



Birds of a Feather Change with Weather

Since many Las Vegans have migrated from other parts of the world the changing of the seasons here in the valley tend to be a little more subtle than what you may be accustomed to.

There may not be six inches of snow on the ground, but if you've recently explored the Las Vegas Wash, the area has made quite a metamorphosis.

Upcoming Meetings

**Las Vegas Valley
Watershed Advisory
Committee**
Dec. 13, 2011 2 p.m.



An American kestrel perches high above in a fall cottonwood tree.

The shorter window of daylight that accompanies winter months primarily affects the reptile community, who depend on radiant heat as an energy source.

Many ectothermic creatures become highly active before colder temperatures set in. Recently, two juvenile desert tortoises were spotted within a week of each other. Although previously discovered along the Clark County Wetlands Park boundary, these represented the first discoveries inside the park in more than eight years.

The trees also demonstrate the seasonal changes. Not only have the cottonwood and willow trees turned a golden yellow, but the types of birds you may see perched in one has changed as well.

During the summer months, the trees along the Las Vegas Wash are abuzz with chatter from warblers, chats and other song birds. As temperatures begin to drop, many of these smaller birds migrate south while other species of waterfowl take advantage of the open water ponds above each weir. American kestrels, bald eagles and other birds of prey also can be spotted perched high above, looking for a meal. Not only does the Las Vegas Wash serve as a home to many species of birds during the winter months, but it also serves as a valuable resource to the countless numbers of birds that use the area to rest and forage as they migrate south.

If it has been a while since you've last explored the Las Vegas Wash, this time of year is a wonderful opportunity to have some unique experiences. For more information on what types of creatures you can expect to see, visit lwash.org.

Wetlands Park Trailhead Construction

Clark County Parks and Recreation has begun the construction process on two new trailheads on the south side of the Las Vegas Wash. The most upstream location will be adjacent to the Pabco Road Weir at the end of Pabco Road. Although this area has had a large parking area for many years, once complete, the new trailhead will include concrete pavers and curbing, a restroom and informative signage.

The downstream trailhead will overlook the new Lower Narrows Weir and will be located where Magic Way meets with the future Scenic Drive. This location also will include parking, a restroom and information about the Wetlands Park. Both projects are expected to be completed by spring 2012.



Construction has begun on the future Pabco Road trailhead.