

# Field Trips and Walks

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April 27 – 30, 2017

The following rating system for field trips and guided walks will give you an idea of the rigors involved.

- 1 - feeder watching, with maybe a little walking
- 2 - easy walking, could involve distance but flat
- 3 - involves hiking, some elevation gain/loss
- 4 - a true adventure trip, almost a safari
- 5 - wheelchair accessible

Legend:

- ♣ ♣ = intense birding
- ♣ = casual to moderate birding
- ☆ = no birding on this trip
- 🍷 = specialty trip, includes some birding plus other activities
- 🌐 = new trip this year
- ♿ = accessible trip
- 🎓 = educational workshop/presentation
- 🚗 = drive on your own

## Friday Field Trips and Walks

All walks and field trips leave from the River Day Use area unless otherwise noted. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to departure and check in with the trip leader at the Aviary.

### Agua Fria National Monument Field Trip ♣ ♣

Friday, April 28  
Departure: 6am  
Rating: 4

Box lunch included  
Return: 3pm  
Cost: \$55

### Tice Supplee

The Agua Fria National Monument is one of our National Park treasures managed by The Bureau of Land Management. We'll bird along the Agua Fria River riparian corridor - an Important Bird Area dominated by an over-story of cottonwood and willow that shelter many different species of songbirds and raptors. Among these birds are Cooper's and red-tailed hawks, kingbirds, vireos, wrens, warblers and sparrows. Tice brings a fresh perspective to the birding. Difficult terrain.

### Peak Birding - Picture Canyon & Logan's Crossing ♣ ♣

Friday, April 28  
Departure: 6am  
Rating: 4

Box Lunch Included  
Return: 3pm  
Cost: \$55

### Brooks Hart

We will make multiple stops along the Rio de Flag, including a couple of the most species diverse ebird hotspots in Coconino County. Time permitting, we will venture into the Schultz Burn area where there is the potential for American three-toed woodpecker. Participants should expect 3 - 5 miles of hiking on primitive trails with loose soil and uneven terrain. Long pants will protect against temperature extremes as well as coarse shrubs and dense ground-cover. Weather in the high country can be variable and unpredictable during this time of the year. Prepare with layered clothing and rain shells and allow for comfortable hiking throughout this temperature range.

### Greenway Walk ♣ ♣

Friday, April 28  
Departure: 7am  
Rating: 3

Return: 11am  
Cost: \$35

### Lisa Grubbs

One of the many reasons for holding the festival at Dead Horse Ranch State Park is its location in the heart of the Verde River's riparian corridor. A walk along the Verde River Greenway will provide opportunities to spot riparian dependent species. A knowledgeable guide will enhance your experience. You should be able to see most of the species of the season on the park's bird list including the common black-hawk that is known to nest here.

**Sedona Wetlands Field Trip** 🦅 🦅 🚗**Holly Kleindienst**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: 11am

Cost: \$35

**This is a "drive on your own" field trip. One way from Park is 15 miles allow 30 minutes driving time. Meet guide at RDU.**

The use of man-made water treatment plants as birding sites by creating artificial wetlands has proven to be the source of excellent birding across the country, especially when they are planned to provide rich habitat. The City of Sedona, in keeping with the natural beauty of the area, has not only taken care of the basic needs of the public but has done so with nature in mind. The birding is excellent and with a local expert to lead you into this normally restricted area, you should be able to add many species to your day's list.

**Tavasci Marsh Field Trip** 🦅 🦅 🚗**Geoffrey Bland**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Rating: 4

Return: 11am

Cost: \$35

**This is a "drive on your own" field trip. Trailhead is within the Park. Meet guide at RDU.**

We will meet at the event area and carpool to nearby Tavasci Marsh trailhead where water and shore birds, raptors, and flycatchers abound. Includes lots of walking, a mile each way in and out, but worth every step. The marsh and adjoining Peck's Lake and Verde River Greenway are part of Audubon's Tuzigoot Important Birding Area. This is one of our most popular trips. Species may include northern harrier, Virginia rail, sora, double-crested cormorant, white-faced ibis and osprey. River otters have been spotted here in the past.

**Bubbling Ponds at Page Springs Field Trip** 🦅 🦅**Bob Miller**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

The Page Springs area is a favorite hangout for birds and birders alike. This trip will take you to one of the locals' favorite hot spots on the banks of Oak Creek. Bubbling Ponds has been a project of the Northern Arizona Audubon with trails, invasive plant species eradication and habitat restoration and is part of the Lower Oak Creek Important Birding Area.

**Ogden Ranch Desert Field Trip** 🦅 🦅**Rich Armstrong**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

After a short drive, we'll take to trails in search of desert specialties. We will be looking for the curved-billed thrasher, the cactus wren, and other desert species. The trails can be rocky so wear proper footwear. This could be a warm walk - dress appropriately and bring lots of water, a hat and sunscreen. We are in the desert.

