



The Rock Wren

The mission of Red Rock Audubon Society is to protect, restore, and improve natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and to educate the public about our unique Nevada environment.

Red Rock Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 96691
 Las Vegas, NV 89193
 702.390.9890

October 2011

CBC Dates:

12/14: Henderson
 12/17: Corn Creek
 12/28: Red Rock Canyon

Field Trips:

01/17-20: San Diego
 02/21-24: Salton Sea/Yuma

General Meetings:

Nov 14th: 6:30 pm
 Dec: No meeting

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RRAS General Meetings

The Red Rock Audubon Society General Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month, except June, July, August, and December. Social hour begins at 6:30pm, presentations begin at 7pm. It's free and open to the public. Join us for snacks, conversation, education, and great raffle prizes. Meetings are held at Nevada Energy, Wengert Room, at 6226 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV.

"Building Habitat in Your Backyard"

At our general meeting on Nov. 14th, 2011, Robin Wilson will present:

"Building Habitat in Your Backyard"

How do you keep areas important to birds? Habitat. Every bird species has specific requirements and needs of their surroundings for their survival. Learn the basics on how to build habitat on your property and things to consider when developing your strategy to attract and sustain your desired species or groups of species. Robin will also give us an update on the recent Important Bird Area (IBA) nominations (including Corn Creek).

Robin has lead the IBA program for several years and is actively engaged with the general public conducting restoration projects and establishing IBA's throughout Nevada. She is a wonderful asset to the State and valued member of the bird community!



Coming Soon! The Christmas Bird Count season is December 14 through January 5 each year. Your local count will occur on one day between those inclusive dates. If you have more than one local count, they will probably be conducted on different dates within the CBC season. You can pick the most convenient date, or participate in more than one count.

There is a specific methodology to the CBC, but everyone can participate. The count takes place within "Count Circles," which focus on specific geographical areas. Each circle is led by a Count Compiler. Therefore, if you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. In addition, if your home is within the boundaries of a Count Circle, then you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder once you have arranged to do so with the Count Compiler. There is a \$5 fee to participate in the CBC for all field participants aged 19 or older.



Board Members

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Stay Connected with RRAS

The Red Rock Audubon Society sends out reminders for meetings, activities, volunteer opportunities, and special events. Let us know your email address and we'll include you on our email news bulletins and the distribution of the email version of newsletters. You can opt-out at any time and we will never share or sell your email address.

Email us at info@redrockaudubon.org or visit www.RedRockAudubon.Org and click on "Add your name to our e-news list" link, or leave us a voice mail at 702-390-9890.



Have you seen our Facebook page yet?

Red Rock Audubon Society has started a Facebook page. To visit us just enter this address into your web browser: <http://www.facebook.com/RedRockAudubonSociety> Be sure to "LIKE" us when you get there!

Our Facebook page automatically updates with the NV Birds emails, it has posts about events or issues that are important or of interest to birders, Nevada residents, and conservation minded people. We also have all our events listed on the event calendar. You're free to post a comment or article or photograph if you wish! Come check it out.

President's Perch

Submitted by: Bob Wilkin, President

I had the distinct pleasure to travel to Pahrump for the first meeting of the Western Branch of the Red Rock Audubon Society. We met in the Cooperative Annex just off Calvada Blvd. There were about 75 members of RRAS in Pahrump and only 3 or 4 make it with regularity to our general meetings here in Las Vegas. The Pahrump meetings will be the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. Len Warren led the program Monday night (Sept. 26, 2011) and it was fantastic! I really enjoyed the drive and on the way back I opened my windows and smelled the fresh air through the mountain pass.

We added 10 new members and 32 people attended the meeting. What a joy it is to see the enthusiasm that all the leadership in Pahrump has and is generating in the community! Richard and Carol Cantino, and Darlene Feener have been key in the leadership. Richard let me know that the Desert Tortoise Hotline is 702-488-9422 and he has been volunteering as they are relocating the Desert Tortoises into natural habitat in the desert. The San Diego Zoo sponsors the whole effort. They need volunteers to help with the release of more tortoises.

