



MAY – JUNE 2014

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:

May 7: Lloyd Pentecost – how to photograph nature and just about everything else with a point and shoot hybrid camera

June 4: Sharon Lowery (AZGF) – habitat restoration of wildlife areas

July 9: Sarah Porter (Audubon Arizona) – Audubon Western Rivers Action Network Bird Friendly Communities Initiative

Aug. 2: Gabrielle Zornes (Show Low Public Library Children's Librarian) – birds and wildlife on the Big Island of Hawaii

Sept. 3: Paul Green (Tucson Audubon President) – topic to be announced

Oct. 1: Speaker and topic to be announced

Nov. 5: Dr. Ole Alcumbrac (White Mtn. Animal Hospital) – topic to be announced

Dec. 3: Christmas Party Potluck

Field Trips for May and June are pending. Look for an eblast announcement.

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

Website Manager: Richard Inman 369-3240

Board Members: Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

Out on a Limb With your President

We hope you can participate in any of the fun and exciting activities planned for this spring. More information is given in this newsletter on the Birdathon, North American Migration Count (NAMC), the Beginner's Birder's Workshop on May 24, and our 3rd annual White Mountain Nature Film Festival on June 13, 14, and 15.

We will start off the Film Festival with a reception at El Rancho Restaurant, beginning at 5:00 P.M. The price will be \$25.00 per person. We will show several short films. Two of the films will be from local artists, Judi Basset and Dr. Fred Peters. Judi's film will show events at the Nature Center last year. Dr. Peters will show you bears like you have never seen them before – up close and personal. Food will be catered by MY SISTER CAN'T COOK.

We have quite a variety of good films to show on Saturday and Sunday. You will see awesome sights of the Condor in CONDOR SHADOW and mighty Harpy Eagle in JUNGLE EAGLE. You will see the grace and beauty of these beautiful birds, the gentle care exhibited for their young, the fierce protective nature of the Harpy Eagle. You will acquire a renewed respect for the brave humans who seek to protect and study them. In WINGS OF LIFE you will see the beauty and importance of pollinators, and you will admire the awesome agility and beauty of HUMMINGBIRDS, MAGIC IN THE AIR. I am very pleased to say that we will have films by popular local photographer, Barbara Davis, showing the beautiful White Mountains, and a film by Dr. Fred Peters about his trip to Africa. Have you ever had a lion tell you to "go fly a kite!!"? You will see how that worked out.

We may have more films, but this is what we have right now. I hope all of you will support the film festival. We really need your support. Come and bring a friend!!

Just a gentle reminder – dues for 2014 are due. See the membership form in the newsletter.

Enjoy summer and....enjoy birding.

Mary Ellen

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 13-15, 2014 LAKESIDE, AZ

Celebrate Nature with us! White Mountain Audubon presents the 3rd Annual Nature Film Festival, June 13-15, 2014. Award winning films such as "Wings of Life" and the work of local talent such as Barbara Davis will be presented. There will be films with deep science and others with light-hearted humor.

The Festival kicks off with a Dinner/Reception at El Rancho Restaurant on Friday, June 13th @ 5:30 – where film producers will mingle with the crowd. Tickets are \$25. Films will be shown at Unity of the White Mountains on June 14-15 at 257 Woodland Rd. Schedule is pending ...look for an e-blast announcement from Liz Jernigan after April 30 film submissions. Admission to films is by donation. Proceeds will fund our local high school scholarships and education programs. For information contact Mary Ellen Bittorf, (928) 367-2462 or Liz Jernigan, (928) 532-1510.



BIRDATHON 2014

Again in 2014, the **Birdathon** will be held for the entire month of May. This will allow everyone who wants to participate time to obtain pledges and then go out birding. **Birdathon** has been our primary fundraiser since White Mountain Audubon Society began in 1987. Every year since, people have gotten pledges from their families and friends and then tried to see as many different species as possible in the **Birdathon** time frame of usually 2-4 days. People can pledge a certain amount for each species or donate a flat amount to the effort and then participants turned in their donations to the treasurer of WMAS. These funds have been used for educational programs including scholarships, Audubon Adventures to schools and libraries and the Beginning Birder's Workshop. Contact Mary Ellen Bittorf at 367-2462 for more information.

