



SEPTEMBER EDITION 2026 (Ripening Seeds, Nuts, and Fruits = Avian Feeding Frenzy)

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

Here we are, going into September already. The hummingbirds are moving on it seems. I still have the Rufous and Broad-tails battling it out. Earlier I also had Black-chinned and Calliope trying to fend off a family of Acorn woodpeckers that had taken over the feeders! They, too, seem to have left for other pursuits... probably gathering acorns at this point. I had far fewer hummingbirds this year than normal.

Due to a bout of ill health this summer most of my bird sightings have been through the living room window from my recliner. I've seen Northern Flickers, Spotted Towhees, and an Ash-throated Flycatcher, which was a first for me!! Also a pair of Hepatic Tanagers! One of the more unusual sightings from my recliner this summer was of a Bald Eagle flying down my driveway about six feet off the ground!! What it was after I have no idea.

Lately I've been seeing Steller's Jays, robins, juncos and other year round inhabitants. Winter is on its way!!

Photos below: Left – A Bald Eagle by **Chuck Lanska**; Right – Ash-throated Flycatchers by **Ron Pedersen**.



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.

THIS MONTH'S BIRD PHOTOS:

Left: Long-billed Dowitchers; Right: Wilson's Phalaropes. Both photos by **Jon Orona**.



Left: Yellow Warbler; Right: Crested Caracara. Both photos by **Chuck Lanska**.



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 **Sept 2, 2026 at 6 p.m. Lorna Cox** will give a presentation for our Audubon chapter at the White Mountain Nature Center entitled: "Points of Change: Deer and Elk of the White Mountains." Lorna is a retired employee of the Forest Service and her presentations to our chapter are always very interesting and popular. Prior to Lorna's presentation, **Dan Groebner** will give a 10 minute update on the Adopt an Acre campaign of the Save our Park program.

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) AUGUST FIELD TRIPS:

In August, I was joined by a total of 17 birders as we explored local and more distant trails on several beautiful mornings. Two of the hikes included folks from out of town; one group from Prescott and another from Washington State. For the former, we enjoyed 2 days of intense effort in the high country to try to find Dusky Grouse, Pine Grosbeak, and Canada Jays; only the jays accommodated us but we had a great time hiking in the 8,000-10,000' elevations. For the latter group, we hiked locally and in addition to many of the usual species, we also saw a Great-horned Owl - which excited the young (20-somethings) but already savvy birders, who generally see more Barred Owls than Great-horned in Washington. In addition to the above birding, Ron Miller invited WMAS to join one of his weekly nature hikes at Fools Hollow State Park and 15 of us enjoyed not only birds but all of the Park's beautiful plants, wildlife, and geology (unfortunately, reservoir levels remain on the low side).

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:

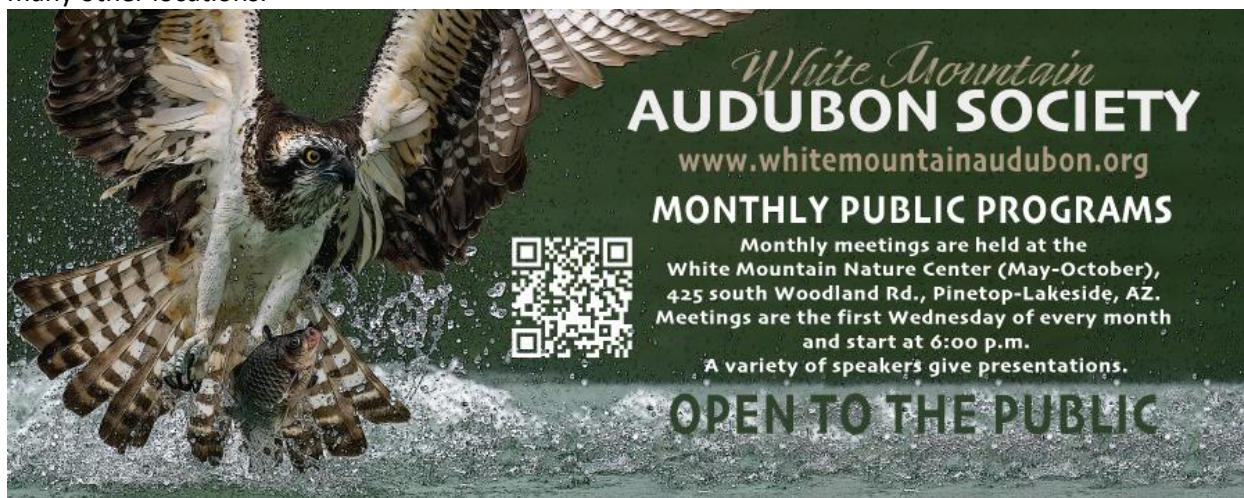
Below, left: As you travel keep your eyes open for both new and familiar birds. For example, in this photo by **Cathy Purvis**, while she was travelling thru Oklahoma a few months back, she witnessed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher dive-bombing a raven. Right: A Black-chinned Hummingbird enjoying a drink of sugar water; photo by **Terri Rieser**.



Below left: A “hummingbird feeder” also provides an energy boost for a hard-working, local Acorn Woodpecker while a wiener-dog stands guard (photo by **Susie Walker**). Right: A sapsucker. And a new request - please label your photo submissions directly (as part of the file name) with the following info: your name, the species’ name, and the general location of where the shot was taken (this will make my job easier and will help ensure proper attribution, etc.). Thank you! –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.



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:

