Bears and Other Fauna of Alaska
Ron Mizia
Thursday, February 18
7:15 PM via Zoom

Ron Mizia will share images of Alaskan bears and other fauna taken over the span of many years from the Kodachrome film days to the digital age of today. The bear viewing sites that he will address are the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, Katmai National Park, and the Anan Wildlife Observation Site.

Come to Roost at Camas NWR
February Evenings

Due to the Covid-19 virus, there will be no formal event this year, but birders and photographers are encouraged to visit Camas NWR near Hamer during February to watch the Bald Eagles coming in to roost just before sunset in the cottonwoods near the entrance to the refuge.

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 you’ve previously received our Zoom invitations, you’re already on the list and don’t need to ask again.
Membership

We have only one new member to welcome this month as we haven’t received an updated list from National Audubon: Phil Winston of Idaho Falls.

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.

Our total donations for the last quarter of 2020 was $35.16. Thank you for all who donated!

Birding Booklet for Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

Here is an updated list of the species of birds for which we still need photos for the booklet. We would like that as many of the photos as possible actually be from Craters, but photos with habitat similar to that at Craters will be all right too.

National Audubon Photography Awards

The 2021 Audubon Photography Awards are officially open for submissions! And this year we’re excited to announce two new prizes: a Video Prize and Female Bird Prize. Like in years past, winning photos will be published in future issues of Audubon magazine, our Youth winner will be awarded a special trip to take their bird photography to the next level, and our Grand Prize winner will take home a cash prize of $5,000!

After a year that tested our resolve in ways we never could have imagined, many found respite and inspiration in birds and nature. We look forward to seeing the beauty and talent displayed in the photos submitted and can’t wait to share the winners with you later this year.

Submissions are open until April 7 at noon Eastern Daylight Time. For rules and more information, check out Audubon Photography Awards online.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 12-15

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things. Join us, February 12–15, 2021, when the world comes together for the love of birds.

 Participating is easy, fun to do alone, or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds. Simply watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, February 12-15, 2021, and tell us what you see!

Pick the best tool to use for sharing your birds sightings:

If you are new to the count, try using the Merlin Bird ID App.

If you have participated in the count before, try eBird Mobile app or enter your bird list on the eBird website (desktop/laptop

Migratory Bird Treaty Act National Audubon Society

On Feb. 4, 2021 The New Administration made the decision to delay implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This rule change offers an opportunity to reinstate and strengthen the 100-year-old law. Please speak out to reinstate critical bird protections under the MBTA. Go to Audubon.org and take action!
Now is the time to show your support for the MBTA by calling on the Interior Department and Congress to restore and reinforce bird protections.

Suggested verbiage for letters to US Representatives, US Senators and the Department of the Interior

I strongly support the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The recent removal of bird protections under the MBTA is deeply concerning to me, and I urge the Interior Department to restore the MBTA and reinstate protections for birds, and that Congress stands in support of these critical efforts.

Birds are a fundamental part of our ecosystems and culture and provide significant value to my community, the nation, and the world. Yet our bird populations are facing serious threats that have led to a decline of 3 billion birds in North America since 1970, while two-thirds of our bird species are at risk from climate change.

We need to be doing far more to protect and conserve birds, but the attack on the MBTA has only put birds at greater risk. The MBTA has provided longstanding and bipartisan protections for birds from avoidable hazards, but the rollback of the law has undermined the ability to reduce preventable bird deaths and help birds recover from events such as oil spills.

I urge the Interior Department to restore the MBTA and to create a new pathway for permitting under the law—and that Congress passes legislation to reinforce this effort—in order to help conserve birds and encourage practices that protect birds from the variety of threats they face. Now is the time to act to save our nation’s birds, and I stand in strong support of the MBTA to help give them a fighting chance.

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**Why Bread is Bad for Ducks**

Robyn McCarthy

While we may have once thought that feeding stale bread was good recycling, both good for us and ducks, we have actually learned that the practice is unhealthy for the birds, other wildlife, and even ourselves.

Bread, and similar products and even popcorn are great sources of carbohydrates but offer little nutritional value for ducks, geese, swans and other birds and fattening bread products can make flight more strenuous. Feeding ducks bread can increase the spread of diseases in two ways. First, a carbohydrate-rich diet leads to greater defecation, and bird feces easily harbor bacteria responsible for numerous diseases, including avian botulism. Second, moldy bread can cause aspergillosis, a fatal lung infection that can decimate entire duck and waterfowl flocks.

Ducklings require a varied diet and plenty of natural plants and insect proteins to mature properly. Waterfowl can live longer, healthier lives by relying on natural food sources such as aquatic plants, seeds, grasses, nuts and insects. If you still insist on feeding ducks, here are some good healthy alternatives to bread: Grapes cut in half to prevent choking, cracked corn, barley, oats, birdseed, peas, and corn kernels.

Information taken from Bexar Co. TX Audubon website.

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**Projects?**

Because of our fund raising efforts (especially our now annual birdathon) plus generous donations from our members and friends, Snake River Audubon Society is now more financially solvent than we have ever been. We would like to put some of our funds to good use in a project that would benefit wildlife, the community and Snake River Audubon. We are open to suggestions. Please send your suggestions to Mark Delwiche at mark_delwiche@q.com.

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**Eagle Count**

Five participants found three Bald Eagles on January 9 along the Buffalo and Henry’s Fork Rivers in Island Park.

On their January 25 raptor survey north of Idaho Falls, Carolyn Bishop and Kit Struthers found this Golden Eagle on 200 North, west of Rigby. Photo
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