



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

Nov. 2: Andy Bridges of Petrified National Forest will speak about park resources and the biological work he does there, including bird surveys.

Dec. 7: Christmas Potluck. Mary Ellen will bring a ham. A-M: bring vegetable or appetizer. N-Z: bring salad or dessert.

Jan. 5: Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Darbi's at 7am.

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

(Jody is looking for someone to take over the newsletter. If interested, please give her a call.)

Membership: Position open

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

Reach us at www.whitemountainaudubon.org

November/December, 2016

Out on a Limb with Your President

I love the fall season in the White Mountains. The colors are so striking with the brilliant yellow of the Aspens, the green of the Ponderosa Pines, the orange of the Gambel Oaks, and the mixed colors of the wild flowers are a wonderful sight to see. National Audubon is putting together a list of native plants for each location, and I decided to see what I could find in my yard. With the help of my grandson and his wife, we took a walk around and here is what we found: Yellow Dogweed, Alfalfa, Pineywoods Geranium, Firecracker Penstemon, Hoary Tansy-aster, Black-footed Daisy, Smooth Goldenrod, Common Mullein, Yellow-spine Thistle, Desert Rose Mallow, Spreading Fleabane, Transpecos Thimblehead, Common Yarrow, Scarlet Cinquefoil, Dandelion, Desert Evening-primrose. These are the "weeds" that I found in my yard. These "weeds" have a purpose, aside from being very pretty. They are food for birds, bees, butterflies, and many insects. They put nutrients into the soil. Many hold moisture, and provide shelter for many critters. Pesticides and weed killers are an abomination for a healthy environment, and if they are used, it should be with extreme care. Obviously, some weeds are noxious, including invasive species. My hope is that we will look at plants as plants, not just as weeds. During the relatively short time that wildflowers are in bloom, take time to go out and see what you have. It will give you a lot of pleasure, and it just might surprise you. I am a novice at identifying wildflowers, and I suggest that you get a good flower field guide and identify the flowers I have listed above. The book I like is "Wildflowers of Arizona". It is indexed by color, and that makes it easier to identify the flowers.

Congratulations to Carol Sletten-Kramer for being chosen to be an official artist for the Petrified Forest National Park.

I can't believe that the holiday season is almost here. The December meeting will be our Christmas program and potluck. I will bring a ham, and A thru M should bring a vegetable or an appetizer, and N thru Z should bring a salad or desert.

Thanks to all the board members for all of their hard work for our chapter, and to all of you for supporting our programs and events. And best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and a happy new year!!!

Enjoy birding! ~Mary Ellen

WMAS AUGUST 27TH FIELDTRIP

On Saturday, August 27th, Mary Ellen & Chuck ,Mary Freeman, Dave & Sheryl Cagle, and Bob & Loretta Pena, visited the Concho Golf Club area and met Mike Meixler there. He told us about the property he purchased, his plans for the property and then took us to the spring. This spring is the water source for Concho Lake and the towns of Concho and St. Johns. Around the spring it was lush, green and beautiful. Then we visited The Bull Market, and as it began pouring rain, we sat inside; Mike graciously provided coffee, fruit and cheese and we were able to visit, learn more about the plans for this property and shop at the wonderful little store. Since we were unable to visit the farm area, we made plans to return at a later date.

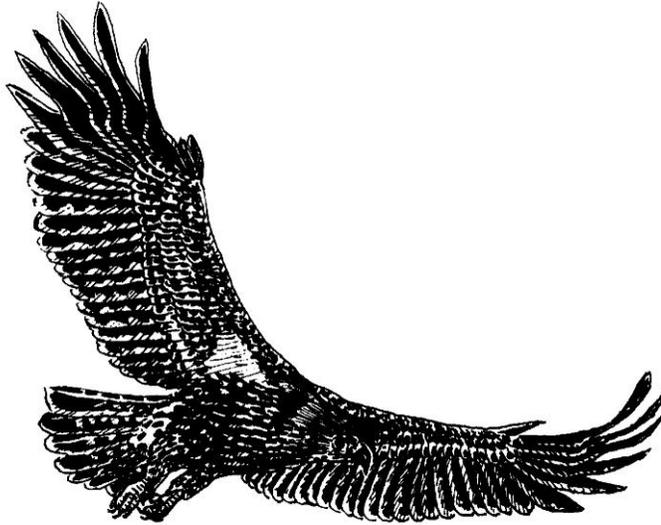
As we were driving to Concho, we sighted a Golden Eagle on a telephone pole several miles south of town.

WMAS OCTOBER 8TH FIELDTRIP

Today we returned to Concho; the Bittorfs, Sheryl Eaton, Ginny Dotson, Jan Newton, the Jernigans and Penas met at The Bull Market to have the farm part of the fieldtrip. Mike took us to the hill above his property, so we could see the overall view. He explained how the water is able to best be utilized and stored on the property for irrigation and replenishing the ground water. Down near his home he showed us the orchard and we tasted apples from small trees planted only 3 years ago. Here he showed how the animals help to cultivate the land, eat the grasses and plants and keep the land healthy. Then the animals provide food for the landowner and meat is sold at The Bull Market. I think we were all amazed at the undertaking he is pursuing and appreciate his work in making the soil as healthy and productive as possible. The Jernigans and Bob and I stopped at the market and make purchases. We always buy eggs and usually cheese when we are there. The variety and quality of the items in the store is excellent. We thank Mike for taking the time to share his farm, store and ideas with us.

