May Program
Flagstaff and Sedona
Zoom and Facebook Live

May 25, 2021
Time: 7:00 pm (Tuesday)

Location: Zoom and Facebook Live
(links are in NAAS emails, eblasts and on the website northernarizonaaudubon.org)

Name of presenter: Eric Moore

Eric Moore is the owner of Jay’s Bird Barn, a backyard wild bird and nature gift store, in Prescott and Flagstaff. Eric started bird watching at the ripe age of five years old and his love of birds has stayed with him as he has grown older. After a twenty-year career in the grocery industry, Eric decided to combine his love of birds with his retail experience. In 2003 Eric quit his full-time job and started Jay’s Bird Barn in Prescott, Arizona. Eric feels blessed to be able to combine his love of wild birds with his career as owner of Jay’s Bird Barn. For over 16 years now Eric has written a weekly column in the Prescott Courier on wild birds and he does speaking engagements around the state of Arizona on the topic of wild birds.

Title of program: Native Plants are for the Birds!

Eric will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation on incorporating native plants into residential landscaping to maximize both the variety and quantity of birds visiting ones’ yard. The presentation will illustrate the stark differences between non-native landscaping versus native plants and the impact this has on wild birds. Examples of excellent landscaping that is wildlife friendly will be illustrated with suggestions on plant species to include in your yard to attract the widest variety of birds.

In-Person Members’ Meetings Returning to Sedona this Fall, 2021

NAAS Below the Rim (Sedona) is announcing itself back with in-person meetings, starting in September. November 17 is designated as Members' Night (Sedona Library at 6:00 p.m.). We’ll be in a Thanksgiving mode—happy to see each other and talk about our adventures. This is your meeting. Start thinking now. You’ll be given five minutes to talk about anything regarding nature and may submit up to five slides. More details will be coming.

We are always seeking speakers for our programs in Sedona (BTR) meetings. We would like to hear what topics you are interested in hearing about. If you, or anyone that you know, can give a good presentation, send your comments to: Nanette Armstrong at nancearmstrong@gmail.com

Zoom Members’ Meetings Continue in Flagstaff this Fall, 2021

NAAS Above the Rim (Flagstaff) will continue to meet by Zoom until Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church returns to allowing in-person gatherings. We would like to hear what topics you are interested in hearing about and suggestions of speakers you would like us to invite. Send your comments to: Janet May at janetmay28@gmail.com

NAAS FIELD TRIPS ARE RESUMING
WATCH THE EBLASTS
AND
CHECK THE NAAS CALENDAR FOR DETAILS
https://northernarizonaaudubon.org/NAAS/naas-calendar/

All monthly Facebook Live programs (Sept, 2020 to May, 2021) are archived on the NAAS Facebook page
President’s Message
May 2021

NAAS has exciting news! In our last Board meeting, we approved contracting with Front Burner Media to assist NAAS in a year-long Community Engagement Plan using Social Media. Also, to that end, we’ve hired a dedicated Communications Coordinator who will help us communicate more and better. (I know, I wish we’d had this during COVID too! Last year taught us how important keeping in touch with each other is, and we can still heed that lesson.)

The purpose for the investment in this plan is to generate broader community support within the Flagstaff and Verde Valley areas for our mission:

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

Let’s face it… it’s the way of the future. And with this plan, we hope to generate:
- Increased community participation in programs, at meetings, volunteer events, and membership
- Increased involvement with a younger audience
- Increased awareness of habitat and ecological issues

We want you to be involved in generating content, whether it’s telling about birds found on a field trip, writing about seeing your “lifer” Snowy Egret on your bus route, or finding a Rare Bird. We want you to be able to share that enthusiasm through our Social Media Platforms.

Facebook and Instagram:

1. **Facebook**: Throughout the summer, we will be working on improvements to our page: [https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Arizona-Audubon-Society-67850928825284/](https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Arizona-Audubon-Society-67850928825284/).
2. **Instagram**: Visit our new Instagram page: nazaudubon. Download the Instagram app, and you can already see some outstanding photos that NAAS members have taken.

These are the initial platforms that our savvy Social Media team will use to reach more folks and organizations with similar interests.

In response to this possible problem, NAAS submitted a letter to Coconino County expressing our concerns. We pointed out that NAAS has committed both financial and volunteer resources to make the Wetlands one of greater Flagstaff’s premier birding areas. It has now become a well visited resource for the entire community.

