

# Community

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## Mesa woman's camera captures feathery beauties

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Sally Mesarosh aims her camera at a trio of feeding pelicans at the Riparian Preserve at Water Ranch in Gilbert. Their pouches seemed full of fish but the pelicans glided towards the Mesa woman, perhaps with the hope of securing more.

"It's pretty cool when you get to see them. They are winter visitors; they are not here all the time," Mesarosh said. "They travel together in little groups, almost synchronized when they dive for fish."

Mesarosh has been birding in the East Valley's nature parks for nearly a decade. The urban Riparian Preserve is her favorite spot because it contains the most birds, which she attributes to its plentiful water.

There she has photographed least bitterns, hummingbirds, vermilion flycatchers, night crowned black herons, cormorants, great blue herons, Canadian geese,



Sally Mesarosh has a passion for birding in the East Valley. Here she aims her camera at a pair of water fowl. (Srianthi Perera/Tribune Contributor)

mockingbirds, black-necked stilts and many other species.

In the spring, she has seen Gila wood-

peckers living inside saguaro cactus in the cactus garden. Often, she spots baby woodpeckers peeping from their tem-

porary homes. The males have a distinct red crown, which make for a contrasting photo when they perch on the ridges of the thorny green plant.

Many times, she has also seen the coveted roseate spoonbill, the large pink waterbird with its broad, spoon-like bill, affectionately named Rosie by local birders.

The bird is not native to Arizona, but has been found around the state. Rosie is not always visible in the Riparian's sludgy waters, and tends to appear and disappear from time to time, thereby increasing its endearment and causing ripples in birders' lives.

Mesarosh is an early morning riser who prefers to bird at that time rather than the hours approaching twilight, which are the two optimal times for nature photography.

The early morning hours are perfect to photograph the fluorescent colors of the

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