



JULY EDITION 2026 (Birds Thrive In Summer's Heat; It's Their Lizard Ancestry)

"Out on a Limb" by Susie Walker (White Mountain Audubon Board Member):

I have just returned from my trip to Florida to visit family, swim in the Gulf of Mexico, and enjoy some birding. Along with the common birds I have seen in Florida in the past, I saw some very cool new ones. The first being the Nanday Parakeet a native to South America; they are widespread in Florida. A Ruddy Turnstone was a surprise when two walked by our spot on the beach. They are long distance migrants that breed in the Arctic tundra and winter on coastlines worldwide. Next we enjoyed Sanderlings running back and forth at the water's edge. They also breed in the Arctic. Another new bird for me was the Royal Tern. It's the second largest crested tern in the world and is highly specialized for coastal marine habitats. I added a woodpecker to my life list; a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Like some other birds with a descriptive name, it's hard to see the red on the belly. Lastly, in inland Florida, I saw a statuesque Wood Stork; the only native stork in North America.

When I returned to Phoenix, I headed to Los Angeles to visit with other family. They live very close to a nature trail along the West San Gabriel River. It's a beautiful oasis in the city. I saw so much wildlife in a natural setting right next to a busy suburban neighborhood. The most exciting bird I saw was a Yellow-chevrons Parakeet. It's a small bright green bird native to tropical South America. They are noisy social birds, prevalent in California and Florida.

So, wherever you travel; make sure and pack the binoculars... you never know what you'll find!

Photos below by **Susie Walker** - Left: a White Ibis; Right: a Wood Stork



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 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.

On July 1, 2026 at 6 p.m. Becky Hardy will give a presentation for our Audubon chapter at the White Mountain Nature Center entitled: "Attracting Birds and Butterflies to Your Garden." This will be Becky's first time presenting to our group and we are very grateful to have her come in all the way from the Verde Valley area.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Our good friend Loretta Pena often donates books to WMAS for us to raffle (as a Chapter fund-raiser) at our monthly meetings. Earlier this year, she gave us an excellent DVD on all aspects of the 3 bluebird species found in the U.S. The DVD provides such information as building bluebird nesting boxes and placing them in appropriate locations in the field. There is also lots of bluebird biological information on the DVD.

Because of this new DVD, we have an excellent opportunity for anyone who wants to learn more about bluebirds and help conserve them in Arizona. In addition to learning how to build and/or place nesting boxes in the field, you will also get to monitor the bluebirds at their boxes and keep important records of what you observe. In short, you will play a vital role in this particular volunteer commitment to "citizen science."

If you are interested, the DVD can be borrowed by calling **Dan Groebner at 928-532-2308**. Dan is a wildlife biologist for the AZ Game & Fish Dept and he will also serve as the coordinator between the Game & Fish and our Audubon chapter.

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 (**Rob 928-368-8481**) 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) JUNE FIELD TRIPS:

In June, I was joined by a total of 15 birders as we explored local trails on several beautiful mornings and on one tranquil evening. There were many warbler and finch species. We also enjoyed watching nighthawks foraging in the twilight skies. Perhaps the most memorable observation I had this month wasn't of a bird but of two large aerial insects. Briefly, the story is simple: I had been watching a large, dark species of dragonfly hover near to where I was resting when suddenly, a large, predatory species of robber fly swooped onto the dragonfly's back and the two tumbled to the ground while making loud buzzing noises. To get a better look I moved a bit closer and the robber fly apparently became nervous about my approach as he eventually left the inert dragonfly and flew off. I went back to the same spot the next day and something had eaten about half of the dead (or paralyzed?) dragonfly. We should be thankful that we are much bigger than all of the many powerful predators in the bug world.

THIS MONTH'S BIRD PHOTOS:

Below and clockwise from top/left: An American Avocet: ungainly, hunchbacked, and beautiful (photo by **Jon Orona**); a squadron of White-faced Ibises flying over Pintail Marsh (photo by **Jon Orona**); a somewhat belligerent looking Spotted Towhee (photo by **Doug&Rhonda Forsha**); a tiny mite of a bird – the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, with possibly the most delicate legs and beak of all our U.S. birds (photo by **Doug&Rhonda Forsha**).



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.

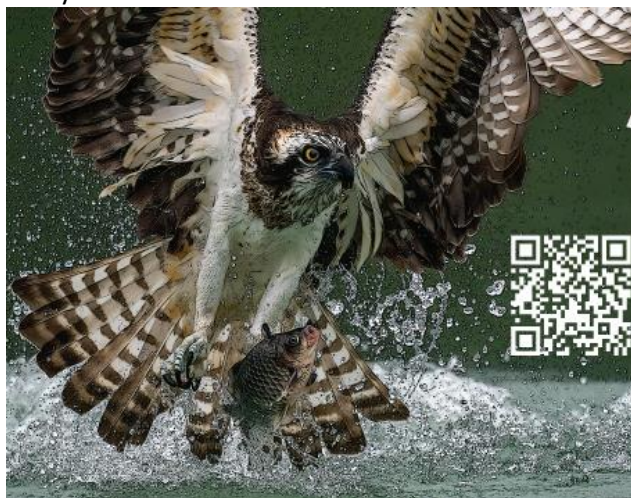
And remember, you can always feel free to offer your assistance to the Board. For that matter, there are some on the Board who are interested in moving on from the Board to focus on other aspects of their lives, so, we are always interested in hearing from anyone who might want to accept the fun challenges 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).

BONUS PHOTOS:

Left: Sanderlings; Right: Ruddy Turnstone (both photos by **Susie Walker**)



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.



White Mountain
AUDUBON SOCIETY
www.whitemountainaudubon.org
MONTHLY PUBLIC PROGRAMS
Monthly meetings are held at the
White Mountain Nature Center (May-October),
425 south Woodland Rd., Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ.
Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month
and start at 6:00 p.m.
A variety of speakers give presentations.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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:

