



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER EDITION 2018

Out on a Limb with your President:

Early in October we had our first snow. At that time, all the leaves were on the Oak Trees. Everything was green but there was a change in the air. It was cooler, and then one morning, I woke up and the leaves had changed. The Oak leaves are various colors of orange to yellow, and as you drive down Highway 260 there are trees that are vivid red, bright gold, crispy brown...it's Fall in the White Mountains! There are still migrating birds in our yard, including a Red-naped Sapsucker, Audubon Yellow-rumped Warblers, Hepatic Tanager and a surprise visit from a Plain Titmouse. I love this beautiful time of year in the White Mountains!

Speaking of Fall – this year the White Mountains were absolutely loaded with apples! We also had a fantastic crop of apples from our three trees. I decided to try my hand at making apple butter. I peeled and chopped apples and put them in my crock pot as recommended, cooked them over night, and a little bit the next day. Then I put them in a blender and poured them into three different containers. In the refrigerator they went. The next day, when we were going to enjoy apple butter for breakfast, the apple butter was about the consistency of a block of granite. Oh, my! What shall we do? I took one container, set it in a pan of hot water. The apple butter softened somewhat. Added some water to it, and wa-lah! We enjoyed apple butter for breakfast. Maybe sometime in the future I will try making apple butter again, but not in the foreseeable future.

We have two more meetings in 2018. Plan to attend. The November speaker will be Donovan Hanridge talking about the experiences he had at a kids birding camp this summer. Don't forget that the December meeting is our annual meeting when we elect officers for next year. It will also be our annual Christmas party. Perry Ray will be furnishing a ham. People with last names beginning with A-M should bring a salad or a dessert, and those with last names beginning with N-Z should bring a vegetable dish, main dish or an appetizer. Both meetings with start at 6:30pm.

Looking back on 2018, we had a good year with the May Birdathon (many thanks to Loretta Pena for bringing in the most money ever), the Nature Film Festival, which brought in about \$1600.00, scholarships to three deserving Seniors and as always, excellent programs and outings. I want to thank all of the Audubon Board members who have worked very hard to make this a successful year.

I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season with friends and family and a happy 2019...

Enjoy birding!

Mary Ellen

CALENDAR

All monthly meetings begin at 6:30 pm. Please note that all upcoming meetings are at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Lake Rd. (Lakeside) until future notice.

You may call Mary Ellen Bittorf (928-367-2462) for more information on monthly meetings and special events. For information on field trips please direct your calls to Rob Bettaso (928-368-8481).

Upcoming Monthly Meetings and Field Trips:

November 7th – Donovan Hanridge will tell about the birding camp he attended in Mexico. We'll be seeing photos of many kinds of birds. The Hanridge family is very involved with the Nest Box Project at the Nature Center and will give us an update of what kinds of birds have visited since early last spring.

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

January 5th – Annual "Christmas Bird Count" (CBC). Join Mary Ellen Bittorf and the White Mountain Audubon for the 119th CBC on Saturday, January 5, 2019. (National Audubon has been doing the CBC for that long!) We will meet at Darby's restaurant at 7am in time for breakfast or a hot cup of joe. We will divide into teams, be assigned an area and car pool if desired. You do not have to be an expert birder to participate since there is a task for everyone. Some people observe, some tally, some write notes. This event takes place in the morning so bring binoculars and wear warm clothing. First timers welcomed.

What is the Christmas Bird Count? The CBC is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of community science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada, and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

Can I just do my own CBC and send you my data? No. Since each CBC is a real census, and since count areas are assigned, single-observer counts cannot be allowed. To participate in the CBC, you will need to join an existing CBC circle like White Mountain Audubon. Just show up at Darby's restaurant on Saturday, Jan. 5 at 7 am. Feel free to call Mary Ellen if you have any questions about the CBC.

Other Field Trips - Rob is currently preparing a list of birding outings for 2019, so, stay tuned as there will be a whole line-up of birding adventures starting in Spring of the New Year. Get ready to spit-shine those binoculars.

Low Cost Tips for Beginning Birders (Part 1, The Feeder). By Rob Bettaso

Buy a seed feeder and a bag of bird seed (this will be your only expense at this stage). Hang the filled feeder in a quiet place, at a height of 5 or more feet, and where you will easily be able to watch it on a regular basis without disturbing the birds. Keep your feeder clean and re-fill it as needed.

Monitor your feeder. Many birds feed most actively during the 1st two hours of light and last two hours of light on most days.

Note the 3 basic overall visual traits of any given bird: size, shape, and color (S-S-C).

Note other visual traits: Beak S-S-C, Head S-S-C, Wings S-S-C, Tail S-S-C, Legs S-S-C.

Note color patterns: stripes, spots, barring, mottling, patch marks, eye-rings, wing bars, etc. Note color patterns when perched and when flying.

Note behaviors: head bobbing, tail cocking, tail flicking, hammering/chiseling tree bark, boldness, shyness, etc.

Note where/how the birds feed: seed on the ground, perched on the feeder tray, hanging from the feeder, dominating the feeder, quick snatches from the feeder, etc.

These are a few first steps for observing birds at the feeder (though many of these tips will apply beyond the feeder). If you have enjoyed attracting and observing birds at your feeder, you are ready to take the next step: buying binoculars and a bird guide. Details in the next issue of the WMAS Newsletter.

A Birder's Riddle by Rob Bettaso

(Note: the answer to the riddle in our last issue was the House Wren)

Like a Storm Trooper Leader
I will raid your seed feeder.
With my dashing blue crest
I will drive off the rest.

Seeds and nuts I will eat
But I'll also take meat.
Peanuts in the shell
Will make my crop swell.

When I've eaten my fill
Then the ground I will till.
Caching food here and there
In winter, my cupboard's never bare.

T'was a German who gave me his name
But I am just one, for which he is famed.
It's also official and legal
That he dubbed a sea lion and a sea eagle.

I'm a well-known mimic
My hawk call's a gimmick.
From the feeder others flee
Leaving me in my glee.

With my powerful beak
And my feathers so sleek.
Your final clue,
Is my plumage: so indigo blue.

September/October 2018 Bird Sightings

Name	Birds Observed	Location
Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf	Band-tailed Pigeon, Black-chinned Hummer, Robin W. Bluebird, Pygmy Nuthatch, MacGilliveray's Warbler	Yard, Pinetop
Liz & Tom Jernigan	American Dipper (Lifer), Juniper Titmouse	Sheep's Crossing, LCR

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Photo of a Pygmy Nuthatch taken in the White Mountains by Jack Rasmussen



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