



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

March 2nd- Monthly meeting speaker: Mike Meixler will talk about Concho Farm, and his efforts to provide habitat for Monarch butterflies.

April 6th- Monthly meeting speakers: Barbara & Clark Hockabout from Lodestar Gardens & Learning Center will inform us about food co-ops and small animal contributions to living off-grid.

April 9th- Waterfowl Workshop sponsored by AZG&FD at their office in Pinetop. Call 367-4281 for info

Field Trips: None in March or April, 2016

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

WE NEED A NEW WEBSITE MANAGER. Please contact Mary Ellen if you are interested.

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

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

MARCH-APRIL, 2016 Out on a Limb with Your President

I look out my window and I see a bird. It is calling me, so I go out to see what it is. It is small and striped, a little yellow on the wings. Oh, it is a Pine Siskin. I hear its song that ends in his classic shreeeee. He is cute with his little pointy beak, black eyes and notched tail.

I see a bird outside my window. It is calling me, and I go to see what it is. It is big, sassy, and a beautiful blue color. There is a crest on his head. His call is loud and raucous. He loves peanuts, and if I am lucky, in a quiet moment he sits on a branch and softly sings a beautiful song.

I see a bird outside my window. It is calling me, and I go outside to see what it is. It is gray, rufous on its back. It has distinctive white feathers on each side of its tail. The tail is slightly notched. His cousin looks like he has a black hood on his head and neck. I hear a soft chirping sound, and I love watching him as he hops forward and scratches back when he eats.

I see birds outside my window. They are calling me so I go outside to see what they are. On my suet are six Western Bluebirds. It is a family – a beautiful mass of blue, with a touch of red, I am thrilled to see them at this time of year. Somewhere around here there must have been a nest. They were hungry!

I see a bird outside my window. This is the best way to start a day. It makes me happy. It makes my heart sing. We live in this beautiful country with birds, trees, at various times butterflies, wild flowers, and the things that come with them, like wind, pollen, and all those other good things. With Spring around the corner, we will be seeing other birds, so be watchful. I am putting out a hummingbird feeder for the expected early hummer. Watch to see what is new in your yard, and.....enjoy birding.

~Mary Ellen

WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY 2016 SCHEDULE

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May 1st-31st- BIRDATHON

May 4th- Monthly meeting will be the Beginning Birder's Workshop.

May 7th- Fieldtrip will be a follow up to the Beginner's Birder's Workshop at Big Springs/Nature Center

May 14th- North American Migration Count-Navajo & Apache Counties

June 1st- Monthly meeting speaker Bob Herrmann of southern AZ will give program on "Cactus Blooms of Cochise County".

June 4th- National Trails Day

June 11th- Tentative fieldtrip to Dr. Hall's property in Shumway.

June 24th- WM Nature Film Festival dinner at El Rancho Restaurant in Pinetop

June 25th- WM Nature Film Festival films will be shown at WM Nature Center

July 6th- Monthly meeting speakers will be Dan Groebner & Susan Taggart about "Owls of the White Mountains"

July 30th- Hummingbird Banding at Sipe Wildlife Area sponsored by AZG&FD

August 3rd- Monthly meeting speakers will be Dave & Cheryl Cagle telling of their recent trip to Namibia in Africa.

August 27th- Tentative fieldtrip to Concho to Meixler property and Concho Lake

September 7th- speaker TBA

October 5th- Monthly meeting speaker will be Dawnafe Whitesinger, Nav. Co. Supervisor explaining her work as supervisor.

November 2nd- Monthly meeting speaker to be Andy Bridges of Petrified National Forest; he will speak about park resources and the biological work he does there, including bird surveys.

December 7th- WMAS Christmas Potluck//Party

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**January 5, 2016
Timber Mesa Christmas Bird Count**

3	Pied-billed Grebe	150	Red-winged Blackbird
4	Great Blue Heron	9	Great-tailed Grackle
11	Cassin's Finch	5	Brewer's Blackbird
41	Canada Goose	3	Brown-headed Cowbird
33	House Finch		
2	Wood Duck		
61	Pine Siskin		
688	Mallard		
28	House Sparrow		
92	Gadwall		
88	American Wigeon		
37	Northern Shoveler		
7	Canvasback		
47	Redhead		
63	Ring-necked Duck		
24	Bufflehead		
103	Common Merganser		
4	Ruddy Duck		
3	Northern Harrier		
22	Bald Eagle		
2	Red-tailed Hawk		
4	American Kestrel		
831	American Coot		
15	Rock Dove		
2	Eurasian Collared-Dove		
7	Lewis's Woodpecker		
8	Northern Flicker, "Red-shafted"		
2	Hairy Woodpecker		
14	Steller's Jay		
3	Western Scrub-jay		
14	American Crow		
90	Common Raven		
8	Mountain Chickadee		
3	Brown Creeper		
1	White-breasted Nuthatch		
9	Pygmy Nuthatch		
1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
57	Western Bluebird		
9	Mountain Bluebird		
9	American Robin		
41	European Starling		
1	Yellow-rumped Warbler		
189	Dark-eyed Junco		
	30 "Red-backed"		
	15 "Oregon"		
	10 "Pink-sided"		

