



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

May 1st-31st- BIRDATHON

May 4th- Monthly meeting will be the Beginning Birder's Workshop.

May 7th- Fieldtrip will be a follow up to the Beginner's Birder's Workshop at Woodland Lake Park Tennis Courts, 8 am.

May 14th- North American Migration Count

June 1st- Monthly meeting speaker Bob Herrmann of southern AZ will give program on "Cactus Blooms of Cochise County".

June 4th- National Trails Day

June 11th- Tentative fieldtrip to Dr. Hall's property in Shumway.

June 24th-25th- WM Nature Film Festival dinner at El Rancho Restaurant in Pinetop, 5PM on Fri., Film Festival at WM Nature Center all day Sat. Details in upcoming email alert.

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

Website Manager: Richard Inman 369-3240
Contact Mary Ellen if you can take over this position.

Board Members: Joan Patrick, Jody Inman and Richard Inman, Diane Dorsay, Mary Freeman

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

MAY-JUNE, 2016 Out on a Limb with Your President

I look outside, and I see a bird,
It is calling me,
I step outside to see,
I am surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature,
It takes my breath away.
I hear him calling. His call is loud-raucus-demanding. He is beautiful, blue, a crest sits on his head, and he wants a peanut! He is a Steller's Jay. There are three Pygmy Nuthatches twittering and eating suet. I hear the raspy call of the White-breasted Nuthatch as he goes down the tree.
I see tall Ponderosa Pines,, Gamble Oak, wildflowers, butterflies. There is a gentle breeze, there are black clouds, warm, sunny days, cloudy and cold, thunder up close.
A Northern Flicker pecks a hole in my garage wall...please don't! Two Acorn Woodpeckers chase each other. A timid Hairy Woodpecker is on his way to the suet. Chickadee grabs a black-oil sunflower seed and flies away with a chick-a-dee-dee. A Robin is perturbed about something, and somewhere in the distance, another Robin answers. Raven, tall, sleek, imposing lands and walks around, but Abert's Squirrel is irritated. He does not like Raven, wants him to leave! Mr. Jay can't decide which peanut he wants. Tough decision.
Suddenly, it is quiet. Mr. Jay lands on a branch above me. Softly, quietly, he sings a beautiful song.
I look around and I see birds.
They are calling me.
They are black, brown, yellow, red.
They are beautiful. They are.....
Mine~

Enjoy birding.....

Mary Ellen

Changes to the North American Migration Count: Contribute to a Global Birding Experience!

The North American Migration Count (NAMC) has been an ongoing activity for birders in Arizona and across the country for several years. It has grown now to be a global annual event, called the "Global Big Day," using the term often referred to as a day to get out and see as many birds as possible. The Global Big Day in Arizona is scheduled for Saturday, May 14. Much like the Christmas Bird Count, birders record their species seen, and individuals counted, and contribute to a growing database of changes or trends in bird populations and movements over time.

Along with the change in name, the Global Big Day has "migrated" to a new way of managing bird sightings. Data will now be collected and organized through the free, open website eBird (www.ebird.org), making it much easier for birders to submit their information. No longer will people have to complete detailed checklists and mail them to their coordinator; all bird sightings can be uploaded to eBird! That means any of you can go birding on May 14, and if you enter your bird list on eBird, you will help support the growing information on migrating birds along with other birdwatchers from around the world, and contribute to the Global Big Day.

Be a part of Global Big Day in Arizona! Go birding anywhere on Saturday, May 14 (of course we are keen to get some good bird sightings in Navajo, Apache, and Greenlee counties). Keep track of the birds you see and the number of individuals. After your wonderful birdwatching outing, log onto eBird and input your data under the "Submit Observations" tab at the top. If you have used eBird before, it is handled like any other trip list.

If you have not used eBird, this is a great opportunity to get started. Set up a free account and then submit your observations. From now on, you can create online trip lists that others can see, and you can start creating your permanent electronic journal of your bird sightings. You can add older trips to your account, and use eBird as a digital diary of your life list. You can also use eBird to seek out bird lists from places you're planning on visiting to better prepare you for your next trip. All in all, eBird is a phenomenal resource, a result of a partnership between National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Why not start using it for the Global Big Day?

If you have questions, this year's coordinator to help you along is Doug Jenness (d_jenness@hotmail.com), and more information can be found at <http://www.azfo.org/namc/aznamc.html>

May 14 is not only the Global Big Day, it also marks the official International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). This is a special year for the IMBD as it marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of the most significant pieces of legislation that protects all migratory birds in the United States. Truly a remarkable milestone for our birds! To learn more about ongoing celebrations of this special day, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/> or contact Jennie Duberstein (jennie_duberstein@fws.gov).



