

Snake River Audubon Society

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May 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

**Market Lake WMA
Spring Clean-up
Wednesday, May 19
9:00 AM**

**Sixth Annual Birdathon
May 24-31**

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**Audubon Board
Meeting
Thursday, June 3
7:00 PM
Gosswiller Yard**

**Birdathon Awards
Potluck
Thursday, June 10
4276 E 300 N, Rigby**

We will meet at 9:00 AM at the East Springs Marsh parking lot north of headquarters for our semi-annual roadside clean-up. Bring work gloves and trash bags. Afterwards we'll do some birding along the marsh road and in the shelter-belt. We hope to see returning waterfowl and migrating songbirds. We usually go out to lunch after birding. We'll decide then if and where we want to do this.

This year's sixth annual fund-raising birdathon will be held May 24-31, inclusive. As in the past, the birdathon proceeds will be shared equally between Snake River Audubon Society and Friends of Camas National Wildlife Refuge. Letters of explanation were mailed in early May, so watch for your letter and plan to participate—either by actively birding or by supporting a birder or team of birders or j by donating.

In preparation, birders are encouraged to watch Terry Rich's YouTube videos on sparrow identification, by both sight and sound. (If you'd like to receive an email with the YouTube addresses as links so that you don't have to type in the addresses, contact Kit Struthers at kit619@centurylink.net.)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWEczUNimUA&t=13s>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8YMU4_ROuQ



Clark's Grebe at Market Lake WMA
Photograph by Linda Milam May 8

Our meetings will resume in September. We don't know yet if we'll be able to start meeting in the library again or if we'll still be meeting via Zoom.

Please send suggestions for summer field trips to Kit Struthers at:

kit619@centurylink.net

Maybe we'll hear and see Common Yellowthroats singing in the marsh.



Donations and pledges can be sent to:

Snake River Audubon Society
P O Box 2922
Idaho Falls ID 83403

Our awards potluck will be on Thursday, June 10 at 5:00 PM, in the yard of Patty Isaef and Tim Reynolds, 4276 E 300 N, Rigby. Bring food to share, your plate and eating utensils, a drink, and a lawn chair.

Membership

Welcome to new members Robyn Croft and Elizabeth Keller of Idaho Falls; Timothy Curtis of Ammon; Barbara Harvey of Driggs; and Kathy Royal of Victor

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.**

Camas NWR Accepting Comments on Proposed Elk and Dove Hunts

The proposal would open 8111 acres to elk hunting. This includes the existing North and South hunt units (2590 acres) and 5521 new acres that would be open to elk hunting only. The proposal also would open the North and South hunting units, which are currently open to hunting of waterfowl, pheasant, partridge and grouse, to hunting of doves in line with the state season.

The area surrounding the refuge headquarters, core wetlands, and auto tour route would remain closed to all hunting.

The service will seek comments from the public through July 6, 2021. Comments via email can be submitted to HuntFish-RuleComments@fws.gov with "Camas Hunt Plan" in the subject line. Written comments can be mailed to Camas NWR, Attention: Hunt Plan, 2150 E 2350 N, Hamer, ID 83425. All comments become part of the official public records.

For additional details on the proposed changes, visit <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/camas> or the Facebook page of the Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex.



Idaho Falls Zoo Penguins in Taipei Mark Delwiche

Our Zoo is World Class! Idaho Falls Zoo is popular in Taiwan in the city of Taipei where Wen Ying and Zhi Jia live. They are devout viewers of the Zoo's Penguin cam. And needless to say they are not alone!

Great things are happening at the zoo, and birds are front and center. Treat yourself to a visit!

Bird Reports

April 16: Beautiful male Eurasian Wigeon on Big Pond at Camas NWR—Kit Struthers

April 24: 2 White-crowned Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrow—Sue and Don Gosswiller home in Idaho Falls.

May 6: Sue Gosswiller reported that the Great Horned Owls are nesting in the rocks along the Bone Road again this year.

May 7: first of the year hummingbird and Bullock's Oriole in her yard—Teresa Meachum.

IDAHO FALLS ZOO
The Best Little Zoo in The West

May 6: There was a flock of at least 25 Cedar Waxwings drinking from a puddle on the sidewalk in front of Kathy Smolik's home on 13th Street seen by Sue Gosswiller and Kit Struthers.



Ruffed Grouse displaying at Sue and Don Gosswiller's cabin near Wolverine Canyon
Photo by Don Gosswiller—April 24



Teresa Meachum photographed this Lewis's Woodpecker on May 6 along 55th West south of 17th South.



White-crowned Sparrow May 7
Photo by Kit Struthers

Craters of the Moon Bird Booklet

We have been working on a booklet featuring the common birds of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve for the past year, and it is finally almost ready to send it to the printer. Many thanks to all who contributed photographs!

Spring is a great time to visit Craters. June is the best month for the wildflowers, when dwarf monkeyflowers carpet the lava fields. An excellent free app to help you identify and learn about the wildflowers at Craters is available for your smart phone and/or your tablet. Check it out on the Craters website or the app store.

According to the Craters website: "Find details on the large variety of wildflowers and other plants found at Craters of the Moon National Monument. This is the official wildflower app of the monument. Download our free flower identification app available for both Apple and Android devices."



Smoothstem Blazingstar
Cover flower of the Craters flower app

Members' Night

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

Feeding Hummingbirds

Robyn McCarthy

It's time for a reminder on feeding Hummingbirds. Do not offer a mixture too rich in sugar. It can destroy the bird's livers and kidneys and kill them. The proper mixture is one part sugar to four parts water. (1:4). Do not use honey instead of sugar! Honey water mixes have been a source of a fungus disease which causes the bird's tongue to swell and eventually kill the bird. Also, never use powdered sugar, brown sugar, molasses or artificial sugar substitutes. Honey and (brown sugar) molasses are too heavy for hummingbirds to digest and can ferment more quickly, creating mold that is fatal to hummingbirds. Use white granulated sugar in the 1:4 ratio and clean the feeder often. Sugar water will also develop fungus if left out very long.

In areas with daily temperatures above 75 degrees F feeders should be cleaned every two to three day. If the feeder is not empty in 3 days, empty and clean it, refill with fresh sugar-water. In mixing the sugar water you do not need to boil the water. The water needs to be just warm enough to dissolve the sugar. Hot tap water will do that. If you prefer boiling the water, take it off the heat as soon as it begins to boil. Audubon recommends that you do not add red food coloring to the water. It is not necessary and can be harmful.

Most feeders have some red on them, which attracts the hummers. The most important thing is to keep a fresh supply of sugar water in the feeder and clean it every time you refresh the sugar water. You may also be entertained by other bird species, especially Orioles and Chickadees using the feeder.

Information taken from Dr. John G. Hewton, Humboldt State University

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

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Western Grebe at Market Lake WMA
 Photo by Linda Milam on May 8



Potluck June 10

Market Lake WMA Spring Clean-up—Wednesday, May 19
Sixth Annual Birdathon —May 24-31
Birdathon Awards Potluck—June 10, 5:00 PM
Everyone is invited!

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