



Arizona Field Ornithologists

Studying Arizona Birds

Spring 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

Message From The President

In this issue:

Message From The President	1
Seasonal Highlights	2
Peach-faced Lovebird Census	3
Renew Your Membership	3
Field Expeditions	4

Welcome to AZFO News, our first newsletter to keep members informed on recent activities and new endeavors. We also hope it will enlighten members to become more involved with AZFO. Our goal is to provide AZFO News to our members every 3-4 months. With this edition, you are the first to view our attractive AZFO Logo designed by artist Liz Payne. The Red-faced Warbler was chosen as the main focus of our logo as it is a unique southwest species and occurs as a migrant or breeder in most Arizona counties. It is also a species readily sought after by visiting birders to our state. We hope you enjoy receiving AZFO News. This is our first edition – please let us know how we did and provide suggestions for improvements to make the next issue more useful and informative.



Photo/Kurt Rademaker

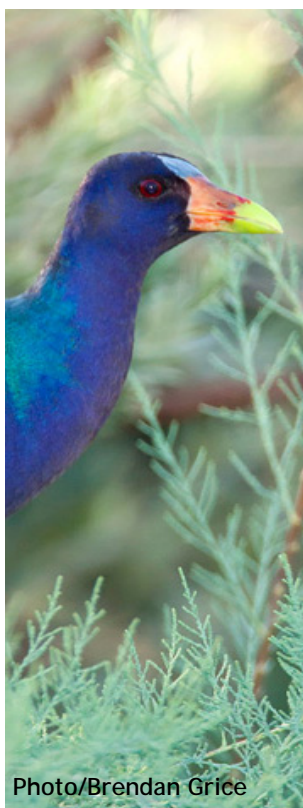
I look forward to hearing from you as well as seeing you out in the field....

Troy Corman, President (aplomado@cox.net)

Please submit your unusual sightings for the AZFO Seasonal Reports. The Winter Season will end soon and AZFO welcomes reports of all noteworthy sightings in Arizona, including those from Christmas Bird Counts, made between 1 December and 28 February and that can be included in our state-wide seasonal regional reports. We are particularly interested in well-documented reports of individual rare species, early or late nesting activity, early arrivals or late lingering migrants, irregularly occurring species, unusually high or low concentrations, and birds found in unexpected habitats or areas of the state. Please submit sightings by 15 March so that regional coordinators can compile their reports and include you observations. The data entry location is: http://azfo.org/ASPReports/speciesToday_list.aspx.

We Need Your Sightings

Our fall 2009 report is being compiled and will be soon be available online. See http://www.azfo.org/seasonalReports/report_current.html for past reports.



Photo/Brendan Grice

Seasonal Bird Highlights in Arizona



Studying Arizona Birds

F

all 2009 and winter 2010 brought nearly unprecedented numbers of Rufous-backed Robins and Varied Thrushes to Arizona, providing excitement and many photo opportunities. Coming from different directions in North America to arrive in Arizona, they brightened many a field outing. Lawrence's Goldfinches also appeared in above normal numbers from our neighbors from the West. It was also an exceptional season for Ruddy Ground-Doves arriving from Mexico.



Rufous-backed Robin – October 2009, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Pinal Co. Photo/Rich Ditch

Thank you to all of our AZFO contributors for the wonderful photos, articles and reports to improve our organization.

~board members



Varied Thrush – November 2009, near Hwy. 89A west of House Rock Valley overlook, Coconino, Photo/Shawn Putz.



Brant—January 2010, Tucson, Pima Co. Photo/Tom Ryan

With fewer than a dozen records for Arizona, it has also been an exceptional season for several aquatic birds beginning with two Black Scoters at Upper Lake Mary (Coconino Co.), Red-throated Loon near Litchfield Park (Maricopa Co.), and two Red-necked Grebes with one in Glen Canyon (Coconino Co.) and the other on Lake Pleasant (Yavapai Co.). The latest in this category was a one day visit by a Brant to an urban pond in Tucson (Pima Co.).



