



## JULY-AUGUST 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.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** - Regular monthly meeting; speaker will be Dr. Karl Hoerig who will give a program on his work at the Fort Apache Cultural Museum.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** - Field trip to Show Low Bluff Trail. Meet at Show Low McDonald's at 7 am.

**July 27<sup>th</sup>** - Hummingbird Banding at Sipe Wildlife Area; see article inside.

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** - WMAS members Ken & Barb Smith will give a program on birds & wildlife of Hawaii.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>** - Field trip is planned to Luna Lake east of Springerville; meet at Pinetop McDonald's at 7 am.

### 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](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

### Out on a Limb with your President...

The 2013 White Mountain Nature Film Festival is behind us and I think I can safely say that it was a great success. My heartfelt thanks to all the board members and others who worked to make it all happen. The films we showed were well attended (1667), and the feed-back was very positive. We have already picked June 13, -15, 2014. Now the challenge is to find good films to show, and to work out the rest of the details. The dinner also went well, and the format seemed to work well. Any of you who wish to help with next year's event should let me, or any board member know.

I am thrilled to be watching a pair of Cordilleran Flycatchers who have tended to a nest over my front window and are now feeding young. I don't know how many little ones they have, but they are working hard to keep them fed. This is the third year they have come to this nest. We also have had at least two House Wrens who we suspect have a nest, but they seem to have a hard time deciding on a sit. So far they have checked out four different sites, and I can't say for sure which one they have chosen, if any. They have a very pretty song and they sing their little hearts out all day long. I think we had a visit from a bear last night, so we will be bringing out feeders in at night for awhile.

Don't forget that the July meeting will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be Karl Hoerig from Fort Apache who will be talking about his work at the museum. The field trip will be on July 13 at the Show Low Bluff trail. On the 27<sup>th</sup> the hummingbird banding at Sipes will take place. I could use some help with the booth there.

This is an exciting time for birding in the White Mountains so enjoy the cooler weather in the mountains as well as the birds, butterflies and flowers.

Enjoy birding...  
~Mary Ellen

**TUCSON BIRD & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL**  
August 14-18  
At The Riverpark Inn, near downtown  
Tucson, AZ

The Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival celebrates the unique biodiversity of southeast Arizona with exciting educational opportunities for birders and nature enthusiasts to discover and enjoy the Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands. Registration and details are available at [www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival)

Featuring:

- Exciting **monsoon birding**: peak numbers and diversity of bird species!
- **Expert-led field trips** to nearby birding hotspots like the Huachuca Mountains, Madera Canyon, Las Cienegas, Cienega Creek, Mt. Lemmon, California Gulch, Sweetwater Wetlands, and more; some of the best birding in the country!
- Evening programs by renowned authors and naturalists **J. Drew Lanham** and **Christopher Cokinos** on Friday and Saturday
- **Workshops** include Fall Migrants, Go Batty, Birders as Active Conservationists, Sparrows, Grassland Bird IDD, Beginning Birding
- **Free talks** on natural history and wildlife themes
- Family-friendly activities on Saturday & **youth birders' field trip** with **J. Drew Lanham** on Sunday
- **Nature Expo** with educational exhibits, vendors, and live critters
- The **Sky Islands Birding Cup** (a "Big Day" competition like no other) on Aug. 14
- **Special Festival rates** at The Riverpark Inn and Enterprise Rent-a-car

For more info and online registration, please visit [www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival)

**Birdathon 2013 Results**

The Birdathon was held for the entire month of May this year and I was the only person that participated. Mostly I birded in the area of Show Low where we live near west McNeil and 16<sup>th</sup> Dr. On my morning walks, I went to several different places nearby, as well as Fool Hollow Lake, Pintail Lake and areas I was in, in Lakeside and Pinetop. My grand total of species was 59, which was a little disappointing considering the 31 days in May. In the middle of the month we had several warblers in the yard that came repeatedly for 4-5 days and ate insects in the plum tree. They were Wilson's, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Eating along side of them generally were Chipping Sparrows. I loved seeing and hearing the Hepatic Tanagers sing from the tops of very tall Ponderosa Pine trees in the Fox Canyon area. The highlight of the month was White-faced Ibis which Bob and I saw at Pintail Lake.

Thanks to Bob and Gus Hollenbeck for their help.

