



NOVEMBER EDITION 2021

Out on a Limb by Mary T. Freemon (WMAS Board Member)

What a wonderful summer we had this year with restrictions eased and the rains returning to normal... or beyond! The flowers were amazing and so were the butterflies. I saw so many more species than ever before. But as the leaves are rapidly turning russet and gold in my yard and the nights are getting colder, I'm reminded that the seasons are once again changing. The birds in my yard are changing, too. All the nestlings have fledged and the hummingbirds have all left for warmer destinations. The winter residents are returning day by day. I have many more mountain chickadees and sparrows than in previous years. Also Northern Flickers, nuthatches and various woodpeckers as well. A newcomer this year is a Red-naped Sapsucker that I haven't seen in several years. Tom mentioned the bully birds in his yard last newsletter. The ones in my yard are the Pygmy Nuthatches! They descend on the suet feeder and drive everyone off... even the Flicker. As much as I like autumn with all its color and vibrancy.... I know winter is not far away! I wonder what this year will bring....

White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS) 2021 Chapter Officers:

President: Mary Williams	480-235-1792
Vice-President: Tom Jernigan	928-532-1510
Secretary: Liz Jernigan	928-532-1510
Treasurer: Tom Jernigan	928-532-1510
Field Trips: Rob Bettaso	928-368-8481
Newsletter: Rob Bettaso	928-368-8481
Webmaster: Alan Vickers	

Board Members:

Mary Williams, Tom Jernigan, Liz Jernigan, Mary Freemon, Joan Patrick, Susie Walker & Rob Bettaso.



President's Corner by Mary Williams (WMAS President):

Happy November! In this month when we are reminded to be thankful, here are some of my recent highlights:



Photo by Ken McByrd-Bell of Gerry, Laura, Carla, Mary, Chuck, Joyce and Gary on the field trip at Sheep Crossing in Apache County on 9/25 after the last 2021 *Birding the White Mountains* class. (Planning to resume the PowerPoint series in April.)



Chuck, Yvonne, Bob, Ramona, Yolanda looking for birds, bighorn and fall foliage in Greer on Oct 7 after enjoying Barb Davis' films at the WMAS meeting the previous evening. Happy with two out of three. Who would have guessed that we would see more bighorn sheep than birds!?!



Enjoyed the herd along the road to Greer.



Sunrise at my campsite at Lyman Lake State Park on 10/8. An hour or so later I had a good enough view of a pair of

Pectoral Sandpipers to feel confident about adding them to my life list. Did you know that their annual migratory journeys are around 18,000 miles?!?

If you are a paid-up 2021 WMAS member, be sure to check your emails and to vote for those of us who wish to continue to serve on your Board of Directors in 2022. And... if you wish to join us as a Board member, please contact one of us so your name is included in the roster later this month. Wishing you good birding and many blessings! --Mary Williams

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

On my (Rob) most recent WMAS Field Trip (Oct 16th) participants saw 27 bird species at the Big Springs and White Mountain Nature Center trails. While most of the species we saw were common and easily observed species, we did find one bird that can often be difficult to find; namely, the Virginia Rail. We were lucky in that the rail did not seem to be particularly bothered by our small group of 3 bird watchers and, as a result, we had a good long period of time in which to watch the rail poke around in the mud along the outer margin of a stand of cattails.

Below: Oct 16th participants: Loretta and Ken. (Photo by Rob Bettaso).



October 6th WMAS General Meeting and Presentation

At our most recent program for the public, Barbara Davis gave an excellent video presentation on the birds and other wildlife of the Sonoran Desert and a 2nd video on the birds and wildlife that come to drink and bathe in a pond that is near her house here in the Pinetop area. Thank you Barb for a very enjoyable and informative show!

CALENDAR

All **monthly programs** begin at **6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January, February & March)**. Meetings are at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council Chambers, 325 W. White Mountain Blvd until future notice. The programs are free and open to all. You may call **Liz Jernigan (928-532-1511)** for more information on monthly programs and special events.

