

Volume 8 Issue 10

October 2024

Birding Club of Sun City



Buddy Walker



Above: it's no Millennium Falcon!

On the cover:

Western Grebe photo by Buddy Walker at the Glendale Recharge Ponds last week. His next field trip there is on October 16th at 7am.

Our next Meeting is Wednesday October 9th. Sign in at 9:45, meeting starts at 10 am

October's main program will be:

Birding Maricopa County 2025

Buddy Walker — Presenter

The Falcon's Roost

Hi Birders,

October Mornings may be quite comfortable. Somehow highs remain in the 100's until the 7th. High 90's after that. Make the best of the 70's and join the group on one of our October field trips.

All summer Joe and I have been the main carpool drivers. Now that most of our flock will soon return, I am confident that more people will drive if the carpool folks require drivers. When you contact Buddy, Joe. Or myself to sign up for a field trip, remember the sequence below.

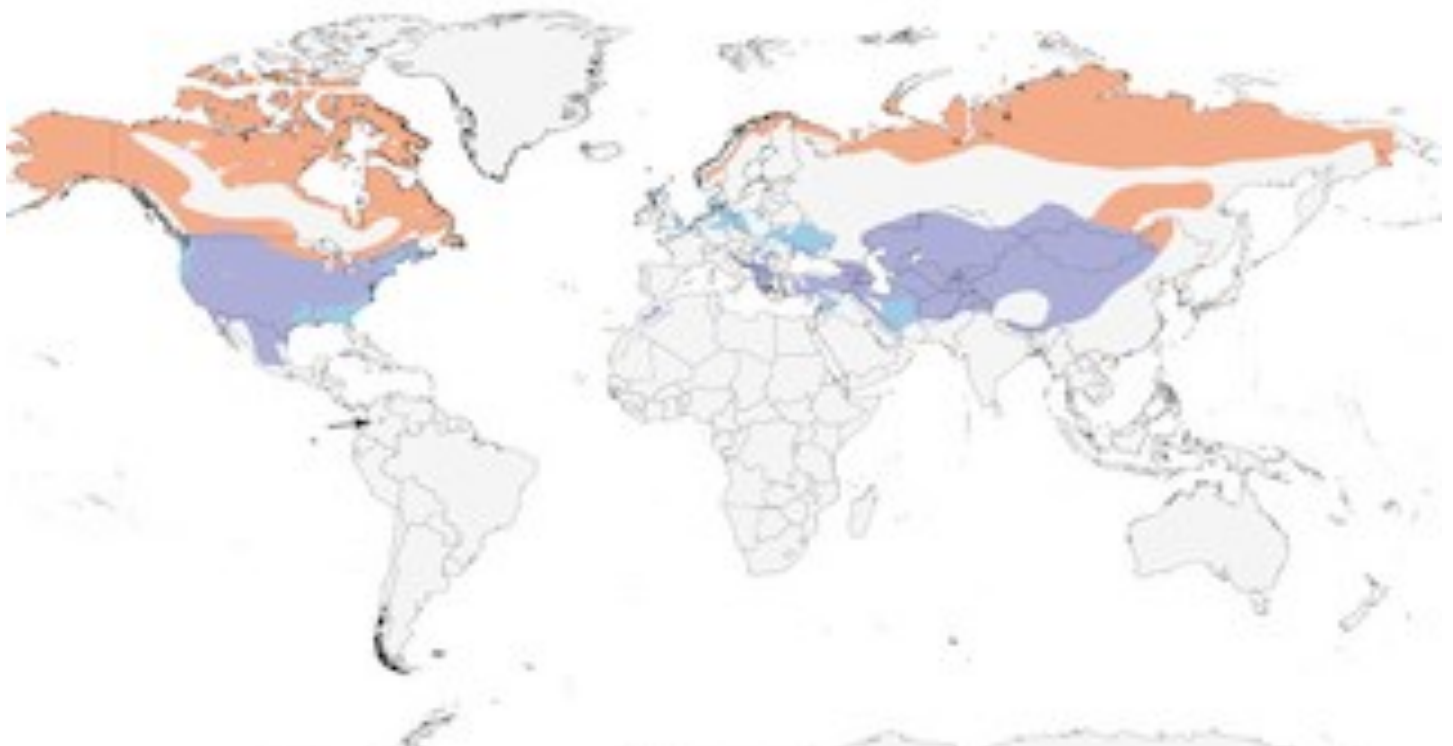
Email the leader and state:

I plan on going on XXXX field trip

Email suncitybirders@gmail.com

Let the carpool coordinator know if you are available to drive if needed or I need a ride if available.

Below: Horned Lark Distribution. See HOLA (Horned Lark) Field notes inside for a bit more information.



