



MARCH-APRIL 2013

Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. Fieldtrip times and meeting places vary, see below or please check the website or call 367-2462 for more information. There are no regular monthly meetings in January and February.

March 6th- Speaker for the meeting is Michael Ingraldi of AZ Game & Fish Department who will give the program on current bird studies.

March 9th- Field trip to Woodland & Rainbow Lakes. Meet at 7:00 am at the Pinetop McDonald's.

April 3rd- Monthly meeting speakers are Craig Miller & John Davis of TREK WEST. **This meeting will begin at 6 pm at Pinetop Brewing Co. in Pinetop.**

April 13th- Field trip to Pintail & Telephone Lakes. Meet at McDonald's parking lot in Show Low at 7:00 am.

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: Loretta Pena 368-3380

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...

Greetings to all and I hope you have had a good winter. For us, here in the White Mountains it has been a good, but cold winter with some nice snow and moisture. Now, it is time for some sun and warmer temperatures.

Your board has been working on the year's schedule of events, including meetings, field trips and special events. Last year, not many of you joined us on our field trips, and I hope this year we will see more of you. We really do have a good time, and sometimes we see some very exciting sights. The same goes for our meetings. Loretta Pena always has good speakers who speak on a variety of subjects, not just about birds, but always interesting. If any of you have suggestions about programs, field trips, or special events, please talk to one of your officers. We are always open to suggestions.

Please keep in mind that the White Mountain Audubon Nature Film Festival has been scheduled for June 8th and probably June 9th. We are also looking at a reception to be held on Friday, June 7th. We will need help with this event, and I hope you will volunteer to help us.

The Beginning Birder's Workshop will be on May 25th and we could use some help with that also.

The regular monthly meeting program on April 3rd will begin at 6:00 pm at Pinetop Brewing Co. in Pinetop. The speaker will be John Davis, accompanied by Craig Miller from Defenders of Wildlife. They will talk about the hike they are taking called "Trek West" which starts in Mexico and ends in Canada. This should be a very interesting meeting. Joining us will be members from the White Mountain Wildlife and Nature Center, White Mountain Conservation League, TRACKS and others.

As you see, there is a lot going on, and I hope all of you will join us.

As always...enjoy birding,
Mary Ellen

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It is the time to renew your membership in White Mountain Audubon Society. Please note on the form that dues have been raised to **\$15 for an Individual and \$25 for a Family**. You may use the form below. Thank you very much for supporting the programs and projects we sponsor. Your membership and donations do make a difference!

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 by March 15th. 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!

“The earth is what we all have in common.”

Wendell Berry

SIGHTINGS

Kent Schipper sent in sightings in January of a flock of **Brewer's Blackbirds** and a **Juniper Titmouse** in Show Low. In Whiteriver, Gus Hollenbeck saw **Gambel Quail** and on Hgwy 260, MM marker 390, west of Eagar he sighted a dark morph, **Rough-legged Hawk**. In Green Valley, Bob and Loretta Pena saw **Vermillion Flycatcher**, **Orange-crowned Warbler** and **Lawrence's Goldfinch**. In Madera Canyon they found **Spotted Towhee**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Townsend's** and **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, **Brown Creeper** and **Painted Redstart**. While birding in Tucson at Agua Caliente Park, Jernigans and Penas saw **Cooper's Hawk**, **Phainopepla**, **Great Egret**, **Gila Woodpecker**, **Verdin**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Orange-crowned Warbler** among others. At the Desert Museum in Tucson, the Jernigans enjoyed seeing several different species in the Raptor Free Flight Program including **Prairie Falcon**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Ferruginous Hawk**, **Barn Owl**, **Gray Hawk**, **Harris's Hawk**, **Peregrine Falcon** and **Chihuahuan Raven**. Eric Hough sent in sightings from a visit to North Fork of the White River near Alchesay Fish Hatchery. They were **Dippers** and **Montezuma Quail**.

Thanks very much everyone for letting me know what you are seeing!

WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY
Schedule of Events
2013

MARCH

6th- Regular monthly meeting; speaker will be Michael Ingraldi of AZ G&F Department who will give a program on current bird studies he is involved with.