**"Wings to Wine" - Page Spring Winery FT** 🦅 🦅 🌐**Jeff Tanner**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Meal included: Wine tasting on own

Return: 1pm

Cost: \$55

We'll begin at Cornville's Windmill Park, on the banks of Oak Creek. We'll look for blackbirds, tanagers, orioles, sparrows, and flycatchers in the adjacent pastures and swallows over the creek. We'll proceed then to Page Springs Cellars winery, whose fabulous property is also on the banks of Oak Creek. There we will hope to see the common black-hawk, perhaps a bald eagle, herons of all descriptions, tanagers, buntings and probably other riparian species. Before we depart we will lunch on some very excellent artisan pizzas prepared by the winery's kitchen, and you'll have the option to taste some of the wines (not included in trip cost) if you are so inclined. Wine tasting \$10.

**Willowbrook and Tickaboo Too Organic Farm Field Trip** 🦅 🦅**Randy Miller**  
**Hosts: Denise Gould & Diane Scantlebury**Friday, April 28  
Departure: 7am  
Rating: 3  
Meal included  
Return: 2pm  
Cost: \$55

We will enjoy the birding along the Verde River with naturalist Randy Miller. Ending with a visit to Willowbrook Organic Farm, the hostess, Denise Gould, will then show us around the farm and offer up a brunch of some of their delicious, organically grown foods. This trip produces rave reviews. We think you will really enjoy the birding, the leader, the farm and the food.

**Rocking River Ranch Field Trip** 🦅 🦅**Tim Weber**Friday, April 28  
Departure: 7am  
Rating: 3  
Box lunch included  
Return: 2pm  
Cost: \$55

This field trip will explore what was once a working ranch on the Verde River outside of Camp Verde. The property is now owned and managed by Arizona State Parks as part of the Greenway Project to preserve the riparian corridor along the Verde River. The site is soon to be a new park and hosts a cottonwood-willow gallery forest that supports neo-tropical migratory birds and riparian dependent birds. Occasionally a bald eagle is sighted. There is a great blue heron rookery too. Wear good hiking shoes and be prepared for some walking. Box lunch included.

**Watching Warblers Field Trip** 🦅 🦅**Homer Hansen**Friday, April 28  
Departure: 7am  
Rating: 3  
Box lunch included  
Return: 2pm  
Cost: \$55

Warblers are challenging to identify and Homer is not only knowledgeable, he can help you to master this skill. You'll visit appropriate habitats, and with Homer's skill, you will soon be able to keep up with the best. Species that might be seen include black-throated gray, Nashville, Grace's, Lucy's, Virginia's, and yellow warbler, painted redstart, common yellowthroat, and yellow-breasted chat. Box lunch included. Homer will be presenting a workshop on Thursday afternoon where he will go over the basics of warbler ID. We recommend attending this workshop in preparation for this field trip.

**Bent River Ranch Field Trip** 🦅 🦅 🚗**Kristen Rothrock**Friday April 28  
Departure: 7:30am  
Rating: 3  
Return: noon  
Cost \$35

**This is a "drive on your own" field trip. One way from Park is 5 miles; allow 10 minutes driving time. Meet guide at RDU.**

Just across the river from Tuzigoot National Monument, we will bird rich Verde River riparian habitat as guests of the Jordan family. The river bottom land, canal corridors and historic farm meadows are all part of Bent River Ranch. The bend in the river is how Tuzigoot got its name. Moderate walking and just 10 min. from the festival location.

**Artistic Bird Photography 101 Class and FT** 🦅**Lisa Langell**Friday, April 28  
Departure: 8am - 11am (class) Photography: 2pm - 5pm  
Rating: 3  
Cost: \$45

This fun, upbeat and inspiring workshop/field trip is designed to help the beginner to intermediate nature photographer photograph birds in a whole new light, literally! Lisa will help you learn skills, lenses, light, settings and more in ways that will enable you to capture images that are more artistic, creative, emotionally evocative, and inspiring. You will learn the basics of how to photograph birds more beautifully even without the mega long lens, composition, shooting birds-in-flight, how to see more photographable moments and more. This class will provide a blend of interactive, lecture-style instruction and work in-the-field. The classroom portion will be held in the Studio. Arrive at the Aviary for the shuttle to take you there and return. Later that afternoon we will reconvene at the Aviary for the field trip portion.

**Armchair / Feeder Birding** ♣ ♣**Eric Moore**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 8am

Rating: 5

Return: 10am

Cost: \$10

Let the birds come to you. Bring your favorite camp chair, binoculars, a little refreshment, and just enjoy birding as the hours slip by. We will only have to walk a short distance on the handicapped accessible Canopy Trail to a spot where feeders bring the birds up close. A knowledgeable guide will help identify species. The area is open for birding at any time but the guide will only be available during these hours. Sponsored by Jay's Bird Barn.

**Shield Ranch Field Trip** ♣ ♣ ♣**Dena Greenwood**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

Box lunch included

Return: 2pm

Cost: \$55

The Nature Conservancy recently purchased an environmentally important 306-acre section of the Verde River at its confluence with West Clear Creek. This parcel effectively links the Coconino and Prescott National Forests. Shield Ranch provides critical habitat for the endangered southwest willow flycatcher as well as nesting sites for the common black-hawk. This lush cottonwood-willow riparian habitat provides a migratory flyway corridor as well as nesting sites for Bullock's and hooded orioles, blue grosbeak, summer tanagers, warblers and sparrows. We will walk approximately 2 mi., some over river cobbles and brushy areas.

