

# BlackHawk Watch

Newsletter of the Northern Arizona Audubon Society

June 2022

# June, 2022



American Kestrel

By Eric Gofreed

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## Cool Facts About Our Cover Bird, American Kestrel



- Kestrels do not build nests; they use cavities.
- Kestrels are popular as beginning birds for falconers
- Kestrels are slowly moving onto the “endangered” Species list
- Kestrels are monogamous; the female chooses the male
- Kestrels usually live for only 5 years on the average
- Other names: Sparrow Hawk, Grasshopper Hawk, Killy Hawk
- NAAS has nesting boxes in our sanctuaries

*Our Mission Statement:*

*“To promote the understanding and appreciation of birds and other wildlife and the conservation and restoration of their natural habitats.”*

*Most of the articles in this newsletter have been contributed by our NAAS members. You are invited to join us. Please submit articles or notes to:*

[nazaudubon@northernarizonaaudubon.org](mailto:nazaudubon@northernarizonaaudubon.org)



### June 2022 President's Message

President's Message May 2022

NAAS usually takes a break during the summer heat, but not this time! We hope to offer more field trips ATR = Above the Rim, where it's quite a bit cooler and there are different species to be seen at higher elevation habitats. Field trips are posted in several communication forms: Our Meetup groups - Flagstaff Birders, Sedona Birders; our website calendar; this Black-hawk Watch, and Facebook page.

Perhaps our most exciting collaboration is between NAAS, Southwest Audubon and Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO). These Conservation organizations are working to save Pinyon Jays – whose numbers have declined by 80% in the past half century. Sadly this species has been elected as a candidate for the Endangered Species Act. The survey is an ongoing effort in several Great Basin states. NAAS is in charge of providing Citizen Scientists in Arizona. These surveyors will be rewarded with a special party to celebrate our findings. And the most exciting news in association with this effort is the creation of the “**Oh Hey Pinyon Jay! Beer.**” Steven Prager of Southwest Audubon (Audubon's Regional office) has been instrumental in the creation of many special brews that promote education about species which are in decline:

*“Drinking Horn Meadery (Flagstaff) is lending us their voice and community reach by brewing a Pinyon Jay-themed collaborative mead, scheduled to be released on Friday, July 08, 2022. With notes of Pine tips, prickly pear, and local honey, we hope to use this brew to tell the story of the Pinyon Jay and engage a new, diverse audience in our [Pinyon Jay Community Science program.](#)”*

See this fun story map/video from GBBO on Pinyon Jays:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/81faacc7e0384a4da2e83cf2e44d3487>

NAAS will be announcing more details about these upcoming festivities that are open to all!

Finally, Nightjar surveys will be finished during the full moon in June. This is a fun nocturnal survey that many new participants are excited about joining.

Thanks to everyone who works to save our birds!

Kay Hawlee

President



## Lewis's Woodpecker—Verde Valley



Lewis's Woodpecker  
by Rich Armstrong

A Lewis's Woodpecker came to our yard on April 14th. This is fairly rare here in the Verde Valley (a fairly common winter bird in Prescott), but not crazy, as we have had a Lewis's twice before. So we did not expect anyone to care or come. However, the bird stayed through the Verde Valley Birding Festival. My Thursday group saw it, the Garden Tour saw it Friday, and Nanette's History Tour saw it Saturday along with my field trip, and all were excited to see it, a life bird for many. Then a few newer birders came as well to get a lifer. Our last sighting was April 27th. I estimate about 38 people saw our bird. We love having a bird people want to come and see. In fact, we would love to have some 1st American record show up and stay for a couple months and have 5000 people come, but that is only a dream.

By: Rich Armstrong



Gray Catbird by Tori Marshall

Tori Marshall, a relatively new Verde Valley birder who 2 months ago found and photographed the 1st Yavapai record Black Vulture and who was the NAAS speaker at our May meeting in Sedona, found and photographed a very rare Gray Catbird at the Sedona Wetlands on May 2nd. She called me at 815 and we were at the site looking by 840. Janie Stewart joined us a little later. Unfortunately 2 hours of scouring the area did not find the bird. It might have flown 100 yards or many miles, we will never know. Yes, sometimes doing everything as fast as possible still isn't good enough. Imagine how many rare birds are in the Verde Valley that nobody sees. We need more birders!