Here's what's happening in November 2021:

Nov 3rd Monthly Meeting & Program Presentation, Dan Groebner (Wildlife Biologist, Arizona Game & Fish Department): Learn more about bird calls by discovering the "why, when, where, who, and how" of avian vocalizations. This presentation will include the calls of many local birds as well as tips to "birding by ear" and how to identify the more common species. We will also discuss some of the many phone apps with bird songs to help figure out that hidden bird singing from the top of the tree.

Nov 20th Monthly WMAS Birding Field Trip, Rob Bettaso leads bird watching field trips on the 3rd Sat of every month. If you are interested in attending, please call him at 928-368-8481 and leave a message so that he can return your call to give you the details for the trip(s) that you would like to attend.

And because our **December** monthly meeting occurs on the **1st** of that month, we don't want anyone to miss out because they were caught off-guard so we include here the announcement for the December meeting:

December's Presentation: The Wonders of Spring Bird Migration in Texas

Greetings! My husband Bruce and I appreciate so much being invited to be the presenters at our upcoming December meeting on December 1. We will be sharing our journey through Texas this past April to witness the incredible spring bird migration that Texas offers. The last meeting of the year is always a fantastic time to gather together to celebrate our past year of making new friends and seeing birds, and to start thinking of next year's potential birding adventures. We hope you can join us, bring a friend or two, and have some fun!

To whet your appetite, here are a few tidbits of what our presentation will include:

First of all, birds! From shorebirds to warblers, both Bruce and I kept our camera shutters clicking. Our trip coincided with the Galveston Island "Feather Fest" birding and nature photography festival, and Bruce took three workshops on photographing birds. He is working diligently to edit his best pictures, and you'll see some great up-close images!

Second, we'll review our route, and include information that you may find useful in planning your own trip to Texas. Our trip included stops and stays at Fort Davis, Enchanted Rock, and Lost Maples state parks; the migration hot-spots along the upper Texas coast; and Galveston Island. We camped out in our trailer at both natural areas and urban RV parks, and have some knowledge of places to stay along the way even if you're not campers.

Third, we'll bring material we gathered during our trip: maps, bird checklists, books, travel guides...whatever we collected, we'll have it available for you to peruse!



We want to acknowledge our dear friend Barb Davis, who prompted us to explore the upper Texas coast and provided us with a wealth of pre-trip information that helped us plan, and most importantly, ENJOY, our trip. Thank you Barb!!!

Hope to see you all at our December meeting!

Sue and Bruce Sitko

UPDATES & REMINDERS:

Have you paid your annual membership dues? If not, a friendly reminder that WMAS relies on membership dues for such important Chapter actions as our annual Scholarship Awards to White Mountain area graduating seniors who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in natural history, conservation, and other related fields. Thank you for helping us to continue to make such programs a regular part of our Chapter mission. Note that the Donation form is at the end of every Newsletter. Dues are for the year in which they are paid and not necessarily good for 12 months following payment (unless you pay in January).

Also, if you are not a member of the National Audubon Society, we encourage all Chapter members to join the national organization. Information on joining the national organization is easy as you only need to type "National Audubon Society" into your internet search engine to obtain the simple instructions for joining.

And remember, you should always feel free to offer your assistance to the Board. For that matter, there are some on the Board who are interested in moving on from the Board to focus on other aspects of their lives, so, we are always interested in hearing from anyone who might want to accept the fun challenges of filling a Board or Officer position!

Membership/Donation Form

White Mountain Audubon Society chapter membership dues are: Individual \$15 or Family \$25 per year. Please renew your membership every January. 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.

Dazzling WMAS T-shirts for sale (money from sales goes exclusively to our WMAS's operating budget). If interested, call Rob at 928-368-8481; supplies limited (a great gift idea).



White Mountain Audubon Society
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