

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.

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 🦅 🦅 🚗

Friday, April 28
Departure: 7am
Rating: 3

Return: 11am
Cost: \$35

Holly Kleindienst

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 🦅 🦅 🚗

Friday, April 28
Departure: 7am
Rating: 4

Return: 11am
Cost: \$35

Geoffrey Bland

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**

Saturday, April 29

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.

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.

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

Location: Studio

Noon - 2pm

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

Location: Studio

2:30 pm - 3:30pm

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

Location: Studio

4pm - 5pm

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.

Saturday 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.

Photo Safari Field Trip★

Tom Whetten & George Andrejko

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 6am

Rating: 4

Return: noon

Cost: \$ 40

You are off to a real adventure as these experts venture into areas known for great wildlife photography opportunities. Tom's patience and wit will put you at ease while you take shots of Arizona's watchable wildlife with your own camera. Tom and George use digital technology and will be giving you some great tips. You don't want to miss Tom's Wildlife Photography Seminar on Friday to prepare you for this trip.

Flagstaff Wetlands Field Trip 🦅 🦅

Tom Linda

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 6am

Rating: 4

Box lunch included

Return: 4pm

Cost: \$55

This trip will take us up on top of the Mogollon Rim to explore the wetlands around Flagstaff. We will visit Kachina Wetlands and Anderson Mesa that includes Lake Mary, Mormon Lake and other smaller lakes. Birds we're hoping to see include gulls, ducks, and shorebirds. Bald eagles and osprey nest and hunt on these lakes. Tom Linda is one of our favorite guides; he is knowledgeable and willing to lend his expertise. It can be cold and windy this time of year so dress appropriately. We'll bring lunch.

Greenway Walk 🦅 🦅

Bob Miller

Saturday, April 29

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.

Bubbling Ponds at Page Springs Field Trip 🦅 🦅

Geoffrey Bland

Saturday, April 29

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.

Clear Creek Field Trip 🦅 🦅

Holly Kleindienst

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

This new trip will be taking us into a lush riparian habitat. Clear Creek is one of several perennial spring-fed streams that flow from the Mogollon Rim into the Verde River. We will walk through a Forest Service campground with lush riparian growth and into upland desert scrub following Clear Creek. Hopeful species include summer and western tanager, orioles, yellow warblers, flycatchers and maybe even a western screech owl.

Focus on Flycatchers Field Trip 🦅 🦅

Homer Hansen

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Box lunch included

Return: 2pm

Cost: \$55

This trip will take us into prime flycatcher country led by Homer Hansen of "Wings Over Willcox" fame. Species that might be seen include gray flycatcher and other "Empids;" black phoebe, Say's phoebe, vermilion flycatcher, brown-crested flycatcher, ash-throated flycatcher, western kingbird, and Cassin's kingbird. Box lunch is included. Homer will be presenting a workshop on Friday afternoon on the basics of flycatcher identification. We recommend you don't miss his presentation to prepare you for this field trip.

Sedona Wetlands Preserve & Red Rock FT 🦅 🦅**Troy Blodgett**

Saturday, April 29
 Departure: 7am
 Rating: 3

Box lunch included
 Return: 2pm
 Cost: \$55

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. From there we go to Red Rock State Park and check out the riparian habitat along Oak Creek that's included in the Oak Creek IBA.

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

Saturday, April 29
 Departure: 7am
 Rating: 4

Box lunch included
 Return: 3pm
 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.

Sycamore Springs Guest House Field Trip 🦅 🦅 🚗**Dena Greenwood**

Saturday, April 29
 Departure: 7:30am
 Rating: 3

Return: noon
 Cost: \$35

This is a "drive on your own" field trip. One way from Park is 9.2 miles; allow 18 minutes driving time. Meet guide at RDU.

Sycamore Springs Guest House is located on a lush, waterfront 12-acre historic ranch on lower Oak Creek, with extensive waterways bounded by pastures, green valley and mountains. Conveniently located off scenic highway 89A just 17 minutes from the park, this property features private, meandering walkways along creek banks and pond edges. Verdant landscaping, mature trees and three waterfalls provide excellent habitat for birdwatching. Likely birds are vermilion flycatcher, common black-hawk, summer tanagers, orioles and blue grosbeak.

Armchair / Feeder Birding 🦅 🦿**Eric Moore**

Saturday, April 29
 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.

