

WINGTIPS

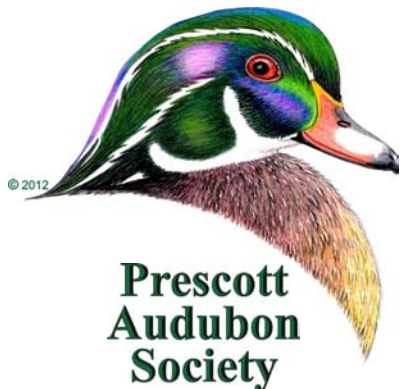
A Publication of the Prescott Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

June, July, & August, 2019



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Prescott Audubon Society

*Celebrating Birds
and the
World We Share*

Prescott Audubon Society encourages understanding and protection of our natural environment through education, conservation, and community service.

Membership & Dues

You have three options to become a Prescott Audubon Society (PAS) member. You can join PAS for \$20 per household per year, renewable every year on September 1. You can join National Audubon and, through their system, you will be enrolled in PAS if your zip code is in our chapter region. Or you can do both! To join PAS, click [here](#) to go the join/renew/donate page of our website. If you prefer, you can mail your check to the PAS P.O. Box, listed below.

You can also join/renew at our *Window on Nature* presentations.

Window on Nature Programs

All are welcome to attend our monthly PAS *Window on Nature* programs that take place on the 4th Thursday of each month, September through May, at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 630 Park Ave., on the corner of Park Ave. and

Copper Basin Rd. Our November and December programs are combined into an annual holiday meal and gathering. See [our website](#) or [enroll on our email list](#) for notification of exact dates.

Business Meetings

The PAS Board of Directors meets just before the *Window on Nature* presentations, at the same location. PAS members are always welcome to attend these business meetings.

Wingtips

We publish our e-newsletter, *Wingtips*, five times a year. We can also mail you a printed copy for an additional \$10 for the five issues. Select this option on our [Join/renew/donate page](#) on our website or when you join PAS by mail or at a *Window on Nature* program.

Submit items for publication in *Wingtips* any time. The deadline for the next issue is 5 p.m., Friday, 6th September, 2019. Please send submissions to David Moll at: wingtips@cableone.net.

We prefer that photos submitted for publication be uncropped. PAS does not compensate for published items. Authors and photographers retain all copyrights. Opinions expressed by authors in *Wingtips* do not necessarily reflect the policy of the National Audubon Society or Prescott Audubon Society.

Field Trips

We list our birding field trips on our website and in a monthly email alert. In general, our trips are free and open to the public. Each participant should bring his or her own water, snacks, sun protection, and the like.

Participants should expect costs for carpooling, meals, and for accommodations on overnight trips. Most field trips require that you sign up with the trip leader in advance. The exception is our monthly bird walk at the Highlands Center for Natural History; everyone is welcome. If you need to borrow a pair of binoculars, please contact the trip leader.

Participation is voluntary, and any injury or illness while on an outing is the responsibility of the participant. PAS assumes no liability for accidents, injuries, damage to vehicles, or loss of property while on field trips.

We try to carpool as much as possible, using private vehicles. We suggest that passengers cover the entire cost of gas, currently estimated at \$0.10 per mile and perhaps a bit more if the vehicle gets dirty or dusty. Remember that the driver is covering wear and tear, vehicle cleaning, tire wear, etc.—all of which is more than \$0.10 per mile.

Cover

A Neotropical migrant common in the eastern half of North America, Indigo Bunting is sparsely distributed in Arizona. The species is found in riparian habitats. This individual was photographed on 2019-05-15, in Watson Woods, by David Moll.



Prescott Audubon Website:

PrescottAudubon.org

Mailing address: P.O. Box 4156

Prescott, AZ 86302

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contact@prescottaudubon.org

(928) 778-6502

Activities & Announcements



JUNE

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

Wednesday, 19th: Field Trip: Flagstaff Area. This will be a high elevation birding trip just north of Flagstaff where we will visit several sites during a full day with co-leaders Doug and Diane Iverson. Phone contact 928-899-5609.

Wednesday, 26th: Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, Upper Verde River IBA, 1st of 4. The western populations of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo are federally listed as threatened. The Prescott Audubon Society with sponsorship from State and federal agencies has been monitoring the species on lower Granite Creek and upper Verde River using a specific protocol. Surveying includes moderate difficulty, riverside hiking. If you would like to participate, contact Dave Frechette at celex47-kestrel@usa.net. Debriefing and lunch at the Little Thumb Butte B & B (\$15).