Rich Armstrong

Editor Note: click on any bird photo to show full-screen.



## Cape May Warbler—Second only in Yavapai County

A group from Prescott requested that I lead them on a field trip around the Sedona Wetlands on April 30th. Of course I agreed instantly. I explained as we began that we are jealous of Prescott birders because they have Willow & Watson lakes and that I was unlikely to show them anything they would not see in Prescott. We had great looks at a Sora, all 3 male teal, a nice flyover Black-crowned Night Heron, close breeding plumage Eared Grebes, and a surprising cooperative Green Heron.



Cape May Warbler by Shaw

Then, with all of us on the platform, Jennifer Toms stated she was looking at a bird she had no idea what it was in the bush just to the left of the viewing platform. We all looked and it was unbelievably a male Cape May Warbler (only the 2nd ever in Yavapai County). I immediately said "someone get pictures" and it was easily close enough for cell phone pictures (now 1st ever documented Cape May Warbler). This made me tied for the highest Yavapai County list. I

immediately called Nanette and told her to send out an email to Verde Valley birders and told her to get out there fast. Nanette got there and the bird was still there, thus dropping me back to 2nd place in the county again.

Lisa Grubbs & Stewart Boots got there and saw the bird. Janie Stewart was leading an NAAS field tip in Camp Verde. She finished the field trip and rushed to Sedona and saw it. Others saw it all afternoon through about 6 PM including at least 2 Phoenix birders who rushed up here. Based on ebird accounts I estimate 24 people saw the bird that stayed in the same bush the entire day. I went out the next morning and looked for an hour, but as expected, because Cape May Warblers are long distance migrants and migrate at night, it was gone. We were super lucky the bird was in just the right place and stayed there all day.

--

Rich Armstrong

928-282-3675



## NAAS Yardie Awards—April, 2022

### Spring Yardie Recipients

Winter was a busy birding time for Northern Arizona birders. At the March member's meeting we awarded a Yardie certificate to Luisa Galindo and Alex Passos for seeing 25 birds in their yard.

The April meeting was even busier. Alex and Luisa upped their yard list and tallied 50 species. Alice Madar also listed 50 species. Tina Behr-Andres noted 75 species, and Vic Nelson logged a whopping 100 species in his yard. All received a plaque, with the size increasing with the yard list.

Everyone is encourage to keep a list of birds you have seen or heard while standing in your yard. They can be flying overhead or in your neighbor's yard. Live in an apartment? Consider the parking lot part of your yard, if you like, and get counting.

**We especially encourage those above the rim (ATR)** to join in the fun. Few Yardies have been given in Flagstaff and the program began in Flag by Terry Blows. When you've hit a landmark number, send an email to [richarmstrong47@gmail.com](mailto:richarmstrong47@gmail.com). Thanks for playing!



Luisa Galindo and Alex Passos , Alice Madar , Tina Behr-Andres , Vic Nelson



Two Yardie Awards were presented at the May membership meeting. Tori Marshall saw 25 species in her desertscape yard and received a certificate. Tori picked Lawrence's Goldfinch as her bird, a photo she took herself. It's uncommon here in the Verde Valley and one came to her place. Jeanmarie Haney has reached the 50 species milestone and got a plaque. She chose the Common Raven which she sees frequently flying above her yard. Thanks for "playing" as I like to say. --Nanette Armstrong



Tori Marshall

Jean Marie Haney



Lawrence's Goldfinch by Tori Marshall



Get the most up to date field trip schedule from our NAAS Calendar:

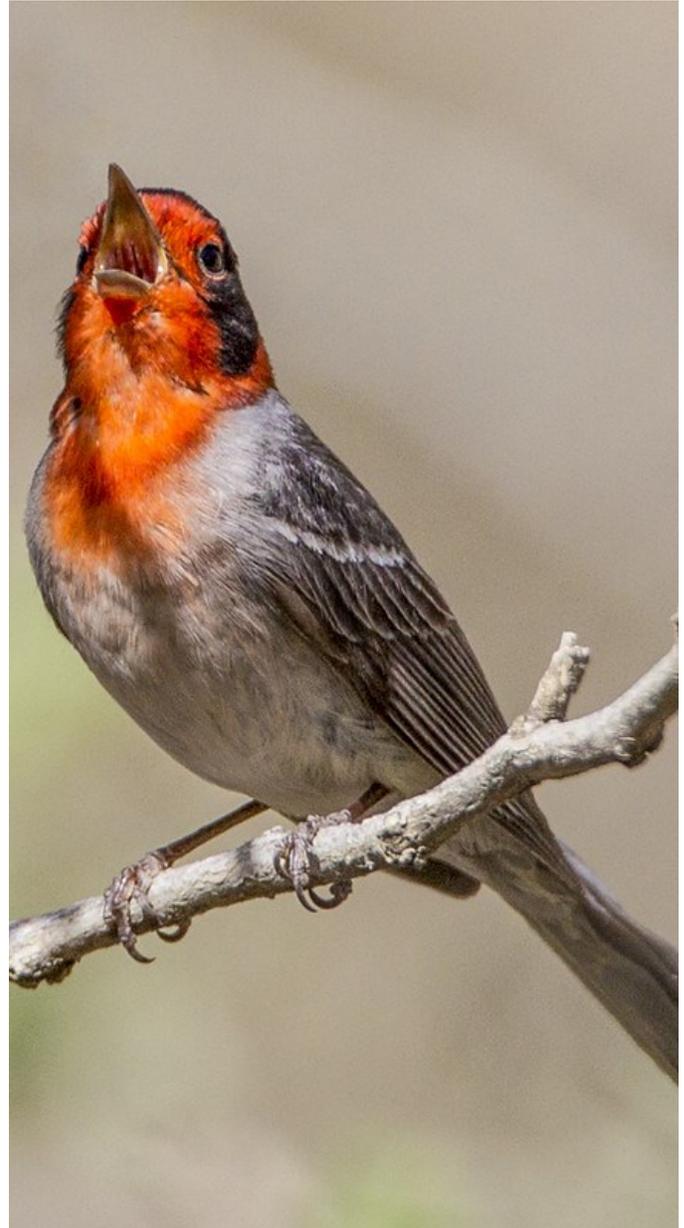
[Click here for calendar](#)

**June 16 (Thursday) Willow Bend Environmental Center** ([703 E Sawmill Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001](#)) walk to the Rio de Flag reclaimed ponds. **Time:** 0630 AM. **Leader:** Debbie McMahon. Phone: 928-707-0610. Bathrooms located at Willow Bend Environmental Center Park. Bring water, hat, binoculars.

←→  
**Shultz Tank**, June 18th, 6:30 a.m.

Meet at the **Weatherford Trailhead parking lot by Shultz Tank** at the top of Shultz Pass Road (<https://goo.gl/maps/VuiTPMyhmLNyCtFo8>) We'll be hiking around trails in the vicinity, including over towards Weatherford Canyon, so be prepared for up to 3 miles of hiking on uneven trail. Bring water, sun protection, good shoes, etc. We'll meet at 06:30 as the birds will be getting quieter earlier this time of year. Hopefully we'll encounter high elevation specialties such as olive-sided flycatcher, Clark's nutcracker, green-tailed towhee and others. Contact Anne Pellegrini ([fiddlehopper@gmail.com](mailto:fiddlehopper@gmail.com)) with any questions

←→  
**July 21 (Thursday) Willow Bend Environmental Center** ([703 E Sawmill Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001](#)). We will be birding along the Rio de Flag. Time: 063AM. **Leader:** Debbie McMahon. Phone: 928-707-0610. Bathrooms at Willow Bend Environmental Center Park. Bring water, hat, binoculars.



