



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2012

Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. Fieldtrip times and meeting places vary, so please check the website or call 367-2462 for more information.

November 7th- Speaker for the meeting will be Cheryl Pailzote, hydrologist for the WM Apache Tribe. She will give a program about her work there.

November 10th- Field trip to local lakes; Barb Davis will lead this trip. Meet at 7:00am at the Pinetop McDonald's.

December 5th- Christmas Potluck at the Town Council Chambers in Room 16 at 6pm. (See article for details.)

December 22nd- Christmas Bird Count; meet at 7:00am at Bobby Jo's Restaurant in Pinetop. (See article in this newsletter for details.)

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: Loretta Pena	368-3380
Membership: Position open	
Website Manager: Richard Inman	369-3240
Board Members: Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman	
Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org	

Out on a Limb with your President...

This has been a beautiful fall, but now the wildflowers are fading, and the leaves are falling from the trees. The days are getting shorter, and we can look forward to the busy holiday season ahead. As I think about 2012, I feel like it was a pretty good year. Overall attendance at our meetings was down a little, but we had some outstanding programs, thanks to Loretta Pena, and we have a good membership. We still have the "Big Year" going on, and I hope everyone is working hard to see see more birds than Chuck and I have seen. You want to know how many we have. Hmmmm...maybe later.

The Nature Film Festival was a lot of work for a lot of people, but, I think it was a success, and I want to thank everyone who helped make it happen. The list is long, but many thanks to Tom and Liz Jernigan, Loretta Pena, Diane Dorsay, Jody Inman, Pat Calkins, Kay Alderton, Karen Peters, Lloyd Pentecost, Chuck Bittorf and Richard Inman. See the report elsewhere in the newsletter about the Festival.

Don't forget that the meeting in December will be our Christmas party. It will also be election of officers. If any of you wish to be on the board, please let me or any officer know.

I want to thank all of the Audubon board for their hard work this year. They all do more than one thing and they do everything well. I hope some of you will be willing to help, and I hope more of you will be able to go on the field trips. We have some very scenic and interesting places that are quite close.

The Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 22. We will meet at 7:00 A.M. at Bobbi Jo's in Pinetop to decide who will go where. Be sure to dress for the weather. Hopefully it won't be terribly cold!!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Enjoy Birding,

Mary Ellen

White Mountain Audubon Nature Film Festival

The first Nature Film Festival was held on October 5, 6, and 7. Films were shown in the Pinetop-Lakeside Council Chambers at a cost of \$5.00 per film. The films that were shown were:

"Getting to Know Wildlife" by Maggie Leef
"Wildlife of the White Mountains" by Stephanie Rainey
"Green Fire" introduced by Don Hoffman
"Anna, Emma, and the Condors" introduced by Jody Inman

"Wolves in the Wild" By Elke Duerr
"Bald Eagles and Bears" by Dr. Fred Peters
"Lords of Nature" introduced by Don Hoffman

On Saturday evening a Benefit Dinner was held at the Christmas Tree Restaurant. Sixty-eight meals were served. We were entertained by CAVU band, and there was a dessert auction. Desserts were donated by: Christmas Tree Restaurant, Hondah Resort & Casino, Café Bocado, Diane Dorsay, Mary Freeman, and Café Grotto.

Guest speaker for the evening was Pinau Merlin, a well-known naturalist, who talked about how to "sense" when wild animals are nearby. We were very pleased to have the five following sponsors:

Ace Hardware TRACKS Honda Resort & Casino Darbi's Paul & Lindy Van de Beuken

Thanks to everyone who helped with the planning and execution of the festival: Tom & Liz Jernigan, Loretta Pena, Diane Dorsay, Jody Inman, Lloyd Pentecost, Kay Alderton, Pat Calkins, Karen Peters, and Chuck Bittorf. I also want to thank the White Mountain Nature Center, Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, Norris Dodd, and Terry Corrigan for helping with publicity. And, a **big** thank you goes to LuAnn Frost and Kelly Udall for allowing us to use the Pinetop-Lakeside Council Chambers.

