



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

Wed., Dec. 2: Annual Christmas Potluck, 6pm, Rm. Rm. 16, Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall.
Last names beginning A-M: bring vegetable or salad,
Last names beginning N-Z: bring appetizer or dessert.

Tues., Jan. 5: Christmas Bird Count, Meet at Darbi's Café at 7am for breakfast and to plan on areas to survey.

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, Mary Freeman

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2015

Out on a Limb with Your President

What makes a bird a bird? Feathers! If it has feathers, it is a bird. That being said, feathers help keep a bird warm or cool, they keep it from getting sunburned, they identify what kind of bird it is, and they enable a bird to fly. Feathers are amazing. They must be strong, yet flexible, and they are mostly hollow. The middle of the feather has a stem, which is called a shaft. A shaft has 2 parts; the calamus, and the rachis. The calamus is hollow, and it is the part of the feather that goes into the skin. The rachis has barbs on each side, and on each side of the barb is a barbule, which has a small hook on the end. These parts all act like a strip of Velcro. If you take a feather and run your finger from tip to end, the barbs will come apart. If you go back, the barbs will come together. If the feather is on the wing or the tail, it is asymmetrical and becomes more balanced as the feathers locate to the middle of the wing or tail. Each feather is controlled by muscles under the skin. Amazingly, all of this helps the bird to fly. There are lots of feathers on a birds body; most of them are small and are on the head or neck. There can be as many as several thousand. (This information comes from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.) So, birds are amazing little flying machines. The next time you look at a bird, appreciate what a little miracle it is.

As we head into the busy holiday season, I hope you will be able to spend time with family and friends. I also hope you will join Audubon for our meetings, especially our Christmas potluck (see calendar). Don't forget that we will elect our officers for next year. If you are interested in being on our board, doing the newsletter, or managing the website, please contact one of the officers. I want to thank all of this year's board members for all of their hard work this past year.

I wish a very Merry Christmas to you all, and a Happy New Year.

And...enjoy birding!

Mary Ellen

**YOU ARE INVITED TO KEITH DAVIS'
BIRTHDAY PARTY/LIFE CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, November 14th, 2-5 pm, White Mountain Nature Center,
425 S. Woodland Rd., Lakeside**

This event is open to all friends and family of Keith Davis.



Many of you were present at the Nature Center's Aquatic Adventure program on July 18th and heard Keith Davis talk about his work as a Marine Biologist. He also gave a program with his dad, John, for White Mountain Audubon (August, 2010) about the birds they'd seen on their many world travels. Some of you have also been fortunate enough to have gone XC skiing, camping, and mushroom hunting with Keith, or listened to him play his original songs on the mandolin, ukulele, or guitar or sing with

the White Mountain Chorale. Keith is now missing at sea, but we want to celebrate his birthday and incredible life with his many friends and family. There will be cake, refreshments, live music, and a slide show. Please feel free to join us!

RSVP to wmnaturecenter@yahoo.org, or call (928) 358-3069 at least 1 week prior to the event.

The Peace of Wild Things

"When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time, I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."

~Wendell Berry

www.whitemountinaudubon.org

BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

NAME	WHAT SEEN	WHERE
Diane Dorsay	Anna's Hummingbird, Goldfinches	
Joan Patrick	Great Blue Heron, Buffleheads	Show Low Lake, Nelson's Reservoir
Irene Klim	Cormorant, Osprey, Peach-faced Lovebirds	Scott's Reservoir Phoenix
Pete and Mary Jane Milne	Hairy Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Robins, Northern Flicker, Nuthatches, Chickadee, Jays, Finches, Juncos, Hepatic Tanager	Lakeside
Bittorfs	Robin, Black-headed Grosbeak, Pygmy Nuthatches, Band-tailed Pigeon, Stellar's Jay, White- breasted Nuthatch	Backyard-Pinetop
Mary Freemon	Spotted Towhee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Stellar's Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Lesser Goldfinches, Western Bluebirds	Backyard
Penas	Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Townsend's Warbler	Show Low yard Caught in netting in apple orchard in Lakeside and released
Barb Davis	Stellar's Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, Spotted Towhee, Acorn Woodpecker, Rufous Hummingbird, Lesser Goldfinch, Mountain Chickadee	Backyard
Kay Alderton	Stellar's Jay, Black-eyed Juncos, Robin, Warbler, Magnificent Hummingbird, Red-tailed Hawk	Backyard-Pinetop Penrod Rd.
Jernigans	Cedar Waxwings (24 on a tree), 4 Western Tanagers, female Lazuli Bunting	Eastfork
Inmans	Western Bluebirds, Mountain Bluebirds, Audubon's Warblers, Band-tailed Pigeons, Stellar's Jays, Hairy Woodpeckers, Acorn Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, House Finches, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Clark's Nutcrackers	Sky Hi Rd. and Sky Hi Retreat yard Sunrise Ski Hill

CONSERVATION

How You Can Curb the Climate Threat to Birds

The birds we love need our help now. Here's what you can do.

Climate change threatens 314 species of birds in North America. But you can help them have a brighter future. Below are five ideas to get started.

Get Talking

When it comes to climate change, people don't need more science; they need a little love. Research shows that people's climate opinions are informed most by what they hear from their peer group. So talk (in person or online) to friends and family about the birds you love, and how climate change threatens their long-term survival.

Show Your Community That Birds Matter

Ask your local leaders what they are doing to protect wildlife in the face of climate change. Share memories of your favorite birds with your community groups, or consider a field trip to a local Important Bird Area (IBA) to emphasize the species at home that need our help. Reach more people by writing a letter to your newspaper, speaking at a community event, or visiting a local school and sharing why birds are important to you.

Start at Home

Create safe places for birds to rest and nest in your yard and community by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand, installing bird baths, and converting lawns and gardens to native plants. School grounds, parks, vacant lots, and common areas can all be "bird-scaped," too. Consider a DIY birdbath or turning breakfast into a bird feeder.

Stand for Solutions

Climate change is not a foregone conclusion, but beating it requires policies and technology to lower the demand for fossil fuels and cut emissions. Energy efficiency, renewable portfolio standards, and other proactive measures reduce emissions and will limit the effects of global warming on birds. Make sure your elected leaders know about these options, and check out the range of solar opportunities available for an individual or community.

Give a Little, Take a Little

And if none of this strikes your fancy, you can help us fight climate change on your behalf and pour yourself a climate-themed cocktail. Don't let the drink—or the birds—go extinct. (*Information taken from National Audubon Society E-newsletter, 9/11/15*)

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
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. Carlyle Begay
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
cbegay@azleg.gov

Rep. Jennifer Benally
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jbennally@azleg.gov

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**