

Workshops and mini-field trips

Friday afternoon, 23 Oct. and Sunday morning, 25 Oct.

On the afternoon before and the morning after Saturday's statewide meeting, the AZFO is organizing one workshop and four mini-field expeditions to areas that are underbirded or not generally accessible to birders. Participants in the conference can sign up for the Sunday trips on Saturday morning during the state meeting and departure locations will be designated at the meeting. Those wanting to participate in the Friday afternoon trip should sign up in advance with the trip leader, Keith Kamper.

Friday afternoon

Cienega Creek Preserve--Owned by Pima Co., this rich riparian area is located south of I-10 and north of Sonoita. A section of the preserve has been designated as a "Unique Water of Arizona." The mature cottonwood and willow trees that line the creek are a dramatic contrast to the surrounding Sonoran Desert. A vehicle permit is required. Sign up in advance with: *Keith Kamper* (keith@adventurebirding.com); 520-495-9564.

Sunday morning

Sound Recording Birds Workshop—Learn how to record bird songs and calls along the diverse habitats driving up the Catalina Highway in the Santa Catalina Mtns.—Leader: *Pierre Deviche*

Cave Creek/Gardner Canyon—This pair of drainages, located on the eastern slope of the Santa Rita Mountains, are very infrequently visited by birders. Since most of coverage of the area is during spring and summer, we will be visiting during a unique time of year that may produce some interesting birds for the locality. This survey will require moderate hiking along an old mining road-turned-footpath (perhaps 3-4 miles round trip). Sturdy footwear, sunscreen, and long pants recommended. Be prepared for cool morning temperatures. Departure at 5:45 a.m. Return to Tucson about 2:00 p.m.

Leader: *John Yerger*

Cook's Lake and adjacent San Pedro River—Special permission is being obtained to bird this riparian habitat between Mammoth and Dudleyville that is not normally open to the public and where rarities have more than once been discovered. Cook's Lake is about a 1.5 hr. drive from Tucson. Departure at 5:45 a.m. Some off-trail hiking. Moderate difficulty. Durable hiking boots and long pants highly recommended. Bring lunch and plenty of snacks and water. Should end by early afternoon if not sooner. Leader: *Troy Corman*

Esperanza Ranch—This area along the upper Santa Cruz River south of Tucson is an Audubon State Important Bird Area. Within this IBA is the Esperanza Conservation Easement held by the Tucson Audubon Society, and managed for native habitat restoration and bird conservation. It encompasses riparian, upland, and mesquite bosque avian habitats. Fall typically is an interesting time of surprises, with late lingering migrants and early wintering arrivals. Expect brushy walking. Bring boots, snack, and water. Departure at 6:00 a.m. Leader: *Scott Wilbor*