

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Competition Heats Up at the Mount Lemmon Freeze Off

by Sally Crum and Susan Miller-Cochran

A crowd of over seventy people gathered at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center on September 16th for the annual Mount Lemmon Freeze Off. Attendees were treated to ice cream samples from the eight competitors and then voted for their favorites.

First prize went to Linda and Kenn Block for their recipe for Vanilla ice cream with fresh strawberries and homemade rhubarb syrup. Second prize went to Michael Stanley for Rocky Road, and third prize went to Karen Burrows for Mountain Cherry. Participation prizes were donated by the Sawmill Run restaurant for each entrant.

A huge note of gratitude goes out to Michael Stanley and Carol Niehoff for set-up and organization of all the fun, and also to the community for their support of this annual tradition. Much gratitude also goes to firefighters Sean Matias and James McLean, who tallied the votes, and to Deputy Agnieszka Sloan, who oversaw the voting process and ensured that it was fair and just (and incredibly entertaining!). Deputy Sloan also announced the winners.



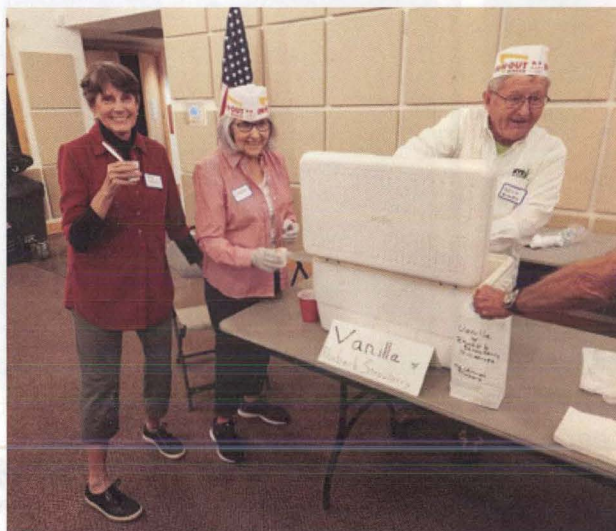
First prize went to Linda and Kenn Block for their Vanilla with fresh strawberries and homemade rhubarb syrup (photo courtesy of Sally Crum)



The crowd enjoys homemade ice cream during the Mt. Lemmon Freeze Off on September 16, 2023. (photo courtesy of Luann Waldron)



Michael Stanley and Rose Mary Hinsch serve up Rocky Road and Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough (photo courtesy of Luann Waldron)



Sally Crawford enjoys Linda and Kenn Block's prizewinning recipe. Attendees could place a vote for their favorite flavor once they had tasted the different flavors available. (photo courtesy of Luann Waldron)

Labor Day Pancake Breakfast Raises Money for Mt. Lemmon Firefighters Foundation

by Susan Miller-Cochran

Approximately 180 people attended the annual Labor Day Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the Mount Lemmon Homeowners' Association to raise money for the Mt. Lemmon Firefighters Foundation. Attendees received a delicious breakfast that included pancakes, ham, watermelon, and coffee for a suggested donation of five dollars. Pancakes were made onsite by local residents who donated their time to support the effort.

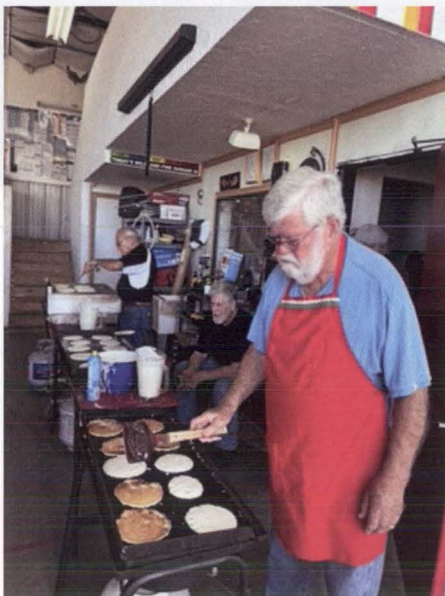
In addition to the breakfast, donated items were raffled off to lucky winners. The raffle alone raised nearly \$1000 for the foundation, and the prizes included items such as a prizewinning homemade quilt from Sally Crum, University of Arizona athletics memorabilia, items from local stores, gift certificates to local restaurants and the General Store, and gift baskets created by local residents.



