

**Snake River
Audubon Society**

**VOL. MMXXI, NO. 4
April 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

**Birding in Thailand
Bob Davis
Thursday, April 15
7:15 PM
Via Zoom**

**Audubon Board
Meeting
Thursday, May 6
7:00 PM
Via Zoom**

**Birdathon
May 24-31**

**Birding in Thailand
Bob Davis
Thursday, April 15
7:15 PM Via Zoom**

Bob and Terrie Davis spent three weeks in Thailand seeing some of the most sought after and interesting bird species—Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Painted Stork, Ultramarine Flycatcher, and many others, as well as sampling their world-famous cuisine. While most Thailand birding tours concentrate on the either the south or the north, this trip covered both with a wide range of incredible species.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper
Photo by Bob Davis



Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush
Photo by Bob Davis

April Birding

Darren Clark has reported thousands, of gulls at Mud Lake WMA, including Lesser Black-backed, Herring and possible Thayer's. So now would be a good time to go up there and check out the gulls—and your gull identification skills.



Lesser Black-backed Gull

Darren and Steve Butterworth plan to search for Sagebrush Sparrows, formerly named Sage Sparrows, in the area around Sage Junction in early April.



Sagebrush Sparrow

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

Welcome to new members June Bills of Idaho Falls and Janyce Johnson 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.**

Bird Feeders

It is now considered safe to put bird feeders back up after cleaning them with a 10:1 water:bleach solution.

Snake River Audubon Website

Google is currently making changes to its website hosting format. As of April 1, these changes have wiped out all but the text in our website. On April 2, I tried to access the site on my iPad and received the message that "The requested URL was not found on the server." I was able to access our website on my computer, but with just text—no photos. So we need to find a volunteer to help us re-establish our

website, possibly with another host. If you can help, please contact Mark Delwiche at:

mark_delwiche@q.com
(208) 206-2081

Prescribed Fires at Market Lake WMA

A large, prescribed burn occurred at Market Lake Wildlife Management Area on April 1. Others burns are planned through April 15. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has contracted with the Bureau of Land Management to conduct the controlled burns to remove dead cattails and bull rushes and expose more land to open water. This should afford more opportunities for both waterfowl and duck hunters. Market Lake will be closed during the burns. The WMA is a favorite birding location in southeastern Idaho

The series of burns are designed to remove dead vegetation and improve wetland productivity. Without this removal, cattails and other vegetation take over the marshes, leaving less open water for waterfowl. The roads near the burning areas will be closed for safety reasons.

For more information, check out the Idaho Department of Fish and Game website.

Take Action: Prevent Bird Deaths from Building Collisions National Audubon Society

Building collisions kill 300 million to a billion birds each year, and many of these deaths can be prevented. The new Bird-Safe Buildings Act would promote bird-friendly materials and design features for federal buildings and help birds like the Blackpoll Warbler avoid collisions with glass and concrete. **Take action now** and urge your members of Congress to cosponsor and support the Bird-Safe Buildings Act.



Controlled Burn at Market Lake on April 1
Photo by Carolyn Bishop

Sixth Annual Birdathon

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 will be 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.

Due to Covid-19, it has not yet been decided if we will be able to hold an awards potluck.

Bird Reports

March 22: As many as 12 Common Redpolls at a time in Doug Ervin's yard in Ashton.

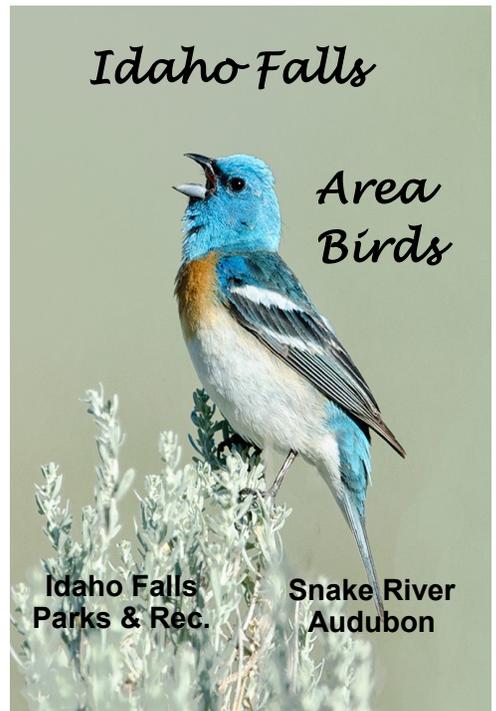
March 31: Three Spotted Towhees in Kim Ragotzkie's yard in Ashton.

April 1: Steve Butterworth saw his first Osprey of the season at Gem Lake, south of Idaho Falls. Steve continues to have Blue Jays in his yard.



Steve Butterworth also photographed this Snail Kite on his trip to Florida. Note the bands on the legs of this locally endangered species..

April 1: Sue and Don Gosswiller have spotted at least 24 returning Turkey Vultures around Tautphaus Park.



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.



Steve photographed this Florida Scrub-Jay, a threatened species, on a recent trip to Florida. The Florida Scrub-Jay lives only in Florida.



Ferruginous Hawk photo by Carolyn Bishop
Late March, North on 105 West

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Painted Stork
 Photo by Bob Davis



Ultramarine Flycatcher
 Photo by Bob Davis'

Birding in Thailand with Bob Davis
Thursday, April 15
7:15 PM Via Zoom

Sixth Annual Birdathon —May 24-31

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 Gossweiler	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