



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

CALENDAR

All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm at Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers in Lakeside. Fieldtrips meet at Pinetop McDonald's at 7:00 am, unless stated otherwise.

September 1st- Joanne Sedillo, with coworkers, will speak about watershed issues on White Mountain Apache Tribal Lands.

September 18th- Fieldtrip to Silver Creek Fish Hatchery. If coming from Show Low, meet at Show Low McDonald's at 7:30 a.m.

September 23rd- Walk with Mary Ellen at Woodland Lake Park at 8:30 am. Meet at the tennis courts.

October 6th- Kelly Burke of Grand Canyon Wildlands Council will inform us of the work of that organization.

October 16th- Fieldtrip to Sunrise Lake and other high elevation lakes.

October 28th- Bird walk with Mary Ellen at Woodland Lake Park at 8:30 am. Meet at the tennis courts.

YOUR OFFICERS

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Vice-Pres.: Tom Jernigan 532-1510

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Board Members: Mary Gordon, Steve Gordon, Kent Schipper, Lloyd Pentecost and Doris Raspa

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

Out on a Limb with Your President~

As August comes to an end, we all know that fall is right around the corner. I love this time of the year in the White Mountains with the beautiful colors from the myriad of wild flowers that carpet the country and the soothing chorus of crickets and frogs that we hear at night. We have been blessed this year with a good snow winter and a good wet summer, so let's all enjoy every minute of it while we can.

One of the challenges that we have in the summertime is keeping our dogs from getting sprayed by a skunk. Now, the skunk is really a beautiful little critter, and he does have a purpose in nature, but, unfortunately when he feels threatened, he sprays the area around him and everything *smells really bad!* Such was the case a couple of nights ago when one of these pretty little critters decided to come into our dog's yard. Yep, you guessed it. Barney, my cute little dog wound up smelling like a skunk. It was 11:00 p.m., but it was definitely time for a bath. Chuck went on the internet and came up with a shampoo to use. I thought you might like to have the recipe just in case you ever have this little adventure, because it worked quite well: Mix together 1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide, ¼ cup baking soda, 1 teaspoon liquid dish detergent. Bathe your pet in this mixture, rinse. Repeat, if necessary.

The trip to Beaver Creek Guest Ranch was a delight. I am sorry more of you didn't make it. The Ranch is very beautiful, and the Wiltbanks were wonderful hosts. The cabins are rustic, with no electricity and the food was comfort food that always hits the spot. We plan to do this again next year and I hope many of you will take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy this unique place. I want to thank Lloyd Pentecost for his hard work in setting up the event. He had outstanding presenters lined up, and he had maps to show everyone where to hike. We had an interesting experience when one of the many horses that roam around came over to our car and decided to try to bite it. I must say, I never saw a horse try to bite a car before! You never know what new adventure awaits.

I still have a few hummingbirds at my feeders. The numbers were down this year, but Mr. Rufous has been here to make life exciting for the other hummers. He also has decided, on occasion to make life exciting for a couple of Pygmy and White breasted Nuthatches. One day he even took on an Acorn Woodpecker. It is funny to see them go around a branch to get away from this little bully.

Our next field trip will be to Silver Creek Fish Hatchery on September 18. There will be a Game and Fish person there to show us around and then we can do some birding. It should be fun. I hope you plan on attending.

Enjoy these days of summer, and...enjoy birding!

~Mary Ellen

White Mountain Community Garden

High above a raven perches in a tree and watches below, while a swallow swoops through the area catching insects on the fly, a jay snacks at the bird feeder, and a Meadow Lark sings from a fence post. Out in this busy field, a happy group of gardeners tend their plot. This 2 1/2 acre area of meadow land is the home of the White Mountain Community Garden, a jewel that rests in the heart of Show Low. Made possible by collaboration between Navajo County and the City of Show Low, the Garden lies next to the new County Health Facility off 9th Street. The intent is to use this Garden for recreational and educational purposes, senior raised beds, children's gardens, plots for lease by individuals and groups, and demonstration gardens. Working in harmony with nature, the Garden will have no chemical fertilizers or pesticides, allowing the current bird population to continue to thrive. This year the Garden is being maintained by a group of volunteers. If this vision appeals to you, or if you would like to volunteer, contact Sandy Russell (928-386-5803) or wmcgarden@gmail.com.



~Mary Gordon

Kirsten Munson

“To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment.”

~Jane Austen

SIGHTINGS

Sightings turned in at the August meeting are: Pat Yovonovitz saw **Red Crossbills** on the Rim Trail and a **Bald Eagle** at Becker Lake. Jan Newton had **Red Crossbills** at her feeder in Pinetop. Jody Inman reported **Northern Goshawk**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** fledglings, **Red Crossbills** and **Turkey** at Green's Peak. The Bittorfs are seeing **Three-toed** and **Lewis Woodpecker** and in their backyard in Pinetop. Warren Goff saw **Cinnamon Teal**, **House Wren**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird** and **Great Blue Heron** in his backyard in Lakeside.

