

Workshops and mini-field expeditions

Friday afternoon, 8 Oct. and Sunday morning, 10 Oct.

On the afternoon before and the morning after Saturday's statewide meeting, the AZFO is organizing three mini-field expeditions and two workshops to areas near Prescott that are underbirded or not generally accessible to birders. We hope to encounter many resident species and a good diversity of migrants. With this being the peak of eastern vagrant season, you never know what we will discover while in the field. During last year's October meeting in Tucson one mini-expedition discovered a Blue-winged Warbler.

Participants in the conference can sign up for the Sunday trips on Saturday morning during the state meeting, and departure times and locations will be designated at the meeting. Those wanting to participate in the Friday afternoon trip should sign up in advance with the trip leader, David Moll at: davidmoll@cablone.net or phone (928) 445-2392. All trips are free to AZFO members. For nonmembers, \$10.00 (applicable to membership dues if you join during the weekend).

Friday, 8 October, 1:30 P.M.

Pine Creek--At 4800 ft., this area is a broad, level floodplain with scattered ash, cottonwood, walnut, and willow and is surrounded by rolling hills covered by pinyon-juniper. It is 55 minutes northwest of Prescott, with the last 15 minutes on graded dirt road. Access and travel are easy, no restrooms available. Departure will be from downtown Depot Marketplace (Albertson's) on the NE corner of E. Sheldon St. (SR 89) & Montezuma St. (N 3rd St.). Leader: David Moll.

Sunday, 10 October

Gaddes Canyon--From about 7600 ft. atop Mingus Mountain, 45 minutes northeast of Prescott, this trip descends into a remote, narrow, south-facing canyon. The habitat is mixed conifer forest with New Mexico Locust and Gambel Oak. The topography, vegetation, and wilderness character of Gaddes Canyon offers a diversity of bird life. We may take time to witness the dramatic views from the top of Mingus Mountain. Access is easy. Hiking includes occasional downed timber and about 1000 ft. topographic relief depending on how far we go. Prepare for cold weather. Leader: David Moll.

Grapevine Creek--About 25 miles southeast of Prescott, this hike begins amidst a sea of interior chaparral and progresses into riparian and montane forest where walnut, oak, maple, alder, and a variety of conifers are common. The diversity of vegetation is favorable to bird species diversity. Elevations are approximately 5000 to 6000 ft. and travel is easy depending how far up canyon we go. There are about two miles of fairly easy dirt road including a creek crossing; low-clearance cars should be prepared to go slow. No restrooms available. Leader: Sharon Arnold.

Workshops. If you want to take your birding to the next level you'll want a solid foundation. By definition it's not the vagrant and exotic bird species that constitute what's out there. These workshops will focus on morphological and behavioral detail of the bird species encountered as well as techniques for approaching and making observations. Emphasis will be placed on lesser-

known vocalizations, molts and plumages, sizes and shapes, as well as behaviors. Don't miss another fall warbler, don't let that "chip" slide, turn those specks into species.

--*Terrestrial Saturation Workshop*-- Leader: Walt Anderson, professor Environmental Studies, Prescott College.

--*Aquatic Saturation Workshop*-- (Bring a spotting scope if you can, this workshop will include all birds encountered, not just aquatic). Leaders: Sue Drown & Keith Archibald.