



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



Dear Friends,

A full grown Burrowing Owl may weigh no more than a stick of butter—but it can fill a room with its charisma!

And that charisma has helped us **put thousands of people on the path to environmental stewardship.** For almost three years, **our Downtown Owls project has inspired Phoenix-area residents to take action to help Burrowing Owls**—from excavating hard-packed dirt at a new burrow site to collecting data on relocated owls, from leading student groups to the burrows to creating artworks to raise awareness of the plight of this species.

Our Downtown Owls project is just one example of the **innovative ways Audubon Arizona is getting people involved in conservation action.** Using education, science, hands-on work days and even art, Audubon Arizona is empowering thousands of individuals across the state to **protect Arizona's birds, other wildlife and their habitats.**

In this report, we bring you some of the highlights of the last year. One of the biggest for us was the **fifth anniversary of the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center!** We hope you'll enjoy the journey through our year and **share our pride** in our accomplishments. We never forget that **it's you, our donors, who make it possible.**

Thanks to your support, we're creating a culture of conservation and making a difference for birds and other wildlife in Arizona!

Sarah

Sarah Porter, Executive Director



September

On our first conservation work day of the year, 50 volunteers install 200 plants in the Rio Salado Audubon Center's pollinator habitat! Over the year, hundreds of individuals from throughout Greater Phoenix participate in our monthly conservation work days. About **half of them are teens from high schools around the Valley!**



October

2,026 animal masks are decorated at Sendero Encantado—the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center's annual Halloween themed celebration of the Sonoran Desert's nocturnal animals. **Over 3,000 people in attendance!**



November

Gifts from Nature, the Rio Salado Audubon Center's annual sale of nature inspired works by local artisans, attracts **over 1,000 holiday shoppers**.



The Appleton Whittell Research Ranch publishes **Native Plants for Hummingbird Gardens**—to rave reviews! The first 750 copies **go like hotcakes!**



March

400 local youngsters discover over 5,000 treat-filled plastic eggs at the Rio Salado Audubon Center's **annual Earth Day Egg Hunt**. After recycling their eggs for next year, the kids and their families do **fun activities to learn about nesting birds**.

55 Arizona members of Audubon's Western Rivers Action Network take part in Audubon's Western Rivers Day at the Arizona capitol, meeting with elected officials and policy makers to urge protection for critical river habitats in the state. Western Rivers Days are also held in Colorado and New Mexico.



December

Over 1,300 volunteers from across the state gather for **Audubon Arizona's portion of the Christmas Bird Count**. The **longest running citizen science survey in the world**, the Christmas Bird Count provides critical data on bird population trends.



Two parliaments of Burrowing Owls are released into our newest Rio Salado Habitat burrows. **Hundreds of volunteers** have helped construct the new underground homes for these birds.

February

The Rio Salado Audubon Center's monthly **Birds 'n Beer** series features a rollicking Verde River Jeopardy game. Winner of **two New Times "Best of Phoenix" awards**, **Birds 'n Beer** gives conservation-minded adults a chance to meet and hear from fascinating presenters on conservation biology topics.



Field data gathered by Audubon's River Pathways student interns are included in the National Audubon Society's **letter in support of Endangered Species protection** of the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo.



January

Audubon's Appleton Whittell Research Ranch joins with other members of the Cienega Watershed Partnership to receive a **prestigious Partners in Conservation Award from the US Department of Interior**, given in recognition of the Partnership's efforts to involve youth in habitat restoration work.



February is I ♥ the Verde Month at the Rio Salado Audubon Center. In addition to a month-long exhibition of Verde River inspired art, the Audubon Center hosts a special evening of Verde Valley wines. **Over 1,000 visitors tour the exhibition!**

White Water Draw Wildlife Area in southeastern Arizona is dedicated as a **Global Important Bird Area**. 20,000 Sandhill Cranes are in attendance—among others. All in all, **Arizona boasts 14 Global Important Bird Areas**—sites needed to ensure the survival of the world's bird species.



May

Audubon Arizona co-sponsors the **second annual San Pedro RiverFest**, a celebration of one of Arizona's most bio-diverse rivers.