JULY

Wednesday, 10th: Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, Upper Verde River IBA, 2nd of 4. The western populations of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo are federally listed as threatened. The Prescott Audubon Society with sponsorship from State and federal agencies have been monitoring the species on lower Granite Creek and upper Verde River using a specific protocol. Surveying includes moderate difficulty, riverside hiking. If you would like to participate, contact Dave Frechette at celex47-kestrel@usa.net. Debriefing and lunch at the Little Thumb Butte B & B (\$15).

Saturday, 13th, 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk. For our monthly Highlands Center for Natural History bird walk, meet Kathy Wingert in the Highlands

Center parking lot, 1375 S Walker Rd., Prescott. Access is easy and all are welcome.

Wednesday, 24th: Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, Upper Verde River IBA, 3rd of 4. The western populations of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo are federally listed as threatened. The Prescott Audubon Society with sponsorship from State and federal agencies has been monitoring the species on lower Granite Creek and upper Verde River using a specific protocol. Surveying includes moderate difficulty, riverside hiking. If you would like to participate, contact Dave Frechette at celex47-kestrel@usa.net. Debriefing and lunch at the Little Thumb Butte B & B (\$15).

AUGUST

Wednesday, 7th: Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, Upper Verde River IBA, 4th of 4. The western populations of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo are federally listed as threatened. The Prescott Audubon Society with sponsorship from State and federal agencies has been monitoring the species on lower Granite Creek and upper Verde River using a specific protocol. Surveying includes moderate difficulty, riverside hiking. If you would like to participate, contact Dave Frechette at celex47-kestrel@usa.net. Debriefing and lunch at the Little Thumb Butte B & B (\$15).

Saturday, 10th, 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk. For our monthly Highlands Center for Natural History bird walk, meet Kathy Wingert in the Highlands Center parking lot, 1375 S Walker Rd., Prescott. Access is easy and all are welcome.

Thursday, 15th: Field Trip: Butterfly Springs. Join co-leaders Norma Jenkins and Kathy Wingert for a visit to one of the best spots on Mingus Mt. to see beautiful migrating warblers and much more. This trail is lovely, but parking is limited and the first 100 yards are a bit steep. We will carpool. For details, contact Kathy at 928-379-3124 or text Norma at 928-925-7221. Limit 8.

Continued on next page

S E P T E M B E R

Sunday, 8th: Watson Woods Important Bird Area Survey (3rd of 3). Each year, we survey Watson Woods during spring and fall migration, and our information helps monitor the benefits to birds from habitat improvements in the Woods. After these 1-2 hour surveys, the teams meet to share their sightings and results. Contact Karen O'Neil at jandkonneil@gmail.com.

Wednesday, 18th: 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. (\$15). Surveying involves some medium-difficulty riverside hiking. Contact Dave Frechette at celex47-kestrel@usa.net for details.

Thursday, 26th, 5 p.m.: Board of Directors Meeting; 7 p.m.: Window on Nature: Trinity Presbyterian Church, on the NW corner of Park Avenue & Copper Basin Rd. (630ParkAvenue). ☺

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.

Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 11, 2019, was Migratory Bird Day and The Highlands Center for Natural History has a festival to celebrate. This is the second year Prescott Audubon Society has been invited. Even though the event was shut down early on account of rain, it was a blast. This year I brought some pictures of birds to color. They were a big hit. I didn't get any new members, although many people were on the edge. Looking forward to being invited again in 2020.

— Kathy Malm

PechaKucha - What???

Wikipedia defines PechaKucha as "a storytelling format, where a presenter shows 20 slides for 20 seconds of commentary each."

We'd heard that Northern Arizona Audubon Society has a Members' Night program, where each person presents up to five photos and has five minutes to show and talk about them. That sounded pretty interesting, so we are planning something similar for the October 24, 2019 *Window on Nature* program, with "Nature-related" as the theme.

The details of how many pictures and how long each presenter will have, as well as how we'll get it organized in advance, are not quite worked out yet, but we wanted to give you some advance notice so that over the summer, you can sort through your photos and think about what you'd like to share!

Thanks, Birdathon Sponsors—and other Contributing Members and Supporters!