9th- Fieldtrip will be to Woodland and Rainbow Lakes. Possible birds to see are Mallard, Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Duck and more. Meet at Pinetop McDonald's parking lot at 7:00 am

APRIL

3rd- Regular monthly meeting; speakers will be Craig Miller and John Davis of TREK WEST. Meeting will begin at 6:00pm at Pinetop Brewing Co. in Pinetop.

13th- Fieldtrip is scheduled for Pintail and Telephone Lakes. You may see Canvasback, Redhead and Ruddy Duck, Mallard; perhaps raptors, phoebe and Red-winged Blackbird. Meet at McDonald's at 7:00 am in Show Low.

MAY

1ST- Regular monthly meeting; speakers will be Mea Stees and Dorothy Lamm of Flagstaff. Their program will be on the invasive weed eradication project at Logan's Crossing in Flagstaff.

11th- North American Migration Count in Apache & Navajo Counties- Apache County participants, meet at 6:00 am at McDonald's in Pinetop or meet at 7:00 am at Wenima Wildlife Area near Springerville. Navajo County participants contact Eric Hough at thebirdwhisperer22@yahoo.com

25th- Beginning Birder's Workshop will begin at 9 am at Pinetop-Lakeside Town Center.

1st-31st Birdathon will be the entire month.

JUNE

5th- Regular monthly meeting with speaker Hugh Grinnell of Tucson and Pinetop; he will give an impersonation of George Bird Grinnell, his distant cousin, the founder of the Audubon Society.

8th- White Mountain Audubon Nature Film Festival; films will be shown at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Center with schedule to be announced.

JULY

10th- Regular monthly meeting speaker will be Dr. Karl Hoerig of Fort Apache Historical Museum who will give a program on his work at the museum.

13th- Fieldtrip will be to Show Low Bluff Trail south of Show Low; birds likely to be seen are Juniper Titmouse, Robin, and some warblers. Meet at McDonald's in Show Low at 7:00 am

27th- Hummingbird Banding with Sheri Williamson at Sipe Wildlife Area near Springerville.

AUGUST

7th- Regular monthly meeting; speakers will be Ken & Barb Smith of Pinetop and Hawaii. Their program will be on birds of their area in Hawaii.

10th- A fieldtrip is planned for Luna Lake where you may see Bald Eagle, Osprey, other raptors, Great Blue Heron and ducks. Meet at 7:00 am at McDonald's in Pinetop. Bring lunch, snacks and water.

SEPTEMBER

4th- Regular monthly meeting; Joe & Marta Peddie of Alpine will give a program on the Eagle Watch Program they do for AZ G&F Department.

14th- The fieldtrip is planned for Silver Creek Fish Hatchery; possible birds are Black Phoebe, swallows, raptors and a great variety of wildflowers. Meet at McDonald's in Show Low at 7:00 am.

OCTOBER

2nd- Regular monthly meeting speaker tba.

12th- A fieldtrip to Concho Lake is planned where you may see a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and migrating birds. Meet at McDonald's in Show Low at 7:00 am. Bring snacks, lunch and water.

NOVEMBER

6th- Regular monthly meeting speaker tba.

9th- Fieldtrip is scheduled to Williams Creek Fish Hatchery; reservation permit is required. You may see waterfowl, cormorant and raptors. Meet at McDonald's in Pinetop at 7:00 am and bring snacks, lunch and water.

DECEMBER

4th- Christmas Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm in Room 16 at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Center. Bring a dish to share.

21st- Christmas Bird Count attendees will meet at 7:00 am at Bobbi Jo's Restaurant in Pinetop.

MEETINGS are held at 7:00pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Center on Niels Hansen Lane in Lakeside. Programs person is Loretta Pena at 928-368-3380.

FIELDTRIPS are held on the 2nd Saturday (this is changed from the 3rd Saturday) of the month from March-November. Please see the website for changes and updates: www.whitemountainaudubon.org or call Mary Ellen at 928-367-2462.



Kirsten Munson

Artist John Lofgreen

by Jody Inman

John Lofgreen, a prolific and talented wildlife artist, was instrumental in getting White Mountain Audubon started back in 1987. He planned our field trips then, and had amazing knowledge that guided many novice birders in identifying local species.

