



JUNE EDITION 2024

Out on a Limb by Ron Pedersen (WMAS Board Member & Officer-Secretary):

I would like to thank Ron for contributing this edition's "Out on a Limb" article and you will find it as a second attached document on the email that also contains this Newsletter. Due to formatting issues, I decided that Ron's wonderful "Out on a Limb" article would work better as is a stand-alone document. As you will soon see, Ron's article includes some fantastic photos he took of various beautiful birds that he saw not so much perched "out on a limb" but rather at nest boxes that he had built for them!

Note also that I had more than my usual number of photos to choose from this edition as several of our members submitted wonderful shots of the spring birds that they have been seeing when they have been out and about. Make sure to scan the full Newsletter as I have included many of their photos in various places where I had room.

Thx. –Rob Bettaso (WMAS Newsletter Editor)

White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS) 2024 Chapter Officers:

President: Mary Williams	480-235-1792
Vice-President: Tom Jernigan	928-892-3004
Secretary: Ron Pedersen	505-313-9343
Treasurer: Tom Jernigan	928-892-3004
Field Trips: Rob Bettaso	928-368-8481
Newsletter: Rob Bettaso	928-368-8481
Membership: Susie Walker	480-205-6119
Webmaster: Alan Vickers	

2024 Board Members:

Mary Williams, Tom Jernigan, Liz Jernigan, Mary Freemon, Susie Walker, Ron Pedersen, & Rob Bettaso.



President's Corner by Mary Williams:

Need to update your calendar with some birding events? Obviously, we hope you have the WMAS meetings jotted down for 6:30 on the first Wednesdays of each month. Active summer member Dave Ingram went to Ecuador with Tucson Audubon last September. On June 5, he will present a PowerPoint on the 'Birds of Ecuador.'

And, if you're like me and love to see how Funky, Azul, Astro and their buddies are faring at the new raptor facility at the Nature Center, you work in a 3:00 visit on your calendar. I've been going the same day as our meetings when I make the drive to town, and I'm continually impressed not only with how John, Balinda and their volunteers handle those beautiful birds but also with how much knowledge about raptors they impart to those who attend the show.

Our First Thursday Bird Walk on June 6 will be around the lake at Woodland Park. Meet in the athletic field parking area at 6:30 AM. (The photo below of an argumentative male Red-winged Blackbird and female Brown-headed Cowbird was taken by Tony Contreras at the Becker Lake bird walk on May 11.)

The second Northland Pioneer College-sponsored meeting of 'Let's Go Birding With White Mountain Audubon' at the Round Valley Library in Springerville-Eagar is at 3:00 on Friday, June 14. We'll meet at the Visitor Center at Lyman Lake State Park the following morning at 7:00. All are welcome as Ken McByrd-Bell and I lead this series of Apache County bird walks.

Flip the page to July when one of our favorite guest speakers, Dan Groebner, will talk about the Sipe Hummingbird Festival at both our meeting at the Nature Center on July 3 and at the Round Valley meeting on July 12. More details below as well as a description of our August 7 presentation. Mark your calendars! (NPC poster below lists all Round Valley class dates for 2024.) The hummingbird festival this year is on July 27, from 8:00 to noon, and WMAS will have a table.

The Saturday, July 13, field trip will meet at the Sipe Wildlife Area Visitor Center at 7:00. And our July 4 bird walk group will meet at the boat launch parking at Rainbow Lake in Lakeside at 6:30. Let's go birding!

Wishing you good birding and many blessings, Mary

July 3 Dan Groebner **Sipe Hummingbird Festival and More** As Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist with the local Arizona Game and Fish Department offices, Dan will feature the renowned July Sipe Hummingbird Festival at the Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area southeast of Springerville-Eagar in his presentation, as well as provide updates on bird surveying in Apache and Navajo Counties and how to get involved.

