



MAY-JUNE 2011

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.

May 4th- Monthly meeting speaker is Lloyd Pentecost who will give tips on photographing wildlife.

May 13-16th Birdathon (see article inside)

May 14th- North American Migration Counts in Apache & Navajo Counties are the WMAS' field trips for May.

June 1st- Monthly meeting speaker will be Dewain Bartimus giving a program on reptiles and amphibians.

June 17-19th- WMAS Campout (see info inside) at Burnt Mill Springs

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: Mary Gordon	537-0447

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

The Bittorf household has added two new bird watchers to the family. They are *Shadow and Tiger*, two gray kitties. They can't identify anything, but they sure like to watch birds.

It is time for our humming birds. So far I have seen Black-chinned, Broadtail, and Magnificent hummingbirds at my feeders. There aren't a lot of them yet, but they are back. For any of you that are new to bird watching – the formula is one part sugar to four parts water. Do not use any sugar but white granulated. No honey, or powdered sugar because these can cause the little bird to develop a fungus that can be fatal.

The month of April was good for birds at Woodland Lake. Several trips netted some exciting sightings. Over several trips we saw about 12 Red Crossbills, a Mountain Bluebird, some Western Bluebirds, American Widgeons, Gadwalls, Osprey, an Eared Grebe, Bufflehead, and Pygmy Nuthatch.

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for information about the North American Migratory Counts, the May field trip and the Birdathon. I hope many of you will participate this year so we can continue to give scholarships, Audubon Adventures, and the Beginning Birder's Workshop.

I want to thank Lloyd Pentecost for his work on the new web site, Liz and Tom Jernigan for their work on the Camp-out, Beginning Birder's Workshop, the scholarship committee, Audubon Adventures, and the field trips. Loretta Pena has done a great job again in arranging our program speakers. Thanks to Mary and Steve Gordon, and Doris Raspa as well as all of our board members for their work and innovative ideas all year long.

The weather is starting to turn nice – most of the time – and our migratory birds are returning so enjoy the good weather and most of all...enjoy birding.

~Mary Ellen Bittorf

March 19, 2011 Field Trip

On Saturday, March 19th, the Bittorfs, Jernigans, Durene Ferguson and the Penas met at Woodland Lake Park for the first field trip of 2011. It was great to have Mary Ellen and Chuck there after the recent health challenges they have experienced. They brought their scope and we were all able to get closer looks at the ducks out on the lake. Birds we saw there were **Yellow-headed** and **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Bufflehead**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **American Wigeon**, **Western Bluebird**, **Great-tailed Grackle**, **Mallard**, **Ringed-necked Duck**, **Oregon** and **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Coot**, **Bald Eagle**, **Pgmy Nuthatch** and **Violet-greened Swallow**. The highlight sighting at Woodland was a group of **Red Cossbills** that were in a tree near the path. They flew in and out and sat and allowed us all to watch them from a close distance away. Bittorfs left us and we continued on to Jacques Marsh where we saw **Canadian Geese**, **Western Meadowlark**, **Redhead** and **Mountain Bluebird**. At Scott's Reservoir we walked part away across the dam and then checked out the west side of the lake. Birds seen there were **Bald Eagle**, **Osprey**, and **Cormorant**.

It was a cool morning, but we enjoyed the company, the birds and the opportunity to be outdoors.

