



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., Sept. 2, 6:30pm: Allen Zufelt, AZG, will be speaking on the Condor Recovery Program.

Wed., Oct. 7, 6:30pm: Jim Wilson, Fool Hollow Chief Ranger, will give a talk on our local state park and other state parks in AZ.

Wed., Nov. 4, 6:30pm: Gerry Good, NPC instructor, will talk about astronomy.

Wed., Dec. 2: Annual Christmas Potluck. Details and time will be announced.

Field Trips: To be announced

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

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2015

Out on a Limb With Your President

In the White Mountain Audubon Birding Guide that we give out, there are several really good places to bird, but I have realized that one hot spot that is not listed is Billy Creek Trail, which is easily accessed from my back yard. This summer my grandson, Jayden, saw many birds and these are some that he recorded: Black Phoebe, Western Woods Peewee, Grace's Warbler, Western Tanager, Painted Redstart, Cordilleran Flycatcher, to name a few. Billy Creek Trail is also accessible from Porter Mountain Road, and walking along Billy Creek can provide excellent bird watching.

*A bird doesn't
sing because
it has an answer.
It sings because
it has a Song.*

Our weather seems to be telling us that fall is around the corner and I love the sound of crickets and frogs singing at night in anticipation of the colors we will soon see, and the changing of the leaves, and of the beautiful wild flowers. Many of our hummingbirds have left, but there will be some who stick around. I recommend that you leave at least one of your hummingbird feeders out until mid-October, or until you don't see hummingbirds for at least two weeks. Suet is a great source of energy and very welcome for birds who are getting ready to migrate. Be sure you keep water available at all times.

“For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!”
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Enjoy birding.....

Mary Ellen~

AZFO Annual Meetings:

If you enjoy observing, surveying, or conducting research on Arizona's birds, please plan to attend the Arizona Field Ornithologists (AZFO) annual state meetings.

**AZFO's 9th Annual Meeting
18-20 September, 2015- Show Low, AZ**

Just announced: Our keynote speaker for the Saturday dinner will be Chris Benesh.

AZFO is going to the White Mountains! Plan to join your fellow birders and ornithologists in the cool pines of Show Low for the 9th Annual AZFO state meeting 18-20 September at the Hampton Inn & Suites. The meeting's theme is celebrating AZFO's 10th anniversary.

We will kick off with mini-field expeditions to area birding spots on Friday afternoon, followed by a social hour meet-and-greet. Saturday, you'll hear interesting presentations from the AZFO Gale Monson Research Grant recipients, including 2014 awardee Ariana La Porte on her Gray Hawk research and Zach Smith on spring raptor migration from the Sierra Prieta Overlook as well as others who have studied and documented Arizona's birdlife. Try your eyes and ears at our photo and audio bird ID quizzes and peruse our used publication sale to find field guides and other interesting bird-related reading.

A highlight of the annual meeting is the Saturday dinner, where attendees gather to discuss the day's events and socialize with friends, followed by a presentation by our keynote speaker, Chris Benesh. The weekend finishes with more field expeditions to under-birded locations of the White Mountains region before everyone heads home.

Registration is now open

[Register Now](http://azfo.org/annual_meetings/2015/MeetingPage_2015.html) for this informative and fun event! http://azfo.org/annual_meetings/2015/MeetingPage_2015.html

Call for Presentations: The call for presentations and posters for the meeting is open until August 1. For details on submitting abstracts for consideration please click [here](#). We welcome your submission and please pass the word around if you know anyone who is interested in presenting their research or knowledge on Arizona's birdlife at our 9th Annual Meeting.

Annual Meetings Feature:

- Expert presentations on identification, status and distribution of Arizona birds
- Presentations on where to go birding in Arizona by local experts
- Reports on AZFO
- Activities such as Field Expeditions, Seasonal Reports, Sightings Database, the Online Journal, Web Page, Censuses
- Find out how you can get involved with AZFO
- Report from the Arizona Bird Committee
- Bird identification quizzes
- Sunday half-day field expeditions led by local experts
- A chance to meet new friends and visit with old ones

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

Commonly Asked Questions About Feeding Birds

(from Audubon Bird Feeding Basics by Steven W. Kress, Ph.D.)

DOES FEEDING BIRDS PREVENT THEM FROM MIGRATING ON TIME? Several changes in the length of days, rather than an abundance of food, determine when birds will begin to migrate. Migrations begin in the fall as days shorten (when natural food is still abundant), and commence again in the spring as days lengthen.

WILL BIRDS SUFFER IF FEEDERS GO EMPTY? Natural food supplies are typically exhausted during winter, as birds consume all the seeds and fruits at one location before moving on to the next. Similarly, if backyard feeders go empty while homeowners are on vacation, birds will look elsewhere for food. If your neighbors are also providing food, birds from your feeders will likely spend more time feeding there. Since feeders only supplement natural foods, most species will not suffer if feeders go empty for days or even weeks at a time.

