



CALENDAR

All monthly meetings begin at 6:30 pm. **PLEASE NOTE ALL UPCOMING MEETINGS ARE AT THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER, 425 S. WOODLAND RD. LAKESIDE UNTIL FUTURE NOTICE.**

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 7- Mary Ellen Bittorf, Feathers: Form and Function. and how birds engineer their nests

April 4- Larry & Gwen Ethelbah, Forest Fires and its effect on wildlife

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

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

MARCH-APRIL 2018

Out on a Limb with your President ~

Memories

It was early summer and I looked out my bedroom window and I saw a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks beginning to build a nest in the lilac bush at the corner of my house. For days I was privileged to watch this beautiful pair as they worked hard to build their nest with twigs, grass, some leaves and other material that they found and wanted to use. Over a period of about three weeks they sat in the nest, working as a pair and trading off responsibility as needed. I observed them as they incubated three eggs and then three little babies appeared, seemingly all mouths. These parents worked very hard to feed the babies, care for their needs, clean out the nest and I was able to see them grow and change into little tiny baby birds. I was very touched when I saw the behavior they displayed when they changed partners sitting on the nest. The male bird would fly in with something to eat for the female or the baby birds, then he would light a short distance from the nest. As he waited to change partners on the nest, he would sing a beautiful song, softly, sweetly, lovely. Then, he and the female would trade places and the female would fly away to look for food and to nourish herself. When it was time for them to change places again, the female would do the same thing. I was touched by the sweetness of these moments. I didn't actually get to see the babies fledge from the nest. One morning, they were just all gone, but I saw the parents often feeding the babies around in my yard.

I don't know if birds or other wildlife have love for each other as we have, but these birds exhibited tenderness, caring, nurturing parenthood. I feel very fortunate that I was able to experience this wonderful display between these two beautiful birds. One thing I have learned over my years of watching birds and other wildlife is that when you see something special, cherish it because you may never see it again, but you will always be so much richer for the experience. The natural world is beautiful. Enjoy it.

Mary Ellen

HELP AND DUES NEEDED

We will need volunteers to help sell tickets, provide homemade cookies and help with the Nature Film Festival at the White Mountain Nature Center on July 14th.

Remember 2018 dues are due, \$15 for individuals or \$25 for a family. You may mail them in or bring them to a meeting. Also, as a reminder, we will be meeting at the White Mountain Nature Center, 6:30pm, the first Wednesday of each month. I hope to see you all there. ~Mary Ellen

PROGRAMS FOR 2018

March 7- Mary Ellen Bittorf, WMAS President, will present "Feathers: Form and Function." She is certified to possess bird feathers and will talk about the design of various feathers and how it relates to various bird species activity. She will also talk about how birds engineer their nests.

April 4- Larry and Gwen Ethelbah will present a program entitled "Fire: It Changes Everything." Learn about and see photos of changes in flora and fauna after fire.

May 2- WMAS "Members Night." We would like our members to participate. Bring a photo, thumb drive, or picture of a bird (or other wildlife) and share with us at our meeting. Tell us something about your selection. The more variety, the better.

June 6- Mike Cross, AZ Game & Fish, will talk about his on-going Band-tailed pigeon study. The study area includes the White Mountains.

June 23- Mary Ellen Bittorf, WMAS President, will present "Feathers and Nests" at the Nature Center at 10 am. She will explain how birds fly and how birds engineer their nests. Then there will be an easy walk to check on the new Nest Box Trail.

July 11- Dr. Larisa Harding, AZ Game & Fish, says bird surveys in Arizona show a significant increase in the number of cormorants, but little is known about how they impact native and sport fish populations. To better manage the birds and aquatic resources, the AZ Game and Fish Department is researching cormorant distributions and numbers and collecting data on their feeding habits. Management strategies (e.g., stocking larger fish, or changes in time of stocking, etc.) can then be recommended. FYI, some WMAS members have been involved in the surveys.