Born in Mesa, Arizona, he grew up mostly in southern California. In Kindergarten John painted a Bald Eagle in flight, with snow capped mountains in the background, all from memory. That painting caught his teacher's attention and she showed it to the school principal. He took it to a university art professor who met with John's parents. He advised them to encourage John with art supplies, but avoid giving him structured lessons. This is the course that his parents followed. Art and animals were always his main interests. He tried to make a pet out of any animal he could subdue. After high school John volunteered at the Santa Barbara Zoo, washed dishes at night, and painted whenever he could find some time. He served a mission for the LDS church in Mexico for two years. That is where he developed maturity and self confidence, as well as an appreciation for the culture, food, and history of the Mexican people. He was also very impressed by the myriad of tropical birds that he saw there. The seeds of a birder were planted. Afterward John moved to Lakeside Arizona, and began establishing his career as a wildlife artist. This proved to be less lucrative than he had anticipated so John supplemented his income by doing commercial art, and conducting wildlife surveys for various government agencies. He's traveled the world, adding the birds of Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Thailand, and Cambodia to his life list. Over the years, he has volunteered for various conservation organizations, and donated much of his artwork for good causes. In 1997, John moved to Eagle River, Alaska. There, his artwork has really blossomed. He now lives in Anchorage. He sells his paintings in the finer art galleries throughout Alaska, and elsewhere. He has had many of his images published as prints, calendars, stamps, posters, t-shirts, tins etc. They have appeared all over the United State and Canada. You may see John's work on his blog: johnlofgreen.blogspot.com or johnlofgreenwildlifeart.com

CONSERVATION

Outdoor Cats: Single Greatest Source of Human-Caused Mortality for Birds and Mammals, Says New Study

A new peer-reviewed study authored by scientists from two of the world's leading science and wildlife organizations – the A3.7 billion and mammal mortality likely 6.9 – 20.7 billion individuals.

The study, which offers the most comprehensive analysis of information on the issue of outdoor cat predation, was published in the online research journal *Nature Communications* and is based on a review of more than 90 previous studies. The study was authored by Dr. Peter Marra and Scott Loss, research scientists at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and by Tom Will from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Birds. It is available at http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/pdf/Loss_et_al_2013.pdf.

According to Dr. George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy, one of the leading bird conservation organizations in the U.S. and a group that has called for action on this issue for many years, "This study, which employed scientifically rigorous standards for data inclusion, demonstrates that the issue of cat predation on birds and mammals is an even bigger environmental and ecological threat than we thought. No estimates of any other anthropogenic (human-caused) mortality source approach the bird mortality this study calculated for cat predation."

The study's estimate of bird mortality far exceeds any previously estimated U.S. figure for cats. In fact, this magnitude of mortality may exceed all other direct sources of anthropogenic bird and mammal mortality combined. Other bird mortality sources would include collisions with windows, buildings, communication towers, vehicles and pesticide poisoning.

"The very high credibility of this study should finally put to rest the misguided notions that outdoor cats represent some harmless new component to the natural environment. The carnage that outdoor cats inflict is staggering and can no longer be ignored or dismissed. This is a wake-up call for cat owners and communities to get serious about this problem before even more ecological damage occurs," Fenwick said.

The study estimated that the median number of birds killed by cats annually is 2.4 billion and the median number of mammals killed is 12.3 billion. About 69 percent of the bird mortality from cat predation and 89 percent of the mammal mortality was from un-owned cats. Un-owned cats are defined to include farm/barn cats, strays that are fed but not granted access to human habitations, cats in subsidized colonies, and cats that are completely feral.

The study charges that "Despite these harmful effects, policies for management of free-ranging cat populations and regulation of pet ownership behaviors are dictated by animal welfare issues rather than ecological impacts. Projects to manage free-ranging cats, such as Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) colonies, are potentially harmful to wildlife populations, but are implemented across the United States without widespread public knowledge, consideration of scientific evidence or the environmental review processes typically required for actions with harmful environmental consequences." (Article is from American Bird Conservancy website)

TIMBER MESA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2012

The CBC here in the White Mountains was held on December 22, 2012. We met at 7:00am at Bobbi Jo's Restaurant in Pinetop for breakfast and planned out our groups and day. Those attending were: Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf, Barb Davis, Ann Hilliard, Bob & Loretta Pena, Evelyn Treiman of Springerville, Sue Sitko, Julie Bradley, Richard & Jody Inman, Dave & Cheryl Cagle and Kent Schipper. It was warmer than usual for a December early morning at 26 degrees. During breakfast we planned our groups and where these groups would bird and count species. Then we headed out to our various areas to find birds. Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf were not in the field this year; they were feeder watchers at their home in Pinetop.

