

**Snake River  
Audubon Society**

**VOL. MMXXI, NO. 3  
March 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**

**"Yellowstone Through the Seasons"  
Adam Brubaker  
Thursday, March 18  
7:15 PM  
Via Zoom**

**Audubon Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 1  
7:00 PM  
Via Zoom**

**"Yellowstone Through the Seasons"  
Adam Brubaker  
Thursday, March 18  
7:15 PM via Zoom**

As a year round guide in Yellowstone I have become familiar with what animals are where and when. I will be highlighting every month of the year giving an overview of what different species you may come across, where the best areas to look are, and sharing some personal stories I have had with a couple of different species

**Snow Goose Migration**

Due the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we are not scheduling field trips in March. We do encourage folks to drive out west and north of Idaho Falls in March to find migrating Snow Geese, Trumpeter Swans, occasional Tundra Swans, Northern Pintails, Mallards and other waterfowl .. Also look for them at Market Lake WMA, Mud Lake WMA, and Camas NWR.



Trumpeter Swans Photo by Dee Spencer

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](mailto:kit619@centurylink.net)

Then an invitation will be sent out before the meeting time for you to connect. If you've previously received our Zoom invitations, you're already on the list and don't need to ask again.



Grizzly Bear in Yellowstone, Photo by Adam Brubaker

## Membership

Welcome to new members Mary Igoe of Blackfoot; Brian Conlon, Kristina Goldbach, Lawrence Vanderplas, William Thill, Doris Haas-Garrett, Becky Baker, Robert Breckenridge and Karen Wright of Idaho Falls; Vicki Macy of Ashton; Darrell Empey of Driggs; Dennis Jorgensen of Rigby and Margaret Guheen and Caroline Herter of Victor. We hope you'll join us at our meetings and on our field trips. Thanks also to renewing members!

**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.

## 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.**

## Birding Booklet for Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

Many thanks to all who have sent photos for our Craters of the Moon booklet! The only remaining bird for which we need a photo is Common Poorwill, a difficult bird to photograph since it is strictly nocturnal. If you happen to have a photo of one, please

send it in JPG format it to Linda Milam.

**lmilam1472@aol.com**

Please put "Craters bird booklet" in subject line.

## Monarch Butterfly News Robyn McCarthy

According to the Associated Press on Jan 20, 2020, the number of western monarch butterflies wintering along the California coast has plummeted to a record low. The annual winter count by the Xerces Society recorded fewer than 2,000 butterflies. This is a massive decline from the tens of thousands tallied in recent years and the millions that clustered



Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar

from northern Marin County to southern San Diego County in California in the 1980s. Western monarch butterflies head south from the western side of the Rockies to California each winter, returning to the same places and even the same trees, where they cluster to keep warm. The monarchs generally arrive in California at the beginning of November and spread across the western states when warmer weather arrives in March.

On the eastern side of the Rockies, another monarch population travels from southern Canada and the northeastern U.S. across thousands of miles to spend the winter in central Mexico. Scientists estimate the monarch population in the eastern U.S. has fallen about 80% since the mid-1990s. The decline in the west

has been much greater.

Scientists say the butterflies are endangered because of destruction to their milkweed habitat and because of housing expansion along their migration route and the use of pesticides and herbicides. Climate change is one of the causes of their threatened extinction synched to springtime and the blossoming of wildflowers. Massive wildfires in the west last year may also have influenced their breeding and migration.

The Xerces Society said it will pursue protection of the monarch and work with partners "to implement science-based conservation actions urgently needed to help the western monarch migration.

