



## JULY-AUGUST 2011

### CALENDER

**All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. All field trips meet at 7:00am at the Pinetop McDonald's unless stated otherwise.**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>**- Monthly meeting speaker will be Lloyd Pentecost who will give a program on photographing wildlife.

**July 27<sup>th</sup>**- Walk with the Birds at Woodland Lake Park with Mary Ellen. Meet her at the tennis courts at 8:30am.

**July 30<sup>th</sup>**- Field trip (Hummingbird Banding) scheduled at Sipe Wildlife Area is cancelled due.

**August 1<sup>st</sup>**- Monthly meeting speaker will be John Vuolo of Pinetop-Lakeside Parks & Recreation.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>**- Field trip to Wenima Wildlife Area due to cancellation of the Birdwatcher's Field Week at Beaver Creek Ranch. Either meet at 7:00am at Pinetop McDonald's to car pool or be at Wenima at 8:00am.

### YOUR OFFICERS

<b>President-</b> Mary Ellen Bittorf	367-2462
<b>Vice-Pres.-</b> Tom Jernigan	532-1510
<b>Secretary-</b> Liz Jernigan	532-1510
<b>Treasurer-</b> Chuck Bittorf	367-2462
<b>Editor-</b> Loretta Pena	368-3380
<b>Membership-</b> Mary Gordon	537-0447
<b>Programs-</b> Loretta Pena	368-3380
<b>Field Trips-</b> Kent Schipper	537-7569

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

Reach us at: [www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

### ~Out on a Limb with Your President~

In July one of our valued board members will be moving to Oregon to be near her son. Doris Raspa has been on the Audubon board for two years and she has done a great job doing publicity, as well as giving support in many areas. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her well on her new adventure. Thanks, Doris!!

With Doris's departure, the board will need someone to take her place. She took care of publicity and helped with fund-raising, the new 50/50 raffles at our meetings, and many other projects. If anyone is willing to be on the board please let me or another board member know. Board members need to live here year-round.

The devastating Wallow Fire caused the cancellation of the June camp-out. In its place there was a field trip to Fool Hollow Lake. There is a report about it elsewhere in the newsletter. The fire has also caused a question about the August birding event that was supposed to talk place at Beaver Creek. Most, if not all of the cabins at Beaver Creek were burned and the board has decided to change the field trip for August to Wenima Wildlife Area. We will meet at 7:00 A.M. at the McDonald's parking lot in Pinetop and travel to Wenima, or those who wish may meet at Wenima at 8:00 A.M.

Chuck and I visited Hoover Dam on June 12 when we were in Henderson, Nevada for our granddaughter's wedding. Hoover Dam is an amazing feat of engineering. Construction on the dam began in 1931 and it was completed in 1935 – two years ahead of time and well under budget. It is located in Black Canyon near Las Vegas, Nevada, and it is a world renowned structure. It has 17 generators and its reservoir, Lake Mead is America's largest man-made reservoir. It can store 9.2 trillion gallons of water. The operation and maintenance of the facility is solely with revenue from power plant sales. Several wildlife refuges have been developed along the lower river to replace habitat lost during construction of the dam. If you have not toured the dam and you get a chance to do so, I recommend taking the tour. It is worthwhile.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a Kids Kamp that was part of the Junior Leaders Academy (JLA). Another presenter talked about reptiles, and the kids also went on a nature hike and looked at critters in the water at Big Spring. I talked about birds and why they are important. The kids were ages 10 to 13 and I have to say they were attentive and well – behaved. There were about 60 in all. This was the end of a two-week session to help kids cope with "life problems" and enrich their lives. Mary Jean Monroe and Gil Alvidrez were the leaders of the camp, and there were a number of people who helped. At the end certificates of completion were handed out. One remark stuck with me and that was "It takes a community to raise a child". I was glad that Audubon was a part of that community. This camp is a very worthwhile venture.

Two important dates to remember: **The July meeting will be Wednesday, July 13** because of 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Also, the **Walk with the Birds at Woodland will be Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**. We meet at the tennis courts at 8:30 A.M. Join me and we will see what there is to see.