July 14- WMAS and Nature Center Film Festival at White Mountain Nature Center, 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside. Film presentations TBA. Dinner & beverage, 4:30-9 pm. Tickets available at WM Nature Center and Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce or from WMAS Board member. (928) 367-2462.

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August 1- Jennifer Johnson, US Fish & Wildlife, and Tim Gatewood, Tribal Fisheries biologist, will address what's happening with indigenous Apache trout and efforts to save it and other species.

September 5- Nancy Brown, Recreation Technician at Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River area, will present a program on the history of this beautiful area and how it was brought back from destruction by a special permit policy. She will include the many birds and critters found at Fossil Creek. She has extensive experience with Rio Salado Audubon Center in Phoenix.

October 3- Nancy and Cary Meister from Yuma Audubon, will present "Birds of Yuma." They are long-time Yuma residents and lead birding field trips. October (TBA) - Special field trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

November 7- Donovan Hanridge and family will tell us about the nest box project they're doing and the species of birds here in the White Mountains that they've surveyed for 2018. Donovan will also tell about his birding camp in Mexico.

December 5 - Holiday Party & Pot Luck. Ron Miller, BIA Forester, retired, will talk about the Trees and the White Mountains. His photos will include Christmas trees that go to the White House and decorated holiday trees in the Caribbean.

2018 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Monthly Bird Walks - geared for bird lovers of all skill levels and all ages. Hiking conditions variable but suitable for participants in reasonably good health interested in walks ranging from 1-3 miles. All welcome; no pets please. Bring binoculars, field guide, and typical apparel, gear, snacks and water for outdoor walking in the White Mountains area during the April to September timeframe. For further information call Rob at (928) 368-8481.

April 14 - Old Hatchery Trail: participants will meet at 8am at the Arizona Game and Fish Department parking lot (2878 E. White Mountain Blvd; Pinetop). This mixed woodland, riparian trail is less than a 2 mile roundtrip stroll along Billy Ck. It is a natural terrain trail and is moderately hilly in certain places.

May 19 - Pintail Lake: participants will meet at 8am at the Pintail Lake parking area which is signed on Highway 77 a few miles North of Highway 60 (between Show Low and Taylor; east side of 77). Marsh birds and open water birds should be easily observed; especially for those with spotting scopes. Vantage points from boardwalk viewing areas.

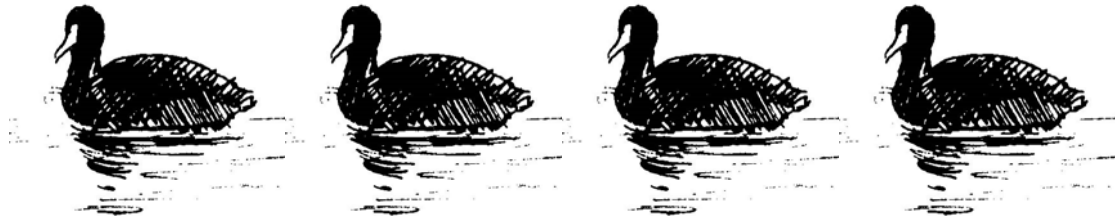
June 2 - White Mountain Nature Center: participants will meet at 8am at the White Mountain Nature Center (425 S. Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside). Bird varieties abound in the diverse habitats of the Nature Center and adjacent Woodland Lake Park grounds (natural terrain trails).

July 21 - Silver Creek State Fish Hatchery: participants will meet at 8am at the public parking area of Silver Creek Trout Hatchery located at the end of a short dirt road (Hatchery Way) east of Bourdon Ranch Road. Habitats include riparian, juniper-scrub, and open fields. No formal trails, a bit easy and open strolling.

August 18 - Blue Ridge Trail: participants will meet at 8am at the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest parking area for the Blue Ridge Trailhead #1 (near the Springer Mountain Fire Lookout off FR187). Mixed habitats as we amble along in the Billy Creek area along natural terrain trails.

