



## 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 3** – Birders' Workshop Presenters will review bird identification, noting size, shape coloration, markings, songs, habitat, range and mating season. There will be information on types of binoculars and their care. Back yard birding with suggestions about bird feeders, plants and other bird-friendly practices also will be discussed. All levels welcome. Bring field guides and binoculars.

**June 7** – Cathy Wise, Education Director for Audubon Arizona, has been involved with teaching conservation values and a nature "ethic". She has developed unique programs to connect people with nature. She will enlighten us on the direction Audubon Arizona is taking, including "Plants for Birds."

### Special Events:

**June 3-** Save our Park Walk (meet at 7:30 am at the White Mountain Nature Center). Contact Lynn Krigbaum at [gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com) for more info.

**June 24-** Benefit for Meals on Wheels and Love Kitchen. 2:30-5:00, Town Hall. Donate items or bid, bring canned food donation. Contact Sheryl Eaton [sheryleaton22@gmail.com](mailto:sheryleaton22@gmail.com) for details.

### 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](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

## May-June, 2017

### OUT ON A LIMB WITH YOUR PRESIDENT~

For the past ten years Walk for the Woods has been held on the first Saturday in June to raise money to help the town of Pinetop-Lakeside purchase Woodland Lake Park. This year's event will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Road. The driving force for this event has been Lynn Krigbaum. White Mountain Audubon has always been a sponsor. We will have a table there to give out information. The purchase of Woodland Lake Park from the U.S. Forest Service is important because the present agreement between the town and the forest service may end in 2018. This could drastically change the 580 acres that is Woodland Lake Park. When Pinetop-Lakeside became incorporated, it inherited 580 acres of forest service land. The forest service prefers to sell or exchange lands such as this that are bordered on all sides by privately held land. I believe Woodland Lake Park is important to people living in the White Mountains, and I strongly favor the effort to begin to purchase Woodland Lake Park. I hope all of you will attend this event and show your support for its intent. The money raised for Walk for the Woods is evenly divided between the White Mountain Nature Center and the town.

Welcome to summer in the White Mountains! Our summer birds are coming in. On April 28 we spotted two male Black-headed Grosbeaks in our yard. We also have Pine Siskins, Lesser Gold Finches, Robins, Western Bluebirds, Band-tailed Pigeons, and, yes, our hummingbirds are back. We are regularly seeing Broad-tailed, Black-chinned and Magnificent Hummingbirds at our feeders. I hope you are all starting to see the summer birds in your yard. And as always....enjoy birding!

Mary Ellen

## White Mountain Audubon Programs 2017

**July 5** - Nancy Buell Explore Audubon's Hog Island Camp off the coast of Maine in photos taken by Nancy Buell last fall. Some of the people she met were famous researchers and authors. Puffins were once abundant on many islands throughout coastal Maine, but nearly disappeared in the early 1900s due to excessive hunting for meat and feathers. In a DVD Dr. Stephan Kress will explain about the PUFFIN PROJECT.

**July 15** – WMAS-Nature Center Film Festival at White Mountain Nature Center, 425 Woodland Rd., Lakeside Dinner & beverage, 5-9 pm. Tickets = \$25, available at WM Nature Center or \$30 at the door. (928) 367-2462

**August 2** – Joe and Marta Peddie have been working with the Bald Eagle Nest Watch program for many years. They will talk about the management of bald eagles in Arizona.

**September 6** – Andrew Bridges, PhD, Wildlife biologist at the Petrified National Forest will give a brief overview of the park's resources with updates on avian surveys, prairie dog management and black-footed ferret reintroduction. He will also talk about a trip to Panama last fall coinciding with raptor migration where hundreds of thousands of hawks, kites, and vultures were seen in a day on their southward migration.

**October 4** – Student, Donovan Han ridge and his family have taken a special interest in building nest boxes. Donovan attended a summer camp in Colorado where he learned about building nest boxes and the kinds of birds that use them. He will tell us about his experience.

**November 1** - Carol Sletten, a Pinetop writer and illustrator, will present "September at the Petrified Forest." She will show images and talk about what she learned while she was an Artist-in-Residence at the Petrified Forest.

**December 6** – Holiday Party Pot Luck. Sue Sitko will give a program on her trip to Thailand. She will show us the "Birds of Thailand."

## BIRDATHON 2017

Birdathon is a way to raise dollars for White Mountain Audubon Society to help fund scholarships, the Beginning Birder Workshop and Audubon Adventures. To participate in Birdathon involves asking your family, friends and coworkers to sponsor your efforts to see as many different bird species as possible during the month of May. Those who agree to sponsor you may pledge a certain amount for each species you see or donate a flat amount. If you aren't able to do the Birdathon, please consider pledging to help someone who will do it. Keep a record of all bird species sighted and collect money from the people who pledged. After Birdathon, turn in a list of species sighted and the funds you collected to Mary Ellen or Chuck Bittorf at the June 7<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting or call 928-367-2462 to arrange a way to give them the information. Thanks very much for your help in supporting the programs that White Mountain Audubon sponsors. Your help and donations do make a difference!!

## Donation

White Mountain Audubon would like to thank Arizona Game and Fish for the generous donation to our Audubon Adventures Program. Dan Groebner and Dave Cagle were instrumental in making it happen.

[www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

## March Trip to Bosque del Apache, NM

The Inmans took a trip to Bosque del Apache in the middle of March, hoping to see some Sandhill Cranes before the cranes migrated. Alas, they saw none when they arrived at the Refuge. Here's the list of birds they did see right away, though: Northern Shrikes, Canada Quail, Bushtits, Pyrruloxia, White-crowned Sparrows, House Finches, Red-winged Blackbirds, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, American Coots, Cinnamon Teal, Snow Geese, Buffleheads, Ring-neck Ducks, Greater Scaup, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Mallards, Canvasbacks, Great-blue Heron, American Crows, Neotropic Cormorants, White Pelicans, Tundra Swan. Red-tailed Hawk, Roadrunner, Black Phoebe, Killdeer, American Kestrel, Pie-billed Grebe, Northern Harriers, Ravens, Bald Eagles, Western Meadowlarks, Boat-tailed Grackles, Western Bluebirds, Northern Flickers, Rock Wren, Virginia Rail, Violet Green Swallows, Say's Phoebe, Chipping Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatches, Turkey, and a Golden Eagle. They were content with these 51 sightings and were just leaving the refuge, when, lo and behold, three groups of Sandhills flew overhead! What a great birding adventure, only 3 hours away!

### April Sightings

NAME	WHAT SEEN	WHERE
Barb Davis	Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hepatic Tanager, Yellow-rumped Warbler	Lakeside yard
Sue and Bruce Sitko	Cedar Waxwings, Black-throated Warbler, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Spotted Towhee, Ospreys	House, Neighborhood, Lake of the Woods
Pat and Dick Bruneau	Wild Turkeys, Big-horn Sheep, Mule Deer, Cottontails	Greer and Yard
Kay Alderton	Robin, Juvenile Bald Eagle, Stellar's Jay, Roadrunner	Woodland Lake Park, Butterfly Boutique
Dan Groebner	Say's Phoebe	Luna Lake
Rob Bettaso	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Near Woodland Lake
Bittorfs	Acorn Woodpecker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Bluebirds, Magnificent and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Robins	Backyard
Jernigans	Spotted Towhees, Black Phoebe, Pygmy Nuthatches, Double-crested Cormorants, Wood Duck, White-tailed Dove, Purple Martin	Backyard, local lakes, Rainbow Lake
Irene Klim	Flicker, Scrub Jays, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers	Yard, Pine Ridge
Inman's	Goshawk, Egret, Ospreys, Shovels, Black-headed Grosbeak, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatches, Lewis' Woodpecker, Western Bluebird	Flagstaff, local lakes, yard
McConvilles	Townsend's Solitaire	Yard east of Snowflake

## **CONSERVATION: Chickadee and Nuthatch Presence in Conifers Increases Tree Growth, says Study (from Science News 8/6/2007)**



*Chickadee by Kirsten Munson*

Chickadees, nuthatches and warblers foraging their way through forests have been shown to spur the growth of pine trees in the West by as much as one-third, according to a 2007 University of Colorado at Boulder study.

