



### 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.

#### Meetings and Programs

Wed., Mar. 4, 6:30pm: Presentation by Miles Davis, archeologist, on "Ice Age Man and Animals"

Mon., 3/30, 4:30pm-9:00pm: "Wildlife Connections", Conservation Coalition meeting presented by WMA at Moose Henri's, Lakeside. More information in newsletter, page 2

Wed., Apr. 1: No meeting.

Fri., May. 29: Nature Film Festival Kickoff Dinner-El Rancho .  
Sat., May 30: Film Festival-Unity Church

#### Field Trips

To be announced. Some possibilities: Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Show Low Sewage Ponds, Pintail Lake. Let us know if you'd like to participate or lead a field trip.

#### 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  
A

**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)

## MARCH-APRIL 2015

### Out on a Limb With Your President~

What are those ugly black birds, and how do I get rid of them? There are lots of little birds in my yard, but I don't know what they are. What do I do if I find a baby bird? What do I do if I find an injured bird? These are questions that I am frequently asked. Here are my answers. Those "big ugly black birds" are Ravens and Crows. How do I know which is which? Generally Crows are the smaller of the two. Ravens are scruffy looking, with larger, Roman nose type beaks, and their tails are boat shaped, like a "v". Crows are sleeker, their beaks are more pointed, and their tails are straight. Many of the "small birds" that you are seeing right now are probably finches (Cassins, House, or Siskins). Check your field guide to learn the difference. There are probably some Juncos in the mix, too. If you find a baby bird, put it back in its nest, or place it in a safe place close to where you find it. If you can, watch to see the parent come to it. Don't worry about touching the baby bird. Your scent will not bother because most birds have no sense of smell. If you find an injured bird, call me and I will give you a number to call.

Hummingbirds may start showing up the end of March or the first part of April, so be on the lookout for them.

Don't forget that our first meeting in 2015 will be Wednesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town center. Miles Gilbert will be the speaker.

Don't forget that the April meeting will be on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at Moose Henri's starting at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP if you are coming. See the article in the newsletter. I hope we have a good Audubon turn out for this as we are hosting it.

Mark your calendars for the film festival in May. Plan to attend the dinner on May 29 at El Rancho Restaurant. And also plan to watch the films on Saturday at Unity Church.

On Tuesday, February 17, Chuck and I were surprised to see 5 Evening Grosbeaks at our feeders. We haven't seen any in several months. We also are seeing the Brown Creeper occasionally.

Perhaps we will have some more snow, or at least rain in the next few weeks, but whatever happens.....enjoy birding.

Mary Ellen~

## You are invited to “WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS”

Join White Mountain Audubon and a number of other conservation groups to discuss problems and possible solutions for the most threatened priority wildlife corridors in the Southwest. Short videos may be included.

WHERE: Moose Henri's Grille, 4237 White Mountain Blvd., Lakeside

WHEN: Monday, March 30, 2015

MEET & GREET: 4:30 pm (Craft beers available)

DINNER: 5:00-6:00 pm Fajita buffet or vegetarian dinner for \$12.50 (incl. tax & tip)

PRESENTATIONS: 6:00-9:00 pm Presentations from Conservation Coalition participants (Sierra Club, Wildlands Council, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Wildearth Guardians, Friends of Wild Animals, MexicanGrayWolves.Org, White Mountain Conservation League, Nature Center, TRACKS, AZ Game and Fish Dept., Pinetop-Lakeside town representatives, and maybe more...

For information Contact: Mary Ellen Bittorf (928) 367-2462

or Tom & Liz Jernigan (928) 532-1510

RSVP: Jody (928) 369-3240 or email [grandmajodyinman@yahoo.com](mailto:grandmajodyinman@yahoo.com)



## **BINOCULAR RAFFLE**



WMAS is selling raffle tickets to win a pair of Pentax binoculars (8x42 DCF WP). The drawing will be held at the Film Festival dinner on May 30 at El Rancho Restaurant. One raffle ticket = \$5; Five raffle tickets for \$20. Tickets can be purchased at the WMAS general meetings starting on March 4th.

## **BIRD SIGHTINGS**

As promised in the January-February newsletter, we're including the sightings reported at our December meeting. The Penas reported 2 seagulls and a Western Grebe at Fool Hollow Lake, while their yard in Show Low was visited by Bushtits, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Brown Creeper, and Lewis' Woodpecker. Tom and Liz Jernigan had an adventure in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and reported seeing a Great Curassow and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Diane Dorsay reported a Red-tailed Hawk at Woodland Lake, while Ann Hilliard lucked out to see American White Pelicans at White Mountain Lake. Barb Davis had a Brown Creeper and Townsend's Solitaire visit her yard in Lakeside. David Cagle was blessed to see a Black-legged Kittiwake and a gull at Jacques Marsh. Sue Sitko's yard in Lakeside had a visit from a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Ivie Bellone was cheered by the chatter of Pygmy Nuthatches in her backyard, while (oh, my gosh!) Kay Alderton saw a Gila Woodpecker!!! in her front yard on the Rim, along with the usual Stellar's Jays and nuthatches. The Inmans and Jan Newton took a trip to Bosque del Apache, NM, in January and saw a number of kestrels on the way through Springerville, including a Black Hawk! At the Bosque, they saw several Western Meadowlarks, Canada Geese, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Bald Eagles, Snow Geese, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Road Runners, Golden Eagle, Tundra Swan, Red-shouldered Hawk, Leucistic (like an albino) Greater Sandhill Crane, White-crowned Sparrows, Northern Flickers, Spotted Towhees, Pyrroluxia, and House Finches. At Woodland Lake throughout January, they saw the usual ducks, but what really stood out was the large number of Green-winged Teal.

*"All good things are wild and free"  
~Henry David Thoreau*

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## TIMBER MESA CBC COUNT JANUARY 3, 2015

5	Pied-billed Grebe`	105	Western Bluebird
3	Great blue Heron	2	Mountain Bluebird
278	Canada Goose	1	Townsend's Solitaire
692	Mallard	1	Hermit Thrush
274	Gadwall	77	American Robin
1	Green-winged Teal	17	European Starling
190	American Wigeon	1	Spotted Towhee
1	Northern Pintail	8	Chipping Sparrow
56	Northern Shoveler	14	White-crowned Sparrow
50	Canvasback	249	`Dark-eyed Junco
24	Redhead		24 Red-backed
75	Ring-necked Duck		1 Slate -colored
11	Lesser Scaup		29 Oregon
3	Common Goldeneye	46	Red-winged Blackbird
54	Bufflehead	17	Great-tailed Grackle
259	Common Merganser	37	Brewer's Blackbird
5	Hooded Merganser	6	Cassin's Finch
108	Ruddy Duck	115	House Finch
1	Northern Harrier	17	Pine Siskin
20	Bald Eagle	6	Lesser Goldfinch
4	Red-tailed Hawk	1	Evening Grosbeak
2	American Kestral	8	House Sparrow
1455	American Coot		
4	Wilson's (Common)) Snipe		
4	Eurasian Collared-Dove		
1	Belted Kingfisher		Beginning Temperature – 9 degrees
6	Acorn Woodpecker		Ending Temperature – 31 degrees
16	Lewis's Woodpecker		Total Miles Driving - 80
11	Northern Flicker, "Red-shafted"		Total Miles Walked - 8
1	Red-naped Sapsucker		Total Hours Watching - 13
1	Ladder-backed Woodpecker		
8	Hairy Woodpecker		Total Number of Species - 64
1	Say's Phoebe		Total Number of Birds - 6761
11	Steller's Jay		Total Number of People - 12
11	Western Scrub-Jay		
12	American Crow		
94	Common Raven		<b>TEAM LEADERS</b>
3	Juniper Titmouse		Mary Ellen Bittorf - Compiler
13	Mountain Chickadee		Richard Inman
17	Bushtit		Anne Hilliard
5	Brown Creeper		Loretta Pena
6	White-breasted Nuthatch		
10	Pygmy Nuthatch		<b>CBC PARTICIPANTS</b>
1	Bewick's Wren		Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf
2	Marsh Wren		Richard Inman & Jody Inman
√4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Tom & Liz Jernigan
			Gus Hollenbeck
			Larry Langstaff
			Anne & Mike Hilliard
			Loretta & Bob Pena

## AUDUBON CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND THE 114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

It's a new year and a new Congress—and with it, a new political dynamic in Washington, DC—that will have important impacts for birds and their habitats over the next two years.

After the 2014 midterm elections, control of the U.S. Senate changed hands to the Republican Party, which also expanded its majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. Over the next two years of the 114th Congress, and the final two years of President Obama's term, Audubon will be engaged in the key policy issues and debates that affect bird conservation, including the fate of hundreds of millions of dollars in conservation funding, the protection of our nation's bedrock environmental laws, and the defense of our spectacular public lands.

### ***Funding Conservation***

Starting in February, the annual federal budget process kicks off. Over the following months, Congress will determine the funding levels for critical conservation programs that help protect and restore habitat and wildlife populations. Audubon's priorities include the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as well as key regional projects such as Everglades restoration and sustaining water resources in the Colorado River basin.

### ***Protecting Bedrock Environmental Laws***

Throughout the next Congress, we can expect a clash over foundational laws such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which has helped save birds like the Bald Eagle and Brown Pelican from extinction. We can also expect Congressional efforts to blunt the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a key tool for public engagement on environmental issues, and the Antiquities Act, which allows the President to designate new National Monuments to protect critically important landscapes.

### ***Defending Public Lands***

In the new Congress, we are prepared to see perennial battles over public lands return to the fore, including renewed efforts in the House and Senate to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. Congress may also again attempt to force the construction of a misguided and destructive road through protected Wilderness in Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, a globally Important Bird Area.

The next Congress will offer a number of opportunities for Audubon advocates to take a strong stand in support of conservation funding, legislation that will benefit birds and other wildlife, and bedrock environmental laws that protect the environment and public health.

**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 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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