Congratulations to our seven Birdathon teams and their wonderful sponsors! Elsewhere in this issue, you will read about the teams' Birdathon adventures and the species they identified; the preliminary fundraising results are provided here.

The PAS Birdathon is our major fundraiser for our educational programs. This year, we donated twenty-eight (up from twenty-two last year) National Audubon *Audubon Adventures* science education kits to elementary school classrooms, awarded a \$1000 scholarship to a student attending Prescott College, made five Tri-City Prep Science Fair awards to seven students (one project was done by three students), and supported the Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club at Abia Judd.

You still have time to contribute if you haven't already done so—our deadline is June 30, the end of our fiscal year. 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 teams have raised \$1,705 to date. Currently, the Monday Lady Birders lead, followed by the Mohave County Chick-a-Dee-Dees, the two Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club teams, Jay's Bird Barn the

Sullivan Count team, and Team Tomoff. Final results will be announced in the next *Wingtips*.

All of the teams and the rest of Prescott Audubon thank the sponsors for their generous support and for encouraging our next generation of naturalists!

Birdathon supporters—so far—are: Keith Archibald, Sharon Arnold, Carol Clayton, Rebecca Davis & Roger Asay, Edie Dillon, Laurel Freeman, Jo Graves, Paul Graves, Grandma Jean on behalf of the Gray boys, Natalie Houghton, Connie Johnson, Sue Lord, Nancy McMahon, Karen O'Neil, Jan Parrott, Marge Penton, Bonnie Pranter, Laura Rhoden, Everett & Margaret Sanborn, Marilyn Saxerud, Cory Shaw, Nancy Silacci, Barb Stewart, Carl & Joan Tomoff, Mary Trevor & Toni Kaus, John West, Barbara Williams, Kathy Wingert, Beverly Womack, and Anonymous. Any outstanding pledges and additional donations will be acknowledged when the final results are reported in the next issue.

Thanks, too, to these contributors:

Conservation: Arizona Game & Fish Department, for donating two GPS units for use on our Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys.

General Fund: AmazonSmile, Fry's Community Rewards. 🐦



Birdathon Results & Request for Financial Support

The Prescott Audubon Society Birdathon included seven teams this year with two student teams representing the Abia Judd Elementary School clubs, a Jay's Bird Barn team, the Chick-a-Dee-Dee's along the Colorado River, the Monday Women Birders, Team Tomoff, and the Sullivan team.

The adventures of the Abia Judd teams are covered in a separate article by Laura Rhoden, Prescott Audubon treasurer and frequent *Wingtips* contributor. Carl Tomoff's account is below.

Eric Moore (owner) and Brett Mangum represented Team Jay's Bird Barn, compiling a list of 71 species in a half day of birding. Particularly productive locations included Watson Woods and the waste water treatment plant (they are often birder hang-outs!). As noted in Eric's recent *Courier* column, Watson Woods acts as a bit of a migrant trap during Spring migration, and is one of three local Important Bird Areas recognized by Prescott Audubon and National Audubon.

The Chick-a-Dee-Dees team takes advantage of habitats unique to the

Havasu and Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuges, and ventures as far as the Hualapai Mountains. Board member Deedee Delorenzo has long represented this part of our chapter's territory, and has been an ardent proponent of both refuges. They compiled a list of 76 species.

Due to the diversity of habitats within our chapter's territory, there were 101 species identified by these two teams.

The Sullivan team, led by Russell Duerksen, found 101 species. A highlight was identifying seven species of warblers in a single tree along the edge of Willow Lake.

The Monday Women Birders completed their traditional outing, traveling the length of Perkinsville Road east to the Verde River. Their 70 species total reflects the varied habitats along this route and is a high count for the group. Highlights included an Eastern Meadowlark, a Great Horned Owl with two juveniles roosting nearby, and a Scott's Oriole in the Pinyon-Juniper habitat. Also seen was an adult Bald Eagle and about 50 Lark Sparrows foraging in the grasslands.

Numerous species were found in the Verde River riparian habitat including Bell's, Plumbeous and Warbling vireo, Vermillion Flycatchers, Yellow-breasted Chat, a Green Heron, and Green-tailed Towhee. A bonus was an abundant and colorful display of wildflowers due to our wet winter and spring.

