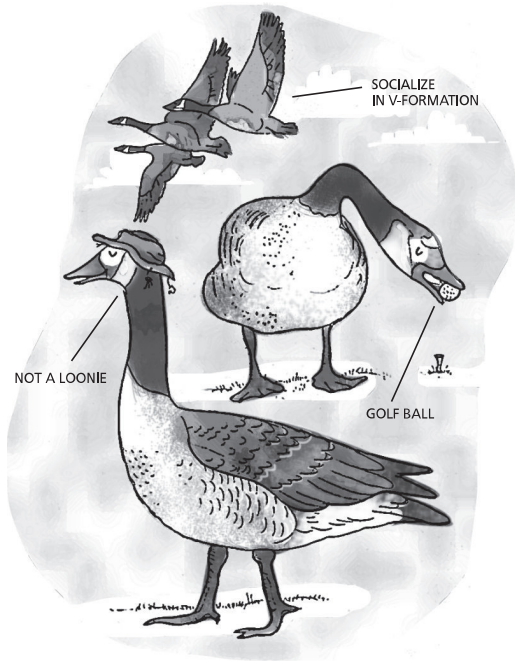


SNOWBIRDS FIELD GUIDE

Winter visitors are more often known by their informal name, snowbirds. They leave behind the colder climates of home for the warmth of the Southwest for more than a month at a time. The groups that flock to Arizona are diverse, from when they leave their native habitat and arrive in the state to the level of their social engagement with one another. Here's a guide to a few of the groups common to the Valley.

COMPILED BY DUSTIN GARDINER AND LESLEY WRIGHT, ILLUSTRATIONS BY AUDREY TATE/THE REPUBLIC

CANADIAN GEESSE



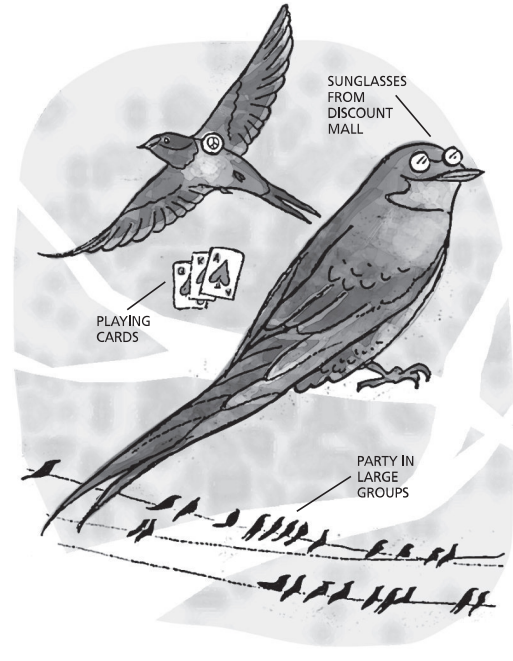
NATIVE HABITAT: Regions throughout Canada.

BEHAVIOR: These snowbirds golf, just like their American counterparts, but the younger Boomer set likes to socialize with other Canadian snowbirds, patronize the arts, buy second homes and shop. They do not have an allegiance to any particular region in the Valley and are as likely to congregate in RV parks as luxury resorts. Distinguished by their Canadian accents, they can become

hostile if referred to as Loonies, an avian species that graces the Canadian dollar coin.

MIGRATION PATTERNS: V-formations of geese historically have headed to Florida. Increasingly, flocks are heading to Arizona, where the air is drier and property taxes lower. In 2010, birders counted 556,000 Canadian snowbirds in the state, arriving as early as October and leaving as late as May.