We also pointed out that the limited water resources in the Flagstaff area are under great pressure and requested that the County continue to protect them by denying any increased housing density. Fortunately, the County listened to the collective voices of the local community and denied the zoning request.

One of the main elements of our chapter’s mission is to protect wildlife habitat and this is an example of our active efforts in this regard.

Thanks,
Kay Hawklee
President
Interesting Websites

Enjoy looking at these websites, a YouTube Series, and a documentary this summer.

https://www.audubon.org/menu/press-room
This is a National Audubon Society news page that is constantly being updated. Please take a few minutes and visit it often.

https://www.audubon.org/joy-of-birds
Birds bring us happiness in so many ways—especially in trying times. Whether you’re just looking for a lift, unable to enjoy the outdoors, or in desperate need of distraction, look no further than this National Audubon page.

National Audubon Society also has an article about the fascinating Netflix documentary, Dancing Birds, that will make you smile: https://www.audubon.org/news/in-netflixs-dancing-birds-we-see-other-side-bizarre-avian-spectacle

https://thebirdersshow.com
The Birders Show is a YouTube Series for everyone that loves birdwatching, nature, travel, and adventure.

https://ebird.org/quiz/
Practice your skills and help science using your Cornell Lab eBird account.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/
This website page has live cams and Virtual Birding Around the World with videos, quizzes and sounds.

https://www.birdnote.org/
This is a public media program that brings hope and joy to people with two-minute shows each day.

We are proud to be a supporter of the
Northern Arizona Audubon Society
Producing and mailing the “BlackHawk Watch” newsletter

FIVE STAR PRINTING

★ Full Service Printing
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Bulk Mailing - Our staff is up-to-date on postal regulations for efficient delivery at the lowest possible rate. ★ List Maintenance ★ Bulk Permits ★ Presort Service ★ Automated Bar-Coding ★ Zip +4 ★ Delivery to the P.O.

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Bird Sightings

Yavapai County 300 Bird Species Club

By Rich Armstrong

The goal of some Yavapai birders is to get to 300 species in the county. It is not easy and requires not only chasing rarities but trips to Congress, Date Creek ranch near Congress, Black Canyon City, Lake Pleasant, Seligman, and many, many trips to Prescott to Willow Lake and Watson Lake. Nanette & I made it to 300 species a few years ago and have been joined by other NAAS members Sam Hough, Vic Nelson, Chip Engelmann, Lisa Grubbs, Kay Hawklee, Holly Kleindienst, and more recently Janie Stewart and Heather Hofling. The newest member of the 300 club is Julie Wills, as she saw a beautiful male Barrow’s Goldeneye in Prescott April 3rd. Julie was the NAAS Treasurer for many years. On eBird there are only three Prescott birders in the club, which sort of verifies that it is not easy. Yavapai is about the size of New Jersey with a wide variety of habitats, including over half the county that is not birded at all.

Bird Sightings

By Rich Armstrong

Despite no official NAAS field trips during COVID-19, birding has continued. As usual Common Black Hawks & Lucy’s Warblers showed up in March. The first half of April at the Sedona Wetlands had a Lesser Black-backed Gull seen by only one person, American Avocets, many Red-breasted Mergansers, a few Wilson’s Phalaropes, a group of White-faced Ibis, a lone Black-necked Stilt, a Long-billed Dowitcher, a huge flock of White Pelicans that stayed only an hour or so, and Bonaparte’s, Franklin’s, and Herring Gulls. A Magnolia Warbler, first Yavapai record, was seen at the Fish Hatchery, but since it is still closed to birders, it was hard to chase. Tim Weber found a Gray Hawk at Page Springs and it has been seen again. And a Snowy Egret has been at Bubbling Ponds.

Yardie Award Recipient Announcement

Congratulations to our latest Yardie Award recipient: Linda Sporrer. She tallied 50 species in her yard, choosing the Gambel’s Quail for the photo on her plaque.
Staying Connected at Northern Arizona Audubon Society
(includes updated information)

Here’s how we are staying connected at Northern Arizona Audubon Society (NAAS):

Website: http://www.northernarizonaaudubon.org  In addition to visiting the website, you can subscribe to get email updates about new content and articles. On the home page of the website, complete the box in the bottom right corner with your name and email address.

