

# Snake River Audubon Society

VOL. MMXXIII, NO. 8  
October 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

**Identification of  
Hawks, Shorebirds  
Flycatchers, and Sparrows**  
Darren Clark  
Thursday, October 19  
7:15 PM  
Idaho Falls Library  
Also via Zoom

**American Falls  
Field Trip**  
Saturday, October 21

We'll meet in the southeast corner of the west side Walmart parking lot at 800 AM to carpool to American Falls.

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**Audubon Board Meeting**  
Thursday, November 2  
7:00 PM  
Linda Milam's Home

**Idaho Falls  
Christmas Bird Count**  
Saturday, December 16

Darren Clark will share tips for identifying a few difficult species that regularly occur in eastern Idaho. Darren will share various techniques for field identification, including field marks, structure, timing, and habitat. He will also share resources available to bird watchers interested in bird identification. Darren will be sharing many photographs of birds he's photographed in Idaho as part of the presentation.

Darren Clark is an avid bird watcher and photographer. He teaches photography at BYU-Idaho in Rexburg.



Bonaparte's Gulls are sometimes seen below the American Falls dam in fall.



Least Sandpiper  
(yellow legs)  
Photo by Darren Clark



Baird's Sandpiper  
(black legs)  
Photo by Darren Clark

For those who choose to receive our newsletters via email, all photos are in color. This would be especially useful in helping with identification of the difficult species that Darren will feature in his October 19 program.

## Membership

There are no new members to report this month since I am doing the newsletter early.

If you would like to receive our newsletter via email and **in full color**, let me know. Kit

**Please let Kit Struthers (kit619@centurylink.net) 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.**

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## 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.

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## Rosy-finch Information Sought

The Rosy-finch Working Group has been working hard on several protocols, and one of them is a basic incidental observation form. If you encounter any of the rosy-finch species you please use this form to submit the data directly to the working group. Please consider submitting this even if you do an ebird checklist as it contains detailed information and will put data directly into our hands as we begin curating long-term data sets.

[https://utahdwr.formstack.com/forms/incidental\\_rosy\\_finch\\_observation\\_forms](https://utahdwr.formstack.com/forms/incidental_rosy_finch_observation_forms)

Gray-crowned  
Rosy-finch



Rough-legged Hawk  
A winter visitor to our area  
Photo by Darren Clark



Swainson's Hawk  
Breeds in our area and winters in South America  
Dark trailing edge in wings in flight  
Photo by Darren Clark

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## Bird Banding at Camas NWR

Bird banding at Camas NWR will continue until the fifteenth of October. The banders welcome visitors and are eager to share their knowledge.. As fall migration progresses, different species are being arriving. Many Wilson's War-

blers and White-crowned Sparrows were banded on Saturday, September 23 during Birds, Bugles and Brunch. There was also one White-throated Sparrow banded. Many Sandhill Cranes were flying around plus a Sharpshinned Hawk, a Northern Harrier and a **Peregrine Falcon**.





Grasshopper Sparrow  
Identifying field marks—yellow at bend of wing and above eye  
Photo by Darren Clark



Brewer's Sparrow  
A rather drab sparrow with a very loud song, often found in sagebrush  
Photo by Darren Clark

### Fall birding in Eastern Idaho Steve Butterworth

With the change of summer to fall bringing colder temperatures and trees bursting with fall colors, many of the colorful spring migrants are gone. One of the best things about birding is that as the seasons change, so do the birds. Logger-

head Shrike is replaced with the Northern Shrike. Chipping Sparrows give way to the similar looking American Tree Sparrow. Swainson's Hawks abandon us and will soon be replaced with Rough-legged Hawks. I really enjoy how the birds change throughout the year giving us a continuous parade of species to observe.

This month is about sparrows passing through the area, leaving behind only a few hardy species for us during the winter such as Song Sparrows and the previously mentioned American Tree Sparrow, sprinkled with an occasional odd-ball like the large Harris's Sparrow or even a White-throated Sparrow, impersonating its relative the White-crowned Sparrow. Even in its tan striped morph, look for its dark or gray bill rather than the pink/orange of its cousin, which will continue to winter in the more sheltered and lower elevations of Eastern Idaho.

Ducks break out of the dull eclipse plumage with the males changing into the familiar colorful fancy attire we recognize them to display. With geese, they sound their calls from above us and look for open waters of farther south. Most of our duck species are even replaced with the Goldeneyes, both Common and Barrow's, however our abundant Mallards remain to ensure they won't be missed. Sandhill Cranes are gathering and can be seen in large numbers in the fields in and around Camas National Wildlife Area and Mud Lake. Their numbers will recede quickly as we enter into the silence of winter

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### Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was again reported at Camas NWR in late September. Could this be the same bird that was seen there by many delighted birders this summer???



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

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American Tree Sparrow  
 Found in our area only in winter  
 Photo by Darren Clark



Rough-legged Hawk  
 Found here in winter  
 Photo by Darren Clark

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**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	206-2081
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	Olivia Sembach (775) 685-6426
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Website Mark Delwiche 206-2081  
 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**  
**C9ZG020Z**

Mail to:  
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 New York, NY 10014