



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER EDITION 2019

Out on a Limb with your President: In this edition's "Out on a Limb" we are sharing the wonderful poem that Barb read at the Bittorf tribute party that we had this past July (Mary Ellen and Chuck are retiring from their Officer & Board positions with our White Mountain Audubon chapter at the end of this year).

Thank you, Mary Ellen and Chuck!

Barbara L. Davis

Mary Ellen and Chuck, with hearts of gold
Stepped up as leaders strong and bold.
They came to this town and gave it their all
From birds to people, and even Town Hall.

The Nature Center exists because of Mary Ellen's dream
Her persistence, tenacity, hard work, and steady beam
Brought it into fruition against the odds.
But today it thrives and gets many applauds.

Travel is a good way to learn about life.
And congenial groups lessen the strife.
Audubon trips are always great fun
Whether here on our mountain or closer to the sun.

Los Galapagos and Ecuador called to Mary Ellen and Chuck
So off we birders went, a little moonstruck.
Especially on arrival with our luggage left behind.
Still, everyone laughed and remained so kind.

From island to island we were housed on a yacht.
Darwin's world became real, and not just a thought.
Finches, albatross, blue footed boobies galore,
On each island, there continued to be more.

Flightless cormorants, walrus, seals, and crabs,

So many species, it was hard to keep tabs.
Even a penguin whose photo we all sought.
But only Mary Ellen with her little camera got.

From the islands to the mainland we adapted one more time.
Our boots hit the ground and we began a climb.
To the top of a mountain to see just one bird.
To some, I'm sure that would seem absurd.

In the darkness before dawn with headlamps in place,
We trudged the steep trail, for sure not a race.
At the top we crowded into a little blind,
And waited in the quiet with peace of mind.

All of a sudden as dawn began to break
a loud jungle sound jarred us all awake.
The scarlet cock-of-the-rock had arrived to display
And that was the way he would start every day.

It was over in minutes but we were happy we came
The unique experience in our minds would remain.
Too soon, it was time to head back home
to our own mountain where we would still roam.

There's so much to see right here where we live,
And a part of enjoyment is learning to give.
Mary Ellen and Chuck have given their all.
And challenged us to answer that call.

Mother Nature needs us, and we learn best
When guided by leaders full of zest.
For 30+ years Bittorfs have taught us much.
But their precious friendship remains the crowning touch.

White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS) Chapter Officers:

President: Mary Ellen Bittorf	367-2462
Vice-President: Tom Jernigan	532-1510
Secretary: Liz Jernigan	532-1510
Treasurer: Chuck Bittorf	367-2462
Field Trips: Rob Bettaso	368-8481
Newsletter: Rob Bettaso	368-8481
Webmaster: Allen Vickers	
Membership: Position Open	

Board Members:

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

Birdathon 2019 by Loretta Pena

The Birdathon was for the month of May, as usual. Birding in the yard at our home in Show Low is a daily experience, but May offers opportunities to get out and see as many places and birds as possible. Locations that I visited included Fool Hollow State Park, Pintail Lake, Wenima, Springerville, Greer, Woodland and Edler Lakes, Los Burros, White Mountain Lake and various other places between Pinetop and Show Low.

Some of the birds seen were: American Dipper, Great Horned Owls with young on the nest at Wenima, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Grebe, Red-faced and Yellow Warbler, Black-chinned and Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Dusky and Ash-throated Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, and Plumbeous Vireo. A total of 81 birds were sighted in the month.

Seeing that many birds was primarily due to the help of Sue Sitko, Ann Hilliard and Suzanne DeRosier. Their knowledge and skills enabled me to see many more birds than usual. **Thanks** very much to each of them.

The money raised from the Birdathon goes for educational programs that White Mountain Audubon Society has been sponsoring for many years. Income from the Birdathon yielded \$1,081. **Thank you** very much sponsors for your support of my effort.

THREE VOLUNTEER JOBS OPENING SOON WITH WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON

Preface: despite what I wrote in the 5 paragraphs below, please note that the only real qualification that anyone needs in order to do any of the 3 volunteer Officer jobs is: an interest in helping the Chapter achieve its Mission. Please don't be intimidated or "put off" by the more formal aspects I described below as they are basically "idealized qualifications." Thank you and I hope we get lots of interest in these fun volunteer jobs. --Rob

The White Mountain Chapter of the National Audubon Society will be looking to fill three vacant positions in January 2020. The three **volunteer** jobs will be: Chapter President; Treasurer; and Membership Coordinator. All three jobs will require knowledge, skills, and attributes (K, S, A's) that are unique to each position. They will also overlap in certain K, S, A's.

All three jobs will join a Team of other Chapter Officers including the following occupied positions: Vice President, Secretary, Field Trips Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster. Most of the Officers also serve on the Chapter's Board. While the Chapter is an informal organization, there is plenty of work to keep all Officers/Board Members productively engaged with Chapter responsibilities. The time estimate for any Officer position could range from 5-10 hours per month, ten months per year (we take Jan-Feb off).

Chapter activities include monthly programs that include a guest speaker giving a presentation to the public (Chapter members and the general public); monthly birding field trips; special events (including an annual fund raising film festival and dinner); a scholarship program for graduating high school

seniors; and many other activities. New program ideas and activities are encouraged. The goal is to have fun while doing things that are good for the community and our environment.

Overlapping job K, S, As include administrative, organizational, and book-keeping skills; public outreach; creative program development; ability to work effectively on a Team and to engage in community activities. A background in any aspect of Natural History (including birding) is not essential, but it will be helpful. A love of Nature is expected. Coordination with the National Audubon Society and other Chapters will occur at all Officer levels.

K, S, As of particular interest for the position of **President** will include leadership, fund raising, public speaking, networking, and program/project development. For the job of **Treasurer** the duties will require accounting, budgeting, financial planning, reporting, and procurement/payments. For the **Memberships** position, the primary needs will be to recruit new members, collect annual dues from existing members, track membership, conduct publicity for the Chapter, prepare and implement member surveys, and be responsive to the needs and interests of Chapter members.

The Board will consider all applicants and short/informal interviews may be conducted. If interested, please contact Rob Bettaso at 928-368-8481. There is no deadline for being considered for any of the three jobs but once a job is filled, no further candidates will be considered until another vacancy exits.

Visit our Web Homepage for further information: www.WhiteMountainAudubon.com

CALENDAR

All monthly programs/meetings begin at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and February). Please note that all upcoming meetings are at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers, 325 W. White Mountain Blvd 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).

2019 Upcoming Monthly Programs:

September 4th – Dennis Tomko, President of Northern Arizona Audubon (Flagstaff-Sedona areas) will give a quick overview of NAAS including membership. He will talk about four bird sanctuaries they've developed and the bird species found there. One of the recently developed sanctuaries is Bubbling Ponds.

October 2nd – Mary Williams will give a PowerPoint presentation on the Birds of Arizona.

2019 Upcoming Special Events:

September 13th – Mary Williams will present her 4th PowerPoint presentation on the Birds of the White Mountains. This wonderful introduction to bird-watching series is a slideshow on the birds found in our area & includes fantastic Cornell University photos of many different birds and Mary's own insights on identification tips. A field trip will be taken the following day (Sept 14th) at 6:30a to Rainbow Lake to view birds (meeting at Rainbow Lake Lane at closed campground off Niels Hansen).

2019 Upcoming Regular Field Trip Schedule:

Free Monthly Bird Walks - geared for bird lovers of all skill levels and all ages. Hiking conditions variable but suitable for participants in reasonably good health interested in walks ranging from 1-3 miles. All welcome; no pets please. Bring binoculars (if you have), field guide (if you have), and appropriate apparel, gear, snacks and water for outdoor walking in the White Mountains area during the April through October time frame. For further information call Rob at 368-8481 (or email at rhilbe739@gmail.com).

