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THE RAVENS

Newsletter

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society
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JANUARY 5 PROGRAM

Puffbirds, Jacamars, and Marmosets: 4 Months as a Nature Guide in Brazil



Blue and Yellow Macaws

SWNM Audubon Society will present a program by Jarrod Swackhamer who recently spent three and a half months as a nature guide at Cristalino Lodge in a 44-square mile private rainforest reserve in the southern Amazon state of Mato Grosso, Brazil. National Geographic Traveler rated it as one of 25 best eco-lodges in the world. He also spent a couple of weeks in the biodiverse coastal Atlantic Forest.

Jarrod will talk about his experiences and share photos of the stunning birds, reptiles and mammals he saw in the exotic Amazonian jungles.

Jarrod grew up near the Huachuca Mountains in southeastern Arizona and has had a passion for the natural world since as a child he saw his first lizard. For the past four years he has been doing seasonal bird surveys and mapping desert and riparian species of the Lower Colorado River and conducting detection surveys of Southwestern Willow flycatchers and Yellow-billed cuckoos near here on the Gila River.



White-throated toucan

JARROD SWACKHAMER PHOTOS

FEBRUARY 2 PROGRAM

GOLDEN EAGLES: Natural History & Stories From the Field



Megan Ruehmann is the featured speaker at the Friday Feb. 2 monthly Audubon program. The program will begin at 7:00 PM in room 219 of WNMU's Harlan Hall at 12th and Alabama streets.

For one of our largest and wide-ranging raptors in the United States, observations of Golden eagles come infrequently and are always a special treat for birders. This species, which has the same protection as the Bald eagle under the Bald and Golden eagle Protection Act, is at the forefront of conservation issues in the western United States. Megan will examine their natural history, current research topics, and take a look at a couple stories from the field, including our local celebrity Golden eagle "Thor".

Megan is a wildlife biologist by training and has made ornithology her focus for over 15 years. She works as a consultant for Eagle Environmental, Inc., taking part in various aspects of avian conservation and research. From the moment Megan witnessed a Golden eagle in full stoop she was hooked—since then studying eagles has been the highlight of her career. She and her husband John live in Silver City, where they are usually found chasing a rare bird or endemic plant, backpacking or planning the next adventure.

The presentation is free and the public is welcome. Light refreshments follow.



MEGAN RUEHMANN PHOTO

The Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be February 16-19, 2018. Participation is simple and open to everyone. All that is required is to count the birds you see during a 15 minute or longer period on one or more days of the count. It doesn't even have to be in your backyard, you can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish. Then you simply tally the numbers and species of birds you see and enter it online at gbbc.birdcount.org. There is also a photo contest for people interested in photographing the birds they see.

The count is for anyone interested in spending a little time in nature and looking at what birds they see. Don't know what species of birds you are seeing? There is an app for that. Cornell Labs has a smartphone app called Merlin that can help identify birds. Audubon also has a free smartphone app to help identify birds. Both are available on either iTunes or Goggle play.

The GBBC was launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society and was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to provide real-time display of the results. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Last year almost 30 million birds were counted worldwide.

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. Scientists use information from the GBBC, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations.

Birds & Brews resumes in January.

Our informal gatherings in the back room of the Little Toad Creek Inn in Silver City will resume in January after a holiday hiatus. The meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month. Since the room capacity is limited we require an RSVP to the email announcement of the speaker for that month's program. To receive an announcement send your email address to swnmaudubon@gmail.com. SWNMA members receive the announcement first as a perk of membership.



Lake Roberts Field Trip

MEGAN REUHMANN PHOTO

On November 2, 2017 the "Spur-of-the-moment" field trip to Lake Roberts had a successful day tallying 10 duck species, 3 grebe species and the faithful Bald eagle, with a total species count of 37. We have Spur-of-the-moment field trips announced by email. Members can get on the list which indicates where and when to meet and the destination. Let us know your email address to get on the notification list! swnmaudubon@gmail.com

PROSPECTS OF A MINE— A lively crowd of Deming residents turned out at the November Audubon in Deming meeting to hear from Joel Chinkes of Friends of the Floridas talk about a proposal to mine magnesium in the Florida Mountains just outside of Deming.



TERRY TIMME PHOTO

Magnificent No More!

The Magnificent hummingbird was named in honor of the Duke of Rivoli, after it was described in the 1920s. (The Anna's hummingbird is named after his wife, the Duchess of Rivoli) It remained "Rivoli's hummingbird" until the mid-1980s when it was re-named Magnificent. This most recent Supplement has split Magnificent hummingbird into the Rivoli's and Talamanca hummingbird (the latter is found in Costa Rica)...

This split separates birds of southern Central America from those of Mexico, the U.S., and northern Middle America. Rivoli's hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) is found in pine-oak woodlands from the southwestern U.S. south to northern Nicaragua; adult males have a peridot-colored (yellow-green) throat and blackish underparts. Talamanca hummingbird (*Eugenes spectabilis*) is found in cloudforest and high oak forests of Costa Rica and western Panama; adult males have a turquoise- or teal-colored throat and dark green underparts. The latter was originally named "Admirable hummingbird" by Robert Ridgway, but his suggestion was unheeded. Instead, *Eugenes spectabilis* has been named for the Talamanca Mountains of eastern Costa Rica.

This split raises the not particularly serious question of what to call a Berylline X Magnificent hybrid, which birders had playfully dubbed "Beryificent Hummingbird". Berivoli's? Riviline?

American Birding Association

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Christmas Trees are for the Birds



'Twas the day after Christmas and all across the land millions of Christmas trees were... well, being dumped. Wait! Your tree brought your family enjoyment throughout the holiday season, and it can continue to be a point of interest near your bird feeders. Used Christmas trees provide the birds with excellent shelter from winter winds and wily predators. Rather than send the tree off to the landfill or shredder, why not "plant" it in the yard and continue to enjoy the tree—and the birds attracted to it—throughout the winter? In snowy areas of the north, your used fir or spruce can simply be propped-up in a snow bank. In warmer areas, plant the tree in a small hole or tie it to a deciduous tree. Enterprising bird watchers may want to gather a few used Christmas trees from the neighborhood and create a tepee by leaning multiple trees together and using some rope to tie the tops in a bunch.

In addition to offering food, providing adequate shelter is the best way to attract more birds to your yard. Evergreen trees and shrubs, like Christmas trees, provide dense cover even after the needles fall off. Birds are guaranteed to make use of recycled trees, just be sure to remove all tinsel and other decorations.

Next year, consider purchasing a live Christmas tree and planting it after the holidays and creating long-lasting shelter for the birds. My family's old live Christmas trees are planted in a grove and are used by nesting Chipping Sparrows and American Robins every summer—a lasting legacy from Christmases long past.

– David Bonter, Project FeederWatch

Letter to Our Webmaster

"I wanted to email you to say thanks for your page, www.swnmaudubon.org/bird-counts. I volunteer with a youth group where we have different activities for local kids. We are starting a bird watching program, so we wanted to find some resources to share with the kids. Your page has some great stuff – thanks for all the help!

One of the kids in my group, Sara, found a great resource on bird watching: www.homeadvisor.com/r/birdwatching-guide/ Can you add this to your list of resources? She has been helping teach some of the younger kids about birdwatching, so I thought this would give her some extra encouragement by sharing her find online. Plus, we thought it would make a great addition for others to learn from.

If you have more tips or information for the kids, I'll make sure to share it with them. Thanks again!"



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NEWS FROM **Audubon NEW MEXICO**

THANK YOU

SWNM Audubon would like to thank First Savings Bank at 1221 N. Hudson, Silver City. We have appreciated their service as our financial institution for many years. They are now allowing us to use their conference room for our monthly Board of Directors meetings and other meetings as needed. All members are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings, held the fourth Monday of the month at 3:30 PM.



5th Annual Southwest Birds Show

The Grant County Art Guild announces their 5th Annual Southwest Birds Show to be held March 1 through March 31 at Bear Mountain Lodge. All Grant County artists and photographers are invited to submit entries.

The juried show will have 3 categories: Photography, 2D art (oil, acrylic, watercolor, and drawing) and 3D art (sculpture, pottery and fiber art). There will be a Best of Show award and ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all 3 categories. Visitors to the show can cast a ballot for their favorite work for the People's Choice award.

This is an artistic celebration of our southwest birds. Please join us for the opening reception on Thursday, March 1 from 4 to 6 PM. There will be refreshments and folk music by Becky Burnel. The show will run every day from 10AM. to 4 PM. at Bear Mountain Lodge.



First place winner in 2017 show "Between Day and Night" by Jackie Blurton.

SAVE THE DATE:

Olympic Birdfest, April 13-15, 2018

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. The featured speaker: Claudio Vidal will talk about Patagonia & Chile: Birds & Mammals at the End of the Americas. Join the festival pre-trip: a 3-day, 2-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018 or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 16-17, 2018: Two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit www.olympicbirdfest.org



Jonathan Hayes Named New Audubon New Mexico Director

Jonathan Hayes has been hired as the new Executive Director of Audubon New Mexico. He will be based in Santa Fe and also manage the historic Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary.

Hayes earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Population and Organismic Biology from the University of Colorado and a Master's of Science in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Montana.

Prior to joining Audubon, he served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative. While there he coordinated landscape-level cooperative projects in a six-state region amongst federal agencies, state wildlife agencies, and multiple non-profit organizations focused on improving conservation effectiveness in western grassland and riparian ecosystems

He also served with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department working to implement regional conservation efforts aimed at restoring declining grassland bird populations. Among his achievements while there was improvement of grassland habitat quality on over 60,000 acres of private working lands in Texas.

Hayes brings to Audubon strong conservation expertise through his professional experience at multiple levels in public service. Over the last decade, Hayes has built strong partnerships between public and private organizations, and he has specifically focused on programs that conserve native bird species and the habitats they rely on, making him an ideal leader for Audubon New Mexico.