



MAY-JUNE 2015

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 (see website for Aug.-Dec. 2015 programs):

Wed., May 6, 6:30pm: Presentation by Dewain Bartimus, Director of Services for White Mtn. Reptile Rescue.

Fri., May. 29: Nature Film Festival Kickoff Dinner-El Rancho .
Sat., May 30: Film Festival-Unity Church (details in eblast coming soon)

Wed., June 3, 6:30pm: Vanya Szabo with John Hopkins will speak about school gardens and The Farm in Whiteriver.

Wed., July 1, 6:30pm: Dominic Barrett, USFWS, and Kyle Dutro, AZG&F, will explain the conservation programs of Landowner Partnering that they are both working on.

July 25: Hummingbird Banding at Sipes Wildlife Area (details will be sent later in e-blast)

Field Trips

To be announced. 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	
Website Manager: Richard Inman	369-3240

Board Members: Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman, Diane Dorsay

Out on a Limb With Your President~

On March 30, WM Audubon hosted the "Wildlife Connections" meeting as our April meeting. The meeting was held at Moose Henri's. What started out to be a small meeting of the conservation-minded groups in the White Mountains, turned out to be local groups plus seven other groups. Speakers for the evening were: Sandy Bahr- Sierra Club, Cindi Tuell- Friends of Wild Animals, Kim Vacariu- Wildlands Network, Sheryl Eaton- WM Democrats, Kathryn Melsted- TRACKS, Janis Przybyl- Wildlife Conservationist, Madeleine Carey- Wild Earth Guardians, Jim Snitzer- WM Nature Center, Lynn Krigbaum- Walk for the Woods, Jean Ossorio & Roxane George- Lobos of the Southwest, Russ Winn- WM Conservation League, Billie Hughes- Great Old Broads for Wilderness (love that name), Diane Tilton, Danette Weiss, Kyle Dutro- AZ Game & Fish. All speakers had a message, and some vital information. I hope we can have another such meeting in the future.

In the last few weeks, my yard has been host to as many as 40 Evening Grosbeaks. They are spectacular, especially the males. One day everybody disappeared, and there was Sharp-shinned Hawk. Cassin's Finches are leaving and House Finches are taking their place along with Pine Siskins, House Wrens, Robins, Black-chinned and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds

In the last week I have held two birds in my hand because they hit one of our windows. As I held them, I took a close look at them. They were both females, one a Pine Siskin, the other an Evening Grosbeak. Their heads hung down and their breathing was labored, and I wondered if they would survive. I wondered where they come from and where they might go from here. Most birds migrate from Texas, Mexico, or California. I marveled at the distinct lines and spots that give them their unique look. The gray of the Evening Grosbeak had tiny yellow feathers on the top of the head and neck. The striking contrast between the white spots on the wings and tail contrasted with the gray. The lines on the Pine Siskin were formed by tiny dark feathers, as well as dark feathers on the wings. Gray feathers filled in the spaces between the lines. I cradled each bird for about ten minutes, and they each looked at me and then they flew away. I began to notice the loud sound of the Evening Grosbeaks in the trees and feeders. These were special moments, and they made me appreciate the time I spent with these wonderful little creatures.

Enjoy birding.....Mary Ellen

Arizona Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey Training 6/25-6/26

Classroom Session. June 25. 12:30 pm-5:00 pm, Arizona Game and Fish Department, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000 Map – [Phoenix](#)

Field Session. June 26. 7:00 am-12:00 pm, BLM's Agua Fria National Monument.

Field site is about an hour north of West Carefree Highway (SR 74) and I-17. Maps to the field site will be provided. Carpooling is encouraged and can be arranged among participants during the classroom session. The field site is passenger vehicle accessible. Bring binoculars, hiking boots, hat, water, pencils, data sheet, and clipboard. Be prepared for hot weather.

Registration. Email Susan Sferra at susan_sferra@fws.gov with attendee name, email address, and phone number. Include where you will be conducting surveys in 2015 and if you have applied for federal and state permits.

