



D A W N L A K E

W A T E R - F I S H -

B I R D S - W I L D L I F E





Photo by Judy Olausen, Dock 66

# ecology = life = beauty

Volunteers on Dawn Lake's Fish, Water and Fountain committees are our "water warriors." They work tirelessly to ensure a balanced Eco-system on the lake through the addition of fish habitat, vigilant monitoring of the lake liner and walls, water quality testing and working to protect our water rights.

Their efforts help ensure that Dawn Lake provides homeowners and residents with a beautiful lake and lifestyle, but also they have great success in nurturing symbiotic relationships among a variety of animal species and humans.

Get acquainted with some of Dawn Lake's "other" visitors and residents - our fish, birds, and wildlife.

## WATER

Our lake is fed by a well with natural, unprocessed water. Water management & testing, wall, dock and lake liner & fountain maintenance, and dock & boat compliance are all necessary to ensure the lake's safety and viability.

## FISH

Dawn Lake is home to many different varieties of fish - Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Sunfish, Talapia, catfish, and two species of carp. Catch and release or enjoy for dinner.

## BIRDS

Abundant food with limited competition, safety from predators and our warm winter climate create a safe place for migratory and resident birds.

## WILDLIFE

It's sometimes easy to forget that Dawn Lake is in the Phoenix-Metro area. While our urban wildlife population is small it still reminds us that nature and man can, and do co-exist.

# dawn lake water

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## our beautiful oasis and asset

The view from any house on Dawn Lake is unique and splendid! How we see the lake changes daily - with the seasons, the weather and time of day. The lake is calm and peaceful also dramatic and alive.

But, our lake is also fragile and needs our help.

For 51 years homeowner volunteers have worked thousands of hours to preserve the beauty we enjoy and their vigilance continues today.

**VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON A WATER COMMITTEE!**

**TESTING:** Our water is tested regularly for: Golden Algae and E. coli; seepage and evaporation; and, water usage to ensure we are receiving our correct water allotment.

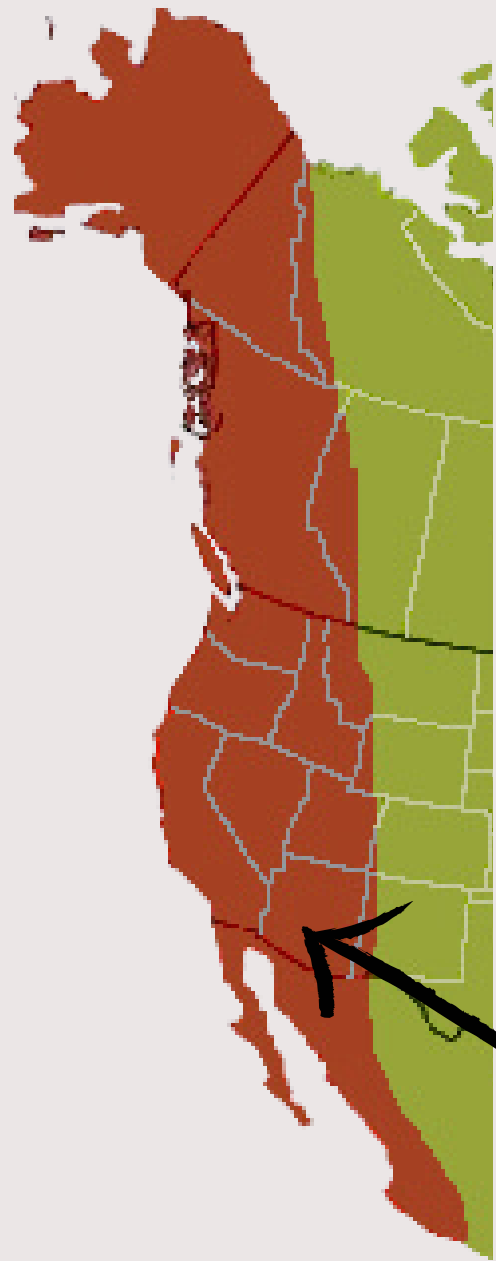
**WATER RIGHTS:** The protection and oversight of our water allotment from RCSC is crucial. Our committee members are vigilant and pro-active on this issue.

**LAKE WALL & LINER:** Volunteers inspect, and do the necessary work to protect the integrity of the lake wall and liner.

**FOUNTAINS:** For over 20 years, volunteers have maintained and repaired the five stunning fountains that dot the lake.

**CLEANING:** Do your part! Bring a plastic bag with you on your boat outings, keep a fan rake or net close to your dock to lift out debris, AND keep yard waste out of the lake.

# dawn lake - migrating visitors



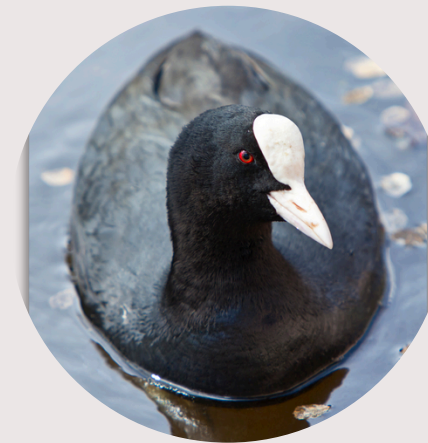
## ON A BIRD SUPER HIGHWAY

Migrating birds are Arizona's true "snowbirds." Dawn Lake is a favorite winter haven for some species of common water fowl.