I know that Desert Tortoises are not birds. But for those that have just joined our organization, we are a conservation organization that focuses on birds, not to the exclusion of other species, however, birds are our favorites. Many of the new members of RRAS are also Master Gardeners.

I spoke to the Master Gardeners in Las Vegas on Wednesday, Oct. 5th. I think that the two disciplines go hand in hand. The plants that we grow in our yards attract certain birds either by providing them with the type of food that they eat or for nesting. There are so many non-native plants here in the valley, that it is nice to have Master Gardeners in our organization to help teach us our plants and their symbiosis with the birds in our ecological system. Red Rock Audubon strives to help produce, maintain, and restore habitat for our native and migratory birds.

While I was in Pahrump, I was able to be on the channel KVPM 41 program "Community View Point" with John Pawlak and Maria Hurst. We taped the program immediately preceding the Monday night meeting. We discussed the Burrowing Owls in the Vegas valley and Pahrump, pigeons in Henderson and the new law governing feeding them, and we talked about the birds and our organization. The program is on You Tube at <http://youtu.be/8DRVkJ05R7yc> or you can search You Tube for Community View Point and look for 09/26/11.

I would like RRAS to become more and more high profile in the community. I would like our tee shirts to be at volunteer events all over southern Nevada!! Get on www.getoutdoorsnevada.org and find an event that interests you. Ash Meadows needs cattails cut a couple of times a year and usually they have several dates to choose from.

Be sure to get signed up for our field trips, there have been many rare birds sighted during the beginning of the fall migration!! I hope to see all of you soon!

From the West Branch

Submitted by: Carol Cantino, Co-Chair RRAS West Branch

We are working hard to make the new RRAS West Branch an active and interesting success. Our thanks to the many people who have advised and encouraged us along the way. Bob Wilkins our knowledgeable and enthusiastic president. The RRAS board members for allowing our alliance with the Red Rock Audubon Society. Debby Woodland, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and the Master Gardeners, and Sharon McKelvey and the staff of the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, also Christiana Manville of U.S Fish & Wildlife. My personal thanks to Darlene Feener and Len Warren for their patient sharing of knowledge and the inspiration along the way. If you haven't spent time birding in Shoshone and Tecopa with Len then you are missing a real treat.

We are also looking forward to the upcoming seasonal change and the fall migration. The birds are already starting to move. On August 30th and 31st, 15 White-faced Ibis and 23 Black-necked Stilts graced our back yard. American Goldfinches and Lesser Goldfinches visited the sunflowers. Orioles are in the grapevines. My favorite little Verdin still scolds me from the Palo Verde tree. It's a wonderful time of year! Richard, Darlene, and I cannot help



(Continued on page 6)

Birding Madera Canyon and Tubac

Submitted by: Bob Wilkin, President

I just returned from a southeastern Arizona bird trip. If you haven't been on a birding trip to Madera Canyon, Patagonia and Pina Blanca Lake, you are missing one of the premier birding hotspots in the western USA. There seems to always be one bird species that stands out in each trip. This time it was the Varied Bunting. They were everywhere!! I have seen one or two of these beautiful birds before in Madera Canyon on the lowest trail (handicapped accessible). But this time there were a dozen or more on the trail. And dozens more on the ranch in Tubac.

They were displaying for each other. It was early September so I did not expect to see what I could only associate with courtship behavior. The females would fluff their feathers and hop close to the males. The males would jump to the ground and spread their tail feathers and shake them. Then spread one wing at a time and shake it. Then a female would join him on the ground and they would both fly up to a branch. Other females would cut in on the dance and the male would display on the branch and then back to the ground.