Eblast emails from NAAS, usually twice per month

Facebook: Northern Arizona Audubon Society (check this page frequently for updates) https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Arizona-Audubon-Society-678850928825284/
All monthly Facebook Live programs (Sept, 2020 to May, 2021) are archived on the NAAS Facebook page

National Audubon Society, our chapter’s parent organization, is at https://www.audubon.org

The BlackHawk Watch (BHW) newsletter is published September, November, January, March, and May. Articles are welcome from members and non-members. Send proposed articles and questions to Jenny Barnes (Editor) at naaspub@gmail.com by the 15th of the month preceding the publication month.

NOTE: The BHW is posted to the NAAS website in color with live links. Click the green buttons at the bottom left corner of the home page to access either the current newsletter or an archived newsletter (back to 2011).

NOTE: The print version of the BHW will eventually be replaced by an online version distribution.

NAAS Bird Walks/Field Trips: Based on April 27, 2021 CDC guidelines, we are scheduling field trips. Please check the calendar on the website for field trips: https://northernarizonaaudubon.org/NAAS/naas-calendar/
Also, please watch for eBlasts announcing field trips.

And instead of reading about birding, why not write some news of your own? We would enjoy hearing your birding stories to entertain and encourage others. Topics could include how you started birding. Did you have a spark bird? What would you consider your strongest interest or expertise and what resources or tools did you learn from? Where are your favorite birding spots or vacations that you have enjoyed most? Do you have a story about tracking down a rare bird? And of course, there is always the interesting backyard bird watching story and how you have made your home landscapes attractive to birds.

Please send your stories here: NAASpub@gmail.com
We will do some editing, if needed, and will post a photo or two with it.

Spotlight on Behavior
Sleeping

By Lisa Grubbs

All birds roost – that is they have a period of inactivity analogous to sleep in human beings. Some birds do it alone, others with mobs of compatriots, some change roosting habits with the season. Birds are amazing creatures having evolutionary and adaptive techniques and skills to help them get the rest they need and to stay safe and warm. Here are just a few facts on avian roosting:

- Birds have both “quiet and active-sleep” phases. Quiet sleep is dozing when birds open their eyes and peek around. Mated males, smaller flocks, those in less-protected areas, and breeding males with conspicuous plumage sleep more. Peeking increases during breeding season and with species who engage in promiscuous sex. Sleep with one eye open allows them to rest one-half of their brain at a time. During active-sleep slumber, the eyes are shut.

- Birds have evolved the ability to drop body temperatures during sleep to conserve energy. Red-tailed Hawks, when deprived of food, drop 5-7°F. Hummingbirds, swifts and poorwills enter a state of torpor in which body temps may drop as much as 50°F. “Shallow torpor” for short periods is thought to be more widespread among birds than previously believed. Migrating passerines at stopover sites lower body temps by 8-10°F.

- To prevent falling, feet and talons work with a pulley system with their tendons, enabling them to “lock down” until the legs are straightened again. This same grasp enables raptors to clamp down on their prey.

- Some sleep on the wing: such as wintering Chimney Swifts and Frigatebirds, who actually close both eyes into active sleep.

- Communal vs solitary roosting is closely related to communal and solitary nesters. Roosting is for protection, warmth and perhaps companionship. Flocks of millions - starlings and blackbirds - swoop down in seconds to their night retreats. Some change roosting habits with the season. Red-winged Blackbirds roost alone when breeding. Similar species gather together primarily for warmth and protection, like nuthatches and creepers roosting in cavities. Older birds seem to sleep at the center of a large group.

- Roosting in a variety of places: cavities, tree branches, cliffs, tops of cacti, islands (seabirds), wires, cattails and nests (Verdin and Bushtits).

Cool fact: The record-holding communal rooster was the now-extinct Passenger Pigeon, who not only roosted, but nested in gigantic colonies containing billions of birds covering square miles.
NAAS Field Trips

Based on April 27, 2021 CDC guidelines, we are scheduling field trips. Please check the NAAS Calendar on the website for details.

Bubbling Ponds Preserve
Thursday – May 13th 7 – 10 am
Leader: Lisa Grubbs
Meet at dirt parking lot - no restrooms. We will be walking approx 2 miles on easy, mostly flat terrain exploring the fish hatchery ponds and Black Hawk Trail through marsh, mesquite and grassland habitats and along the Oak Creek riparian corridor for breeding Summer migrants, migrants passing through and the usual cast of resident characters. Bring water, snacks, field guides and scope if you want.

Picture Canyon
Thursday - May 20th 8:00 am
Meet at 8 AM at Picture Canyon parking area. Group is limited to 6 people. CDC guidelines will be followed. For information and to confirm participation, text or call Debbie McMahon at 928-707-0610.