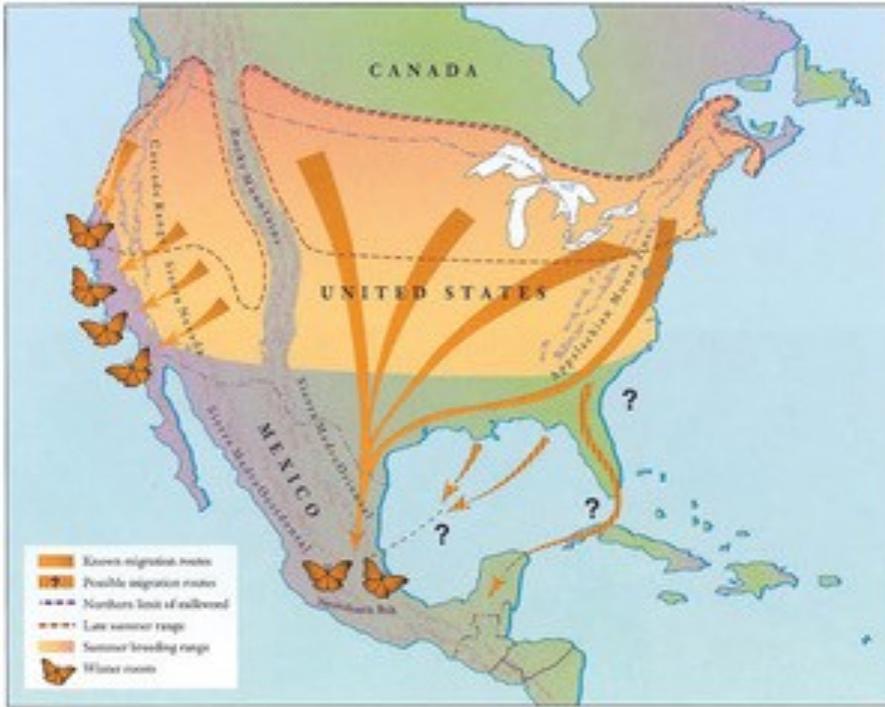
Help the monarchs by planting early-blooming flowers and native milkweeds.



Adult Monarch Butterfly

## Keep your Bird Feeders Disease Free Robyn McCarthy

All species of birds are susceptible to salmonella infection. This disease can cause significant mortality in Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll and Goldfinch. Sick birds may appear thin, fluffed up, and may have pasted vents and swollen eyelids. They are often lethargic and easy to approach. Some may show no sign of the disease but still may be carriers. Salmonellosis is primarily transmitted by fecal contamination of food and water by birds. It can be transmit-



Monarch Butterfly Migration Routes



Northern Flicker, Yellow-shafted by Don Gosswiller



Northern Flicker, Red-shafted by Don Gosswiller



Hairy Woodpecker by Don Gosswiller



Blue Jay by Don Gosswiller



Gray Partridges by Dee Spencer

ted by bird-to-bird contact. Birds shed the bacteria in their feces and the surface of the feeder and the food itself can become contaminated.

Seattle Audubon recommends cleaning feeders even when there is no sign of disease and disinfecting them at least once or twice a month. Rinse the feeder well with hot soapy water, then dunk it into a nine-to-one bleach-water solution. Clean your bird baths with the same bleach solution. This will deter bacteria in plastic, ceramic, and metal feeders. Audubon says when cleaning wooden feeders, dilute a vinegar solution (three-to-one) or use a non-fragranced biodegradable soap to minimize fading." Dry out the feeder before refilling. Keep your feeding area tidy by raking up and disposing of feces, seed hulls and casings - particularly if they are moldy, wet, and spoiled.

Red-shafted, and female Hairy Woodpecker in his yard on South Boulevard. For those receiving electronic newsletters, you can see that the Yellow-shafted Flicker, a bird more often found in the East and Midwest, has a black mustache mark while the Red-shafted Flicker, the more common flicker in the West, has a red mustache mark. They used to be considered separate species but have been lumped

### Bird Reports

February 12 & 13: Don Gosswiller photographed the Blue Jay, Northern Flickers, Yellow-shafted and

**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**



Gray Wolf in Yellowstone  
 Photo by Adam Brubaker



Clark's Nutcracker  
 Photo by Adam Brubaker

**“Yellowstone Through the Seasons”**  
**Adam Brubaker**  
**Thursday, March 18**  
**7:15 PM via Zoom**

**March Migration of Snow Geese, Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Northern Pintails and Other Waterfowl**

**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**  
**C9ZG02Z**

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