HOW SOON CAN BIRDS BE EXPECTED AT NEW FEEDERS? It may be a matter of hours before birds discover new feeders – or a matter of weeks. The variation depends on the distance to bird habitat, density of nearby feeders and the kinds of birds that might chance on the new feeder (chickadees, titmice, and House Sparrows are especially quick to locate new feeders). If there are many feeders in your neighborhood, birds may find new feeders more readily, as they already associate feeders with an easy meal. If birds are slow to find feeders, scatter sunflower seeds on top of the feeders, and on nearby surfaces such as bare soil. Bird decoys may help to lure the first visitors, and other birds will soon notice the new food source.

WHAT ARE THE BEST TIMES AND WEATHER CONDITIONS TO WATCH FEEDERS? Birds visit feeders most often in the early morning, and again just before dusk. They use feeders less often in the afternoon and during rainy weather. In contrast, snow-covered ground forces sparrows and juncos to congregate at feeders as these species typically feed on bare ground.

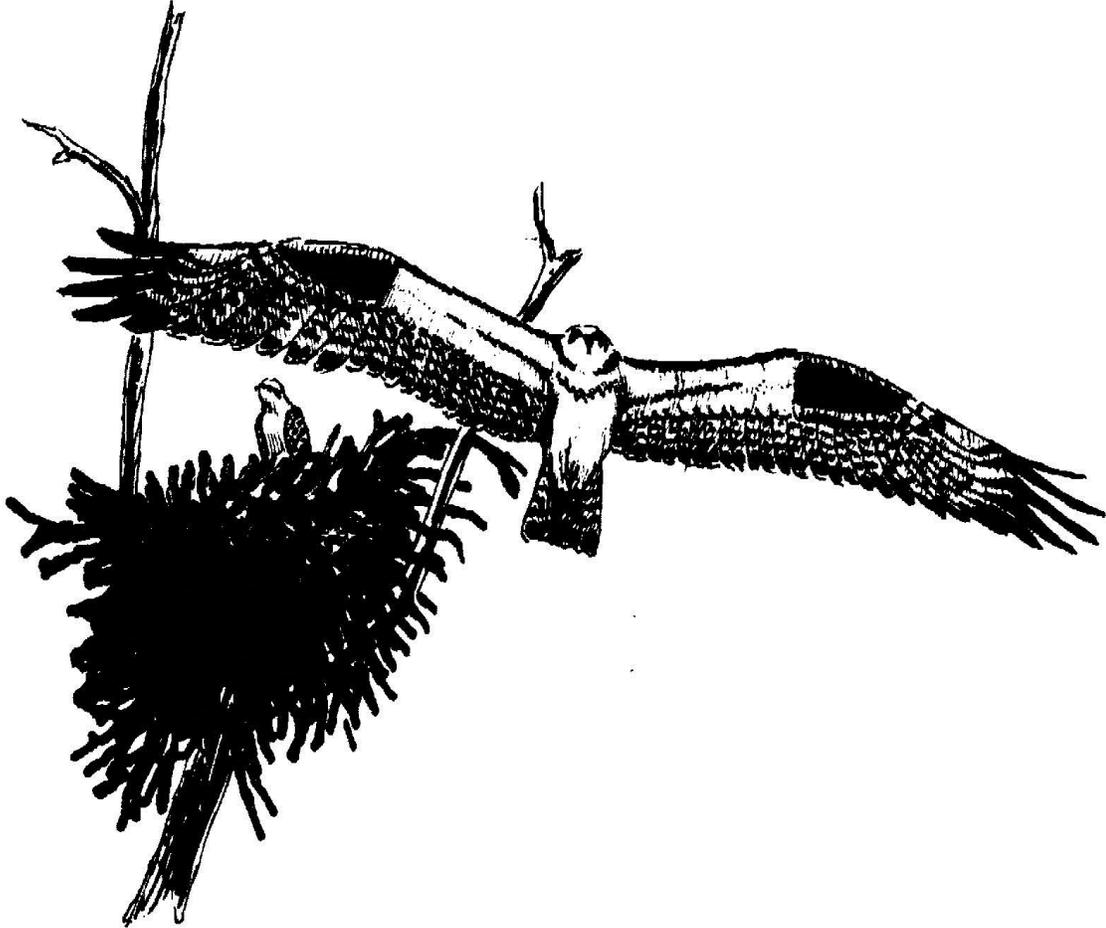
*“Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience.”
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

BIRD SIGHTINGS (July & August)

