

Birding Club of Sun City



Marilynn Cute photo

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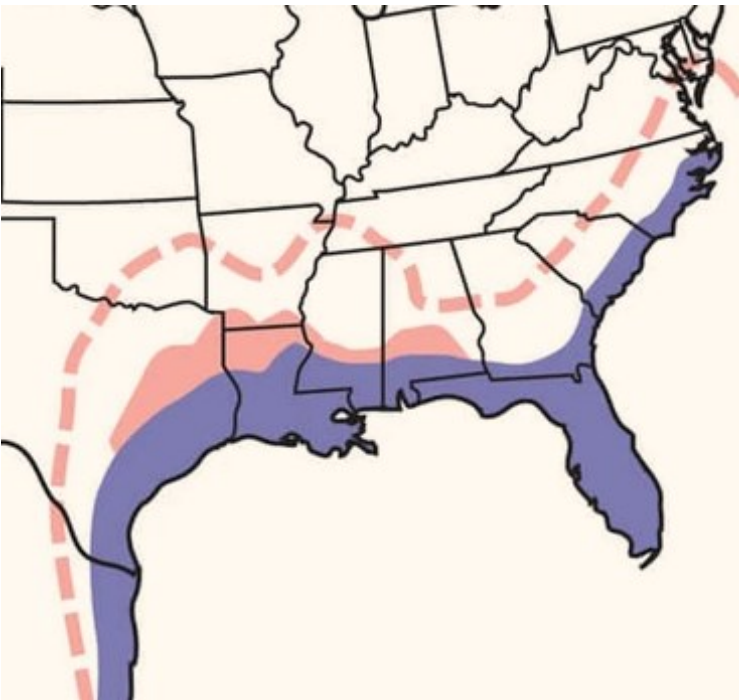


Above: it's no Millennium Falcon!

On the covers:

It is a difficult but pleasurable task to decide on cover photos. This month's dual honor goes to our Club Chief of Staff Marilynn Cute.

The first cover features an immature White Ibis. Not of our neck of the woods. Habitat below.



The second cover features a Roseate Spoonbill family. They are mostly in the same area on the above map and sometimes seen in Arizona. Later on in this issue are 3 1/2 more pages of Florida birds seen at the Rookery of the St. Augustine Alligator farm. **Every birder's USA bucket list should include Florida, Texas, California, and of course Arizona.**

The Falcon's Roost

Welcome to the June Newsletter.

The long hot Summer. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Luckily it's a dry heat. So far I have only listed 3 field trips for June. I may add on one cooler climate field trip a month until fall. Some possibilities are:

Bubbling Springs/Fish Hatchery

Flagstaff Arboretum/Kachina Wetlands.

Mount Ord.

Also in this issue are some colorful preview photos of Vera Markham's trip of a lifetime to Ecuador. Later in the fall Vera will screen more of the incredible South American species she added to her life list. **One Hundred Eighty Five new life birds** for Vera on one trip!

The avifauna of Ecuador has 1663 confirmed species, of which eight are endemic to the mainland, 31 are endemic to the Galápagos, four have been introduced by humans, 78 are rare or vagrants, and one has been extirpated. An additional 41 species are hypothetical.

Waffling on the female Mandarin/Wood Duck conundrum has again put President Tom in hot water with eBird list oversight folks. I think I will be more sure next time.



Mandarin Duck at Rio Vista

Upcoming June trip quick-list

Full details on trip pages later in this newsletter

Glendale Recharge Ponds

When: Wednesday June 5th at 6 am Leader - Buddy Walker

**Sign up: Buddy Walker: walkerbd@live.com or text only cell:
602-653-1007 ask Buddy if you need directions.**

Hassayampa River Preserve

When: Wednesday June 19th at 6:45 am Leader - Tom Locascio

Maricopa Regional Parks Trips

Estrella Saturday June 8th at 6:30 am Leaders Joe & Tom

After the walk, Joe will present a program in the visitor center.