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NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT (NAMC) 2014

Apache & Navajo Counties

May 10, 2014

The 2014 (NAMC) will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014. The coordinator for **Navajo County** is Eric Hough. He states, "The goal of this effort is to count all individuals of all species across the various habitat types that occur within the county. From the Utah border to the Black River, Navajo County spans Great Basin desert-scrub, chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodlands, pine-oak forest, mixed-conifer forests, and varied riparian and wetland areas. Areas in Navajo County that can be covered include (but are not limited to) Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Whiteriver, Fort Apache, Corduroy Canyon just north of Carrizo, Cibecue, Pinedale, Linden, Aripine, Heber-Overgaard, a large portion of the Sitgreaves National Forest along the Mogollon Rim, Zeniff, Snowflake-Taylor, Woodruff, Holbrook, Joseph City, Winslow, Keams Canyon, Navajo National Monument, Kayenta, and Monument Valley. Participation for the full day is encouraged, but I will appreciate efforts of even 15 minutes watching yard feeders at some point during the day or incidental sightings while you're enroute to elsewhere. Nocturnal birding before dawn and/or after dusk is also encouraged if you have the time and willingness for some owling! You can go solo on count day or join small teams to cover particular areas if you prefer (less experienced birders can be placed with the more experienced). If you are interested in participating, please contact me before May 10th so I can coordinate area coverage among participants (to avoid duplication of efforts/counting the same birds twice). As usual, I will probably be traveling across the county covering whichever areas need coverage.

Last year we broke the previous years' records for number of participants (20), number of individual birds (4,686), and number of species (155). Let's see if we can top that this year!

I hope you can all join us for this year's count!"

Eric Hough can be reached at thebirdwhisperer@yahoo.com

Sue Sitko, who has been the **Apache County** NAMC coordinator for the past several years, cannot coordinate the count this year. We are looking for volunteers who could lead, or participate in, this survey. The survey involves forming as many teams as possible to bird various sites in Apache County, ranging from the Little Colorado River, Greer, and the high elevation lakes and forests, to the grasslands, woodlands, and Petrified Forest area if possible! Survey forms to tally all the day's observations will be provided to you. If you have an interest in leading this count, OR if you have an interest in participating in it, please contact Doug Jenness at d_jenness@hotmail.com. Note that it's "d_jenness" (underscore between "d" and "jenness"). The survey will be held on the same date as the rest of the NAMC's. Please consider helping out with this survey!

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." ~William Shakespeare

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BEGINNERS BIRDER'S WORKSHOP
Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers
Saturday, May 24

White Mountain Audubon Society offers the Beginning Birder's Workshop each year to the public to help people learn the basics of bird identification. The workshop begins at 9 am and will end around 11:00am. A small handout will be available; the fee is \$10 per person and \$15 for a couple.

Other topics that will be covered in the workshop are:

- How to attract birds to your yard
- How to select and use binoculars
- Introduction into how to use a field guide for bird identification and an opportunity to look at various bird guides
- How to care for bird feeders in your yard
- Great local spots for watching birds
- Plantings for your yard that birds would enjoy

We have planned a short walk to Rainbow Lake to look for birds and use your new skills. This is a wonderful, once a year opportunity to learn more about bird-watching and improve your ability to learn the birds you see in your yard, on your walks or while you are looking out your kitchen window.

Please RSVP to Mary Ellen Bittorf at 367-2462 by May 16th if you plan on attending the BBW.



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SIGHTINGS

Bird sightings from members in March and April are: The Bittorfs saw American Robins, Evening Grosbeaks (4), a Broad-Tailed Hummingbird, and lots of Cassin's Finches in their yard. The Pena's reported Robins also, as well as Acorn Woodpeckers and Lewis' Woodpeckers. Kay Alderton had Robins, Doves, and Juncos visiting her yard. John Davis and Ginger Donahue saw American Widgeons, Double-Crested Cormorants, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Seagulls, and Canada Geese. In Alaska, Keith Davis reported Auklets, Northern Fulmar, Glaucous Gulls, Black-Legged Kittiwakes, Pelagic Cormorants, Harlequin Ducks, and Emperor Geese. The Jernigans reported Band-Tailed Pigeons, Bald Eagles at Rainbow Lake, and White-Crowned Sparrows. Barb Davis also saw Bald Eagles at Rainbow Lake and Townsend's Solitaire. Jan Newton saw Northern Osprey and Anna's Hummingbirds. Mary Freemon reported Western Bluebirds, Spotted Towhee, Evening Grosbeaks, Mountain Chickadees, Juncos, and Nuthatches at home and a Bald Eagle at Salt River Canyon, On a recent trip to Tucson, the Inmans saw a Red-Tailed Hawk, Turkey Vultures, a Mockingbird, Verdin, Gambel's Quail, Gila Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Pyrruloxia, Curved-Bill Thrasher, Cactus Wren, House Finches, and, near the Biosphere turnoff, a Great Horned Owl nest with chicks in a saguaro.

