



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:

September 6 – Andrew Bridges, PhD, Wildlife biologist at the Petrified National Forest will give a brief overview of the park's resources with updates on avian surveys, prairie dog management and black-footed ferret reintroduction. He will also talk about a trip to Panama last fall coinciding with raptor migration where hundreds of thousands of hawks, kites, and vultures were seen in a day on their southward migration.

October 4 – Student, Donovan Hanridge and his family have taken a special interest in building nest boxes. Donovan attended a summer camp in Colorado where he learned about building nest boxes and the kinds of birds that use them. He will tell us about his experience.

Special Events and Field Trips: To be announced.

Officers:

President: Mary Ellen Bittorf 367-2462
Vice-Pres.: Tom Jernigan 532-1510
Secretary: Liz Jernigan 532-1511
Treasurer: Chuck Bittorf 367-2462
Field Trips: Rob Bettaso 368-8481
Editor: Jody Inman 369- 3240
Webmaster: Allen Vickers
Membership: Position open

Board Members: Joan Patrick, Jody Inman, Mary Freemon, Kathy Dahnk, Rob Bettaso

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

Out on a Limb with Your President

Today I took a short walk at Woodland Lake, and I urge all of you to do the same. The sunflowers are everywhere, and they are beautiful. Butterflies are also everywhere, and there are birds flying around, including Western Bluebirds, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Lesser Goldfinches. There are all kinds of wildflowers in bloom, most of which I can't identify. The monsoon rains have been good this year, and almost anywhere you go will be worth the time. Take your camera, because you will want to save what you are seeing for this winter when everything is white and you long for some color.

In my yard I have enjoyed watching families of Steller's Jays, sometimes as many as six or seven, six Northern Flickers, six Acorn Woodpeckers, six Western Bluebirds, four Chickadees, three Pygmy Nuthatches, four White-breasted Nuthatches, as well as Lesser Goldfinches, Hairy Woodpeckers, and to my surprise, I had a Roadrunner in my yard. It is always fun to see what is out there.

This year's Nature Film Festival was the best ever, and I want to thank Tom and Liz Jernigan, Mary Freemon, Joan Patrick, Rob Bettaso, Cathy Dahnk, and all others who helped. I also want to thank our sponsors Darbis Cafe, Made in Greer, Ace Hardware, and Dr. Ryan Hall. Thanks to Moose Henri's for the wonderful food. Thanks to everyone who came.

Just a reminder, there are still quite a few little hummingbirds at the feeders. Leave your feeders out until there are no more for at least a week. It helps them a lot when they migrate to have an easy source of food for their long journey.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.....and enjoy birds.

~Mary Ellen

JULY-AUGUST SIGHTINGS

NAME	WHAT SEEN	WHERE
KAY ALDERTON	NUTHATCH, DARK-EYED JUNCO, GROSBEAK, ROBIN, RAVENS, ACORN WOODPECKER, JAYS, RUFIOUS AND BROADTAILED HUMMINGBIRDS	FRONT YARD
KATHY DUBBS	RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD, FEMALE HOODED ORIOLE, FEMALE BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK	
JEANETTE BRINER	RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD, WESTERN Tanager	YARD, BILLY CREEK
PERRY WRAY	2 OSPREY	BACK YARD
BITTORFS	RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD, STELLER'S JAY, FLICKER, BAND-TAILED PIGEON, PYGMY NUTHATCHES, CHICKADEES	
MARY FREEMON	RED-FACED WARBLER, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, HEPATIC Tanager (PAIR)	FRONT YARD IN LAKESIDE
GINGER DONAHUE	GREAT BLUE HERON, WIGEONS, HUMMINGBIRDS	LAKE, BACK YARD
SHERYLE SHEPARD	VERDIN, NUTHATCHES, STELLER'S JAY, ACORN WOODPECKER	PORCH, POND
INMANS	BLUE GROSBEAK, ROADRUNNERS, COOPER'S HAWKS, KESTREL, WESTERN AND MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS, LESSER GOLDFINCHES	QUEMADO, NM AND YARD
PAUL SMITH	HEPATIC Tanager	SHOW LOW
ANDREW CARLSON	OSPREY WITH FISH	FLAGSTAFF



ORIOLE BY KIRSTEN MUNSON

FIELD TRIP NOTES FROM OLD HATCHERY TRAIL WITH LEADER, ROB BETTASO, JUNE 24, 2017

Nine participants joined Rob Bettaso from 7 to 9 AM in the oak-conifer woodlands of the Old Hatchery Trail along Billy Creek, just behind the Game and Fish Office. The weather was clear, calm, and warm (c. 70-75F). Vehicular noise from White Mountain Blvd, (especially motorcycles, due to a weekend bike rally) was very loud throughout the 2 mile hike. Other hikers and mountain bikers were common on the trail. The following bird species were observed: Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Mourning Dove, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Common Raven, Violet-green Swallow, Purple Martin,, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Western Bluebird, Common Yellowthroat, Red-faced Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Great-tailed Grackle, Brewer's Blackbird, and Lesser Goldfinch. The highlights were the Red-faced Warbler, a tree with a colony of Purple Martins, and watching an Osprey up in a tree devour its large trout.

