



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., July 1, 6:30pm: Steve Krasovetz, Cameron University (BS), Webster University (MA), now assisting White Mountain Nature Center (geology, mammology, and interpretive nature hikes), will give a presentation on bird evolution.

Wed., Aug. 5, 6:30pm: Barb Davis, local artist/photographer, will share her program, "Spring Birding on the Gulf of Mexico".

Field Trips:

Sat., July 25, 7:30am to noon: Hummingbird Banding at Sipes Wildlife Area, Springerville. Sherri Williamson wrote the Peterson Field Guide on Hummingbirds and will be banding and sharing her knowledge about hummingbirds. White Mountain Audubon will have a table.

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

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

JULY-AUGUST 2015

Out on a Limb with Your President~

During the month of June, Arizona Game and Fish people have been trapping and banding/micro chipping Band-tailed Pigeons in my yard and in Jodi Inman's. They have caught about 30 birds so far. They set traps and watch so no bird stays in a trap for long. It takes a lot of patience. They do this to try to find out where the pigeons are nesting. Last year apparently the pigeons nested in Whiteriver. The pigeons are weighed, measured, checked for overall health, banded and microchipped, and sent on their way. During the year, Arizona Game and Fish does a lot for wildlife and their environment and conservation. We are lucky to have an office right here in our midst.

Monsoons are here and it looks like we have escaped a scary fire season. Soon, there will be a lot of wild flowers and food for birds. We have a lot to look forward to. I love when the wildflowers are in bloom. It is a beautiful time in the White Mountains. Enjoy what we have.... and enjoy birding.

Mary Ellen~

Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival

EXPERIENCE SOUTHEAST ARIZONA BIRDING AT ITS BEST

Tucson, Arizona ~ August 12-16, 2015

[Online registration NOW OPEN!](#)

We invite you to explore and enjoy the beautiful and fascinating Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands.

Join the fun at the Fifth Annual Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival. Get to know

our friendly local birding and conservation community and the dazzling array of watchable wildlife experiences accessible from Tucson!

Registration Fee

There is a \$15 non-refundable registration fee for all festival participants that are attending fee based activities: field trips, workshops, and evening programs. In addition, each activity previously mentioned has its own associated fees. No registration or fee is required for the Free Nature Expo. Attendance at Thursday night's social at the Riverpark Inn is included as a part of the registration fee. Click on the buttons below for more detailed information about the different aspects of the festival.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations received on or before July 1, 2015 will be refunded less a 10% processing fee. No refunds will be issued after July 1. Tucson Audubon reserves the right to cancel or revise any event for any reason. If it becomes necessary to cancel a paid event (field trip or dinner) for which you have a reservation, we will notify you and issue a full refund. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Proceeds from this event support Tucson Audubon's work to protect birds and the places they live and your participation illustrates value of our region's spectacular biodiversity. Together we can send an important message that *Birders Mean Business* – THANK YOU!

For festival questions, please email festival@tucsonaudubon.org .

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

WHY DO WOODPECKERS LIKE TO HAMMER ON HOUSES? AND WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

(article from “All About Birds” by Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

Woodpeckers usually hammer on houses for one of four reasons:

1. Because it makes a satisfyingly loud noise that proclaims the bird's territory and attracts a mate. If the birds are drumming for these reasons, they will most likely stop once breeding has begun in the spring (they don't drum when looking for food).
2. Because the bird wants to excavate a nest or roost hole. If the woodpeckers are creating a nest cavity, the hole will be round and large. Nesting holes are usually built in the beginning of the breeding season between late April and May. If you need to evict woodpeckers from your home, aim to do so either before or after the nesting season.
3. Because it is feeding on insects living in the siding. If the birds are looking for insects, the holes will be small and irregular. You may have to call an exterminator to get rid of the underlying insect problem. Woodpeckers are particularly fond of the larvae of carpenter bees, leafcutter bees, and grass bagworms. To help you identify what insects might be involved in a particular woodpecker problem, we have [some photos of specific kinds of woodpecker damage](#).
4. Because they are storing food. If you are located in the West, [Acorn Woodpeckers](#) peck dozens or hundreds of acorn-sized holes into large trees or houses, and stash a single fresh acorn into each one.

How can I get woodpeckers to leave my house alone? Once you know why woodpeckers are hammering on your house, you can develop strategies for stopping them. Take a look at our blog post [Can Woodpecker Deterrents Safeguard My House?](#) for ideas on how to deal with troublesome woodpeckers. The Cornell Lab's archived website [Woodpeckers: Damage, Prevention, and Control](#) also has information on woodpecker damage, clearing out problem insects to deter woodpeckers, and protecting your home.

Researchers at the Lab of Ornithology have performed studies relating nuisance woodpeckers. One study, [External characteristics of houses prone to woodpecker damage](#), found that lighter colored aluminum and vinyl sidings are less likely to be damaged by woodpeckers. Another paper, [Assessment of Management Techniques to Reduce Woodpecker Damage to Homes](#), tested six common long-term woodpecker deterrents: life-sized plastic owls with paper wings, reflective streamers, plastic eyes strung on fishing line, roost boxes, suet feeders, and a sound system which broadcasts woodpecker distress calls followed by the call of a hawk. Researchers found that nothing deterred woodpeckers all the time, and only the streamers worked with any consistency.