Upcoming October trip quick-list

Full details on trip add pages later in this newsletter

Paloma Community Park

When: Friday October 4th at 7 am Leader - Tom L.

Email Tom to join the group locascio2000@hotmail.com

Glendale Recharge Ponds

When: Wednesday October 16th 7 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 October 23rd at 6:30 am Leader - Tom L.

Email Tom to join the group locascio2000@hotmail.com

Tres Rios Wetlands inner Sanctum

When: Friday October 25th at 7:30 am Leader - Tom L.

Has participation restrictions see advertisement

Email Tom to join the group locascio2000@hotmail.com

Maricopa Regional Parks/Audubon field trips

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

When: Saturday October 12th at 7:30 am Leaders Joe and Tom

Cave Creek Regional Park

When: Saturday October 19th at 7:30 am Leaders Joe and Tom

White Tank Regional Park

When: Saturday October 26th at 7:30 am Leaders Joe and Tom

Administrativa 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
No meeting in December				
Wednesday January	8th	2025	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.

Recent backyard visitors to Sun City



Marilynn Cute sent us the photos this and on the next page.

Top left and right: Two aspects of this colorful **Wilson's Warbler**. Marilyn lives next to the Willow Creek Golf Course and gets her share of birds passing or returning through our part of the two flyways that transverse Arizona.



Above:

Folks send me photos of birds to ID. It is always an enjoyable process. Some times I have good success and some times I get photos of Sparrows. I may not be alone suffering from Sparrow-ID-Phobia I usually have the ones I see often down pat and knowing size, and actually observing a bird first hand makes the ID a bit easier.

Since I haven't mis-identified a bird all day I will Offer:

Rufous-winged Sparrow. Please let me know if I have it wrong. If so, they barely makes it up to our area. See area map on right.



Recent backyard visitors continued



On the top:

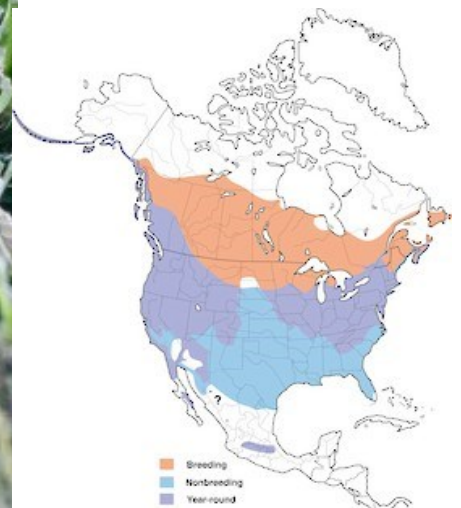
Black-throated Sparrow

There seems to be a bumper crop of these at Cave Creek Regional Park and at our first October destination Paloma Community Park.



To the left:

An interesting view of a wide spread Sparrow from Nova Scotia to the Aleutians to Northern Mexico. They are here all year round. the **Song Sparrow** is most likely to be seen near water. Best locations to see one are Hassayampa, and Glendale Recharge Ponds.



Upcoming October 2024 field trips

Paloma Community Park

When: Friday October 4th at 7 am Leader Tom Locascio

Bordering on the Peoria Preserve Open Area, there is a surprising representation of waterfowl and desert birds with close up viewing possible. I've seen some interesting birds here such as Pyrrhuloxia, Sage Thrasher, Rock Wren, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and a Western Grebe. I expect to see 25 or more species. Ducks and Cormorants are be arriving.

Meet at: Between the parking lot and man made lake

Cost: no cost

Difficulty: A two or less mile walk on flat ground, with 50% walking on dirt trails that are a bit rocky. Wear sturdy footwear.

Carpooling: No carpooling available on local trips at this time.

Directions:

Go North on 99th Ave

Left (North) on Lake Pleasant Pkwy.

After passing West Wing there is a sign on the left saying the park is 1/2 mile ahead. Take a right turn into the park entrance. Follow the entrance road until you see the lake on the your left. Park close to the lake and meet your comrades on the South edge of the lake. Cows and/or Donkeys may show.



Recent field trip notes

On the top:

Horned Lark photographed by Marilyn Cute on our September visit to Paloma Community Park. I've seen these several times on the baseball and soccer fields in the park. They can be difficult to notice on large fields or farms and usually forage in flocks. The horns in this photo are not deployed. They are not made of keratin material like a longhorn but of feathers.