Photos of Evening Grosbeak and Great Blue Heron by Andrew Carlson, age 13 (Jody Inman's grandson)



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Observing an Old Friend in a New Light By Sue Sitko

I had an opportunity to visit southeastern Arizona the weekend of March 19 to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Nature Conservancy's acquisition of Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve and the start of this organization's active conservation work in Arizona. My husband and I stayed at a Bed & Breakfast east of Elgin that was a lovely guest house in the Canelo Hills, foothills of the Huachuca Mountains. I've been fortunate to have visited southeastern Arizona numerous times, and it's not often that I see a new "life" bird nowadays. So while I do my birdwatching thing, binoculars my constant companion, I tend to enjoy the birds as "old friends," and work on my quiet observation skills rather than drive myself ever forward looking for different species I can tick off on a list.

Sunday morning found both my husband and I walking around the B&B property before breakfast, enjoying the warming air and some fairly typical bird species for the area: House Finches, Acorn Woodpeckers, Pinyon Jays, and Northern Flickers. Oh, look, pointed out Bruce: there was a roadrunner in a planted windbreak of evergreen trees. The bird was warming up in a sunny spot, and after we moved off, it trotted out of sight into the trees.

A few minutes later, I hear a cooing that I had never heard before. A simple and even "COO...Coo...coo...coo" going lower on the scale. What was THAT? Sounded like a dove, but no dove I've ever heard. It dawned on me that it could be the roadrunner, a bird that is in the Cuckoo family. I cautiously stepped back near the copse of evergreens. There, 20 feet up perched on a dead, needle-less treetop, was that roadrunner. It was perched like a statue; except about every minute, it would puff up its throat, lean its head over, and make that cooing call. It was, in fact, a male roadrunner calling for a mate, as I discovered later after playing the roadrunner calls from my cellphone's Ibird app.

Well, I'll be darned. There in the quiet morning, I was treated to an incredibly special experience, that of seeing something totally new in an "old friend," the roadrunner, a bird I've seen dozens of times (most often, well, running across a road). I think that's what I love most about birdwatching. Sure, seeing new birds is exciting and building up that life list is certainly rewarding, but nothing is quite as touching as getting to know a feathered friend a tad bit better. Enjoy your birdwatching!

BIRDATHON

It is time for **Birdathon**, a White Mountain Audubon Society fundraiser! We ask you to join the effort this year to raise funds for the programs that we support. You will want to ask family, friends, and coworkers to pledge a certain amount for each bird seen or donate a flat amount. Then it is time to go birding for as much time as possible during the month of May. After the Birdathon, please call Mary Ellen at 367-2462 and tell her the birds you saw. Then collect from those that made pledges; afterwards, turn in your money to Chuck Bittorf, Treasurer, at the regular June meeting.

White Mountain Audubon Society sponsors Audubon Adventures, a science program for grades 3-6 for many classrooms in the White Mountains, we give a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior each spring and we sponsor the Beginning Birder's Workshop. These programs are made possible by dollars raised in the Birdathon and from other efforts. If you can do the Birdathon, that will be great! If not, please consider sponsoring someone who is doing it and help WMAS in that way. We thank you for your support of White Mountain Audubon Society!

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SIGHTINGS FOR MARCH, 2016

Name	What seen	Where
Kay Alderton	Road Runner	Presbyterian Church
John Davis	Eagle, Hawks, Roadrunner	Hwy 60, 260
Barb Davis	Yellow-rumped Warbler, Western and Mtn. Bluebirds	Lakeside
Penas	Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, Bald Eagles	Bosque del Apache, NM
J.C. Patrick	Lewis Woodpecker, Red-tailed Hawk	Yard, trip to Valley
Irene Klim	Bald Eagle	Overgaard
Diane Dorsay	Canada Geese	Woodland Lake
Inmans	Ducks: Ruddys, Ringnecks, Canvasbacks, Buffleheads	Woodland Lake
Mike Meixler	Great Blue Heron	Concho farm
Sue Sitko	Hutton's Vireo (song heard in Lakeside), Gray Hawk, Vermillion Flycatcher, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Prairie Falcon, Gila Woodpecker, Yellow Warbler, Bewick's Wren, Pinyon Jay, Roadrunner	Southeast Az
Andrew Carlson (13 year old beginning birder)	Scaly-breasted Munia, Lesser Goldfinches, Anna's Hummers	Front yard, Garden Grove, CA

SIGHTINGS FOR APRIL, 2016

Name	What seen	Where
Paulsens	Black Brant, Spotted Towhee, Pine Siskins, Pygmy Nuthatches, White-breasted Nuthatches	Morro Bay (CA), Linden, Show Low
Penas	Lesser Goldfinches, Lewis' Woodpecker	Show Low yard
Liz Jernigan	Pine Siskins	Lakeside yard
Mary Freemon	Robin, Nuthatches, Downy Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, Evening Grosbeaks, Chickadees, Juncos	Lakeside yard
Kay Alderton	Steller's Jays, Robins (taking mud for nests from watering hose area), Pinyon Jays	Pinetop yard
Joan C. Patrick	Pine Siskins, Grackles	Penrod Rd., Gilbert
Inmans	Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Scrub Jay, Band-tailed Pigeons	Sky Hi Retreat yard
Andrew Carlson (13 year old beginning birder)	Evening Grosbeaks, Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatches, Acorn Woodpeckers (colony on Oak Creek), Red Crossbills, Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons (rookery?), Chipping Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Western Bluebirds, No. Flickers	Flagstaff

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CONSERVATION: Pesticides and Birds

Article from AmericanBirdConservancy.org

Pesticides are widely used in our homes and gardens—from rat poisons that sicken raptors and kids to sprays for roses and other ornamental plants that are toxic to birds and bees. Sometimes people assume these products are safe simply because they are for sale.

