

**Snake River  
Audubon Society**

**VOL. MMXXI, NO. 7  
September, 2021**

**SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY**

*A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY*



*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**

**Birding in Brazil  
Patty Isaeff  
Tim Reynolds**

**Thursday, September 16  
7:15 PM  
ZOOM**

**American Falls Field Trip  
Snake River below the  
dam plus fish hatchery  
Saturday, September 18**

**Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 7  
Gosswiller Home**

**Big Sit!  
Saturday, October 9**

**Birding in Brazil  
Patty Isaeff & Tim Reynolds  
Thursday, September 16  
7:15 PM  
ZOOM**

In the pre-Covid summer of 2019, Tim and Patty spent three weeks in southern Brazil. We birded the mid-to upper-level (6,000 – 9,000 feet elevation) of the Southeastern Atlantic Forest, and the Pantanal, the world's largest freshwater wetland (roughly the size of North Dakota). We recorded 300 species of birds.

Highlights were the recently described Sao Paulo (Marsh) Antwren, 11 species of herons and egrets, and a whopping 19 species in the family Psittacidae (parrots, parakeets, parrotlets and macaws).

We traveled during the dry season, when the animals of the Pantanal are concentrated along the river systems. Here we saw the largest rodents in the world, several magnificent jaguars, giant river otters, and much, much more.



Bare-faced Curassow  
Photo by Patty Isaeff

**American Falls  
Snake River below the dam plus  
fish hatchery  
Saturday, September 18**

We'll meet in the southeast corner of the west side Walmart at 8:00 AM to caravan to American Falls to check the area below the dam for possible Bonaparte's Gulls and then head to the fish hatchery to walk the nature trail for songbirds and scope the river for waterfowl.



Bonaparte's Gull  
Winter Plumage

**Big Sit!  
Saturday, October 9  
Andreasen Home  
Sugar City, near Teton River  
Details on pages 3-4**

**Members' Night**

Be thinking about taking and saving photos for next year's Member's Night in March or April.

Due to corona virus concerns, the library is not available for our meetings. We are having our meetings via ZOOM. If you would like to be included, please send your email address to Kit Struthers:

kit619@centurylink.net

Then an invitation will be sent out before the meeting time for you to connect.

If your email address was on the "Zoom list" last year, it will be on the list again this year unless you ask to have it deleted.

## Membership

Welcome to new members Louise Hill of Idaho Falls, Willa Bagley of Rexburg, and Julie Robinson of Boulder, Utah. Please plan to join us at our meetings (via Zoom for now) and on our field trips.

**Please let Kit Struthers (kit619@centurylink.net or 529-2028) 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. This is a new number, but the old number will still work for current participants. New participants should use the new number.**

We received **\$37.31** from this program in August.

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## Hell's Half Acre Field Trip Robyn McCarthy

Ten members from our Audubon group braved the heat on Thursday July 15 for a birding walk on the Hell's Half Acre northbound lane of I-15. The heat of this summer showed that many of the wild flowering plants usually seen in past field trips to this area were finished blooming. We were surprised to see the desert fern bushes (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*) still in flower. Some of us experienced the wonderful aromas of the desert plants by pressing the leaves tightly and

releasing their fragrance to our nostrils.



Several of us squeezed the leaves and sniffed the wonderful fragrance of the desert fern bush. Photo by Robyn McCarthy.

Birds sighted were: Rock Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Bullock's Oriole, and Mourning Doves.



Rock Wren  
Photo by Mary Ann Igoe



Brown-headed Cowbird Nestling  
in Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Nest  
Photo by Mary Ann Igoe

The most interesting part of our walk was when we tracked a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher flying around a

juniper tree. With Mary Ann Igoe's telephoto lens, a nest was discovered in the tree with a Brown-headed cowbird chick inside!

The brown-headed cowbird is a member of the blackbird family. It is the only parasitic bird in the state, laying eggs in host bird's nests, leaving others to raise its young. Cowbirds are known to have laid eggs in nests of over 200 species of birds. Some birds reject cowbird eggs, but most incubate them and raise them even excluding their own. We think this little gnatcatcher was feeding a chick almost one half larger than it was.

Hell's Half Acre is a great evening field trip walk. We plan to do one every year.

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## Snake River Audubon Society Website

Mark Delwiche has been working with Manwaring Web Solutions to redo our website since our previous Google-based website is now defunct. Check it out at:

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

It's still a work in progress, so if you have comments or suggestions, contact Mark at:

[mark\\_delwiche@q.com](mailto:mark_delwiche@q.com)

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## Big Sit! Saturday, October 9

New member Joe Andreasen suggested that we do our first Big Sit! this fall and has offered his parents' yard near Sugar City and the Teton River for the location. On a Big Sit! a 17-foot diameter circle is marked out in a good birding location, and birders record all birds seen within and from the circle over a 24-hour period. Birders sign up for time slots of two or more hours during the day.

We probably won't plan to bird through the night, especially since this will be our first time to do this.

From the Big Sit! Website:

- Pick out a spot where you know there will be lots of birds.
- Mark a circle with a 17-foot diameter and a good view of those birds.
- Plan to be there in that circle for as many consecutive hours as are convenient and fun between 12:00 am midnight and 11:59.
- Records of birds seen will be kept during the day and then reported to eBird .
- The comfort and ease of the individuals making observations is usually most important. A participant shouldn't have to fear getting hit by someone's scope or having their view obscured by bigger, taller birders.
- In addition, COVID-19 precautions may be necessary. Please follow all local, state, and federal guidelines.

See the following website for more information.

<https://www.thebigsit.org/circles-and-rules>

Sunrise will be at about 7:30 that day, so the first birders should be there by then. It's about a 45 minute drive. Plan to bring a picnic meal if you'll be there over lunch or supper time.

Since this is the first time we'll be doing this event, we hope it will be a success! Please contact Kit Struthers at kit619@centurylink.net to sign up for your chosen time slot. Then she'll send you the Andersen's address.



## Birds of Craters of the Moon

Chapter members have completed work on the booklet picturing and describing birds often seen at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. It should be at the printer's now, so look for it the next time you visit Craters!

# Birds of Craters of the Moon National Monument



PUBLISHED BY CRATERS OF THE MOON NATURAL

HISTORY ASSOCIATION

## Bird Reports

June 23: Dave Spencer reported an **Indigo Bunting** in his yard on the west side of Idaho Falls.

August 31: 2 Mourning Doves, 7 Sandhill Cranes, 2 Swainson's Hawks, 2 Great Horned Owls, Western Wood-Pewee, 10 Tree Swallows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2 Chipping Sparrows, Brewer's Sparrow, 2 Lincoln's Sparrows, MacGillivray's Warbler **Townsend's Warbler**, 4 Wilson's Warblers in and from the west shelter belt at Market Lake —Kit Struthers



August 7: Mary Ann Igoe photographed this immature or female Rufous Hummingbird in the sunflower patch at the Wild Adventure Corn Maze near 45 W and I-15.. The zinnia patch was full of hummingbirds!

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Southern Ant Eater  
 Photo by Patty Isaeff



Red-crested Cardinal  
 Photo by Patty Isaeff

**Patty Isaeff & Tim Reynolds—Birding in Brazil**  
**Thursday, September 16, 7:15 PM via ZOOM**

**American Falls—Snake River + Fish Hatchery**  
**Field Trip—Saturday, September 18**

**Big Sit—Saturday, October 9**

**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	525-9414
V. P.		
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

  

Programs		
Field Trips		
Website	Mark Delwiche	525-9414
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**  
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Mail to:  
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