



MARCH EDITION 2022

Out on a Limb by Tom Jernigan (Vice President & Treasurer, WMAS):

I don't usually sit around and think dire thoughts about climate change, but a bird that has recently been hanging out at our bird feeder got me going. We have never seen this bird before in our twenty plus years at this location. The only other time we have seen it is south of Tucson about ten years ago: a Bridled Titmouse.

I know it is difficult to notice specific examples of climate change; it being such a long-term phenomenon. But, the presence or absence of birds can be change that you can put your finger on. National Audubon reports that, in recent times, a majority of bird species in North America have shifted their winter range north by more than thirty-five miles. Scientists estimate that the Pygmy Nuthatch may lose enough pine habitat in coming years to drive it close to extinction.

Yes, I know that other species may move north to replace the ones lost. But, a couple of things make me sad:

1. I LIKE the Pygmy Nuthatch outside my window.
2. Many species will move north or up in elevation trying to adapt. But that can only go so far—then what?

Bridled Titmouse (Photo from Cornell Lab website)



Pygmy Nuthatches (Photo by Rob Bettaso)



White Mountain Audubon Society (WMAS) 2022 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
Membership: Susie Walker	480-205-6119
Webmaster: Alan Vickers	

2022 Board Members:

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



President's Corner by Mary Williams:

Have you been to Buffalo Bill's Tavern and Grill at the Bison Golf Club in Show Low? That's where our Audubon Society will gather for monthly meetings this year and your Board of Directors believes you will enjoy a unique new spot. (Plan to meet with Calamity Jane, Jesse James, Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid and Doc Holliday in the Wild Bill Hickok Room.)

We researched many possible venues after the PTLs Town Hall decided they will no longer allow outside groups to use their wonderful facility in the evenings. Rather than change to afternoon meetings there – when we would not be able to reach many of our younger members and potential members – we looked at a multitude of possible locations that could accommodate up to 50 people and had the AV capabilities needed for our guest speakers. Very few were available and none met all our wishes. We are happy to report that Buffalo Bill's welcomes us to their private dining area on the first Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 beginning April 6.

You might wish to arrive at 5 or so and enjoy one of their delicious meals. (More pricey than the chains, but far more tasty and very generous portions.) You may also purchase beverages on site (in the tavern) to bring into our meeting room.

I'll be the guest speaker for our first meeting of 2022 and will outline upcoming meetings, classes and events. I'll also show you photos of the "Best Bird" monthly listings from meeting attendees in 2021. Spoiler Alert: it's highly unlikely that you have seen a few of them so will probably get that birders' itch to search! I look forward to seeing you on April 6. Blessings, Mary



Sue Sitko's photo of a Dusky Grouse strolling through their campsite at Big Lake in June.



Internet photo of Northern Jacana. Susie Walker and I saw one in Tucson on a birding trip in March of 2021.

New Meeting Site

Beginning on April 6 this year, WMAS will meet in the private dining room at Buffalo Bill's Tavern and Grill at 1 North Bison Preserve Way in Show Low. The meetings will start again at 6:30 on the first Wednesdays of each month. It is located at the Bison Golf Club on the east side of Hwy 260, about 1 mile from the directional light at the intersection with Hwy 60 in west Show Low. If you're coming from the north, it's ~1 mile beyond the light on Hwy 260 at W Old Linden Road.



CALENDAR:

We resume our monthly programs this coming **April** and for 2022 we expect that **all monthly programs** will continue to start at **6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January, February & March** when there are no meetings). Our monthly program meeting site HAS changed in 2022 so remember to come to the new meeting site at **Buffalo Bill's Tavern and Grill at 1 North Bison Preserve Way in Show Low**. 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.

March 19th Monthly WMAS Birding Field Trip: Monthly bird watching field trips on the 3rd Sat of every month (for the 2nd year, including the winter months). If you are interested in attending, feel free to give me a call (Rob 928-368-8481) and leave a message so that I can return your call to give you the details for the upcoming trip.

MOST RECENT FIELD TRIP:

On Feb 19th we visited Jacquez Marsh, Scott Reservoir, & Porter Creek. Ken & Karen proved once again that they are quite cold-tolerant, as they have made each of our last 4 field trips (Nov-Feb). We tallied 27 species, mostly waterfowl, including several eye-catching drake Cinnamon Teal & the ever elegant Pintail drakes. Bald Eagles were common, as they so often are this time of year. We enjoyed observing a boisterous Marsh Wren and had a quick glimpse of a Sage Thrasher. Ken and I took turns offering Karen (a beginning birder) our thoughts on the best field marks to use when identifying the species that were new to her.

In Tom's "Out on a Limb" (up above), we read how he & Liz had a 1st time visit to their feeder by a Bridled Titmouse (a species they had previously seen only south of Tucson). Whether we are watching the birds at our feeders or are out in the field observing species in their wild habitats, we learn that the visual field marks are only one challenging and enjoyable aspects of birding. We also soon realize that traits such as seasonality, behavior, ecology, & conservation status are every bit as important to learn as a bird's appearance and vocalizations.

It's a big world and thankfully it's filled with an amazing array of living creatures. Whether you want to get to know them intimately or just enjoy seeing them for a brief moment in time, come join us and we can all learn together. --Rob

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 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 can 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 position! And remember, you can be on the Board without being an Officer.

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.

Snazzy 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 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**