



Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. Fieldtrip times and meeting places vary; see below or please check the website. You may call 367-2462 for more information.

Meetings and Programs

Sept. 3: Dr. Ole Alcumbrac (White Mountain Animal Hospital) will talk about wildlife medicine.

Oct. 1: Paul Esparza, young apprentice falconer, will talk about falconry.

Nov. 5: Dr. Paul Green (Tucson Audubon President) will talk about birds and climate change in southeast AZ.

Dec. 3: Christmas Party Potluck

Field Trip for Sept. is pending.

Field Trip for Oct. 25: We will go on a Howl-o-ween adventure to the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary in Ramah, NM.

Call Mary Ellen, (928) 367-2462, or email her at mcbitt30@cablone.net or marvellen12@cablone.net

Your Officers

President: Mary Ellen Bittorf 367-2462

Vice-Pres.: Tom Jernigan 532-1510

Secretary: Liz Jernigan 532-1510

Treasurer: Chuck Bittorf 367-2462

Programs: Loretta Pena 368-3380

Field Trips: Kent Schipper 537-7569

Editor: Jody Inman 369-3240

Membership: Position open
A

Website Manager: Richard Inman 369-3240

Board Members: Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman

Reach us at: www.whitemountinaudubon.org

September-October, 2014

OUT ON A LIMB WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Anna Hollenbeck. Anna was a member of Audubon for several years, and was an avid birdwatcher. Recently, her son, Gus, brought a pair of Pentax binoculars, 8x42, that Anna wanted to donate to White Mountain Audubon. These are very nice and they were quite expensive. We have decided to raffle them off for \$5.00 per ticket, or 5 for \$20.00. Tickets will be available at the September 3rd meeting and every meeting after that until the Film Festival Dinner in June, at which time we will announce the winner.

Summertime in the White Mountains was good in our yard. We had more hummingbirds this summer than we have had in the past. We were fortunate to have a Magnificent Hummingbird visit our feeder on several occasions, as well as a Calliope. We also had the usual Broadtails, Black-chinned, and, of course Mr. Rufous. Some of the unusual sightings included Painted Redstart, Red-faced Warbler, Graces Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Western Tanager, and Western Bluebirds. Nesting in our yard were the Bluebirds, House Wrens, and Juncos. The nice monsoon rains have been welcome and they should give us some really pretty wild flowers.

Don't forget that the programs for the next meetings will be a little different. Dr. Ole Alcumbrac will be the speaker on September 3 on the subject of wildlife medicine. He is a very interesting man and he has quite a story to tell. I hope you will all come.

Enjoy the coming fall season and ...enjoy birding.

~Mary Ellen

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Attendance at our summer meetings this year has been great, and the bird sightings list reflects that. At our July meeting, Kay Alderton reported a Red-tailed Hawk off of Sky Hi Rd. Warren Goff saw Black-headed Grosbeaks and a Western Tanager in Lakeside and a Roadrunner, Abert's Towhee, Verdin, and a Gila Woodpecker in his yard in Casa Grande. Diane Dorsey sighted Mountain Bluebirds in her yard in Pinetop. Barb Davis reported Cooper's Hawk, Red-faced Warbler, Grace's Warbler, and Hammond's Flycatcher in her many outings in the White Mountains. A Montezuma Quail appeared to Ann Hilliard on the Blue River. Sue Sitko's backyard was busy with nesting House Wrens (first time), as well as nesting Violet-green Swallows and Western Bluebirds. Mary Freemon's yard also had Western Bluebirds, as well as a Red-faced Warbler, an Oriole, and Western Tanager. Appearing at Janis Newton's feeder in Pinetop were Rufous Hummingbirds, an Oriole, and House Wren. Pete and M.J. Milne's feeder was visited by Bullock's Orioles, a Hepatic Tanager, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Juncos, Steller's Jays, Woodpeckers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Broad-tailed hummingbirds. Joanne Mayo had a Lewis' Woodpecker and Hepatic Tanager in her backyard in Sierra Pines. Kent Schipper saw a Phainopepla on his home street in Show Low while Bob and Loretta Pena had an Ash-throated Flycatcher appear in their Show Low yard.