The following birds and number of each species seen are below:

Pied-billed Grebe	17	White-breasted Nuthatch	11
Western Grebe	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Pygmy Nuthatch	15
Great-Blue Heron	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6
Canada Goose	135	Western Bluebird	44
Mallard	363	Mountain Bluebird	6
Gadwall	43	American Robin	63
Green-winged Teal	19	European Starling	145
American Wigeon	105	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Northern Pintail	44	Chipping Sparrow	11
Northern Shoveler	36	Vesper Sparrow	2
Cinnamon Teal	1	White-crowned Sparrow	15
Canvasback	184	Dark-eyed Junco	125
Ring-necked Duck	186	Oregon Junco	2
Lesser Scaup	29	Pink-sided Junco	5
Bufflehead	76	Yellow-headed Blackbird	7
Common Merganser	151	Red-winged Blackbird	96
Ruddy Duck	85	Great-tailed Grackle	3
Northern Harrier	7	Brewer's Blackbird	32
Bald Eagle	18	Cassin's Finch	7
Red-tailed Hawk	4	House Finch	14
Rough-legged Hawk	1	Pine Siskin	58
American Kestrel	1	Lesser Goldfinch	5
Merlin	1	House Sparrow	19
Wild Turkey	34		
American Coot	447		
Mourning Dove	5		
Eurasian-collared Dove	24		
White-winged Dove	4		
Acorn Woodpecker	18		
Lewis's Woodpecker	17		
Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	35		
Downy Woodpecker	2		
Hairy Woodpecker	4		
Say's Phoebe	1		
Steller's Jay	51		
Western Scrub Jay	8		
Pinyon Jay	1		
American Crow	170		
Common Raven	239		
Mountain Chickadee	5		
White-breasted Nuthatch	11		

A total of 66 species were seen with a total of 3,235 birds.

Thanks very much to each participant in the Timber Mesa Christmas Bird Count for making this very important Citizen Science effort.

Thanks very much to the following people for renewing their membership in White Mountain Audubon Society:

Pete & Betty Bengston
Sally Walker
Karen Alderson
Mindy Savoia
Dennis Delrow
Delores Oster
Jesse Cuilty
Kay alderton

Many **thanks** also to the following persons for their donations to White Mountain Audubon Society:

Pete & Betty Bengston
Warren Goff
Jesse Cuilty



Steven D'amato

Help Needed on Navajo County's North American Migration Count (NAMC)

Dear White Mountain Audubon,

This year I will again be the compiler and organizer of Navajo County's North American Migration Count (NAMC) which will be held on Saturday, May 11th, 2013. This count has existed in Arizona since 2004 (in Navajo County since 2005) and operates similar to the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in that all individual birds of every species found are counted. This count is free to participate in! Just because it is a "migration" count does not mean we are only interested in migrants; we want ALL birds counted (native and naturalized species). In general, the objective is to cover as much ground and sample as many habitats as possible (dividing into smaller counting groups to increase coverage helps accomplish this). Even counting birds in your yard helps with the count though. Navajo County contains diverse habitats, with northern and southern distributions of species converging along the Mogollon Rim. Areas within Navajo County that can be covered include Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, the Sitgreaves National Forest, Whiteriver/Fort Apache, Heber-Overgaard, Aripine, Zeniff, Snowflake-Taylor, Woodruff, Holbrook, the Rainbow Forest unit of Petrified Forest National Park, Joseph City, Winslow, Keams Canyon, and Navajo National Monument, Kayenta, and Monument Valley. Last year we had 2,701 individual birds representing 126 species, with species highlights including Bald Eagles, Flammulated Owls, Red-faced Warblers, Painted Redstarts, Black-chinned Sparrows (past counts have included great birds such as Zone-tailed Hawks, American Three-toed and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Greater Pewees, Mexican Jays, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole, Evening Grosbeaks). Please contact me at the email listed below if you are interested in participating. Your help for any amount of time on that day would be greatly appreciated!

Good birding,
Eric Hough
thebirdwhisperer22@yahoo.com

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
jpeshlakai@azleg.gov

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
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Pinetop, AZ 85935**