

**Snake River
Audubon Society**
VOL. MMXXI, NO. 8
October, 2021

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

Biodiversity Crisis and The Idaho Falls Zoo
David Pennock
Thursday, November 18
7:15 PM
ZOOM

Board Meeting
Thursday, December 2
7:00 PM
Kit's Home

Idaho Falls Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 18

Eagle Count
Early January

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.

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
snakeriveraudubon.org



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Biodiversity Crisis and The Idaho Falls Zoo
David Pennock
Thursday, November 18
7:15 PM via ZOOM

In general, US citizens have not yet realized the magnitude and long-term impacts of the current unprecedented decrease in populations of the world's wildlife and increasing rates of extinction of entire species. This biodiversity crisis has magnified significantly in just the last decades. In addition, most are unaware of the critical role that American Zoo Association, this difficult issue.

David will briefly review the current state of the world's wildlife and the drastic declines in wildlife populations over the last 50 years. He will also explain the important work of AZA accredited zoos in the fight against extinction. The specific work of your Idaho Falls Zoo's in conserving the world's extraordinary biodiversity will also be discussed.

Zoos are critical to the survival of an ever-increasing number of wildlife species. These critically endangered bird species, all endemic to the United States and its territories, are examples

Idaho Falls Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 18
See page 2 for information.

Eagle Count

The annual eagle count is held in early January. Our area includes the Buffalo and Henry's Fork Rivers near Pond's Lodge in Island Park, accessed by cross country skis or snowshoes. Donna Whitham is the coordinator for our area and will send Kit an email with the date and further information when the date is announced. Then she'll send the information on. Please let Kit know if you'd like to participate. kit619@centurylink.net



California Condor –
Was extinct in the wild but now wild breeding populations exist thanks to reintroduction efforts

Members' Night

Be thinking about taking and saving photos for next year's Member's Night in March ! Send your photos in jpeg format to Linda Milam.

lmilam1472@aol.com

Membership

Welcome to new members Sally Higley of Firth; and Mary Ann Jordan, Linda Blank and Sherry Davison of Idaho Falls. 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.

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.

Our rewards payment for the last quarter was \$33.41

Christmas Bird Counts

Here are the guidelines for this year's counts from the National Audubon Society.

- Wait until November 15 at the earliest to confirm CBC will take place, if local regulations allow.
- Gatherings are at the dis-

cretion of the local compiler. We encourage compilation gatherings be held outdoors if possible, but any plans for gatherings should be done with safety for the health of participants as paramount, including wearing masks indoors and following local COVID guidelines.

- Masking is **required** if social distancing is not possible while in the field.
- Carpooling may **only** occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups.
- Activities **must** comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.
- Allow for flexibility as it is not possible to know individual or family situations with respect to their home or family risks.

Idaho Falls Christmas Count

We will have a planning meeting on Thursday, December 16, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please let kit know that you plan to participate in the count so that she can send you the Zoom meeting invitation.

kit619@centurylink.net

Kit will also send out bird lists, the form asking about miles and hours driven and walked and maps.

Birds seen during count week, the three days before and after count day, but not seen on count day itself are also reported. Scouting before count day is strongly encouraged, not only to learn what birds might be in your area but also to record birds not seen on count day.

The Idaho Falls count is conducted within a fifteen mile diameter circle, centered near the airport. The circle is divided into six sections, and sometimes the six sections are subdivided. Those who have participated before know their areas. New participants will be paired with someone who has done the count before.

Other Area Christmas Bird Counts

Craters of the Moon—Date has not been determined yet. If you are interested, contact Mark Delwiche: mark_delwiche@q.com Or Todd Stefanic at Craters Todd_Stefanic@nps.gov

Last year the Craters count was limited to staff only due to Covid restrictions. We don't know yet what will happen this year.

Rexburg—Date has not been determined yet. If interested, contact Darren Clark: darrenclarkbird@gmail.com

Howe—Date has not been determined yet. Contact: Kit Struthers at kit619@centurylink.net



Watch for Snow Buntings mixed with Horned Lark flocks along the road-sides.

November Birding Mud Lake Steve Butterworth

From Idaho Falls: Take I-15 North to Highway 33. Head west on Highway 33 to N 1400 E (this is on the West side of the outlet from Mud Lake). Head North following along the dike which eventually will head West until you get to N 1200 E. This will take you back to Highway 33. Look for hawks, eagles and Great Blue Herons in the fields. The trees along the road can hold woodpeckers, flickers, juncos and chickadees. Watch along the road for sparrows primarily Song, White-crown and American Tree Sparrows. If you miss the turn onto N 1200 E don't despair as the dike road turns into E 1800 N also called Staley Road. You can continue on this road until you get to N 1100 E which also goes back to Highway 33. This road meets Highway 33 where there is a service station that serves pizza, sandwiches etc. if you're hungry.



Lincoln's Sparrow
Photo by Teresa Meachum at Camas NWR while she was searching for the Swamp Sparrows



Ferruginous Hawk
Photo by Don Gosswiller on his and Sue's way home from their cabin west of Bone

Copies of our chapter's booklet, *Idaho Falls Area Birds*, are available from Linda Milam at

lmilam1472@aol.com.

The booklet features photographs by 15 Idaho birder/photographers. Cover photo by Gary Ellwein. Great Christmas gifts!



Guam Kingfisher - Currently extinct in the wild but captive bred populations have led to hopes for reintroduction back into the wild in the very near future

We don't publish a newsletter in December, so please save this one for Christmas Count and eagle count information.

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

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Attwater's Prairie Chicken - Nearly extinct in the wild but current reintroduction efforts give hope to build the population back to viable numbers



Let's hope Common Redpolls show up for this year's Christmas Bird Count!

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

The Biodiversity Crisis and the Idaho Falls Zoo
David Pennock, Executive Director of the Idaho Falls Zoo
Thursday, November 18, 7:15 PM
ZOOM

Idaho Falls Christmas Bird Count
Planning meeting—Thursday, December 16
Count Day—Saturday, December 18

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

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Mark Delwiche

Kit Struthers

Carolyn Bishop

Kit Struthers

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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New York, NY 10014