I have seen the males in all their splendid purple and red plumage shining in the sun and hide in the shade before, but I had never seen so many females. I was walking on the trail and there were four or five females that were eating seeds and then displaying for a male on some dead sticks quite near the ground. I had not seen the males yet so I was intrigued by these all brown small birds. Their eyes looked nothing like that of a sparrow. They were too round and too large and the beak had a distinct curve to the upper side of the bottom. I was really close to these females and they were not moving away. I was able to get good photos of them. As I watched them for several minutes a male Varied Bunting appeared and saved me from a night of pouring over my photos and books to identify these wonderful female Varied Buntings.

A Black-headed Grosbeak showed up to see what all the commotion was about and sat above me for some great photos too. The Blue Grosbeaks were plentiful on this trip as well. We see them a lot when we are down there. Mainly because they sit up high and call so that you really can't miss them and of course the males are brilliantly blue! The warblers are in full retreat south. There were McGillivray's, Wilson's, Yellow, Orange-crowned, and Nashville Warblers.

Jennifer and I were treated to a couple of juvenile Zone-tailed Hawks hunting and playing in a tree out in the open in a field. We were able to watch them for at least 30 minutes before we moved on. They were still in the tree and flying into the field and back to the tree as we left them alone. They interacted with each other and were accosted by a couple of other birds a time or two. I later saw the adult Zone-tailed Hawk who came out to defend his territory from some stray Turkey Vultures.

The Gray Hawks were in the area too. I saw an adult on the ranch and a juvenile on the road in to Tubac. We got some good photos of the juvenile, which is how I was able to identify him. He really didn't look like any hawk that I knew, so it took a little comparison with the photos and my Sibley to properly ID this youngster. We saw Red-tailed Hawks and Cooper's Hawk, too. An Osprey was passing through and had stopped for us to get a good look at him. We watched him soar out over the landscape below us.

The Lazuli Buntings were there too, although they were in much smaller numbers than the Varied Buntings. We also saw Northern Cardinals (not the football playing kind... even though we drove right past the stadium in Phoenix), and a couple of Pyrrhuloxia. The Black-throated Sparrows were everywhere and Rufous-crowned and Rufous-winged Sparrows were migrating through.

The flycatchers included the Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Ash-throated, Great-crested, Say's Phoebes, Vermilions, and a cou-



Arizona Woodpecker © Bob Wilkin



Zone-tailed Hawk © Bob Wilkin

Great Horn Owl Released

Submitted by: Lisa Ross, Wild Wing Project

A Great Horned Owl was dropped off at the North Las Vegas Animal Hospital on June 27th, 2011 after being found on the ground. We began treating him with fluids and antibiotics ASAP. We could see that this was an older adult male, looking pretty sun drenched, thin, and dehydrated.

When he first arrived, his appetite was not quite up to par and he was sluggish in general. After a week of rest a few evenings of soaking in his bathing pan, good food, and meds, he was strong enough to be outside during the night. Just being out of the rehab building and in the quiet night air greatly improved his appetite. After many mice and other various food sources, he began to quickly gain his weight back showing more energy and interest in food. It is always a good sign when you simply crack the door to enter a mew (bird of prey chamber) and your owl looks at you and clicks loudly as though he was in the middle of dressing and you should've knocked!

Because this was an adult owl, he didn't need training as we would provide for young inexperienced birds. Some of the signs we look for prior to release is: are the feathers in good condition, are the reflexes and senses in good working order, and is his flying ability at its best, along with strength and agility. Oh, and let's not omit a healthy bad attitude toward humans is very important! He had all of these and the last one in spades! But the temperatures here in Las Vegas were running in the three digits and we needed to wait for things to cool down a bit. Hot summer months are one of the drawbacks with rehab in the Southwest. We often need to hold on to birds until the temperatures are a little less severe. Although this cost more in food bills and can make housing a challenge during a busy season, we have to take into account that they arrived in a compromised state to begin with and we hope to release them in the best conditions possible.