Carpooling is not available for Regional Parks trips.

Estrella walks are 12 months a year. Cave Creek and White Tank will take a break June through August and return in September.

**Lakeview critter from 5/29 walk.
I believe it is a Desert Spiny Lizard.
Sceloporus magister Vera photo**



Administriva page



Upcoming 2024 meetings



Summer meeting break. Next meetings

Wednesday October	9th	2024	10am	Fairway Arizona room 1&2
Wednesday November	13th	2024	10am	Fairway Arizona room 1&2

Anyone going on a "Club Field Trip" needs to contact the leader of the trip to let them know that they will attend.

Car pooling process

If you need a ride or can give a ride, please send an email to: suncitybirders@gmail.com and indicate whether you need a ride or you can give a ride to one or more. A member of the Carpool Committee will get back to you and let you know if we can accommodate your request. As soon as an "open seat" becomes available, they will notify you with the name of the driver you will be riding with and where the carpoolers will meet. Generally, this will be at the Bell Center. "Open seats" will be filled first come, first served. If a seat is not available, you will be notified prior to the day of the trip. If a person that requests a ride is able to be matched with a driver, it is expected that the person requesting the ride helps the driver to help cover their gas expenses.

Suggested gas expense assistance for short trips:

The Glendale Recharge Ponds \$5 (all rides up to 50 miles \$5 minimum).

Longer trips such as Gilbert Water Ranch \$10, (51-100 miles)

Really long trips such as Boyce Thompson Arboretum could be \$15 or more.

Wanted: Your photos for the newsletter!

To join our club or get information: locascio2000@hotmail.com or text 620-616-7459. Submit photos and information of interest to our newsletter. It is much appreciated to receive accounts of birding experiences or impressions of any of our field trips or activities. They will appear in the newsletter.

North West Ecuador's Colorful Birds

Vera Markham shared some of her photos as a preview to a more inclusive slide show this fall. More photos on next & last page



Crested Quetzal



Masked Trogon

**Sword-billed
Hummingbird**





Top left: Golden-tailed Sapphire
Bottom Left: Masked Flowerpiercer

Top right: Golden Tanager
Bottom right: Violet-tailed Sylph



Marilynn Cute took these photos during her May Visit to the St. Augustine Florida Alligator Farm

So from a phylogenetic standpoint, birds are reptiles. But based on Linnaean's system, birds and reptiles belong to separate groups because of their different physical characteristics. Birds are most closely related to crocodiles, not pictured here.



In the middle:

A little **Blue Heron** foraging the intercostal waterways. He is mostly blue-gray with a purplish head and greenish legs. Here is a photo of a juvenile. **Cornel's Macaulay library.**



To the right:

Here's one of the Wrens that we rarely see here, the **Carolina Wren**. It is described as a casual visitor to New Mexico and Arizona where it can be seen wearing shorts and a golf shirt inscribed with "Save the Humans". In birding terms, "casual" means "out of range", but not annual, and (than 5 individuals historically noted".