This was a big production, and it took a lot of work and preparation, but we had a lot of volunteers and I think it was a good endeavor. **Thanks to everyone for a job well done!!!**

~Mary Ellen Bittorf

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 22, 2012

This year we will meet at Bobbi Jo's Restaurant in Pinetop at 7 am to have breakfast and organize into teams to count birds species and numbers of birds seen for the CBC. **Everyone is invited to come and help out** with this very important citizen science effort. This year will be the 113th Christmas Bird Count. People who would rather count birds seen at their feeders may do that also.

Please come prepared for December weather and bring water, snacks and whatever you need in order to be out in the field for several hours. After the count, please call Mary Ellen at 367-2462 with your information of birds seen and numbers of birds seen. She will compile the data and report it to National Audubon Society.

National Audubon states that, "Each of the citizen scientists who annually braves snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action."

The CBC is now a free program. Audubon will no longer charge the \$5.00 fee of field participants. And in order to minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, *American Birds* will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants; Audubon will move to an online delivery of the summary results of the CBC.

Hope to see you all on the Christmas Bird Count!

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK/PARTY

DECEMBER 5, 2012

The annual Christmas Potluck will be held at 6:00 pm in Room 16 of the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Office Building. A meat will be provided and if your last name begins, A-M, please bring a side vegetable dish or salad. Names beginning N-Z, please bring an appetizer, bread or dessert.

Everyone is welcome!!



CONSERVATION

All Our Exurbs Live in Texas -- State Has Half the U.S.'s Fastest Growing Cities

Texas may be big, but it's filling up and sprawling out fast. New data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that eight of the country's 15 fastest-growing cities -- during the period April 2010 to July 2011 -- were in the Lone Star State. Round Rock, just north of Austin, grew by nearly 5 percent during that time; Austin itself added about 30,000 people, pulling ahead of San Francisco in size. That kind of rapid, often unplanned growth comes at a cost: Austin's trying to build a water-treatment plant in the heart of habitat for the very rare Jollyville Plateau salamander, a project the Center for Biological Diversity's been fighting.

Of course, Texas is one of many growth-and-sprawl hotspots. Human populations are swelling in other regions rich in biodiversity too -- for example, around San Diego and Denver, both also home to species the Center's trying to save from forces driven by runaway human population. As these populations grow, more habitat is paved over, more air is polluted, more water is sucked away and more invasive species gain a foothold. Each of these is an incremental step in a larger process that's bringing massive, rapid change to the ecosystems that support life.

Among the most vulnerable to habitat loss, pesticides and invasive species are reptiles and amphibians, which are also egregiously underprotected in the United States and beyond. The Center just filed to get 53 of these "herpetofauna" species protected under the Endangered Species Act. (Article is from Center for Biological Diversity website)

Dear Audubon Member,

We know birds don't have a political party and that they don't vote.

For Audubon members, protecting birds, their habitats and our natural resources isn't about politics -- it's just plain common sense, and something Audubon Chapters understand very well.

While it's true that bird lovers come in all political flavors, many politicians and their media messengers have polarized the debate, pitting everyday people against each other. It's causing gridlock that makes progress nearly impossible. And the clear losers are our children, and what the Audubon network strives to protect -- clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife and the habitat they need to thrive.

We gave you a heads up on this campaign in the last Leaders Update. Now we hope you will help send our political leaders a message: conservation is too important to be held hostage by partisan politics. Please join me in signing the American Eagle Compact. You can help even more by spreading the word in your Chapter.

Audubon has joined forces with ConservAmerica, a leading conservative pro-environment group, on a campaign based on common ground called "Because Conservation Doesn't Have a Party." Our hope is to deliver hundreds of thousands of signatures on the American Eagle Compact to the winners of November's elections.

