



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:

March 1 – Movie “Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air”

April 5 – TBA Maybe Dan Groebner

Field Trips: None planned. Ideas?

Special Event: 4/22 March for Science in Show Low (details at wmsciencemarch@gmail.com)

Officers:

President: Mary Ellen Bittorf 367-2462

Vice-Pres.: Tom Jernigan 532-1510

Secretary: Liz Jernigan 532-1510

Treasurer: Chuck Bittorf 367-2462

Programs: Position open

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)

Webmaster: Allen Vickers

Membership: Position open

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

Reach us at www.whitemountainaudubon.org

March-April 2017

Out on a Limb with your President~

In 1987 when White Mountain Audubon was chartered, Bob and Loretta Pena were charter members, and all the years since then they have been important members of Audubon. On Christmas Eve of 2016 Bob Pena suffered a stroke. His recovery has been difficult, but we all know he is a fighter and our fondest hope is for his quick recovery. My present information is that he is in an assisted living home in Flagstaff and Loretta is living there with him.

I always remember Bob as an avid hiker and bird-watcher. He is always in front of the pack on every field trip and I think he always sees more birds than anybody else because he is always there first. I love his coffee at our monthly meetings and he is always there when help is needed.

At this difficult time, I want to wish Bob and Loretta every hope for better days ahead. Loretta is always ready and willing to help with any task, and for years she has blessed us with wonderful programs, often editing our newsletter and always being available at any time.

All of Audubon sends our best wishes to Bob and Loretta. We miss you, we love you and we want you back.

And as always, enjoy birding!

~Mary Ellen



Make my day!

MEET "SQUIRRELITO" (my word) ~ CHICO

At the end of December, while looking out my front window, a little whirlwind appeared in the form of a very bossy little squirrel. As my daughter, Carla, and I watched, this little squirrel chased a considerably larger Abert's Squirrel out of the yard. That little squirrel, it turns out, is a Chickaree Squirrel, not common, but sometimes found in the White Mountains. He's smaller than the Abert's Squirrel, darker, with a hint of rust on his back, rounded ears and a black tail that resembles a bottle brush that is chopped off at the end. He is very territorial, (I call him the rufous hummingbird of the squirrel world!) As we watched him, he ran off every Abert's Squirrel that dared to come in the yard. He didn't want those squirrels even in the yard, much less just out of his sight! He's a little race car, whirling dervish, Tasmanian devil, all wrapped up into one little squirrel. He loves peanuts and somewhere in a rock pile next to the house he must have at least half a bag of them "squirreled" away. When the snow reached about a foot, he seemed to tunnel under the snow to get a peanut, then his little head would pop up to see what was going on around him. We have really enjoyed watching him race up one tree and across and up and down another one to guard his perceived territory. The Abert's Squirrels initially puzzled over who had appeared in their yard and even though he tried to chase away all other squirrel residents, he finally seemed to surrender to the fact that they could all exist in the "Bittorf Bird (and squirrel) Cafe." My advice to other squirrels, birds, ravens and crows that might cross his path; be careful because, in his mind, "Chico rules!"

~Mary Ellen



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, JANUARY 5, 2017

Pie-billed Grebe	14
Western Grebe	3
Canada Goose	57
Wood Duck	1
Mallard	37
Gadwall	9
American Wigeon	24
Northern Shoveler	69
Canvasback	121
Redhead	31
Ring-necked Duck	27
Lesser Scaup	17
Bufflehead	57
Common Merganser	40
Ruddy Duck	33
Northern Harrier	3
Bald Eagle	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3
American Kestrel	1
American Coot	431
Killdeer	1
Eurasian Dove	5
Greater Roadrunner	1
Acorn Woodpecker	3
Lewis's Woodpecker	12
Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	12
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Say's Phoebe	2
Steller's Jay	11
Western Scrub Jay	2
American Crow	55
Common Rave	45
Horned Lark	5
Mountain Chickadee	3
Brown Creeper	1
White-Breasted Nuthatch	5
Pygmy Nuthatch	23
Marsh Wren	1
Western Bluebird	95
Mountain Bluebird	316
Townsend's Solitaire	1
American Robin	265
European Starling	562
Spotted Towhee	2
Song Sparrow	2
Dark-eyed Junco	212
Western Meadowlark	2
Red-winged Blackbird	60
Brewer's Blackbird	30
House Finch	26
House Sparrow	26

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

* Signifies Team Leader

*Mary Ellen Bittorf – Compiler

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*Sue Sitko/Ellen Hansen

Participants: 12

Teams: 5



CONSERVATION: Audubon's Conservation Agenda in the 115th Congress (by Audubon Policy Office, February 9, 2017)

The 115th session of Congress kicked off last month along with the inauguration of the new President. While there are many changes coming to Washington, Audubon remains consistent in our approach to finding bipartisan opportunities to protect birds and the places they need.

Audubon is well-positioned as a leader in the conservation community. We believe our ability to work across the political aisle at the federal, state and local levels—and the willingness of our members to be engaged—will allow us to make progress on important conservation issues. In January, Audubon unveiled our conservation agenda during a [telephone town hall](#) with members. The agenda lays out key national priorities we anticipate focusing on such as defending the Sage Grouse Conservation Agreements, protecting threatened and endangered species, securing funding for western water agreements, and building support for comprehensive coastal conservation efforts, among other issues. At the same time, we see opportunities in 2017 to influence state and local actions that are critical to advancing our climate, water, coasts and working lands priorities.

Two conservation priorities—maintaining and enhancing conservation funding and protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—are at the top of our list, even this early in the 2017 legislative session.

Conservation funding has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress because of our nation's proud legacy of programs that benefit birds and other wildlife. Audubon is concerned that some in Congress and the new Administration may try to end or weaken these critical programs that support creation of new parks or allow for the restoration of treasured ecosystems like the Everglades, Great Lakes, Long Island Sound, and Chesapeake Bay. We are following the funding process closely in Washington as we expect the President to release a proposed budget later this month followed by action in Congress this spring and summer.

Protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a high priority, too. The habitat of the Refuge supports nesting birds such as Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, Snowy Owls, Golden Eagles, a multitude of songbirds, and more. The birds hatched in the Refuge migrate across each of the 50 states to their wintering grounds. Some in Congress want to use the federal budget process to open the heart of the Refuge to drilling, causing irreparable harm to birds. Action may come as early as this spring.

This is a critical time for both issues. Audubon will rely on your support to reach out to Members of Congress and let them know you want them to maintain conservation program funding and protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from drilling. You can [send an email directly to your elected officials about these issues quickly and easily at our Action Center](#).

***“If we surrendered to earth's intelligence,
we could rise up rooted, like trees.”***

~Rainer Maria Rilke

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

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 Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20206
202-???????

U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake
B85 Russell Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4521

Gov. Fred Ducey
Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-5219

Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-926-5160

U.S. Cong. Tom O'Halleran
126 Cannon House Bldg
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3361

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

Rep. Wenona Benally
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-926-5172

Rep. Eric Descheenie
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-926-4846

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**