

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

Thursday Field Trips and Walks

Today we are featuring educational opportunities for beginning birders with our workshops. We invite local students to join us at the park to learn about their natural world. When on your trips, be sure to pack out what you pack in and a little more. Enjoy the day and take the time to reflect on what you can do to make sure the river and the natural areas you are enjoying will be here in good health in the future.

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.

The “BIG DAY” Birding in Prescott Field Trip

Carl Tomoff

Thursday, April 27
Departure: 6am
Rating: 4

Box lunch included
Return: 4pm
Cost: \$65

Travel to the other side of Mingus Mountain to the mile-high Prescott area. Visit a variety of habitats including lakes, grassland, chaparral, woodlands, and ponderosa forest to see and listen to as many species as possible. Dr. Tomoff teaches natural history at Prescott College and is eager to share his knowledge and experience. This all-day excursion, designed for advanced and intermediate birders, includes a box lunch.

Beginning Bird Walk

Marceline VandeWater

Thursday, April 27
Departure: 7am
Rating: 3

Return: 10am
Cost: \$25

Here is the chance to learn the basics of birding first hand. If you've never been birding before or if you consider yourself a beginner birder, there's nothing that can help you more than being with a group of fellow beginners and a good leader. Marceline's charm and knowledge makes this a fun and rewarding experience. We'll be sticking close to the festival grounds so it won't be physically demanding either. You should see riparian species, feeder birds, grassland and some water/shore birds on this walk.

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

Thursday, April 27

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 🦅 🦅 🚗**Rob Gibbs**

Thursday, April 27

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 🦅 🦅**Bob Miller**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: 11am

Cost: \$35

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. An expert 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.

VVPOA Nature Preserve Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Chip Norton**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 7am

Rating: 2

Return: 11am

Cost: \$40

We will be using City Transportation. You will be picked up at the Park and dropped at the location. No vehicles will be parked at the site. Meet at RDU.

This riparian strip running along the Verde River was once a dumping ground overgrown with invasive species. A dedicated group of volunteers changed all that with the help of a grant. This private property belongs to the Verde Village Property Owners Association. Not only is the birding excellent in this reestablished resource but access is easy. Chip shares the story of this project as he helps to spot and identify the bird species found here. Look for the typical riparian species as well as hawks and some grassland birds.

Montezuma Well Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Geoffrey Bland**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

The Well is actually a unique closed-system water body, a limestone sinkhole with warm springs and a prehistoric, man-made canal system with abundant riparian life. Species you may see include common black-hawk, ladder-backed and Gila woodpeckers, vermilion and brown-crested flycatchers, bridled and juniper titmouse, verdin, Bullock's, Scott's and hooded orioles, yellow, orange-crowned, and Lucy's warblers, yellow-breasted chats, black-throated and lark sparrows, and Abert's towhee.

Vineyards B&B & Oak Creek Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Dena Greenwood**
Host: Tambrala & Bruce Shurman

Thursday, April 27	Meal included
Departure: 7am	Return: 1pm
Rating: 3	Cost: \$55

We are pleased to offer this trip to a beautiful stretch of Oak Creek thanks to our gracious hosts, Tambrala and Bruce Shurman at *The Vineyards Bed & Breakfast*. Home to black hawks, herons, orioles, tanagers, otters, white-tail deer and even a bright vermilion flycatcher in the adjacent pastures. Following our field trip we will be treated to a scrumptious brunch in *The Vineyard's* beautiful courtyard.

Briar Patch Inn and Slide Rock Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Jeff Tanner**

Thursday, April 27	Meal included
Departure: 7am	Return: 2pm
Rating: 3	Cost: \$55

Upper Oak Creek Canyon offers different varieties of birds than we see in the valley and the scenery is spectacular. We will be birding in an exclusive private area along Oak Creek at the Briar Patch Inn. First comes the birding, then the Inn will serve us a special buffet brunch at 9:30am. After brunch we will continue up to Slide Rock State Park for additional birding in orchard and grassland habitat. Temperatures in the upper canyon can be very cool in the mornings, so bring warm layers. Birds to look for include the American dipper, black-throated gray and Virginia's warbler, and painted redstart.

Sycamore Canyon Field Trip 🦅 🦅**David Moll**

Thursday, April 27	Box lunch included
Departure: 7am	Return: 2pm
Rating: 4	Cost: \$55

See for yourself why Sycamore Canyon Wilderness is Arizona's first Wilderness. Profound geology and hydrology on display, varied habitats, high plant diversity, arthropods and reptiles all support the birds to be found in this mid-elevation, Verde River tributary. On the rim, xeric-adapted birds such as gray vireo, loggerhead shrike, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Brewer's, lark and black-throated sparrows may be found, among many other species. Within the Canyon, common black-hawk, white-throated swift, Bell's vireo, verdin and summer tanager may be found. Overall, this trip may provide experiences with various flycatchers, vireos, swallows, wrens, warblers, sparrows and orioles. Rare species have included broad-winged hawk, willet, Costa's hummingbird, Nashville warbler and evening grosbeak. David is one of our most popular guides and will help seek out those elusive species.

There are no bathroom facilities during this trip. After birding the rim, participants pack their lunch and water into the canyon. There is an approximate 160 foot descent into the canyon after which the trail is fairly level. Round-trip distance in the canyon is about 2.5 miles. There are no creek crossings.

