



## Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. Fieldtrip times and meeting places vary; see below or please check the website. You may call 367-2462 for more information.

Please note that we do not meet or have field trips during the winter months of January or February.

Next meeting will be March 5 with program to be announced.

Next field trip will be March 22 with destination and time to be announced.

### 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:** Jody Inman 369-3240

**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)

## January – February 2014

### Out on a Limb with Your President

Happy New Year to you all!! I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. I hope 2014 brings new hope and new accomplishments to everyone, including White Mountain Audubon.

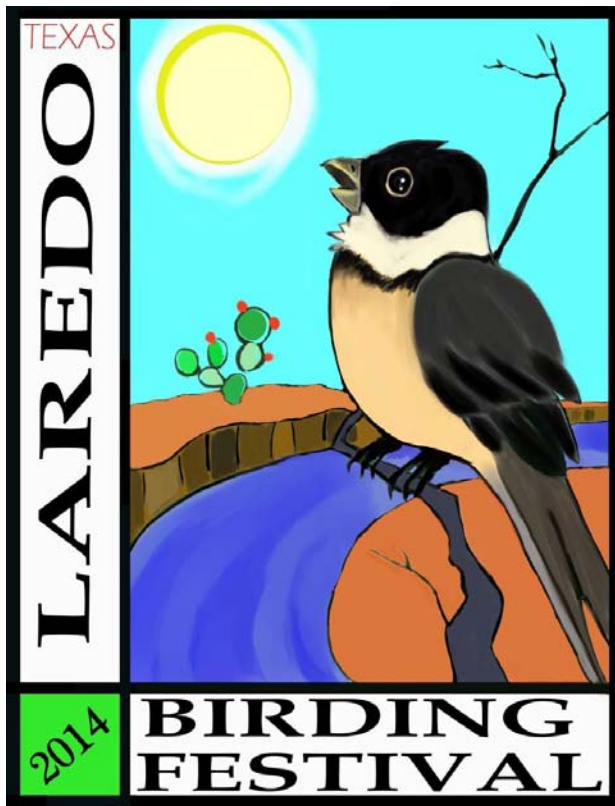
In January and February, your Audubon board will be working on programs, field trips, and events for the new year. We could use some help. Since my vision is not good, would some of you volunteer to lead one or two field trips? If so, when and where? We will also need help with the nature film festival and the birdathon. Would someone take over the planning and implementing of the birdathon? Please contact a board member if you can help with either of these events.

If anyone has ideas for programs, events, or activities, we would like to hear about them. This is your Audubon chapter and we would like input from all of you.

Persons helping with the Christmas Bird Count were: Sue Sitko, Loretta and Bob Pena, Ann Hillyard, Jody and Richard Inman, Chuck and Mary Ellen Bittorf, and Jed Fulkerson, and Tom and Liz Jernigan. I will have the count for you in March.

Birds are a little scarce and I think the really cold weather is the cause. I hope your birds are more plentiful. No matter what the weather, enjoy birding.

Mary Ellen



We cordially invite you to attend the 2014 Laredo Birding Festival, scheduled for February 5-8.

We have a terrific line-up of events and trips that feature the best of our birding hotspots and scenic South Texas ranches.

Don't miss the opportunity to spot our prized bird, the White-Collared Seedeater, and hundreds of other avian beauties that nest throughout our unique river eco-system.

*Two new trips for this festival are "Laredo Classic: Bird till You Drop" and "Birding by Boat".*

For more information and details on the 2014 event, visit us online at [www.laredobirdingfestival.com](http://www.laredobirdingfestival.com).

Follow this link to our registration page: <http://laredobirdingfestival.com/?id=17&Registration-2014>

Should you have any questions, please call us at (956) 718-1063 or email us at [laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org](mailto:laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org).

Thank you so much,

Gail Hauserman

(956) 718-1063

**"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul". ~John Muir**

## SIGHTINGS

Our members reported some great bird sightings at our November meeting. Mary Freeman spotted a Spotted Towhee in her sights. Bob and Loretta Pena added Williamson's Sapsucker, Mountain Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Juniper Titmouse, Downy Woodpecker, Eurasian Collared Dove, and Lewis's Woodpecker to the list. Mary Ellen and Chuck Bittorf had Juncos, White-breasted Nuthatches, Pygmy Nuthatches, Northern Flicker, and Steller's Jay come to their birdfeeder. Richard and Jody Inman had the same feeder visitors as the Bittorf's but rescued a Red-Naped Sapsucker that had been attacked by a cat. Susan Taggart, a local bird rehabilitator, has it in her care. (\*See the note below). Jody also was surprised to see a Summer Tanager in vivid color on a cold November hike at Lone Pine Dam. The Inmans also reported Brown Pelicans, Great Blue Heron, and Western Grebe at Oceanside Harbor just before Thanksgiving as well as Black Phoebe and Bushtits in their son's back yard in Garden Grove, CA a day later. Elaine Finner was excited to report a gray catbird at her feeder in Taylor. Thanks to every one for sharing these great bird sightings with our members.