Again, south of Concho, we saw the Golden Eagle on a telephone pole.

~Loretta Pena



Eagle by Steven DAmato

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Bird Sightings for September and October, 2016

NAME	WHAT SEEN	WHERE
Pat and Dick Bruneau	Clark's Nutcracker, Stellar's Jay, Cooper's Hawk, Clark's Nutcracker, Nuthatches, Canada Geese	Greer
Barbara Teague	Mountain Bluebird, Lesser Goldfinch	Lakeside birdbath
Kay Alderton	Northern Flicker, Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds, Dark-eyed Junco, Spotted Towhee, House Finch, Stellar's Jay, Nuthatch	Pinetop front yard
Ginny Dotson	Acorn Woodpecker, Hummingbirds	Vernon
Jernigans	Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Scrub Jay, Lesser Goldfinches, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds	Show Low yard
Bitorfs	Stellar's Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuthatches, Bluebirds, Flicker	Pinetop backyard
Mary Freemon	Nuthatches, Northern Flicker, Lesser Goldfinches, Acorn Woodpecker	Lakeside backyard
Elaine Finner	Vermillion Flycatcher	Taylor
Inmans	Red-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Brown Pelican, Canyon Towhee, Townsend's	Sky-Hi Yard, Show Low Lake, Joe Tank Rd., Vista Trail, Three

	Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Ruddy Ducks, Common Mergansers, Buffleheads, Cooper's Hawk	Forks, Nelson Reservoir, Crescent Lake, Sonoita
Joan Patrick	Belted Kingfisher, Common Merganser	Show Low Lake
Jeff Wolf	Finch, Osprey, Eagle, Flicker, Nuthatch, Grosbeak, Tanager, Redtail Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Great-horned Owl	Yard

“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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CONSERVATION: How Balloons Hurt Birds (from birding.about.com, July 1, 2016)

Many different types of birds can be impacted by balloons, from songbird to [raptors](#) to [seabirds](#). Depending on the type of balloon, how many balloons are connected and what strings or ribbons they may use, the consequences birds face when they come into contact with balloons can be devastating. The different ways balloons may hurt birds include...

Starvation: One of the most common ways balloons harm birds is through inadvertent ingestion. Seabirds such as [gannets](#), [shearwaters](#), [albatrosses](#) and [petrels](#) may mistake a deflated balloon that has landed on the water as a [jellyfish](#) or squid. The latex or mylar of the balloon is indigestible, however, and will clog the bird's stomach. If enough of this type of material is consumed, the bird will no longer be able to take in enough nutrition to survive, and it will gradually starve. Choking is also a threat depending on the size of the balloon and how the bird eats it.

Tangling: If released balloons have ribbons or strings attached, they can become a tangle hazard for birds as the strings get caught in trees or bushes, similar to [how fishing line hurts birds](#). Birds may become tangled if they fly into the string, or they may try to use the string as nesting material and it could tangle around growing [hatchlings](#). Tangle injuries can include malformed nestling growth, open wounds from chafing as the tangle tightens or mobility restriction of the legs, wings or bill. All of these effects can not only harm the bird directly, but can also make it more vulnerable to predators and infections.

Habitat Loss: The tropical rubber trees necessary to produce latex can be harvested without being cut down completely. As the demand for more rubber for balloons grows, however, the tropical vegetation will be denuded or changed, depriving birds of the diverse, rich [habitat](#) they require for survival. This can impact hundreds of bird species even if there isn't a single balloon in sight, and the effects cannot be quickly rectified.

In addition to birds, many other types of wildlife are adversely affected by balloons, including [sea turtles](#), [dolphins](#), whales, seals and [sharks](#).

How You Can Help:

Never include a balloon release in an event or celebration you plan.

If balloons must be used outdoors, be sure they are anchored securely with multiple tethers in case one anchor fails.

If possible, avoid using [helium](#) balloons of any kind and instead opt for balloons that will fall rather than rise so they can be more easily collected and disposed of properly.

Organize local cleanups of beaches, parks and other areas where balloon debris is often found, and puncture each balloon before it is disposed of so it cannot escape again.

Spread the word to teachers, event planners and other individuals who may consider balloon releases about the threats these events pose and encourage them to embrace alternatives instead.

Promote safer alternatives to balloon releases, such as blowing bubbles, trained dove releases, decorative sparklers or hot air balloons that can be monitored and controlled. While many people see balloons simply as pretty decorations with a wispy innocence when they rise into the sky, when those balloons come down they can injure or kill birds and other wildlife. By understanding the threats balloons pose to birds, every birder can take easy steps to minimize those threats and protect birds so they can rise into the sky themselves.

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

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1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
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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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Pinetop, AZ 85935**