Enjoy Birds,  
Mary Ellen Bittorf~

## **North American Migration Count: Apache County Results**

### **May 14, 2011**

The Apache County North American Migration Count (NAMC) was held on Saturday, May 14. This year, we had a terrific turnout, in both birds and people! With surveys conducted in each county, it is often difficult to find enough people to cover our large counties, but this year, many people stepped up to the task.

First of all, a few new people joined us, and helped us tremendously on the count. Ken Bader, a National Park Service employee from the Petrified Forest National Park offered to survey his neck of the woods, which is the first time since I've coordinated this NAMC that Petrified was included in the Apache County NAMC. Then, a retired couple, Jill and Tom Gaetzi, contacted me from their RV in Greer. They offered to bird the Greer Valley, which is a tremendous help. In years past, we generally don't make it to Greer until lunchtime, when things seem to quiet down, so it was great to know that someone was birding Greer during the peak morning hours.

Friends from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Cathy Taylor and Deb Brewster, offered to bird the high-elevation lakes like Luna Lake, Nutrioso Reservoir, and Big Lake. Audubon members Tom and Liz Jernigan volunteered to bird the Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area outside of Springerville. And member Kent Schipper was going to conduct a riparian bird survey for the Arizona Game & Fish Department, which happened to be located in Apache County.

That left four people, including myself, to make a team that would start birdwatching at the Wenima Wildlife Area and move upstream to sites along the Little Colorado River up through South Fork. Evelyn Treiman, Barb Davis, and yet another new friend, Mary Williams, joined me for our day of birdwatching.

Two of my group's most interesting finds was first thing in the morning at Wenima. As we were getting ready to walk the trails, one of us noticed a robin-sized bird, mostly gray with light "faded" speckles on its breast, probing mud in a road rut. It was a Swainson's thrush! Then, lo and behold, one of us spotted a quail on the pole fence across from the parking area (we hadn't even left the parking lot yet). After assuming it was a Gambel's, but looking at it carefully, I thought the plumage patterning was different than the Gambel's. We then looked at the image of a California quail. Bingo! About 30-40 years ago, a private landowner downstream of Wenima along the Little Colorado River introduced California quail on his property. For years, and into recent memory, people have spoken about the elusive California quail in Arizona being either no longer in existence, or at the very least, terribly hard to find. So that was a very exciting observation.

The rest of the morning was uneventful, but still fun nonetheless. Nearly 60 species were found by our group before we met up with Jill and Tom for lunch in Greer. Jill and Tom reported finding four American dippers at the south end of the valley along the West Fork of the Little Colorado River, so we trekked back there to find them—because, to me, an Apache County NAMC is simply not complete without seeing at least one dipper. We were enthralled to find two of the four Jill and Tom observed, one adult that was feeding one juvenile dipper.

Other notable sightings from our Springerville-area count included rough-legged hawk and about 130+ cliff swallows on the Hwy. 261 bridge. Ken at Petrified Forest added several birds to our list, such as sage thrasher, Cooper's and Swainson's hawks, black-throated sparrow, gray and dusky flycatchers, and scaled quail. Jill and Tom in Greer added Williamson's sapsucker, red-faced warbler, and several other species. Cathy, Deb, and Jim added many waterfowl species, snowy egret, mountain bluebird, and red crossbill.

All in all, a total of 123 species were observed, making this year's count one of the best in recent memory. Thanks to all of you who volunteered their time and effort!

~Sue Sitko

## 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 Society  
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 regular dues. Please use this form only for donations other than your membership dues. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

## North American Migration Count in Navajo County May 14, 2011

This year 13 people participated, the most volunteers ever on this count, making it particularly good with increased coverage and participation. This year also broke the record of species seen with 138 on this year's list. The 2011 count added eight species not previously recorded in a Navajo County NAMC. These were: Western Grebe, Forster's Tern, Prairie Falcon, Flammulated Owl, Burrowing Owl, Hermit Warbler, Painted Redstart and Eastern Meadowlark. A grand total of 2913 individual birds were found on the count. Areas covered within the county included Navajo National Monument, Petrified Forest National Park, Holbrook, Winslow, Zeniff, Clay Springs, Heber-Overgaard, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest from Back Canyon to US 60, Carrizo, Alchesay Fish Hatchery near Whiteriver, Show Low, and Pinetop-Lakeside. Participants in the count were Kenneth Bader, Terry Blows, Eric, Elaine & Bob Hough, Adam, Phyliss and Jeff Martin, David Miller, Deb Noel, Bob and Loretta Pena, and Zack Zdinak.