Finally, we had a window of opportunity in mid September when the evenings had cooled and we had been experiencing light rain showers. Some newly acquired friends who also happened to be birders and great photographers helped scout out a good release site with plenty of meadows and a good prey base. We met up on a very nice late afternoon to send this feisty and fit Great-horned Owl back to his wild open spaces. He was so grateful that after a few clicks, a parting evil eye glance, he was little more than a blur as he bounced up and shot out of our lives with typical owl silence.

Thank you to Matt Carlisle and Scott Krammer for helping.

Preparing for release.



Lahontan Audubon Society President, Jacque Lowery, presents a recognition award to NV IBA Director, Robin Wilson, during Audubon Nevada Important Bird Area Program's 10th Anniversary celebration.

Congratulations Robin!



Membership Update

Submitted by: Carol Sweet

Membership Continues to Grow

At our September Meeting, we received 7 new membership applications. Some were from the newly formed western chapter of Red Rock Audubon based in Pahrump and Chaired by Carol Cantino. They are holding their own meetings and field trips to encourage birding in their area.

Welcome to our new members

Janice and John Brown of Pahrump, Carla Hummel of Las Vegas, Edwina Harper of Pahrump, Harry Konwin of Las Vegas, Hollis Harris of Pahrump. Jeanne Tinsman of Las Vegas, Debbie Woodland of Pahrump

Total Red Rock Audubon membership as of August 31st is 1024. This is about 100 more members than we had last year at this time. Many members sign up through the National Audubon Society. We look forward to seeing them at our General Meetings, Field Trips, and special events.

Thank You for Recent Donations

Last year, we received a total of \$870 in donations from members and visitors. These funds are used to support local birding activities and our endowment fund. Thank you to our donors from last year and so far this year:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Bernd Klopfer | Betty Byers | Carol and Richard Cantino |
| Carla Hummel | Hollis Harris | Donald C. Scott |
| Carol Sweet | Jennifer Rellins | Donald Charbonneau |
| Cristy Robertson | Jillean Williams | Janice and James Brown |
| David Hultgren | Joseph M. George | Martin Schlageter |
| Marilyn McGil | Kevin Krenzien | May Robinson |
| Mary Ale | Nicole Grappo | William and June Graebel |
| Mary Sue Biesel | Susan Babajitis | |



The West Branch ...cont

(Continued from page 3)

wondering if the Hooded Warbler will return. We have already put mealy worms out on the back patio. What are the chances? Given what I have learned last year I can only imagine what this season will bring, how much more birding experience I will have this time next year. Every beginner has to start somewhere.

Darlene Feener has agreed to sign on as secretary. Darlene will also be leading a field trip on the closed Willow Creek Golf Course on Saturday November 19th. This will be a fun and educational way for members of the West Branch to get to know one another. We hope for a good turnout. Everyone is invited.

We have volunteers for several of the committee positions. Alex Compton will be in charge of communications. Edwina Harper has volunteered for hospitality. Edwina and Darlene both enjoy working with children and will assist in youth programs. Richard Cantino will be working on programs. The field trip, conservation, and membership positions are open to anyone interested in volunteering. Until then everyone is working to fill the void. We will be sharing ideas and communicating with each other. We will work with and report to the Committee Chairs in Las Vegas. I would encourage everyone to share their time and experiences whenever possible. Committee members will meet once a month (time & date to be determined). A special thank you to those who have already volunteered their time and dedication thus far.

Carol Cantino, Co-Chair West Branch

Christmas Bird Counts

It's that time of year again! The annual Christmas Bird Counts are fast approaching and YOU are invited to join. You don't need to be an expert birder to participate - you just have to be able to help spot birds, count, check a field guide, etc.

Each of the citizen scientists who annually braves snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations – and to help guide conservation action.