Linda Mulay greets a new resident attending the pancake breakfast (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)



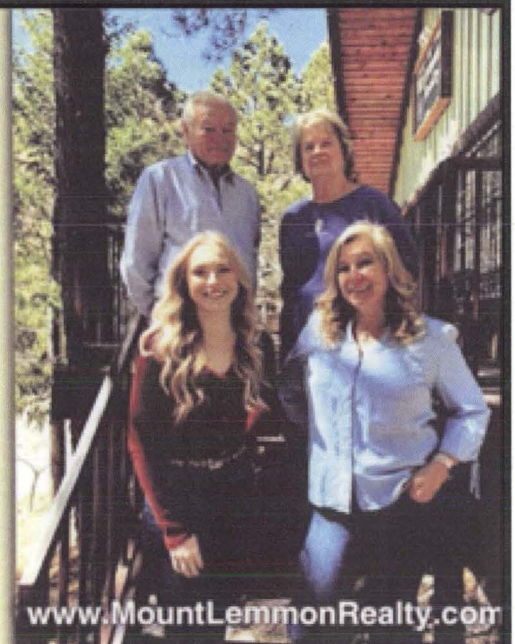
Donation baskets for the raffle (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)



(l to r) John Mulay, Tom Thomas, and Merle Triplett make pancakes (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

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Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

by Sandi Triplett

At the September meeting, the decision was made for our November 2023 and March 2024 meetings to take place at the Wilmot branch of the Tucson Library, and we will also have coffees in Tucson in January and February 2024. Locations for the coffees are still being considered and will be announced through our email list.

We are pleased to report that the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club will be well-represented at the Southern District fall convention in Sierra Vista in October.

The Woman's Club is also excited about our 2024 Signature Program: Awareness and Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse, including human trafficking. Terry Wilson is taking the lead on this project. Come join us at our next meeting on October 21st!

Want to Get Involved in October?

There are so many things happening on the mountain this fall!

If you'd like to show off your cooking skills, the **Chili Cook-Off** is a great place to do it! The Cook-Off will be held October 14th, and you can contact Jenni Zimmerman if you would like to compete (Jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com).

If you would rather show off your tasting skills, come join us at the event on the 14th! It will be held at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center from 5-7 PM.

On the same evening, we'll be holding the second annual **Trunk-or-Treat** event. If you would like to participate in handing out candy to our local kids, contact Deputy Agnieszka Sloan, who is organizing the event. See page 7 for more information.

And don't forget **Oktoberfest** at Ski Valley! The music, food, drink, and fun will continue through October 15th, weekends only, from 11:30 AM-4:30 PM.

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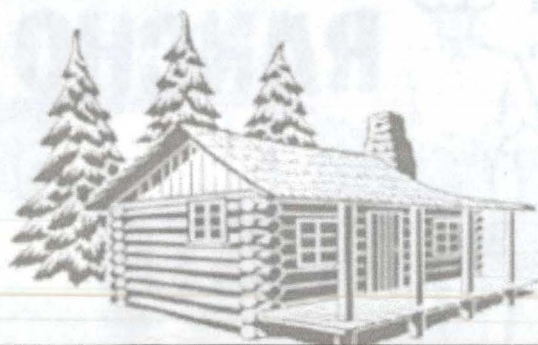
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October Calendar

