



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

July 6th- Monthly meeting speakers will be Dan Groebner & Susan Taggart about "Owls of the White Mountains"

July 30th- Hummingbird Banding at Sipe Wildlife Area sponsored by AZG&FD

August 3rd- Monthly meeting speakers will be Dave & Cheryl Cagle telling of their recent trip to Namibia in Africa.

August 27th- Tentative fieldtrip to Concho to Meixler property and Concho Lake

Officers:

President: Mary Ellen Bittorf 367-2462

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July-August, 2016 Out on a Limb with Your President

If you have hummingbird feeders, now is the time to start watching them. The first hummingbirds start to show up between the end of March to the middle of April. The first ones you see are the Broadtail and the Black-chinned. At my feeders, I occasionally see Magnificents and Calliopes. The first week in July Mr. Rufous shows up, and activity picks up dramatically because he thinks every feeder is his. He's a fearless little warrior, and quite funny to watch. These amazing, beautiful, aerodynamic flying machines can fly in all directions – up, down, forward, backward, and all directions. This maneuverability is possible because of how the wings are attached to their bodies. This also allows them to hover in the way that only they can. Their resting heartbeat can be as high as 500 beats per minute, and their wings can beat as much as 50 times per second! Their colors are spectacular – reds, purples, oranges, and greens, and when the sunlight hits them, they look like flying jewels!

In case you are wondering what the proper formula is for hummingbird food, it is one part sugar to 4 parts water. The sugar should only be white, cane sugar, never honey, artificial sweetener, or anything else. Do not use beet sugar. Using anything besides regular, cane sugar can result in a fungus on their tongue, which can be fatal. Red food coloring is not recommended. Make sure your feeders are fresh and clean. If your nectar starts to get cloudy, change it. If you purchase a new feeder, make sure it is easy to clean, and I prefer glass feeders over plastic. Several kinds of plants attract hummingbirds, and some of these are Coral Bells, Penstemon, and Salvia. They also need protein, and they get this from small insects that they find on bushes and plants such as junipers. For their nests, they use spider webs and lichen which they hold together with their saliva.

Hummingbird nests are hard to find! You are lucky if you find one in your yard, and if they like your yard, they might choose to return to it year after year. I have a standing invitation for them to nest in my yard, but so far they have declined to do so. Damn it!

Summer birds have returned. Look for the beautiful Black-headed Grosbeak with his melodic song, the sassy little House Wren, the brilliant Western Tanager, and many migrating Warblers. We in the White Mountains are fortunate to have this wonderful, colorful variety of birds to enrich our lives!

I missed the June Audubon meeting, but those of you who attended were able to meet two of our three scholarship recipients. These students were very knowledgeable, forward-looking, young people, and I am very proud we were able to provide scholarships for all three students this year.

We've all been through a lot this summer with the stress from the Cedar Creek Fire, but we seem to be safe now. I hope all of you are well, and able to enjoy the longer days and cooler monsoon temperatures.

As always, enjoy birding! ~Mary Ellen

May 7th Field Trip to Woodland Lake

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The Bittorfs, Jernigans, Ginny Dotson, Cheryl Eaton and the Penas braved the cold and came out on Saturday for the fieldtrip. It was windy, cloudy and in the high 30's when we began. As we got out of our cars, the ducks and geese began coming up the sidewalk where a lady had her large container of cracked corn and barley and was throwing it out for the birds. Right away we saw Great-tailed Grackle, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Canada Geese, Osprey and Ruddy Duck. As we walked toward the dead snags, the swallows and martins were everywhere. We sighted Barn, and Violet-green Swallow and Purple Martin. A bit farther on Liz was able to see Yellow-rumped Warbler. In the same area we saw Robin, Pygmy Nuthatch and Northern Flicker. Along the south end of the lake, I began to hear wicity-wicity-wicity wich, knowing the Common Yellowthroat was nearby in the reeds. We looked and looked and Ginny was able to point it out. While looking for it, a Yellow Warbler stopped for a minute close by. Some other birds seen during the walk were Chipping Sparrow, Brown-backed Junco, Western Bluebird, Pied-billed Grebe, Say's Phoebe, Cormorant and Western Wood Pewee. It was a great birding time with wonderful birds and friends.

Field Trip to Shumway, June 11, 2016

People attending the field trip were Chuck & Mary Ellen Bittorf, Dan (visiting from Utah), Shirley Bilderback, Lori, Bob & Loretta Pena and Bart Stegman who led the trip for us. Visiting the property of Dr. Hall was a special treat; we visited at least 8 ponds with birds around and in all of them. Around each pond were lots of reeds and different water vegetation, with many tall Cottonwood trees and smaller shrubs and bushes. This provided good shade for us while we birded. Birds seen on the outing were : Lesser Goldfinch, House Finch, House Sparrow, Mallard, Eared Grebe, Yellow Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Chickens and Turkey in the farm area, Great-tailed Grackle, Chipping Sparrow, Eurasian-collared Dove, Mockingbird, Barn and Violet-green Swallow, Robin, Turkey Vulture, Northern Oriole, Mourning Dove, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Red-winged Blackbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Black and Say's Phoebe, Red-tailed Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Common Yellowthroat Coot and Killdeer. By far, the most abundant bird species we saw was the Great-tailed Grackle. We also enjoyed seeing Viceroy Butterfly and a bright green frog. Thanks to all who came out for an enjoyable trip to a special, new area.

Tucson Audubon Southeast Arizona Birding Festival

Our field trips and workshops are filling up fast, but we do still have a few openings. We would like to offer a special discount to your membership on our general one-day Festival trips and workshops. If your members would like to attend, they can use the code "LoveBirds" when registering in order to have the registration fee waived. Information on our general one-day Festival Field Trips can be found [here](#) on our website. Information about workshops can be found [here](#).

Our field trips will be led by some of the best birders known in Southeast Arizona. With leaders from WINGS, Field Guides, VENT, Adventure Birding Company, and Tropical Birding, along with some of our local, independent birding experts from the region, Festival goers are sure to have a great birding experience! Our workshops and evening programs will be led by Southern Arizona Bird Observatory hummingbird expert, Sheri Williamson, and ABA President, Jeff Gordon.

We also have some exciting pre- and post-festival trips offered by Solipaso with trips into Mexico, and Borderland Tours with trips offered in the mountain regions of Arizona. These trips offer unique and exciting opportunities into these different regions for great birding, and are sure to sell out! We would like to invite your members to check these out, too.

More information on the pre- and post-Festival trips can be found [here](#).

www.whitemountainaudubon.org



IN MEMORY OF ED GEORGE, CINEMATOGRAPHER 1945-2016

Ed George contributed several films to Audubon's Nature Film Festivals, including "Chasing the Light" and "Life through a Lens". He also was involved in filming "Wrenched" (about the life of writer/conservationist Ed Abbey) that was shown at the White Mountain Nature Center this past winter. Ed was most recently involved in filming John Davis' Trekwest as John passed through the White Mountains and beyond on his way from Mexico to Canada along the spine of the Rockies, bringing light to the need for wildlife corridors. We met Ed then, as John shared his adventures with us at a venue in Pinetop. We

waited about 3 years to see this film completed, and were expecting to show it this past June, 2016, at our 5th annual Nature Film Festival. Sadly and unexpectedly, Ed passed away in February, before the final stages of editing. Thanks to Kelly Burke of Grand Canyon Wildlands Council and the editing of Bryan Reinhart, the film, titled "Born to Rewild", was finished, hand delivered by Kelly and Bryan, and presented at the Film Festival. We are so grateful for Ed's contributions to our film festivals, and for a life well-lived. The film festivals generate donations that are used for local high school students' college scholarships (as well as Audubon Adventures for Classrooms and Birders Workshops). This year's scholarship recipients are described below, and they deserve to know about one of the many gifted filmmakers who have helped generate that revenue.

WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year WMAS offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from a White Mountain area high school. The winner is selected based on grades, activities, and an essay which demonstrates an interest in the environment. This year there were three applicants which had excellent qualifications and so the education committee awarded three scholarships.

There were two winners from Blue Ridge High School: Madison Stidham and Grant Real Bird. Madison wrote in her essay that she had an opportunity to experience a Biosphere study program where she realized the environment and computer skills were very much intertwined. She plans to attend University of Arizona this fall and learn more about cybersecurity. Grant Real Bird described his appreciation for the forests of the White Mountains in his essay. He has had forestry experience in summer internships with the Apache tribe. His major at ASU will be Environmental Resources Management. Both of these students were welcomed at the June WMAS General meeting.

The third scholarship winner was Nadine Hollender from Round Valley High School. Nadine has worked as a camp counselor and wrote in her essay that she has become increasingly aware of just how much she does know about the environment. She meets youngsters who sometimes are having their first camping experience and are not aware how interconnected the natural world is. Nadine will visit WMAS at the August General meeting and will tell us more about her college plans at that time.

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song."

~Chinese Proverb

SIGHTINGS FOR MAY, 2016

Name	What seen	Where
Paul Clark	Spotted Towhee, Pine Siskins, Pygmy Nuthatches, Black-headed Grosbeaks	Linden, Show Low
Loretta Pena	Lesser Goldfinch, Lewis Woodpecker	Show Low yard
Liz Jernigan	Pine Siskins, Nuthatches	Lakeside yard
Mary Freeman	Robin, Nuthatches, Spotted Towhee, Evening Grosbeak, Chickadees, Juncos, Downy Woodpecker	Lakeside yard
Bittorfs	Robin, Pine Siskins, Western Bluebirds, Evening Grosbeaks, Acorn Woodpecker, Flicker	Pinetop yard
Kay Alderton	Steller's Jay, Robins (taking mud from watering hose area to make nest)	Pinetop yard
Joan Patrick	Pine Siskins, Grackles,	Lakeside and Gilbert
Inmans	White-faced Ibis, Kestrel, Rock Wren, Common Mergansers, Double-crested Cormorants, Pacific Wren, Yellow Warbler, Black-necked Stilts, American Goldfinches, Anna's Hummingbirds, Western Tanagers, Rough-winged Swallows, Ospreys, Violet-green Swallows, Mountain Quail, Bald Eagles, Sooty Grouse, American Avocets, White Pelicans, Great, Little and Cattle Egrets, Western Grebes, Northern Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal, Killdeer, Black-crowned Night Herons, Buffleheads, Red-head Ducks, American Wigeons, Northern Canvasbacks, Pie-billed Grebes, Barn Swallows, Savannah Sparrow, Marsh Wrens, Cliff Swallows, Forster and Caspian's Terns, Cooper's Hawk, White-headed Woodpecker, Swainson's Hawk, Black-billed Magpies, Red-tailed Hawk, Bullock's Orioles, Willets, Golden Eagles, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Kingbird, Rough-legged Hawk, Western Meadowlarks, Sandhill Cranes, Horned Larks, Lark Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Prairie Falcon	Various places traveling through Nevada and Northern California (Weaverville, Nevada City, Tule Lake Refuge, Lower Klamath Refuge, Warner Mountains)

CONSERVATION: How Congress Can Protect Seabirds with One Simple Act By Ted Williams, Audubon Magazine, May-June 2016

Albatrosses and petrels are among Earth's most imperiled seabirds. That's largely because they get hooked on longlines set by commercial fishermen and because many of the islands where they breed are infested with alien invaders such as insects and rodents.

Here in the United States we've made significant advances in addressing both these threats. This country is the world leader in devising longline-mitigation measures that drastically reduce and in some cases eliminate bird bycatch. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act makes these measures mandatory for U.S. fishermen. And U.S. agencies and nonprofits are pioneers in recovering seabirds and other native species on islands. Among the more spectacular recent successes is the rat eradication by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and Island Conservation on the Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in the South Pacific. There, populations of Sooty Terns, White Terns, Black Noddies, Brown Noddies, and White-tailed Tropicbirds are now surging.

Sadly, the United States hasn't had standing to influence other countries to adopt our seabird-saving innovations, because Congress has failed to ratify a 15-year-old, 13-nation treaty to identify and remove threats to albatrosses and petrels. But Congressional action may finally be forthcoming. In February Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) introduced H.R. 4480—a bill that would make the United States party to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

Joining ACAP would require no expenditure and no new regulation for U.S. fishermen in U.S. waters. However, it would be more than symbolic. For one thing, the existing driftnet moratorium—which mandates protections for certain marine species in international waters, and gives the United States tools to deal with nations that violate those protections—would be amended to include all the species covered by ACAP. If any nation engages in activity that results in the bycatch of these species, we could prohibit the importation of its seafood and deny it port privileges.

More importantly, ACAP membership would give us the opportunity to bring other members up to our standards. And if our nation signs on, others will likely follow, perhaps including the three busiest longliners—Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea. A similar outcome occurred with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which codified an agreement between the United States and Canada. Our example inspired similar bird-protection agreements with Mexico, Japan, and, most recently, Russia.

Lowenthal makes the point that ACAP membership would render our fishing industry more competitive by encouraging other nations to adopt the bycatch-mitigation methods required of U.S. fishermen. We already abide by these regulations, “but there are other players that don't,” he told me. “This is a golden opportunity for the U.S. to improve wildlife conservation around the world.” ACAP membership would also give the United States an opportunity to leverage other countries to rid islands of seabird-killing alien species.

Joining ACAP is a no-brainer by any standard. Yet Congress has steadfastly failed to take action. It was President George W. Bush who first sent ACAP legislation to the Senate. He'd been inspired by his love for the sea, and by his wife, Laura, who had visited Midway Island and been much moved by the nesting albatrosses. ACAP ratification has consistently had bipartisan support, and it has been a priority with the Obama administration. No group has lobbied against ACAP membership. Congressional torpor has been the main reason for this harmful, embarrassing failure.

Considering the record of our current Congress, is there hope for a resolution? Audubon policy associate Erik Schneider believes there is. “We're optimistic,” he declares, noting that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been receptive to the legislation. “We're having good conversations in the Senate.” No one, even in Congress, objects to ACAP membership. Our legislators just haven't bothered to make it happen. If Lowenthal's bill dies, it will be a low point in U.S. lawmaking.

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 _____

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!**

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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.

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