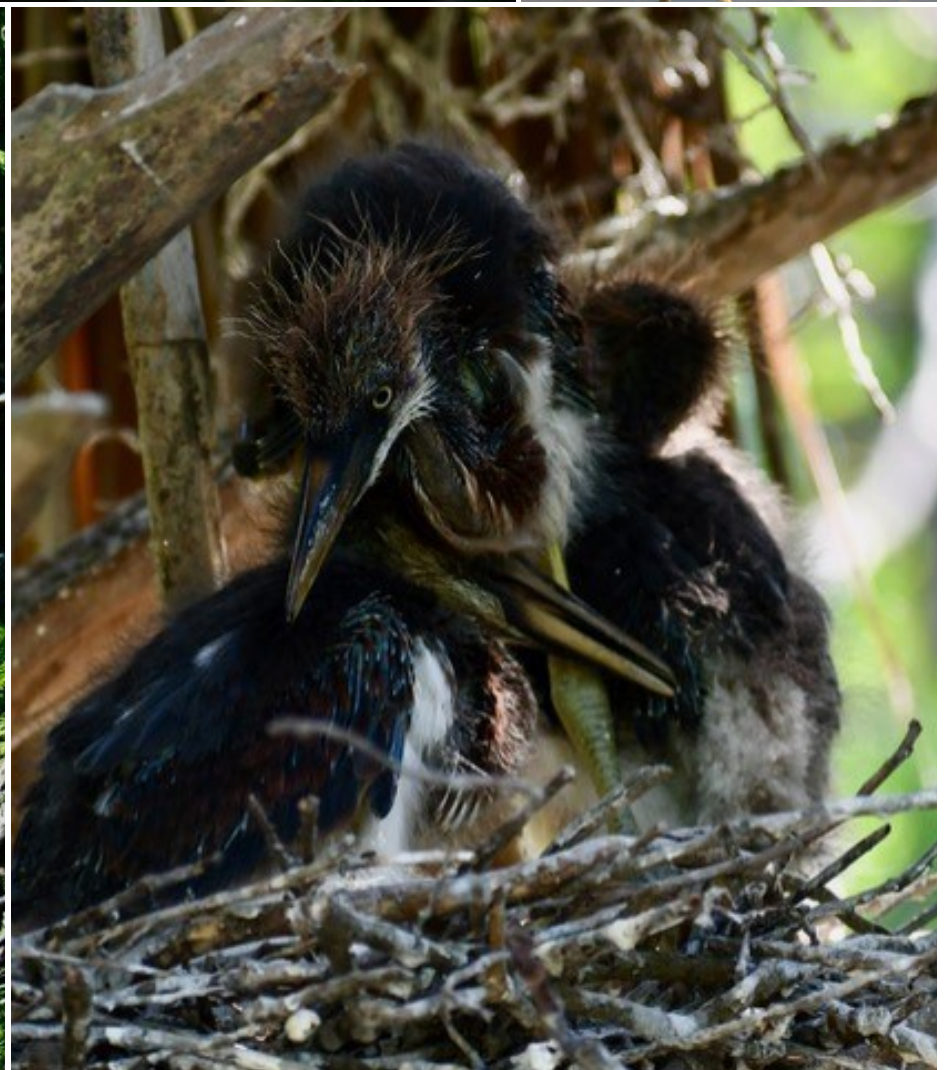
Marilynn Cute photos



**More Of Alligator Farm
On the top:**

A magnificent **Tricolor Heron**. Marilyn observed many Herons and Egrets with young at the rookery. She was able to get very close to the birds.

“Teenage” Tricolor below. Photo by Buddy at the Ponds a few years ago.





Above:

Another photo of the Roseate Spoonbill family. We occasionally get a Spoonbill here in the winter, primarily at the Glendale or Gilbert Recharge Ponds. By the time we see them here, they have lost their breeding plumage. Their Shrimp eating derived coloration turns a very pale pink in comparison.

Below:

Very cute Osprey chick onboard. Were there more in that nest? Chick looks to be serving a time out.



Below right:

Your standard Great Egret with 2 wonderfully dorky chicks.





Marilynn Cute photo

On the right:

We believe this is an immature Wood Stork, However I am not quite sure. If anyone has a better Idea let us know. Without any useful photos of immatures available while researching this, I am going by body, wing, neck and leg color. Below is an adult Wood Stork and Wood Stork chick from the Cornell library,



eBird photo



eBird photo

Below: As a segue to the following page, enjoy Buddy's recent sighting at the Ponds.



Buddy Walker photo

Upcoming June 2024 field trips

Glendale Recharge Ponds

When: Wednesday June 5th at **6 am** **Leader Buddy Walker**

Arrive at: **5:45** as group leaves at **6 am**

Sign up: **Buddy Walker:** walkerbd@live.com or text only cell:
602-653-1007 ask **Buddy** if you need directions.