Your signature will tell legislators that playing politics with our planet and with our children's future isn't the right path forward. You can tell them that there's a better way to move ahead, a way to support smart conservation practices that we agree on in communities across America.

As President of Audubon, I take great pride in the political diversity of our Chapter network. Audubon has always been about shared goals and a commitment to conservation, not party or political affiliation. Sharing a commitment to conservation isn't progressive or conservative -- it's American. I hope you will sign the American Eagle Compact.

Sincerely,

David Yarnold

President and CEO, National Audubon Society

(Go to National Audubon Society website and sign the compact for our children, their children, birds and wildlife and the planet.)

BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

Several organizations have contacted WMAS with information about birding areas that they want to let us know about. Listed below is some information about them:

The Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge

Covering 6,105 acres, the Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge offers world-class bird watching, kayaking, catch-and-release fishing, and hiking. At almost ten square miles, Bill Williams NWR is the smallest refuge on the Colorado River, but its variety of wildlife has made it a globally recognized area of importance. Its main distinction is that virtually every bird and small animal that was there historically still resides there. The refuge's diverse bird population (366 species) has won it distinctions as an area of global importance by the National Audubon Society. The visitor center on Highway 95 in Parker, Arizona, offers displays and dioramas acquainting visitors with native vegetation and wildlife. It also provides hiking information and detailed maps for people who wish to explore the area. The visitor center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, excluding all holidays. Within an hour's radius of Lake Havasu City, we have an incredible range of environmental diversity. The Bill Williams which is south of is offers water and marsh birding. Also south of us, there's some good birding at Cattail Cove State Park and Buckskin Mountain State Park. North of us at the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, we have river and desert birding. To the north and east, there is Mohave County Hualapai Mountain Park offering pine forest and mountain birding. Soon, we will be offering some birding itineraries on our website for small groups. You may contact: www.golakehavasu.com

El Pedregal Nature Lodge and Retreat Center

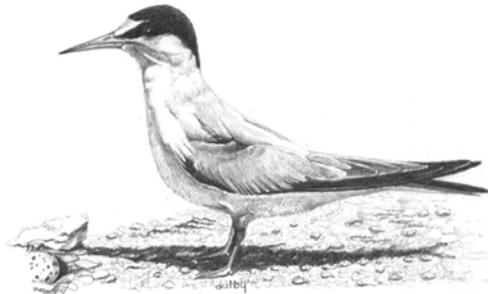
David and Jennifer MacKay offer birding & cultural trips throughout Mexico. You may contact them at www.solipaso.com or info@solipaso.com

Tamandua Expeditions

This organization offers trips to the Amazon Rainforest in Peru with the goal of protecting rainforest and supporting local people through wildlife research and responsible adventure travel. You may contact them at www.tamandujungle.com

Rancho Mababi

Rancho Mababi, located in Sonora Mexico, can organize birding tours for WMAS members. It is located 50 miles southwest of Douglas, AZ on the extreme western edge of the Sierra Madre Mountains and adjoins the Reserva Forestal Ajos-Bavispe, one of Mexico's few ecological preserves. It has hosted groups of birders from the Sierra Club and Audubon groups in southern Arizona. They have a longstanding relationship with the environmental studies department at Prescott College, particularly Professors Walt Anderson and Rob Hunt. Tom Wood and Sheri Williamson of the Southeast Arizona Bird Observatory are others familiar with the birding environment at Rancho Mababi. Rancho Mababi proposes a tentative partnership where Rancho Mababi and the White Mountain Audubon Society share net revenues from birding expeditions to the ranch. This arrangement would raise funds for the Audubon Society while helping finance preservation and enhancement of habitat on the ranch. You may email crashmarc@yahoo.com



David Kilby

BIRD NOTES

Lewis Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

In our area of Show Low, we are once again seeing Lewis Woodpecker after their absence of about 2 ½-3 years. We first had seen them in a large Ponderosa Pine across the street and now they have come back to the same tree. Often they are also coming across the street to enjoy some suet and water in our yard. We are happy to have them back.

Lewis Woodpecker is a striking bird of medium size, approximately 10 ¾ inches long. It has a dark greenish-black back, head, wings and tail. The face is dark red with a gray collar extending across the breast. Belly is pinkish or salmon red. Its cap, bill and legs are black; feet are gray. Male and females look alike.

It is found west of the Great Plains in open woodlands among oak and Ponderosa Pine trees here in the White Mountains. It breeds from southwestern British Columbia southward to California and New Mexico and eastward to western South Dakota.

In flight a Lewis can appear crow-like because of its dark color, size and slow steady wing beats

It is mainly an insect eater, mostly caught in the air; also eats fruits and acorns storing the acorns in the bark of trees. It also gleans insects from the tree surface. Lewis spends long periods of time watching for flying insects from the top of a pole or dead tree.

Nests are found in tree cavities and poles. The pair excavates a hole, and then lines the nest with wood chips. Usually 6-7 eggs are laid and both the male and female take turns incubating the eggs. Lewis is monogamous and may form long-term pair bonds. They often reuse nest sites.

Lewis Woodpecker was named for Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

(Information for article came from Washington Nature Mapping website, Cornell Lab of Ornithology website and National Geographic Birds of North America.)

Help Make Your Yard Inviting for Birds during Winter

(ideas are from AvianWeb.com)

- Provide rich food such as oil-rich sunflower seeds, niger seed and fresh suet.
- Provide low hanging or ground feeders with cracked corn for doves and other ground feeding birds. Keep the feeders full and clean by washing with hot water and soap at least every 2 weeks.
- Provide clean, fresh water, removing ice when it forms in the birdbath. Consider getting a heated bird bath.
- Provide protective cover by leaving dead flower heads and green grass stalks for seed eating birds; also add to your brush pile to provide a haven during cold and storms.

The GBBC is Coming!

Fri., Feb 15- Mon., Feb 19, 2013

In 2013, people from anywhere in the world will be able to participate in the **Great Backyard Bird Count!** Save the dates so you can participate in the first worldwide Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

To make it possible for people everywhere to participate, the GBBC will be integrated with eBird, a citizen-science project created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society in 2002 that went global in 2010. Our partner, Bird Studies Canada, administers the eBird Canada portal. Benefits to the new and improved GBBC are:

Global access: participants will be able to submit checklists from any location in the world, and in four languages!

Precise locations: More accurate GBBC location data will make your observations more useful and easier for you to track over time. **Year-round**

access: Although the GBBC is a four-day project, you will be able to use your account to track your bird sightings year round in eBird. **Better**

visualization: Interactive maps will allow you to explore bird observations in much greater detail than ever before. **Corrections:** If you realize you've

entered erroneous information, you can go back into your reports anytime to make corrections or changes. (More info to come in the Jan-Feb, 2013 newsletter.)

ELECTIONS for WMAS

On page one of this newsletter you will see the list of officers for **White Mountain Audubon Society**. Each of the officers and board members has served for varying numbers of years, with most, having served for many, many years.

We appreciate each person for serving and furthering the objectives of our organization. If there is someone that would like to serve in any of the officer positions or be on the board, please notify Mary Ellen, 367-2462, or Tom, 532-1510. We are always eager to have new people that are willing to serve.

At the Christmas Potluck/Party elections will be held.

John Lofgreen, friend and one of the founding members of WMAS, now lives in Anchorage, AK. His blog is wonderful and you may enjoy visiting it:
<http://johnlofgreen.blogspot.com>



Steven D'Amato

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
Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
1-800-253-0883

Rep. Brenda Barton
House Wing
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-5219
bbarton@azleg.gov

U.S. Cong. Paul Gosar
504 Cannon HOB
202-225-2315
Washington, DC 20515

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

Sen. Sylvia Allen
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
sallen@azleg.gov

Rep. Chester Crandall
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
ccrandal@azleg.gov

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**