Cave Springs Campground
Wednesday - May 26th - 7:00 am - 10:00 am
Meet at small parking lot. Be advised parking space is limited. If you have been fully vaccinated, you need not wear a mask; unvaccinated must wear a mask. Walking for 3 hours. Maybe near Poison Ivy - dress accordingly. Facilities are available at the latter part of the walk. Bring snacks for break at picnic area. For information and to confirm participation, text or call Kay Hawklee at 432-703-0007.

Shultz Tank
Wednesday - June 16th - 8:00 am
Meet at 8AM at Shultz Tank. Group is limited to 6 people. CDC guidelines will be followed. For information and to confirm participation, text or call Debbie McMahon at 928-707-0610.

Also, please watch for eBlast emails announcing field trip information.

Birding and Natural History Course at Yavapai College

The Greenwood Naturalist Fund, in collaboration with Yavapai College is again offering a birding and natural history class. Starting June 1, this course will be a series of field trips to local birding spots where participants will learn about our area’s wildlife.

As we emerge from a year of change, we will celebrate this season of hope and renewal through the beauty, diversity and songs of the wild birds as they return to the Verde Valley for their summer and breeding rituals. We have learned that there are things bigger than us. We intend to celebrate that as we step out of our own patterns and hear and observe our feathered companions.

Sponsored by the Greenwood Naturalist Fund and taught by experienced naturalists, this four-session short course will take participants to three local sanctuaries to observe and learn about resident birds. There will be some discussion about plants and other components to the web of life, depending on what is observable at each site. NAAS members Rita Faruki and Patti Greeneitch will be the instructors for this course.

Yavapai College is partnering with the Greenwood Naturalist Fund to offer this course. The Greenwood Fund will provide each student with a $30 tuition reimbursement payment.

The Greenwood Naturalist Fund is a donor supported fund created in memory of Dena Greenwood, an important and beloved presence in the birding community of northern Arizona.

For further information, please go to the Yavapai College web site by doing a copy and paste using this link: https://www.campusce.net/yc/course/course.aspx?C=9785&pc=40&mc=&sc=
Rich Armstrong is the Chair of Field Trips for Northern Arizona Audubon Society – Below the Rim (BTR). And what Rich Armstrong does best is help people find birds. While sitting on his back porch recently, awaiting Costa’s and Calliope Hummingbirds, Rich said, “It’s what I do” in response to being thanked for sharing these birds. He’ll do whatever it takes to help others find birds and birding as a hobby. NAAS’s Vice President, Dennis Tomko, has said many times that he didn’t know “bird” was a verb; until he met Rich.

Rich takes his birding very seriously. On January 1, 1989, he said to his wife Nanette, “Let’s try this birding as a hobby…” and the rest is history. He has seen a bird in all 50 states, has a huge American Birding Association (ABA) list of 815 species. He’s seen 424 species in Arizona alone, with 350 of those in Yavapai County. He and Nanette have been on bird watching trips to South Africa, Ecuador, Costa Rica and many other countries having seen 2197 world birds.

Rich is exactly the type of birder you want to have teaching others because his knowledge is so vast. He loves teaching and has taught over ten “Birding 101” workshops with the most recent at the Camp Verde Library this past April. The Library loved it! “We had 20 in-person participants and five virtual. Several participants told us that they enjoyed the presentation and learned a lot.” Several attendees liked it so much they joined NAAS and subscribed to articles publish through our website. Rich has brought many, many people into the hobby of bird watching - most of whom are active birders to this day.

“The Clerk in the Children’s Library got to participate and is excited to bring the information she learned to the children who will be observing birds at the feeders donated by a NAAS member for that exact purpose.” To be so accomplished, you’d think he could easily dismiss those with less experience; but to the contrary, he always encourages any level of birder.

One person said, “I didn’t think I could listen to someone talk for two hours about birds and not be bored, but I wasn’t. He was extremely engaging and I learned a lot!” His boisterous tone has earned him the nickname of “Big Mouth of the Valley”; which he has rather embraced. His sense of humor keeps people entertained while they learn about birds. This title is also earned because he raises the alarm when a new migrant swoops into the Verde Valley, as he did in Texas for many years. Peak migration is his favorite time of year. (FYI: All of April and May. Then again in Mid-August – October). He has an email list of birders who want to know the immediate whereabouts of each new species that flies in and he’s more than glad to trumpet their whereabouts to the over 100 on his email list.