There will be a fee of \$5 for each person per Bird Count that you participate in to cover the cost of compiling data and printing your name in the next CBC issue of American Birds. Reservations are required so we can plan ahead to cover the CBC areas properly. Contact the Leader for reservations or if you have any questions.

Bring food & snacks, water, wear layered clothing, and bring extra clothes to keep warm. Please take pictures and please send us a write-up of your day for our website & newsletter!

Henderson Christmas Count: 12/14/11, Wednesday

Compiler: Je Anne Branca. Leader: John Taylor please call (702) 419-6041 for reservations and meeting place.

Corn Creek Christmas Count: 12/17/11, Saturday

Compiler: Peter Sullins. Please call (425) 330-6270 for reservations and meeting place. Peter needs two leaders, one for Corn Creek and the other for the Tule Springs area.

Red Rock Canyon NCA Christmas Count: 12/28/11, Wednesday

Call Jeanne Tinsman at (702) 525-5356 for reservations and times. This will be a new CBC! The meeting location is the Red Rock Canyon Visitor's Center and entrance fees will be waived for pre-registered participants.

Field Trip Schedule

Submitted by: Je Anne Branca, Field Trip Chair

San Diego Field Trip: January 17 – 20, 2012, Tuesday – Friday.

This is our annual trip to the area, last year we had a 125 species. This year will be different as it will be a photography trip, allowing people to photograph the birds, so the pace will be much slower. Space is limited so call early as we only have 2 spaces left. I will return calls after January 4, 2012. Je Anne Branca phone 702-451-6843 and leave a message.

Salton Sea, Ca. or Yuma, AZ: February 21 – 24, 2012

Details still being worked out, the trip could be to either location, or maybe both. Call for reservations after January 4, 2012 to Je Anne at 702-451-6843.

Field Trip Report: Henderson Bird Preserve (09/24/11)

Submitted by Je Anne Branca, Field Trip Chair

On Saturday, September 24th we had 6 six people enjoy the best birding has to offer, birding from a Bird Mobile.

They were able to get close up looks at many of the 274 species that call the Preserve home. Big thanks to Lupe who assisted in this tour.



Field Trip Report: Mt. Charleston (09/10/11)

Submitted by: *Christiana Manville, RRAS Secretary*

Despite the overcast weather and cooler temperatures, seven participants travelled with me to Mt. Charleston. Marilyn Mackett had the newly updated Birds of Mt. Charleston brochure to hand out to folks. We had one participant from as far away as Victoria, British Columbia. Our first stop was Harris Spring Road at about 5,000 feet in elevation. Bird activity was slow here but we saw a flock of Pinyon Jays. The only other birds at this location were some Black-throated Sparrows.



Our next stop was the visitor's center where Joy from Mt. Charleston joined us. On the drive and at this stop we saw a Northern Flicker, Western Scrub Jay, and Dark-eyed Junco (gray-headed race). Next we traveled to Joy's house where we got to see the following birds bathing in her yard water feature: American Robin, a flock of migrating Lark Sparrows, and a Western Tanager. We got awesome views of Steller's Jays and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds.

Near the library we spotted the following species: Rufus Hummingbird, Common Raven, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lesser Goldfinch. Our final mountain stop was the Deer Creek Picnic Area. We saw the following species and could have seen more but the rain finally started at 11:30 am and everyone was chilled: Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's

Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Cassin's Finch, and Pine Siskin.

We finished the field trip at Gilcrease Orchard where we saw two burrowing owls in the new artificial burrows. The owls were standing with their wings extended in the rain. At the Orchard we also saw Mourning Doves, Western Kingbirds, and a Northern Mockingbird. We finished the day with a total of 27 species.