Neonicotinoid Insecticides

Neonicotinoids—now the most widely used insecticides—are found in hundreds of products including insect sprays, seed treatments, soil drenches, tree injections, and veterinary ointments to control fleas in dogs and cats. Shockingly, concentrations of insecticides sold for residential use on ornamental plants contain as much as 30 times the chemical load allowed in the agricultural sector.

As ABCs 2013 study revealed, neonics are toxic to birds and invertebrates, even in small quantities, and they persist in soils for months and even years. (These insecticides are so pervasive that our 2015 study found neonics in more than 90 percent of the food samples tested from Congressional dining halls.)

These chemicals have the potential to affect entire food chains. They are persistent in the environment, infiltrate groundwater, and have cumulative and largely irreversible effects on the invertebrates that form the basis of the ecological food chain. The elevated levels of these chemicals in many surface waters are already high enough to kill the aquatic invertebrate life on which so many birds, bats, and other pollinators depend.

Beneficial terrestrial invertebrates such as earthworms are also killed by the neonicotinoids at extremely low doses. The insecticides are killing the diverse wildlife that pollinates our crops and controls our pests for free.

Unfortunately, even many who think they are neonic-free may be unknowingly using these products in their gardens. ABC collaborated on a recent Friends of the Earth study that found that more than half of the seedlings purchased at Lowe's and other retailers are contaminated with neonic pesticides.

Thanks to heavy pressure from consumers and a consortium of organizations, including ABC, retailers including Lowe's, Home Depot, and BJ's Wholesale Club are now taking steps to label plants treated with neonics and ultimately to remove these chemicals from their plant production altogether.

Rat Poisons

The nature of pesticide-induced bird mortality appears to be shifting along with the changing pesticide marketplace. In recent years we have been seeing more of the slow-motion hemorrhagic poisonings from rat poisons, for example, and fewer of the falling-out-of-the-sky-type deaths from acutely toxic organo-phosphorous pesticides.

Poisons like d-CON cause fatal hemorrhaging in eagles, hawks, owls, and other wildlife. In fact, these poisons are killing off the very predators that help us keep rats and mice in check.

They also harm pet dogs and cats—and children. More than 10,000 families call poison-control centers each year due to children's exposure to rat and mouse control products.

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Weed Killers

Common chemicals used to control weeds in home gardens and on lawns, such as 2, 4-D and glyphosate (used in Round-Up) are now known to be toxic to wildlife and aquatic organisms.

Glyphosate was found in 2015 to be a probable human carcinogen. In addition, the surfactant chemicals (transport agents) added to formulations of these herbicides can also be toxic.

When they infiltrate soils, these chemicals can result in groundwater contamination problems.

Bird-killing Agents

Avicides are poisons used by homeowners, hotels, and other establishments to control “nuisance” birds such as pigeons, blackbirds, House Sparrows, and Starlings.

Unfortunately, the widely-used product Avitrol (4-aminopyridine), promoted as a “flock frightening agent” or “repellent,” is a nervous system toxicant that causes convulsions and death in birds, mammals and other animals.

In 2007, U.S. EPA issued its Re-registration Eligibility Decision (RED) for the avicide, outlining the mitigation measures that would be required to protect birds. Unfortunately, when the new label went public in 2014, it failed to include the agreed-upon safeguards. ([Read our letter to the EPA.](#))

The message here? Avoid pesticide use if you want to protect birds.

“Birds matter because they give us wings, and because if we save the birds, we will save the world.”

~Pepper Trail, USFWS Forensic Ornithologist



Photographs of Northern Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, and Steller's Jay by Andrew Carlson, 13 year old beginning bird photographer.



If you find distressed songbirds, raptors including eagles, waterfowl and small mammals, please contact Susan Taggart at (928) 242-5796. If you are unable to reach her and need assistance immediately, you may call the White Mountain Animal Hospital in Lakeside at (928) 368-8425 or Alta Sierra Veterinary Clinic in Show Low (928) 537-2880. Susan works in conjunction with the animal hospitals and is sub-permitted through the Arizona Game and Fish Department to care for injured and orphaned wildlife as a community service.

DUES ARE DUE, PLEASE!

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. 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! LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

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.senat.gov/contact

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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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Pinetop, AZ 85935**