A sampling of birds on the list are: Blue-winged Teal, Wild Turkey, Scaled Quail, White-faced Ibis, Wilson's Phalarope, Long-eared Owl, Common Poor-will, Greater Peewee, Bushtit, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwings, Orange-crowned Warbler, Peregrine Falcon, Eared Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Black Hawk, Cassin's Kingbird, and Plumbeous, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos.

Eric Hough organized the Navajo County NAMC this year and thanks everyone who participated.

## Field Trip to Fool Hollow Lake June 18, 2011

Seven of us went to Fool Hollow Lake to do some birding. Most of the participants had planned to go on the June Campout, but due to the Wallow Fire and the Campout cancellation, this was our field trip. I would say it was definitely worth it. We walked along the south shore of the long arm of Fool Hollow Lake. As we started out of the parking lot, right away we spotted a **Bullock's Oriole**--bright yellow in the morning sunlight. **Violet-green Swallows** were flitting overhead. There was a **Great Blue Heron** off in the distance. In the trees there were **Northern Flickers** and a **Hairy Woodpecker**. Looking back over the lake, there were **Double-crested Cormorants**; one old snag had thirteen Cormorants in it. A **Common Raven** flew overhead. The trail turned back toward the campground and posing on a tree for a fair amount of time was a **Black-chinned Hummingbird**. We also spotted several male **Western Tanagers**, **Nuthatches**, **Mourning Doves**, **White-breasted Nuthatches**, **Turkey Vultures**, **Western Wood-Pewee**, **Pine Siskins**, **American Robins** and an **Osprey**. We noted a male **Lesser Goldfinch** among the pines and then saw a small bird sitting on a nest. We made an educated guess that it was the female **Lesser Goldfinch**.

-Liz & Tom Jernigan



Kristen Munson

## SIGHTINGS

Sightings for May are the following: Sue Sitko saw **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, **Ash-throated Flycatcher** as well as many other species on the Timber Mesa Trail. Barb Davis had **Hermit Thrush**, **Western Tanager** and **Grace's Warbler** in her yard. At Telephone Lake she saw **Cormorant** and **Great Horned Owl**. Kay Alderton sighted **House Finches**, robins and juncos in her yard. Steve and Mary Gordon reported a **Summer Tanager** in their yard in west Show Low. At her home in Show Low, Doris Raspa had a **Northern Oriole** at her hummingbird feeder. The Bittorfs had **Red Crossbills**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, **Evening Grosbeak**, **Magnificent Hummingbird**, and **Western Tanager** in their yard in Pinetop. Penas were happy to see the **Lewis Woodpecker** back, as well as a **Scrub Jay** in their yard. Kathy Melsted saw **Pine Siskin**, **Flicker**, and **American Kestrel**. In her backyard and also in Apache Junction Yvonne Bevacqua was able to see jays, an oriole, **Great-horned Owl**, robin, hummingbirds, doves and crows. From Overgaard, Cheryl and Ken Floberg reported **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. Norris Dodd had a **Summer Tanager** in his backyard. Near Concho, Robert Thomas called in a sighting of a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. On walks with his dog in Timberland Acres, Gus Hollenbeck saw **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **MacGillivray's**, **Yellow**, **Virginia's**, and **Black-throated Gray Warblers**, **Western Wood Pewee**, a **male Lazuli Bunting**, **Cassin's Vireo**, **Dusky Flycatcher**, **Northern Goshawk** and **Vaux Swift**.

