



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):

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

No meetings in January or February

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: Joan Patrick, Jody Inman and Richard Inman, Diane Dorsay, Mary Freeman

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2016

Out on a Limb with Your President

I hope you all have had an enjoyable holiday season. This new year will be a very political year, since we will have an important election coming up at the end of 2016. I hope you will all keep informed about the important questions facing our nation. Please be sure to vote!!

With cold weather and snow, there is a certain little bird that seems to show up, often in fairly large numbers. That bird is the Dark-eyed Junco. If you have these tough little birds in your yard, take a look and see if you have more than one type of Junco. All Juncos will have the signature outer white tail feathers, and dark eyes. The most common little Junco here is the Red-backed or Mexican Junco, but if you look carefully, you will probably find a few Oregon Juncos, and possibly a Pink-sided, and a Gray-headed or a Slate-colored Junco. These little birds are fun to watch when they eat, because they like to hop forward and then scratch back. Check your field guide to see what you have in your yard.

Your board will be working in the next weeks to plan the meetings and events for next year. If you have ideas or suggestions, please let the board know.

Have a Happy New Year, andenjoy birding.

Mary Ellen~

TWO WINTER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Tours (Socorro, NM)

WILDLIFE AND CRANE TOUR: Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays through January 10th, 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM. Enjoy a free, lively tour led by naturalists that will help you get a close-up look at animals that call this refuge home. Sign up at the visitor center or call (575) 835-1828 ext.0 for reservations (REQUIRED!) on a free, 3 hour or so, driving tour in a 15 passenger van (for your comfort, only eight people per tour).

GO BIRDING: Saturdays through February 27, 9:00 -11:00 AM. Join a naturalist on a tour of either the North Loop or the South Loop to look for birds that are spending the winter at the refuge. Sign up at the visitor center or call (575) 835-1828 ext.0 for reservations (REQUIRED!).

HIDDEN SECRETS OF THE BOSQUE: Saturdays through February 27, 1:00 -3:00 PM. Join a naturalist and learn the secrets of the Bosque. Explore the extraordinary actions the refuge takes to protect and provide for wildlife while visiting areas the public rarely sees. Reserve your spot at the visitor center or call (575) 835-1828.

RAPTOR RAMBLE: Sundays through February 28, 9:00-11:30 AM. A naturalist will guide you in a refuge van to find raptors. Identify the many plumages of the Red-tailed Hawk and learn to distinguish between the male and female Northern Harrier, and more! Hawks! Eagles! Falcons! Search for them all! Reserve your spot at the visitor center or call (575) 835-1828 ext.0.

DUCK DETECTIVES: Sundays through February 28, 1:00-2:15 PM. Join a volunteer naturalist to learn the difference between divers and dabblers, Pintails and Shovelers. Reserve your place on the van at the visitor center or call (575) 835-1828 ext.0.

Wings Over Willcox

The 2016 Wings Over Willcox Birding and Nature Festival is scheduled for January 13-17, 2016. It is held annually and is the perfect opportunity to see all the winter migrants that visit the area, including Sandhill Cranes, and to see the other wildlife and natural wonders of Southeastern Arizona. There will be tours on photography, geology, history, botany, and agriculture. Sign up for tours and seminars by calling (520) 384-2272 or emailing wingsoverwillcox@vtc.net. Like their Facebook page to find out more about the festival.

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

NAME	WHAT	WHERE
Ginger Donahue	Great Blue Heron	Gilbert Lake
Penas	Red-naped Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, more than 20 Bushtits	Yard in Show Low
Bittorfs	Dark-eyed Juncos, Pine Siskins, White-breasted Nuthatches, Pygmy Nuthatches, Stellar's Jays, Northern Flicker, Mountain Chickadees	Yard in Pinetop
P. Clark	Least Terns	Emerald Isle, North Carolina
Inmans	Northern Shovelers, American Wigeons, Buffleheads, Red-headed Duck Flock of Lazuli Buntings	Woodland Lake South Rim, Grand Canyon
Jody Inman	Bald Eagle	Lake of the Woods



Western Screech Owl~ Steven D'Amato

***A wise old owl sat in an oak.
 The more he saw, the less he spoke.
 The less he spoke, the more he heard.
 Why can't we be like that wise old bird?
 ~Old Proverb***

CONSERVATION

What is Audubon Adventures?

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education curriculum product created by the National Audubon Society for grades 3 - 8. Developed by professional environmental educators, *Audubon Adventures* presents standards-based science content about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It is one of the ways White Mountain Audubon uses the donations we generate from our annual Nature Film Festival. We provide this resource to local classrooms when teachers sign up for it.

Audubon Adventures introduces young people, their families, and their teachers to the fundamental principles by which the natural world functions. The print publications and website offer an exciting, science-based exploration of those principles at work anchored in nonfiction reading and outdoor and classroom activities that help kids to care for our planet by helping birds and other wildlife.

Audubon Adventures is used in classrooms, home schools, after-school programs, camp programs, ESL classes, and more.

The content-rich website www.audubonadventures.org provides interactive games, puzzles, and quizzes and topic-related resources for both teachers and students.

Since its inception in 1984, over 7 million youngsters have participated in the program.

Easy to use; makes learning fun

Audubon Adventures can be easily integrated into the existing curriculum areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, and creative arts. The only requirement for implementing *Audubon Adventures* in your classroom, home, or community is an interest in exploring, learning about, and enjoying the natural world around you.

***Audubon Adventures* Vision Statement**

Audubon envisions a future with a community of enlightened and informed citizens aware of the environmental consequences of their daily activities. It is a community with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make informed choices among alternative courses of action that result in minimizing negative effects on our shared environment.

When we achieve the goals we set for *Audubon Adventures*, young people have the foundation necessary for recognizing our individual and collective responsibility for the health of our environment. And out of that recognition comes understanding that personal actions can have meaningful, positive, and far-reaching effects.

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.
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
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
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**