From Cornell's All About Birds

Upcoming October 2024 field trips

Glendale Recharge Ponds

When: Wednesday October 16th at **7 am** Leader **Buddy Walker**

Arrive at: **6:45** as group leaves at **7 am**

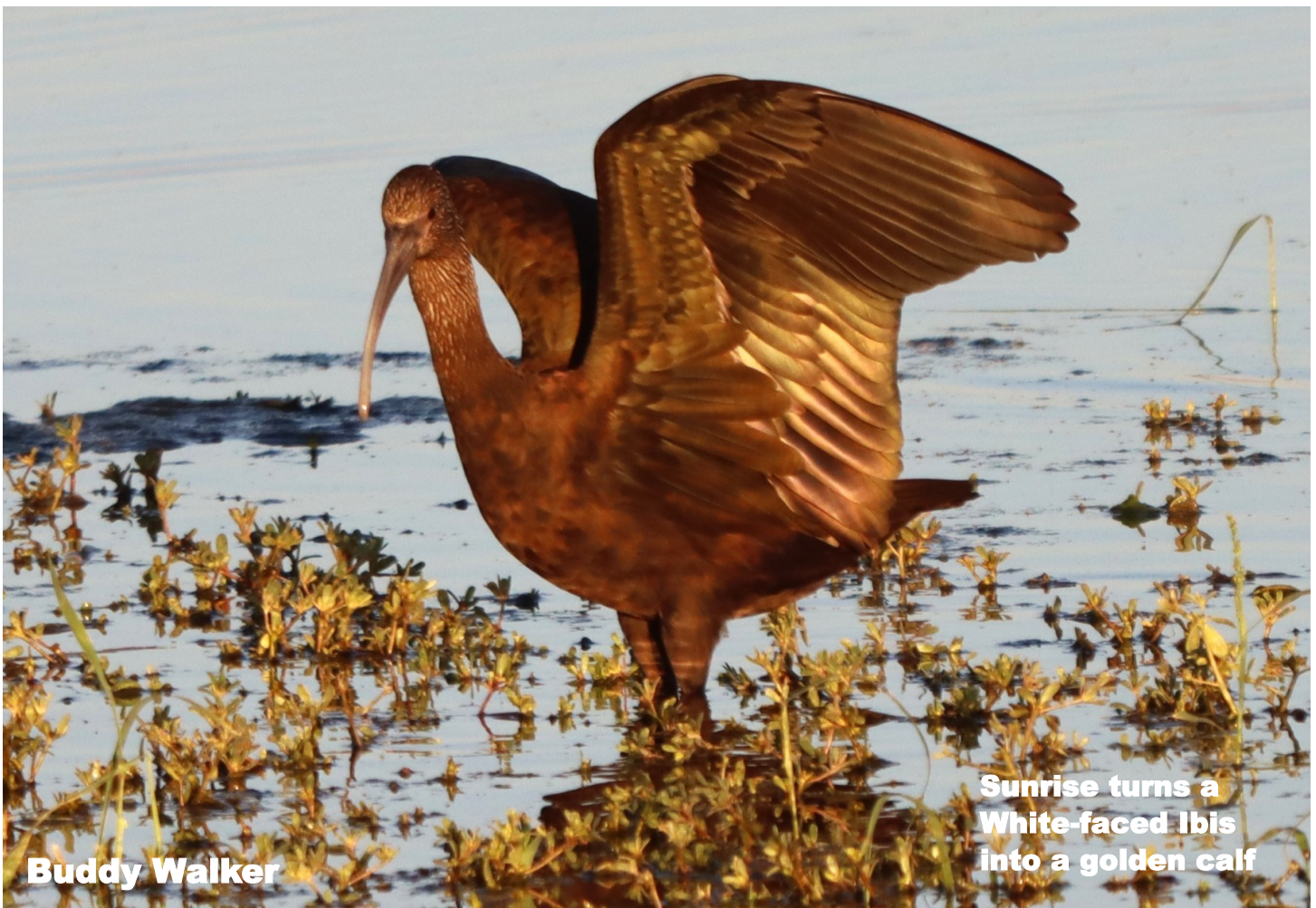
Sign up: **Buddy Walker:** walkerbd@live.com or text only cell: **602-653-1007** ask **Buddy** if you need directions.

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



Buddy Walker

**Sunrise turns a
White-faced Ibis
into a golden calf**

Upcoming October 2024 field trip

Hassayampa Regional Park

When: Wednesday October 18th at 6:30 am Leader - Tom L.

The third best birding spot in Maricopa county with 293 species observed. We may see Red-shouldered, Cooper's, Gray, Hawks. As for Warblers, we may see Yellow-rump, Black-throated Gray, Lucy's, MacGillivray's, Nashville, Wilson's and Yellow Warblers. Hermit Thrushes, Western & Summer Tanagers, Cardinals, and of course Hummingbirds. Hummingbirds.

