



MAY - JUNE 2013

Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. Fieldtrip times and meeting places vary; see below or please check the website or call 367-2462 for more information.

May 1st – Regular monthly meeting; speaker will be Mea Stees who will give a program on an invasive plant eradication effort at Logan's Crossing in Flagstaff.

May 11th - **NAMC** for Apache & Navajo Counties; see article inside the newsletter.

May 25th – **Beginning Birder's Workshop** from 9am-12pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Center. See article inside.

May 1-31st – **Birdathon**; see article inside.

June 5th Regular monthly meeting: Speaker will be Hugh Grinnell who will give an impersonation of Hugh Bird Grinnell, the founder of the Audubon Society.

June 7-9th - **White Mountain Nature Film Festival**; see article inside.

Your Officers

President: Mary Ellen Bittorf 367-2462

Vice-Pres.: Tom Jernigan 532-1510

Secretary: Liz Jernigan 532-1510

Treasurer: Chuck Bittorf 367-2462

Programs: Loretta Pena 368-3380

Field Trips: Kent Schipper 537-7569

Editor: Loretta Pena 368-3380

Membership: Position open

Website Manager: Richard Inman 369-3240

Board Members: Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

Out on a Limb with your President...

The **WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE FILM FESTIVAL** is only about six weeks away, and your board has been working hard to come up with the films and make it a success. Any of you who would like to help can contact me or any board member and let us know. We will need help in several ways. One way everyone can help is to attend our kick-off reception on Friday, June 7. It will be at Pizzeria Vente from 5:00 pm until 8:00. There will be food, music, meet and greet time with the film makers, and the film "ANNA, EMMA, AND THE CONDORS" The cost is \$25.00 per person.. Please RSVP so we know how many to plan for. Call me at 367- 2462 or Tom & Liz Jernigan at 532- 1510. The films will be shown at the Unity Church on Woodland Road. Cost for the films will be \$5.00 per person and \$2.00 for children. We have a good variety of films and I think you will enjoy seeing them. (See the article in another part of the newsletter).

The **Trek West** program on April 3 was a great success, and over 70 people attended. Several conservation groups were represented, including TRACKS, White Mountain Nature Center, White Mountain Conservation League, and White Mountain Democrats. Having the meeting at the new Pinetop Brewery added a nice touch. The presentation by John Davis was informative and he had some great pictures of wildlife.

Don't forget that May is **Birdathon** month, so keep your bird list and find sponsors. The North American Migratory Bird Count is on Saturday, May 11. Also, the Big Year ended on March 31, so call me and let me know how many birds you saw. Saturday, June 1 is National Trails Day and Walk for the Park, so there is a lot going on in the next few weeks.

I think spring is here because I have hummingbirds again – Broadtail, Black chinned, and Magnificent. Also, a pair of House Wrens are trying to decide on a nest site. What fun!!

Enjoy the nice spring days.....and enjoy birding.

Mary Ellen Bittorf~

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 7-9, 2013

The **WM Nature Film Festival** has been planned for June 7-9th, beginning with a reception on Friday June 7th from 5-8 pm at Pizzeria Venti in Lakeside. The cost of the buffet dinner will be \$25 and will include pizza and or pasta, salad & dessert. Tickets for the buffet will be sold in advance of the event. Filmmakers will be introduced and recognized at this time. A short film titled, "Anna, Emma & the Condors" will also be shown.

The purpose of the festival is two-fold. First we want to increase the funds for our outreach programs such as a \$ 1,000 scholarship that we give to a graduating senior, a Beginning Birder's Workshop, and Audubon Adventures which is a tool for teachers that meets national science standards. We furnish these kits to teachers and libraries in the White Mountains at no cost to the teacher or the school. Second, we want to provide the communities of the White Mountains enjoyable and entertaining films about nature and wildlife that may not be shown in theaters.

All films will be shown at the Unity Church, 257 Woodland Rd in Lakeside. Tickets are \$5 and \$2 for students.

The schedule for showing films is:

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

11:00 am- Apache 8

1:00 pm- Forests Born of Fire / Autumn in the High Country / Winter in Arizona's High Country

2:30 pm- Bald Eagles and Bears

4:00 pm- Yellowstone/ Chasing the Light

5:30 pm- Honey for the Maya/ Desert Dreams

7:00 pm- Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

2:00 pm- In the Company of Moose

3:30 pm- Thirteen Days of Looking at a Hummingbird / Petroglyphs

5:00 pm- Livestock Guardian Dogs-Working on Common Ground / Wild Things

The board of WMAS requests your help for the following jobs before and during the festival.

- sell reception/dinner tickets
- sell film tickets
- clean the church after films are shown on Saturday & Sunday evenings
- furnish cookies or bottled water to serve between the films

SIGHTINGS

Bird sightings turned in at the March meeting are: Kay Alderton saw Great Blue Heron at Silver Creek Fish Hatchery. In Florida, Diane Dorsay saw Ibis, Summer Tanager, Scrub Jay, pelicans and numerous shore birds. Ginny Dotson reported a flock of Western Bluebirds. Paula sighted Peregrine Falcon near Parker at the Colorado River. Bittorfs had Robin and Band-tailed Pigeon in their backyard in Pinetop. Michael Ingraldi saw a Black Hawk at the Lower San Pedro Wildlife Area. Penas had Acorn, Hairy and Lewis Woodpecker in their yard in Show Low. Because our April meeting was a special event, no bird sightings were officially turned in at the meeting. However an Auduboner from Show Low visited Flagstaff during the month and was able to see many Cedar Waxwings there.

At the April 13th field trip to Pintail Lake, Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf saw many species including Say's & Black Phoebe, Juniper Titmouse, Red-winged & Yellow-headed Blackbird, Mountain Bluebird, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy & Ringed-necked Duck. At their home in Pinetop, Bittorfs are seeing Magnificent, Black-chinned, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds as well as House Wren. Sue Sitko reported Blue-winged Teal at Woodland Lake Park.

Thanks everyone!!



Daniel Kilbey

White Mountain Audubon Society Membership/Donation Form

White Mountain Audubon Society membership dues are: **Individual \$15**, or **Family \$25 per year**. Please renew your membership. Your tax-deductible membership supports our on-going programs and activities, as well as future new projects. Your membership and donations do make a difference!!!

MEMBERSHIP _____ DONATION _____

Individual _____
Family _____

Name _____ Date _____
Mailing Address _____ E-mail _____
Phone _____

Send this form and your dues or donation to: **White Mountain Audubon Society**
P.O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935

You may use this form for either your Membership renewal or a Donation to WMAS. Please designate above which you are doing. **Thank you very much for your support of White Mountain Audubon Society!**

Audubon Launches Multistate Rivers Advocacy Network

Chapter members and friends invited to join

In the arid West we are all connected by rivers; they are the lifeblood of our land, our economy, our way of life. Western rivers—including the Colorado, the Verde, the Gila and the San Pedro, provide water for tens of millions of people, including twenty-two Native American tribes and the cities of Denver, Phoenix, Albuquerque and Tucson.

We aren't alone in our reliance on western rivers. Ninety percent of Central Flyway birds depend on these waterways for their survival.

Unfortunately our rivers are in jeopardy. Drought, invasive species, over-allocation and unsustainable management are running our rivers dry. Many of the birds that depend on them, like the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Bell's Vireo, are in decline, and the future of the communities and economies surrounding our rivers is uncertain.

Audubon is taking a major step to address the threats to our western rivers. This spring we're launching the **Western Rivers Action Network**, a **multistate grassroots coalition** to advocate for our **rivers** and the **bird species** that depend on them.

To lead the development of the Arizona network, we've engaged **Sarah Luna**, a seasoned conservation professional who brings a **wealth of skills** to Audubon. Sarah will be reaching out to Audubon members across the state to get your input on how to make the **Western Rivers Action Network a success** and to find out how the network can support your chapter's riparian conservation work.

Interested in being a part of the Western Rivers Action Network? There are many opportunities for volunteer advocates! Contact us to find out more. Email riosalado@audubon.org or Sarah Porter at sporter@audubon.org.

"Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

Henry Van Dyke

North American Migration Count (NAMC)

Apache & Navajo Counties
May 11, 2013

The 2013 NAMC for Apache and Navajo Counties will be held on Saturday, May 11. The NAMC is a nation-wide annual event, very similar in form and function as our annual Christmas Bird Counts (only with nicer weather!). Birders group up to coordinate to bird as much of each county as possible, and count or tally every individual seen (numbers by species). This important survey helps biologists at the state and national level understand our breeding bird ecology.

White Mountain Audubon supports both the Apache and Navajo NAMCs. Eric Hough coordinates the Navajo NAMC, and I am the coordinator for the Apache County count. Many of you have helped out in the past on the North American Migration Count (NAMC) for Apache County, and I hope that you and others will want to assist on this year's count.

To participate in the Navajo County Count, please contact Eric at thebirdwhisperer22@yahoo.com. Participation for the full day is encouraged, but even 15 minutes watching yard feeders at some point during the day or incidental sightings while you're enroute to elsewhere would be helpful. If you are interested in participating, please contact Eric before May 11th so he can coordinate area coverage among participants (to avoid duplication of efforts/counting the same birds).

For the Apache County count, we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Wenima Wildlife Area north of Springerville off Hwy. 180. Please plan on arriving there at 7:00 a.m. Note that this is a departure from our regular field trip meeting location at the Pinetop McDonalds.

At Wenima, we will form teams and bird there and many other sites along the Little Colorado River (i.e. Becker Lake, South Fork, and possibly Greer and/or higher). If enough people show up, we will split into teams, or use individuals, to bird areas like the Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area, Nutrioso Reservoir, and Luna Lake.

Please let me know if you will be joining me for the Apache County NAMC by e-mailing me at sitko@frontiernet.net, so I can start figuring out all the logistics. Remember, this can be a full day of birding, so come prepared with food and water, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Spotting scopes would be helpful for some of the open water areas.