NAME	WHAT SEEN	WHERE
Jan Newton	Black Hawk	Show Low Lake
Jakota	Great Blue Heron	Reservation Lake
Telah Pratt	Great Blue Heron	Reservation Lake
Julie and Glen Bradly	Black Bear	Lakeside
Ann and Jim Ling	Oriole, Black Bear	Lakeside
Pete and Mary Jane Milne	Scrub Jay, Stellar's Jay, Rufous Hummingbird, Broadtail Hummingbird,	Lakeside
Kent Schipper	Rufous Hummingbird, Evening Grosbeak	Show Low
Chuck and ME Bittorf	Black-headed Grosbeak, Rufous Hummingbird, Chickadee, Pigmy Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, House Wren	Back yard
Penas	Western Tanager	Yard in Show Low
Barbara Teague	Lesser Goldfinch, Lewis Woodpecker, Black Cap Grosbeak, doves	My house in Lakeside
Pat Calkins	Lewis Woodpecker, Ladder Back, Band-tail Pigeons	My yard
Kay Alderton	Wilson's Warbler, Dove, Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos, hummers	My yard
Maria Donaghy	3 kinds of pigeons, Western Scrub Jay, Goldfinch, lots of House Finches, Sparrows, Brown Headed Cowbirds, Western Bluebirds, Hawks	The Kerr-Cole Sustainable Living Center, Taylor AZ
Mary Freeman	Rufous, Broadtail and Black-Chinned Hummingbirds, Lesser Goldfinches, Pygmy Nuthatches	My yard
Inmans and friends	Western Tanagers, Hepatic Tanagers (Pat Mullen Mtn.), Hermit Warbler (Show Low), White Pelicans, Sandhill Cranes, Yellow Warblers, Trumpeter Swans, Osprey, Bald Eagle (Wyoming)	Pat Mullen Mountain (tanagers), the rest in Wyoming

BIRD ART

Osprey drawing by Steven DAMato



CONSERVATION
“Shell Game” by Mark Jannett
(Letter from the Editor, July-August 2015 Audubon Magazine)

Why why why why why?

I write this in early June, haunted by the ghosts of oil despoliation past, present, and future. We’ve just marked the five-year anniversary of the BP Deepwater Horizon tragedy, and you’ll find [“The Birds of British Petroleum,”](#) an account by *The Tarball Chronicles* author David Gessner of his return to the scene of the slime. And then, mere weeks ago, as if to confirm for us that nothing has changed, a pipeline broke in Santa Barbara, blackening an ecosystem that’s been called “The Galápagos of North America” with tens of thousands of gallons of oil (see [“The Definition of Insanity,”](#) by Tyler Hayden).

But it’s the skeletal finger pointing implacably toward the inevitable next catastrophe, up in the Arctic, that has me muttering, agog at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s [decision to approve Shell’s plan for drilling this summer](#) in the treacherous, remote, and ecologically invaluable waters of the Chukchi Sea. **Why?!**

This drilling plan is a two-pronged attack on the Arctic, combining the near-certainty of a wilderness-destroying catastrophic spill with the ice-cap-melting extraction and eventual immolation of oil that, if we are to have any hope of slowing and surviving global warming, must be left uncombusted in the earth.

Please be clear: I’m not directing my ire at Royal Dutch Shell. The trajectory of capitalism is inexorable, and Shell is an energy provider with a duty to maximize shareholder value. We can hope that market forces, including enlightened shifting consumer demand, will accelerate the company’s embrace of more renewable energy sources. For now, however, it is fundamentally a carbon extractor with billions in already-accounted-for shareholder value locked deep under the ocean, at risk of becoming “stranded assets” if the regulatory environment ever swings against it; its motivation, predictably enough, is to find and pump that stuff up as swiftly as it can.

But as for the Obama administration—come on, man. [The BOEM’s own updated environmental impact statement](#), released just three months before this decision, estimates a 75 percent chance of a major oil spill and disastrous devastation of local wildlife. And we neither need the oil nor can we afford, climatically, to burn it. President Obama asserted, in his first-ever Twitter chat, that “we can’t prevent oil exploration completely in [the] region.” This may, ultimately, prove true, but—[as Natasha Geiling explains in her smart analysis](#)—there are in fact several options open to him that might shut it down permanently, and that would at least effectively delay it. Yet, following some unknown, and ill-considered, calculation, President Obama has chosen to abandon the attempt. To quote Audubon CEO David Yarnold, “Is today’s ruling just bad policy, cynical, or politically motivated? How about all of the above?”

If, like me, you’d like to try to do something about this, [take action here](#).

Mark Jannot is the Vice President for Content at Audubon.

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. Fred Ducey
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Rep. Albert Hale
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202-225-2315

U.S. Sen. John McCain
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202-224-2235

Sen. Jack Jackson, Jr
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Rep. Peshlakai
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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
P. O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935**