SWALLOWS



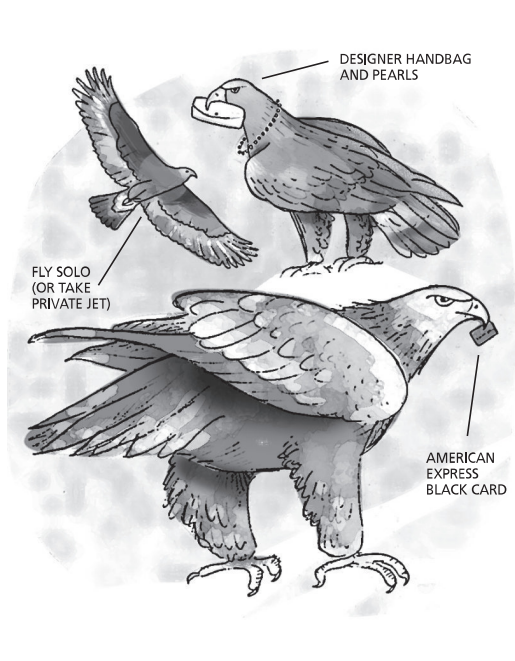
NATIVE HABITAT: Pacific coastline states, more rural areas of the Midwest and higher elevations across the West.

BEHAVIOR: These birds fly together, land together and party together, in large groups and often in the shadow of their recreational vehicles. Most often found in RV parks in the East Valley, pockets of the West Valley and Quartzsite. The RVers drop dollars consistently at discount malls, dinner theaters and chain

restaurants, but are more frugal than other species. Group pastimes include playing shuffleboard and card games, making trips to local casinos and basking in pools.

MIGRATION PATTERNS: RVers meander as they make their way to Arizona, stopping at interesting spots in other states along the road. Their caravans leave cooler climates in the midfall. Most begin the journey home by April.

GOLDEN EAGLES



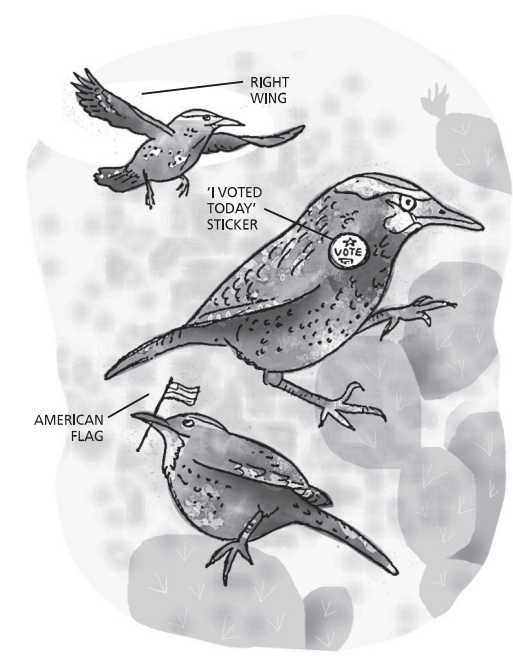
NATIVE HABITAT: New York, Vancouver, Edmonton, Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Denver.

BEHAVIOR: Largely second-homeowners, these birds assimilate easily with year-round residents in Scottsdale and Paradise Valley. Some migrate to affluent retirement communities, such as Sun City Grand in Surprise. This species is self-reliant and reluctant to congregate with fellow snowbirds,

preferring to fly solo when in Arizona. They are found at the better golf courses, in spas, on hiking trails in the mountains, in theaters and museums and in malls, shops and art galleries, usually with their wallets open.

MIGRATION PATTERNS: Golden Eagles are well-adapted for long flights, but these particular snowbirds also have access to private jets. The largest flock lands in January and departs in March.

CACTUS WRENS



NATIVE HABITAT: Wisconsin, Michigan, Kansas, other points in the Midwest.

BEHAVIOR: These snowbirds tend to migrate to the Sun Cities and parts of Surprise as younger seniors in their late 50s and early 60s, setting up permanent homes in the area as they age. The Cactus Wren snowbirds have been known to dominate the communities in which their temporary Arizona homes are located, putting their stamp on local

governments. They're extremely conservative — both with their money and politics. They are considered the most politically active snowbird species.

MIGRATION PATTERNS: Birds arrive in two large migrations, with the first landing in late October and a second group arriving in early January after the holidays. Most linger until late April or early May.