

Field Trips and Walks

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

Sunday 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.

Stoneman Lake Field Trip ♣ ♣

Tom Linda

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 6am

Rating: 3

Return: Noon

Cost: \$40

Stoneman Lake is one of only two natural lakes in Arizona. We travel up the rim to ponderosa pine country then drop into the lake's crater. Birding will include a variety of woodland species. This is a popular trip and a great way to top off the festival. Species to look for include vireos, bluebirds, and pewees. Higher elevation so prepare for colder weather.

Jail Trail and Tea Walk ♣ ♣

Marceline VandeWater

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Tea included:

Return: 10am

Cost: \$40

We will walk from the park birding on the way to Old Town Cottonwood via the "Jail Trail". This interpretive trail actually begins at the old Cottonwood Jail so we will be walking it in reverse of the printed guide. Not to worry. We'll end up on Main Street to be picked up by the vans that will bring us back to the park. A tea room located in the old jail will host us for tea. The trail winds along the riparian corridor and the birds are plentiful. A common black-hawk nests in this area and we may get a close up view. Other species to look for include belted kingfisher, tanagers, southwest willow flycatcher, and swallows.

Tavasci Marsh Field Trip ♣ ♣ 🚗

Bob Miller

Sunday, April 30

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.

Greenway Walk 🦅 🦅**Lisa Grubbs**

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: 11am

Cost: \$35

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

Sedona Wetlands Preserve Field Trip 🦅 🦅 🚗**Rich Armstrong**

Sunday, April 30

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.

Bubbling Ponds at Page Springs Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Paul Wolterbeek**

Sunday, April 30

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.

Cultural Tour of the Monuments Field Trip ★**Park Staff**

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

Back this year is the rare opportunity to be escorted to Tuzigoot, Montezuma Well and Montezuma Castle National Monuments by your personal and knowledgeable guide. Once at the sites you will be escorted on a tour of the park and still have time to explore a little on your own. These Monuments tell the story of the early inhabitants of the Verde Valley. Your guide and the ancient architecture will bring the past to life. Even if you have visited these sites before on your own, this is an experience not to be missed. Includes all park entry fees. This tour was given rave reviews in past years.

Red Tank Draw & Beaver Creek Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Geoffrey Bland**

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

Although the area is famous for its petroglyphs, it's the canyon habitat we are going to see. We will step up to the edge of the draw to spot species that are drawn to the water and shade of the mini-canyon. We will also visit Beaver Creek just a short stop away where the thick stand of cottonwood provides for some excellent birding. Level walking but it can be rocky in places. Birds we may see include a variety of sparrow species, warblers and flycatchers.

Raptors Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Homer Hansen**

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

Homer will guide you through the world of raptors found here at the park and surrounding habitats. The featured hawk here is the common black-hawk but Cooper's hawks nest here too. Red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, and American kestrels are likely, and sometimes zone-tailed hawks, osprey, or eagles are seen soaring and swooping in the sky above. Homer will tell you all about their amazing natural histories and help you to identify them. We recommend attending Homer's Saturday afternoon workshop in preparation for this field trip (see pg. 41).

Mingus Mountain Field Trip 🦅 🦅**David Moll**

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: Noon

Cost: \$40

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. This is a shorter version of the Friday trip.

Armchair / Feeder Birding 🦅 ♿**Paula Burns**

Sunday, April 30

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.

The Ancient Peoples of the Verde Valley ★ 🌐**Verde Valley Archaeology Center**

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 8pm

Rating: 2

Return: Noon

Cost: \$40

Evidence of human habitation in the Verde Valley goes back 1,200 to 1500 years and numerous archaeological sites reveal secrets of these ancient peoples' way of life. Take a journey with a real expert who will reveal secrets of the past as discerned through artifacts and art that has been left behind. These ancient peoples' resourcefulness, resilience and insights are fascinating to discover!

Botanical Walk ★**Patty West**

Sunday, April 30

Departure: 9am

Rating: 2

Return: 11am

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.