The efforts of these seven teams represent a commitment to Prescott Audubon's most important fundraiser of the year that supports all of our education programs, including the college scholarship awarded annually, Abia Judd's nature clubs, *Audubon Adventures*, and judging and awards for the Northern Arizona Regional Science/Engineering Fair for K-8 students.

We hope *Wingtips* readers will contribute to these efforts by making a contribution at the next meeting or through the mail at Prescott Audubon Society, P. O. Box 4156, Prescott, Az. 86302.

Thanks for caring, Doug Iverson, Birdathon coordinator. 🐦

PAS Birdathon & Global Big Day, 4th May, 2019

I observed 105 species while birding for six-and-a-half hours in a variety of habitats within ten miles of downtown. I visited Granite Creek and Dells, Watson and Willow Lakes, grassland and ponds near the airport, Antelope Hills, Granite Basin, and Stricklin Park. Breezy weather dampened detectability of birds; their vocalizations were fewer than during a calm day.

I noted nine species of warblers, six kinds of swallows, four types of vireos, and three species of tanagers.

Highlights included: Black-necked Stilt at Sundog Treatment ponds; Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, and Yellow-headed Blackbird at ponds near the airport; Blue-winged Teal, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Franklin's Gull at Willow Lake; Zone-tailed Hawk, White-throated Swift, Brown-crested Flycatcher, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Granite Dells. I ended my survey watching a nestling Great Horned Owl at Stricklin Park

— Carl Tomoff

Prescott Women Birders Birdathon Report

By Karen O'Neil

What has become the traditional route for this group's Birdathon is Perkinsville Road in Chino Valley east to the Perkinsville Bridge over the Verde River. Twelve members of this group participated, and produced 70 species. This is the most this group has found in this writer's memory.

One advantage of this route is that it covers several habitats: a little of suburbia, grasslands, Pinyon-Juniper habitat, and riparian habitat along the river. This year we made a swing around the Chino Valley recharge ponds which were mostly waterless, but produced one of our highlights, an Eastern Meadowlark. Another highlight in a copse of cottonwoods near a ballfield was an adult Great Horned Owl with two juveniles roosting on nearby branches in one of the trees. We found the typical grassland species including a plethora of Horned Larks, a Swainson's Hawk and, surprising, a Northern Harrier! In the Pinyon-Juniper habitat were many of the usual species, but the highlights were a spectacular male Scott's Oriole that flew in front of our convoy, landed in a scrawny Pinyon Pine on the right side of the road where he stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb for all to see and sang a serenade for the participants! The entire performance was lovely! Another surprise was an adult Bald Eagle. And, we enjoyed a flock of about 50 Lark Sparrows, foraging in some grasses with seed stalks.

At the Verde River were many expected riparian habitat species including a pair of Vermilion Flycatchers, copulating even. As one member of our group commented, the world needs more Vermilion Flycatchers! There was one Zone-tailed Hawk. The Yellow-breasted Chats had arrived and loudly and frequently announced themselves. A Brown-crested Flycatcher also announced itself as did the Song Sparrows. We found three Vireo species: Bell's, Plumbeous and Warbling—the latter two enroute to Pine-Oak forests to breed. We found six Warbler species. Of course, there was a Great Blue Heron, and we also found a Green Heron. The final species of our time at the River before heading back to Chino Valley were two lovely Green-tailed Towhees, also heading for higher terrain, probably in the White Mountains.

It was a sunny, mild day, with increasing winds as the early afternoon progressed. And, a bonus that we hadn't thought about was that all along Perkinsville Road were wildflowers—lots of them, and numerous varieties—thanks to our wet winter and spring. They produced lovely colors in the otherwise tan dirt. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the day, the birds and the flowers. 🌻

Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Club at Abia Judd Birdathon

Sue Lord and the two Prescott Junior Audubon Nature Clubs (PJANC), assisted by Jo Graves and Laura Rhoden of Prescott Audubon, had their Birdathon outings at the Community Nature Center (CNC) on April 30 and May 1. With some overlap between the clubs, there were thirty-four K-4 students who participated. While both afternoons were a bit windy, it was not as bad as prior years, and for once, it wasn't hot. The combined total for the two days was thirty species, beating the old record of nineteen.

The bird of the day for the Tuesday club was Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay. They were everywhere! We talked about how the Scrub-Jays really like the habitat at CNC, which includes Pinyon trees. The most exciting sighting was a Peregrine Falcon flying over in a hurry to be somewhere else. Although Jo and Laura had found a nice mixed flock of warblers before the club arrived, the birds did not stick around to pose for the kids.