Yvonne Bevacqua and Dana Settles reported a number of species and they are: **Stellar's Jay**, **Hairy**, **Lewis**, and **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, **House Finch**, **Mourning Dove**, **Eurasian-collared Dove**, **Northern Flicker** and nuthatches, hummingbirds and chickadee. On Forest Road #112, Pat Calkins saw **Canadian Geese**; on Forest Road #273, she saw **Osprey** and in her backyard there were **Hairy** and **Lewis Woodpeckers** as well as a **Northern Flicker**. In Lakeside, Mary Jane Milne had **Hepatic Tanager**, **Northern Oriole**, **Lewis**, **Downey**, **Hairy**, and **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **Northern Flicker**, **Rufous Hummingbird**, and nuthatches and chickadees. From Snowflake, Emy McDonald has seen two pairs of orioles, and **Rufous Hummingbird**.

Gus Hollenbeck reported a number of birds seen this summer. Here are a few of his sightings: **Plumbeous Vireo**, **Juniper Titmouse**, **Orange-crowned** and **Townsend's Warbler**, **Hammond's Flycatcher**, **Hepatic and Summer Tanagers**, **Northern Goshawk**, **White-throated Swift**, **Red-naped Sapsucker** and **Black-headed Grosbeak**.

Thank you very much everyone for reporting your sightings; it's wonderful to know what you all are seeing!!

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White Mountain Audubon Local Chapter Donation Form

White Mountain Audubon Society needs your **tax-deductible donation** to support our on-going programs and activities, as well as future new projects. Your funds make a difference!!

YES!! I would like to donate: _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$50 _____ Other

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Mailing Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Please send your donation and this form to: White Mountain Audubon
P.O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935

PLEASE NOTE that in our January and March newsletters, you will find our annual membership dues form. In our other newsletters (May, July, September, and November), you will find this "general donation" form, which will now be used for donations above and beyond your \$10.00 dues. **Please use this form only for donations other than your membership dues. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!**

8th Annual high Country Hummers JULY 31, 2010

The Hummingbird Banding event at Sipe Wildlife Area surpassed previous years in attendance and activities. Over 1,000 people attended this year's event, up from around 800 plus attendees last year, with approximately 350 cars having to be guided to parking areas by AZ Game & Fish employees. A live wildlife and raptor exhibit was on site with Sherrie Adams and Ramiro Ramos talking about the birds. Sue Sitko and Dan Groebner gave a Beginning Birding Basics presentation. "Hummingbirds 101", a natural history presentation was given by Tom Wood of Southwestern Arizona Bird Observatory in the barn loft. Sheri Williamson and her 2 volunteers from SABO banded the birds, recorded all their vital statistics and then had a system to allow visitors to release the birds. Approximately 60 birds were banded this year; there was one recapture, a Broadtail Hummingbird banded in 2008, and no Calliopes were caught this time.

At about 11:30, the rain began and ended the very interesting and wonderful event.



Rosemary G. Bell

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North American Migration Count Results for Navajo County

May 8, 2010

At last, here are the final numbers for the May 8th, 2010 Navajo County North American Migration Count (NAMC). Altogether, 2334 individual birds of 124 identified species were encountered within the county by the seven birders besides myself that volunteered their time that day for another great count (many thanks!): Terry Blows, Bob and Elaine Hough, Loretta and Bob Pena, Sue Sitko, and Zack Zdinak. We finally got coverage on the Rez lands this year with Zack spending some time on the Hopi tribal lands. Sue again provided her time for counting in her yard after coordinating the adjacent Apache County NAMC.

Besides the Hopi lands, other locations covered during the day included Winslow, Joseph City, Holbrook, Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Heber-Overgaard, Black Canyon, and below the Mogollon Rim in the Carrizo and Whiteriver areas on the White Mountain Apache tribal lands. There were 11 species and 1 subspecies new to the Navajo County NAMC added this year: Cooper's Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Least Sandpiper, White-throated Swift, Belted Kingfisher, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Flycatcher, Mexican Jay, Warbling Vireo, Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco, Blue Grosbeak, and Hooded Oriole. Some of the birds seen are:

A few more of the birds counted were: American White Pelican, Common Black Hawk, Least Sandpiper, Long-eared Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Greater Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Plumbeous, Gray, and Warbling Vireo, Phinopepla, Olive, Virginia's, Lucy's, Yellow, Black-throated-Gray, Grace's, and Red-faced Warblers, and Western and Summer Tanagers.