Beginning Birding Walk for Adults 🦅**Kathe Anderson**

Saturday, April 29
 Departure: 8am
 Rating: 2

Return: 10:30am
 Cost: \$25

The best way to learn birding is to go with others. Not only do you learn identification skills but also how to bird effectively and ethically. This is a rare opportunity to go with a top birder at little cost. Let Kathe show you the basics that just might lead to a life-long love of birding and the outdoors. This is meant to start non-birders on the path to birding. Beginners only please.

Cadillac Canoe Brunch (A) 🦋 🍷

Saturday, April 29

Note **TWO** Departures:

(A) First Departure: 8am

(B) Second Departure: 1pm

Rating: 3

Chip Norton**Host: Ron Mattia**

Meal included

Return: 12:30pm

Return: 5:30pm

Cost: \$75

On this, our signature trip, we will be taking canoes down the Verde River for a different perspective of the riparian habitat. We will beach the canoes at a private residence and be treated to a home-grown/made brunch. Experienced paddlers pilot every canoe so you can sit back and enjoy the river's surprises. There's always the chance that you might get wet so wear shoes and clothes that can take the water. Shorts are recommended depending on weather. This trip is dependent upon the water flow. Weight limit - 250 lbs. You must be physically fit enough to be able to rescue yourself in the event of a flip.

Progressive Clarkdale Backyard Field Trip 🦋 🦋 🌍

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

TBA

Meal included

Return: 1pm

Cost: \$55

Many folks in the Verde Valley have excellent birding habitats right in their own backyards. We will visit a few of these places and get some ideas on creating your own backyard birding habitat while viewing some of our local and migratory species that frequent our neighborhoods. You may see several kinds of hummingbirds, lazuli buntings, orioles, towhees, sparrows, grosbeaks, cardinals, woodpeckers, and more. Come hungry, as you will also enjoy a progressive brunch as you travel to each home.

Eating "Wild" Walk ★

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 10am

Rating: 3

Patty West

Return: 11:30am

Cost: \$15

There's a lot to munch on in nature. Learn the wild edible plants, both native and non-native, in a walk through the riparian and desert habitats in the park. Patty will also talk about how to process this natural garden for your dinner plate. This will be a 2-mile walk over various terrains. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

AFTERNOON and EVENING OFFERINGS**River Walk** ★

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 12:30pm

Rating: 2

Jeanmarie Haney

Return: 2pm

Cost: \$15

Always keeping a watchful eye on the river, we are excited to offer this walk along the banks of the Verde. Jeanmarie joins us from the Nature Conservancy to share the story of the Verde River, its past, its threats, its importance and its questionable future.

Geology Field Trip ★ 🌍

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 1pm

Rating: 2

TBA

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.

Cadillac Canoe Brunch (B) 🦋 🍷

Saturday, April 29

Note **TWO** Departures:

(B) Second Departure: 1pm

Rating: 3

Chip Norton**Host: Ron Mattia**

Meal included

Return: 5:30pm

Cost: \$75

On this, our signature trip, we will be taking canoes down the Verde River for a different perspective of the riparian habitat. We will beach the canoes at a private residence and be treated to a home-grown/made brunch. Experienced paddlers pilot every canoe so you can sit back and enjoy the river's surprises. There's always the chance that you might get wet so wear shoes and clothes that can take the water. Shorts are recommended depending on weather. This trip is dependent upon the water flow. Weight limit - 250 lbs. You must be physically fit enough to be able to rescue yourself in the event of a flip.

Botanical Walk ★

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 3pm

Rating: 2

Patty West

Return: 5pm

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.

Dusk Birding: Jail Trail to R.I.O.T 🦋

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 5pm

Rating: 2

Tim Weber

Meal included.

Return: 8pm

Cost: \$55

We'll be walking and birding along the riparian corridor of the Jail Trail that ends up in Old Town Cottonwood where we'll have a special dinner at *The R.I.O.T.* We have a special handmade "TV" tray dinner - much grander than what you remember. Bring along a flashlight, as well as your binoculars, and some extra cash if you want to indulge. We'll pick you up to bring you back.

Dinner at Blazin' M - Chuckwagon Supper & Western Stage Show Saturday, April 29

5:00pm -

8:30pm

Cost: \$40 (discounted from their regular rate, proceeds support the Festival.)

Look for complete details on page 47. This is an opportunity to make reservations at this unique western dinner show through our registration system and support the festival at the same time. Go to blazinm.com for a glimpse into what's in store.

