



Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. Fieldtrip times and meeting places vary; see below or please check the website. You may call 367-2462 for more information.

Meetings and Programs

Mon., 3/5, 5 pm, Environmental Coalition meeting presented by WMA at Moose Henri's, Lakeside. Special menu dinner at 5 (attendee's cost), followed by introductions of various environmental groups' leaders and their aims, and a special program still in the works.

Wed., Mar. 4, 6:30pm: Resume monthly meeting (program to be announced), at Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers

Wed., Apr. 1, 6:30pm: Program to be announced

Field Trips

To be announced. Some possibilities: Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Show Low Sewage Ponds, Pintail Lake. Let us know if you'd like to participate or lead a field trip.

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: Jody Inman	369-3240
Membership: Position open A	
Website Manager: Richard Inman	369-3240
Board Members: Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman	

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015

Out on a Limb With Your President~

Happy New Year Everybody!!

The year 2015 promises to be a year of challenge to conservation and environmental concerns. Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, I am afraid there will be some actions taken in Congress that will be troubling. We need to keep in mind that we are the only ones that can speak for such things as clean air, clean water, open spaces, wildlife, habitat, and, yes, birds. If we want to protect these things we will need to speak up, singly or in groups. Perhaps we should consider writing some letters to our congressmen during the year. How do you feel about that?

The last few days have produced some really cold temperatures, and that presents a real problem for our bird friends. They need plenty of food, so keep your feeders well supplied. Suet is an important source of energy, so be sure you have one or more available. I have noticed that a lot of birds have figured out that they can wait under the suet while woodpeckers eat and then they eat the droppings. Juncos, Siskins, and other finches do this. I have White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches along with our two Brown Creepers who like to do this too.

A good water source is important also. One good way to keep water available while it is so cold is to have a heater in the birdbath. You will probably need to refill the bath at least once each day.

The first meeting in 2015 will be on Wednesday, March 4th. We will also have a conservation meeting on Monday, March 30th at Moose Henry's in Lakeside. We will begin to order off a special menu between 5:00 and 6:30 when the program will begin. Please mark your calendar for these events.

Please be careful driving or if you are out in this cold weather, and.....enjoy birding.

Mary Ellen~

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NOVEMBER 5 WMAS MEETING REPORT

By Loretta Pena

WMAS's speaker for the last meeting of the year was Dr. Paul Green, Executive Director of Tucson Audubon Society. He has been with TAS for 8 years and at the end of the year leaves this position to move to northern New Mexico to pursue other work/interests. Eng-Li, Paul's wife accompanied him on the trip to the White Mountains, and provided us with materials from TAS, including several issues of *The Vermillion Flycatcher* and informational brochures. Their presentation opened a whole new interesting world and we are thankful we were able to meet them.

Paul spoke about the studies NAS has done on climate change and the affects it is having on birds in southeast AZ. Paul speaks about climate change in the current issue of *The Vermillion Flycatcher* in a clear, concise way. Another study was done here in AZ by Charles van Riper and his colleagues at the USGS Southwest Biological Science Center. You may read about this study in the October-December 2014 issue of *The Vermillion Flycatcher*, also.

Because of climate change and global warming and the effect it is having on the planet, Paul and Eng-Li no longer eat meat or dairy products. Two documentaries that they recommend are "Planeat" and "Forks over Knives". Another documentary that I have recently learned of is "Cowspiracy". Authors that address these concerns/issues are Naomi Klein, T. Colin Campbell, and George Marshall. George began an organization called Climate Outreach and Information Network –COIN. I was curious about the Green's diet and asked how they can find enough different food to eat; their recommendation was cookbook author and Chef Isa Moskowitz. She has written several vegan cookbooks and it is easy to locate her recipes on the internet.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

The bird sightings list from the December meeting just showed up, too late for this newsletter. Look for that report in the March-April newsletter. The only sightings we can report now come from Cathy Steele, who reported an albino American Crow behind the Blue Ridge Middle School, and Jody and Richard Inman, keeping their eyes open on recent outings. Jody was lucky to spot a Vermilion Flycatcher, Canyon Wren, and Gila Woodpecker on a November trip to Aravaipa Canyon. Then, ducks aplenty showed themselves to the Inmans during a walk around Woodland Lake Park, including Buffleheads, Mallards, Ringnecks, Ruddys, Gadwalls, Redheads, and Canvasbacks, while perched in nearby trees was an American Kestrel and a Red-naped Sapsucker. On a trip to California, the Inmans were passed by several White Pelicans flying overhead near a reservoir in the Riverside hills, drove by a Snowy Egret on a waterway in Yorba Linda, met several very friendly Brown Pelicans perched on the Oceanside Pier, and were greeted by cheerful Cedar Waxwings, California Towhees, Audubon's Warblers, Western Bluebirds, Juncos, Allen's and Calliope Hummingbirds, and a Great Blue Heron at Mission San Luis Rey.

We'll hopefully have lots of great bird sightings to report from our Christmas Bird Count on January 3.

***"Adopt the pace of nature. Her secret is patience."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson***

The Amazon: A Different World



Three White Mountains birdwatchers (Linda White-Trifaro, Evelyn Treiman, and myself) were fortunate to tag along with the Texas-based Galveston Island Master Naturalist Club on a two-

week trip to the Amazon River this past July. I was humbled to be asked to give White Mountain Audubon a presentation of this trip at our December potluck, and to be asked to provide a little synopsis of our trip for our newsletter. While it's tough to quickly run down what the trip was all about, since all of it was simply amazing, let me try!



The tour was led by Amazonia Expeditions (<http://amazoniaexpeditions.ning.com/>) and their extremely knowledgeable guide, Moacir Fortes, Jr. (known simply as "Junior"), part of a family of naturalist guides on the Amazon for over 30 years. Our basecamp for two weeks was their boat, the Dorinha, which carried about 30 people (24 or so of the group; 6 or so guide/captain and crew). Almost every day consisted of loading into smaller canoes every morning and late afternoon, with the Dorinha sailing to a new place over the hotter lunchtime

temperatures (while we sat on the top canopied level watching birds fly, and the river float, by). After dinner, we'd jump back in the canoes for a night-time spotlighting ride, which was always exciting. Let me say here that our complete and total ability to absorb all this nature would not have been possible if it weren't for Junior and his crew, who ably manned the canoes while avoiding jungle vegetation, wasp nests, and tree stumps covered with biting ants, while getting us back to the Dorinha safely, every time.



Interspersed with that general routine, we'd have a few days of hiking on "terra firma" or visiting both the large harbor city of Manaus and smaller river communities. Each day was an adventure, highlighted of course by seeing dozens upon dozens of new bird, fish, reptile, and mammal species. Some days we'd fish for piranhas...other days we'd swim in the river where piranhas were not especially plentiful. With Master Naturalists on board, there was interest in All Things Nature. We'd identify pretty much every critter that crossed our path, and record them all in our comprehensive checklist.

Some of the highlights:

- A pre-dawn canoe ride to hear howler monkeys waking up, making their initially quiet—and then louder—low, rumbling growls that echo through the rainforest for miles. You don't realize they're making a sound until it's reverberating around, and inside, you.



- Seeing a Harpy Eagle perched on a branch, and watching it for 45 minutes, knowing that this immense eagle that preys upon sloths and monkeys is still with us on this incredible, but fragile, planet.

- Calling in a Crested Owl in the dark of a nighttime canoe ride, with the only things separating the blackness of the jungle and sky were the stars—and a lone spotlight—on the owl perched in an overhead tree.

- Swimming in the Rio Negro, one of the 10 largest rivers in the world and a tributary of the Amazon, and seeing boto (or the pinkish-gray freshwater dolphin) rise above the still waters nearby, making ripples that encircle you.

- The sky! The sky was probably the biggest surprise. Continually

breathhtaking, I'd often be watching it instead of searching for birds. Sunsets, rain and storm clouds, and sunrises—every day was a spectacular show that left all of us at a loss for words.





- Watching, in the late afternoon golden glow of the sun, about two dozen Hoatzins (a Dr. Seuss bird if there ever was) lazily and clumsily shuffling around the treetops, and truly feeling they were putting on a show just for us.
- And of course, more birds! Toucans, parrots, macaws, colorful songbirds, trogons, and species that are just fun to say: Motmots, Jacamars, Potoos, and the Screaming Piha, among many others.

I showed a video I made to our December group, and you can find that video on YouTube (pour yourself a drink, relax, and enjoy! It's a little over 20 minutes in length). In addition, I have a short write-up on my blog where I describe the trip and incredible facts about the Amazon River. I also have six photo albums on Flickr that are categorized (i.e. Daytime Canoe Expeditions; the City of Manaus, Amazon Skies, etc.) that you can find even more photos. Lastly, my YouTube channel has many, many more short video clips of boat rides, bats, birds, and other escapades that didn't make the final cut in my video. Here are all the links:

My blog entry on the Amazon:

My home blog page is: <http://thebirdsandthebeads-sue.blogspot.com>; the Amazon entry is found in the August 2014 archives, or go to this shortcut: <http://tinyurl.com/amazon-blog-sue>

My YouTube channel with the movie I showed at our December meeting ("Amazon July 2014") and all my other short uncut video clips: <https://www.youtube.com/user/Ramphastos333/videos> (or just do a search on YouTube for Ramphastos333, that's me!)[*Ramphastos being the genus for toucans...*], or just search for "Amazon July 2014" by Ramphastos333.

My Flickr photo site: <http://tinyurl.com/flickr-ramphastos333> (six separate albums found on this page)

Thanks for reading!!!~~ Sue Sitko (*traveler at every opportunity*)



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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