Homeowners have reported some success deterring woodpeckers with windsocks, pinwheels, helium balloons (shiny, bright Mylar balloons are especially effective), strips of aluminum foil, or reflective tape. Other people keep woodpeckers away by covering an affected area with burlap or attaching bird netting (the kind designed for gardens and fruit trees) from overhanging eaves to the siding. If you use netting, make sure it is taut and set at least 3 inches from the siding to avoid birds pecking through it. Close off openings on the sides to prevent birds from becoming trapped between the netting and the house. You may also want to plug the holes with wood putty to discourage further activity. If a woodpecker has dug a roost hole into your house, make sure there are no birds inside before sealing it up. Never use any sticky “repellent,” such as Tanglefoot Pest Control, Roost-No-More, or Bird Stop, outdoors. These types of products can fatally injure birds and other animals.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Mary Freemon- Backyard: Hepatic Tanager, Robin, Red-shafted Flicker, Spotted Towhee.

Warren Goff – Casa Grande neighborhood: Mockingbird, Burrowing Owl, Verdin, Gila Woodpecker, Killdeer, Curve-billed Thrasher, Gambel's Quail and young

David Cagle – Jacques Marsh: Franklin's Gull, Evening Grosbeak,

Loretta Pena- Billy Creek: Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Painted Redstart

ME and Chuck- Back yard: Magnificent, Black-chinned, and Broad-tailed

Hummingbirds, Grace's Warbler, Pygmy Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, and at Billy Creek, Goshawk, Black Phoebe, Painted Redstart, Red-faced Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Wood Peewee. Amazing what you can see just outside your back yard!!

P. Newman- Orchard Oriole male, sipping nectar from desert willow blossoms in the Lees Ferry Campground, May 18.

The Jernigans- Red-faced Warbler at the trailhead parking lot of the Little Colorado River, end of Greer.

The Inmans- Backyard: Red-faced Warblers. Porter Mountain Rd.: nesting Osprey.

Pinetop Post Office: flock of Cedar Waxwings. Woodland Lake Park in May: several Canada Geese goslings, Double-crested Cormorants, 5 Osprey. On trip to Oregon, late April/early May: Cedar City Utah: flock of Pinyon Jays. Sparks, NV: about 100 White Pelicans, Roadrunner. Lewiston Lake, CA: Green Heron, Common Mergansers, Osprey. Stuart's Fork of Trinity River, CA: Bald Eagle swooped by just above our heads. South Fork of Siskiyou River, CA: American Dipper. Stone Lagoon, CA: Pelagic Cormorants. Crescent City Harbor: Common Loons, Surf Scoters. Breitenbush River, OR: Violet-green Swallows, Winter Wren. Burns, OR: Sage Sparrow. Malheur Wildlife Refuge, OR: Canada Geese with young, Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-necked Stilts, Long-billed Curlews, Sandhill Cranes (one nesting), Ferruginous Hawk, Black-billed Magpie, nesting Osprey, White Pelicans (large flock), nesting Great Horned Owl, nesting Swainson's Hawk, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Western Tanagers, Black-and-White Warbler, Tree Swallows, Bank Swallows, Brewer's Blackbirds, American Avocets, Greater Egret, Cliff Swallows, Barn Swallows, Prairie Falcon, nesting Golden Eagle, Western Meadowlark, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Mallards, Gadwalls, American Kestrels, Killdeer, Red-tailed Hawk, White-faced Ibises, Willets, Whimbrels, Northern Shrike, Say's Phoebe, House Sparrows, American Coots, Mourning Doves, Violet-green Swallows, Eared Grebes, Canvasbacks, Turkey Vultures, Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Pheasants, Northern Harrier, Green Heron, Cinnamon Teal, Night Herons, American Crows, Wilson's Snipes. THE PLACE TO BIRD IN OREGON; MALHEUR WILDLIFE REFUGE!!! Ruby Valley, NV: Golden Eagles (5), Song Sparrow, Chukar, Magpies, American Kestrel, Great-horned owl with 3 owlets on nest. WHAT A TRIP!!!

CONSERVATION

“Against the Bird Killer Amendment”

By National Audubon Society, June 12, 2015

In early June, the House was tasked with passing a fairly routine appropriations bill—meaning, a piece of legislation that allows the federal government to stay open (vs. shut down). And pass it they did—but not before Representative Jeff Duncan (R-SC) slid in an amendment that would prohibit the Department of Justice from enforcing one of the most important bird protection laws in the nation.

We’re talking about the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which you may have heard of recently because U.S. Fish and Wildlife [just announced they’re going to be updating how it’s enforced](#). But Duncan’s amendment would stop the MBTA dead in its tracks right now, by preventing the Department of Justice from actually enforcing the critical law that saves millions of birds’ lives each year. Audubon VP of Government Relations Mike Daulton immediately christened Duncan’s addition the “Bird Killer Amendment,” noting that not only is it completely unnecessary, it would leave birds wide open to uncontrolled slaughter.

It’s not a law yet.

Yes, the House has passed the bill with the amendment attached, but the legislation still has a long way to go before it’s made into a law. The Senate may not include the language in its version of the bill, and if it is passed with the amendment included, the executive branch can still veto the bill.

If passed, the amendment could hamstring the MBTA.

The MBTA is one of the oldest and most important laws on the books, when it comes to saving birds. But if it can’t be enforced, it can’t do much good.

“If Duncan’s amendment had been law during the BP disaster, those responsible for the largest marine oil spill in history would have faced no prosecution for causing the deaths of an estimated one million birds,” Daulton said. “Allowing this amendment to become law is tantamount to an avian slaughter free-for-all.”

(Want to know more about the MBTA and what it does? [Check this out.](#))

You can help fight the Bird Killer Amendment.

[Write a letter to your lawmakers.](#)

“Nature is the best medicine.”
~Hippocrates

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

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.
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www.flake.senat.gov/contact

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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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