September 15 - Sheep's Crossing Area: participants will meet at 8am near the bridge that crosses the West Fork of the Little Colorado River (WF-LCR) on the Apache Sitgreaves N.F. Take the turn off of Hwy 260 (heading South) that goes towards Sunrise (Highway 273) but stop at the LCR.

Oct (dates TBD) - Boyce Thompson Arboretum: This will be a special trip and our only excursion outside the White Mountains area for 2018. Details will be provided when dates are known.



Coots by Kirsten Munson (lots of coots were counted at the Christmas Bird Count)

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

~Aldo Leopold (A Sand County Almanac)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS, 1/5/2018

BIRD TALLY

Pie-billed Grebe	5	Say's Phoebe	3
Eared Grebe	9	Steller's Jay	2
Great Blue Heron	4	Western Scrub-jay	4
Canada Goose	170	American Crow	56
Wood Duck	1	Common Raven	81
Mallard	377	Juniper Titmouse	2
Gadwall	55	Mountain Chickadee	11
Green-winged Teal	42	Brown Creeper	1
American Wigeon	94	White-breasted Nuthatch	5
Norther Pintail	3	Pygmy Nuthatch	3
Northern Shoveler	65	Marsh Wren	4
Canvasback	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3
Ring-necked Duck	64	Western Bluebird	69
Greater Scaup	23	Townsend's Solitaire	1
Bufflehead	8	Hermit Thrush	1
Common Merganser	40	American Robin	36
Hooded Merganser	6	European Starling	20
Common Goldeneye	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Ruddy Duck	111	Canyon Towhee	1
Northern Harrier	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Bald Eagle	3	Song Sparrow	2
Red-tailed Hawk	4	White-crowned Sparrow	1
American Kestrel	2	Dark-eyed Junco, unspecified	184
Sora	1	Red-backed	5
American Coot	867	Gray-headed	5
Killdeer	2	Oregon	41
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	Pink-sided	2
Greater Roadrunner	1	Western Meadowlark	10
Belted Kingfisher	1	Red-winged Blackbird	57
Acorn Woodpecker	14	Great-tailed Grackle	13
Lewis's Woodpecker	1	Cassin's Finch	27
Northern Flicker, Red-shafted	16	House Finch	18
Williamson's Sapsucker	1	Pine Siskin	20
Hairy Woodpecker	4	House Sparrow	18
Downy Woodpecker	1	Chestnut-collared Longspurs	55
Black Phoebe	1		

CONDITION SUMMARY

Starting Time	8am	Ending Time	4:30pm
Weather	Calm		
	Sunny	Windy	
	starting temp29-34F		
Total Driving Time	5 hours	Total Miles Driven	82
Total Walking Time	7 hours	Total Walking Distance	11.75 m
Total Number of Species Counted	71		
Total Number of Birds Counted	2,582		

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

* Signifies Team Leader

Team 1

*Mary Ellen Bittorf - Chapter President
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Nancy Heaton
Kanab, Utah

Team 2

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Team 3

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Team 4

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Team 5

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Drhanridge@frontiernet.net

Team 6

*Loretta Pena
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Team 7

*David Cagle
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Participants: 13

Teams: 7

CONSERVATION

Stop Industries from Getting a Free Pass to Kill Birds



The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects America's native birds including Peregrine Falcons.

This year, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), our most important bird protection law is under attack. Legislation in Congress (HR 4239), and a new interpretation of the law by the administration, would end the ability to hold industries accountable for bird deaths.

These proposals would prevent enforcement of “incidental” bird deaths, removing incentives for companies to adopt practices that protect birds from threats such as oil waste pits, and eliminating penalties for companies that kill substantial numbers of birds, including from large oil spills.

Urge your members of Congress and the Department of the Interior to uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Photo: Cristy Carlson/Audubon Photography Awards

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If you find distressed songbirds, raptors including eagles, waterfowl and small animals, 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 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
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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
Pinetop, AZ 85935**