Studying Arizona Birds

Contact us:
<http://azfo.org>

Special Event: Phoenix Metro Area Rosy-faced (formerly Peach-faced) Lovebird Census

This half-day (morning) event will take place **27 February**.

Objective: Determine basic numbers to estimate the total population and distribution within the Greater Phoenix Metro Area. This information will be used to track future population changes and will be included in an upcoming lovebird status article to be published on the AZFO online journal (<http://www.azfo.org/journal/articles.html>)

Activity involved: Participants will be assigned specific areas that they can easily survey between 0630 and 1000 AM. They will visit known localities and likely neighborhoods, listening and looking for lovebirds. The survey will likely include walking and some driving, but biking would also be an excellent way to census. For each lovebird detection participants will document the closest street intersection and the number of individuals detected on census forms provided.



Primary census areas: Within the core of known lovebird populations in the cities of Apache Junction, Mesa, Gilbert, Tempe, Scottsdale, and Phoenix. If enough individuals participate, we would welcome the inclusion of additional areas. For more details, please visit <http://www.azfo.org/pfLoveBird/pfloMain.html>

If interested, forward your name, email address, and general area that you would like to census to Kurt Radamaker (kurtrad@mexicobirding.com)



Renew Your Membership

Don't forget to renew your AZFO membership for 2010. We have many exciting events planned for 2010 and including Field Expeditions, newly started AZFO Field Workshops, the October annual state meeting to be held in Prescott and our inaugural AZFO newsletter.

Please continue to support AZFO and keep your membership current by joining online with PayPal at <http://www.azfo.org/documents/membership.html> or sending your tax-deductible 2010 membership dues to our Treasurer, Doug Jenness, at: 4375 E. Rollins Rd., Tucson, AZ 85739. If your postal or email address has changed, please let us know. Thank you for your support!



Studying Arizona Birds

Upcoming Field Expeditions

Mark your calendar for upcoming exciting workshops and field expeditions! We encourage members to participate in our scheduled field activities. Noteworthy discoveries are found during nearly every field outing we have, such as this Ovenbird during the AZFO Field Expedition to northeastern AZ. So please join us on our next adventure.

For more photos and details of these and other recent noteworthy documented finds, please visit

http://www.azfo.org/gallery/1main/photos_recent.html



Ovenbird - September 2009, Cameron, Coconino Co. Photo/Andrew Core

events

20-21 February

Gull identification workshop in Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Sonora, Mexico – (WORKSHOP FULL)

24 April

Birding by Ear Field Workshop in eastern Maricopa County – Learn the songs and calls of resident and migrant birds from desert to pine forests. Leaders: Kurt Radamaker and Troy Corman

22-23 May

Field expedition: Hualapai Mountains (S. of Kingman, Mohave Co.) Team Leader: Kurt Radamaker.

For more details, please visit <http://www.azfo.org/events/custom/eventslist.html>



field expeditions take members all over Arizona

AZFO Board Members

President
Troy Corman
Phoenix AZ

Vice President
Kurt Radamaker
Scottsdale AZ

Secretary
Newsletter Design
Cindy Radamaker
Scottsdale AZ

Treasurer
Doug Jenness
Catalina AZ

Membership Chair
Steve Ganley
Phoenix AZ

Board Members
Janet Witzeman
John Yerger
Marceline VandeWater

Appointed Board Members

Editor, Arizona Birds Online
Editor, AZFO Newsletter
Pierre Deviche
Phoenix AZ

Other Contacts

Webmaster
Kurt Radamaker
Scottsdale AZ

Photo Documentation Editor
Michael C. Moore
Delaware

Field Expeditions
John Yerger
Tucson AZ



Get Involved!

We also encourage your involvement in the following activities:

- Write a manuscript on a favorite but little known birding location in Arizona. Contact: Pierre Deviche (deviche@asu.edu)
- Assist with entering past noteworthy bird records into our quickly expanding database. Contact: Doug Jenness (d_jenness@hotmail.com)
- Provide speaker suggestions or assist with planning for our Annual Membership Meeting. The 2010 will be held in October in Prescott. Contact: Doug Jenness (d_jenness@hotmail.com)