Red-faced Warbler by Eric Gofreed



The April 30 field trip to Little Elden Spring had to become Plan B because of the forest closure due the Tunnel Fire. Five of us went to Picture Canyon instead, and although the number of species was low, we were able to tally 43. Nothing earthshaking but still fun! Big misses were any type of Tanager or Groesbeck.

*Trip Leader: Tom Linda*

← Tuesday May 3 we had 11 birders on the Jail Trail in Cottonwood. It was sunny, warm and a little windy but it didn't keep us down. A nice leisurely walk through



Photo by Janie Stewart

the riparian along the river and through the canopy. Our checklist has a total of 33 species. Lots of singing warblers, a Warbling Vireo was warbling, a Yellow-breasted Chat was chatting, Summer Tanagers were calling, and some Lark Sparrows were a first for some. Highlight was of course the Great Horned Owl on the nest, with most likely its mate, perched nicely near the nest for everyone to see and get excellent photos. Another good birding day.

*Trip Leader: Janie Stewart*

Editor Note: click on any bird photo to show full-screen.

On Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, five birders met bright-eyed and bushy tailed at the **Mingus Summit rest stop**. We skipped right over Butterfly Springs and went straight to the



Plumbeous Vireo by Eric Gofreed

high elevation campground and the Gaddes Trail. Western Tanagers and House Wrens were active

from start to finish. Gray Flycatchers, Plumbeous Vireos, and Virginia's Warblers were singing, and highlights were close-up looks at several Red-faced Warblers, Townsend's Warbler, and a Greater Pewee singing Ave Maria. Around 30 species in all, and a great trail to visit any time of year.

*Trip Leader: Tim Weber*

← I was joined by 7 folks on May 7th for a short walk around the **Sedona Wetlands**.



Eared Grebe by Eric Gofreed

The highlights were a nice group of 6 Wilson's Phalaropes and a soaring Red-tailed Hawk with a snake that all saw through the scope. Also an Eared Grebe in full breeding plumage, a late Least Sandpiper, a few Bullock's Orioles, and over 10 Yellow Warblers.

*Trip Leader: Rich Armstrong*



Well May in Flagstaff means wind and I mean wind. But one other person, thank you John, joined me for a windy but exciting morning birding at **Logan's Crossing**. We saw a total of 18 species with the number one bird being a Great Horned



Black-headed Grosbeak  
By Eric Gofreed

Owl. John saw this GHOW in a tree and when I stepped back a few inches I could see it also. The owl

was just hanging out in a big Ponderosa Pine with a Black-headed Grosbeak right above him. I think the Mourning Doves were just moving upstream with us because we saw them the whole birding walk. It could have been different ones, but I doubt it. We did see several Wilson's Warblers in the shrubs along the canyon. Toward the end of the walk, we saw the Red-tailed Hawk perched high on a snag. But not many birds were flying and with the wind we did not blame them.

Still an exciting bird walk.

*Trip Leader: Debbie MacMahon*

On May 19th 17 folks showed up for a wonderful jaunt around the Bubbling Ponds and down by Oak Creek. We had some excellent birders on board who helped



Zone-tailed Hawk by Eric Gofreed

some newer birders with spotting and identification. The Mulberry trees still have good berries attracting Cedar Waxwings, Western Tanagers, Kingbirds and Phainopepla. We had excellent looks at Zone-tailed Hawks, Vermilion Flycatchers and Spotted Sandpipers. Abert's Towhees, Mallards, Bewick's Wrens and Black Phoebes all had fledglings about. We had a special intimate look at some really tiny very well hidden Wood Duck chicks with a muskrat close by.

*Trip Leader: Lisa Grubbs*

Editor Note: click on any bird photo to show full-screen.