The Wednesday club, which has an emphasis on the Grand Canyon,

found sunnier skies and almost no Scrub-Jays, but we did see Spotted Towhees which had been in hiding on Tuesday. What a difference a day makes! The kids also added Chipping Sparrow and several other species missed the day before to the combined list.

Unfortunately, time did not permit a visit to Billy, the goat who lives by the CNC; it's hard to say who was more disappointed: the kids or Billy! Regardless, we all had a wonderful time exploring the CNC together. 🌻

2019 Northern Arizona Regional Science/Engineering Fair
Tri-City College Prep High School
March 29, 2019

The 2019 Northern Arizona Science/Engineering Fair, hosted by Tri-city College Prep High School, again featured over a hundred entries, and again, Prescott Audubon Society (PAS) supported the event and fielded four enthusiastic judges. Harry Allen (Science Fair, Chair), Debbie Allen, Jerry Shaw, and Cory Shaw represented PAS, beginning their evaluations at 9:00 a.m., and finishing by 11:30 a.m.

Cory and Jerry Shaw returned for the 5:00 p.m. ceremony, where Cory presented the winners with \$25.00, a National Audubon Field Guide, "Wildlife of the Southwestern States," a framed, personalized certificate and an invitation to attend our April meeting, along with their family, teachers and supporters.

At the April 18, 2019 PAS meeting, projects were on display prior to the meeting by 6:30 p.m. and following our "Window On Nature" presentation, as students interacted with our members discussing their winning projects. Also, during opening announcements, the winners were introduced to and recognized by the audience.

Normally, four projects best meeting our criteria are recognized... some years we get four... sometimes less. However, this year, as last year, the judges recommended five projects with a total of seven winners, since one project was coauthored by three students.

This year's winners were:

(1) Aaron Lynch, a first grader from Primavera

School, in Prescott, who submitted the project: "Air, Egg, Chick."

(2) Scarlett Schwartz, a second grader from Skyview School in Prescott, entered the project: "Plants vs Water."

(3) Unable to attend the April meeting was Charly Dunn, a fourth grader from Lincoln Elementary in Prescott. His project was: "Germination Biology."

(4) Ivy Johnson a fifth grader from Skyview School, in Prescott, was a team member on the project: "How Cats React to Bird Sound Recording."

(5) Kira Harvey, a sixth grader from Skyview School, also contributed to the project "How Cats React to Bird Sound Recording."

(6) Ryan Cooper, a sixth grader from Skyview School, was the final member on the "How Cats React to Bird Sound Recording" project.

(7) For the third year in a row, Elin Mischler, a sixth grader from Skyview School, was a winner. Her project this year was: "Bird Habitat—Wild Vs Urban."

Each year PAS judges are rewarded by the privilege and honor of working with Tri-city Superintendent, Dr. Mary Ellen Halverson, her outstanding staff, and Tri-city's highly motivated students, who go out of their way to make our judges feel at home and appreciated.

If you have an urge to contribute in a positive way to the future, consider serving as a Science Fair Judge. There is always room for additional judges and the experience is exceptional and inspirational, and will leave you feeling good about yourself, our youth, and the future of our species! 🌱

Trip Report: Page Springs, 6th April, 2019

Were they being playful? Were they being territorial? Was there an element of kleptoparasitism? Were they reveling in their raptor birdness on that beautiful vernal morning over the Page Springs valley? The Bald Eagle and Osprey flew in thrilling, close synchronicity for such an extended period of time. We were spellbound. On the other hand, the Black-chinned Hummingbird quietly went about the construction of her nest in the shade of a large Arizona Cypress. We were enchanted. The numerous Yellow Warblers were less quiet, their plumage less circumspect. We were happy.

So it was for 12 Prescott Audubon Society birders who rendezvoused at the Arizona Game & Fish Department fish hatchery in Page Springs, Arizona. Forty-nine bird species were at least heard, plus an unexpected rooster was seen foraging on a shady hillside. In the afternoon, all (humans) sat at table for checklist and lunch at Up the Creek Bistro-Wine Bar. 🐦

Clockwise from top: Black-chinned Hummingbird nectaring on *Salvia*, Common Black Hawk near its nest, Hooded Oriole, Black-chinned Hummingbird on nest, Bald Eagle & Osprey.