In June the following birds were sighted: Marlene & Jim Plaster had **Band-tailed Pigeons** and **Western Tanager** at their home in Lakeside. Jeanne Stiteler reported a nest of robins with 4 babies and their parents in Pinetop Lakes. Steve Gordon has seen **Evening Grosbeak** and has nesting **House Finches** in Show Low. Ann Koean saw **Lewis Woodpecker** and **Hooded Oriole** at her home. Joan Alexander reported **Black-headed Grosbeak**, **Costa** and **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in Juniper Ridge. Diane Dorsay had a **Western Tanager** at her feeder in Pinetop. In Show Low, Doris Raspa sighted **Black-headed Grosbeak** and a pair of **Red Crossbills**. Mary Ellen and Chuck had **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Red Crossbill**, **Western Tanager**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, **American Goldfinch** and **Mallard babies** in their yard in Pinetop.

Thank you to all for letting us know what you are seeing!!

## **10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WATER**

1. One drop of oil can make up to 6.6 gallons of water undrinkable.
2. 70 % of the world's water is used for agriculture, 22% is used for industry, 8% for domestic use.
3. A person can survive 1 month without food, but only 5-7 days without water.
4. Of all the earth's water 97.5% is salt and 2.5% is fresh. Of that water 70% is locked in glacial ice and 30% in soil, leaving under 1% of total water readily accessible for human use.
5. A water footprint is the amount of water used in the entire production and or growth of a specific product. For instance a cup of tea uses 9.2 gallons of water, 1 sheet of paper uses 2.6 gallons of water.
6. A 5 minute shower uses 25-50 gallons; a toilet flush uses between 2-7 gallons, brushing teeth uses approximately 2 gallons, and hand washing dishes uses 20 gallons of water.
7. 6,000 children die each day from preventable water-related disease.
8. The population of the United States is over 300 million people; the population of Europe is over 733 million people. 1.1 billion people lack adequate drinking water and 2.6 billion people lack basic water sanitation.
9. The average American uses 151.9 gallons of water per day. (60% of that is outdoors). The average European uses 66 gallons per day.
10. The average American uses 30.3 times more water than a person who lacks adequate water access. The average European uses 13.2 times more water than a person who lacks adequate water access.

## **WATER CONSERVATION FOR THE ARIZONA RESIDENT**

- Plant low water use and drought tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees.
- 
- Group plants according to their water needs.
- 
- Check all hoses, connectors, and spigots regularly and repair if needed.
- 
- Install a water efficient drip system.
- 
- Minimize evaporation; mulch, mulch, mulch!
- 
- Water deeply, but less often to create healthier & deeper root systems.
- 
- Weed yards/gardens regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for water.
- 
- Collect and use rain water for watering your landscape.
- 
- Direct water from down gutters toward trees and shrubs.

(Information came from website of Global Water of Maricopa County)

[www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

**Thanks very much to the following people who have renewed their membership to WMAS**

Bob Pester  
Mary Rose Redding  
Carol Sletten/Eric Kramer  
Don Hollister  
Ann Vandielen  
Sue Sitko  
Delores Oster  
Kent & Marti Schipper  
Nancy Russell  
Virginia Dotson  
Kay Alderton  
Dave & Cheryl Cagle  
Mary Pennock  
Judith A. Ginn  
Jeanne Stiteler  
Phillip W. May  
Steven Williams  
Barbara Teague  
Gus Hollenbeck

**Many thanks for donations to Audubon:**

Az. Game & Fish  
Mary Williams  
Ann Koran

## **Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival**

**August 17-21, 2011**

**at The Riverpark Inn, near downtown Tucson, AZ**

- The **Sky Islands Birding Cup** (a "Big Day" competition like no other) on Aug. 17
- Evening programs by renowned naturalists and educators **Kenn Kaufman** and **Rick Taylor**
- Exciting **monsoon birding**: peak numbers and diversity of bird species!
- **Expert-led field trips** to nearby birding hotspots like Madera Canyon, Cienega Creek, Mt. Lemmon, Patagonia, Sweetwater Wetlands, and more; some of the best birding in North America!
- Birding & Natural History **workshops and free talks** for beginners through advanced!
- Family-friendly activities & **youth birders' field trip** with Kenn & Kim Kaufman
- **Nature Expo** with educational exhibits, vendors, and live critters!
- **Special Festival rates** at The Riverpark Inn and Enterprise Rent-a-car

For more info and online registration, please visit [www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival)

Erin Olmstead  
Special Projects  
Tucson Audubon Society

[www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

## WHO SPEAKS FOR THE BIRDS?

National Audubon Society does and they are asking us for support of their efforts to save songbirds.