Eleven enthusiastic birders showed up for some real Spring fun May 9th at the **Bubbling Ponds** – 52 species – a real candy store for birders with the Mulberry Trees providing Orioles, Waxwings, Tanagers,



Cedar Waxwing  
by Eric Gofreed

Grosbeaks and other berry enthusiasts. We also had a good raptor show with the Bald Eagle, Zone-tailed Hawk, Osprey and our beloved Common Black Hawks. Got nice looks at some local

favorites: Verdin, Bridled Titmice, Vermillion Flycatchers and Great

Horned Owls. Up in the canopy were Yellow Warblers, Gila Woodpeckers and vocal Brown-crested Flycatchers. On the water, we had Common Merganser, Neotropic Cormorants, Spotted Sandpipers and Wood Ducks. Over the water we had numerous Violet-green Swallows, some Rough-winged Swallows, and White-throated Swifts. Nice looks at Wilson's Warblers, Abert's Towhee, Summer Tanagers, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Great Blue Herons. Yellow-breasted Chats eluded us for the most part with the exception of some die-hard spotters. Common Yellowthroats and Bell's Vireos tempted us with their singing but stayed hidden. Black Phoebes were sprouting fledglings. It should continue to be nice viewing around the Mulberry Trees for a couple more weeks.

Trip Leader Lisa Grubbs

On May 11th a big group of 13 people showed up for my **Mingus Mountain** field trip. We carpoled straight up to Butterfly Springs where a walk had about 26 species. Weather was calling for a windy day and we were lucky it stayed away until we arrived at Mingus Lake. We had about 14 species in the Mingus Lake area. Some birds did not cooperate, but also got to hear birds. The Merlin App was a good tool to verify the song or call of the birds. We had many highlights of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and nuthatches along with other species, but especially a close Red-faced



House Wren by Eric Gofreed

Warbler singing and a House Wren going in a nest cavity. Even with a large group and making a few adjustments,

I think everyone enjoyed their time on the mountain.

Trip Leader: Janie Stewart

To my Sunday-school class I said "I went out birdwatching this morning." "What do you do?" they asked. I told them that I see a bird and write it on a list, and that I keep lots of lists of the birds I see. "Oh," one boy said, "that's like Pokemon Go. You have to catch 'em all."

—Nanette Armstrong



Nine people were ready to go at 555 am on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the top of the **switch-backs above Oak Creek Canyon**. The convoy found an empty campground and up Forest Road 535 we went, with some winds kicking early.



Downy Woodpecker  
by Eric Gofreed

It took some bush-whacking, but we had good looks at singing Plumbeous Vireos and eventually, Virginia's Warblers. Approaching 7000 feet we were treated to Red-faced Warbler protecting his territory and one Townsend's Solitaire. It was a little

quiet at the top of the hill as the forest had experienced fire and some blow-down from strong winds. We were treated to a nice Downy Woodpecker on the descent. All in all, a nice morning with good views from elevation and birds beginning to nest.

*Trip Leader: Tim Weber*

Kachina Wetlands was a dandy place to be on the morning of May 22. Fifteen eager and energized souls joined me for a walk around the ponds and were rewarded by great views of hunting osprey, gorgeous cinnamon teal and a lonely Wilson's phalarope. There was an abundance of goslings and ducklings present as well. Yellow-headed blackbirds did not disappoint one for whom it was a life bird and sharp eyes and ears picked out 5 purple martin and a Virginia rail. The morning, the company and the birds were all a joy. Thirty five species were seen in all. *Trip Leader: Bea Colley*

## Why Do Birds Matter?

For that matter, why do bugs matter, or why do lizards matter? Birds matter to you because you are reading this page, but how would you answer the question if the person next to you at the gas pump asked you? National Audubon asked several notable people this same question and their answers appear in an article in Audubon Magazine. It is well worth reading and can be found here: [Why Do Birds Matter?](#)

One very short, but poignant response was this by Joel Sartore, Photographer:

*"Conjuring a world without birds is a thing I don't dare imagine, like the death of a child. Their fate is our own. "*





## The Mighty Bald Eagle

No matter who you are, the sight of a Bald Eagle, a large raptor with a white head, dark body, and white tail, is something that creates awe and wonder in the beholder. It's not often that one sees a bird with a wingspan of up to eight feet soaring above. To put that in perspective, that's about the distance between the floor and ceiling in most homes.

It takes four years for a Bald Eagle to mature with the white head/tail, and until then they look like a large, hawk-like bird with a dark brown body and sometimes white mottling on their wings and tail. Once grown into a mature adult, a Bald Eagle begins to find a mate and produce young. With its innate abilities and some luck, a Bald Eagle can live up to 40 years in the wild.

The Bald Eagle has been our national emblem since 1782, but it has been a spiritual symbol for indigenous people centuries before. Its range is all of North America, primarily nesting in the northern area of the continent, but as we know, Bald Eagles also nest in Arizona. For example, their nests are documented in Scottsdale and Rio Verde, both in the Phoenix metro area, and at Forest Highlands Golf Club in Flagstaff.

The Bald Eagle, which prefers to live in coniferous forests near rivers, lakes, and ponds, prefers fish as its diet. It is known to harass other birds like Osprey to steal its fish catch. It also readily eats carrion (like dead fish), but still, it is a mighty hunter. It will swoop down into a body of water, grab a fish with its large, strong talons, and carry the prey over a long distance to its chosen place for consumption.

The Bald Eagle was in danger of becoming extinct about 60 years ago due to hunting, poisoning, and the use of DDT. After DDT was banned and the species was placed on the Endangered Species list, the Bald Eagle population grew about 4% each year, and today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that there is a population of at least 300,000 birds in the lower 48 states. And that's a mighty good story to share.

*By NAAS Member, Margaret Dykeman*





## NAAS BIRDS AND BRUNCH MAY 15

The May 15<sup>th</sup> All-Chapter Pot Luck “Birds ‘N Brunch” was a fun success! 32 folks came from Prescott, Flagstaff, Sedona, Cottonwood and Clarkdale to enjoy the shade and birding under the canopy of Arizona Sycamores at Montezuma Well Picnic Area. Four groups of birders enjoyed much different sightings: Tim Weber’s group found a mother hummingbird “smushing” her three nestlings down deep into the nest; Lisa Grubbs' group had some birders climbing trees to get the best views of migrant Ash-throated Flycatchers, good looks at Vermillion Flycatchers and multiple perched Anna's Hummingbirds ; and Kristen Rothrock and Kay Hawlee’s group had 10-minute looks of a chattering Yellow-breasted Chat. Rich Armstrong, with the fastest scope in the West, was joined by 3 others doing a 2-hour Big Sit. They had 20 species with a male Vermillion Flycatcher singing and flycatching the entire 2 hours. Together we saw above 30 species!

Then, there was the food! Homemade quiche and homegrown figs were just some of the more elegant dishes. However, the best thing at the picnic was just getting to visit with fellow birders, some we hadn’t seen for a year or more! Most of the time, we have to be quiet when we are together creeping slowly through the habitat, intent on seeing a bird without flushing it. So, to balance that out, we had a raucous time under the trees chatting about anything and everything. It all worked splendidly, thanks to the many hands of the “Birds ‘N Brunch Squad” who helped everyone schlepp their stuff.

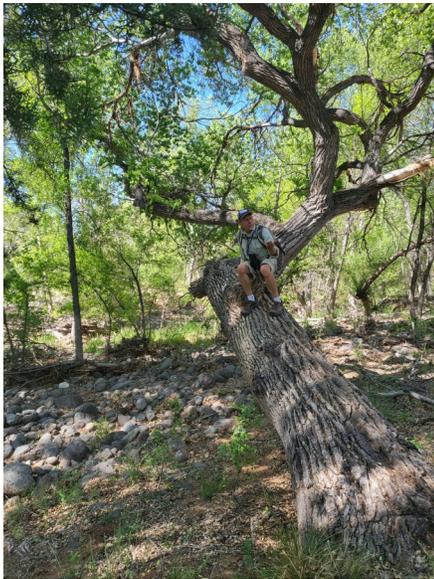
This camaraderie can be replicated. Think: Birds ‘N Beer, Birds ‘N Wine, Birds ‘N Tea & Poetry, Birds ‘N Yoga. The spin off possibilities is endless! Stay tuned for more food & fun events. Contact [khawlee@gmail.com](mailto:khawlee@gmail.com) to express your interest in more social (combined with birding) events.