April 16, 2011 Field Trip

Nine people enjoyed the beautiful weather on Saturday, April 16, 2011 for the field trip to Pintail Lake, Telephone Lake and also Woodland Park. Those in attendance were the Bittorfs, Jernigans, Casslers, Jim Beck, and the Penas. Starting at Pintail Lake on the fencing placed on the north side of the blind we saw lots of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **Chipping Sparrows** and both the **Red-winged** and **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**. From the blind, we saw many, many blackbirds, coots, and other birds sighted were **Chipping Sparrow**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Canadian Geese**, **Cinnamon Teal**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Black Phoebe**, **Great Blue Heron**, **Killdeer**, **Bufflehead**, **Raven**, **Violet-greened Swallow**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Scrub Jay**, and **Townsend's Solitaire**. Bittorfs left the group after Pintail Lake and headed back to Pinetop where they visited Woodland Lake and saw the following birds: **Mountain Bluebird**, **Western Meadowlark**, **Robin**, **Osprey**, **Say's Phoebe**, **Northern Harrier**, **Chipping Sparrow**, **Lewis Woodpecker**, **American Wigeon** and **Great-tailed Grackle**. The remaining members of the group continued on to Telephone Lake across the highway. There we were able to see many, many cormorants in the dead snags across the lake. Sighted also at Telephone Lake were **Gadwall**, **Canvasback**, **Say's Phoebe**, **Western Meadowlark**, and **American Avocets**.

It was a beautiful, still, warm spring day, a perfect day for being outdoors and birding. We were happy to have new friends join the outing also.



North American Migration Counts

May 14, 2011

On the second Saturday of May each year, birders and ornithologists get out in the field to count Arizona's bird-life in an attempt to capture a snapshot of spring migration through the state. Much like Christmas Bird Counts, the objective is to count all individuals of all species encountered within a specific geographic area. Rather than a small count circle, the NAMC occurs within the boundaries of each county. Since 2004, the Arizona Field Ornithologists (AZFO) has organized this count within each of the state's 15 counties. The coordinator of each county divides up participants into teams or individuals to try and cover as many different habitats in the county as possible within the 24-hour count period. Unlike the Christmas Bird Counts, however, this count is FREE! Any time commitment is appreciated on the count day, whether it be tallying birds in your yard for an hour or traversing countless miles of road or trail throughout the day. To participate in the NAMC in one of northern Arizona's counties, simply email one of the county coordinators listed below:

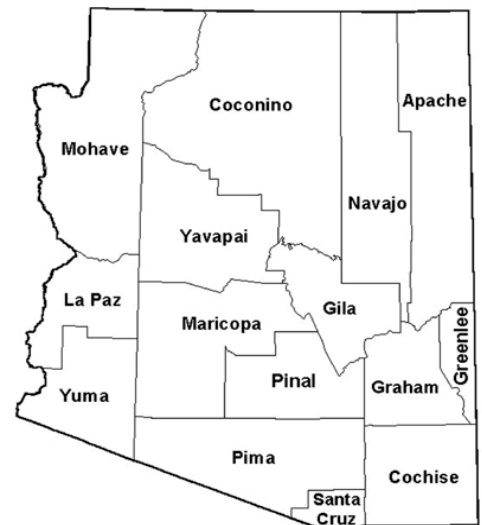
Coconino & Yavapai Counties: Bea Cooley
(bea.cooley@aol.com)

Navajo County: Eric Hough (erh36@nau.edu)

Apache County: Sue Sitko (ssitko@tnc.org)

Mohave County: Dee Dee DeLorenzo (poncho@citlink.net)

State Coordinator: Troy Corman (aplomado@cox.net)



For more information on the count, contact information for other county coordinators or to view data from previous years, check out the NAMC page on the AZFO website at the following link:

<http://azfo.org/namc/aznamc.html>

For the Apache County NAMC, meet Sue Sitko at Wenima Wildlife Area at 7:00 am.
For the Navajo County NAMC, email Eric Hough at the above address



David S. Kilby

SIGHTINGS

Birds reported at the March 2nd meeting are: Jim and Marlene Plaster saw **woodpeckers, Flicker** and **juncos** in their yard in Lakeside. Jernigans had a **Cooper's Hawk** in the woods nearby to their home in Show Low. A **Cooper's Hawk** also came to Kent Schipper's feeder in Show Low and later he saw Eurasian-collared Dove feathers next to the feeder. Durene Ferguson saw a **Red-tailed Hawk** at Woodland Lake.