August was just as busy with sightings as Glen and Judy Franks reported Pygmy Nuthatches, Juncos, Robins, various Hummingbirds, and Goldfinches in their Show Low backyard. Kay Alderton had nesting and fledgling Juncos in her front porch geranium. Rufous, Black-chinned, and Broad-tailed hummingbirds visited Kent Schipper's backyard feeders in Show Low while Loretta and Bob Pena had Bushtits and Western Tanagers appear in their Show Low yard. Pete Milne reported Orioles and Barn Swallows from his yard in Show Low, while Alisa Milne added a fledgling Rufous Hummingbird to the list. Dana Settles had a busy backyard in Lakeside, with visits from White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Orioles, Goldfinches, Robins, woodpeckers including Downy, Acorn, Lewis', and Flickers, and various Hummingbirds, including Rufous. Yvonne Bevacqua's backyard in Wagon Wheel had appearances by various Hummingbirds, Goldfinches, Acorn Woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, and Robins. The bird bath at Miles Gilbert's house offered bathing and drinking opportunities to Lewis' Woodpecker, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Evening Grosbeak, and Nuthatches. The Bittorfs had some unusual visitors to their yard in August, including a female Hepatic Tanager, Magnificent Hummingbird, Painted Redstart, Red-faced Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Cordillera Flycatcher, Western Bluebirds with babies, Juncos with babies, House Wrens with babies (a regular baby bird nursery in the Bittorfs' yard), and the usual summer visitors of Rufous, Black-Chinned, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. The Inmans reported the usual White Mountain summer birds, but were excited to add a Blue Grouse sighting near the West Baldy Wilderness Trail, and a Northern Goshawk flying low through the forest south of Hwy. 260 east of McNary. On an August camping trip in Southwest Colorado, the Inmans added Black-billed Magpies, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Belted Kingfisher, American Dipper, Peregrine Falcons(3), and several Northern Harriers to their list. Richard also was right next to a shrub at our Pinetop home when a Sharp-shinned hawk took a Junco, pretty exciting.

Until we meet again in September, that about does it for our summer bird sightings. Quite a list! Thanks to everyone for sharing with us.

ARIZONA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING

We invite you to attend the AZFO Eighth Annual Meeting, October 3-5, at the historic Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum in Miami, AZ.

We have a great meeting in store this year that you won't want to miss! We have just confirmed our featured speaker, Charles van Riper III, Station Leader for the U.S. Geological Survey SBSC Sonoran Desert Research Station, who will be speaking to our theme "Arizona's Changing Avifauna."

At the Saturday meeting, you will hear fascinating presentations on changing bird status and field research in Arizona, including new reports from the AZFO Gale Monson Research Grant recipients. We will discuss future plans and activities for AZFO and of course offer our fun and challenging bird ID quizzes. **If you are interested in giving a 15-minute oral or poster presentation, abstracts are due 15 September. The abstracts of many of the [paper and poster presentations from previous meetings](#) are now on our website.**

As you know, we are passionate about leading field expeditions to under-birded areas and we have several lined up for you on Friday and Sunday including the Sierra Ancha, Haunted Canyon, Arnett Creek, Pinal Mountains, Jones Water Campground and for those who do not get there often, Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

Meeting registration is now open and is free for current dues-paid AZFO members or \$10 for nonmembers (this will be applied toward membership should you decide to join or renew). If you join us for the dinner on Saturday evening with our featured speaker, Charles Van Riper III, we will have a wonderful Mexican style buffet catered by a local Miami restaurant for \$20. Please visit our website today to register for the meeting and to order your dinner. **New this year, we are accepting applications for AZFO Youth Scholarships so youth will have an opportunity to attend the meeting. Applications are due 15 August, please help us spread the word.**

[Click here to register for the meeting and for more information on the Call for Presentations and Youth Scholarships.](#)

[Click here to join AZFO.](#)

We look forward to seeing you in October!

Muriel Neddermeyer,

AZFO Membership Secretary,

www.azfo.org

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

BIRD NOTES

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgen*)



Some fortunate White Mountain residents (the Bittorfs) have this truly magnificent hummingbird visit their feeders. Others of us have to go to southeast Arizona to see these long-tailed beauties. At 4 1/2 -5 1/2" (11-14 cm), they are the largest hummingbird in the United States. The male is deep green above, black below, with an iridescent purple forehead and crown and metallic-green gorget. The female is olive green above and gray below, with a lightly streaked throat and pearly gray tips on her outer tail feathers. The immature male is heavily flecked with iridescent green below. Their call is a high-pitched teek, not as drawn out as the call of the similar sized Blue-throated Hummingbird. Magnificent Hummingbirds can be found in canyons, deciduous and pine-clad slopes, and streamsides. They breed in mountains of southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and western Texas, laying 2 white eggs in a tiny nest of lichen and plant down placed on a horizontal limb. They winter in Mexico. The Magnificent Hummingbird flies more slowly than the smaller hummers, sometimes sailing on set wings. It is more of an insect gleaner than the other species, though it takes its share of nectar from flowers and feeders.