For 2013, \$688 has been contributed to WMAS so far for the Birdathon. I am very grateful, to each of you that donated, for your commitment to our educational programs. A lot of you have been supporting this effort for many, many years now and I thank you for that.

~Loretta Pena

**MANY THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!!**

Betty & Pete Bengston	Linda Pearce
Warren Goff	Lynn Krigbaum
Fred & Karen Peters	Biff Golloday
Pat Calkins	Holly Hanson
Gus Hollenbeck	Carol Sletten
Kay Alderton	Bob & Loretta Pena
Lee Gilmar	Anne Seal
Mary Ellen Bittorf	Liz Wise
AZ G & F Department	Sue Sitko
Judy Underdown	Richard Inman
Donald Langdon	Dave & Cheryl Cagle
WM Women's Club	Dana Settles
Barb Davis	Virginia Dotson
Jerri Freeman	Kathryn Melsted
Jan Newton	Tom & Liz Jernigan
Diane Dorsay	Jesse Culty



Steven D'Amato

## SIGHTINGS

May 1<sup>st</sup> sightings follow: Diane Dorsay saw **Wild Turkey**. The Bittorfs had **Magnificent** and **Black-chinned Hummingbird** and **American Robin**. In Show Low, Loretta Pena saw **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, **Brown-headed Cowbird** and **Western Kingbird**. Mary Freemon reported **Black-chinned** and **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**, **robin**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Bufflehead**, **Blue-winged** and **Cinnamon Teal**. In Kansas City, Dave Cagle was able to see 2 broods of **Canada Geese**, **Red-headed** and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**. In Lakeside, Warren Goff saw **Mallard**, **Brewer's** and **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Green Heron**, **Lesser Goldfinch**, **Pine Siskin**, **Lewis** and **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Pygmy Nuthatch** and **Rough-winged Swallow**. Outside of Denver, CO, at Barr Lake in late April, Kay Alderton saw 10 **White Pelican**. Jernigans reported **Purple Martin**, **grosbeak**, **robin**, **Black-chinned** and **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**.

The following sightings were contributed at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting: Kay Alderton saw **Northern Flicker**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **junco**, **American Robin**, and **Black-headed Grosbeak** in her yard in Pinetop. At High Island Texas, Lois Huffman was able to see **Gray Catbird**, **Great Egret**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Green Heron**, **Purple Gallinule**, **Common Gallinule**, **pelican**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Wood Thrush**, and **Carolina Chickadee**. Myrna Eshelman has sighted **Cedar Waxwing**, **Northern Flicker**, **Gila Woodpecker**, **junco**, **American Robin**, **grosbeak** and **vireo**. The Milnes reported **Hepatic Tanager**, **Bullock's Oriole**, **Northern Flicker**, **Hairy**, **Downy**, and **Lewis Woodpecker**, **Stellar's Jay**, **oriole**, **chickadee**, **nuthatch**, and **American Robin**. In Lakeside, Warren Goff saw **Western Tanager**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and **Snowy Egret**. Liz Jernigan reported **Spotted Towhee**. Mary Freemon saw **Townsend's Solitaire**. Thanks very much everyone!

### 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!**

## TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP

[\[http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/birding/fieldtrips.html\]](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/birding/fieldtrips.html)

August 30 - September 2, 2013 (Labor Day Weekend) – Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon – 8:00 AM

### Q Ranch / Mogollon Rim /Tonto National Forest

On Friday, carpool (requires high clearance vehicles) to historic Q Ranch near Young, AZ where 150 species of birds have been identified including raptors, tanagers, orioles, hummers, swallows, sparrows, warblers, and Mountain Bluebirds. Expect lots of other natural beauty, including post-monsoon wildflowers and dragonflies. Dark clear night skies at 5600 feet with plenty of stars. Combine birding with brief hikes to nearby scenic and historic locations. Tour the 1000-year-old Q Ranch Mogollon-Culture Pueblo ruins. Depart ranch Monday after early birding and brunch. Ranch is a relatively poor cell-phone zone, but Verizon service is available within a few miles. All meals included. \$135/person/night for shared room (we will link up sharers if possible). \$200/person/night for single room. Full online or check payment is due by July 31, 2013 (<http://www.qranch.com>). Limited to 12 people total. Riders will pay ~\$50 each for drivers' gas cost. For reservations and more info, contact trip leader Steve Buck ([stevetucson@aol.com](mailto:stevetucson@aol.com)). Birding leader (present at Q Ranch only): Ken Furtado ([ken@qranch.com](mailto:ken@qranch.com)).