A special thanks to Laura & Kip Stransky who suggested that we become a more social Audubon Society. We heard you!

Kay Hawlee  
President



## May 15th Birding and Brunch in Photos



View all  
these in full  
-screen  
mode:  
[Click here](#)





See Rich Armstrong welcome you to the Sedona Wetlands Preserve. Rich is NAAS Steward for the Wetlands and he does an amazing job bringing many people there to bird the ponds. [Welcome to Sedona Wetlands - YouTube](#)



What is this duck? You might have seen it at Bubbling Ponds or swimming in the Verde River. If you think you know, or if you have no idea, click on its picture to get the answer.





SEDONAHUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL  
TICKETSARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Festival dates: July 29, 30, and 31st, 2022

The time has finally come for you to get your tickets! You can find them on our new, beautiful, user-friendly, and streamlined website. Take part in the celebration of hummingbirds. Our three-day event will feature:

- Live presentations from experts
- Hummingbird banding demonstrations
- Garden tours
- Birding trips
- Hummingbird Marketplace
- Special Attractions (Happy the Hummingbird, face painting, and live guitar)
- Gala banquet (with live music)(Saturday night)

Come relish in the celebration of hummingbirds! Be sure to claim your tickets ASAP while they are available. Click the

For more information, click here: <https://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/>



### Sedona Hummingbird Festival

Announcing, our 2022 Sedona Hummingbird Festival. It will be held July 29-31<sup>st</sup> this year at the Sedona Performing Arts Center (SPAC). Thanks to Rich Armstrong, our stalwart organizer, for putting together 16 guided birding trips for the three days from 6:30a.m.-8:45a.m.

#### Birding Trips

##### FRIDAY:

Birding Trip Oak Creek Canyon 1  
Birding Trip Oak Creek Canyon 2  
Birding Trip Page Springs 1  
Birding Trip Page Springs 2

##### SATURDAY:

Birding Trip Chuckwalla  
Birding Trip Wetlands & private yard  
Birding Trip Oak Creek Canyon 1  
Birding Trip Oak Creek Canyon 2  
Birding Trip Page Springs 1  
Birding Trip Page Springs 2

##### SUNDAY:

Birding Trip Chuckwalla  
Birding Trip Wetlands & private yard  
Birding Trip Oak Creek Canyon 1  
Birding Trip Oak Creek Canyon 2  
Birding Trip Page Springs 1  
Birding Trip Page Springs 2

Tickets are \$25 each, available on our brand-new website: <https://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/sedona-hummingbird-festival-2022> . Each trip is limited to 12 birders. So don't delay as some are sold out already. After the birding guides are paid, a large percentage of profits goes to the Northern Arizona Audubon Society

#### Other Festival Opportunities

Free at the Hummingbird Marketplace in the lobby Friday and Sunday will be Michele Losee of the International Raptor and Falconry Center sharing live birds!

See even more on the next page!

## Sedona Hummingbird Festival (con't)

Three days of hummingbird banding demonstrations with licensed banders from 7:00a.m.-11:00a.m.

5 private hummingbird gardens open for you to learn about what plants the hummingbirds love

3 days of talks on hummingbirds from experts, including a pollination theme, even a talk on bats and butterflies!

Presenters include Gamini Ratnavira sharing his lifetime dream of painting 350 individual hummingbird species – a project he has just completed.

Elegant Saturday night gala celebration at Poco Diablo with all the presenters available to mingle and interact with, music by Meadowlark on flute and guitar and a talk on local nesting hummingbirds.

A special treat: Happy the Hummingbird Spirit will be there Saturday to help you anchor your special wishes.

Come and support the mission of our International Hummingbird Society teaching about hummingbirds and working locally and internationally to protect them!





