Snake River Audubon Society

VOL. MMXXIII, NO. 9 November 2023

Snake River Audubon meets on third Thursdays September through April, except December. Newsletters are published monthly except for July, August and December.

Alex Bell Birding in Costa Rica Thursday, November 16 7:15 PM Idaho Falls Library

Audubon Board Meeting Thursday, December 7 7:00 PM Kit Struthers' Home

Idaho Falls Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 16

Eagle Count
January 6 or 13
Check with Kit for dates
and details
kit619@centurylink.net

We do not publish a newsletter in December, so please keep this November issue for information about our Christmas Bird Count.

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY snakeriveraudubon.org



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Alex Bell Birding in Costa Rica Thursday, November 16 7:15 PM Idaho Falls Library

I am going to present some of the highlights from a birding trip to Costa Rica earlier this year. I'll go over some of the reasons to travel to this beautiful country, provide some birding tips and suggestions, go through some of the general ecotones and hotspots, and show plenty of bird pictures along the way. From Caribbean lowlands, pacific beaches, volcanoes, cloud forests—and everything in between --Costa Rica offers spectacular landscapes and a dizzying variety of bird species.



Broad-billed Motmot

Idaho Falls Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 16

This year's Idaho Falls Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 16. The planning meeting will be on Thursday, December 14, at 7:00 PM at Mark Delwiche's home, 2011 Bremer. If you would like to participate but can't make it to the planning meeting, please contact Mark at:

mark delwiche@q.com

Our count area is a 15 mile diameter circle centered near the airport. The circle is divided into six sections, with a team of birders assigned to each section. Each section has some riverfront area.

Birds seen during count week, the three days before and after count day, are included in our report if they are not seen on count day itself. Participants are encouraged to scout their areas prior to count day.

At the end of the day, around 5:00 PM, we will gather at Sue and Don Gosswiller's home, 2500 South Boulevard, to share our sightings and light snacks. Participants who can't make it that evening should email their reports to Kit Struthers.

kit619@centurylink.net

Will this be a year that Snow Buntings join flocks of Horned Larks?



Membership

Thank you to all our renewing members!

If you would like to receive our newsletter via email and in full color, let me know. Kit

Please let Kit Struthers (kit619@centurylink.net) know of any address changes or if you will be temporarily away so that your newsletters aren't returned to us. We have to pay first class postage for each returned newsletter. Those who are receiving our newsletter via electronic mail, please send Kit any change of e-mail address.

Fund Raising

For those who shop at Fred Meyer, please remember to sign up for their Community Rewards program and link your rewards card to Snake River Audubon Society as the beneficiary, number V1510.

We recently received a check from this program for \$49.34 for the previous quarter. Thank you to all who contribute to our chapter via this program!

Project FeederWatch



Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other

locales in North America. You don't even need a feeder! All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water, or food that attracts birds. The schedule is completely flexible. Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and to contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance.

When you join FeederWatch, you will receive:

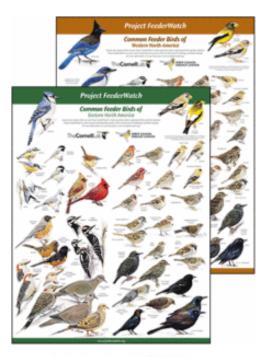
- Tools to track and learn about your birds on our website or mobile app
- Our year-end summary, <u>Win-</u> ber Bird Highlights
- Our double-sided poster of eastern and western common feeder birds (Optional)
- Our calendar (Optional)
- Digital access to the Cornell Lab's Living Bird magazine

Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents. These contributions cover materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights). Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

As a program that engages participants across the U.S. and Canada, we strive to ensure that Project FeederWatch is accessible and welcoming to every person. Please read our full statements from the Cornell Lab and Birds Canada. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs.

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Since 2016, Project FeederWatch has been sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited. We thank them for their support!