### ***AZFO 7th Annual Meeting***

Sierra Vista, October 4-6, 2013

If you enjoy observing, surveying, or conducting research on Arizona's birds, please plan to attend the Arizona Field Ornithologists (AZFO) annual state meeting. This year it will be held at Cochise College at 901 North Colombo Ave. in Sierra Vista. Both members and nonmembers are invited to attend this enjoyable and educational gathering.

The meeting will focus on the theme of the "Lesser Known Southeastern Arizona", both during the Saturday session and the Saturday evening dinner and program. Dr. Janet Ruth, the featured speaker at the dinner, will address the topic, "Grassland Birds: 15 years of winter, summer, and migration research in southeastern Arizona." Ruth is a Research Ornithologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and is located at the Arid Lands Field Station in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her current research focuses on the ecology of semidesert grassland birds and she has been working (winter or summer) in southeastern Arizona since 1999. The Saturday session will feature presentations on changing bird status and field research in Arizona, plus reports and future plans for the many AZFO activities. We encourage anyone interested in giving a 15-minute oral or a poster presentation on original avian research, surveys or other pertinent Arizona endeavors to visit our [Call for Papers and Posters](#) announcement for more details.

On Friday afternoon and Sunday morning you can participate in mini-field expeditions to birding areas in less birded areas of southeastern Arizona. More details and meeting registration information (as it becomes available) can be found on the AZFO website at: [www.azfo.org](http://www.azfo.org)

[www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

## **North American Migration Count (NAMC) Results Apache & Navajo Counties May 11, 2013 Results**

On May 11, several intrepid birders ventured into Apache County for the North American Migration Count. I first want to thank ALL of the volunteers who offered to spend the day in beautiful Apache County counting birds: Dave Briddon, who birded the Chinle area; Eric Hough (our Navajo County NAMC coordinator) and fellow birder Ryan Barton, who were diverted momentarily into Navajo County near the Ganado area; Jim Schroeder and Dan Ragen, covering the high country areas near Sipe, Alpine and Big Lake; Dave Cagle, who observed birds at the Game and Fish Department's Grasslands Wildlife Area while on the job; and Barb Davis, Evelyn Treiman, and Cathy Taylor, who joined me in birding the Little Colorado River from Wenima up through Greer. I am so grateful to all of you who stepped in to help!

All in all, we counted over 3700 individuals and 120 species. Some of the less typical sightings included Cedar Waxwing, American Goldfinch, Ring-billed Gull, and one Magnificent Hummingbird. One of the treats of the day for my group was at Becker Lake—a sky full of a variety of swallows (and at least one White-throated Swift and a few Purple Martins) flying over the lake and its surrounding grasslands. There must have been a recent insect hatch; nearly all of the known “hotspots” we traditionally find crowds of nesting swallows were vacant. We think they were all flying over Becker Lake enjoying a feast of insects. It truly was amazing to see hundreds of swallows in one area. We also enjoyed the sounds of dozens of colonial-nesting Double-crested Cormorants in the snags surrounding River Reservoir in Greer, as we were able to get close enough to these birds to hear them communicate with each other.

My group also learned that dogs CAN find their way back to their owner's car, even if it's been eight hours since they pranced off into the distance. It's just too bad we can't somehow capture the numbers and species of birds THEY encountered while running free through the wilds of Apache County. All in all, it was a great day. Please consider joining us next year!

~Sue Sitko

In Navajo County Eric Hough, co-ordinator, thanks the following participants: Zack Zdinak, Ryan Barton, Terry, Sulojana & Jayshen Blows, Nick & Connie Worth, Gordon Karre, Wayne Manske, Bob Hough, Adam, Phyllis & Jeff Martin, Gus Hollenbeck, Loretta Pena, George & Ellen West, Sue Sitko, and Bob Pena. This year broke previous records for number of participants as well as species and individual birds seen. There were 155 species and 4,686 individuals recorded in the count. Six new species and one intergrade form new to the Navajo County Count are: Mexican Duck X Mallard intergrade, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Red-necked Phalarope, Western Screech-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Nashville Warbler.

This year's count included the most widespread coverage of land area and habitat in the county ever. The areas covered were:

- Navajo National Monument, Hwy. 564 and 160 between Shonto and Tsegi Canyon (Zack Zdinak)
- Keams Canyon/Hopi reservation, Hwy. 77/264 intersection/Navajo Nation (Eric Hough, Ryan Barton)
- Winslow/La Posada Hotel, McHood Park/Clear Creek Reservoir, Joseph City, Holbrook/Hidden Cove Golf Course area (Terry, Sulojana, and Jayshen Blows)
- Snowflake-Taylor, Shumway, Bill's Lake, White Mountain Lake (Nick and Connie Worth)
- Zeniff Rd., Duck Lake Rd., Forest Rds. 86 (partial), 300, 51, 107, 141, 139, and 122 (Twin Spring) on the Sitgreaves National Forest (Gordon Karre, Wayne Manske)
- Heber, Forest Rd. 86 (Black Canyon; partial), Forest Rd. 487 (Turkey Canyon) (Eric and Bob Hough)
- Aripine, Fort Apache/Whiteriver, Alchey Hatchery/N. Fork of White River, Bootleg Lake, Scott Reservoir, Jacques Marsh, Pintail Lake, Show Low-6th St. wastewater ponds, Show Low-Adam's St. cemetery (Adam, Phyllis, and Jeff Martin)
- Linden/Timberland Acres, Farnsworth Rd., Lone Pine Dam Rd. (Gus Hollenbeck)
- Fool Hollow Lake (Loretta Pena, Gus Hollenbeck)
- Lower Log Campground, Billy Creek loop trail, Woodland Lake Park/Walnut Creek (George and Ellen West)
- Show Low/Pinetop yards (Sue Sitko, Bob Pena) **Many thanks to Sue Sitko and Eric Hough!!**

# CONSERVATION

## **Audubon Arizona Wins Challenge of Wind Farm Permit** *Cochise County Supervisors Amend Special Use Permit to Protect Wildlife* Contact: **Sarah Porter**, executive director, [sporter@audubon.org](mailto:sporter@audubon.org), (602) 468-6470

Golden eagles, lesser long-nosed bats and other species will benefit from the Cochise County Board of Supervisors' decision this week to require a wind farm developer to work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to assess and mitigate the project's potential impacts to wildlife. Audubon Arizona had requested that such requirements be added to a special use permit the County Planning and Zoning Commission had issued for the Red Horse 2 wind energy project west of Willcox.

"The Cochise County Board of Supervisors' decision to include these conditions will ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent negative impacts to birds and bats," stated Tice Supplee, Audubon Arizona's director of bird conservation. "We applaud the decision."

Audubon Arizona supports renewable energy development but had requested review of the special use permit because of concerns about wildlife impacts. The Planning and Zoning Commission had declined to place wildlife-related conditions when it approved a permit for the project.

The project, to be located on state land in a sparsely populated area north of I-10 locally known as Allen Flats, may feature as many as twenty-eight 487-foot tall wind turbines with 192-foot blades. The Arizona Game and Fish Department presented preliminary evidence indicating that the turbines present potential threats to bats and birds in the area.

Audubon asked the Cochise County Board of Supervisors to make the special use permit consistent with the Arizona Game and Fish Department's wind energy development guidelines to ensure that impacts on wildlife would be addressed. In response, the Supervisors voted unanimously to amend the permit to require the developer to use "commercially reasonable efforts to reduce any potential negative impacts to avian species (specifically eagles) and bat species."

Audubon Arizona highlighted the fact that wildlife contributes significantly to the county's economy. A 2003 study concluded that wildlife viewing brought approximately \$25.88 million in revenue to Cochise County, including \$13.72 million in retail sales, \$7.1 million in salaries and wages for some 273 jobs.

*The state office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon Arizona's mission is to connect people with nature, using education, science and advocacy to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humankind and Earth's biodiversity.*

### **Hummingbird Banding at Sipe Wildlife Area on July 27, 2013**

Sheri Williamson will return to the Sipe Wildlife Area to capture, band and explain the lives of our mountain hummingbirds once again. The event will begin at 8am and end around 12 noon. Come prepared to enjoy a wonderful morning at this beautiful site. Remember to wear comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunscreen and bring your camera, binoculars, field guide, snacks and water. There is an informative display area in the Sipe Visitor Center; there will be a live exhibit of hawks and owls. Concessions will be on site serving breakfast and lunch.