- 14 - Chili Cook-Off, MLCC, 5-7pm
 - Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, MLCC, 5-7pm
- Through October 15 (weekends only):
 - Oktoberfest, Ski Valley, 11:30 am-4:30pm
- 16 - ML Fire Board, Fire Station and via Zoom at mlfdaz.org, 4pm
- 20 - Bunko, MLCC, 6:30pm
- 21 - ML Water District Board, Zimmerman School, 8:30am
 - PCHD Vaccine Clinic, MLCC, 9-11:30 am
 - MLHOA Board, MLCC, 10am
 - Pima FLAP Grant Update, MLCC, 11:30am
 - ML Woman's Club, MLCC, 1pm

Note: October 16 is the deadline for submitting items for the November issue of the *Echoes*.

How to Stay Up to Date on Mt. Lemmon Information

By Matthew Grossman

Here are online resources to keep Mt. Lemmon residents informed between editions of *The Echoes*:

1. A Google Group has been set up to provide email updates. To join, send an e-mail to mtlemmon-hoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com.
2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowners' Association maintains a website at mtlemmonhoa.org. Get informed and contribute to the community.
3. Sign up at Nextdoor.com, using your cabin street address. If you use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, sign up for Mt. Lemmon under a new email address, because only one neighborhood is permitted per email address. This offers general information and important communication, especially with wildfires and road closures.
4. MLFDaz.org is the web address for our Fire Department. On the home page, under the Resources tab, is Firewise. This takes you to important information and forms, including an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.

About *The Mt. Lemmon Echoes*

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is published 10 times a year, February through November, by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association.

To contribute stories, photos and calendar items, or for additional information about the *Echoes*, email Editor Susan Miller-Cochran at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com.

To get advertising rates and reserve ad space in *The Echoes*, email mjsintuc@gmail.com.



The Radio Fire

by Dan Leade, MLFD

On July 26, 2023, at just after 7:30 PM, the Mount Lemmon Fire District (MLFD) was dispatched to a brush fire near Radio Ridge. On-duty personnel, volunteers, and the Pima County Sheriff's Department responded to the incident and began searching for access to the blaze. The fire, later named the Radio Fire, was five dead standing snags (previously dead trees) burning less than a quarter mile northwest of the Miner's Ridge water tank. The United States Forest Service dispatch was notified while MLFD and the Pima County Sheriff's Department attempted to reach the burning stand.

Due to lightning from the monsoon storm responsible for the incident and topography beyond vehicle capabilities, MLFD began structure protection considerations. The fire's location and the rainfall on it allowed our resources to monitor the fire from a safe distance while still coordinating with the United States Forest Service by gathering information such as GPS coordinates, best access routes, and other possible needs and necessities. MLFD remained in contact with responding units and provided pertinent updates as required. The fire's visibility provided an opportunity to give a more in-depth glimpse for our community to better understand the coordinated response necessary to fight fires that test local resources.

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge the United States Forest Service, the Pima County Sheriff's Department, our dedicated volunteers, and those that report these incidents to further our efforts to protect our community from the threat of wildfire.

The President's Corner: Update from the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

by Sally Crum, MLHOA President

September was a BUSY month, as many cabin owners began to think of returning to the valley. But not yet – it's still too hot down there!!

◆ The **MLHOA Annual Pancake Breakfast** was well-attended and enjoyed by many. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to set up, cook, serve, prepare drinks, and clean up!! The raffle drawing was supported with prizes from individuals, Mt. Lemmon businesses, and friends of the Mt. Lemmon Community. The way our community works together to "make things happen" makes me realize how fortunate I am to be part of this special place. You can find additional information and photos on page 2 of this issue.

◆ **Bunko** will be held again in October, due to popular demand. Come and invite your friends and neighbors for a great evening of fun, food, and laughter.


◆ The "80th" annual **Ice Cream Freeze-Off** (according to Michael Stanley) was another success with new entrants. See article and photos on page 1 of this issue.

◆ The Pima County Health Department provided the 1st of 2 **Shot Clinics** at the MLFD on Sept 16.

◆ The 2nd **Shot Clinic** will be held on Oct. 21 from 9:00 – 11:30, with **Covid** and **Flu Shots** available.

◆ A Pima County DOT **FLAP Grant update** will be provided Oct 21, 11:30 @ Mt. Lemmon Community Center. Please come to learn about the progress and plans for updated parking and new restroom facilities on Sabino Canyon Parkway.

◆ The **Chili Cook-Off** and **Sky Island Kids Halloween Celebration** will be held Oct. 14th at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center.



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Fire Season No More?

by Sally Crum

The recent Molino 2 and Bolt fires are testimonies to the fact that there is no longer a “fire season.” Wildfires can occur anytime. With that in mind, we must continue to maintain the areas around our cabins year-round. Take a close look around before you close your cabin for the winter and make sure that all flammables are stored properly.

With that in mind, a second round of slash removal and chipping was scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 29 and 30. A big THANK YOU to Soldier’s Camp cabin owner, Fred Knapp, who provided the chipper and to all the volunteers who assisted with the chipping process. The burn pile at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station remains closed until the current pile is burned.

Now is also the time to remove pine needles that collected during our monsoon in your gutters and close to your cabin. Pine needles can still be dropped off at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station. If the needles are in plastic bags, they must be dumped from the bags into the trailer for them to be accepted at the green waste dumpsite.

Thanks to the entire community for your diligence in reducing the risk of wildfire!

PLEASE use the Lemmonites form at MLFDAZ.org, under the Firewise tab to provide your contact information, including email address so that your Firewise Neighborhood Captain can reach out to you, when necessary, with valuable information.

Dear Mt Lemmon Homeowner,

Do you rent out your cabin occasionally or often, or do friends use it? If so, as President of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association, (MLHOA) I’m writing to share information that will help your efforts and help protect your property.

As you know, Mt Lemmon is a unique area to live and vacation. We don’t have trash removal services, we have a limited water supply, and we all have to work together to help protect our mountain homes from wildfires. Occasional visitors aren’t aware of these things and often we find garbage left at the end of the driveway and water valves left turned on which can result in a tragic loss of water and property damage if a leak occurs. Our Mt. Lemmon Firewise Committee, the MLHOA and the Mt. Lemmon Fire District have gathered several resources that will help you communicate with your tenants and visitors. They can all be found on MLFDAZ.org/Firewise. That’s the Mt Lemmon Fire Department website and we’ve gathered a plethora of helpful information there on the Firewise tab. You will find a poster for overnight guests that’s great for leaving on the frig., a Cabin Rental Fire Safety Guide, Renters and Guests Fire Prevention, and even a Homeowner Guest/Renter template to make it easy for you to leave your guests with instructions specific to your cabin.

I hope you’ll take advantage of the resources we’ve gathered for you here and that it will help your guests have a pleasant and safe experience on the mountain. Also, if you have not already done so, please click the link to Mt Lemmonite Connections on the back cover and register your contact information with us. If there is ever a fire or other urgent need to communicate with you, that is how we’ll find you. I hope this information is helpful and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If I can’t help you myself, I’ll direct you to the person who can.

--Sally Crum

2nd Annual Halloween Event for Sky Island Kids' Club

By Christina Grossman

Happy October to all of our lovely families on Mount Lemmon. Last year, we celebrated our first Halloween Trunk-or-Treat. In the spirit of making new traditions, we are partnering up with the annual Chili Cook-Off to host both events for the entire community! Come in costume and get ready for some candy and goodies for a spooktacular time. Then, warm up with some homemade chili made by our very own community members. Did you know you can vote for the best chili? There will also be prizes handed out for kids in costume. Prizes donated by Patty and Tom Thomas! As always, thank you for support!

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023

Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Location: TBA by MLHOA

For Questions, or to Volunteer: Contact our volunteer parent, Agnieszka Sloan at agnieszka.sloan@gmail.com

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Corn Salad

Submitted by Mike Sloan

This was a favorite at the Firewise Taco Bar!

Ingredients:

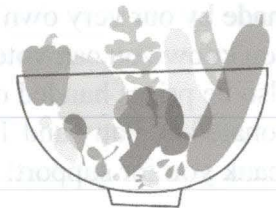
- 2 cups sliced cherry tomatoes.
- 3-4 ears of corn. It is best to use whole ears of sweet corn, if in season
- 1/4 cup minced red onion
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro
- 1 tsp cumin
- 2 tbsp lime juice (about 1 lime)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp balsamic vinegar.

Optional ingredients, which can really change the character of the salad:

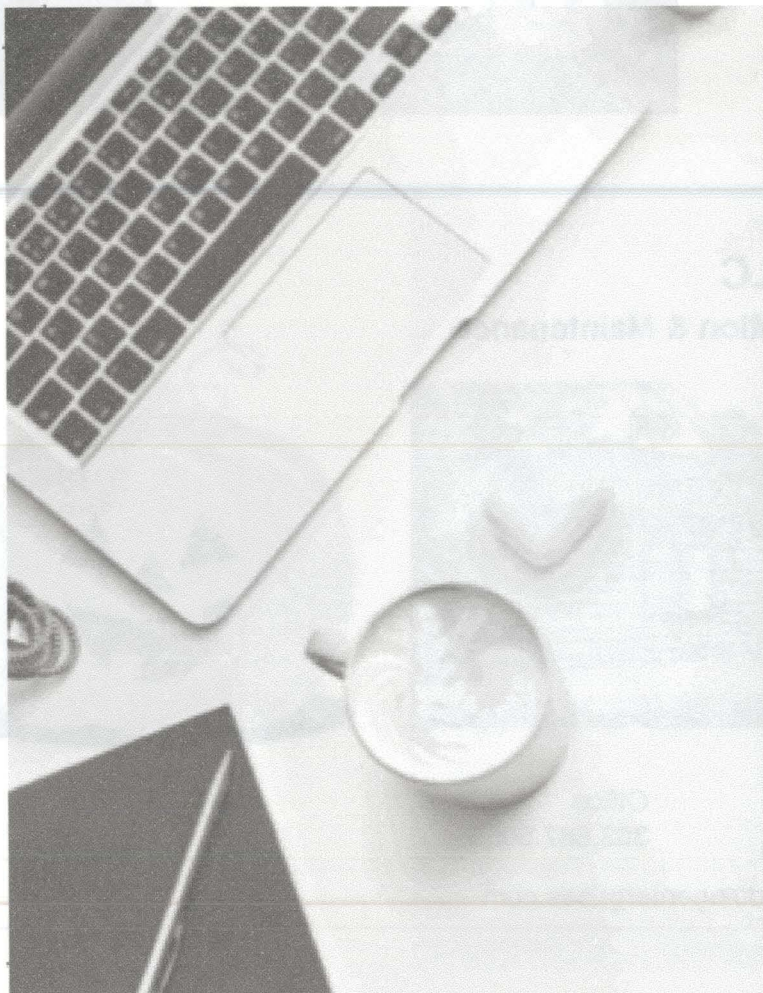
Sliced avocado, feta or cotija cheese.

Instructions:

1. Steam the corn for 10 minutes and set aside to cool.
2. Slice the cherry tomatoes in half if they are small; otherwise quarter them.
3. Cut corn off the cob and add to mixing bowl.
4. Add the remaining ingredients to the corn and stir.



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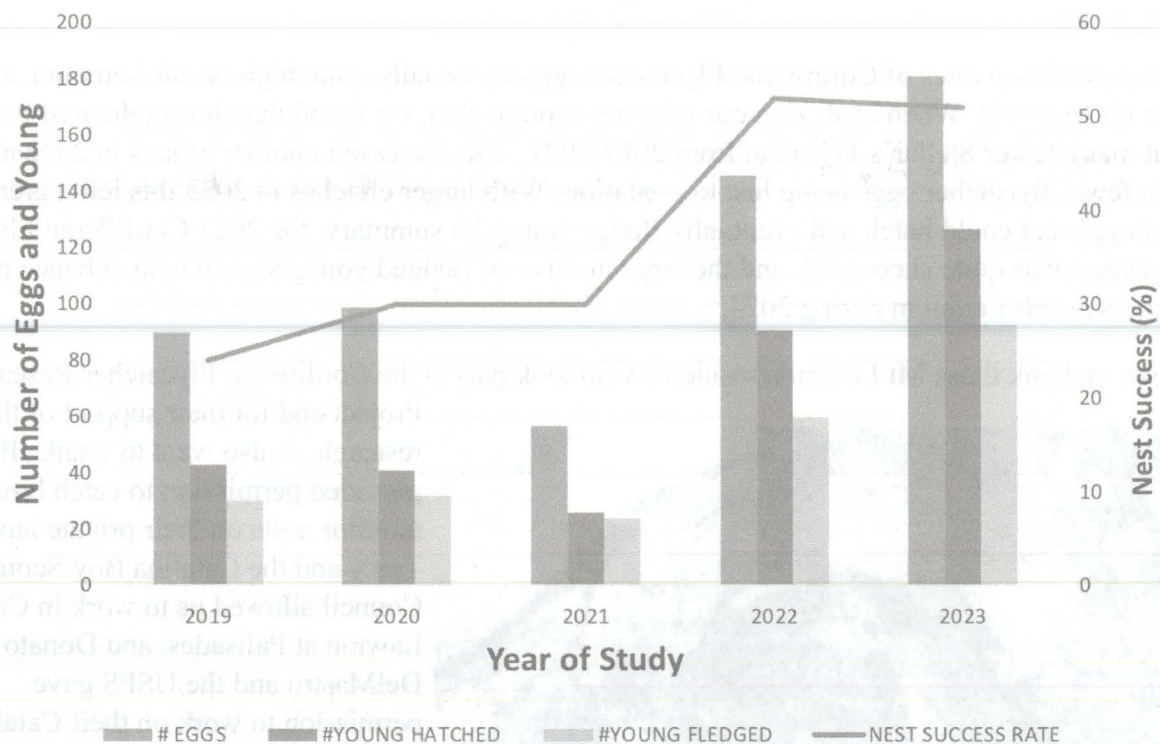
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A Summary of the Cordilleran Flycatcher 2023 Nesting Season on Mt. Lemmon

by Dr. Charles van Riper, III

Now that the Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) 2023 breeding season has come to an end on Mt. Lemmon, it is time to reflect on what has happened to this bird over the past summer. In an earlier 2023 issue of The Echoes, I had predicted that the 2023 summer might be a good for flycatcher breeding because of the good rains during 2022 and the heavy snowpack this past winter. We have now analyzed all the information collected at our nesting locations and have found that indeed, 2023 has been a banner year for the young. The breeding season began a little late due to cooler spring conditions that existed from Guadalajara to Arizona. With the later arrival of the migrant Cordilleran Flycatcher, territories were not established until late May, and this helped to synchronize the start of breeding. During 2023, Cordilleran Flycatcher reproduction was higher in all phases of the breeding cycle than in any of the previous years we have studied this bird on Mt. Lemmon. See the bar graph below.

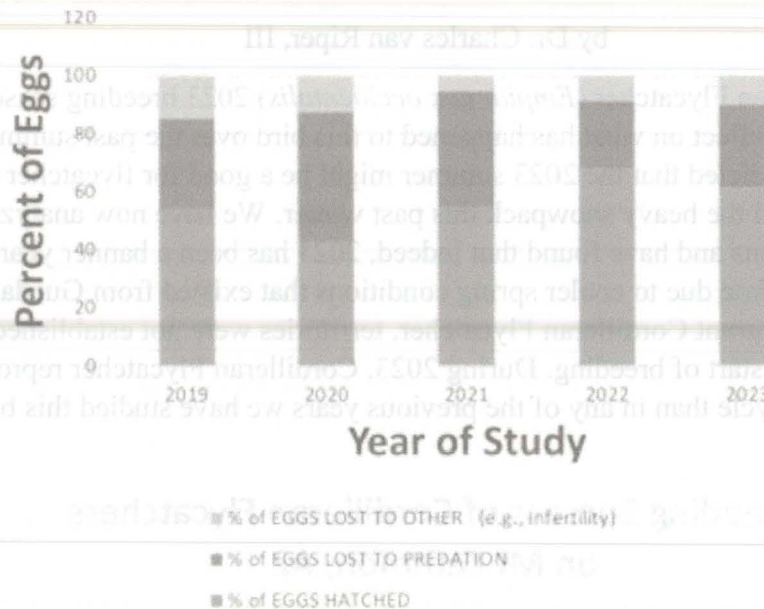
**Breeding Success of Cordilleran Flycatchers
on Mt Lemmon, AZ**



There are several possible factors that have contributed to the very good 2023 Cordilleran Flycatcher nesting season on Mt. Lemmon, with the two most important being: 1) increased food resources, and 2) low egg predation. We operate three malaise insect traps along Turkey Run, just past the Guthrie intersection, and these traps collect flying insects. We found that insect levels were higher in 2023 than during any previous year that we have monitored flying insects on Mt. Lemmon. This was particularly true during late June when most young flycatcher nestlings were being fed by adults. A low flycatcher egg predation rate also contributed to the high 2023 nesting success. (continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Fate of Cordilleran Flycatcher Eggs on Mt Lemmon, AZ



Stellar's Jay predation rates of Cordilleran Flycatcher eggs are usually quite high on Mt Lemmon, averaging 34.25% of all eggs laid. When analyzing our mist-net capture data, we found that during the past two years we caught many fewer Stellar's Jays than from 2019-2021. The decreased number of jays in 2022 and 2023 resulted in fewer flycatcher eggs being lost to predation. With larger clutches in 2023 this left a greater number of eggs that could hatch and eventually fledged young. In summary, the 2023 Cordilleran Flycatcher breeding season was quite successful, and the large number of fledged young should help enhance breeding of flycatchers on Mt Lemmon during 2024.

I would like to thank those Mt Lemmon residents who took part in the Cordilleran Flycatcher Research

Project and for their support of this research. I also want to thank all who provided permission to catch birds and monitor nests on their private lands. Tom Tracy and the Catalina Boy Scout Council allowed us to work in Camp Lawton at Palisades, and Donato DelMastro and the USFS gave permission to work on their Catalina District lands. Teo Melis and Scott Vanderkooi have provided continuing support of our research that is within the US Geological Survey, Southwest Biological Center's Emeritus Program. Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U. S. Government.



Cordilleran Flycatcher feeding its young (photo courtesy of Dr. Charles van Riper, III)

Come Meet a Saint!

St. Nicholas is coming to the mountain on November 25th from 11 AM-2 PM at Mary Undoer of Knots Byzantine Catholic Shrine. All are welcome!



Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need. In addition to this he obeyed Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

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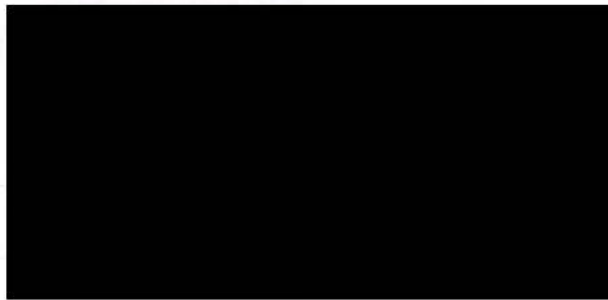


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