

**Snake River
Audubon Society**

**VOL. MMXXIII, NO. 3
March, 2023**

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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

**Members' Night
Thursday, March 16
Idaho Falls Library
7:15 PM
Also via Zoom**

Please plan to come and see our members' photos of birds and other nature subjects and learn where they have been. This is an annual event, dating from the days when we brought actual slides and hoped that we loaded the slide carousel correctly so that the subjects would be right side up and not backwards.

Our last two meetings have been a combination of in-person and Zoom presentations. This one will be also. If you're not already on our Zoom contact list and want to participate, email to Kit to be added to her list.

kit619@centurylink.net

**Sandhill Cranes, Swans, Geese
Spring Migration**

In the past we have scheduled field trips in March to see the migrating Sandhill Cranes, Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, geese and ducks northwest of Idaho Falls. With this year's deep snow, it is hard to predict when there will be melt water ponds and bare ground for the birds. So we are suggesting that birders head out on their own and contact others if they are successful.



Sandhill Crane in Courting Posture



Merlin



Eared Quetzal
Photo by Donna Whitham



Greater White-fronted Geese are occasionally seen in the migrating waterfowl flocks.

Membership

Welcome to new members Sunshyne Brothers, Cherie Windsor, Barbara J. Broomfield, ERIKA MITTERMAIER, and Neil Schrack of Idaho Falls; Sheila Kellogg of Ashton; Elizabeth Donaldson of Driggs; and Patricia Hoesel of Tetonian.

Thank you for joining and please plan to join us on our meetings and on field trips. Also thank you to our 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

Bird Banding Project Housing Needed

As plans proceed for this season's bird banding, a problem has occurred: housing for the banding personnel. Being on site, or as close to it as possible, is the best condition. Any early morning driving to get there is inefficient and costly. Does anyone have a motorhome or camper trailer that could be borrowed? It could be parked at Camas and

used by the banding crew. Full hook-ups would be available. Housing has been secured for the spring banding but is still needed for the fall. Fall migration lasts from about July 19 to October .

Thanks for your consideration!

There may be opportunities for volunteers to help with the banding. These would be non-technical positions helping the certified banders.

Contact Mark Delwiche to offer your motorhome or camper or to volunteer to help with the banding.

mark_delwiche@q.com

**Raptor Identification Seminar
Jackson Hole
Wildlife Foundation
Wednesday, March 29
6:00 PM**

Join this JHWF sponsored continuing education seminar on raptor identification! Teton Raptor Center's Meghan Warren will present a custom program on the identification and ecology of western raptors. The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation works to promote ways for communities to live compatibly with wildlife.

Email Hilary Turner to receive the Zoom link.

hilary@jhwildlife.org



Camas NWR Improvements

As reported previously, Camas NWR was the recipient of a Great America Outdoors Act grant of about \$7 million for improvements at the refuge. As part of those improvements, a viewing platform is being constructed on the southern part of the refuge.



New Viewing Platform
Camas NWR
Photo by Linda Milam

Red Cliffs Bird Fest Greater Zion, Utah April 27-29

The Red Cliffs Bird Fest 2023 will showcase the birding habitat of Greater Zion during spring migration where the beauty of the birds is truly matched by the beauty of the scenery. Join us April 27-29 as we spend 3 days exploring the varied birding habitats throughout incredible Southwest Utah!

Within one day, you can experience the birds of micro-wetlands, low deserts, riparian habitats, and the aspen-fir belt. This year's field trips will offer access to all these ranges including guided trips in Zion National Park and the famous Lytle Ranch Preserve, along with Peregrine Fund biologist guided tours of the condors of the Vermilion Cliffs!

In addition, on Friday night well known naturalist and author James W. Cornett, will be giving his popular presentation "The Roadrunner: Almost Hu-

man” based on his book, The Greater Roadrunner.

Registration opened February 1st.

Highlighted Birds: **California Condor**, Greater Roadrunner, Phainopepla, Common Black-Hawk, Grace’s Warbler, Cactus Wren, Crissal Thrasher, Hooded Oriole, Lucy’s Warbler, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Gray Vireo, Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Neotropic Cormorant, Black-chinned Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Gambel’s Quail, White-winged Dove, Lesser Nighthawk, Costa’s Hummingbird, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Verdin, Abert’s Towhee, and many more!

<https://redcliffsbirdfest.com/>



California Condor

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival May 18-21

The Great Salt Lake Bird Festival is excited to announce its 25th year. We hope you are ready for our biggest festival yet. Birders will have the opportunity to encounter different species by the shores of fresh and saline lakes, through the peaks of mountainous terrain, and even in the arid desert. Utah is known



King Penguins. Most are holding eggs beneath their flap of feathers at their feet. The females are out hunting food and will be back in the afternoon. Unfortunately I was unable to get a photo of one when it was shifting his stance and showed the egg. The eggs can hatch out while under the Dads - they are being kept warm during the process which is rather slow. The chicks are brown furry looking creatures. There are some already hatched out in these photos. They are lying close to their Dads, sometimes half under them. Very hard to see.... They looked like shadows in the sand. The smaller penguins in the background are Gentoo Penguins. Robyn McCarthy from her and Jerry’s trip to the Falkland Islands In February

Bird Sightings

for its diverse landscapes, guaranteeing you an incredible experience and an endless amount of bird sightings.

Many field trips will explore some of Utah’s most beautiful State Parks, State Wildlife Areas, National Refuge areas, and “**behind the gates**” access to sites that cannot be visited by the general public. Whether you are a first-time birder or have a “few” years under your belt, we have trips for all skill levels. What are you waiting for? Get those binoculars out and let’s start birding!

<https://www.daviscountyutah.gov/greatsaltlakebirdfest/the-festival>



Female Evening Grosbeak
Photo by Don Gosswiller
at his feeder on February 22

Great-tailed Grackle at the Fun Farm Bridge on the Henry’s Fork north of St. Anthony on March 1— Doug Ervin

Peregrine Falcon—County Line Road & 85th East, March 4— Donna and Mark Whitham.

SNAKE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
P O BOX 2922
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Black-throated Sparrow by Glenn DeVoe



Ferruginous Hawk

Members' Night
Thursday, March 16, 7:15
Idaho Falls Library Plus via Zoom

Raptor Identification Seminar Wednesday, March 29, 6:00 PM, Zoom

Mid to late March—Migrating Sandhill Cranes and 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.	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	Joe Andreasen (208) 970-5995
	Olivia Sembach (775) 685-6426
Website	Hilary Turner (928) 225-5392
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

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Mail to:
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 New York, NY 10014