Dawn Lake provides a perfect respite from the northern cold. While most of our winter bird residents typically start their northern migration in March-April, we always have a few stragglers - or rebels - who stay at the lake later or even year round.



There are four flyways for North American migrating birds. Moving west to east they are the: **Pacific Flyway** (where we are); Central; Mississippi; and, Atlantic.



## AMERICAN COOTS

Coots look more like floating black chickens than they do waterfowl. Their non-webbed "hairy" feet are their most remarkable feature. Both sexes look similar. They are migratory, but a hand full of coots stay on DL year-round.



## MALLARD DUCK

Mallards are dabblers not divers- to feed they tip their head underwater and stick their bottoms straight up in the air. They nest under docks and in the grasses along the lake.

# dawn lake - migrating visitors

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## COMMON GOLDENEYE DUCK

Goldeneyes are diving ducks and their most distinguishing features are their yellow gold eyes and “mohawk” crest. It takes about a year for their eyes to develop their golden color. The sexes have very different plumage.



## CANADA GEESE

When you hear honking on Dawn Lake you're not in traffic! You'll often see one or two geese resting on our fountains. Geese often return to their natal homes to roost.

## “concern” birds

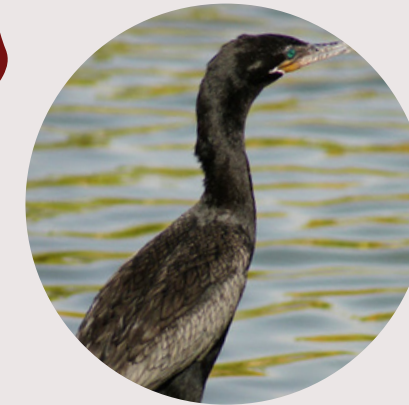
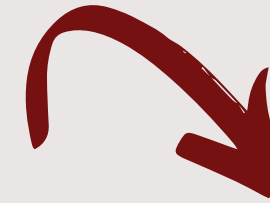
Cormorants nest on utility or light poles, under docks, and in trees near the lake. If you find a nest, alert a member of the Fish Committee.

Mergansers can wreak havoc on current and future fish populations because of their large flocks and voracious appetites.



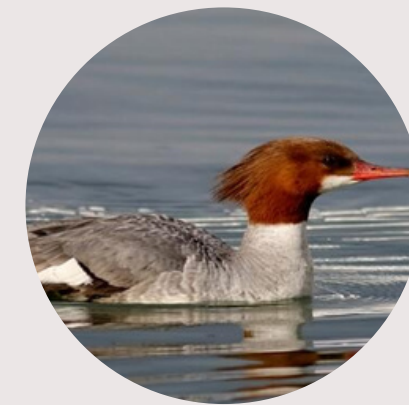
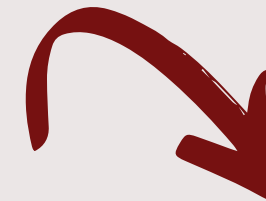
## GREAT WEBSITE

**All About Birds** - [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)  
Get species info, see pictures, hear bird calls, and check in on national bird cams!



## NEOTROPIC COMORANT

Comorants can create a real threat to fish populations. Also, their excrement is acidic - it can change soil chemistry and cause corrosion on structures. They lay 4-5 eggs at a time and live around 6 yrs.



## COMMON MERGANSER

They “prowl” the lake in large flocks and dive in unison like synchronized swimmers. A long stay on the lake is worrisome for members of the Fish Committee - just one bird needs to eat 15-20 fish a DAY.

# dawn lake mute swans

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## on the lake since 1984

Swans have a 40 year history with the homeowners on Dawn Lake. Their introduction to the lake had no fanfare or even permission - it was an unauthorized "relocation" of two Viewpoint Lake male swans made by a mystery man.

In those 40 years there have been a lot of swans - as many as six on the lake at one time - today we have three. Efforts are being made by the Dawn Lake Swan Committee to raise the funds needed to purchase at least one cygnet (baby) maybe two.

Swan Committee members serve as "swan guardians" by making decisions about them and looking after their physical care. Financial support - for food, supplies and medical - is provided by homeowners through the Dawn Lake HOA annual budget.

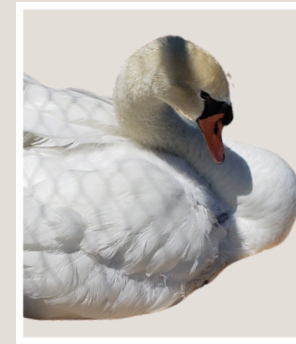
### Interested in serving on the Swan Committee?

Contact Iris Kovach, committee chair.