**Tapco to Tuzi Kayak Field Trip** ♣ ♣**Doug Von Gausig**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

Box Lunch

Return: 1pm

Cost: \$65

The Tapco River Access Point on the Verde River was developed by the Town of Clarkdale after being closed to the public for more than 50 years. You will kayak down-stream the 3-1/2 miles to the Tuzigoot Bridge take out. There will be a stop at the rich birding area of Big Springs for vermilion flycatcher, spotted sandpiper, American kestrel, black phoebe, summer tanager, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, and the "usual riparian suspects." **Appropriate dress is anything that can get wet, shoes that can be worn in the water, sunscreen, sunglasses and hat. Dry bag is provided.**

**Mingus Mountain Field Trip** ♣ ♣**David Moll**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

Box lunch included

Return: 3pm

Cost: \$55

Mingus Mountain stands well over 4000' above the valley and the views are spectacular. In the cool ponderosa pine habitat, its shadowed canyons have harbored the elusive Mexican spotted owl. Peregrine falcons have been seen at the over-looks. Here the Hermit thrush can be found whose romantic song will turn a walk through the woods into a stroll through an enchanted forest. We will also enjoy looking for other high elevation birds including warbling and plumbeous vireos, western and mountain bluebirds, olive, Grace's, Townsend's, and red-faced warblers, painted redstarts, greater and western wood pewees and red crossbills. Higher elevation so prepare for colder weather. Spend the day and we'll bring the lunch.

**AFTERNOON and EVENING OFFERINGS****Botanical Walk** ★**Patty West**

Friday, April 28

Departure: 2pm

Rating: 2

Return: 4pm

Cost: \$15

A guided walk to identify many of the riparian and grassland species of plants and flowers found in the park. Learn arid plants' secrets to survival and the challenge of invasive species. If the rains favor us, we could even experience a wealth of wildflowers. Please prepare for warm afternoon weather.

**Geology Field Trip** ★🌐

**TBA**

Friday, April 28  
Departure: 1pm  
Rating: 2

Return: 5pm  
Cost: \$40

The Verde River Valley and the surrounding mountains offer some of the most unusual and exciting geology in the west. This diversity lends itself to a wide selection of habitats supporting our wildlife. A local geologist will be explaining how the landscape of this beautiful country was formed so that anyone can grasp the complex processes at work. We will be traveling to various sites that showcase these works of Nature.

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**Keynote Reception with Decadent Desserts**

**Noah Strycker**

Friday, April 28  
Time: 6:30pm - 9pm

Cost: \$25

Don't miss our exciting keynote reception. Have a leisurely dinner in town but join us for dessert. See **page 8** for details on the keynote presentation.

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**Friday Workshops & Seminars**

*Workshops and seminars have a fee involved and require registration. Both are held in the Studio located at the far end of the park, unless noted otherwise. Check in for all workshops at the registration tent. Participants will be shuttled to and from all workshops/seminars. There is no parking at the Studio. Restroom facilities are located in the building.*

**Meet at the shuttle stop in the parking lot of the River Day Use Area near the Aviary 15 minutes PRIOR to the seminar or workshop.**

**Lunch & Learn: Wildlife Photography** ★

**Tom Whetten**

Friday, April 28  
Noon - 2pm  
Location: Studio  
Cost: \$20

*The Lunch & Learn Series is designed to provide you with an intense, skill oriented presentation over the lunch hour, so a box lunch will be provided. Your selected lunch will be waiting for you at the Studio. Check in at the Aviary for the shuttle.*

Tom will teach us the basics of using digital photography to capture the wildlife we enjoy. Although Tom uses a SLR camera, all types of camera users will benefit from his expertise. His patience and wit makes this class fun for anyone, amateur or experienced photographers alike. See Saturday's schedule for his photography trip into the wild to utilize the skills you will learn.

**Flycatchers**

**Homer Hansen**

Friday, April 28  
2:30 pm - 3:30pm  
Location: Studio  
Cost: \$10

Identification of flycatchers is one of the great challenges of birding. This presentation will focus on characteristics, behaviors, and other clues for the identification of flycatchers and will be useful for the expert and beginner alike. Both visual and audio presentations of flycatcher traits will be given for those really interested in learning about flycatchers. You may also want to sign up for Homer's field trip on Saturday.

**Intro to eBird**

**Holly Kleindienst**

Friday, April 28  
4pm - 5pm  
Location: Studio  
Cost: \$5

Learn how to use eBird to easily track the birds you've seen anywhere in the world. See how you can find and identify the birds wherever you travel. Most importantly, make all of that easy stuff count for bird research and conservation of bird habitat. If you use a smart phone, we'll end briefly with how to make your birding experience lighter, easier, more productive and fun.