



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER EDITION 2018

Out on a Limb with your President:

MEMORIES

The Sights and Sounds of Summer

I love the sights and sounds of summer. I hear him calling. His call is loud and demanding. Stellar's Jay appears and he wants a peanut, cute little Pygmy Nuthatches chatter away and feed at the suet. I hear the throaty call of the White-breasted Nuthatch and watch him as he goes up and down, sometimes on the underside of the tree branches, and I hear the "chickadee-dee-dee" of the Chickadee. The cute little House-wren announces his arrival with his happy song as he diligently gathers small twigs and builds numerous nests for the female to choose from. Squirrels are busy at the feeders and they love the peanuts! This summer there have been a whole convention of squirrels of all ages and kinds in the yard. They love the peanuts and are not inclined to share their space with each other. The little ones are so cute, and one or two are so friendly that they want me to feed them peanuts from my hand, though I resist the temptation to do so. There has been an occasional baby rabbit happily munching on grass and seeking shelter in the blackberry bushes. I thrill to the symphony of song provided by Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Robins and House-Finches. The kaleidoscope of color provided by the birds of summer is striking. This summer's special guests have been the Western Tanager, Hepatic Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Spotted Towhee, Painted Red-start, Red-Faced Warbler and the Plumbeous Vireo. Bird watchers must ever be vigilant lest they miss the fleeting sight of an unusual species. There is the constant aerial display provided by the resident hummingbirds, all of whom think each feeder only belongs to him or her. The chaos increases upon the arrival of Rufous Hummingbird. The thistle feeders are busy with visits of striking yellow and black Lesser Goldfinches and Pine Siskins. The colorful antics of Acorn, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Flickers constantly entertain me. When I step outside, I hear the wonderful chorus of crickets and frogs; the night-sounds of summer. I can't forget the bear who visited and helped itself to my hummingbird feeders. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the family of skunks that visit almost every night. With their own unique "bouquet," they are really strikingly beautiful and I have loved watching the darling little babies in the evenings foraging with Mom and playing with each other. I am thankful for the monsoon rains, complete with thunder, lightning and rain that brings much needed moisture to our land. These rains also bring breath-taking flowers, wild fruits, butterflies and green grasslands. These are some of the sights and sounds of summer that I love and they will stay with me all year long.

About the time I became President of the White Mountain Audubon Society, a young lady joined Audubon. Her new job was with Arizona Game and Fish. We learned about birds, nature and the environment together. Then she met a guy that also worked for Arizona Game and Fish, and Sue and Bruce were married. Sue then went to

work for the Nature Conservancy and Bruce took her job at Arizona Game and Fish. Sue Sitko is retiring and I wish her a wonderful life in her retirement. Sue has been a valuable member of the White Mountain Audubon Society, the White Mountain Nature Center, the Community, and the Nature Conservancy. I love you, Sue! You are a cherished friend.

Enjoy birding...

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:

September 15th – Field trip to the Sheep’s Crossing Area. Meet at 8am at 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 (Hwy 273) but stop at the LCR.

October 3rd – Nancy and Cary Meister from Yuma Audubon will present “Birds of Yuma.” They are long-time Yuma residents and lead birding field trips.

October Field Trip (date to be determined) – Boyce Thompson Arboretum. This will be a special trip and our only excursion outside the White Mountains in 2018.

2018 BIRDATHON RESULTS

Bob and I did the Birdathon again this year. We started out the month of May watching birds in our yard as we do each day. Bob enjoys sitting at the kitchen table positioned where he can see the birdbath and see the activity there during meals. Some of the birds we saw in the yard and drinking water or bathing were: White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, Robin, Mountain Chickadee, and Juniper Titmouse. Western Bluebirds nested in our nest box.

With Jan Newton’s help we were able to visit Pintail Lake and added more birds to the list. There we saw Hammond’s Flycatcher, Mockingbird, Redhead, Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbird, and Ruddy Duck. The path there has been redone and it was smooth and easy for the wheelchair. It was a wonderful outing and we thank Jan very much!!

We saw 52 species of birds during the month of May and raised \$1,170. With the money raised from this effort, White Mountain Audubon is able to give scholarships to seniors graduating high school at this time of year. WMAS also funds the Audubon Adventures for schools and libraries.

We are grateful for your support of the Birdathon.

--Loretta Pena

MYSTERY BIRD - A RIDDLE (answer will appear in the next issue)

The Latin's dubbed me the "cave dweller."
But throughout the Americas,
You will build me a house
Minus a cellar.

Lazy birders call me a LBJ.
True, I'm brown,
But don't forget,
I'm also gray.

My voice is effervescent,
A rush-and-jumble summer song.
But don't be fooled as I have a fiercesome bent,
And will drive off others birds you consider strong.

A diet of bugs and spiders seems paltry,
For a five-inch dynamo like me.
But I'm a tail-cocking, feisty, scrapper.
So just try and make me flee.

My family's large; 67 species overall.
There are nine in the U.S., just in the West.
And six in the forests
Of your very own A-S.

For nine years at least, I can live,
Five to eight spotted eggs every year.
That my young are my future,
Should certainly be clear.

Spider egg sacs to my home
I will bring.
The tiny parasites in my nest,
Will feed the newly hatched spiderlings.

By now you should know me,
Both by sight and by song.
My long bill's a final clue,
You shouldn't need to ponder for long.....

--Rob Bettaso

August 2018 Bird Sightings

Name	Birds Observed	Location
Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf	Downy Woodpecker, Magnificent Hummer, Western & Hepatic Tanagers	Yard
Liz & Tom Jernigan	Western Bluebird, American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Juniper Titmouse, Mountain Chickadee, Band-tailed Pigeon	Pinetop Area
Jody & Richard Inman	Goshawk & Northern Harrier	Apache-Sitgreaves N.F.
Mary Freeman	Winter Wren, Spotted Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Hummers	Pinetop Area
Barb Davis	Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk, Red-faced Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Nelson Reservoir
Joan Patrick	Caspian Tern, European Crow	Travels in Russia
Perry Wray	LBJ	Pinetop
Kay Alderton	Jays, Hummers, Juncos, Raven, Acorn Woodpecker	Yard
Myrna & Skip Eshelman	Spotted Towhee, Bewick's Wren, Black-headed Grosbeak, Acorn & Hairy Woodpeckers, Hummers	Pinetop
Ginny Dotson	Hepatic Tanagers, N. Harrier, Prairie Falcon (?), Lesser Goldfinches	Vernon
Irene Khim	4 Osprey Nests & Ospreys, Turkey Vultures	Scott's Reservoir and Route Into Scott's
Rob Bettaso	Warbler Species including Townsend's, Virginia, Black-throated Gray, Red-faced, Painted Redstart, Audubon's	Pinetop Area

Injured Wildlife:

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.

Officers:

President: Mary Ellen Bittorf 367-2462
 Vice-President: Tom Jernigan 532-1510
 Secretary: Liz Jernigan 532-1511
 Treasurer: Chuck Bittorf 367-2462

Field Trips: Rob Bettaso 368-8481

Newsletter: Rob Bettaso 368-8481

Webmaster: Allen Vicker

Membership: Position Open

Board Members:

Mary Ellen Bittorf, Chuck Bittorf, Tom Jernigan, Liz Jernigan, Joan Patrick, Jody Inman, Mary Freemon, Kathy Dahnk, Rob Bettaso.

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.

Photograph of a Red-faced Warbler in the White Mountains, Arizona by Jack Rasmussen