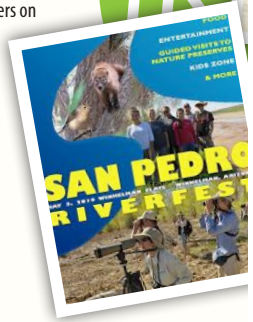


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45 submissions in the Audubon Arizona's Downtown Owls poster contest go on display at Phoenix Center for the Arts, in downtown Phoenix. These artworks by children, teens and adults help raise awareness of the plight of the Burrowing Owl.



July

We ship 52 pairs of binoculars off for repair. This school year, we've taught 2,454 students how to bring the world in close with binoculars!



August

After heavy rains in the Phoenix area, the Salt River is once again flowing through the Rio Salado Habitat—at least for a couple of weeks.



April

Volunteers survey Arizona's Alamo Valley, in Mohave County, and their data qualify the site as a Global Important Bird Area.



The Rio Salado Audubon Center's annual Migration Celebration, a spring nature festival celebrating migrating birds and other pollinators, attracts over a thousand youngsters and adults.



As they mark the end of their summer's work, our River Pathways high school interns report identifying 17 habitat areas for the imperiled Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Our last session of River Keepers, the Rio Salado Audubon Center's after-school program for elementary age students, begins. River Keepers kids come for four weekly sessions of guided nature-science exploration.



100+ scientists and interested citizens gather for the 6th annual Science on the Sonoita Plain conference hosted by Audubon's Appleton Whittell Research Ranch in southeastern Arizona. Scientific presentations include a report on the use of nail polish to monitor rattlesnake populations. (The nail polish goes on the rattle, so the scientist can keep track of which snakes have been counted.)



The last River Pathways field trip of the school year: Over 1,000 high school students have learned about Arizona's rivers in this program – and collected biological information used to protect critical habitats along our rivers.



June

The Rio Salado Audubon Center's Camp Audubon Adventures begins! This year, over 60 campers will have an overnight adventure at Camp Colley, a Phoenix Parks facility on the Mogollon Rim.



Photo Credit: Hunter McCall

Andy Kunasek
Member, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

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September

Audubon Arizona dedicates the **Grand Canyon an Important Bird Area!** Arizona's 45 IBAs cover over 4.5 million acres. In 2014, 164 volunteers devoted over 2,600 hours to collecting bird data in these critical bird habitats.



85 volunteers, including students from six Phoenix area high schools, collect wildflower seeds and clean up the Rio Salado Habitat in the **Rio Salado Audubon Center's first Conservation Work Day** of the season.



October

Audubon friends and supporters celebrate the **5th anniversary of the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center at Picnic al Rio**, an elegant picnic along the Center's nature trail!

Over 15,000 people served by Audubon Arizona's programs this year!



What do deep-fried beer battered pickles and the Mayor of Phoenix have in common?

Both were highlights at **Picnic al Rio, Audubon Arizona's celebration of the fifth anniversary of Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center**, Friday, October 10th, 2014. It was a beautiful fall evening full of picnic fun! Guests enjoyed food stations along the Center's nature trails, live birds of prey and activities from make-your-own wildflower seed mix to build-your-own trail mix! **Over 150 people took part in the celebration**, including special guests Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Congressmen Ed Pastor and Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust Chair **Carol Schilling**. Audubon Arizona's former executive director **Sam Campana** and former development director **Randy Schilling** also attended. In his keynote remarks, National Audubon Society President **David Yarnold** emphasized the Rio Salado Audubon Center's critical role in **connecting the Valley's increasingly urban population with nature and empowering them to take conservation action.**

Start planning your bird nerd attire for our next Picnic al Rio—moving to Spring 2016!



Photo Credits: Bill Timmerman and Devine Images

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014)

Revenues, Gains & Other Support

Gifts, Grants & Bequests	\$924,956	77%
Investment Income	\$204,497	18%
Earned Income & Other Revenue	\$62,269	5%
Total Revenues, Gains & Other Support	\$1,191,722	100%

Expenses

Conservation & Education Programs	\$955,899	80%
Public Outreach & Development	\$107,330	9%
Management & General	\$128,493	11%
Total Expenses	\$1,191,722	100%

