



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013

Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 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.

NOVEMBER

6th- The film "Wild Things" will be shown as the program. This is a 38 minute film produced by Natural Resources Defense Council that was shown at our 2013 Nature Film Festival about the efforts to change the way we treat our native carnivores.

9th- Field trip is scheduled to Williams Creek Fish Hatchery; reservation permit is required. You may see waterfowl, cormorant and raptors. Meet at McDonald's in Pinetop at 7:00 am and bring snacks, lunch and water.

DECEMBER

4th- Christmas Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm in Room 16 at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Center. Bring a dish to share.

14th- Christmas Bird Count attendees will meet at 7:00 am at Bobbi Jo's Restaurant in Pinetop.

Your 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	

Out on a Limb with Your President

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and this is one of the prettiest times in the White Mountains. There are still a few migrating birds to be seen, and the changing leaves are beautiful. I hope you are ready for the rush of the holidays. Speaking of which, our Christmas party/meeting will be December 4 in room 16, at the P-L town center, starting at 5:30 p.m. Persons with last names starting with A – L should bring a vegetable or salad, and names M – Z should bring a dessert or appetizer. Barb Davis has volunteered to show one of her famous films. We will also vote on next year's officers. (See the list elsewhere in the newsletter)

I want to thank all of this year's officers for their hard work and dedication to White Mountain Audubon. In addition to the Beginning Birder's Workshop, we had a successful Film Festival, we had Audubon Adventures, and we participated in Walk for the Woods, and the Wildlife Expo. Our programs were excellent, as always, and we had some good field trips. I would like to have someone volunteer to take over the field trips, as my vision loss is making it difficult for me to identify birds. Please let me know if you can help out with this activity.

The Christmas Bird Count will be Saturday, December 14. Meet at Bobbi Jo's Restaurant at 7:00 a.m. to choose teams and routes. Be sure to dress for the weather, because sometimes it is really cold. The Count will be held whether the weather is good or bad.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season...and enjoy the birds!

~Mary Ellen

FeederWatch Season Almost Here

Learn about the habits of backyard birds by participating in Project FeederWatch in the United States and Canada. The information you and others report online helps scientists track changes in the numbers and distribution of birds across the continent. The 27th season of Project FeederWatch begins November 9. Join today and receive your kit before the new season begins.

U.S.:

www.FeederWatch.org

Canada:

www.birdscanada.org/pfw.html



Visit Wild Birds Unlimited, a sponsor of the Great Backyard Bird Count!



Steven D'Amato

SOME CHANGES

Newsletter: Jody Inman has kindly agreed to take over being the editor of *The Osprey Overlook*, at least for a year. So if anyone else would like to eventually take this over from her, please let us know. She is learning the process now so please bear with us. If any of you have interesting birding reports, sightings or articles that you think would be good for the newsletter, please let Jody know. Her phone number appears on the first page of this issue. Thanks to Loretta Pena for her many years of service doing the newsletter. Great job, Loretta.

Meeting Time: Starting in March, 2014, our meeting time will change from 7 pm to 6:30 pm to better accommodate our early-to-bed members.

Field Trip Day: Also starting in March, 2014, our field trips will mostly be held on the 4th Saturday of the month to eliminate schedule conflicts with our many members who are also involved with TRACKS.

“When I rise up, let me rise up joyful like a bird.
When I fall, let me fall without regret like a leaf”.
Wendell Berry

SIGHTINGS

At our September 4 meeting, members reported some great birds in their sights. Kent Schipper had Black-Chinned Hummingbirds AND a White-Breasted Nuthatch visit his new open sugar water feeder. Dave Cagle was treated to a rare Sora sighting and a Peregrine Falcon at Jacques Marsh; at Wenima Wildlife Area, he viewed a Prairie Falcon. Liz Jernigan "spotted" a Spotted Towhee around their bird feeder. Tom and Liz also reported Evening Grosbeaks fattening up on sunflower seeds at their feeder. This is a Life Bird for them! And Loretta Pena spied a Dusky Flycatcher in Show Low.