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Watson Woods Riparian Preserve Update: May 21, 2019

By Karen O'Neil

Because we had a wet winter, Granite Creek was running nicely, not only in late April, but also in the third week of May. And, the plant life is lush, from grasses and wildflowers to cattails to trees. It is so refreshing to see running water in the Creek.

Two surveys were held this spring: April 28th and May 19th. The April survey had the most migrants as well as several new arrivals for the breeding season. The usual ducks for this time of year were found on the Wildlife Pond—Wood Duck, Gadwall, and Mallard. A couple of Great Blue Herons and, surprisingly, White-faced Ibises were found. This writer does not recall ever finding the Ibises in the Preserve. Perhaps the lakes are so high the only shallow water and mud available were along the creek—just speculating.

Two teams had one Eurasian Collared-Dove each. This species is rarely found in Watson Woods, fortunately. And, they were not found in May. Raptors made a good showing. The Common Black Hawks returned earlier in the Spring, and Steve Burk has made a point of keeping track of them. In April only one was found on the survey although a pair was known to be present. In May, the pair was found at their nest, plus a third Black Hawk was seen flying through the Preserve. In April only one Red-tailed Hawk was observed, while in May at least three were found. Also in April, a nest with two Great Horned Owl owlets in it and an adult was perched nearby. The female had nested in what appeared to be either a Cooper's Hawk or a Common Raven nest. Earlier in April, she was on the nest, but only one downy owlet was seen. It was actually quite a sight as her bulk overfilled the nest!

New arrivals for the breeding season observed by at least one of the three teams included Anna's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds; Western Wood-Pewee; Cassin's Kingbird; Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows; Brown-headed Cowbirds; Bullock's Orioles; Lucy's Warbler, Common Yellowthroats, and Yellow Warblers; Bullock's Oriole, and Summer Tanagers. Blue Grosbeaks arrived in May.

Half a dozen lingering wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers were still around in April with only one or two still left in May.

A number of migrants who were moving through the Preserve, but either headed further north, to higher elevations, or to a different habitat were observed

especially in April. These included Warbling Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, Gray Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Black-headed Grosbeak. May produced a couple more in this category: one female Lazuli Bunting and Western Tanager. There were a couple lingering migrants—the Orange-Crowned Warbler and the Wilson's Warbler.

There were also some unusual sightings for Watson Woods. One of these was a flock of Western Bluebirds. In the past (before IBA surveys) this species was fairly reliably observed in the southern end of the Preserve. But, this is the first time they have been sighted on IBA surveys. Two Song Sparrows were found on the South Transect, and one was singing. A Brewer's Blackbird was observed on the North transect, and the Middle Transect produced the most unlikely find of all: a Brown-Crested Flycatcher which was identified by its distinctive "whit" call. This bird is considered accidental for the Prescott area, but the observer moved to Prescott from Texas, was an active birder there, and observed this species on numerous occasions. All three of the last species mentioned have not been found on previous IBA surveys to this writer's recollection.

Finally, all the usual residents typically found in the Preserve were found in both April and May. A Common Raven nest which was active in April appeared unoccupied in May. Only the adults were actually seen in April, so we don't know if the young had fledged or the nest failed.

On both transects we had clear, but cool weather, with winds increasing during the morning on both occasions. Many thanks to the observers: Steve & Sue Burk, Kathy Wingert, Nancy Jo Silacci, Sue Arnold, Jo & Paul Graves, Michael Byrd, Richard Balland, Wendy Wonderley, Karen Williams, Carl Tomoff, Norma Jenkins, and Karen O'Neil. These are the people who keep our IBA program going! 🐦



2019: A Traumatic Year for Our Lynx Lake Eagles

When our longtime Bald Eagle pair returned to Lynx Lake this year, their welcome home started off with the discovery that wind and rain had significantly damaged their nest on the east side of the lake. You can see what is left of that nest from certain areas along the west side. Rather than try to rebuild, they built a new nest located to the east of the south shore boat launch. Then, to add to their hardships, a late February snowstorm buried Lynx Lake and all of Prescott in over two feet of snow.

