

## Kathe Anderson's

### Casa de San Pedro Programs 2022

#### **Feb 18-20, 2022: Beyond Basics – Bird Families and Habitats/Yikes – Sparrows!**

This is a full weekend program focusing on birds in the mornings and evenings, with afternoons free to relax at la Casa or explore the many natural and cultural resources of the area.

On the first evening, we'll look at the importance of recognizing habitat differences while birding, as well as an overview of bird families. What makes an owl an owl, and as a preview of Saturday's class, what makes a sparrow a sparrow? On Saturday, we'll dive into the sparrow family, with emphasis on the differences between common species, as well as differences between sparrows and sparrow cousins - close and more distantly related. Choose one or both classes below, each \$30. Field trips included.

#### **Friday, February 18:**

- **5:30-6pm** – *Early Bird Bonus!* Feeder watch (meet in the dining room).
- **6-7pm** – dinner on your own or bring dinner and eat with Kathe and other participants in the dining room.
- **7pm – Beyond Basics – Bird Habitats and Families.** In some guides on identifying birds, the author emphasizes habitat first instead of colors and shapes. It's a process of elimination! Same goes for some basic knowledge of bird families. In this interactive class, we'll discuss these valuable tools for bird ID.

#### **Saturday, February 19:**

- **7:15-8:15am** - *Early Bird Bonus!* A slow wander around la Casa to see what's showing up at the feeders and immediate environs.
- **Right after breakfast (and we won't rush the delicious meal!)** – approximately 3+ hour field trip to Whitewater Draw and Sulfur Springs Valley to see how many bird families we can find in two adjacent habitats (open fields and managed ponds). This trip will also preview the evening's program on sparrows.
- **5:15pm** – Depending on Covid concerns, optional participant dinner at a nearby restaurant.
- **7pm – Yikes – Sparrows!** This interactive class features the sparrow family, focusing on those commonly seen in Arizona. Towhees (sparrows on steroids) are fairly easy, as are some habitat specialists. Get tips for distinguishing more confusing species – and some birds that are sparrow look-alikes.

#### **Sunday, February 20:**

- **7:30-8:15am** - *Early Bird Bonus!* A slow wander around la Casa to see what's showing up at the feeders and immediate environs.

- **Right after breakfast (and we won't rush the delicious meal –** approximately 3-hour field trip to Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. This site, on the way back to Tucson and Phoenix, can host several sparrow species, plus other grassland birds such as meadowlarks and shrikes. We'll wrap up on the porch of the Empire Ranch historic home with our bird list and snack.

Leave the program with handouts that provide notes from the evening programs, and a list of what species inhabit the Southeast Arizona high grasslands in the winter.