September 21st – Birding field trip to the Sheep’s Crossing area (call or email Rob for details; 928-368-8481).

October 19th – Birding field trip to the “Old Hatchery Trail” at the AZGFD office (call or email Rob for details).

National Audubon Society Annual Photography Winners (Thank you for the link, Bill Van Wyck, one of our WMAS Newsletter readers from way up in the Seattle, WA area):

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-49187301/audubon-photography-awards-is-this-the-perfect-wildlife-picture>

REMINDER:

Have you paid your annual membership dues? If not, a friendly reminder that WMAS relies on membership dues for such important Chapter actions as our annual Scholarship Awards to White Mountain area graduating seniors who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in natural history, conservation, and other related fields. Thank you for helping us to continue to make such programs a regular part of our Chapter mission. Note that the Donation form is at the end of every Newsletter.

Some Other Recent Bird Sightings From Around Our Region:

Despite our low summer rainfall, our good spring rains have helped produce a bumper crop of insects and, as a result, the bug-eaters have been abundant this summer. A partial list includes: Western Wood Peewee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Western & Cassin’s Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Say’s & Black Phoebes; House Wren; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Western & Mountain Bluebirds; Purple Martin, Violet-green, Tree & Barn Swallows; & Plumbeous Vireo.

Editor’s Note:

As you may remember, the following question appeared in our Newsletter:

“As a possible cost saving measure, I am canvassing our members to learn how many readers can **only** receive the Newsletter in hard copy form (via the U.S. Postal Service). If you can only read the Newsletters in hard copy, please let me know via an email (rhilbe739@gmail.com) or by phone (928-368-8481). If you can (and/or do) get the Newsletters via email, then we can save Chapter funds by

dispensing with unnecessary hard copy postage. Thank you for your assistance as I attempt to address this issue.”

Because we had only one person respond that they can only receive the Newsletter in hardcopy form (via the USPO) we will be mailing a hardcopy to that individual only, come the next edition (Nov-Dec) and in future months. For the rest of you, it will now only come via email. Thank you for helping us to save money and conserve resources.

A BIRDER’S RIDDLE (as told by the male of the species)
by Rob Bettaso
(The answer to last issue’s riddle was the Lewis’ Woodpecker)

I’m brown and white, a streamlined bird,
Look for me way up high.
There I’ll be, so please,
Excuse me, while I kiss the sky.

My beak is tiny,
With a bristled gape.
When I vacuum the air,
Bugs find no escape.

Not a bat, nor a swift,
Nor a swallow am I.
My wings like scythes,
With easy beats, I fly.

I begin to forage at dusk,
And fly through the night.
With my eyes so large,
I have nocturnal sight.

In my dead-leaf camouflage,
I rest on the ground.
I’m considered “Common,”
While my “Lesser” cousin, abounds.

You’ll find me in open country,
Over sparse woods or ponds.
If you leave me some habitat,
I won’t soon abscond.

I’m poetry in motion,
My aerial display includes a dive.
I zoom up quickly,
My whirring wings so alive.

Come join me at sunset,

We'll enjoy those first stars.
I'll stay up late,
To watch Jupiter and Mars.



*Celebrating 25 years of
service to*

*White Mountain Audubon
Society*

Thank you, Mary Ellen and Chuck!!!

On sale now: WMAS T-shirts; \$15.00 each; Sizes: M, L, XL; Colors: Yellow & Blue. Note that sizes run small (in other words, a “M” is actually more like a “S” etc.). Call or email me if you have questions (Rob at 928-368-8481 and at rhilbe739@gmail.com and, by the way, if you have seen me wear my blue WMAS shirt to meetings, that shirt is an XL, the biggest size we sell). All proceeds go to our WMAS operating budget.



Membership/Donation Form

White Mountain Audubon Society chapter membership dues are: Individual \$15 or Family \$25 per year. Please renew your membership every January. 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.

White Mountain Audubon Society
P. O. Box 3043