Birdsong has enchanted us for eons. Every bird species has its own distinctive, sometimes hauntingly beautiful, voice. But ironically, countless millions of birds depend for their survival not on their own lovely voices, but on ours.

We speak for the birds. Not in trills, or whistles, or melodies — but in our deeds, in our demands as citizens, and in the lessons we teach our children.

The theme we have chosen for our Summer online fundraising campaign — "raise your voice for birds" — recognizes the special responsibility we have for our avian friends. It also recognizes the unique interdependence between birds and the rest of life on earth.

**Please donate today — and your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$50,000.**

Your support will never make a bigger difference.

Climate change, oil and gas development, urban sprawl, and unchecked pollution are causing steep declines in bird numbers, including species that were common backyard visitors just a decade or two ago.

Take the Rufous Hummingbird. The Rufous is a very small, almost cinnamon-colored bird (males have a red throat), found wherever flowers are near — from dense forests to sunny southern Alaska to northern California. Tiny in stature, they are mighty in stamina; Rufous Hummingbirds migrate thousands of miles down the West Coast each year, to overwintering grounds in Mexico.

The Rufous Hummingbird breeds in Alaska and in the Pacific Northwest, where logging and urban sprawl have dramatically affected its habitat. Current estimates suggest this diminutive beauty's numbers have fallen by nearly 60 percent over the past 40 years.

**Your urgent gift will support Audubon's bird conservation work in all 50 states. Donate by June 30 and your gift will be matched dollar for dollar.**

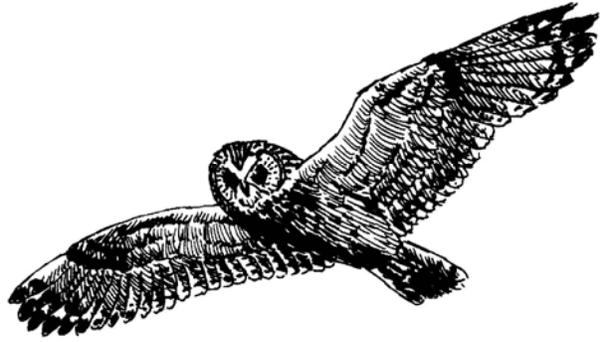
For more than a century, Audubon has been a champion for conserving birds and their natural habitats in America. With an extensive network of local Audubon chapters and centers around the nation, Audubon scientists, volunteers, and advocates have led the fight to conserve critical habitats, curb toxic pollution, and instill conservation values in generation after generation of young Americans.

Our work has brought the Brown Pelican and our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, back from the brink of extinction. We are working intensively to restore the magnificent California Condor. And more recently, Audubon was on the front lines of responding to the massive Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Hope is the thing with feathers," mused the great American poet Emily Dickinson more than a century ago. For her and for many of us, birds have come to represent something much larger than themselves. Beyond the inspiration birds offer, we humans understand innately that their fate is linked with our own.

In short, by raising our voices for birds, we are raising our voices for all life on Earth.

David Yarnold  
President & CEO of National Audubon Society



Steven D'Amato

### Wildfire Fears Create Need to Capture Rare Squirrels

Worried that wildfire could wipe out the habitat of the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel, government biologists are trying to capture four of the animals to prevent the loss of the entire species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an emergency order that allowed the agency to capture and hold the squirrels, whose small habitat in southern Arizona's Pinaleno Mountains is at risk of wildfire.

Once captured, the squirrels- two males and two females- would be taken to the Phoenix Zoo's conservation center, where they would be kept as a possible seed population for restoring the species.

The zoo had been preparing to start a captive breeding program to study the squirrels, whose numbers have dwindled to an estimated 214. The Mount Graham squirrels are a subspecies of the red squirrel.

(Article is from the AZ Republic written by Shaun McKinnon.)

## 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  
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1700 W. Washington  
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Rep. Brenda Barton  
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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.**

**White Mountain Audubon Society  
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