



JULY EDITION 2022

Out on a Limb by Rob Bettaso (WMAS Newsletter & Field Trips):

It's the Birding Hour, just about 6AM. At least in late June, when our White Mountain days are at their longest, it seems like here, on this quiet dirt road not far from my house, that the hour between 6:00 & 7:00AM offers the greatest bird activity. Sure, the songs may be a little more fervent just around dawn and, true, the lighting later in the morning often seems to illuminate the birds better; but, for sheer numbers of woodland species, this is a prime time to be out. And so I am -- often.

I'm on a flat section of this closed road but it will soon go up a hill. A flock of Bushtits are milling in the junipers & manzanita not far from me and seem to be matching my progress along the road. As the grade begins its ascent, I stop to watch an Ash-throated Flycatcher give his "chi-beer" call midway up a pine. I start up again but before long I stop once more, this time to train my binos on a pair of noisy gnatcatchers buzzing at me, or maybe each other, I'm not sure. If it weren't for the steep hill, I wouldn't get much exercise on these walks as I stop so frequently to watch the birds.

Just this Spring alone, I've probably observed over 40 species along this route and now, as July draws near, the bird activity shows no sign of slowing down. I continue hiking up the steep & steady grade that will take me up a couple hundred feet in elevation but, because I'm stopping frequently to watch birds, I don't feel terribly winded. Twere I out hiking and not birding, I would move more quickly up the hill and would most assuredly feel it in my lungs. My body won't give me too many more years before it begins to complain noticeably about this ascent.

I reach the top and stop to watch an Osprey flying low overhead. I can see that he has a bullhead in his talons and I'm wondering if he's getting away from all the competition at nearby Rainbow Lake (where Ospreys abound) and bringing his breakfast to the Apache lands that are just south of me, to dine in peace high up in a snag. His flight is effortless, while I am mopping my brow having worked up a bit of sweat going up the hill.

Eventually, I reach my destination and so I head back the way I came. It is mostly downhill and the Birding Hour is coming to an end. My thoughts turn to our monthly Audubon field trips. Now that Jon O. is very capably doing every other monthly outing, I continue to enjoy my halved share of leading fun and mellow strolls; but, I would also like to add a new type of birding that a few of us have talked about over the past several years. We could call these once a month **additional** outings "Fitness Birding" and they could combine birding with slightly more strenuous walks (longer walks and/or over slightly more demanding terrain). For that matter, if there is interest, we can also mix biking, paddling (kayaks and/or canoes), and cross-country skiing in with our bird watching. In other words, one month we might combine birding and kayaking for a couple of hours of fun; another month, birding and biking, and so on.

Please feel free to email (rhilbe739@gmail.com) or call me (928-368-8481) if you think you might want to be a part of this new possible program. We can make it up as we go along. It's now or never, and I would like to give it a try while I still got "a little fuel in the tank," so to speak.

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:

Greetings Birders! Do you have a life list? Are you like so many of us who take great delight in adding to the list of birds you see for the first time? If so, consider letting us know what some of your AZ target species are and we can help you find them.

Within the past few months, I have enjoyed a few trips with WMAS members who were able to add some species to their life lists. On June 8, Bill met me in Apache County for a hike down the West Baldy Trail to Sheep Crossing where we had a brief but diagnostic look at his lifer American Dipper. Ken pitched his tent next to my camper van for a fun week in late May exploring some hotspots in areas of east Mesa, Sierra Vista and Patagonia – Maricopa, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties. He logged 29 life birds! And I was happy to finally be in the part of the state at the time of year when we can enjoy Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers. Lifer!

Susie and I did almost the same trip in mid-April when she spent three nights at the Spirit Tree Inn outside Patagonia, where I also was able to park my van. She added 14 life birds to her lists on that trip and logged 41 lifers as a relatively new birder on a March trip in 2021 to east Mesa and on to Madera Canyon above Green Valley – as well as to hotspots north and south of there in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. That was the trip when we found the rare Northern Jacana that we had learned was wintering in Tucson – a lifer for us both. Research on eBird is so helpful for targeting desired species as well as for keeping track of what we see where and when. And it records our life lists!

Come learn more about some of the lower-elevation specialty birds at our July 6 meeting at the Nature Center. Dave Cagle, a very good birder recently retired from AZGFD who spends half the year in Fountain Hills, will serve as guest speaker and focus on valley birds.

Do contact me if you too are interested in learning more about eBird, in looking for some special birds or in going with someone to some special places. Blessings, Mary



Internet photo

Above: Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers migrate to breed in Sycamores in the mountain canyons of SE Arizona in May, and are usually gone by September. Ken McByrd-Bell and Mary Williams were able to add this striking and active 8.5” species to their life lists on May 26 in Ramsey Canyon south of Sierra Vista.

CLASSES:

A photograph of a Western Tanager perched on a thin branch. The bird has a bright yellow body and a distinctive reddish-orange head. The background is a soft-focus green.

BIRDING THE WHITE MOUNTAINS:
**BEGINNING
BIRDING**

You're invited to three
PowerPoint Presentations
to learn about our most
common species of birds.

Presented by
White Mountain Audubon Society President
Mary Williams

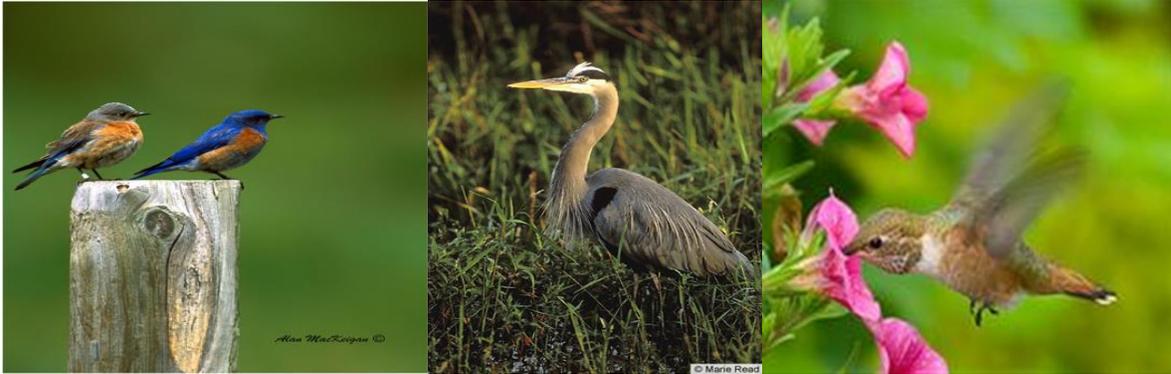
Thursdays at 6:15 pm
at Show Low Public Library

June 23: Year-round Birds
July 28: Breeding Migrants
August 25: Passing Through

For more information contact Mary Williams, 480-235-1792
or mary.williams@arizonachristian.edu
Visit whitemountainaudubon.org. Follow on Facebook.

Western Tanager (Internet photo)

***Birding the White Mountains:
Beginning Birding***



Left to right: W. Bluebirds, Greatblue Heron, Rufous Hummingbird (Internet photos)

**You're invited to three *PowerPoint Presentations*
to learn about our most common species of birds.**

**Presented by
White Mountain Audubon Society President Mary Williams
Saturdays at 12:30
Snowflake Public Library**

**August 13: Year-round Birds
August 27: Breeding Migrants
September 10: Passing Through**

**For more information contact Mary Williams, 480-235-1792, mary.williams@arizonachristian.edu
Visit whitemountainaudubon.org. Follow on Facebook.**

CALENDAR:

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 just changed again in 2022 so remember to come to the new meeting site as listed directly below.** 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.

New/Latest Monthly Meeting Change

Because of growing attendance, the WMAS **monthly meetings will now be held at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside.** The meetings are held on the first Wednesdays of the month at 6:30. Our next meeting is July 6.



July 6th Dave Cagle presents "Winter Birding Locations in the East Valley." Many WMAS members as well as Dave and Cheryl Cagle are official snowbirds and they will be sharing some of their birding experiences in the East Valley. Remember, meetings are now at the White Mountain Nature Center!

July 16th Monthly WMAS Birding Field Trip: Monthly bird watching field trips on the 3rd Sat of every month. 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:

We enjoyed another excellent field trip with Jon Orona as our guide and his trip report is forthcoming. In the meantime, let me just say that I personally consider this most recent outing with Jon to be among the best field trips we've done in my 8 years on the Board. Why?, well in part because it was our first evening birding excursion and I, for one, find the PM twilight to be very exciting, more so than the AM twilight period. Second, it was one of the few walks we have made during wet weather – and the precipitation was really quite ideal being that it was only intermittent and ranged from scarcely a drizzle to a gentle shower. We all know how crucial precip is in the arid southwest and so it really made for a refreshing change of pace. But enough from me, I will let Jon's summary tell you more about the experience including our bird observations. --Rob

MISCELANEOUS ITEMS:

Below: Local summer White Mountains area residents Hepatic Tanager (left) & Lazuli Bunting (although these individuals were photographed by Susie Walker in southern Arizona they are both found here).



Below is a bit of well-known wisdom, first developed by Milton Olson (we thank Kay A. for providing this reminder):

Lessons From Geese

Fact 1: As each goose flap its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common sense of direction and community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership, as with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skill, capabilities and unique arrangement of gifts, talents or resources.

Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the productivity is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until it dies or can fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

"Lessons from Geese" was transcribed from a speech given by Angeles Arrien at the 1991 Organizational Development Network and is based on the work of Milton Olson.

P.S. I won't vouch for the accuracy of all of the facts in the above piece but I do support the sentiments. –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**