After nesting here for the past eleven years and having produced healthy fledglings for the past six years, the eagles failed to do so this year. Last April, my kestrel friend Dave Frechette sent me a photo of him holding one of the eight-week-old fledglings while attending the banding process. During that spring and into the beginning of summer, I often photographed those beautiful juveniles, 48A and 49A. The previous year, 2017, I was also fortunate to take photos of juveniles 34E and 33E who were as large as their parents when they left to fly north.

This year was a different story altogether. If failing to produce offspring was not stressful enough, in early April another male showed up and apparently fought with our longtime male inflicting serious damage and driving him away. On April 6, Kyle McCarty, Arizona Game & Fish Department Eagle Field Coordinator told me that someone had found our male eagle south of town and transported him to Liberty Wildlife where he still remains. Kyle said his injuries were severe and had someone not rescued him, he would have died. Because he has the bands he received in 2003, they know he is our Lynx Lake male.

I have been taking photos of our pair now for many years and have become quite familiar with their physical appearance. The new male is not banded and appears to me to be larger and younger. It is hard to say whether our female has completely accepted him as her new mate. I have seen and photographed them together a

few times, but I am seeing them well apart from each other more often than together. Perhaps for non-breeding times this is more normal behavior than being together?

But this year's story continues. If having to build a new nest, endure the February snowstorm, fail to reproduce, and then have the female lose her mate to a new challenger was not enough stress, on April 19 a wildfire broke out and rapidly swept through about seven acres of the east side, driving them away and destroying six of their favorite snag trees.



The potential new couple on the east side of Lynx Lake, two days before the fire. ©2019 Everett Sanborn.

The good news is that they are improvising and adapting and appear to be doing fine. They are now more often found in the tops of the pines on both sides of the lake as well as at the top of the cormorant's west side snag tree, and one snag tree up close to the dam overlooking trail 94. The new male is also using one of the osprey platforms that the Forest Service built many years ago.

Before moving here from Irvine, California thirteen years ago, I had never seen an eagle in the wild. When I discovered them at Lynx Lake, I was so fascinated by them that visiting them and photographing them became my passion. With the assistance of folks like Kyle and our USFS biologist Noel Fletcher, and our local bird expert Eric Moore, I have learned much more than I ever imagined about these remarkable raptors. I thank Noel, Eric, Kyle, Dave Frechette and other birders and photographers who have assisted me with my many questions over these past years.

In closing, I want to mention two exchanges with visitors to Lynx Lake that put my excitement regarding our eagles in perspective. When I excitedly pointed out our eagles, one woman responded, "Honey, I used to live in Alaska," while another said, "We live on a lake in Michigan."

Sincerely, Everett Sanborn. 🐾

Tribute to DeeDee DeLorenzo

DeeDee DeLorenzo, a long-time member of Prescott Audubon Society, succumbed to cancer on May 23, 2019. She was 68 years old. Several members who knew DeeDee (she lived in Bullhead City, so we realize that not everyone knew her) have contributed some memories to this tribute. DeeDee served on the Prescott Audubon Board from 2012 until her illness made it impossible for her to do so.

DeeDee was a fifth grade teacher in Bullhead City and she wanted Audubon Adventures kits for her class. As you know our chapter purchases these kits for elementary teachers. In connection with Audubon Adventures, DeeDee convinced her school to build a nature trail at the school. And then she taught her students to be docents for the nature trail!

DeeDee was the founding President of the Friends of the Bill Williams River and the Havasu National Wildlife Refuges. It was a very active group under her leadership.

Cathy LeVine says, "I met DeeDee on a PAS field trip she led which included kayaking at the Bill Williams River NWR, one of "her" refuges. At the time, and on many occasions thereafter, I was impressed by her great generosity with her time and knowledge. With her creation of the Friends group for the Bill Williams River and Havasu refuges and her other efforts, she has done so much, as she would say 'for all the critters.' She is already missed."

Norma Jenkins commented that DeeDee "certainly was one of the kindest and most considerate friends I have ever known. Always answering any emails and enjoying and helping both birds and people."

DeeDee was a stalwart friend of and prolific contributor to this publication, keeping Mohave County well integrated with the entire Chapter.

DeeDee became the compiler of the Havasu CBC in the early 2000's, and a couple years before that was when Kathy Wingert, Cathy Koehler, Bonnie Pranter, Roy and Barb Houser, and Karen O'Neil first met her. DeeDee and her husband, Keith (he is the cook—and a good one, too!) host compilation dinners at their home. A few years later, DeeDee asked if those of us who came over from Prescott if we would also help with the Bill Williams River NWR CBC which was scheduled the day before the Havasu NWR CBC. DeeDee and Keith wouldn't hear of those of us who volunteered from Prescott staying in motels. We were to stay at their home. There was something about DeeDee: it was impossible to say "No" to her.



As Sue Drown said, "DeeDee was a bright light who effortlessly and unintentionally drew us all in. She had a gift of making each of us feel loved and comfortable. She was completely inclusive, embracing family, friends, and even tortoises."

For many years DeeDee was a self-appointed volunteer at the Havasu NWR. As part of her volunteer work, she did regular surveys of birds in the refuge. It was because of the reams of data DeeDee had collected over the years (long before eBird) that Havasu NWR was designated an Important Bird Area. She also did a number of special bird surveys such as marsh bird surveys and nightjar surveys for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She headed up the Chick-a-Dee-Dees which was Mohave County's team for our annual Birdathon.

I (Karen O'Neil), personally, have participated in the Havasu and then the Bill Williams River Christmas Bird Count almost every year since the Havasu count was restarted. (At least 20 years). As a result, I have grown close to DeeDee—and Keith. My sorrow at her passing is immense. I truly love her.

Perhaps Tice Supplee, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Arizona said it best about DeeDee: "She brings light to our world." 🌟



Ash-throated Flycatcher with food by Ed Wright.



Young Summer Tanager male, from PAS Jail Trail field trip, by Richard Balland



Yard Cooper's Hawk by Susan Anderson



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An Easy Way to Donate: Link your Fry's V.I.P. Card to Prescott Audubon

If you have a Fry's V.I.P. card, you can link it to Prescott Audubon: every time you shop at Fry's using your V.I.P. Card, Fry's will donate to us. It costs you nothing except a few minutes to set up the link.

Please note that to link your Fry's V.I.P. card to PAS, you must have an email address and have an online account for your V.I.P. card using that email address as your Fry's login ID. You will create a unique password for your Fry's account, separate from your email password.

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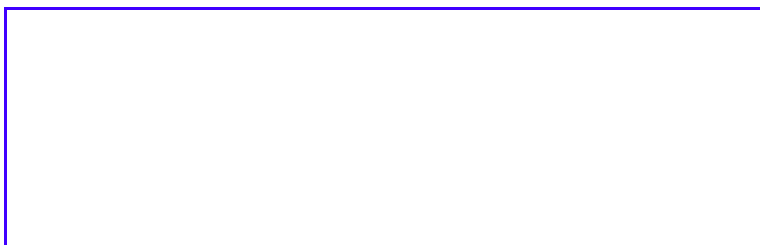
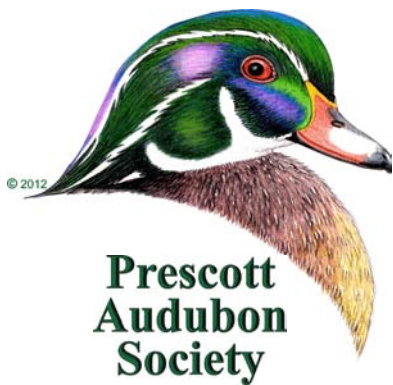
1. Start at the main Fry's screen (www.frysfood.com). Click on "Community" in the top menu, then select "Fry's Community Rewards" from the drop-down box.
2. Click on "Enroll Now" and sign in when prompted.
3. In the Search Box on the "Find your Organization" page, type either "Prescott Audubon" or our number "AN437", and click "Search".
4. In the results area, click on the circle to the left of Prescott Audubon Society, and then click "Enroll".



5. When you return to the "Account Summary" screen, you can review your choice and then sign out.

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
J U N E						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Field Trip: Flagstaff	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, upper Verde River	27	28	29
30						
J U L Y						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, upper Verde River	11	12	13 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, upper Verde River	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
A U G U S T						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, upper Verde River	8	9	10 7:30 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk
11	12	13	14	15 Field Trip: Butterfly Spring	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
S E P T E M B E R						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Watson Woods IBA Survey	9	10	11	12	13	14 8 a.m.: Highlands Center Bird Walk
15	16	17	18 Upper Verde IBA Survey	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Board Meeting & Window on Nature	27	28
29	30					