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**Flagstaff Birders**  
 Flagstaff, AZ  
 68 members • Public group  
 Organized by Kay Hawklee and 1 other

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**Sedona Birders Meetup Group**  
 Sedona, AZ  
 61 members • Public group  
 Organized by Kay Hawklee

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Email us at: [nazaudubon@northernarizonaaudubon.org](mailto:nazaudubon@northernarizonaaudubon.org)

**Position Solicitation: Webmaster**

Northern Arizona Audubon Society, a non-profit organization, is seeking an energetic volunteer who will be the Editor/Publisher of our on-line newsletter, the Black-hawk Watch. Other digital duties comprise a minor part of this position. The successful candidate must have basic computer skills, be familiar with either Microsoft Publisher or InDesign and be able to respond to frequent article submissions. The newsletter is published monthly and utilizes cloud file storage and website coordination. The newsletter can be seen here: [Black-hawk Watch Newsletter April, 2022 | NAZ Audubon Website \(northernarizonaaudubon.org\)](#) This is a non-paid volunteer position. Interested? Email [nazaudubon@northernarizonaaudubon.org](mailto:nazaudubon@northernarizonaaudubon.org).



Northern Arizona Audubon Society will celebrate the dedication of a bench in honor of Dr. H. Ross Hawkins on July 9th at 9 AM at the Page Springs Fish Hatchery Butterfly Garden. We wish to pay tribute to Ross, who founded the Hummingbird Society in 1996 and was at its helm for the last 24 years as Executive Director. He died July 9, 2020. Ross's love of hummingbirds began when he enticed the Ruby-throats in Maryland to come to the bedroom window to dine. This evolved into creating a garden with special flowers to attract them and resulted in the purchase of a new camera. This was followed by both Beth and Ross having fun taking turns holding a flowering red bee balm while the other photographed the curious hummer coming to it. When Ross learned there were hummingbirds that were endangered, he felt a calling to protect them. To augment his vision, he drew a diagram of a wheel with 'Hummingbird Society' in the center, and spokes representing all the aspects he would have to learn to form a non-profit, and the Society was born. This was an opportunity to bring his multifaceted talents together—computer expertise and a love of research (a Ph.D in chemistry), fund-raising and interpersonal skills (22 years as a stockbroker), love of nature and photography, professional speaking skills, plus he had the heart of a true educator. In Ross's own words: *"Hummingbirds are endearing and charismatic and they also have the potential to give us joys and insights."* Ross, we of Northern Arizona Audubon Society salute you with a bench in your honor. Through your knowledge and vision and compassion, you have made a powerful impact on this world.



Two families for a total of 4 children and 3 adults joined me for a little class and bird walk on May 21 at the Sedona Public Library. The group enjoyed a story read by Viviane, the librarian. She pointed out the large selection of bird story books and field guides the library has to offer. You can even check out a backpack or birdwatching box. We then took a walk along the trail that circles the library grounds which was quite productive. Highlights include a pair of Canyon Towhees, an Anna's Hummingbird, and a soaring Zone-tail Hawk. NAAS has a box of loaner binoculars, and the children were quite good at using them! We have been invited back. –Nanette Armstrong



*Editor note: Thank you, Nanette, for helping to keep birds and NAAS in front of people.*

Seen on Facebook

**How do you tell these  
birds apart?**



**One is bald...  
and the other's a little harrier.**



## New & Renewing Members—May

Henry	Benjes
Tom	Corris
Hollace and	Davids
Jeffrey	Foster
Alice A	Hagerman
Jeanmarie	Haney
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Deborah	Hoover
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Kelly	Isley
Alison	Jones
Dorrit	Karasek
Joan	Kilpatrick
John	Kinnamon
Karen A	LeDonne
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Kathy	Reitzel
vita	rose
Ellen	Rosher
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Published by The Northern Arizona Audubon Society, Inc.  
 Organized 1972 as an affiliated chapter of Nation Audubon  
 Incorporated as 501c3 Feb. 2001

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