To learn more and to sign up: https://feederwatch.org/





Breeding Bird Survey Opportunity

The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is the primary source for critical quantitative data to evaluate the status of continental bird species, keeping common birds common and helping fuel a \$75 billion wildlife watching industry. Each year thousands of citizen scientists skilled in avian identification collect data on BBS routes throughout North America allowing us to better understand bird population changes and manage them. The USGS (US Geological Survey) Eastern Ecological Science Center, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Mexi-

can National Commission for the olution, to Linda Milam at: Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity jointly coordinate the program, lmilam1472@aol.com which provides reliable population data and trend analyses on more than 500 bird species.

https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eesc/ science/north-american-breedingor just bird-survey Google "breeding bird survey" to learn more about this valuable effort.

Mark Delwiche has been participating in the BBS for many years—doing two surveys each year, one near Mud lake and one near Ririe Reservoir. He has decided it is time for him to pass the torch on to others. He would be glad to go with volunteers for their first time. Each route includes 50 stops, 1/2 mile apart, with three minute stops to look and listen for birds in the area. It works best if two people do the route.

Please contact Mark mark delwiche@q.com to learn more about this project and to volunteer.



Common Yellowthroat Breeds in marshy areas in Southeast Idaho

Members' Night

Currently, we expect our annual Members' Night to be held in April, but that might change depending on how we can schedule program presenters So please be thinking about which photos you'd like to share this year and send them, in jpeg format and high res-



Spanish Sparrow Endemic to Iberian Peninsula Photo taken through our guide's scope on my recent trip to Portugal. Kit Struthers

Chapter Leaders Needed

Our chapter leaders have almost all been serving for many years. Theoretically, we should be electing new leaders regularly. would like to have some new folks get involved and share new ideas. Please contact any of the officers listed on the back page of the newsletter to ask what would be involved and to offer your time for our chapter.

Meeting Attendance

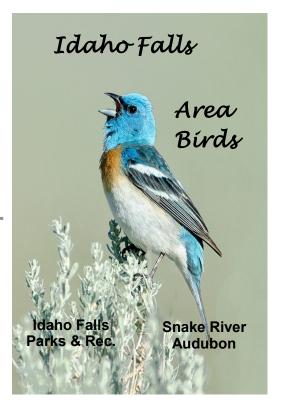
Attendance at our meetings hasn't recovered since the pandemic. We've decided to go back to an in person only meeting for November in hopes that attendance will improve. Zoom meetings have the advantage of allowing people to attend from home, even when home is in another state. Zoom meetings have the disadvantage of not having the personal interaction of meeting in person. Also, there are often technical glitches that take time away from the program. So we'll see how it goes. Please let us know your thoughts!

Very Rare Bird Sighted in Southwest Idaho

Several lucky birders were able to add Ancient Murrelet to their Idaho lists in October. This small pelagic bird is usually found in the cold waters of the northern Pacific Ocean but one showed up in a reservoir in Southwest Idaho, where it stayed for only a day or two.



Idaho Falls Area Birds Great Christmas Gifts!



Copies of our chapter's booklet, Idaho Falls Area Birds, will be available at our meetings. The booklet features photographs by 15 Idaho birder/photographers. Cover photo by Gary Ellwein.

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Emerald Toucanet



Female Purple-throated Mountain-gem

Snake River Audubon Society

To join only Snake River Audubon Society and not the National Audubon Society, please send a check for \$10, plus your name, mailing address and e-mail address to:

Snake River Audubon Society P O Box 2922 Idaho Falls, ID 83403-2922

Alex Bell's Trip to Costa Rica Thursday, November 16, 7:15, Idaho Falls Public Library

Idaho Falls Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 16

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers and committee chairmen:

Pres.	Mark Delwiche		206-2081
V. P.	Hilary turner	(928)	225-5392
Sec'y.	Kit Struthers		529-2028
Treas.	Sue & Don Gosswille	r	221-8948
Dir.	Robyn McCarthy		520-0128
	Linda Milam		523-8316
	Steve Butterworth		522-6493
	Alex Bell		530-8917

Programs
Field Trips Olivia Sembach (775) 685-

		6426
Website	Mark Delwiche	206-2081
Newsletter	Kit Struthers	529-2028
Facebook	Carolyn Bishop	932-0526
Publicity	Kit Struthers	529-2028

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send *Audubon* magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$30 to the National Audubon Society is enclosed.

Name	
Addres	s
State	Zip
	Local Chapter
	SNAKE DIVED ALIDLIBON SOCIETY

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY C9ZG020Z

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Inc. 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor New York, NY 10014