Special Field Trip with Keynote 🦅 🦅**Noah Strycker and Paul Wolterbeek**

Thursday, April 27	Meal Included
Departure: 7am	Return: 2pm
Rating: 3	Cost: \$70

Join our illustrious keynote, Noah Strycker, as we visit one of our birding hot spots. The Lower Oak Creek IBA at Page Springs includes Bubbling Ponds and trails in Arizona Game and Fish's hatchery. Adjacent to Oak Creek, fish ponds and the perennial springs, this area is a haven for riparian species as well as water birds, grassland species and raptors. The trip will be led by one of our local experts and Noah will be along to add his unique touch. After birding, we will travel to Cornville and the famous **Manzanita Inn** where a very special lunch awaits us. We may also make additional stops on the trip to Cornville. We are limiting the number on this trip, so sign up early for this special one-on-one experience with our keynote, great birding and fabulous food too.

Arcosanti Birding Field Trip 🦅 🦅 🌐**Karen LaFrance**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Box lunch included

Return: 3pm

Cost: \$65

Enjoy a bird watching tour through the pristine Aqua Fria River Riparian area at Arcosanti, an experimental town in the desert of Arizona, built to embody Paolo Soleri's concept of arcology - the fusion of architecture with ecology. Approximately two miles of gentle hiking along the river is required. This year we will also add a guided tour of the grounds. After, we will have time to look around this unique development or shop for their famous wind chimes before enjoying a buffet lunch in the Cafe overlooking a spectacular desert view. Meals often include eggs and vegetables from their organic farm. Meat, Vegetarian and Vegan choices are provided. Birding lists of 200 species, developed by the Sonoran Audubon Society, will be provided.

Dancing Apache Ranch Field Trip 🦅 🦅 🌐**Holly Kleindienst**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

Dancing Apache Ranch and Estate Vineyards is nestled in the shadow of House Mountain and the community of Page Springs. The beautiful duck ponds, Oak Creek and upland desert scrub provides a variety of habitats to explore and find a diverse population of bird life. Some of the species you may encounter include the common black-hawk, summer tanagers, Bewick's wren, verdins, orioles and the secretive, resident great-horned owl.

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

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

Box Lunch included

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.**

AFTERNOON and EVENING OFFERINGS**Armchair / Feeder Birding** 🦅 🦿**Eric Moore**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 2:30pm

Rating: 5

Return: 4:30pm

Cost: \$10

Because of our school program, we're moving this activity to the afternoon on Thursday only.

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.

Dusk Birding & Dinner "Up the Creek"- Page Springs 🦅**Bob Miller**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 5pm

Rating: 2

Meal included

Return: 9pm

Cost: \$55

One of our favorite birding spots, a great guide, and dinner at the "Up the Creek Restaurant" in Page Springs. There will be dusk birding along the ponds and trails in this Important Birding Area. As darkness falls owls may be spotted so bring your flashlights. Species might include: lesser nighthawk, osprey, common black-hawk, bald eagle, black-crowned, green, and great blue herons, lazuli and indigo buntings, summer and western tanagers, and great-horned owl.

Owl Prowl 🦅**Ryan Crouse**

Thursday, April 27

Departure: 7pm

Rating: 2

Return: 9pm

Cost: \$25

We will be prowling our way around the park in an attempt to spot the great horned owl, the barn owl, and perhaps the western screech owl. They have all been seen here in the past. Bring along a flashlight as well as your binoculars.

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**Welcome Wine Social**

**Hosted by Jay's Bird Barn**

Thursday, April 27

Time: 5pm - 6pm

Cost: Free

It's time to sit back and reflect on the day and meet some of the leaders and our exciting keynote. Sample some wine and munch on snacks. Northern Arizona Audubon will host some fun games. Check out the exhibits and vendor in the "Big Tent". They're here to inform and delight.

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Thursday 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: Birding Basics Seminar

Eric Moore

Thursday, April 27

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.

Here are the consequential ABC's for the beginner birder and a great way to renew skills if you've been away from birding for a while. You will gain knowledge of the basic techniques of field identification, an increased understanding of birds, and learn how to use binoculars and spotting scopes. The class packs in a lot of information in only two hours. Eric Moore, owner of Jay's Bird Barn in Prescott, Flagstaff and Sedona, shares his birding enthusiasm and expertise.

Warblers

Homer Hansen

Thursday, April 27

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Studio

Cost: \$10

Watching warblers is a truly satisfying experience. This presentation will focus on characteristics, behaviors, and other clues for the identification of warblers and will be useful for the expert and beginner alike. Both visual and audio presentations of these diverse birds will enchant you and help with your identification skills. You may also want to sign up for Homer's field trip on Friday.

Magic of Migration

Dena Greenwood

Thursday, April 27

4pm - 5pm

Location: Studio

Cost: \$10

We are privileged in the Verde River Valley to experience the diversity of migratory birds, as our Valley is part of the interior Pacific Flyway.

Birds migrate from Mexico, South and Central America and make their way to northern breeding grounds - some travel as far north as Alaska and Canada. How do birds know when to go? How do they know where to go and when to make the return trip southward? We will highlight species that are passing through this spring, and discuss what birds stay and breed here. We will also discuss the perils birds may encounter along the way and how you can help migrating birds on their journey.

Hummingbirds

Ross Hawkins

Thursday, April 27

6pm - 7:30pm

Location: Studio

Cost: \$10

Hummingbirds, the most universally loved birds in the world, have charisma and inspire devotion and enthusiasm. They are also magical: their dazzling appearance and ability to hover amaze us and seem to defy understanding. Dr. Ross Hawkins, Founder and Executive Director of The Hummingbird Society, presents an intimate look at these "glittering fragments of the rainbow," as John James Audubon described them. Through images and stories he holds your attention as you begin to understand their unique relationship with flowers, their tiny, amazing nests, their ability to hover, their GPS-like memories, and their fearlessness of humans. Personal encounters with hummingbirds are often memorable, and so is this presentation.