreed to take this training.
Tony Krzysik (left) perhaps as he would have liked to be remembered, in the field, on the glorious upper Verde River, surrounded by his friends and fellow nature-lovers. Tony was a Prescott Audubon Society Director from 2005 to 2008, and was Conservation Chair from 2006 to 2010. Tony served on the Arizona Audubon Council from 2008 to 2010. Many share Director Russ Chappell’s relationship: “Tony was my go-to guy for conservation and numerous times Tony generously answered my questions on subjects such as the Verde, global warming and similar issues. He was bright, informed, outgoing, passionate and willing to share his expertise without reservation. I considered him a respected professional and friend and I will miss him.” Click here for the Daily Courier item on Tony.
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6. In the results area, click on the circle to the left of Prescott Audubon Society, and then click “Enroll”.

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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.