On the March 25th field trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum, participants were able to see Northern Cardinals, Phainopepla, Pyrruloxia, American Goldfinches, Verdins, a Cactus Wren feeding young in a nest on a cholla, Costa's Hummingbird, Broad-Billed Hummingbird, two hummingbird nests, Turkey Vultures, and a Red-Tailed Hawk. We had 8 people on this trip; Richard and Jody Inman, Jan Newton, Lori Phillips, Barbara Teague, Mary Freemon, and Liz and Tom Jernigan. We all enjoyed the regular 11 AM tour where we learned fascinating information on the history and flora and fauna of the Arboretum as shared by a naturalist volunteer guide.



Kirsten Munson

Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival

August 13-17, 2014

[Registration now open](#)

EXPERIENCE SOUTHEAST ARIZONA BIRDING AT ITS BEST

We invite you to explore and enjoy the beautiful and fascinating Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands. We hope you will join the fun at the third annual Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival and get to know our friendly local birding and conservation community and the dazzling array of watchable wildlife experiences accessible from Tucson!

Proceeds from this event support Tucson Audubon's work to protect birds and the places they live and your participation illustrates value of our region's spectacular biodiversity. Together we can send an important message that ***Birders Mean Business*** – THANK YOU!

For festival questions, please email festival@tucsonaudubon.org.



August 13–17, 2014

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CONSERVATION

Pesticides and Birds

THE CHALLENGE

The United States uses one-fifth of the five billion pounds of pesticides used each year. These chemicals are applied on agricultural lands and in homes, backyards, schools, and businesses. In addition to targeting insects, many of these toxic chemicals also pose severe risk to birds, killing them outright or causing decreased breeding success, physical malformations, or impaired ability to migrate or to avoid predators. It is now almost impossible to find any place on the planet where pesticide residues are not detectable.

PRIMARY BIRDS IMPACTED

Birds that breed, winter in or migrate through agricultural areas such as American Crows, Dickcissels, and Bobolinks are at significant risk from direct contact with pesticides. A 2013 study led by a preeminent Canadian toxicologist identifies acutely toxic pesticides as the most likely leading cause of the widespread decline in grassland bird numbers in the United States. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcons, eagles, owls, and hawks are at risk of accumulating high chemical concentrations in their bodies when they feed on poisoned prey. Ultimately, all birds in the United States are at risk from pesticide poisoning.

SOLUTIONS

ABC's Pesticides Program aims to protect wild birds and other wildlife from hazardous pesticides.

Strategies include:

- Work to cancel or restrict registrations of the most dangerous pesticides.
- Improve evaluation and monitoring of pesticides and their effects on birds, and ensure that the knowledge gained is used to improve the regulatory process.
- Develop and support cutting-edge science.
- Engage the public and other non-profit organizations, and serve as an information and advocacy hub.

TAKE ACTION

Buy organic food and shade-grown, bird-friendly coffee.

Avoid using d-CON rat poisons, lawn chemicals, and other pesticide products, such as those containing the neonicotinoid insecticides imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam.

Remove containers of stagnant water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your backyard.

Shift away from buying brands sold by Reckitt Benckiser (manufacturer of d-CON), a multinational conglomerate that is fighting the EPA to keep its super-toxic rat poisons on the consumer market.

Notify local authorities when you find dead or dying birds.

Make your voice heard. Go to [ABC's action site](#).

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.

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!

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
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
ahale@azleg.gov

U.S. Cong. Ann Kirkpatrick
1123 Longworth House Bldg
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2315

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

Sen. Jack Jackson, Jr
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
jjackson@azleg.gov

Rep. Peshlakai
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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**