Bat Patrol in the Park ★

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7pm

Rating: 2

Randy Babb

Return: 9pm

Cost: \$15

We're bringing back the opportunity to spot bats in the park. Dusk is the ideal time to explore under the bridge and around light poles. You'll be amazed at what you might see. Bring along a flashlight as well as your binoculars. This is great for kids of all ages. You may also want to register for Randy's workshop prior to the walk. See page 42 for workshop details.

Owl Prowl in the Park 🦋

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7pm

Rating: 2

Bob Miller

Return: 9pm

Cost: \$25

Our second evening of owling in the park. We will 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.

Saturday 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.**

Special Keynote Lunch & Learn: Birding Without Boarders

Noah Strycker

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

Noon – 2pm

Cost: \$25

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.

In 2015, bird nerd Noah Strycker of Oregon became the first human to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single, year-long, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened, and a lot did. He was scourged by blood-sucking leeches, suffered fevers and sleep deprivation, survived airline snafus and car breakdowns and mudslides and torrential floods, skirted war zones, and had the time of his life. Birding on seven continents and carrying only a pack on his back, Strycker enlisted the enthusiastic support of local birders to tick more than 6,000 species, including Adelie Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda. He shared the adventure in real time on his daily blog, and now he reveals the inside story. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Strycker's epic World Big Year will give you a real appreciation for the birds and birders of the world.

Raptors

Homer Hansen

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Cost: \$10

If you're interested in the raptors that grace our skies, don't miss this workshop. This session will be a great start-up for Homer's field trip on Sunday. He will tell you all about their amazing natural histories and help you with identification.

Urban Coyotes: Learning to Coexist w America's Native Song Dog

Linda Bolon

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

4pm - 5pm

Cost: \$5

Project Coyote's mission is promoting coexistence through education, science and advocacy. Linda strongly believes that education will change public misperceptions and fear about coyotes and their value to our environment. Learn about coyote characteristics, life cycle, reproduction, diet, normal behaviors, their beneficial role in our urban ecosystems, common causes of negative encounters and how to avoid them as well as hazing techniques and tools for co-existing.

Bats

Randy Babb

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Cost: \$5

Whether you go out on the Bat Patrol following this workshop or not, this will prove to be a most interesting presentation. Randy comes to us from Arizona Game and Fish and is well known for his artistry as well as his knowledge of all things wild. He will also lead the Bat Patrol right after the workshop so sign up for both!

Saturday Family Nature Fair

Family Nature Fair

Saturday, April 29

Cost: Free

Activities: 10am - 2pm

You don't need to be registered for the festival to attend. Check in at the children's registration booth for a complete schedule and 10 free activity tickets per child. Additional tickets can be purchased for fifty cents each. We will be crafting bird feeders, building birdhouses, and playing games that make learning fun. Special presentations geared to the family will enlighten you. A special visit from Discovery Channel's Wildman Phil will delight everyone. Live animals in the main tent will satisfy the curious. We are continuing a Dead Horse Ranch State Park Jr. Ranger walk and activity. Other walks and great presentations are being planned. Tree planting by Verde River Growers.

Vendors will set up along the Flyway for this special day only. Everyone is welcome to this "wild" family outing.

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.

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**~ Special Announcement ~**

***Early Bird Registration for VRVNO members!***

Our parent organization, the **Verde River Valley Nature Organization** is a 501c3 non-profit "*raising awareness of our natural resources by providing recreation, education and nature tourism opportunities that supports the stewardship of the Verde River Valley.*"

Now you can become a member of VRVNO to help us with our mission and enjoy **EARLY BIRD** registration! Please go to our website to learn more.

**[www.vrvno.org/membership/](http://www.vrvno.org/membership/)**

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**Make Reservations at the Blazin' M for Dinner on
Saturday, 5pm - 8:30pm**

Looking for a fun place to dine close to the festival grounds? Then Blazin' M is the place for you, partner! Come early and belly up to the bar at a real Western saloon or enjoy some authentic western shopping. When the dinner bell rings, it's time to feast! The chuck wagon serves the best chicken and ribs in Arizona, along with foil wrapped potato, cowboy beans, prickly pear coleslaw, flying biscuits and homemade caramel apple crisp with ice cream for dessert. After dinner the Blazin' M Cowboys entertain ya' with their award-winning musical talents mixed with cowboy poetry and humor. Blazin' M is right next door to Dead Horse Ranch State Park, about 1/4 mile from the front gate. www.blazinm.com