August 7 Margaret Dyekman **Here, There, Now, Then** Active in the Northern AZ Audubon Society as well as with chapters throughout the state and with the AZ and NM Council of Audubon Chapters, Margaret is an avid birder, presenter, and author of *Backyard Birding in Northern Arizona*. Desert, forest, hot, cold, low, high – come to this presentation to learn about the birds you can see in both the White Mountains and the Valley of the Sun as well as some of the iconic species found only in one of those places.

Summer 2024

Optional Bird Walks on the days after classes at 7:00 AM

LET'S GO BIRDING WITH WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON!

PRESENTED BY:
PRESIDENT MARY WILLIAMS
WITH GUEST SPEAKERS

Round Valley Public Library
179 S Main St, Eagar, AZ

Northland Pioneer College
COMMUNITY & CORPORATE LEARNING

**SECOND FRIDAYS IN:
MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST,
SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER**

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Fee: **FREE**

*CHILDREN UNDER 16 ARE WELCOMED WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

These PowerPoint based classes of approximately 90 minutes will feature information about the species of birds most likely to be seen living in the White Mountains and about how to find and enjoy them. It will also focus on ways to protect the declining populations of birds in the area.

928-536-6244 ccl@npc.edu npc.edu/noncredit-classes



White Mountain Audubon Society Calendar:

For 2024 we expect that **all monthly Audubon programs** will continue to start at **6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month (except in December, January, February & March** when there are no meetings). The programs are free and open to all. Monthly meetings are **held at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside.**

Since Mary W. mentioned most of our June (and beyond) calendar items up above, I will only add below the items she missed, including the following:

The Regular Monthly WMAS Birding Field Trips: Monthly bird watching field trips on the **3rd Sat of every month**, alternate between Rob Bettaso & Jon Orona. If you're interested in attending, feel free to give me a call and leave a message so that I can return your call to give you the details for the upcoming trip. The **next outing is June 15th**. 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 June 22nd**. Feel free to leave me a message if you're interested (Rob: 928-368-8481).

MAY SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS: Five people joined me for our 3rd Saturday birding field trip. Participants were open-minded as to where we should go, so, I decided that as long as the weather was relatively cool we should take advantage of walking the mix of juniper, grassland, and riparian habitat at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Silver Creek Trout Hatchery (this area can get hot by June). Collectively, we saw some 35 species of birds including numerous Cassin's Kingbirds which were fairly tolerant and allowed us to walk up close to them for good, long looks through our binoculars. Some of us also came upon a lone Turkey Vulture dining upon a dead Apache Trout, which is in contrast to what I usually see them eating (typically, the carcasses of dead **mammals**).

For our 4th Saturday outing ("Fitness Birding") I did not have any calls so I hiked alone and close to home as I do most early mornings. In the mixed conifer/oak woodlands that run along the Mogollon Rim near

my home it is commonplace in the spring for me to identify several species of warbler (generally the Black-throated Grey Warblers are most frequently seen/heard); a few finch types (goldies, house, & siskins); several flycatcher species; Spotted Towhees & juncos; Bushtits and gnatcatchers; 3 different types of birds with similar songs: W. Tanager, robin, and Black-headed Grosbeak; and then all of the usual species found in our Ponderosa stands: Stellar's, pygmy/white-breasted, chickadees, flickers/acorns; and high over-head the Violet-green Swallows. In a word: Awesome. --Rob

A quartet of lovely photos by **Sue Sitko** from Global Big Day in Apache County (from top left and then clockwise we have: Yellow Warbler in an alder; a MacGillivray's Warbler in a willow; a Gray Catbird with his black Mohawk; and an American Dipper -- who has many aliases including water-thrush, water-wren, and water-ouzel; well, at least they are consistent on the "water" part of the name).



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).**

Gaston Porterie took the two photos below of two young Great-horned Owls near the Porterie home (local wildlife rehab folks recommended leaving the owlets alone as the parents were still feeding them despite the fact that the young birds had left the nest prior to mastering flight).



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.

An adult Great-horned Owl (photo by Gaston Porterie):