Field Trip Report: Tule Springs/Floyd Lamb (09/22/11)

Submitted by: *Rita Schlageter, Field Trip Leader*

Another great field trip completed. Tule Springs / Floyd Lamb City Park always has surprises, and this morning was no exception. We spent a lot of time at picnic table #40 where we were busy sorting out warblers, hummingbirds and sparrows. We ended the morning with 8 different species of warblers, plus one mystery warbler, 6 species of sparrows, and 4 species of hummingbirds. The Cooper's Hawk, Roadrunner and Gambel's Quail were out in back. All too soon it was noon and time to go home. A big THANK YOU to all 8 people who came to join me birding Tule Springs.

Rita Schlageter
Trip Leader

48 species of birds seen: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Gambel's Quail, Amer Coot, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-dove, Mourning Dove, (3) Gr. Roadrunner, Black-chinned, Anna's, Broad-tailed, and Rufous Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Plumbeous Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Com Raven, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, N. Mockingbird, Euro Starling, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, N. Parula, Amer Redstart, Black-throated Gray, Com Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warblers, Western Tanager, Abert's Towhee, Chipping, Brewer's, Lark, Savannah, Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch and Lesser Goldfinch.



Birding Madera Canyon and Tubac ...cont.

(Continued from page 4)

ple of Empids that I haven't quite had time to be sure about the identification yet.

Bullock's Orioles were there and a couple of Cactus Wrens came right up into the yard and were catching bugs. Greater Roadrunners are a daily occurrence and Gambel's Quail are up in the bushes early in the morning. We saw a House Wren, Bewick's Wren, and a couple of Rock Wrens that had taken up residence on and around our friend's yard.

In Madera Canyon, the notable birds, besides the Varied Buntings, were the Magnificent Hummingbirds and the Arizona Woodpecker. I always get excited when I see these two birds. The Magnificent Hummingbird is so much larger than any of the other Hummers that he is easy to watch and then you wait for the feathers to refract the light. The purple on the top of the head and



bright green throat light up and you know that you are seeing a special bird! The Arizona Woodpecker is the only woodpecker that has a brown back. I photographed a great male this time that didn't seem the least bit annoyed by me being there.

Although not at all rare, the Acorn Woodpeckers are always good for a show. They have their little red beanie on and their black and white suits. They are more vocal while they go about their business than any other woodpecker that I know of. Oh, I almost forgot the other noisy woodpeckers down there, the Gila Woodpeckers. They call and call, so you kind of find them rather easily, their voices carry in the woods. White-winged Doves and Mourning Doves looked nervous, as it was Dove hunting season.

Butterflies and insects were enjoying the monsoon season in the southern deserts. The American Snout Butterflies and the Southwestern Queens were the most plentiful.

Next were the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies and some interesting Sulphurs. The Pygmy Blue Butterflies were all over the mud holes and temporary ponds. I found the Giant Mesquite Bugs, around a swarm of Brown Dark Flower Scarab Beetles. A Robber Fly was in the pool and I rescued him. He stands an inch and a half tall and two inches long. Yes, I measured him. He was kind enough to stand very still while I photographed him with a tape measure behind him.

There was a large assortment of beetles, bees, and flies to photograph. I also found the larval stage of a Mexican Cactus Bug on a cholla cactus and four caterpillars that will one day be Pipevine Swallowtails. www.bugguide.net is the site where I post my bug photos for identification and for sharing with the scientific community. It is great fun!

Tarantulas were walking across the roads and Horse Lubber Grasshoppers were joining them. I got to see my second Gila Monster. He was crossing the road. We stopped and waked with him to the bushes well beyond the road so that we knew he would be safe. There were thousands of lizards in the trees and some of them were large. Of course, when you see the Gila Monster all the other lizards pale in comparison!

All these bugs make Southern Arizona a very food rich corridor for the fall migration back to Mexico and Central America.

Rita Schlageter and Marilyn Mackett erected a RRAS display in the West Sahara Library foyer. The display consists of photographs, posters, bird books, and nests from the Red Rock Audubon collection. Thank You to Marilyn and Rita for all their hard work!



