

# Snake River Audubon Society

VOL. MMXXIII, NO. 9  
November 2023

## SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

[snakeriveraudubon.org](http://snakeriveraudubon.org)



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

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**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](mailto:kit619@centurylink.net)

We do not publish a newsletter in December, so please keep this November issue for information about our Christmas Bird Count.

**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](mailto: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 river-front 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 Gossweiler'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](mailto: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.**

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## 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!

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## 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, Winter 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/>



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## 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 Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity jointly coordinate the program, which provides reliable population data and trend analyses on more than 500 bird species.

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eesc/science/north-american-breeding-bird-survey> or just 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, ½ 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 at [mark.delwiche@q.com](mailto: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-

olution, to Linda Milam at: [lmilam1472@aol.com](mailto:lmilam1472@aol.com)



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. We 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. But 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!

#### Idaho Falls

#### Area Birds



Idaho Falls  
Parks & Rec.

Snake River  
Audubon

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.

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P O BOX 2922  
IDAHO FALLS ID 83403-2922

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED.

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
**PERMIT NO. 115**



Emerald Toucanet



Female Purple-throated  
Mountain-gem

**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**

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

**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 Gosswiller	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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Local Chapter

**SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**C9ZG020Z**

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