This event is sponsored by AZ Game & Fish Department, assisted by Southeastern AZ Bird Observatory, White Mountain Audubon Society, Springerville Rotary Club, and Springerville-Eagar Chamber of Commerce.

Sipe is located south of Eagar. Take Hgwy 191 going toward Alpine. Turn right off of Hgwy191, approximately 2 miles at the signed turnoff at the top of the first hill. Follow the dirt road for 5 miles. For more information, please call AZ G&F Department in Pinetop at 928-367-4281.

## Wildlife Conservation

by Geoffrey I. Bartimus, 2013 WMAS Scholarship Winner

My commitment to conservation of wildlife started at the age of six years old when I saved a pigeon with a broken wing from getting hit by a car. As soon as I saw the injured bird I knew I had to help it, so my dad and I made a splint and nursed it back to health. I have been helping animals ever since. Due to my childhood background, animals have always been a part of our family's life. My father started working with a reptile rescue foundation in Southern California and would enlist my help. When the shelter was crowded, the founders would send some of the animals to us to take care of. I learned how to care for injured or sick animals and it's become a passion of mine.

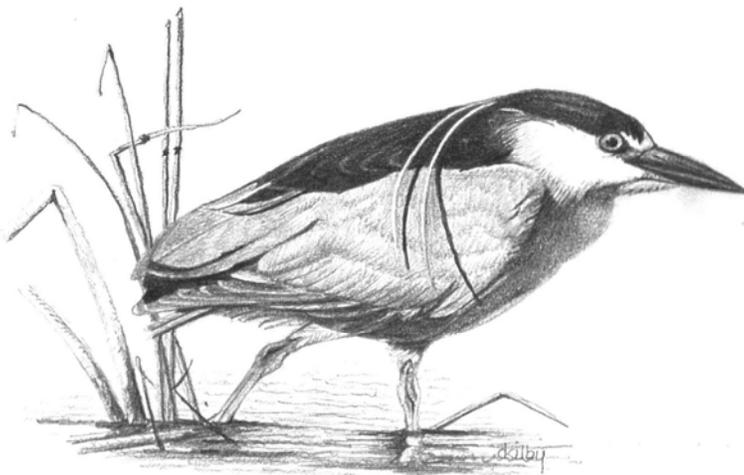
Caring for animals has become more than just an obligation, but now a self-imposed duty. When my dad founded the White Mountain Reptile Rescue here, in Arizona it became natural for me to get involved with wildlife conservation to a greater degree. I have assisted him in presentations, educational workshops, and the caring and feeding of the amphibians and reptiles in his charge. My philosophy is to care for an animal in need whenever I come across it. If I don't attend to it, the question remains, who will?

Far too often and too many times, people release their animals in the wild. This is most common here in the White Mountains. They mistakenly believe that the animal's natural instincts will kick in and they will survive. But the domesticated animal is not equipped to survive in the wild and will surely die. It could also become injured, hit a vehicle or eaten by a predator. In some cases it ends up at the Reptile Rescue to be restored to health and adopted out to a worthy home.

I believe that people should be able to hunt when the time and the place is right. Conserving wildlife is a necessity when it comes to hunting to keep the overpopulation of one species from occurring. However careful monitoring of game is important because if a large number of the same animal is killed off, the ecosystem could collapse causing an abundance of one animal and too little of another.

Regarding the issue of poachers, since their actions can cause the termination and extinction of endangered species, I feel that the penalty for these criminals should be severe, regardless of whether or not the animal is protected. The earth stands to suffer on so many levels due to man's inhumanity and disregard for nature. Referring back to hunting, if an animal is being hunted other than during the designated hunting season for that animal it interferes with the repopulation.

Conserving wildlife is a continual responsibility that everyone takes part in. Everyone plays a part in either impacting it negatively or positively. Since animals and humans have to coexist we may as well do what we can to keep and conserve the wildlife that we and our future generations have been blessed with.



Daniel Kilbey

## 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.senate.gov/contact](http://www.flake.senate.gov/contact)

Gov. Jan Brewer  
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Rep. Albert Hale  
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U.S. Cong. Ann Kirkpatrick  
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U.S. Sen. John McCain  
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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**