



APRIL EDITION 2026 (Rain, hopefully; Flowers, presumably; Birds, indubitably)

“Out on a Limb” by Mary Williams (White Mountain Audubon Board Member):

Do you have a nemesis bird? You know, the one of which you have seen photos and really would like to observe in its natural habitat. (Let’s discount species such as puffins and Shoebill Storks here for a few minutes.)

On a recent very enjoyable outing to Madera Canyon above Green Valley in southeast AZ, I was yet again hoping to help friends Emily and Susie see their first Elegant (now named Coppery-tailed) Trogon. We’ve been on birding trips in the past to not only Madera but also Ramsey Canyons, and also to Patagonia Lake where I had been blessed years ago to watch this stunning large tropical bird that is only found in a few places in SE AZ and is declining in number. But they never saw their ‘lifer’ on our explorations this time. Nemesis.

Carol and Millie also were looking forward to seeing this iconic bird for the first time. Kingsley and I had seen a female on a trip to nearby Florida Canyon years ago, but he was hoping for a good view of the more colorful male on this trip.

One had been sighted a few times 10 days earlier and Carol found not only photos but also a GPS marker on one of the birding Facebook pages she follows. We were able to walk to the exact site, but no Trogon there, or anywhere in the areas of the Canyon we explored - including the fruiting *Pyracantha* bushes where I had seen one at the same time of year in the past. Nemesis.

(Note: no one should ever publish a GPS drop for a rare or unusual bird! It not only stresses the bird but is detrimental to the surrounding environment as too many people flock to see it and get photos.)

If you’re wondering about one of my nemeses... I probably visited Florida Canyon about 10 times in the years when the sweet little Rufous-capped Warblers were breeding there. I knew where they were being spotted and spent a lot of time scouring the area and sitting patiently with the hope of seeing one. No success. Others saw them on the same days I was there and one of my Canadian birding friends had been on a little hike there with a few non-birders and one landed at their feet! Grrrr. Nemesis! LOL. It’s a treasure hunt!!

Wishing you good birding and many blessings. Mary

Below: Madera Canyon Birding - Ottawa Emily and Calgary Kingsley with former WMAS board member Carol and current members Mary, Millie, and Susie.



Below: Coppery-tailed (Elegant) Trogon (photo by **Chuck Lanska**).



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. (Rob Bettaso):

For 2026, we expect that all monthly Audubon speaker programs will continue to happen on the first Wednesday of the month. We will expect to have our monthly meetings from May thru Oct and they will start at **6pm**. The programs will be free and open to all. Monthly meetings are held at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside.

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.

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

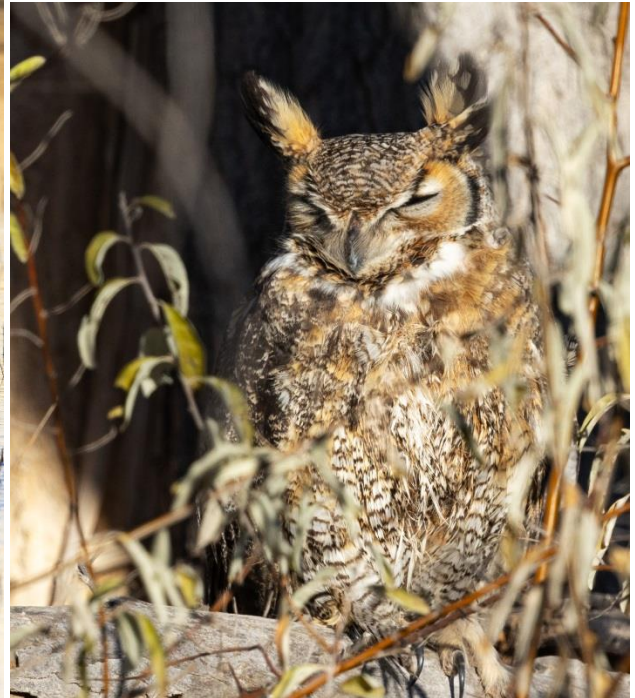
In March there was a rather radical departure from most months, in that my 3rd and 4th Sat field trips were spent in Costa Rica (sorry that I couldn't invite folks to join me). I will offer a summary of the trip in the May edition of the WMAS Newsletter and in Outdoors Southwest (I only returned from the trip this morning, so won't have time to start writing something up until later this week). In the meantime, if you like, you can google bird groups such as mot-mots, jacamars, manikins, barbets, and crakes to get a feel for the rich avifauna of a country so amazing in its biodiversity that it has become synonymous with "eco-tourism" (an industry that may be "more gentle" on the biosphere than say, industrial-scale resource extraction, but nonetheless, one with visible environmental impacts).

BONUS PHOTOS:

Two flight photos below by **Chuck Lanska**: Left - a polyandrous Harris Hawk (break-out the dictionary!) & an Anna's Hummingbird (the male has the pinkish hues, *ala* a funny Seinfeld episode, on BOTH the forehead and throat areas).



Two photos below from the Bosque del Apache NWR by **Rhonda & Doug Forsha**: Left – Sandhill Cranes perhaps socializing and feeding & a fluffy Great-horned Owl resting with eyes half opened.



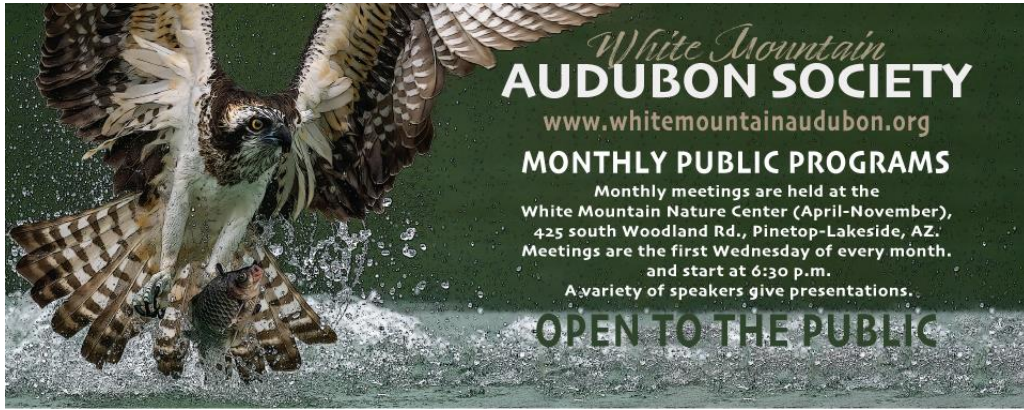
UPDATES & REMINDERS:

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).

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.

You can also pay by Zelle scanning the QR code below:

