

Wings and Wildlife Festival of Southern Nevada

Thursday-Saturday, March 12-15, 2009

Laughlin, Nevada, on the Colorado River

Phone: 702-298-0630 (Jena Morga)

[See schedule of tours below press release](#)

Enjoy best weather birding/wildlife watching in the tri-state area where Arizona, California, and Nevada meet. Visitor friendly and economical Laughlin serves as festival headquarters. Situated along the west bank of one of America's truly great rivers, the Colorado, Laughlin is the gateway to birds and other wildlife in this tri-state region. Southwestern, late winter, and early spring species await in chaparral/scrub oak, Colorado River, desert scrub, Gambel oak, Joshua tree, lake, mesquite, pinyon pine, Ponderosa pine, riparian, and wetland habitats found among the numerous satellite wildlife viewing areas all around Laughlin. All this, plus...

- John Acorn, the Nature Nut
- Sharon Schafer, featured photographer
- Guided bird/nature walks – Big Bend of the Colorado River State Recreation Area, Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Hualapai Mountains, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Wee Thump Joshua Tree Forest
- Guided bird/nature trips by kayak – Black Canyon, Colorado River, Topock Gorge
- Nature art show, wine & art reception
- Live Animals – raptors, reptiles
- Booths, demonstrations, displays, workshops

A Southern Nevada Birding and Wildlife Trails Partnership event: Desert River Outfitters, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Laughlin Tourism Committee, Laughlin Visitors Bureau, National Park Service, Nevada Commission on Tourism, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada State Parks, Red Rock Audubon Society, Southern Nevada Water Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Guided Tours and Activities

THURSDAY, March 12

[Kayak the Topock Marsh "IBA designated"](#) Poke around magical drowned forest, explore reed beds, and riparian habitat. Best place to see the most concentrated population of birds in the area. 7 a.m.- 1 p.m. \$45

[Loons in the Lagoon](#) Enjoy kayak exploration of the 22 acre Laughlin Lagoon wetland at your own pace. 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. \$20

FRIDAY, March 13

[Venomous Critters at the Colorado River Nature Center](#) 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Talk by thZen Mocarski, Arizona Game and Fish. Also, learn about the Nature Center, its struggles, triumphs and future plans. Wheelchair accessible. N/C.

Bat Mistnetting at Katherine Mine evening N/C

Heritage Greenway Trail This easy walk, begins on Laughlin's River Walk. Attendees can compare bird and wildlife habitats in urban versus natural setting. Take a ferry ride to Arizona Colorado Greenway Heritage Park where a re-vegetation area with rapidly growing cottonwood and mesquite trees may have some early spring warblers as well as other birds frequently found at the waters edge. Great for beginning birders. 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. N/C

Easy Kayak trip on the Colorado River Easy, 5 mile kayak tour along the Colorado River, from Community Park to Big Bend. Look for birds along the water on the edge, explore the Laughlin Lagoon 9 a.m. – noon \$30

Moonlight Kayak Community Park to Rotary Park Strong moonlight will allow viewing of night birds and beautiful scenery. Kayakers may spook up burrowing owls 5 p.m.-8 p.m. \$30

Wee Thump tour by Van Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness Area is designated as an Important Birding Area by the ABA. Birds in the area include Gilded Flicker, Northern Flicker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Black-throated Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Crissal Thrasher, Golden Eagle, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Raven, Cactus Wren, and Bushtits. This is the only place in Nevada where Gilded Flickers are known to occur. Desert tortoises occur here. Mammals include bighorn sheep, coyote, black-tailed jack rabbit, desert cottontail, valley pocket gophers, kangaroo rats, pocket mice, and desert woodrats. 7 a.m. – noon \$25

SATURDAY, March 14

Wildlife of the desert pines - Elk and deer are prolific in the pine covered Hualpai Mountains. One hour trip by caravan, guided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. N/C

Bird Mistnetting at Topock Marsh. 8 a.m. N/C

Guided Van Trip through Topock Marsh in Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (IBA) Enjoy three public areas with overlooks easily accessible by walking or wheelchair: North Dike, Five Mile Landing and Catfish Paradise for viewing water and shore birds. 6 a.m.-noon \$20

Big Bend Nevada State Recreation Area. This area along the Colorado River has beaches for shore birds, mature mesquite thickets for common desert birds and wetland areas and a lagoon for ducks and lots of other wading birds. Nothing is very far from a parking area. A short walk to the dike of the Laughlin Lagoon or the dike overlooking the old Boy Scout Camp might get you a view of our local bald eagle or osprey that feed regularly here or any of a number of ducks that use this bay for protection. Raptors are regularly seen along the rocks on the other side of the Needles Highway. N/C

SUNDAY, March 15

Shore and water birds of Lake Mead Lake Mohave, within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, is less than 30 minutes from down town Laughlin. National Park Service will lead the group. Barn owls, burrowing owls, horn owls, rock wren, western grebes and western tanager all inhabit the area. 7 – 9 a.m. N/C

Kayak the Topock Gorge 15 mile trip through the famous Topock Gorge in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Look for birds along the shores of the Gorge and through backwaters and cliffs of the Gorge. May see Eagles play and raptors. 6 a.m. -3:30 p.m. \$45

Black Canyon by Motorized Raft Tour with US Fish and Wildlife Fish Hatchery Wheelchair accessible. 3 1/2 hour raft ride Likely to see big horn sheep, peregrine falcons, canyon wrens Lunch is provided 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. \$95

MONDAY, March 16

Black Canyon by Kayak Drive to Hoover Dam, Intermediate to advance kayak trip., launch Kayaks and head to Willow Beach, 11 mile trip. Likely to see big horn sheep, peregrine falcons, canyon wrens See some of the prettiest scenery around including hot water falls. Lunch is provided 6 a.m. – 5:30 Limit 14 people \$100

“Important birding areas”

Wee Thump Havasu
National Wildlife Refuge