



## 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

NO MEETINGS OR PROGRAMS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

### 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

(Jody is looking for someone to take over the newsletter. If interested, please give her a call.)

**Membership:** Position open

**Board Members:** Joan Patrick, Jody Inman and Richard Inman, Mary Freemon

Reach us at [www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017

### Out on a Limb With Your President~

As we look back on the year 2016, I think we will all feel like it was the longest campaign ever, and certainly it was the dirtiest. On November 8, the results seemed to surprise just about everyone. Many of you were very happy with the results, and many were very disturbed with it. We seem to be a very divided country right now, and we are uncertain about the future. Please keep in mind that, no matter what, the mission of the White Mountain Audubon Society remains the same:

“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.”

We still have beautiful birds to watch, wildlife to enjoy, wild flowers to see, and observe all the things that the White Mountains have for us.

I hope you all have a Happy New Year...and enjoy birding.

Mary Ellen

## Bird Sightings for November and December, 2016

<b>NAME</b>	<b>WHAT SEEN</b>	<b>WHERE</b>
Jernigans	White-breasted Nuthatch, House Finches, Pine Siskins, Roadrunner	Show Low backyard, Rainbow Lake
Kay Alderton	Hairy Woodpecker, Stellar Jays, Juncos	Pinetop front yard
Roshays	Bluebirds	Black Mesa, east of Snowflake
Ginny Dotson	Robins, Western Bluebirds	Vernon
Penas	Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mountain Chickadee, Acorn Woodpecker, Robin, Lewis' Woodpecker	Show Low yard
Bittorfs	Stellar's Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuthatches, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Juncos, House Finches, White-breasted Nuthatches, Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Ravens, Crows, Flicker	Pinetop backyard
Mary Freemon	Nuthatches, Acorn Woodpecker, Sapsuckers, Spotted Towhee, Juncos, Roadrunner	Lakeside yard and Porter Mountain Rd.
Irene Klim	Wild Turkeys	FR 187
Inmans	Red-naped Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hairy Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Juncos, Mountain Chickadee	Sky-Hi Yard,
Joan Patrick	Northern Cardinal	New York
Jon Rondeau	Bald Eagle	FS 182

***“We each have a natural way of being that flows with the course of nature”***

***~Angel Wisdom***

Dear Bird Lovers,

We cordially invite the members of the White Mountain Audubon Society to attend the 2017 Laredo Birding Festival, scheduled for February 8-11. Laredo has a rich and diverse river ecosystem that is home to hundreds of migratory birds and local species, such as the White-collared Seedeater, Scaled Quail, Green Parakeet, and Red-billed Pigeon. Field Trips will be led by professional guides to river fronts, creek systems, nature trails, and scenic South Texas ranch land. We will continue to offer festival favorites, "Bird 'til You Drop" and "Floating Under Flyways". For more information and details visit us online at [www.laredobirdingfestival.org](http://www.laredobirdingfestival.org) Should you have any questions, please call us at (956)718-1063 or email us at [laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org](mailto:laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org)

Thanks,

**Yenesey Ramirez**

**Assistant U.S. & Mexico Schools Coordinator  
Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC)**

1 West End Washington St. Bldg. P-11

Laredo, TX 78040

(956)718-1063



*Kirsten Munson*

[www.whitemountainaudubon.org](http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org)

## CONSERVATION: Making Sense of Bird-Friendly, Sustainable Coffee Labels (All About Birds)

They're those little rectangular icons lined up on your favorite gourmet coffee bags—a tree, a flower, a frog, a harvester, each trying to tell you something about how the coffee was grown. But what does each one mean, and how do they differ? Here's a list of common labels and their benefits for birds. For more specifics, see the list of links below.



- **Bird Friendly.** Certified by scientists from the [Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center](#), this coffee is organic and meets strict requirements for both the amount of shade and the type of forest in which the coffee is grown. Bird Friendly coffee farms are unique places where forest canopy and working farm merge into a single habitat. By paying a little extra and insisting on Bird Friendly coffee, you can help farmers hold out against economic pressures and continue preserving these valuable lands. The good news is that there's more Bird Friendly coffee out there than many people realize—we just need to let retailers know we want it (see below).



- **Organic.** As with other organic crops, [certified organic](#) coffee is grown without most synthetic pesticides and fertilizers and is fairly sustainable—although there are no criteria for shade cover. Because of coffee's growth requirements, it's likely that organic coffee has been grown under some kind of shade, which is good. However, many farmers shade their coffee using other crops or nonnative, heavily pruned trees that provide substantially less habitat for birds, and the organic label offers no information about this.



- **Rainforest Alliance** standards for shade cover are less stringent than Bird Friendly, but more than 70 percent of [Rainforest Alliance](#) certified farms maintain shade cover and the standard promotes preserving forest in reserves and along waterways. On farms where forest canopy is not the native ecosystem type, conservation area set-asides of 30 percent or greater are required in the standard.



- **Fair Trade.** Inspired by humanitarian concerns, [Fair Trade](#) labeling helps to ensure that the workers on coffee farms get paid fairly for the work they do. The higher prices that Fair Trade products earn help to provide an alternative to the price leverage that large coffee buyers can wield. However, a Fair Trade label does not convey any specific information about environmental practices.

- **Shade-grown.** “Shade-grown” labels often appear on specialty coffees, but unfortunately this designation is not regulated and doesn’t tell you much about the growing conditions at the farm. When the idea for Bird Friendly coffee was hatched by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in 1996, plans for the certification process faltered while coffee companies quickly adopted the term “shade-grown” as a marketing buzzword. Unfortunately, this type of coffee can be grown among sparse trees on farms that lack diverse forest structure. Some shade-grown coffee is even grown under only the flimsy cover of banana trees fed artificial fertilizers and pesticides.
- **“Specialty”** just means the coffee scores 80 or higher on a tasting scale. It has nothing to do with environmental conditions, though specialty coffees do tend to come from smaller farms that often have some form of shade cover, which helps impart a richer flavor to the coffee.
- **Sun-grown.** Most coffee grown at an industrial scale is grown under full sun. Acres upon acres of coffee bushes planted in hedgelike rows are sustained by fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation. Cheaper brands of coffee are likely produced with these methods and are unsustainable.

Bird Friendly certified coffee can be hard to find on store shelves and in coffee shops. One reason is that the standards for certification are so rigorous that only a small fraction of coffee farms can qualify. The total amount of Bird Friendly coffee certified in the past 12 years amounts to less than 2 percent of the Rainforest Alliance–certified coffee in 2011 alone.

But there’s another, paradoxical reason: coffee sellers don’t always advertise that their coffee is Bird Friendly. “Probably about only 10 percent of coffee from Bird Friendly certified farms carries the Bird Friendly stamp on the package,” says Robert Rice, a research scientist at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.

For example, Starbucks and Whole Foods sell some coffee from Bird Friendly certified farms. But they don’t see the need to make room on their packaging for a separate label that appeals to a relatively small—and silent—minority: birders. And without the consumer demand and higher prices for Bird Friendly coffee, past history in Central America suggests that the market pushes coffee farmers toward partial-shade and sun-grown practices.

That’s understandable, Stutchbury says. “We can’t demand that they don’t cut down their forests, and give up money, unless we’re willing to give them something as compensation.” That’s the central idea behind Bird Friendly certified coffee: paying a price premium to growers on rustic coffee plantations so that they can continue to provide prime bird habitat.

The good news is, birders can make a difference—by asking retailers to stock Bird Friendly coffee, and by buying it. Think of it as a tip jar next to your coffee maker. More than 46 million Americans say they watch birds, and half of all Americans drink coffee. “If every birder in the U.S. committed to drinking Bird Friendly coffee, the market would grow 1,000-fold,” says Bill Wilson, owner of Massachusetts-based [Birds & Beans](#), an online coffee retailer that specializes in selling only Bird-Friendly coffee.

Stutchbury says it’s time for birders to assert themselves in the coffee marketplace. “Buying Bird Friendly coffee is one of the best ways you can do your part to preserve wintering habitat for our migratory songbirds,” she said.

Grab a supply of Bird Friendly coffee with the help of these Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center pages: [\\*See a map of stores that carry Bird Friendly coffee](#), [\\*Order Bird Friendly coffee online](#), [\\*Find a store near you](#) UPDATE June 2013: The widespread supermarket chain [Whole Foods has begun carrying a Bird Friendly-labeled coffee](#), Allegro Coffee Early Bird Blend.

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.

## DUES ARE DUE, PLEASE!

### 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! **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

### WHERE TO WRITE

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20206  
202-456-1111

U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake  
B85 Russell Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
[www.flake.senate.gov/contact](http://www.flake.senate.gov/contact)

Gov. Fred Ducey  
Executive Tower  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-542-5219

Rep. Albert Hale  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[ahale@azleg.gov](mailto:ahale@azleg.gov)

U.S. Cong. Ann Kirkpatrick  
1123 Longworth House Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-2315

U.S. Sen. John McCain  
241 Russell Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-2235

Sen. Carlyle Begay  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[cbegay@azleg.gov](mailto:cbegay@azleg.gov)

Rep. Jennifer Benally  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[jbennally@azleg.gov](mailto:jbennally@azleg.gov)

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