

THE BIG YEAR
APRIL 1, 2012-MARCH 31, 2013

White Mountain Audubon Society is sponsoring "The Big Year". The person or team that identifies the most bird species during the year will be the winner. There are 2 categories:

1. Bird species identified in Arizona
2. Bird species identified worldwide

You may register at any time. The fee is \$5 per person. Registration forms are available at monthly meetings or in the WMAS newsletter, issue 3-4-2012, on the website. Submit your registration form and fee to Chuck Bittorf (treasurer) at a meeting or mail to: WMAS, P.O. Box 3043, Pinetop, AZ 85935.

Winners will be recognized by the WMAS and will receive a plaque or trophy. Pick up a species recording form (everyone is on the honor system) at a general meeting.

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNTS
(NAMC)
MAY 12, 2012

The NAMC is a nation-wide annual event, very similar in form and function as our annual Christmas Bird Counts. Birders group up to coordinate to bird as much of each county as possible, and count or tally every individual seen (numbers by species). This important survey helps biologists at the state and national level understand our breeding bird ecology.

WMAS supports both the Apache & Navajo NAMCs. Eric Hough coordinates the Navajo NAMC, and Sue Sitko is coordinator for the Apache County count.

Apache County's count will begin at 7:00 am at the Wenima Wildlife Area north of Springerville off Hwy. 180. Please notify Sue at sitko@frontiernet.net if you plan to attend this count. It is a full day event of birding, so please come prepared with food, water and comfortable walking shoes. Sue will be leaving the Pinetop area around 6:00 a.m. if others would like to meet her and carpool from the Pinetop area; if not, please make your way to Wenima and plan on arriving there at 7:00 a.m. Note that this is a departure from our regular field trip meeting location at the Pinetop McDonalds.

In order to participate in the Navajo County NAMC, Please contact Eric Hough to select an area to bird in. He can be reached at thebirdwhisperer22@yahoo.com

BIRDATHON
MAY 18-21, 2012

The Birdathon is the primary fundraiser for White Mountain Audubon Society. We do this by asking our members/friends to request monetary pledges from people you know. Then birdwatch as much as possible during the 4-day event to see as many bird species as possible. Record your bird sightings and turn them into Mary Ellen Bittorf by phone at 928-367-2462. She will compile a list of **ALL** birds seen by all participants. Those that pledge may contribute to WMAS a flat amount or so much per species seen by **ALL** the participants. Collect the monies that were pledged to WMAS and turn in to Chuck Bittorf (treasurer) at the June meeting. The dollars raised fund "Audubon Adventures", a science curriculum for schools and libraries, a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior in the WM area as well as our other programs.

BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING WORKSHOP
MAY 26, 2012
at THE NATURE CENTER TENT

Birdwatching is one of the nation's fastest-growing hobbies, and Arizona is one of the nation's best places to watch birds. We hope you can join us to learn the basics of bird identification (or review your skills), how to best attract birds to your yard, how to choose and use binoculars, and then have hands on birding practice with a walk to Big Springs (optional). The workshop starts at 9:00 am at the White Mountain Nature Center Tent, and lasts until approximately 11:30 am. You will receive a number of handouts to help you remember what you've learned.

The fee for the workshop is \$10 per individual or \$15 per family. It is recommended that children attending be 12 years or older. Bring binoculars if you plan to take the birding walk. White Mountain Audubon will supply binoculars for those that don't have their own. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the wildlife in the White Mountains. For more information, call Mary Ellen Bittorf at 367-2462.

**WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY CAMPOUT
BURNT MILL SPRING
JUNE 15, 16 & 17TH 2012**

The campout begins Friday late afternoon and ends at noon on Sunday. Birders can participate on any of those days, camping or arriving for the birding walks and/or the presentations only. The location offers lots of high country birding opportunities, including a chance to see a Dusky (Blue) Grouse. There will be a workshop on mammal tracking on Saturday afternoon. There is a potluck dinner around 5pm on Saturday and then the evening program will be on Mexican wolves—the latest from two experts. If planning to come, please email lizntom@frontiernet.net or call (928) 532-1510. You can email your registration to WMAS, P.O. Box 3043, Pinetop, AZ 85935. Registration forms and details are in the May-June newsletter on the website. Cost: \$20 registration fee per car if camping. For attending a birding walk or the evening program, please make a donation.

**HUMMINGBIRD BANDING
SIPE WILDLIFE AREA
July 28, 2012**

The annual Hummingbird Banding event is hosted by the AZ Game and Fish Department with assistance from Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory, White Mountain Audubon Society, Springerville Rotary Club, and Springerville-Eagar Chamber of Commerce. The event begins at 8:00 am and goes until noon. A food booth will be on site, serving some light breakfast and lunch. There will be a \$5 charge for parking, while the event is free. Several activities are planned throughout the morning. The main event is watching Sheri Williamson and her helpers collect, measure, examine, and band the hummingbirds. You will learn about the lives and habits of these remarkable little birds. There are opportunities for other wildlife viewing as well on this old ranch property. It is possible to see Calliope, Black-chinned, Rufous, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds at the feeders which will be hung in trees all around the property, as well as being banded. .

While there, you are encouraged to explore the Sipe Visitor Center which has some wonderful exhibits on display.

Remember to bring binoculars, bird guide, water, snacks, sunscreen and wear comfortable shoes and hat. Bathroom facilities are on site.

To reach Sipe Wildlife Area from Pinetop-Lakeside, take Hwy 260 to Eagar. From Eagar, take Hwy 191 toward Alpine for about two miles to the signed turnoff at the top of the first hill. Follow the dirt road approximately 5 miles. Call Arizona Game & Fish in Pinetop at (928) 367- 4281 for more information.