(Information taken from
www.nationalaudubon.org)

Top photo: Dr. Joseph Turner

Bottom photo: Rob Curtis

"Look at Nature. Nature is a textbook from which we must learn. Each object in it is a page of that book. Each and every object in Nature teaches us something. Renunciation and selflessness are the greatest lessons one can learn from Nature." ~Amma

CONSERVATION

Global Warming and Birds

Global warming is the greatest threat to birds and other wildlife in human history. The rate of global warming is already impacting birds, their prey, and their habitat. Those impacts will become more severe over the coming decades, leading to the loss of one-quarter to one-third of all species on earth, including many bird species. Although some amount of change is inevitable, we can still take steps to prevent the most dangerous impacts of global warming and begin to stabilize the climate again. In the meantime, conservation, especially of larger areas with migratory corridors and buffer zones; better control of invasive species; and adaptive management are critical to stem the loss of bird and wildlife species. This loss will impact agriculture, forestry, public health, recreation, and hunting. The financial impact will be many billions of dollars annually.

Why Does Global Warming Matter for Birds?

Global warming impacts birds and wildlife in many ways. Birds and other wildlife will face habitat loss due to sea level rise, more frequent and severe wildfires, flooding and droughts, invasive species, changes in vegetation and precipitation, and loss of snow and ice, among others. Birds, like most species, are highly adapted to particular vegetation and habitat types. To compensate for the warmer temperatures, the ranges of these habitats may move closer to the poles or higher elevations. Habitat types that cannot colonize new areas may rapidly decline or cease to exist. New pests, invasive species, and diseases will create additional risks. The timing of birds' migration, reproduction, breeding, nesting, and hatching are all highly adapted to match specific local conditions, such as the availability of suitable habitat and adequate food sources. Since climate change will affect different species differently, bird behavior may no longer be in sync with their food sources and other habitat needs. For example, robins in the Rocky Mountains arrive an average of two weeks earlier in spring than they did a few decades ago, but the worms and other food that they eat are not yet available for their newly hatched offspring. The Snowy Plover's beach habitat is at risk from rising sea levels; the Rufous Hummingbird's range is shifting north; Kittlitz's Murrelet is on Audubon's Top Ten Most Endangered Birds List and is one of the species scientists think may be losing ground because of its dependence on feeding grounds where glaciers meet saltwater.

Help Protect Birds from Global Warming:

Strong federal legislation is needed to combat global warming pollution. It's *your voice* that will make the difference.

Ask your lawmakers to support:

- Strong federal cap-and-trade legislation that would decrease emissions by 80% by 2050
- A federal renewable energy standard
- Higher energy efficiency standards
- Higher transportation and vehicle efficiency

Individual Actions Add Up!

Federal leadership is important in the effort to curb global warming pollution, but we can all make choices that will help reduce our carbon output.

- Drive less by taking public transportation, walking, bicycling, or carpooling.
- Drive a more energy-efficient vehicle.
- Switch from conventional incandescent light bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescents. The next time you buy a major or minor appliance, look for the Energy Star label to be sure you're getting a high efficiency model.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle. Buy local produce and other goods.
- Reduce emissions and help the birds; keep your lawn mower tuned, use native plants, reduce watering, skip the pesticides.

(Article from
www.nationalaudubon.org)

If you find distressed songbirds, raptors including eagles, waterfowl and small mammals, please contact Susan Taggart at (928) 242-5796. If you are unable to reach her and need assistance immediately, you may call the White Mountain Animal Hospital in Lakeside at (928) 368-8425 or Alta Sierra Veterinary Clinic in Show Low (928) 537-2880. Susan works in conjunction with the animal hospitals and is sub-permitted through the Arizona Game and Fish Department to care for injured and orphaned wildlife as a community service.

White Mountain Audubon Society Membership/Donation Form

White Mountain Audubon Society membership dues are: **Individual \$15**, or **Family \$25 per year**. Please renew your membership. 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!

WHERE TO WRITE

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www.whitemountainaudubon.org

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.

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Pinetop, AZ 85935**

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