



Calendar

All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers. Fieldtrip times and meeting places vary, so please check the website or call 367-2462 for more information.

May 2nd - Regular monthly meeting speaker is Dr. Fred Peters giving a program on Bald Eagles that he was able to video.

May 12th - Navajo and Apache Counties North American Migration Count- see articles inside newsletter.

May 18th - 21st - Birdathon- See article inside newsletter.

June 6th-Regular monthly meeting speaker will be Bob Herrman giving a program titled "Birds, Blooms & Butterflies".

June 15, 16, & 17th - Campout at Burnt Mill Spring; see details inside newsletter.

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: Loretta Pena 368-3380

Membership: open position 537-0447

Board Members: Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman

Reach us at: www.whitemountainaudubon.org

MAY-JUNE 2012

Out on a Limb with your President...

Except for a couple of storms that typically come through in April, spring is here. On April 1st, the first Magnificent Hummingbird of the season appeared at our feeder. We seem to see him pretty regularly. The Magnificent Hummingbird, *Eugenes fulgens*, is the second largest hummingbird in the United States (second only to the male Blue-throated Hummingbird). It is quite spectacular both in size and color. The male is emerald to bronze green above, with brilliant apple green to turquoise green gorget, and a metallic violet to purple crown. He is slender with a long bill, neck, and tail. The female is dark emerald to bronze-green above and medium ash-gray underneath, often appearing mottled or scaled. The Magnificent Hummingbird is not particularly territorial. He likes dry pine-oak woodlands, mixed conifer forests, and mountains 5,000 to 9,000 ft. elevation. He takes nectar less often than the Blue throated and may be largely insectivorous during the year. When the hummingbirds start showing up in the spring, it is always fun to watch these pretty little creatures, but it is a special treat to watch the Magnificent when he comes to the feeder.

The birds that are coming to our feeders are starting to show that spring is here. We are seeing a lot of Pine Siskins, Band-tailed Pigeons, doves, and lately a little House Wren is singing it's pretty song. I haven't seen a Black-headed Grosbeak yet, but they should be showing up soon.

Your board is hard at work trying to work out the details of the Nature Film festival, the CampOut, and the Beginning Birder's Workshop. I think this will be a good year, and I hope a lot of you will participate in the "Big Year". Are you seeing a lot of birds? You summer people have a leg up because you can count the birds that you see before you come up here. Be sure you record what you see so you can tell us when you get here.

I hope a lot of you will be coming back soon. We look forward to seeing you. In the meantime...enjoy birding.

-Mary Ellen Bittorf

White Mountain Audubon Society

Membership/Donation Form

White Mountain Audubon Society membership dues are: **Individual \$10**, or **Family \$15 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 and/or a Donation to WMAS. Please designate above which you doing. Thank you very much for your support of White Mountain Audubon Society.



Kirsten Munson

Field Trip for March 17, 2012

Our March field trip took place on the blustery cold day of Saturday, March 17th. Six relatively cheerful Auduboners ventured forth from the McDonald's parking lot at 7:15 am to see what birds we could find. In spite of limiting our time to just one site, the Show Low Treatment Ponds, we observed a large number of birds, most in the waterfowl category.

Below is the list: American Wigeons 12, Ring-neck Ducks-30, Lesser Scaup-6, Canvas-back Duck- 30, Gadwalls- 20, Northern Shoveler-12, Common Raven-50, Red-headed Duck-6, Mallard-12, and Brewer's Blackbird- 50

~Tom Jernigan

Apache County North American Migration Count (NAMC) to be held Saturday, May 12

The 2012 NAMC for Apache County will be held on Saturday, May 12. The NAMC is a nation-wide annual event, very similar in form and function as our annual Christmas Bird Counts (only with nicer weather!). 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.

White Mountain Audubon supports both the Apache and Navajo NAMCs. Eric Hough coordinates the Navajo NAMC, and I am the coordinator for the Apache County count. Many of you have helped out in the past on the North American Migration Count (NAMC) for Apache County, and I hope that you and others will want to assist on this year's count.

This year's count will be held on May 12. For the Apache County count, we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Wenima Wildlife Area north of Springerville off Hwy. 180. I will be leaving the Pinetop area around 6:00 a.m. if others would like to meet me 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.

At Wenima, we will form teams and bird there and many other sites along the Little Colorado River (i.e. Becker Lake, South Fork, and possibly Greer and/or higher). If enough people show up, we will split into teams, or use individuals, to bird areas like the Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area, Nutrioso Reservoir, and Luna Lake.

Please let me know if you will be joining me for the Apache County NAMC by e-mailing me at sitko@frontiernet.net, so I can start figuring out all the logistics. Remember, this can be a full day of birding, so come prepared with food and water, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Spotting scopes would be helpful for some of the open water areas.

I hope to get a great turnout; last year we had at least 12 people, which made for a good survey. Let's see if we can't surpass it this year!

Sue Sitko

NAVAJO COUNTY NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT (NAMC) May 12, 2012

Help Needed on Navajo County's North American Migration Count

Dear White Mountain Audubon,

This year I will again be the compiler and organizer of Navajo County's North American Migration Count (NAMC) which will be held on Saturday, May 12th, 2012. This count has existed in Arizona since 2004 (in Navajo County since 2005) and operates similar to the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in that all individual birds of every species found are counted. However, unlike the CBC's, this count is FREE! Just because it is a "migration" count does not mean we are only interested in migrants; we want ALL birds counted. In general, the objective is to cover as much ground and sample as many habitats as possible (dividing into smaller counting groups to increase coverage helps accomplish this). Even counting birds in your yard helps with the count though. Navajo County contains diverse habitats, with northern and southern distributions of species converging along the Mogollon Rim. In the past, areas within Navajo County that have been surveyed on the NAMC have included Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Whiteriver, Carrizo, Heber-Overgaard, Aripine, Zeniff, Snowflake-Taylor, Woodruff, Holbrook, Petrified Forest National Park, Joseph City, Winslow, and Navajo National Monument near Kayenta. Last year we had 2,913 individual birds representing 138 species, with species highlights including Scaled Quail, Common Black-Hawk, Forster's Tern, three owl species (Flammulated, Long-eared, and Burrowing), Greater Pewee, Hermit Warbler, Painted Redstart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, and Evening Grosbeak. Contact me at the email address listed below if you are interested in participating. Your help for any amount of time on that day would be greatly appreciated!

Good birding,
Eric Hough
thebirdwhisperer22@yahoo.com

www.whitemountainaudubon.org

Fieldtrip Report for April 21st

Our small group of birders (Inmans, Penas and their grandson Mateo Lee, Jan Newton, Kathryn Melsted) had a nice morning birding Pintail and Telephone lake refuges.

The usual assortment of ducks and songbirds were present. Northern Shovelers and Ring-necked Ducks were most common along with Cinnamon Teal and a few Canvasback mixed with the abundant coots. Some courtship behavior was seen between the Teals and the drake Ruddy Ducks had their prominent blue bills.

Highlights of the birding trip were a Peregrine Falcon and a Merlin at Pintail Lake and a group of 8 White Pelicans on the wing over Telephone Lake.

Songbirds were not too common other than some Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Chipping Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers and all the blackbird varieties.

It was a beautiful day with good company and birding. The Pena's young grandson, Mateo, loved the outing and learning more about wildlife and nature.

~Richard Inman

"I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority."

~Elwyn Brooks White, *Essays of E.B. White*, 1977

SIGHTINGS

Sightings reported at the April 4th meeting were:

David and Cheryl Cagle were in Cheyenne Bottoms, KS and saw **White Pelican, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, and Blue-winged Teal**. In their yard in Show Low, Penas had **Robin, Say's Phoebe, Acorn and Hairy Woodpecker and Yellow-rumped Warbler**. The Bittorf's sighted **Magnificent Hummingbird, House Wren, and Robin** in Pinetop.

Thanks everyone!!

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO WHITE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Charles Toland -New member
Warren Goff
Janie Ringelberg
Tom & Liz Jernigan
Sally Walker
Bob & Loretta Pena
Kay Alderton
Dana Settles-New member
Yvonne Bevaca
Jan Newton
Kent Schipper
Fred Peters-New member
Carol Sletten/ Eric Cramer
Delores Oster
Diane Dorsay
Chuck & Mary Ellen Bittorf

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS TO WMAS

Dana Settles
Fred Peters
Warren Goff

CONSERVATION

BILLIONS OF BIRDS WINGING THEIR WAY NORTH

Audubon Offers Tips on How You Can Help Birds

New York, NY– April 6, 2012 - Each spring from March to June, birds of every kind – songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds – fly from their winter homes in the south to their summer breeding grounds in places as far north as the Arctic. Along the way they encounter many perils including bright lights and tall buildings, cats and toxic lawns.

Fortunately, people can help ensure a safer journey for migrating birds. Backyards and parks, often key stopover points for many species, can become bird-friendly rest stops with a few simple steps. Audubon urges people to take the following actions this spring:

- 1) Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use. Using fewer chemicals in your yard and home helps keep wildlife, pets and people healthy.
 - 2) Plant native plants. Natives provide birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds, and are also home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.
 - 3) Keep cats inside. Keeping cats indoors ensures that birds outdoors stay safe and cats benefit too; indoor cats live much longer than cats that go outside.
 - 4) Make your windows visible to birds to prevent collisions. Put up screens, close drapes and blinds when you leave the house, or stick multiple decals on the glass (decals need to be no more than two to four inches apart to be effective).
 - 5) Let your yard get a little messy! Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.
 - 6) Close your blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations, and bright lights can disrupt them.
 - 7) Create or protect water sources in your yard--birds need water to drink and bathe in, just like we do. Be sure to change the water two to three times per week when mosquitoes are breeding.
 - 8) Use lots of layers, including understory, ground cover, shrubs, and trees. Multiple levels of plants let birds use different layers for different purposes, such as nesting, feeding, and singing.
 - 9) Extend a safety net for birds beyond your backyard. Contact your local Audubon Chapter to learn about opportunities to create healthy habitat in parks, beaches and other places in your community.
 - 10) Take the Audubon At Home Healthy Pledge! When you take the Pledge, you commit to conserving water, planting native species, removing invasive plants, reducing pesticide use, protecting water quality, and keeping birds safe in your yard.
- Find details on all the above tips at <http://athome.audubon.org/ten-ways-make-difference-migrating-birds>

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at www.audubon.org.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2012 Results

You did it! Or, as one participant tweeted: "Way to go, citizen scientists!" Participation in the **15th Great Backyard Bird Count**, February 17-20, shattered all previous records. Bird watchers in the U.S. and Canada submitted more than 104,000 checklists, reported 623 species, and observed more than 17.4 million birds. New checklist records were set in 22 states and in 6 Canadian provinces. The 100,000th checklist was submitted by Denise St. Pierre and her family in Lac Du Bonnet, Manitoba. To mark that watershed moment we're awarding Denise the Eliminator Squirrel-Proof Feeder donated by Wild Birds Unlimited.

A detailed summary of some trends noted in this year's GBBC is now available on the website. For example, GBBC maps showing reports for Snowy Owls plainly show the massive influx compared to previous years. Common Redpolls also moved farther south in western areas in search of food. One straggler even made it all the way to California. Lack of acorns may have reduced reported numbers of Blue Jays in the Northeast. Sandhill Cranes and Red-winged Blackbirds were already migrating during the count. A flock of more than a million Tree Swallows turned the sky dark in Ruskin, Florida. Feel free to explore the reports from across the continent or in your home town and check out this year's Top-10 lists. How did your state or province fare?

Please go to gbbc@cornell.edu for more information about the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Can't get enough of counting birds? It doesn't have to stop here. Consider getting involved in the NestWatch project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology or Project NestWatch from Bird Studies Canada. Participants monitor nests and nest boxes to let scientists know when eggs are laid, when they hatch, and how many chicks fledge. It's an important way to measure the impact of climate change and other factors on breeding birds. Participation is free and it's a great way to connect with nature.

If you enjoyed the GBBC, take the next step by reporting your bird sightings to eBird or eBird Canada at any time of year. You can keep and access your own records online while joining people from all around the world to track birds.

And consider visiting Audubon at Home to learn more about ways you can make your backyard more bird-friendly!

(Info from www.gbbc@cornell.edu)

BIRDATHON 2012 May 18-21, 2012

It is time once again for **Birdathon**, White Mountain Audubon Society's fundraiser. **Please** join the effort this year to raise funds for the programs that we support. You will want to ask family, friends, and coworkers to pledge a certain amount for each bird seen or a flat amount. Then you'll have the pleasure of birding for as much time as possible during the 4 days. After the Birdathon, you may call Mary Ellen at 367-2462 and tell her the birds you saw. Then it is time to collect from those that made pledges; afterwards you may turn in your money to Chuck Bittorf at the regular June meeting.

White Mountain Audubon Society sponsors Audubon Adventures, a science program for grades 3-6 for many classrooms in the White Mountains and we give a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior each spring. These programs are made possible by dollars raised in the Birdathon.

If you are able to do the Birdathon, that is wonderful! If not, please consider sponsoring someone who is doing it and help WMAS in that way. We thank you for your support of White Mountain Audubon Society!!

THE BIG YEAR IS HERE!!

White Mountain Audubon is sponsoring "The Big Year" from April 1, 2012- March 31, 2013. You may register to participate at a monthly meeting; the fee is \$5 for each person to participate. There will be 2 categories of participation-

- Birds seen in AZ
- Birds seen anywhere in the world.

Registration forms are available in the WMAS newsletter (3-4-12 issue), and at the general meetings. At the end of the year submit your bird list at a meeting or mail to:

WMAS
P.O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935

More information at 367-2462

White Mountain Audubon Society Campout 2012 Burnt Mill Springs



June 15th, 16th, 17th

Campout Schedule

Friday, June 15th Arrive anytime after 12 noon. Set up camp. Get acquainted. Do a little evening birding in nearby pond. Williamsons Sapsuckers like this pond.

Saturday, June 16th

7:30 AM: We'll go birding with Bart Stegman, long-time White Mountain resident, to a nearby lake or stream.

2:30 PM: Mammal tracking session with Jean Ossorio and Billie Hughes. Both are experts on Mexican Grey wolves and their reintroduction.

5:30 PM: Pot luck- All come (even if just there for evening speaker) and bring dish for pot luck.

6:30 PM: Evening Program: Speakers Jean Ossorio and Billie Hughes will present a program on Mexican Wolves. Burnt Mill Springs area is in the Paradise Pack's home range—you'll get the *latest* information.

Sunday, June 17th

7:30 AM: (approx.) Birding fieldtrip near campsite. We may go to top of Green's Peak and hike down for chance to see Dusky (Blue) Grouse. Lots of good birding right at the campsite, too. Break camp about noon.

At the Campout . . .

- Bring your own food and **WATER**. There is no potable water on site.
- Pack it in, pack it out. There is no trash pick-up.
- **NO** fires or charcoal grills unless Forest Service gives permission (unknown at this time). Camp stoves are OK
- If you plan to bring a dog, please check with camp hosts first. Dogs must be on a leash.

Registration

Please notify ahead of time by emailing Tom & Liz at lizntom@frontiernet.net or calling (928) 532-1510. You can mail Name, Address, and #no. in party, phone and email address to: WMAS, P.O. Box 3043, Pinetop, AZ 85935 and **\$20** registration fee per **car** (form in May-June newsletter.) Or donations accepted if just coming to the birding walk or evening program.

Registration for the White Mountain Audubon Campout 2012

Name _____ # in party _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Please check one:

I plan to _____ tent _____ use an RV/trailer _____ stay in town

Enclosed is my check for \$20 payable to White Mountain Audubon.

Return form to: White Mountain Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3043

Pinetop, AZ 85935

Where to write

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

U. S. Sen. Jon Kyl
730 Hart Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-225-3121 or
1-888-355-3588

Gov. Jan Brewer
Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
1-800-253-0883

Rep. Brenda Barton
House Wing
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-5219
bbarton@azleg.gov

U.S. Cong. Paul Gosar
504 Cannon HOB
202-225-2315
Washington, DC 20515

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

Sen. Sylvia Allen
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
sallen@azleg.gov

Rep. Chester Crandall
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
ccrandal@azleg.gov

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.

**White Mountain Audubon Society
P. O. Box 3043
Pinetop, AZ 85935**