



JANUARY EDITION 2026 (NEW YEAR, SAME OL' LOVEABLE BIRDS)

“Out on a Limb” by Ron Pedersen – White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS) Board Member:

Please note: Ron’s “Out on a Limb” is in a separate attachment to the email that contained this Newsletter (formatting issues made it easier to do this way). I think you will enjoy his informative and fun article, as well as the sensational photos of Ron and Sue’s travels through three of the State Parks in Idaho.

White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS) 2026 Chapter Officers:

President: Vacant
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Millie Emerson 316-295-6404
Treasurer: Ron Pedersen 505-313-9343
Field Trips: Rob Bettaso 928-368-8481
Newsletter: Rob Bettaso 928-368-8481
Membership: Susie Walker 480-205-6119
Webmaster: Alan Vickers

2026 WMAS Board Members:

Rhonda Forsha, Mary Williams, Mary Freemon, Millie Emerson, Susie Walker, Ron Pedersen, & Rob Bettaso.

White Mountain Audubon Society Calendar etc.:

For 2026, we expect that all monthly Audubon speaker programs will continue to happen on the first Wednesday of the month. We will presumably have our monthly meetings from May thru Oct. The programs will be free and open to all. Monthly meetings are held at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside.

DATE CHANGE – We have changed the date of our annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). It will be on Jan 5, 2026, which us the 1st Monday of the New Year! Call me (Rob: 928-368-8481) if you’re interested in learning more and/or participating.

The Regular Monthly WMAS Birding Field Trips: Monthly bird watching field trips on the 3rd Sat of every month; usually led by Rob Bettaso but also by Jon Orona when he is available (and if others would like to lead, pls give me a call so we can discuss). 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 **Jan 17th**. 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 **Jan 24th**. Feel free to leave me a message if you're interested.

OUR WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY (WMAS) DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS:

Fourteen people joined me on birding walks/hikes this month and because much of December was unseasonably warm, we took our time and enjoyed our observations. Of special interest was when four of us spent 2 nights camping in the Socorro, NM area so that we could see the waterfowl that winter at the Bosque del Apache Refuge. The huge flocks of Snow Geese and large numbers of Sandhill Cranes and Northern Pintails were obviously crowd-pleasers. On the return trip, Ken and I saw a coati-mundi at about 7000' in elevation in the Cibola N.F. (which is about at the northernmost portion of this fascinating species' range).

BONUS PHOTOS:

The two photos below are of a free and wild Rough-legged Hawk that photographer/forester **Jon Orona** saw in the area of the Sunrise turn-off. Jon not only frequently sees many of the most exciting birds in our area, but he also captures amazing images of various birds in their natural habitats. If you check your field guide, you will note that in the photo on the right, you can clearly see an important field marks -- this hawk species' blackish belly band (the so-called "cumberbund").



UPDATES & REMINDERS:

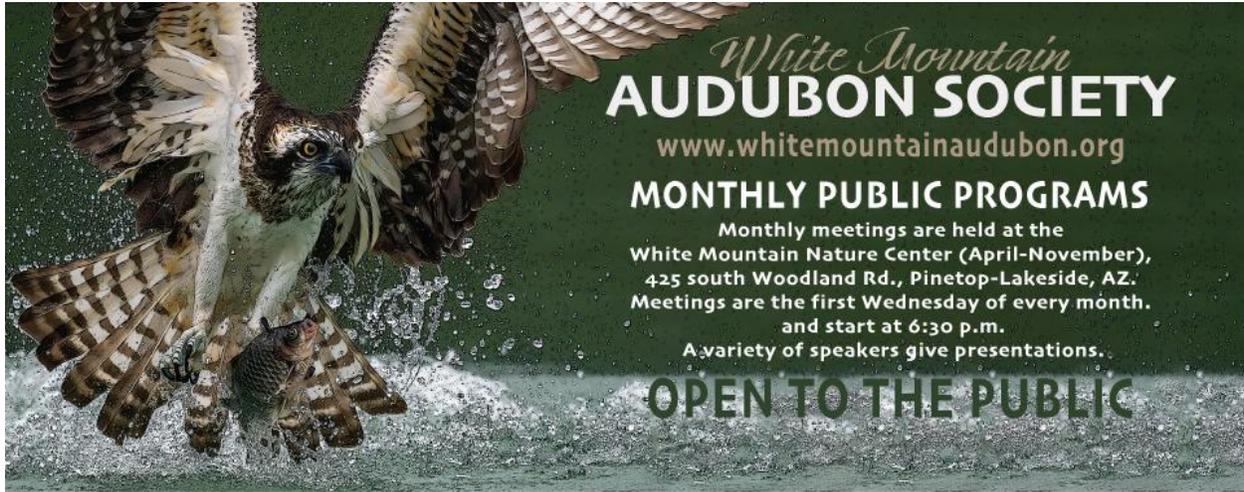
Have you paid your annual membership dues? Thank you if you have and if not, note that the membership form is at the end of every Newsletter. Dues are for the year in which they are paid and are not necessarily valid for 12 months following payment (unless you pay in December or January). You can

now also pay by using Zelle, so pls call Ron Pedersen for details (his phone number, along with other Board member numbers, are provided earlier in this Newsletter).

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).

See our WMAS ad in **Anne Groebner's Outdoors Southwest** magazine (a monthly publication focusing on our White Mountains environment). You can check out Anne's **OSW** at the following website: OutdoorsSW.com or you can pick-up a hardcopy version at the Nature Center, Safeway, Town Hall, and many other locations.



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.