The October 2 meeting had Kay Alderton visiting Washington state and reporting pelican and seagulls in her sightings. Liz Jernigan viewed Band-Tailed Pigeons, Pygmy Nuthatches, and Stellar Jays near her house in Show Low. Her husband, Tom, added Blue Grosbeak and Summer Tanager from the recent field trip, and Cooper's Hawk to their list. Pete and Mary Jane Milne's list for the month included Hepatic Tanagers, Stellar Jays, Cassin Finches, Juncos, Nuthatches, Chickadees, and Woodpeckers, Judy Underdown also "spotted" Spotted Towhees and Richard Anderson had Osprey, Cormorants, Stellar Jays, Towhees, and Chickadees on his list. Miles Gilbert, our guest speaker at the meeting, added Acorn Woodpeckers to the month's viewings. And Richard and Jody Inman, absent from the meeting, put in their two cents worth by reporting Brown Creeper on at least 3 occasions, one climbing the tree smack dab next to their back door. They were also surprised by a Common Snipe that flushed out from the grass on the side of the trail during a recent hike on the East Baldy Trail. On a trek clear over in Spain, Jan Newton reported, "On day 8, after walking 14 miles, Greta and I dangled our very sore feet into an icy mountain stream, looked up, and there was a dipper!" And to finish the month's sightings, Terry and Robert Thomas sent a photo of an albino hummingbird at their feeder in Concho!

Thanks to every one for sharing these great bird sightings with our members.

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!

Fieldtrip to Fort Apache, September 14, 2013

Eleven of us made the trip to Fort Apache on a perfectly beautiful, almost fall day. Those on the trip were Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf, Mary Jane & Pete Milne, Sheryl Eaton, Barb Davis, Tom & Liz Jernigan, Sandy Hornbaker, Pat Calkins and Loretta Pena. Upon arriving at the fort, we noticed a big dark cloud to the west of us that was a ways away. We began our walk along the rim of the canyon behind the buildings and were able to see some interesting species, including Summer Tanager, Greater Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Lazuli Bunting, Cooper's Hawk, Western Scrub Jay, Western Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. Having Barb and Sandy along on the trip was very helpful in identifying some of the species that were not usual birds for most of us. Thanks very much for your help!! As we continued on walking back from the east end of the fort to the museum, we saw the usual Turkey Vulture, Raven and House Finch.

At the museum, we started by viewing a very interesting video of the creation story of the White Mountain Apache people. Touring the museum was interesting and enjoyable. We had planned to tour the fort buildings with a guide, but when we finished our museum visit it was pouring down rain and we decided to return to Pinetop. Tom & Liz showed some of us where there was an apple tree near Woodland Park and we made a quick, picking stop before meeting the others to enjoy our picnic lunch at Woodland Lake Park. Everyone enjoyed the outing, the wonderful sightings, the good company and beautiful day.

~ Loretta Pena



Photo by Judi Bassett

WE HAVE A WINNER!

White Mountain Audubon had a booth at the Wildlife Fair on Oct. 5th. Children were invited to guess the number of "bird eggs" (jelly beans) in the jar. Noah, the young man taking the jar from Liz Jernigan, made a very close guess. He won the bird poster that Tom Jernigan and the other kids are holding. WMAS hopes to bring awareness and appreciation of birds, birding events and our club's mission by our presence there.

CONSERVATION

American Bird Conservancy

Never had a bird hit your window? Perhaps you have been lucky—so far. More likely, you haven't been around to see or hear it when it happened, and the bird has either flown off to die elsewhere or been scavenged by a neighborhood cat, raccoon, or crow. But the odds are that sooner or later, your windows will kill a bird.

Not all windows are equally hazardous. Check to see which of your windows are most reflective, and closest to areas where you see birds when they are active. **Collisions happen more frequently during spring and fall migration periods or when resident birds fledge young or leave territories to seek food in winter. Even small windows can be dangerous**, as many Birds fly into small spaces such as tree cavities or between branches.

Research has identified solutions to alert birds to windows. The easiest of these involve applying visible markings to the outside of windows in patterns that the birds can see while requiring minimal glass coverage to keep your view unobscured. Although we don't yet have all the answers, we know that most birds will avoid windows with vertical stripes spaced four inches apart or less, or horizontal stripes spaced two inches or less apart. Stripes should be at least ¼" wide and light colors are generally more visible. More complicated or irregular patterns will also work as long as they follow the general spacing guidelines specified above.