Call/text: 925-787-0948 or email: [iriskovach@aol.com](mailto:iriskovach@aol.com)

Photos of Squeaky & Snow by Iris Kovach, Dock 25

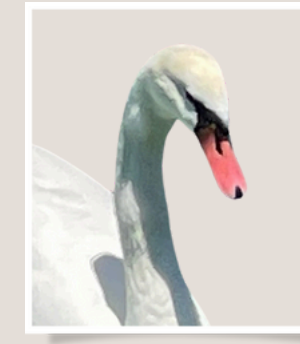
Photo of Pearl by Marcia Scholl, Dock 67



SQUEAKY



SNOW



PEARL



### "DAWN LAKE SWANS" DECK

Learn about our swans through a fun and comprehensive information deck on our HOA website: [dawnlake.net](http://dawnlake.net).



At [dawnlake.net](http://dawnlake.net). 1. Click on "About Dawn Lake" 2. Click on "Dawn Lake Swans"  
Two documents are at the bottom of that page - the deck and an article by Cynthia Broze about the history of swans on Dawn Lake.

# dawn lake - some resident birds



Quail



Blue Heron



Rosy Faced Lovebirds



Harris Hawk



Anna's Hummingbird



Great Horned Owl



**GREAT APP**

**Merlin Bird ID.** A **FREE** mobile bird guide! Visit: [merlin.allaboutbirds.org](https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org) to find out what the app does, where get it, and how to download it to your mobile device(s).

# dawn lake fish

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## LARGEMOUTH BASS



Sought after by most angler. Their common length is 17". They are extremely aggressive and proficient ambush predators.

## BLUEGILL



Most are 4" to 8" long Their eyes are able to filter out harmful UV rays. If they live past age one they can live to 11 yrs.

## TALAPIA



A hardy, fast growing fish, that can live up to ten yrs and reach 10 lbs. They're herbivores - making them a challenge to catch.

## rocky start

In the late 1980 's Dawn Lake underwent an Arizona state mandated fish kill to eradicate illegal White Amur carp. For years after, the lake's fish program was in a state of re-building.

After the relentless efforts of the volunteers on the Dawn Lake Fish Committee - constructing fish hiding structures, restocking and conservation efforts - today our lake is a thriving self-sustaining fish habitat.



## A GOOD READ

"Dawn Lake Fish - Through the Years & Today"- read more about the history of fish on our lake. Copy this link into your browser:

<https://www.dawnlake.net/p/Dawn-Lake-Fish>

A popular sport fish that thrives in a variety of habitats - they are bottom dwellers. They may live over 20 years.

Strong fish who fight hard when hooked. These all-female species can propagate by asexual reproduction modes.

Local names vary for these popular sport fish, but you could never confuse a freshwater sunfish with an Ocean Sunfish.

## CATFISH



## YELLOW CARP



## SUNFISH





# dawn lake - urban wildlife



Coyote



Javelina



Bobcat



Jackrabbitt



## A GOOD READ



Paste this link into your browser:  
[https://www.phoenixmag.com/2021/03/04/a-field-guide-to-phoenix-wildlife/?utm\\_source=canva&utm\\_medium=iframe](https://www.phoenixmag.com/2021/03/04/a-field-guide-to-phoenix-wildlife/?utm_source=canva&utm_medium=iframe)

## GREAT WEBSITE



Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center. Great FAQ section and info.  
Paste this link into your browser: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/resources/>

Clean water, abundant fish, a variety of birds and wildlife - this IS Dawn Lake. Help is needed to preserve our lake and asset - for your lifetime and beyond.

# Thank You!

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**WE ALL owe an enormous amount of gratitude to our amazing Dawn Lake "Aqua Army" committee members - they preserve, maintain and guard this precious resource we are privileged to call home. **JOIN THEM - VOLUNTEER!****

**Dock & Water Craft Compliance**

Ron Butler

**Fish Committee**

**Russ Born, Chair**, Paul Moye and John Suhumskie

**Fountain Maintenance Committee**

Earl Siegrist, Dave Goitia, Bill Thompson and Rick Schwanz

**Lake Cleaning**

John Suhumskie and Bill Thompson  
*(and all homeowners who do their part - thank you!)*

**Lake Wall Inspection Committee**

**Russ Born, Chair**, Bill Thompson, and Gene Weber

**Liner Preservation**

Russ Born, Chair, Bill Thompson, and Gene Weber

**Water Management Committee**

**Russ Born, Chair**, Diane Clark, Bob Ellig, Jerry Fife, and Gene Weber

**Water Testing:** Cathy Paneno

**Water Meter Reading:** Bill Thompson

**The fact is, the maintenance of Dawn Lake is the **SOLE** responsibility of the **HOMEOWNERS**.**

**It's also a fact** that without committee volunteers the natural and physical aspects of the lake would quickly deteriorate - resulting in huge expenses we would all be obligated to share.

Let's get your name on one - or more of these lists! **SERVE on a committee - you do not need to be a year-round resident.**

For info email HOA President, Jerry Dykstra: president@dawnlake.net OR talk to anyone you see here. *Thanks!!*