The study showed birds removed various species of beetles, caterpillars, ants and aphids from tree branches, increasing the vigor of the trees, said study author Kailen Mooney. Mooney, who conducted the study as part of his doctoral research in CU-Boulder's ecology and evolutionary biology department, said it is the first study to demonstrate that birds can affect the growth of conifers.

"In a nutshell, the study shows that the presence of these birds in pine forests increased the growth of the trees by helping to rid them of damaging insects," said Mooney. "From the standpoint of the trees, it appears that the old adage, 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend,' holds true."

In the study, Mooney used mesh netting to exclude birds from ponderosa pine limbs in the U.S. Forest Service-managed Manitou Springs Experimental Forest northwest of Colorado Springs for three years. The results showed that branches on 42 trees rigged to exclude birds had 18 percent less foliage and 34 percent less wood growth by the end of the study.

Mooney collected about 150,000 insect specimens from the mountain study area, identifying more than 300 separate spider and insect species collectively known as arthropods. The trees used in the study were set up to exclude birds, ants, or both, since ants also can have significant impacts on other arthropods, he said.

"The study indicates that pine canopies are very complex systems with an unexpected level of biodiversity," said Mooney. "Forest managers really need to look at the big picture of ecosystems and not just focus on trees when implementing regulations aimed at encouraging the growth of healthy forests."

The study also has implications for large areas of the West ravaged by forest fires in recent years, he said. A number of once formidable stands of mature ponderosa have been burned and logged and subsequently replaced by smaller pines that offer limited breeding opportunities for cavity-nesting birds like chickadees and nuthatches, which nest and lay their eggs in the holes of large trees and dead snags.

"This is a very rigorous study that essentially shows that even modest little birds like chickadees and nuthatches can help improve the health of the trees, which are the monarchs of the forest," said CU-Boulder biology Professor Yan Linhart. Linhart was Mooney's doctoral adviser at CU-Boulder and also co-authored a study with Mooney in 2006 in the journal *Animal Ecology*. The study compared the effects of birds on pine with their effects on dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant on ponderosas throughout the West.

Mooney said the activity of the birds also was shown to change the chemical "flavor" of the trees, which may have implications for infestations by damaging insects like bark beetles that have ravaged pine forests in the West. Chemicals in trees known as terpenes, which give vegetation distinctive odors, have been implicated in the resistance of trees to parasites and plant-eating insects, he said.

By removing insects, the birds indirectly altered the terpene composition of pine tissues, said Linhart. The alteration of terpene "flavor" can have wide ranging effects, since terpenes influence decisions that creatures like bark beetles, porcupines and squirrels make when deciding which trees to eat, said Linhart.

"Terpenes act a bit like an immune system by essentially fending off attacks by birds and mammals," said Linhart. "One of the fascinating results of this study is that birds affect how this immune system functions."

The study also showed that chickadees and nuthatches disrupt a mutually beneficial relationship ants have with aphids, which feed on plant tissue known as phloem sap that carries nutrients through the tree, Mooney said. While some ant species "tend" aphid colonies -- protecting them from predators in exchange for their carbohydrate-high "honeydew" secretions - feeding activity by birds can disrupt this relationship, triggering aphid population decreases and increases in tree growth.

"These ponderosa forests have very complex food chains," Linhart said. "In essence the nuthatches and chickadees act as tree protectors, keeping check the insects that can have deleterious effects on forest vigor."

The birds in the study included the mountain chickadee, the red-breasted nuthatch, the pygmy nuthatch and the yellow-rumped warbler. All but the warbler are year-round residents of ponderosa pine forests in Colorado.

"More than anything, this study underscores the importance of preserving the ecological communities in the forest, and not just the trees," Mooney said.

The study was funded by the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station headquartered in Fort Collins and by CU-Boulder.

**Story Source:** University of Colorado Boulder (revised, reprint approved by Payson Roundup and reporter Pete Aleshire)

Materials provided by **University of Colorado at Boulder**. **Note: Content may be edited for style and length.**

***"Moments of solitude with Mother Nature  
is sunshine to the soul."***

***~Anthony Doyles Williams***

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.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Family \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
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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.**

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