



AUGUST EDITION 2023

Out on a Limb by Susie Walker (WMAS Board Member):

Ahhh the joy of summer! The blooming flowers, oak trees leafing out and the baby birds! In my yard I have seen: Lesser Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, House Finch, White-breasted Nuthatch and Pygmy Nuthatch. Many of them have young ones. Not only are they smaller, but they also go back and forth from the feeder to the trees flitting around waiting to be fed and learning how to fend for themselves. They are so fun to watch! I also have a lot of Steller's Jays, but I have never seen any young ones. I saw a young Acorn Woodpecker and a young Hairy Woodpecker. They're not much smaller than their parents, but their feathers have a shaggy look and they display immature behavior.

One bird that really fooled me was a baby American Robin. It was drinking and bathing in the birdbath. I was so surprised at the sight! It was the size and shape of a robin, but had coloring that I had never seen before. It had mottled speckling all over its light orange breast. I thought I was witnessing a new species in my garden. How embarrassing! That's one of the reasons birding is so much fun....you're always learning.

I've seen a beautiful pregnant mule deer in my yard who looks like she is almost ready to give birth; I can't wait to see her fawn or fawns. There is still no sign of the baby skunks or baby raccoons, but I'm sure they'll make an appearance soon!

Below (clockwise): Hairy Woodpecker; Acorn Woodpecker, young American Robin (photos by Susie Walker)



White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS) 2023 Chapter Officers:

President: Mary Williams	480-235-1792
Vice-President: Tom Jernigan	928-532-1510
Secretary: Liz Jernigan	928-532-1510
Treasurer: Tom Jernigan	928-532-1510
Field Trips: Rob Bettaso	928-368-8481
Newsletter: Rob Bettaso	928-368-8481
Membership: Susie Walker	480-205-6119
Webmaster: Alan Vickers	

2023 Board Members:

Mary Williams, Tom Jernigan, Liz Jernigan, Mary Freemon, Susie Walker, Gerry Hodge, Carol Axford, & Rob Bettaso.



President's Corner by Mary Williams:

Who sees the most birds? That's a familiar question for those who have attended the NPC and Show Low Library birding classes this year. Here's the answer from the PowerPoint slide:

People who see the most birds...

- Are persistent, patient, attentive.
- Train themselves to look for movement, anomalies and to LISTEN.
- ALWAYS have binoculars handy. Love sunrises!
- Research with books, articles, apps, websites.
- Are motivated by keeping lists. Are strategic.
- Use eBird to see what is being seen where, when, by whom.
- Provide yard birds with food, water, shelter, safety.
- Bird with another person. Bird with another experienced person.
- Can walk a mile or two in safe comfortable shoes.
- Wear comfortable, layered, somewhat-camouflaged clothing.

Attending classes certainly is included in strategies to learn more about birds and birding. If you're interested in doing the same, here's the poster with a few more opportunities on August 28 and September 11 at the Show Low Library. People who are unable to participate in the bird walks the following mornings are very welcome at the classes and those who do not attend classes are welcome to join the bird walks on the Tuesday mornings after class. I know quite a few strategic birders. Are you one?

Wishing you good birding and many blessings, Mary

BIRDING CLASSES
with White Mountain
Audubon Society

LEARN MORE ABOUT BIRDS BY
ATTENDING ANY OF THESE
PRESENTATIONS WITH BIRD WALKS
THE FOLLOWING MORNINGS :

- 🕒 **JUNE 19**
Birding Basics
- 🕒 **JULY 17**
Hotspots: Birding
Pintail Lake
- 🕒 **JULY 31**
Hotspots: Birding White
Mountain Nature Center
- 🕒 **AUGUST 28**
Hotspots: Birding
Rainbow Reservoir
- 🕒 **SEPTEMBER 11**
Hotspots: Birding Lee
Valley Reservoir

Mondays
6:00-7:30 pm
at Show Low Public Library

📍 181 N. 9th St., Show Low, AZ
📞 928-532-4070
🌐 www.showlowaz.gov/library

FOR AGES 12 & UP. CHILDREN UNDER 14 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
PRESENTED BY WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESIDENT, MARY WILLIAMS

WMAS AUGUST CALENDAR:

For 2023 we expect that **all monthly programs** will continue to start at **6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January, February & March** when there are no meetings). The programs are free and open to all. You may call **Liz Jernigan (928-532-1511)** for more information on monthly programs and special events. Monthly meetings are **held at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside.**



August 2 - Margaret Dykeman: Backyard Birding in Northern Arizona. Margaret Dykeman has watched birds in Northern Arizona from her backyard for 20 years and spent those years documenting her experiences and those of other backyard birders in entertaining and informative print articles and blogs. She recently published *Backyard Birding in Northern Arizona*, where she took real-life experiences and turned them into vignettes about bird identification, showing the reader how to make the most of backyard birding. Her presentation will focus on common and unusual birds she's seen in the Flagstaff area and relate those species and her stories to the White Mountains.

The Regular Monthly WMAS Birding Field Trip: Monthly bird watching field trips on the **3rd Sat of every month**, alternating between Rob Bettaso & Jon Orona. If you're interested in attending, feel free to give me a call (Rob: 928-368-8481) and leave a message so that I can return your call to give you the details for the upcoming trip. The **next outing is August 19th.**

Also, on the **fourth Sat of each month** I lead a "Fitness Birding" outing that combines slightly strenuous activities (longer hikes, bicycling, paddling, X/C skiing) with birding. The next **Fitness Birding trip will be August 26th.** Feel free to give me a call if you're interested (Rob: 928-368-8481).

MOST RECENT 3rd & 4th SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS:

Due to various family illnesses, neither Jon nor I could commit to either the 3rd or 4th Saturday field trips. As such, I did not send out my usual monthly e-mail inviting folks to call me if they were interested in one or both outings. Nonetheless, I did get many calls about those two outings, so I did wind up getting out with new and experienced birders throughout that 2 week interval. A total of 12 of us were able to get out to sites in the Show Low/Pinetop area and the Greer/Big Lake area, where we saw birds ranging from Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, and Dusky Grouse in the high country to American Kestrel, Rufous Hummingbird, Cinnamon Teal, and Lark Sparrow at both lower and higher elevations. Given the recent heat, I think both people and birds enjoyed our time more, when we stayed above 9000'. --Rob

UPDATES & REMINDERS:

Have you paid your annual membership dues? If not, a friendly reminder that WMAS relies on membership dues for such important Chapter actions as our annual Scholarship Awards to White Mountain area graduating seniors who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in natural history, conservation, and other related fields. Thank you for helping us to continue to make such programs a regular part of our Chapter mission. Note that the Donation form is at the end of every Newsletter. Dues are for the year in which they are paid and not good for 12 months following payment (unless you pay in January).

Also, if you are not a member of the National Audubon Society, we encourage all Chapter members to join the national organization. Information on joining the national organization is easy as you only need to type "National Audubon Society" into your internet search engine to obtain the simple instructions for joining.

And remember, you can always feel free to offer your assistance to the Board. For that matter, there are some on the Board who are interested in moving on from the Board to focus on other aspects of their lives, so, we are always interested in hearing from anyone who might want to accept the fun challenges of filling a Board position! **We are especially keen to recruit diverse candidates to be a part of WMAS, including more people below the age of 60 (so that we can plan for our Chapter's future) and also more people that are representative of the various demographic groups found in the White Mountains. And remember, you can be on the Board without being an Officer – in fact, you can even just attend a Board meeting as a guest. Please feel free to join us (call Rob: 928-368-8481).**

BONUS PHOTOS: Below I have selected a series of photos to remind us of a few of the animal groups that are every bit as beautiful, interesting, and important as our beloved birds. –Rob

Left: Green Comma (butterfly) on an Owl's Claw (composite) in Arizona's White Mountains (photo by Gaston Porterie); Right: A Florida Mountain Talus Snail near Deming, NM (photo by Eric Wallace).



Left: AZ Tree Frog in Arizona's White Mountains (photo by Dave Cagle); Right: Rubber Boa in northern California (photo by Jamie Bettaso).



Left: Western Pond Turtle in northern California (photo by Jamie Bettaso);
Right: A school of Desert Pupfish in southern Arizona (AZGFD Native Fish Program).



Membership/Donation Form

White Mountain Audubon Society chapter membership dues are: Individual \$15 or Family \$25 per year. Please renew your membership every January. 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 and visit our website.

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.