Here are some quick and affordable ways to protect birds from your windows. These should be applied to the outside of the glass to break up reflection:

1. Apply Tempera paint (available at most art supply and craft stores) freehand with brush or sponge, or use a stencil. Tempera is long-lasting, even in rain, and non-toxic, but comes right off with a damp rag or sponge. Find stencils at www.michaels.com, www.amazon.com, or download stencils for free at www.spraypaintstencils.com.
2. Use tape to create patterns. Any opaque tape can work, but translucent ABC BirdTape transmits light and is made to last outdoors (www.abcbirdtape.org).
3. Most window films designed for external use are not patterned and will not deter birds. However, interior window films come in many colors and styles, and can be applied on the outside of windows to prevent collisions (see www.thesunshieldpros.us/WindowFilm/decorative_film.html). CollidEscape, designed for external use, is see-through from the inside, opaque from the outside (www.collidescape.org).
4. If you don't want to alter the glass itself, you can stretch lightweight netting, screen, or other material over the window. The netting must be several inches in front of the window, so birds don't hit the glass after hitting the net. Several companies, (www.birdscreen.com, www.birdsavers.com) sell screens or other barriers that can be attached with suction cups or eye hooks (also see www.birdbgone.com, www.nixalite.com, or www.birdmaster.com).
5. What about prefabricated decals? Birds see decals shaped like raptors as obstacles but not as predators. To be effective, any type of decal must be spaced as described above, more closely than recommended by most manufacturers (www.windowdressingetc.com, www.windowalert.com, www.duncraft.com). Or make your own! Arti Stick Window Color paints come in 18 colors and are marketed for children. Drawings on sheets of plastic become translucent as they dry, and can be peeled off and applied to windows (visit www.dickblick.com).

For more information, contact:

American Bird Conservancy
P.O. Box 249, 4249 Loudoun Avenue
The Plains, VA 20198
www.abcbirds.org • info@abcbirds.org

DONATION

White Mountain Audubon Board Members have agreed to send a \$100 donation in response to American Bird Conservancy's recent alert to save Paton's Birder Haven, in Patagonia, AZ. If you'd like to donate personally, go to: www.abcbirds.org/paton

Smelly Birds?

For years, scientists thought birds had a poor sense of smell. But a new study found that birds use odors to find the most suitable mate. In other words, the best-smelling birds attract the most mates.

(information from BackyardChirper.com)

BIRD NOTES

Many of our members were lucky recently to see flocks of Red Crossbills in our forest. These birds have unique crossed bill tips that help them pry out seed from the cones of pines, spruces, and firs. Their song is a series of short, hard or clicking phrases, some buzzy, with many call notes interspersed; *tikuti ti chupity chupity chupity tokit kyip kyip kyip jree-jree-jree...* Flight calls are fundamentally similar in all types; very hard, sharp *gyp* or *kip* notes usually repeated in short series *gyp-gyp-gyp*. "Sibley's Guide to Birds" tells us there are several types of Red Crossbills with varying flight calls:

"Recent Research shows that there are at least nine discrete populations, or types, of Red Crossbill, possibly representing nine separate species. Each type wanders erratically in search of its preferred food, often co-occurring with other types. Most are not reliably distinguished in the field and should be identified only by careful analysis of tape-recorded flight calls. Note that intermediate calls do occur and rare individuals give calls of two different types; some are simply unidentifiable. Average differences in size, range, and food preferences also provide clues that may be useful for identification."

So now when we see Red Crossbills in our forest, we'll be even more confounded!

(from "Sibley Guide to Birds" by David Allen Sibley)

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.senate.gov/contact

Gov. Jan Brewer
Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-5219

Rep. Albert Hale
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ahale@azleg.gov

U.S. Cong. Ann Kirkpatrick
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U.S. Sen. John McCain
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Rep. Peshlakai
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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.

The end of 2013 is fast approaching and I hope everyone got their White Mountain Audubon membership dues paid--a mere \$15.00 for individuals and \$25.00 per family. A membership form is in this newsletter that you receive online, or you can include your mailing and emailing address in a note along with a check. Donations are gladly accepted as well. The mailing address is:

**White Mountain Audubon Society
P. O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935**