\*If you find distressed songbirds, raptors including eagles, waterfowl and small mammals, please contact Susan Taggart at (928) 242-5796. If you are unable to reach her and need assistance immediately, you may call the White Mountain Animal Hospital in Lakeside at (928) 368-8425 or Alta Sierra Veterinary Clinic in Show Low (928) 537-2880. Susan works in conjunction with the animal hospitals and is sub-permitted through the Arizona Game and Fish Department to care for injured and orphaned wildlife as a community service.

### 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!**

## THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT TAKES PLACE FEBRUARY 14 -17.

Just follow these simple steps to register:

1. Create a GBBC account. This applies to those who have never participated in the GBBC before or those who did not participate in 2013 when GBBC was integrated with eBird--a worldwide bird data collection program used for keeping track of your personal bird records and bird lists. You will be able to access all your observations under a single account. If you're already registered with eBird or another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use the same login information.
2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day, for each new location, or for the same location if you counted at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.
3. Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "Submit Your Bird Checklist" on the home page. See our downloadable instructions below for additional details on entering your checklists. If you already use eBird, please continue using eBird to submit your sightings but be sure to enter at least one checklist during the GBBC weekend!

Other tools and information:

- [Downloadable instructions](#) (PDF)
- [FAQs section](#)
- [GBBC Photo Contest rules](#)
- GBBC participation certificate--Certificates for 2014 will be available when the GBBC begins.
- [2013 PowerPoint slideshow and video](#)--2014 version coming later
- [Local events](#)--Tell us what you're planning in your community for the next GBBC.
- [How to promote the GBBC](#)--You can be a GBBC ambassador in your community.
- [Educator's materials](#)--If you're looking to get your class or homeschooler involved with the GBBC, you'll find some ideas here.
- [Learn About Birds](#)--If you're new to bird watching, you might want to check out this section of the website for help with tricky bird identifications, choosing binoculars, bird feeding tips, and much more.

To get a printable checklist of species for your area in the United States and Canada, [click here](#).

## Bird Notes

Our bird spotlight for this newsletter falls on the sweet little Pygmy Nuthatch, a winter resident in the White Mountains. During the cold months, groups of 4-15 birds forge as a flock and roost communally in nest cavities. As many as 100 pygmies have been found in one cavity. What makes these birds even more special is the use of Uncle/Big Brother Helpers. During breeding season, it seems that unmated males, mostly offspring or siblings of the breeding pair, assist in nest building, maintenance, feeding the female on the nest, and feeding nestlings and fledglings. This network of Uncles and Big Brothers insures the fledging of more young than in unaided nests. How cool is that?



*Pygmy Nuthatch*

## SOME CHANGES IN 2014

Starting in March, 2014, our meetings will start at 6:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM, still meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at the Pinetop Lakeside Town Concil Chambers.

Also starting in March, 2014, our field trips will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month to avoid conflict with TRACKS events.



# DUCK IDENTIFICATION

at Bosque del Apache  
National Wildlife Refuge

Photo © Marvin DeJong



Join a volunteer naturalist to watch ducks and learn how to identify them. Learn the difference between divers and dabblers, pintails and shovelers, speculums and lamellae. Transportation provided, sign up in the visitor center or call: (575)-835-1828.

Fridays and Saturdays  
11:00 - Noon  
December - February

## 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  
Executive Tower  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-542-5219

Rep. Albert Hale  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[ahale@azleg.gov](mailto:ahale@azleg.gov)

U.S. Cong. Ann Kirkpatrick  
1123 Longworth House Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-2315

U.S. Sen. John McCain  
241 Russell Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-2235

Sen. Jack Jackson, Jr  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[jjackson@azleg.gov](mailto:jjackson@azleg.gov)

Rep. Peshlakai  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**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  
P. O. Box 3043  
Pinetop, AZ 85935**