At the April 6th meeting Bittorfs reported **Cassin's Finch, Purple Finch, Lesser Goldfinch** and **Robin** in their yard in Pinetop. Durene Ferguson saw **Red Crossbills** at Woodland Lake Park. Penas had a pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in their yard in Show Low. The **Band-tailed Pigeons** have returned to Doris Raspa's yard and neighborhood. Jim and Marlene Plaster saw **Robin**. A **Goshawk** was seen by the Jernigans in Show Low.

On another outing to Woodland Lake Park, Mary Ellen reported the following sightings: **Coot, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Raven, Eared Grebe, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, Pygmy Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, Mallard, Gadwall, Osprey, Pied-billed Grebe, Cormorant, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Turkey Vulture, and Crow.**

Thanks very much for reporting your sightings at the meetings. You may also call and let me know if you saw anything interesting or unusual.

"I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see."

John Burroughs

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Randall Davey Audubon Center is a wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle of the arts filled, history steeped, and picturesque town of Santa Fe. It's a short 15 minute drive from the plaza, on a narrow road. Randall Davey Audubon offers an evergreen lined hiking trail which travels up the small delightful Bear Canyon. This trail can be accessed from their main hiking trails surrounding the nature center and Randall Davey House. After a moderate short climb, the Bear Canyon trail continues climbing up the narrow canyon at a very gentle elevation gain. About 1 mile, one way, the trail ends and you must back track to the main trail to return to the visitor center. Water was seen intermittently, and the birds seemed quite content in this sanctuary. Mating juncos, Red and White-breasted Nuthatch, Rufous-sided Towhee, and magpie were some of the birds I encountered along the trail and near the Audubon facility. The highlight came when I heard a hawk screeching and screeching. I was able to walk toward the cries, hiking out of the canyon a bit to locate the hawk. I found it crying for food. It may have been a Ferruginous or a Cooper's hawk. I have footage of it if you would like to help with the identification. The volunteer at the visitor center thought it was a Ferruginous Hawk.

Having the trail mostly to myself during the off season, I enjoyed the solitude and peace there. It was a difficult start for me to hike alone; I spent some teary moments until nature did her work and filled me with wonder. I can't remember who said it but the quote comes to mind, "Wonder is a bulky emotion, it leaves room for little else." My time at Randall Davey was delightful; I encourage you to take the time to visit if you are in Santa Fe.

For more information go to <http://nm.audubon.org/center/index.html> or you can call me, I would be happy to share.

Paula

Burnt Mill Spring
White Mountain Audubon Campout 2011
June 17, 18, 19th

Campout Schedule

Friday, June 17th: Plan to arrive at about 4:00 pm. Set up camp. Get acquainted and check out the birds in nearby areas.

Saturday, June 18th:

7:30 am: Field trip in the area of Burnt Mill Springs to bird. Species that may be seen in the area are Williamson's Sapsucker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Western Tanager and Mountain and Western Bluebird.

6:00 pm: Pot-luck dinner- Everyone is invited including non-campers who come for the evening program. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the company.

7:00 pm: The evening program speakers will be graduate students, working with Michael Ingraldi of AZ G&F Dept. on their recent research.

Sunday, June 19th: Early morning bird walk in the area near Burnt Mill Springs. Then about noon, it will be time to break camp and leave the site.

At the Campout...

- **Bring your own food and WATER. (no potable water on site)**
- **Pack it in, pack it out. There is no trash pick-up.**
- **NO fires or charcoal grills unless Forest Service gives permission (unknown at this time). Camp stoves are all right.**
- **Quiet hours are 10 pm to 6:00 am.**
- **Please do not smoke at public gatherings.**
- **Musical instruments appreciated.**
- **If you plan to bring a dog, please check with camp host first. Dogs must be on a leash.**

Please notify ahead of time by emailing Tom & Liz at liztom@frontiernet.net or calling 928-532-1510. Cost is \$20 per car if camping. If coming for the evening program, cost is \$5. (Donations are welcome.)

