



Happenings

P R E S E R V A T I O N ~ C O N S E R V A T I O N ~ E D U C A T I O N

JANUARY BIRD SIGHTINGS

- Red-Tailed Hawk
- Harrier Hawk
- Great Horned Owl
- Chihuahuan Raven
- Northern Mockingbird
- Western Meadowlark
- Mexican Jay
- Northern Cardinal
- Pyrrhuloxia
- Say's Phoebe
- Black Phoebe
- Canyon Towhee
- Spotted Towhee
- Abert's Towhee
- Gambel's Quail
- Dark-eyed Junco
- House Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch
- White-winged Dove
- Curved-billed Thrasher
- Northern Flicker
- Red-shafted Flicker
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Gila Woodpecker
- Cactus Wren
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Verdin
- Roadrunner
- Pine Siskin

JANUARY ANIMAL SIGHTINGS

- Whitetail Deer
- Mule Deer
- Javelina
- Pocket Gophers
- Coyotes
- Swift Fox
- Skunks & Rabbits

WINGS OVER WILLCOX VISIT RANCH!

Wings Over Willcox (WOW) once again visits **Cochise Stronghold Ranch** to enjoy an afternoon of touring, history & birding. **WOW** first visited in 2009, thanks to Jim Paterson of WOW who arranged the trip & has returned each year since with visitors from throughout the US and many other countries.

This year, the history portion of the tour will discuss the ancient & modern history of the Ranch as well as plans for the future to include even more opportunities for visitors to enjoy the



Sandhill Cranes return to The Playa.

ecology & environment. In particular, we are expanding our survey of the Ranch to further clarify archaeological sites which

will help us to determine the impact of ancient peoples who lived here.

In the last 60 days we have identified two additional intensely used areas where extensive pottery sherds are readily visible. It is very exciting knowing there are many undisturbed sites on the Ranch adding momentum to our mission of Preservation, Conservation and Education.



BIRDING ~ HIKING ~ CAMPING HISTORY TOUR

If you or your group is interested in visiting the Ranch to enjoy birding, hiking, camping or a history tour, feel free to contact us for arrangements.

The Ranch boasts **5 Seasons!** **Winter** brings occasional snow and crisp clear skies. During **Early Spring** the wildflowers & grasses begin peeking out. Mesquites & manzanitas come alive. Our ponds are abuzz with

happy birds, dragonflies & Koi. Late April & May bring the most birds. Check the **"Watch the Birdies"** page on our web site for a list of our sightings. This early Spring green-up often recedes into a dry period until the much anticipated monsoons begin. This is known as the fifth or **Spring Dry Season**. Although we don't see much rain during this time, the birdlife, nesting &

newborn wildlife is abundant. **Summer** shows off tall green grasses and the bluest skies in Arizona. Since we are at 4848 feet, temperatures are 10-15 degrees cooler than Tucson or Phoenix. Many years have not seen 100° and the maximum only 101-103°. **Fall** begins with cooler temps changing colors & evolves into the best weather in the entire country!

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 10,000 BC~** Wetter, warmer climate. Giant mammals. Folsom Point. Hunter Culture
- 5,000 BC~** Colder, dryer climate. Smaller animals. Hunter/Gatherer Culture
- 200 AD~** Archaic Hunter/Gatherer Culture
- 800 AD to 1240 AD~** Archaic Culture becomes more organized. Pueblo Period begins. Mogollon, Hohokam, Mimbres
- 1240 AD~** Dramatic climate change. Drought. Natural resources over-utilized
- 1250 AD~** Mesa Verde (Colorado) ~ abandoned
- 1260 AD~** All Mogollon (New Mexico) sites abandoned Casas Grandes (Mexico) site abandoned
- 1299 AD~** Kayenta sites (Arizona) abandoned
All peoples widely scattered throughout regions
- 1300 AD~** Apaches have filtered into the Southwest & are widely scattered
- 1540 AD~** Coronado & Spanish explore Southwest "Despoblado"
- Between 1805 & 1815~** Cochise born - Chokonon Band - Chiricahua Apache
- 1786 - 1831 generally peaceful
 - 1810 - 1821 Mexican War of Independence ~ Apaches return to raiding
- 1846~** U.S. / Mexican War begins
- 1851~** New U.S. border ~ Colorado, Utah & Arizona annexed into the U.S. Raiding increases ~ beginning of 35 year Apache Wars
- 1861 ~ 1872~** Cochise War begins - Bascom Affair
- 1861 - 1865 Civil War
- 1872~** Cochise achieves Peace Treaty
- 1874~** Cochise dies, is buried somewhere in the Stronghold
- 1876~** Reservation closed. Geronimo War begins
- 1884~** John Rockfellow starts horse ranch
- 1886~** Geronimo surrenders. Deported to Florida
- 1894~** Martin Costello establishes Cochise Stronghold Ranch
- 2005~** Ranch acquired from Costello Estate
- 2013~** Wings Over Willcox guests visit the Ranch

SUGGESTED READING

An Apache Life - Way

~ Opler

COCHISE ~ *Chiricahua Apache Chief*

~ Sweeney

COCHISE ~ *The Life and Times of the Great Apache Chief*

~ Aleshire

AREA INTERESTS



Cochise Stronghold Ranch rich in history, nature and a true sense of calm. Favorite home of Apache Chief Cochise in the Dragoon Mountains. Come visit the birds & wildlife. Hike in the footsteps of Cochise! 99 N. Stronghold Ranch Rd, Pearce, AZ

602-510-6980

www.strongholdranch.com



Wings Over Willcox celebrates the Sandhill crane migration with it's annual birding and nature festival. It features birding tours, trade show, seminars and much more. 1500 N Circle I Road, Willcox, AZ 85643

800-200-2272

www.wingsoverwillcox.com



The **Amerind Foundation** museum & research facility dedicated to the preservation & interpretation of Native American cultures & their histories. 2100 N. Amerind Road, Dragoon, AZ 85609

520-586-3666

www.amerind.org



Cochise County ~ Land of Legends tourism council has the scoop on visiting our area! Bisbee's mining & art, Tombstone's Wild West, historic forts, wine country, caverns, ghost towns, hiking, birding, deserts, public lands astronomy, & even U-Pick farms!

Cochise County, Arizona

www.explorecochise.com

Sign Up to receive our quarterly newsletter via email

Contact Us At:

strongholdranch@aol.com



Doug & Roma Payne
Cochise Stronghold Ranch
PO Box 924
Pearce, Arizona 85625

602-510-6980

Find us on the web at: