



## JULY-AUGUST 2012

### 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.

**July 11th** - Regular monthly meeting speaker is Barb Davis, WMAS member, who will give a program on White Mountain Warblers.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>** - Hummingbird Banding with Sheri Williamson at Sipe Wildlife Area near Springerville. See article inside for details.

**August 1st** - Regular monthly meeting speaker will be Gail Morris giving a program on Monarch butterflies.

**August 11<sup>th</sup>** - WMAS with the Nature Center will co-sponsor Avian Ambassadors.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>** - Fieldtrip to Williams Fish Hatchery & Kinishba Ruins. Leader is Bart Stegman and a permit is required. Meet at Pinetop McDonald's at 7:00 am.

### YOUR OFFICERS

<b>President:</b> Mary Ellen Bittorf	367-2462
<b>Vice-Pres.:</b> Tom Jernigan	532-1510
<b>Secretary:</b> Liz Jernigan	532-1510
<b>Treasurer:</b> Chuck Bittorf	367-2462
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<b>Editor:</b> Loretta Pena	368-3380
<b>Membership:</b> open position	537-0447
<b>Website Manager:</b> Richard Inman	369-3240
<b>Board Members:</b> Kent Schipper, Jody Inman and Richard Inman	

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

### Out on a Limb with your President...

Today as I write this, the temperature is pretty warm - 90 degrees - for Pinetop-Lakeside. My hummingbird/butterfly garden is beginning to bloom and I have quite a few hummingbirds and a lot of butterflies visiting my yard. I will start taking my hummingbird guide out to see how many of the butterflies I can identify. This is going to be fun! Also fun is the number of summer birds including the Black-headed Grosbeaks, Robins, Siskens, Lesser Goldfinches, and especially the House Wren who can't seem to decide which one of the three nest boxes he wants to settle for, and the Cordilleran Flycatcher who is sitting on a nest just above my big front window. She has been on the nest for about two weeks so I am anxious to see if the nest is successful. Her mate sits patiently nearby, keeping watch. They are so cute and perky. This is their second year here but, sadly, last year they were unsuccessful. The Hairy Woodpeckers, Acorn Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Flickers, and Stellar's Jays are all feeding young. It is an amazing time in the White Mountains.

The first part of June, Shawn Lowery from Arizona Game and Fish, and a couple of assistants set traps in my back yard to catch some Band-tailed Pigeons. They had me put out pigeon food the day or two before, and they were here at 5:00 a.m. to watch. The first day they didn't catch anything, but the second morning they caught two along with a nosy little squirrel. The squirrel quickly got out of the net and took off for parts unknown. The captive pigeons were weighed and measured, and a swab was taken of the saliva along with a blood sample to check out the health of the bird. A small GPS tracking device was glued onto their back and a leg band was attached. The tracking unit will last for about a month then it will fall off. During the time it is on, it can be tracked with a tracking antenna. This is being done to find out where the birds go, and perhaps where they nest. There are several sites between Pinetop-Lakeside and Payson along the Mogollon Rim where this monitoring is being done. Over time this scientific monitoring will begin to tell a story about the habits of the pigeons. It involves a lot of "wait and see" along with a big dose of patience.

I want to thank Tom and Liz Jernigan for their work on the Beginning Birder's Workshop, along with Sue Sitko, Loretta Pena, Diane Dorsey, and Chuck Bittorf. The weather was not our friend that day and the wind blew so hard that we had to quit early.

I also want to thank Tom and Liz for their work on the Campout. Ten people attended this fun event. I hope next year more people will be able to attend.

I hope you are all enjoying the summer, and above all..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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Send this form and your dues or donation to:**

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

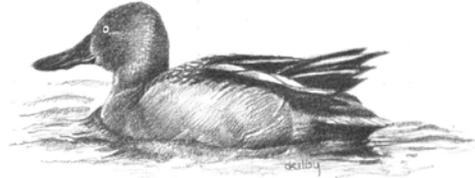
**You may use this form for either your Membership renewal and/or a Donation to WMAS. Please designate above which you doing. Thank you very much for your support of White Mountain Audubon Society.**

## SIGHTINGS

May sightings reported were: Barb and Ken Smith were on Kauai from November to March and saw a variety of birds including Nene, Shearwater, Albatross, Red-footed Booby, Red-tailed & White-tailed Tropicbird, Frigatebird, coot, teal, gallinule, Hawaiian Duck and stilt. Yvonne had hummingbirds, doves, grosbeak, flicker and jay in her backyard. Barb Davis saw a Painted Redstart in her yard in Lakeside. In Pinetop, Kay Alderton sighted Pine Siskin, grosbeak, woodpecker, junco, dove and Stellar Jay. Diane Dorsay had a good time observing 15 nests of cormorants at Tunnel Reservoir in Greer. Liz & Tom Jernigan saw Purple Martin and Lesser Goldfinch. Bob & Loretta Pena reported Acorn & Hairy Woodpecker in Show Low. Sue Sitko saw Dusky (Blue) Grouse on Burro Mountain.

June sightings were: Bittorfs had House Wren, Mallard, and Cordilleran Flycatcher in their yard in Pinetop. In Lakeside, Pete & Mary Jane Milne reported Lewis, Downy & Acorn Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Evening & Black-headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Stellar Jay and juncos. Judy Davis saw Lewis Woodpecker. In her backyard in Pinetop, Pat Calkins reported Robin, Cassin's Finch, Northern Flicker and Acorn Woodpecker. Paula saw Acorn Woodpecker in Linden. In Lakeside, Sally Walker sighted Lewis Woodpecker. Loretta Pena saw Juniper Titmouse in Show Low. Sue Sitko sighted Gray Jay, Three-toed Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, and Golden-crowned Kinglet; these are among approximately 20 species seen by her as she went with volunteers from the Arizona Field Ornithologist's Union (including Donna Roton and Gary Crandall) on a field survey for Gray Jays in the Big Lake/Sunrise/Green's Peak region. Barb Davis saw an American Redstart at South Fork.

Thanks everyone for reporting your sightings!!!!



David Kilby

## HUMMINGBIRD BANDING AT SIPE WILDLIFE AREA July 28, 2012

Once again, Sheri Williamson and her banding crew will return to Sipe Wildlife Area for an activity filled morning on July 28th. There will be a \$5 charge for parking; the event is free. Activities begin at 8 and end at noon.

This event is sponsored by AZ Game & Fish Department, assisted by Southeastern AZ Bird Observatory, White Mountain Audubon Society, Springerville Rotary Club, and Springerville-Eagar Chamber of Commerce. A food booth will be on site for light breakfast as well as lunch. Please take time to enjoy the displays in the Sipe Visitor Center.

Several activities will be ongoing during the morning, but the main event is watching the hundreds of hummingbirds that visit the area in summer and seeing the banders collect, measure, weigh, assess and band the birds. You will have the opportunity to learn more about the lives and habits of these amazing birds. It is possible to see Calliope, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned and Rufous hummingbirds as well as other birds in the surrounding area.

Remember to wear comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunscreen; bring water, snacks/lunch, and plan to enjoy a morning in the beautiful White Mountains of Arizona.

Sipe is located south of Eagar. Take Hgwy 191 going toward Alpine. Turn right off of Hgwy 191, approximately 2 miles at the signed turnoff at the top of the first hill. Follow the dirt road for 5 miles. For more information, please call AZ G&F Department in Pinetop at 928-367-4281.

## STUDY TIES BARK BEETLES TO POLLUTION FORMATION

Trees infested by bark beetles release high levels of substances that contribute to haze and smog, potentially polluting the skies over forests and national parks, a new study says.

The study, conducted by researchers in Colorado and three other states, found that when beetles bore into trees to lay eggs, the trees release up to 20 times more volatile organic compounds compared with healthy trees.

The trees release the gases as a defense mechanism against the beetles, but the gases also contribute to the formation of ozone, the primary component of smog.

Ozone forms when heat and sunlight react with the organic compounds. High levels can obscure views even in areas far from cities and threaten the health of people who breathe the pollutant.

Bark beetles have spread through millions of acres of forests in Arizona and across the Western U.S. and Canada over the last decade, killing billions of trees already weakened by drought and wildfire. The beetle study was published in *Environmental Science & Technology*, the journal of the American Chemical Society.

(Article is by Shaun McKinnon from the AZ Republic, May, 2012)

# Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival

August 15-19

at The Riverpark Inn, near downtown Tucson, AZ

Featuring:

- Exciting **monsoon birding**: peak numbers and diversity of bird species!
- **Expert-led field trips** to nearby birding hotspots like the Huachuca Mountains, Madera Canyon, Las Cienegas, Cienega Creek, Mt. Lemmon, California Gulch, Sweetwater Wetlands, and more; some of the best birding in the country!
- A variety of hummingbird activities
- Evening programs by renowned authors and naturalists **Richard Crossley** and **Rick Taylor**
- Birding, Butterflies, Wildflowers, Natural History, and other **workshops and free talks** for beginners through advanced
- Family-friendly activities & **youth birders' field trip** with **Richard Crossley**
- **Nature Expo** with educational exhibits, vendors, and live critters
- The **Sky Islands Birding Cup** (a "Big Day" competition like no other) on Aug. 15
- **Special Festival rates** at The Riverpark Inn and Enterprise Rent-a-car

For more info and online registration, please visit [www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival) or contact Kara at

**Kara Kaczmarzyk**  
**Volunteer & Development Coordinator**  
Tucson Audubon Society  
[www.tucsonaudubon.org](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org)  
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Tucson Audubon's Mason Center, 3835 W. Hardy Rd., Tucson, AZ 85742  
Nature Shop & Offices at the Historic Y, 300 E. University Blvd. Ste #120, Tucson, AZ 85705



Kirsten Munson

"The earth is what we all have in common."

Wendell Berry

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

## **North American Migration Count Navajo County Results May 12, 2012**

Thanks so much for participating in this year's NAMC in Navajo County! The 12 observers on this year's count tallied a total of 2,701 individual birds of 126 species (127 if separating the two Yellow-rumped Warbler forms as the AZFO site will show). Overall many of you noticed slightly fewer birds present that day in the field and lower numbers of migrants than in previous years, although this count had the 4th highest number of individuals and 3rd highest number of species recorded since 2005. After eight counts occurring since 2005, many of the expected species have been recorded on the Navajo Co. NAMC's already, with the 2012 count adding just one new species: Greater Yellowlegs. This year one of the coolest discoveries in the region was of an apparent small breeding population of Black-chinned Sparrows above the Mogollon Rim in Linden, where Gus Hollenbeck found two of the birds singing on the count day. Prior to this year's count, the species had only been recorded once before on the chaparral-covered slopes above Carrizo within their expected distribution below the Rim. Other highlights this year included individual Bald Eagles found in the Show Low and Snowflake areas, several shorebird species found by multiple observers, three calling Flammulated Owls in the Black Canyon area south of Heber, and 13 Red-faced Warblers (the highest number recorded thus far). Thank you again for helping out on this fun and informative count, and hopefully you can join us again on the second Saturday in May of 2013!

Eric Hough

## **2012 Apache County North American Migration Count Results**

Six people joined in on the Apache County NAMC, held May 12. Four of us (Ann, Julie, Evelyn, and myself) started at the Wenima Wildlife Area north of Springerville and spent most of the day at sites along the Little Colorado River, while Richard and Dorothy Reed-Inman explored the high-country lakes. Some highlights included two nesting colonies of Cliff Swallows, Ring-billed Gulls, one American Goldfinch at Evelyn's feeder, Townsend's Solitaire, and several Common Yellowthroats and Yellow-breasted Chats. Three quiet, skulking Canyon Towhees let us finally get a good glimpse of them as they scurried around in the thick vegetation. A Savannah Sparrow made an appearance, and an Eastern Meadowlark was singing at the Wenima Wildlife Area—a song quite different than the Western Meadowlark's, and one of the easier ways to tell them apart. The high lakes were sporting a number of waterfowl; Spotted Sandpipers and Willets, and even one each of Snowy and Great Egrets.

Other species included: Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, and Bald Eagles were observed at the open lakes. Both of our birding parties observed Ring-billed Gulls. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds buzzed by us at nearly every location. I don't recall seeing as many Great-tailed Grackles ever before. Eurasian Collared-Dove numbers were a bit lower than in years' past, but they are certainly still around. The lovely azure-blue Mountain Bluebird was observed by both parties—always an enjoyable bird to see. It was dry, so many tanks had not filled up yet, but the Little Colorado River was still going pretty strong. The diminutive Wilson's Warbler and the graceful soaring Ferruginous Hawk were just two of a total of 81 species tallied for the day, with a total of 1206 individuals counted. The wind was light, and the day passed quickly as it usually does. We were pleased to see birds return after last year's Wallow Fire, and we have high hopes that wildlife of all kinds will survive intact.

Sue Sitko

## **Dollie Ringelberg is WMAS's Essay Winner for 2012**

A caveman wakes up in 2012 BC. The dark cave in which he arises is "furnished" with raw, primitive materials, an itchy animal skin on which to sleep, a few utensils carved from wood and several hard stones for stools. The cave-dweller's belongings are made from natural materials and will bio-degrade safely with very little or no impact to his environment. Environmentalists today are "green". Green with envy, that is, for this ability to exist with no man-made toxins causing widespread environmental pollution. In all honesty, however, how many well-intentioned environmentalists would be willing to assume the simple caveman's lifestyle, living their entire short life spans on foot within a few miles of their caves?

The other side of the coin is the history which we now call the Industrial Revolution with its amazing technological advancements, resulting in improved quality of life for all in thousands of ways. Because of this revolution, manufactured creature comforts are readily available today, enabling us to live longer, more interesting lifestyles. No caveman given these improvements would be willing to subsequently relinquish them. Nor are we willing to, nor should we be forced to today.

In our age of advanced technologies, we as a civilization have come a long way from the simple cave dweller's humble furnishings. Although we can pride ourselves on the multitude of advancements from A to Z, these advancements have come to us at a price. In the earliest years of industrialization in this country, unregulated environmentally irresponsible practices resulted in widespread costs. Industrial wastes were dumped into our air, waterways and landscapes resulting in unchecked pollution, thus causing a plethora of environmental catastrophes.

Niagara Falls provides an example of the introduction of industrialization's toxic wastes into that area. In the late 1800's, the factories at Niagara Falls dumped tons of manufacturing chemicals into the river causing multiple fish kills to the extent that eventually; the entire river was dead, devoid of its fish populations. The fumes coming off the water were described as being strong enough to cause eye and throat stinging and burning. Even the glass panes in windows became chemically etched. A current example of unchecked environmental irresponsibility awaits visitors to industrialized China, now a world manufacturing center. One can only guess the impacts that this is causing in China to human and animal life.

As one might expect, it all starts with the individual. This fall I will be attending college, ultimately obtaining a degree in Interior Design. One may wonder what correlation this field might provide for the benefit of our environment. Increasingly, in first-world countries, we are delivering on the environment's need for safer, less toxic processes and products. Manufacturers of many home improvement products are developing new lines of "green" choices. From floor to ceiling, these products can be substituted for the formerly accepted environmentally harsher equivalents.

Lowering energy consumption is of primary concern in most homes and businesses for those of us desiring to "go green". Window treatments can be very attractive and at the same time very energy efficient. Counter tops are now available which have been made of composite recycled glass or the reuse of fly-ash, which is a by-product of burning coal. Both are very attractive. When considering flooring, red oak is a good choice when one considers that this is available domestically, thus saving on the cost of imports and the environmental impact of long-distance shipping. Some carpets are now produced from renewable resources such as corn sugar, substituted for the petroleum-based ingredients. When choosing interior paint, the volatile organic compounds (VOC's) are an important consideration. These are harmful gasses emitted from paint and affect indoor air quality. Always a preferred choice is a paint in which the manufacturer has developed a paint with a reduced VOC. This can be found on the can label, the lower the number, the better.

Of course, market forces prevail, but hopefully the consumer's preference for these products will increase, encouraging even greater demand for corporations to expand their research into the development of environmentally safe manufacturing methods and products. Throughout my career I hope to see the burgeoning availability of environmentally safe decoration products completely eclipse the former counterparts. I personally plan to research the availability of these products and will prefer to incorporate them into my decorating business whenever possible. Hopefully my clients will make the personal choice to do so, as well. Who would have thought that Interior Design can be an environmental science?

Returning to our "green" caveman of 2012 B.C. residing in his uncomfortable home surroundings, his choices are few and, by contrast, ours are many. We are the beneficiaries of decades of corporate investments for the development of thousands of products which we have the choice to utilize or not. Let us be on the cutting edge of a new era of choice. Home improvement and home decorating products are available now in "green" earth-friendly options. Let us strive to be responsible to our world, making choices to safeguard the beauty and health of our natural environments. Our "green" caveman is green to be certain, but is also green with envy for what 2012 A. D. has to offer. Let us enjoy these desirable comforts, acknowledging that of equal importance is the care of our natural world, never forgetting, but correcting the mistakes of our past for the sake of future generations.

## BIRDATHON RESULTS for 2012

The Birdathon was held May 18-21, 2012. Participants this year were Bob & Loretta Pena and Mary Ellen & Chuck Bittorf. Some of the birds seen during these 4 days by them were: Black-headed Grosbeak, Great Blue Heron, Eurasian-collared Dove, Western Wood Pewee, Western Kingbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Mockingbird, Canyon Wren, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Rock Wren, Say's Phoebe, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Bluebird, Hepatic Tanager, Purple Martin, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Cordilleran Flycatcher, and Magnificent Hummingbird. Total number of birds seen was 63.

At this time \$760 has been collected; if you'd haven't donated yet and would like to, you may see Chuck Bittorf at the July meeting.

**Thanks very much** to each of you that participated or donated money to the Birdathon.

### White Mountain Audubon Campout 2012

How many Williamson's Sapsuckers did you see the weekend of June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>? Those of us on the annual WMAS campout saw plenty! Yes, the pond at Burnt Mil Spring had lots of water for such a dry year. It was there that we saw the Williamson's and the Red-naped Sapsucker, the Eurasian collared Dove, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Western Tanager, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Pine Siskin, Stellar Jay, Northern Flicker, Common Raven and a Mallard Duck. On our walk or driving we also saw Mountain Bluebirds, Brewers Blackbirds and a Swainson Hawk.

Ten of us camped overnight in wonderfully cool weather. Bart Stegman and friend Laurie heard wolves howling Friday night. This was a nice prelude to speakers, Jean & Peter Ossorio, and Billie Hughes who spoke Saturday afternoon about Mexican wolves. These experts entertained us for several hours on wolf matters including a session on track identification. Bart Stegman led us a birding walk Saturday morning. Then, before lunch we went on a tree walk at the foot of Greens Peak where we saw some of the largest Douglas Firs and Aspens in the state.

Thanks to those who contributed to and joined us on Saturday evening for the world famous Pot Luck (it was real good)!

Tom & Liz Jernigan

### CONSERVATION

#### Top Scientists to World Leaders: Do Something About Population, Consumption

Some of the world's top scientists sent a message to world leaders this week: Address human overpopulation and consumption or risk "potentially catastrophic implications for human well-being." The urging came from the world's 105 scientific academies, ahead of the United Nations' [Rio +20](#) summit on sustainable development that began on Wednesday.

The [statement](#) came from a group representing the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and similar institutions around the world, including those of South Africa, Japan, Nicaragua, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. "We are delighted that the world's science academies have chosen to come together to highlight two of the most profound challenges to humanity -- population and consumption -- and to call for urgent and coordinated international action to address them," the group's leader said.

The message follows a [study](#) released this spring by the London-based Royal Society that population and consumption by rich countries present "profound" challenges to economies and the environment. It also included several recommendations, including support for voluntary family planning.

(Article is from Center for Biological Diversity newsletter)

## 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  
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U.S. Cong. Paul Gosar  
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U.S. Sen. John McCain  
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Sen. Sylvia Allen  
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Rep. Chester Crandall  
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**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  
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Pinetop, AZ 85935**