Anything could show up here and some of our members usually can pick up a lifer or two.

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

We will bird the two parking areas. We will bird the 2 parking area, empty and quite birdy until the gates to the preserve open at 7am. Next month and through the winter the preserve will open at 8am. will send you directions for highway or (streets) if you request them when you sign up.

Cost: \$5 per car entry fee. Your Maricopa Regional Parks pass works here!

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



"Teenage" Pied-billed Grebe

Buddy Walker

Upcoming October 2024 field trip

Tres Rios Wetlands

When: Friday October 25th at **7:30 am** Leader - Tom L.

Meet at: Tres Rios parking lot at 7:30 or Bell Center car pool area at 6:45

If you need a ride or can offer a ride to Tres Rios contact:

suncitybirders@gmail.com

Sign up: Room for 11 people. See signup restrictions below.

Cost: Free courtesy of Phoenix Water

Meet at: Those who take part in carpooling will meet at the SE corner of the Bell Center parking lot where the farmer's market usually meets at 6:45. We will leave at 7 am sharp. The rest will meet up at the 91st Ave. Wetlands parking lot at 7:30. I will send more details and maps if requested. Here's a plus for those non-plussed about driving on the 101 freeway. You can avoid it by taking 99th Ave. south to Thomas road. going east to 91st Ave and going south to the smallish Wetlands parking area.

Restrictions: Here's the fun part. They have room for 12 people, 1 trip leader and 11 club member only participants.

- 1) First priority goes to members who haven't been on this trip before. There will be a wait list for other interested members. We almost always have a cancellation or more so don't hesitate to get on the wait list as it is often used.
- 2) Email me to get on the main list or wait list. Let me know if you haven't been before. We will rideshare from the Bell Center meeting at the SW corner of the facility
- 3) Another option if the event is full and you want to join in is to walk the fence trail external to the closed to the public area van riders will be traveling. All other visitors to this site enjoy the Wetlands, enjoy the external trail to the not open to the public area seeing some different birds. Email me for more options externally.

Difficulty: Not too much walking as a Phoenix Water Van will drive us to viewing locations. We will have to get off and back on to the van several times.

Sign up: Via e-mail locascio2000@hotmail.com

More info:

[Tres Rios Overbank Wetlands \(permit required\), Maricopa County, AZ, US - eBird Hotspot](#)

[Illustrated Checklist - Tres Rios Overbank Wetlands \(permit required\), Maricopa County, AZ, US - eBird Hotspot](#)

www.phoenix.gov/waterservices/tresrios

October 2024 Regional Parks trips

Estrella Regional Park & Sonoran Audubon

When: Saturday October 12th at **7:30 am** Leaders - Joe & Tom

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.

Meet at: **7 am** around the Visitor Center for early pre-walk birding.

Difficulty: A mile and a half of walking

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

PROGRAM TO FOLLOW IN NATURE CENTER: “RAPTORS, ESPECIALY OWLS”

Cave Creek & Sonoran Audubon

When: Saturday October 19th at **7:30 am** Leaders - Joe & Tom **Meet at:** **7 am** behind the Visitor Center for early pre-walk birding.

Difficulty: A mile and a half of walking

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

Program to follow inside the Nature Center, “RAPTORS, HAWKS, FALCONS, EAGLES, VULTURES”

White Tank Mt. Park & Sonoran Audubon

When: Saturday October 26th at **7:30 am** Leaders - Joe & Tom **Meet at:** **6 am** next to the Visitor Center for early pre-walk birding.

Difficulty: A mile and a half of walking

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

PROGRAM TO FOLLOW IN NATURE CENTER---“LOONS OR WARBLERS”

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

Carpooling is not available for Regional Parks trips.

September field trip bird list links

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

Paloma Community Park September 6th 2024

[eBird Checklist - 6 Sep 2024 - Paloma Community Park - 27 species \(+2 other taxa\)](#)

Glendale Recharge Ponds September 11th 2024

[eBird Checklist - 11 Sep 2024 - Glendale Recharge Ponds - 29 species](#)

Estrella Regional Park September 14th 2024

[eBird Checklist - 14 Sep 2024 - Estrella Mountain Regional Park - 21 species](#)

Hassayampa Preserve September 18th 2024

[eBird Checklist - 18 Sep 2024 - Hassayampa River Preserve - 24 species](#)

Cave Creek September 21st 2024

[eBird Checklist - 21 Sep 2024 - Cave Creek Regional Park - 18 species](#)

White Tank Mountain September 28th 2024

[eBird Checklist - 28 Sep 2024 - White Tank Mountain Regional Park - 21 species](#)

The End



Buddy Walker