I again want to thank the counters this year for another successful NAMC and I welcome more of you to come join us next year.

~Eric Hough
Thebirdwhisperer22@yahoo.com

WeLoveBirds.org

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has partnered with Cornell Lab of Ornithology to create this site as a place for bird lovers to share stories and information about birds and to help protect birds from activities that harm them and their habitat.

NRDC is an environmental action group that combines the grassroots power of 1.3 million members and online activists with the courtroom clout and policy expertise of lawyers, scientists and other professionals to protect wildlife and wild places, and to ensure a healthy environment for all life on earth.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a nonprofit, member supported organization dedicated to the study and conservation of birds. The Cornell Lab engages people of all ages and walks of life in learning about birds as part of its mission to conserve the earth's biological diversity through research, education and citizen science.

Together, the two organizations invite all bird enthusiasts to use this space to meet each other and to learn more about birds and the issues they face. Happy Birding!!

Another interesting Cornell site to look at is at celebratebirds.org At this site they encourage birders to sign up and become citizen scientists.

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BEAVER CREEK GUEST RANCH August Fieldtrip

It takes about 90 minutes to get to Beaver Creek Guest Ranch. From Pinetop, you pass Greer, go through Eagar, go south from Alpine and look for the Beaver Creek Ranch turn off. It is a pretty drive this time of year. Signage is good along the way. When you pull into the Ranch you will likely be greeted by three dogs and then either Billie or Caren Wiltbank will probably be there. They will direct you to your cabin. Chuck and I were lucky to have the cabin that is closest to Beaver Creek. The beauty of the area combined with the sound of water in the creek is awesome. This time of year there are wild flowers everywhere you look. The cabins are comfortable and rustic. There is no electricity in the cabins except from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., no phone, no TV. It is quiet, peaceful, and wonderful. I was reminded how much we depend on electricity and how nice it is not to have it for awhile.

There were 12 participants at Beaver Creek from different parts of Arizona and a couple of other states. Lloyd Pentecost showed us some maps of the area and told us where the best trails for hiking were. The pasta and salad really hit the spot.

On Sunday morning breakfast was served at 6:00. Eggs, ham, and homemade muffins tasted good. I gave a little presentation on Audubon, what we do, and some of the birds to be seen there. There were novice birders and experienced birders. It was a very comfortable group to be with. We divided up to do some birding for the next couple of hours. The birds we saw were: Great Horned Owl, Say's Phoebe, Raven, Northern Flicker, Chipping Sparrow, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, Stellar's Jay, Costas Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow Warbler, a wren, Brown Creeper, Great-blue Heron and a Townsend's Solitaire feeding young.

At 11:00 a.m. Harold Hester from Botswana, Africa arrived with his wife and a local friend. We had a chance to visit for awhile before lunch was served, and then Harold gave a power point presentation about the organization he heads, *Birdlife Botswana*, which is a *Birdlife International Partner Designate*. His presentation was very interesting and informative, as well as entertaining. He has quite a sense of humor. The birds were fascinating, and he gave us an idea of what it is like to bird in a land where there are lions, hyenas, zebras, wildebeests, and a variety of predators everywhere you go. He also made us aware of the roads. There are no paved freeways, just muddy, rutted, rough roads, and no AAA in case you need help. A good, dependable vehicle is a must there. I came away with a great appreciation of how spoiled we are in this country, and the fact that life for us is pretty darn good.

One of the ladies gave an excellent presentation on owls. The pictures were excellent.

Chuck and I had to leave at three. We were sorry that we couldn't stay longer. It was a very enjoyable two days. Thanks to the Wiltbanks and to Lloyd!!

We look forward to next year.

~Mary Ellen Bittorf

BIRDATHON RESULTS

May 14-16, 2010

The Birdathon, held the third weekend in May is the primary fundraiser for White Mountain Audubon Society.

Participants this year were the Bittorfs, Jernigans and the Penas.

Sixty-five species were sighted this year over the three days of the Birdathon. A few of the birds seen were: Juniper Titmouse, American Avocet, American Bittern, Black-necked Stilt, Common Yellowthroat, House Wren, Mountain Chickadee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Green-winged Teal, Western Wood Pewee, Black Phoebe and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Total amount collected from the Birdathon was **\$808.50.**

Thanks to all who donated time and money!!!

GULF BIRDS NEED YOU

The oil has stopped, but the Gulf disaster is still unfolding for people and nature. Your support will help fund Audubon's work to aid birds and wildlife, and to meet the long-term challenge of restoring a devastated Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. Go to www.audubon.org to make a donation.

Where to write

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1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20206

U. S. Sen. Jon Kyl
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Washington, DC 20510
202-225-3121 or
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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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