Registration for the White Mountain Audubon Campout 2010

Name _____ #in party _____

Mailing address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Please check one:

I plan to ___ tent ___ use an RV/trailer ___ stay in town

Enclosed is my check for \$20 payable to White Mountain Audubon
P.O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935

BIRDATHON 2011

The Birdathon will be May 13- 16th this year. This is our opportunity to help White Mountain Audubon Society raise money to support the educational programs we sponsor and support. The largest expenditure we commit to is giving a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior in the White Mountain area- a senior that will possibly pursue a career in some area of environmental science. For two years, WMAS was able to give 2, \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors.

Audubon Adventures is the other program that we make available to teachers in grades 3-5 in the White Mountains. AA is an environmental education program developed by professional environmental educators. It presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. The cost per classroom to provide this to teachers is \$45 per classroom. In the current school year, White Mountain Audubon Society has providedclassrooms with Audubon Adventures.

This year the Birdathon, the North American Migration Count and our May field trip coincide on May 14th. You have the opportunity to bird all four days, including Saturday, May 14th when the NAMC takes place. To join up with Sue Sitko for the Apache County count, please meet her at 7:00 am at Wenima Wildlife Area near Springerville. To participate in the Navajo County count, you may join up with the Bittorfs or the Penas who will participate in that count. All the birds seen on the NAMC counts will be included as part of the Birdathon.

In past Birdathons, we have asked volunteers to get sponsors, go birding and then collect money from the sponsors according to the number of birds seen. This you may still do. In addition to that, we are going to give everyone the opportunity to donate money to the Birdathon effort at the May and June meetings or via the mail.

We need your support more than ever, so that we can continue to provide scholarships and Audubon Adventures to the young people in the White Mountains.

Thank you very much for considering supporting these fine programs.

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 do make a difference!!

YES!! I would like to donate: _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$50 _____ Other
Name _____ Telephone _____
Mailing address _____

Please send your donation and form to: White Mountain Audubon
P.O. Box 586
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 or \$15 dues. **Please use this form only for donations other than your membership dues. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!**

Thanks to our Donors

Thank you very much to the following people for their contributions to White Mountain Audubon Society:

Mia McKaughan

Warren Goff

Chuck and Mary Ellen Bittorf

Membership Renewals for 2011

Mia McKaughan

Bob & Loretta Pena

Anna Hollenbeck

Sally Walker

P. Clark

L. Anderson-McKee

Tom & Liz Jernigan

Steve & Mary Gordon

Doris Raspa

Chuck & Mary Ellen Bittorf

Bird Watchers Field Week

It will be a spectacular event for beginning and advanced bird watchers and all nature lovers.

Mark your calendars for the fourth week in August (21-28) and book three to seven days at the Beaver Creek Guest Ranch south of Alpine, Arizona. Beaver Creek Guest Ranch is an authentic old west cattle ranch in one of the most remote parts of the west; it is a horse riding, bird watching paradise. Enjoy world class naturalist's presentations on bird watching, butterflies, wolves, and raptors; participate in hummingbird banding at the ranch, early morning breakfast and bird walks on the Blue River and at Wildcat Canyon. Accommodations are \$50 per night per person including meals, sauna, jacuzzi and swimming pool. There are no phones, or TV, but plenty of horses, wildflowers and birds. Check the **Special Events** page on our website for more information and the opening of the Bird Watchers Field Week Website, or call Lloyd Pentecost at 928-242-9212 for more information.

~Lloyd



Steven D'Amato

Where to write

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20206
202-456-1111

U. S. Sen. Jon Kyl
730 Hart Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-225-3121 or
1-888-355-3588

Gov. Jan Brewer
Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
1-800-253-0883

Rep. Brenda Barton
House Wing
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-5219
bbarton@azleg.gov

U.S. Cong. Paul Gosar
504 Cannon HOB
202-225-2315
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Sen. John McCain
241 Russell Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2235

Sen. Sylvia Allen
1700 W. Washington
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sallen@azleg.gov

Rep. Chester Crandall
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ccrandal@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
P. O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935**