This is the best “close” birding venue to us and one of the two best birding hot spots in Maricopa County. You will observe waterfowl & shorebirds like Stilts and Avocets, as well as desert residents and migrants. In addition Gulls, Terns, Eagles, and falcons may be seen. The water levels and feeding opportunities change daily and the species present reflect that.

Meet at: On the **SE corner of basin #6.**

Difficulty: A two or less mile walk on flat land.

Carpooling: If you need a ride or can give a ride please send an email to: suncitybirders@gmail.com and indicate whether you need a ride or if you can give a ride to one or more. **Do not request ride info from trip leader.**



Long-billed Dowicher

Buddy Walker

Upcoming June 2024 field trip

Hassayampa Regional Park

When: Wednesday June 19th at 6:45 am Leader - Tom Locascio

The third best birding spot in Maricopa county with 293 species observed. We may see Red-shouldered, Cooper's, Gray, and perhaps Black Hawks. As for Warblers, we may see Yellow-rump, Black-throated Gray, Lucy's, and Orange-crowned Warblers. Hermit Thrushes, Dark-eyed Juncos, Cardinals, Hummingbirds, Waxwings, Vireos, & If we are lucky, instead of just hearing them, perhaps we may actually see a Yellow-breasted Chat. Bridled Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Orioles, and Grosbeaks may be on the menu.

Meet at: Hassayampa Visitor Center Parking Lot or by the feeders in front.

I will send you directions for highway or (streets) if you request them when you sign up.



Hooded Oriole Buddy Walker

June 2024 Regional Parks field trip

Estrella Regional Park & Sonoran Audubon

When: Saturday June 8th at **6:30 am** Leaders - Joe Ford & Tom Locascio

This is a joint Maricopa Regional Parks/Sonoran Audubon endeavor. This park has a wide variety of species due to the generous representation of habitats such as: Mesquite Bosque, open river channels, riparian “stringers”, mini grasslands, and of course, Sonoran desert. Last month we saw the arrival of various Warblers, Orioles and Kingbirds. They are still here.

Meet at: **5:30 or 6 am** around the Visitor Center for early Center birding

Difficulty: A mile and a half of walking

Cost: \$7 per car entry fee to the park. (or use/buy a yearly pass)

Following the walk, Joe will present a program in the visitor center.

Carpooling is not available for Regional Parks trips.

These are not club events but are led by Joe Ford and Tom Locascio

Joe and Tom will continue the Estrella trips every 2nd Saturday of each month all summer. The Cave Creek and White Tank Mountain trips will resume in September.



Bonus Marilyn in Florida photo

Mottled Duck

May field trip bird list links

[Click on the link under each trip for the bird list.](#)

Glendale Recharge Ponds

5/8/24

[eBird Checklist - 8 May 2024 - Glendale Recharge Ponds - 30 species](#)

Estrella Regional Park

5/11/24

[eBird Checklist - 11 May 2024 - Estrella Mountain Regional Park - 40 species](#)

Rio Vista

5/15/24

[eBird Checklist - 15 May 2024 - Rio Vista Community Park/Riparian Area - 24 species \(+2 other taxa\)](#)

Cave Creek Regional Park

5/18/24

[eBird Checklist - 18 May 2024 - Cave Creek Regional Park - 16 species](#)

Hassayampa River Preserve

5/22/24

[eBird Checklist - 22 May 2024 - Hassayampa River Preserve - 32 species](#)

White Tank Mountain

5/25/24

[eBird Checklist - 25 May 2024 - White Tank Mountain Regional Park - 23 species](#)

Lakeview Recreation Center

5/29/24

[eBird Checklist - 29 May 2024 - Lakeview Recreation Center Sun City - 15 species](#)

Here's more from Ecuador



Blue-winged
Mountain Tanager
Vera



Silver-throated
Tanager
Vera