I hope to get a great turnout; Apache County is one of the most under-birded counties in this statewide NAMC. Any help is appreciated!

Sue Sitko

5 Actions to protect birds where YOU live:

- Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use; using fewer chemicals will help keep birds, pets and your family healthy.
- Plant native plants. Native flora provides birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds, and is home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.
- Identify the non-native invasive plants and work to remove them from your yard. Don't bring in and invasives into your backyard habitat. Invasives don't provide as much good food or habitat as natives do, and can threaten healthy ecosystems.
- Attract hummingbirds with sugar water, made by combining four parts water to one part white sugar, boil for 1-2 minutes. Never use honey, artificial sweetener or food coloring. Clean hummingbird feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water once a week.
- Make your windows visible to birds to prevent crashes.

BIRDATHON

This year the Birdathon will be held for the entire month of May to give those interested in participating plenty of time to get sponsors and go birding. (This is an exciting time to be outside birding with all the migrating birds returning, and the resident birds nesting and raising their young.)

To participate in the event, ask your family, friends and coworkers to sponsor you. They may donate a certain amount per bird seen, or a flat amount. Then see how many different species you can see this month. Collect what people pledged to the effort and turn that money in to Chuck Bittorf at the June meeting.

The Birdathon has been the main fundraiser for WMAS for many years and has enabled us to give scholarships to a graduating senior (\$10,000 will have been given after this year's recipient is selected), the Beginning Birder's Workshop and provide Audubon Adventures to White Mountain area schools and libraries.

It is a worthwhile effort and if you are unable to do the Birdathon yourself, please sponsor someone who is. Thanks to all for your help!



Dan Kilby

BEGINNING BIRDER'S WORKSHOP

On Saturday, May 25th, WMAS will offer the BB's Workshop at 9:00 am at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Center. It will be \$10 for individuals, \$15 for couples and topics to be covered will be: basic bird identification, how to select & use binoculars, how to attract birds to your yard, where to find the birds in our area, and how to care for your bird feeders at home.

A small handout will be provided and if time permits, we will take a short walk to see what birds are in the area.

The workshop will finish at 12 noon. All are welcome!!

CONSERVATION

Thousand-Turbine Wyoming Wind Farm Could Become Country's Biggest Eagle Killer

The Chokecherry-Sierra Madre site may become the nation's biggest eagle-killing wind farm, based on an estimate by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which says the 1,000-turbine facility would kill between 150 and 210 raptors a year, including 46 to 64 Golden Eagles. If the BLM's prediction is accurate, this single wind farm would kill almost as many Golden Eagles each year as the many wind farms of the notorious Altamont Pass in California. HawkWatch International has commented that the BLM's mortality estimate for Chokecherry-Sierra Madre may even underestimate the potential carnage, estimating that the Wyoming wind farm might kill more than 700 raptors annually, more than 200 of them Golden Eagles. "Regardless of whose estimate is 'right,' even the lowest predictions are too high, and would likely turn the project area into a population sink for Golden Eagles, where more birds would be killed than could be replaced by the area's breeding population," said Kelly Fuller, ABC's Wind Campaign Coordinator.

The Greater Sage-Grouse, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act, is also threatened by the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre project. More than 900 of the project's 1,000 turbines would be located in sage-grouse habitat. Originally, because of the high quality of its sage-grouse habitat, virtually the entire Chokecherry-Sierra Madre project area was within an area that was specially designated as off-limits to energy development. Rather than avoid the area specially designated to protect sage-grouse, the project's developer asked to have the boundary of the area changed. A state committee agreed to this request.

In addition to the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre's project's problems for raptors and sage-grouse, the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was approved before all of the necessary avian studies were completed, and without including plans for mitigating the project's impacts on birds. Instead, some of the project's most important analysis is being pushed off to a series of future Environmental Assessments, which raises serious legal questions. "ABC supports wind energy when it is bird-smart, but the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre is not a bird-smart project," said Fuller (Bird Calls, Vol. 15, No. 1).

Recently ABC joined with Biodiversity Conservation Alliance and Western Watersheds Project in sending a formal letter of protest to the BLM after the EIS was published. The letter pointed out scientific and legal flaws in the BLM's approval of the project site, and noted that the project could be relocated in southeastern Wyoming with far fewer environmental consequences.

The Chokecherry-Sierra Madre project cannot be constructed until BLM grants Right of Way permits, the timing of which is uncertain. Efforts will continue to protect Wyoming's birds from what Fuller calls "an oversized, irresponsible project."

(Article is from the American bird Conservancy website)

Where to write

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20206
202-456-1111

U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake
B85 Russell Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
www.flake.senat.gov/contact

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Rep. Albert Hale
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White Mountain Audubon Society is dedicated to the enjoyment of birds and other wildlife by providing environmental leadership and awareness through fellowship, education, community involvement, and conservation programs in the White Mountains and surrounding areas.

**White Mountain Audubon Society
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Pinetop, AZ 85935**