FIELD TRIP NOTES FOR JULY 8-9th 2017 BIG SPRINGS & BILLY CREEK AREAS (with Audubon AZ guests)

COMPILED BY ROB BETTASO

From 6 AM until 7:15 AM and again from 8:30-9:45 AM the following bird species were observed in the oak-conifer woodlands and in the riparian vegetation of the **Big Springs** area at Woodland Lake Park. The weather was clear, calm, and warm. There were 3 birders on our first walk and 4 on the second: Mallard, Northern Shoveler, American Coot, Pie-billed Grebe, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lesser Goldfinch.

From 7 AM until 8:15 AM the following bird species were observed in the oak-conifer woodlands and riparian vegetation near **Billy Creek** and in the neighborhood of the Bittorf's. The weather was clear, calm, and warm. There were 6 birders on our walk: Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Common Raven, Violet-green Swallow, Purple Martin, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch.

BIRDATHON 2017 RESULTS

It was a different Birdathon for Bob and I this year. We stayed close to home since he had a stroke in December 2016. The birds we saw were mostly in our yard in Show Low. I was also able to visit Woodland Lake and Fool's Hollow Lake for a brief time during the month.

We live on a very small lot and in our 11 years here, we have seen 66 species of birds. We added a new bird this spring when the warblers came in to eat the aphids on the ornamental plum tree. The new bird was MacGillivray's Warbler who stayed in the yard for 4 days and then moved on.

A few of the other yard birds we saw during May were: Juniper Titmouse, Black-headed Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, Hairy, Lewis, and Acorn Woodpeckers, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Bushtits, and Mountain Chickadee. Mountain Chickadees are nesting in the birdhouse and we are sure Spotted Towhee is nesting on the ground under a sprawling shrub. Bittorfs contributed some sightings seen from their yard including House Wren, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Band-tailed Pigeon and Black-chinned Hummingbird. I saw Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbird and Osprey at Woodland Lake.

We have caregivers in our home to help with Bob's care and it has been fun introducing birdwatching to two young women. Every day Mary or Jessica either positioned Bob where he could see the birdbath, or they looked up birds in the *National Geographic Field Guide* with him. Coming to work early one morning, Mary saw a Roadrunner a few hundred yards from our house. It has been an enjoyable activity for all of us.

Total species we saw during May was 45.

Your donation to WMAS is deductible. Thank you for sponsoring our efforts to raise money for scholarships and Audubon Adventures, both wonderful endeavors of White Mountain Audubon Society. Thanks also to Bob, the Bittorfs, Mary and Jessica for their contributions to Birdathon 2017. Income from the Birdathon was \$920.

~Loretta Pena

CONSERVATION: Rolling Back Protections for Streams and Wetlands By Audubon Policy Office, July 13, 2017

On June 27, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a repeal of the 2015 Clean Water Rule (also known as Waters of the United States). This rule addressed longstanding confusion over which water bodies are protected under the Clean Water Act. The wetlands and streams at the center of the Clean Water Rule serve critical functions. Wetlands cover roughly 110 million acres in the continental U.S. and are indispensable habitat for hundreds of species of birds, including Northern Pintail, American Bittern, Semipalmated Plover, Prothonotary Warbler, and many more birds, fish, and wildlife. These waters also filter pollution and provide drinking water for more than 117 million Americans.

This proposal stems from a February executive order, which started a process to repeal the Clean Water Rule and replace it with a set of rules that would substantially weaken regulations adopted under the Reagan administration. Specifically, the order directed the agencies to “consider interpreting” the Clean Water Act as the late Justice Scalia did in a 2006 opinion: disabling federal pollution safeguards for streams unless they are “relatively permanent,” and excluding wetlands that do not have a “continuous surface connection” to other covered waters. The implications could mean the loss of pollution protections for the nearly 60 percent of streams in the lower 48 states that don’t flow year-round—almost 2 million miles of streams—and the end of Clean Water Act protection for countless wetlands because they do not have a surface connection to “relatively permanent” waters.

This is the first step in the EPA’s effort to roll back safeguards. The next step will be to replace the rule. We will keep you informed on how this process unfolds. Right now, you can **take action to protect these streams and wetlands by sending public comments to the EPA.**

“The beauty of the natural world lies in the details.”

~Natalie Angier

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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!!!

MEMBERSHIP _____ DONATION _____

Individual _____
 Family _____
 Name _____ Date _____
 Mailing Address _____ E-mail _____
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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

President Donald Trump
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Washington, DC 20206
 202-???????

U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake
 B85 Russell Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-4521

Gov. Fred Ducey
 Executive Tower
 1700 W. Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85007
 602-542-5219

Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai
 1700 W. Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85007
 602-926-5160

U.S. Cong. Tom O'Halleran
 126 Cannon House Bldg
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-3361

U.S. Sen. John McCain
 241 Russell Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-2235

Rep. Wenona Benally
 1700 W. Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85007
 602-926-5172

Rep. Eric Descheenie
 1700 W. Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85007
 602-926-4846

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
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