Date of Count – January 5, 2016
 Total number of species – 47
 Start time – 8:00 A.M.
 Weather – Overcast, light snow, slight breeze
 Beginning Temp. - 32 degrees
 Ending Temp. - 38 degrees
 Total miles driven – 98
 Total miles walked – 9
 Total hours – 41

Participants, (Team leaders have an asterisk beside their name)
 Compiler – Mary Ellen Bittorf

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If more information is needed call Mary Ellen Bittorf at 928-367-2462.

CONSERVATION: The Surprising Way Birds Are Trying to Dodge Climate Change (from audubonconnect@audubon.org, 2/8/16)

Brooke Bateman, post-doctorate ecologist from the University of Wisconsin, who once [deciphered movements of Australian animals](#), wanted to figure out how breeding birds in North America were dealing with the havoc brought on by climate change. “How far and fast is climate change happening . . . that’s what I needed to know,” she says. With the help of scientists from Wisconsin and Australia, Bateman wove together climate data with location data for 285 North American species, and built models to show how rainfall, temperature, weather, and other variables affected every species’ distribution for every month of every breeding season from 1950 to 2011. Using the models as a reference, she then drew predictions on where the birds are ending up. The final results were published in *Global Change Biology* in December.

The two major curveballs in this study: First, birds are moving faster than we think, and second, they’re going places where we don’t suspect. Previous estimates had breeding ranges shifting by [an average of .4 miles a year](#), but Bateman’s work proves that some species are moving at twice that speed, up to as much as 3 miles a year. The quickest drifters include meat eaters, insect eaters, and species that forage high up in the canopy or at the bottom of the forest floor (they’re probably stalking their prey to new spaces). Birds that are staying put include woodpeckers, hummingbirds, plant eaters, and non-migrants.

The direction of these movements is also unexpected. While the majority of the species are flying northward (as predicted), more than a quarter of them are creeping westward—specifically to Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota. The Tufted Titmouse, for example, is expanding into the Midwest and finding its niche in human-dominated landscapes. Hooded Warblers are moving in that direction as well, but they’re more used to living in the thick forest understory, so adapting to the grasslands and wide-open plains will be a lot more difficult for them.

Findings like these can “help to complete the story,” Gary Langham, Audubon’s chief scientist, says. While the [Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report](#) (released in 2014) predicts how breeding and wintering ranges may shift and shrink over the next century, Bateman’s models take a deeper look at what’s causing the birds to relocate right now. And the snapshots from the past 60 years show that birds are already moving thanks to global warming. The responses, Langham says, are idiosyncratic: The birds aren’t just moving northward, and they’re not all magically adapting to their new surroundings.

The study’s present-day, species-specific approach is also important because it highlights which birds need the most help. For instance, Bateman’s models show that the Florida Scrub-Jay’s thin slice of habitat is being squeezed even more tightly. The Audubon Climate Report’s models point out that there will be [other climate-suitable patches in California for these birds](#); but the jays probably won’t be able to find their way out there, Langham says. So rather than leaving species to adjust—or go extinct—on their own, humans will have to step in and give them a hand, by slowing down the pace of climate change and preserving critical landscapes.

In Bateman’s perspective, birds have three options: They can move, stay and adapt, or stay and be wiped out. Knowing which option a species will choose can help conservation groups, like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (one of Bateman’s collaborators), pick out a rescue strategy. “We can put our money in places that have multiple species, and build connectivity between where the birds are and where they will be,” Bateman says. Unfortunately, birds and people tend to love the same landscapes: In the study, areas that gained the most species were also hot spots for development. Saving these lands through acquisition is crucial, Bateman says.

“The big question is, can they create the next successful generation there?” Langham says. If they can’t, humans might need to step in. “Heroic efforts [by people] could buy at least 10 more generations of birds,” Langham says, “and that could be the difference in them being around.”

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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!!!

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Mailing Address _____

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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

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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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Pinetop, AZ 85935**