

VOLUNTEERS AGAIN SAVE THE DAY!!

Sierra Club Service Tours visited again providing 282 volunteer hours in 1 week! Ruth Dyson and Harry Coyle helped with painting and office work. Ralph Dinsman helped Leo with painting, stuccoing and construction. Jim Koweek, Dan Robinett and John Kugler helped Linda with vegetation transect monitoring. Last but not least, Intern Heidi Ruhling helped with bird banding, data entry, remote camera checking and assisted with Zach's rodent study.

Photo
By
Jerry
Ruhling



...and an Elf Owl in a Chinaberry tree.....



Elf Owl Images were taken by Rick and Nora Bowers on the Research Ranch, Summer 2007; bowersphoto.com



*We are: Linda Kennedy, Director
Chris Hass, Assistant Director
Pat Kugler, Office Manager
Leo Gonzales, Maintenance*

Have a happy, healthy, peaceful New Year!

*National Audubon Society's
Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch
wishes you a very
Happy Holiday Season
December, 2007*



Research Ranch Year in Review.....

Precipitation through December 1 (thanks to that wonderful all-night rain November 30): 16.44"!!

The Research Ranch's first official Christmas Bird Count was held December 23, 2006. We counted 129 species!! Our 2nd Annual Christmas Bird Count will be on January 5, 2008. If you can help, please let us know. For more information, go to: www.huachuca-audubon.org/CBC/AWCBC.php

During this past year, the Research Ranch and Babocomari Ranch were recognized as a Firewise Community. The purpose of the Firewise Communities USA Management Plan is to further our goals toward increased wildfire preparedness, expand Firewise education and to better ecosystem health.

Since joining us in November of last year, Assistant Director Chris Hass has upgraded our office to wireless and our website is being updated. Look for our new and improved site in January, 2008!

Our Potlucks and Presentation series was a great success, with presentations on Rangelands in Afghanistan, White-nosed Coatis, the Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project, Riparian Areas, Birds of Uganda, Living Gently on the Land, and Natural History of Sonora. Generous support from our donors allowed us to purchase a new LCD projector. If you would like to be on our email list for future Potlucks and Presentations, email Pat at pkugler@audubon.org.

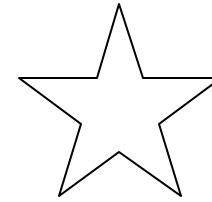
Thanks to the generous pricing of **Earhart Equipment** in support of our conservation efforts, we were able to purchase an 'almost new' tractor. Leo Gonzales does an amazing job of keeping our roads in great condition, and uses the tractor for various other tasks, including keeping the area around our buildings "FireWise"



Protecting Semi-arid Grasslands through: Conservation... Research... Education

Research is ongoing. Visit our website for research activities, newsletters, precipitation charts, and updates.

www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/appleton



*Al Wheeler studied bugs
Pete Thomas studied cacti
Janet Ruth studied sparrows
Sam Fernald studied soil moisture
Mary Nichols studied Bill's Bayou
Mary Hershdorfer studied invasive plants
Nakiesha Bridgers studied bunchgrass lizards
Jeff Fehmi & students studied invasive grasses
Zach Jones and students studied mice, rats & plants
Christian d'Orgeix & students studied snakes and lizards
Joanne Romagni studied allelopathic chemicals in Boer Lovegrass*

RESEARCHERS

Bird monitoring efforts are increasing on the Ranch, with bird banding during the summer as part of the nationwide Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS), first started at the Ranch in 1997, and summer and fall counts as part of the Important Bird Areas monitoring project. Other monitoring efforts include Chris' remote cameras to document carnivores, Linda's vegetation transects, volunteers Betsy and Sandy Kunzer's depth-to-groundwater, Arizona Game & Fish's monitoring of various species – fish to fowl, and ongoing collection of detailed weather data by NOAA and USGS.

Photo by John Kugler