He is the “Birding Pal” for the Verde Valley and has raised at least $1757 of donations for NAAS. His accomplishments in birding organizations include:

- Led over 100 NAAS field trips.
- Field Trip Chair for NAAS for 7-8 years
- Organized all of the field trips for the Hummingbird Festival.
- Led 30 field trips for Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival.
- Steward of Sedona Wetlands 5-6 years
- He and Nanette resurrected the NAAS Yardie Award and have presented 58 Yardie Awards to deserving yard watchers.

**NAAS would like to thank and recognize Rich’s outstanding efforts to impart a love for the hobby and sport of birding to others.**

Sport? You ask? How is bird watching a sport? Watch the movie “The Big Year” with Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson. It’s a fun way to learn about the sport of bird watching. A “Big Year” does not have to be running around the entire United States or World for a year. It can be done in your own backyard. Rich and Nanette Armstrong have been watching for new arrivals in their yard since they moved here 10 years ago and have seen a whopping 169 species for their Yard list. They feed birds throughout the seasons spending over $1,200 per year on bird seed, suet, and sugar. They are a great example of a Win/Win for birds and humans.

Finally, Rich encourages birders to participate in Citizen Science. He lets birders know when National Audubon has Christmas Bird Count, Feeder Watcher and Global Big Days (May 8, 2021) so that everyone can enjoy this wonderful sport while adding to citizen science efforts. He’s always willing to share the Sedona Wetlands.

Thanks Rich for setting many folks - young and old - on a lifetime of love for birds and birding!
Our heartfelt thanks to those who have joined and renewed! We are putting your membership fees to good use protecting birds and their habitats.

To see when your membership expires, look at the date next to your address on your newsletter.

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- **Steward Sedona Wetlands:** Rich Armstrong
- **Steward Kachina Wetlands:** Christina Vojta
- **Steward Picture Canyon:** Roy May

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**To An Oriole**

By Edgar Fawcett

How falls it, oriole, thou hast come to fly
In tropic splendor through our Northern sky?

At some glad moment, was it Nature’s choice
To dower a scrap of sunset with a voice?

Or did some orange tulip flaked with black,
In some forgotten garden, ages back,

Yeaming towards heaven, until its wish was heard,
Desire unspeakably to be a bird?

(from the book Songbird Journeys by Miyoko Chu)
Please enroll me/our household as a Chapter Member of Northern Arizona Audubon Society (NAAS).

Name: __________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City, State, Zip____________________________
Phone: __________________________________
Email: __________________________________

Enclosed:
____ Individual $25 (Northern Flicker)
____ Family $40 (Gambel's Quail)
____ Supporting $100 (Blackhawk)

Please make checks payable to NAAS and mail to:
Membership Chair, NAAS
PO Box 1496, Sedona, AZ 86339

I am interested in Volunteer opportunities
☐

If you prefer to join or renew on line, please go to our website at http://www.northernarizonaaudubon.org/membership

I am interested in a change of address
☐
I am interested in a renewal
☐

If you are a member of NAAS, please tell us why you are a member of NAAS. What benefits do you get from being a member? As a member of the NAAS, you are supporting a strong, active organization that is making a difference in our world. The NAAS Board would like to better serve our membership.

Name: __________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City, State, Zip____________________________
Phone: __________________________________
Email: __________________________________

Northern Arizona Audubon Society (NAAS), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, exists to support a mission and lives and breathes by membership participation and donations. You, as an individual, are the vital component of our organization. You will find that you are supporting a strong, active organization that is making a difference in our world. The NAAS Board would like to better serve our membership.

Northern Arizona Audubon Society
P.O.Box1496
Sedona,AZ86339

JOIN NORTHERN ARIZONA AUDUBON TODAY!

Connect with Nature in Northern Arizona

When you become a member of the Northern Arizona Audubon Society, you join your neighbors in learning about—and enjoying—the spectacular natural world that surrounds us, you educate children and adults about birds, other wildlife, and the importance of their habitats, and you advocate for responsible public policy for the conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat.

And we have FUN!

Northern Arizona Audubon Society members also become members of the National Audubon Society. Joining is simple. Just fill out this form, add your check, and mail it in.

Please enroll me as a member of Northern Arizona Audubon and the National Audubon Society.

Special Introductory Adult/Family Membership $20* for a NEW, 1-year membership.

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Membership Chair
Northern Arizona Audubon Society
P.O.Box1496
Sedona,AZ86339

* $15 for students & senior citizens (62+)