Survey training is free, but due to limited space you must register for training. We ask that if you register and cannot attend that you cancel your registration to allow those who are waitlisted to take your place.

Hotel Options. There are plenty of hotels in north Phoenix:
<http://www.americansouthwest.net/arizona/hotels/phoenix-north.html>

Instructors.

Matt Johnson, Northern Arizona University, Colorado Plateau Research Station
Troy Corman, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Susan Sferra, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Patrick Dockens, EcoPlan Associates, Inc.
Tice Supplee, Audubon Arizona
Cathy Wise, Audubon Arizona
Steven Prager, Audubon Arizona
Paul Sitzman, Bureau of Land Management
Codey Carter, Bureau of Land Management

Co-Sponsors:



www.whitemountainaudubon.org

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 29 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 4**.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Spring brings back some of our favorite wanderers, along with the year-round residents, and our members have been sharing the glad news. The Jernigans saw an Osprey on the Up the Hill Gang hike at Silver Creek April 8. Sue Sitko reported her annual Cedar Waxwing invasion in her yard in Lakeside this March. At the Nature Conservancy's Lower San Pedro River Preserve April 6, she saw Swainson's Hawk, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, and Bell's Vireo. On her morning walks around Lakeside, she's heard/seen Spotted Towhee, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and heard the "peents" of Red-breasted Nuthatches moving through the area. The Inmans got their hummingbird feeder ready for the returning Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, and welcomed back their B52s, the Band-tailed Pigeons. They saw one of their favorites, a Greater Roadrunner, on Penrod Rd. just north of Porter Mtn. Rd. They also were happy to see Harris Hawks and a faithful Great Horned Owl nest with a brooding parent (3rd spring they've seen it, previously with owlets showing their heads) on a saguaro by the Biosphere turnoff in March. Speaking of brooding, Miles Gilbert just reported an active Osprey nest near the Osprey Trail junction on Porter Mtn. Rd. Kenneth and Cheryl Floberg of Overgaard have had three Evening Grosbeaks, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Pine Siskins, Cassin's Finches, House Finches, Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatches, a Black-chinned Hummingbird, Stellar and Scrub Jays, and American Robins. Barbara Teague was delighted to see Mountain Bluebirds in Lakeside. And it's been raining Evening Grosbeaks (about 40!) out of the sky at the Bittorfs. The Penas did some birding south of Tucson and this is what they saw: **Green Valley:** Vermilion Flycatcher, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, Lark Sparrow, Abert Towhee, Curve-billed Thrasher. **Madera Canyon:** Rufous Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Cardinal, Turkey, Mexican Jay, Bridled Titmouse, House Wren, Phainopepla. **Florida Canyon:** Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Harris Hawk, Hermit Thrush. The Gordons have a couple of Greater Roadrunners nesting in their Chino Valley front yard, and several quail hanging out there as well. Nice sightings, y'all!



GOLDEN EAGLE RELEASE ATTEMPT

On March 8, several White Mountain Nature Center and Audubon board members were present at Pintail Lake when Susan Taggart attempted to release a Golden Eagle that had been hit by a truck near Taylor. The bird's injuries were worse than first diagnosed, and it was unable to fly. Rob and Linet Ingles immediately drove the eagle to Liberty Rehab Center in Phoenix where it was examined more extensively and found to have a broken leg and wing injury. Hopefully, treatment and rehabilitation will result in a successful release for this Golden Eagle. FYI, the Nature Center just successfully released a rehabilitated Northern Saw-whet Owl back into the wild! Their first release!



BIRDATHON

It is time for **Birdathon**, a White Mountain Audubon Society fundraiser! We ask you to join the effort this year to raise funds for the programs that we support. You will want to ask family, friends, and coworkers to pledge a certain amount for each bird seen or donate a flat amount. Then it is time to go birding for as much time as possible during the month of May. After the Birdathon, please call Mary Ellen at 367-2462 and tell her the birds you saw. Then collect from those that made pledges; afterwards, turn in your money to Chuck Bittorf, Treasurer, at the regular June meeting.