Burrowing Owl Monitoring Results for 2011 in the Las Vegas Valley

Submitted by: Christiana Manville, USFWS

Sixteen artificial burrow clusters (two to four burrows per cluster) have been installed in the Las Vegas Valley between 2007 and 2010, at Floyd Lamb Park, Nellis Air Force Base, and Gilcrease Orchard. In 2011, 50% of these clusters were used by breeding owls. Volunteers monitored these eight artificial burrows. For owls using these artificial burrows, nesting success was 100%, as each pair fledged at least one chick. This exceeds the valley averages for natural burrows from 2008 (65.6%, n= 32) and 2009 (80.6%, n=31). The average brood size in these artificial burrows was 3.25 young (± 0.55 young, n=8). This compares well to the valley averages for natural burrows in 2008 (3.1 young ± 0.29 , n=23) and 2009 (4.2 young ± 0.26 , n=20). Mortality of young was documented at one artificial burrow in Floyd Lamb Park (#507), where only 1 of 6 young fledged.

In November 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Rock Audubon Society and the City of Las Vegas installed four artificial burrow clusters in the west side of the park in Phase I of the Floyd Lamb Park Burrowing Owl Habitat Enhancement Project. By February 17, 2011, a pair of owls had taken up residence at burrow cluster 500. This pair of owls fledged 5 young, which is the largest number of owls fledged at any artificial burrow in the Las Vegas Valley. Pat Weidknecht, the volunteer monitor at this burrow, made an entertaining YouTube video of these owls (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4DuQJUrytc>). By July 28, 2011, owls had started to use burrow clusters 502 and 503, following the breeding season. As of October, 2011, three of the four artificial burrow clusters are now being used.



Thanks to the 2011 nest monitors who collected the data. Monitors included Bob Furtek, Carol Sweet, Jeffery Tackett, Jennifer Mercadante, John Bialecki, Mark Ruben, and Pat Weidknecht.

We will have several more opportunities for RRAS members to get involved with this project. In March 2012 we will probably be installing more artificial burrows at Floyd Lamb Park once work on the detention basin is complete. We will need people to help with the installation. Once pairs of owls start using the new burrows, we will need volunteers to monitor them throughout the breeding season. So stay tuned and we will let you know when we need you.



Adult burrowing owl standing at the new artificial burrow cluster on Gilcrease Orchard. Top right, Male - bottom right, Female. It took the burrowing owls about two months to move into their new home. The owls using the artificial burrow cluster at Gilcrease Orchard successfully fledged two young, pictured above. Photos by M.J. Kammerer.

Photo Album



Thank you to the photographers for these GREAT images!

Common Moorhen, Henderson Bird Preserve © Scott Krammer
Say's Phoebe, Boulder City, NV © Scott Krammer
Golden Eagle, Red Rock Canyon © Scott Krammer
Cactus Wren © Norma Biggar
Great Horned Owl © Norma Biggar
Phainopepla © Norma Biggar
Greater Roadrunner © M.J. Kammerer



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DONATION FORM

We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society and the Red Rock Audubon Society. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to Red Rock Audubon Society, Attn. Membership Dept., P.O. Box 96691, Las Vegas NV 89193. Please make checks payable to Red Rock Audubon Society.

National Audubon Society Membership:

\$20 Introductory Membership for Individual or Family (1yr). Members receive Audubon Magazine, the Rock Wren newsletter, and membership in RRAS.

Donations to Red Rock Audubon Society: (Please select one)

Ruby-Crowned Kinglet \$10 Crissal Thrasher \$50 Golden Eagle \$500 or more
 Mountain Bluebird \$20 American Avocet \$100

Gifts to the RRAS Permanent Endowment Fund: helps insure the future viability of RRAS.

Any gift is greatly appreciated. Make check payable to RRAS Endowment Fund \$ _____

Subscription to printed Rock Wren newsletter Only: Rock Wren \$10.

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