White Mountain Audubon Society sponsors Audubon Adventures, a science program for grades 3-6 for many classrooms in the White Mountains, we give a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior each spring and we sponsor the Beginning Birder's Workshop. These programs are made possible by dollars raised in the Birdathon and from other efforts also.

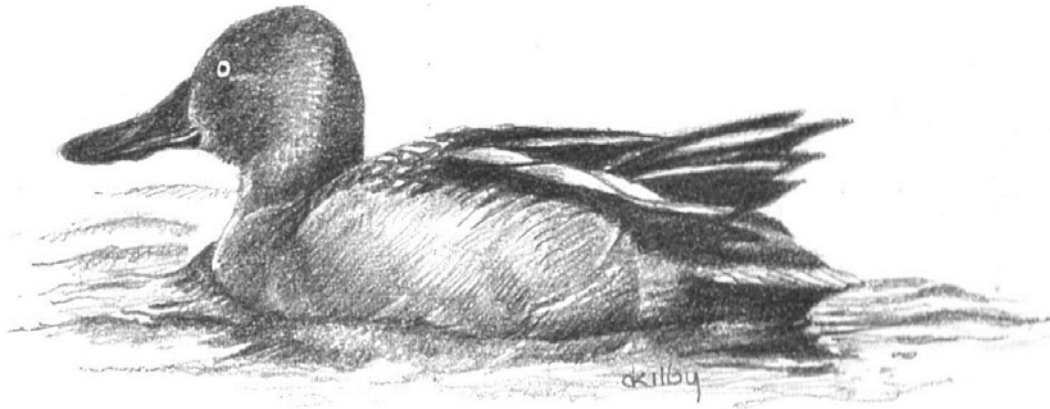
If you can do the Birdathon, that will be great! If not, please consider sponsoring someone who is doing it and help WMAS in that way. We thank you for your support of White Mountain Audubon Society!!

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

CONSERVATION

“Bread is Bad for Me (Ducks)”

(Article found on Facebook, The Good Vet Guide, 2/17/15)



(Redhead Duck by Daniel S. Kilby)

The most common items fed to ducks and waterfowl are also the least nutritious and most unhealthy: bread, crackers, popcorn and similar bread-type products and scraps.

Bread has little nutritional value and can harm ducklings' growth, pollute waterways and attract rodents and other pests.

Similarly, ducks should not be fed any products that are spoiled or moldy; different types of mold can be fatal to waterfowl. Fortunately, there are many other types of food that can be offered to ducks, geese and swans as part of a healthy and nutritious diet.

As omnivorous birds, ducks will eat a great deal of different foods, and the best foods to offer ducks include:

- Oats (uncooked; rolled or quick)
- Rice (cooked)
- Birdseed (any type or mix)
- Peas or corn (defrosted, no need to cook)
- Earthworms)
- Mealworms (fresh or dried)
- Chopped lettuce or other greens or salad mixes
- Vegetable trimmings or peels (chopped)
- Duck feed pellets can be purchased from farming or agricultural supply stores.

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(“Bread is Bad for Me” continued)

Other tips for feeding ducks, geese and swans include:

- Stop feeding if the birds appear uninterested or are leaving the food uneaten, and avoid feeding the birds if other visitors are already offering treats.
- No matter what foods you provide, only offer foods in bite-sized pieces the birds can easily consume without choking or struggling.
- Be wary of birds that approach closely and remember that they can still be aggressive, particularly larger waterfowl such as swans and geese.
- Litter can hurt birds in many ways, so be sure to dispose of all trash properly, including bags, twist ties and unsuitable scraps.
- Do not allow pets or children to chase or disturb the birds, particularly young birds or families that could become stressed or injured more easily.

By knowing what to feed ducks as part of a nutritious and responsible diet, anyone can enjoy this activity without inadvertently harming their favorite waterfowl.

source: <http://birding.about.com/od/birdfeeders/a/whatduckseat.htm>



“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.”

~Frank Lloyd Wright

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.

DUES ARE DUE, PLEASE!

**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! LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

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

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

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

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**