



SPRING
2019

Windows to *Wildlife*

Your support at work in Idaho's landscapes



Short-eared Owl
PHOTO BY: Patty Pickett

Spring Fling: The Best Birding in Southeast Idaho

by Hilary Turner*, Wildlife Technician
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Spring! What a wonderful, if very subjective, term! What spring means to us often depends on who (or what) we are and what we do.

For ungulates (hoofed mammals), spring starts when the snow begins to melt and they begin moving from winter to summer range, surfing the green wave. For some birds, like the Long-billed Curlew, spring starts in late February when they leave coastal California, arriving in Idaho in March to breed. Other birds, like Western Wood-Pewees, leave their wintering grounds in South America in March and may not arrive in Idaho for another two months! For insects, spring also occurs along a gradient. In Idaho, Mourning Cloak butterflies are frequently observed in March but dragonflies may not be seen

for another few months, dominating any wetland in the late summer.

For humans, spring is equally subjective. Some humans may not believe it is spring until they see their first buttercup flower of the year or are able to wear short sleeves for the first time. If you are a birder, you may be out in late February, trying as hard as you can to spot or hear that first early-arriving spring migrant.

In Idaho, as in many places at northern latitudes, spring is welcome after a long, dark, cold winter. The northeast corner of Southeast Idaho is an excellent place to spend spring as a birder. According to data from eBird.org, 382 species have been seen in Idaho during spring months

(March–May) in all years. 318 of these species (83%) have been seen in Bingham, Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, and Madison counties together, during the same time period.

The marshes and sagebrush steppe (along with agricultural zones) of the Snake River Plain make for excellent birdwatching during the early part of spring. The windbreaks at various refuges and wildlife management areas in Southeast Idaho can contain hordes of migrant songbirds in late spring, including rarities that are seen nowhere else in the state. The Snake River itself is a major migratory corridor for many species and runs right through Idaho Falls, providing opportunities to enjoy birds right here in town!

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The most exciting part of spring for many birders is migration. Migration is the phenomenon of animals making seasonal movements between distinct regions. In North America, including Idaho, many of our bird species are present ephemerally. They migrate to their breeding grounds in the US and Canada each spring and leave each fall for wintering grounds as far south as Brazil. As they pour through the Central and Western flyways in waves, birders everywhere are on the lookout. We in Southeast Idaho are fortunate to have world class birding, especially during spring migration, right in our backyards!

SNAKE RIVER PLAIN

Spring on the Snake River Plain begins in late February–early March, depending on the year. Regardless of the year, however, Sagebrush Sparrows are singing on territory by the end of the first week of March. Nothing means spring to me like a Sagebrush Sparrow song ringing out in early March, despite the sometimes lingering feet of snow. Often when I trek out to find the first Sagebrush Sparrow of the spring, I find other sure signs like Horned Larks tinkling from above and the bubbling sounds of lekking Greater Sage-Grouse.

The Snake River Plain has been heavily altered by humans and some of the habitat has been converted to agriculture. While the elimination of native sagebrush steppe habitat and alteration of riparian corridors have been difficult for some species, others thrive. Snow Geese come through Eastern Idaho by the thousands, utilizing agricultural fields as stopover sites during their long spring migration. Similarly, migratory Tundra and Trumpeter Swans also use these fields in Eastern Idaho as stopover sites. The swans are distinct from the geese by their larger size and lack of black wingtips that characterize the geese. It is possible to distinguish Trumpeter and Tundra Swans if you are able to look closely at the bill. There are subtle differences in the shape of the bill and Tundra Swans are smaller with shorter necks than the Trumpeters. The iconic swans and geese are accompanied by a myriad other waterfowl, which also migrate through Eastern Idaho, some lingering for the summer breeding season. Northern Pintail, Gadwall, and American Wigeon are examples of dabbling ducks which prefer shallower water while diving ducks such as Redhead, Lesser Scaup, and mergansers can be found in deeper water during spring migration in Eastern Idaho.

Although each year has different weather patterns, birds are reliable. The Snow Geese and swans come through Eastern Idaho every year, regardless of snow depth or water availability. Sometimes it can be difficult to pinpoint their location because of varying conditions year to year, but persistent observers are almost guaranteed to at least view a flock traveling overhead while birding during late March and into April.

Spring on the Snake River Plain is also an excellent time to experience the courtship displays of some of Idaho's most fascinating raptors. Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers can be seen displaying over nearly any marsh in Eastern Idaho during March and April. Both of these raptors have impressive aerial displays that will send shivers down your spine as you experience them! Please remember that the best way to experience any bird, but especially a raptor, is from a distance. Never disturb any raptor, even if you see a harrier go to the ground just feet from your vehicle. Raptors are prone

to nest abandonment if disturbed, even when they have eggs, and it is never a good idea to approach any raptor in any season to get a better photo.

WILDLIFE REFUGES AND MANAGEMENT AREAS

The wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas in Eastern Idaho are particularly ripe for birdwatchers throughout the spring. Camas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Market Lake and Mud Lake Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are just off I-15, north of Idaho Falls. Camas is federally owned and operated, part of the National Wildlife Refuge system of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Market and Mud Lake WMAs are state owned and operated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Local birder and photographer Darren Clark recommends the fields surrounding Mud Lake for observing Snow Geese in the early spring and the deep water of the lake for diving ducks, once the water is open. Large rafts of migrant divers such as Ruddy Ducks and Lesser Scaup, as well as grebes and mergansers, can be present on the lake throughout April, as the thaw occurs. Later in the spring, Clark also indicates that the willows surrounding the lake can harbor neotropical migrant songbirds, such as tanagers and grosbeaks.

For another local expert, Steve Butterworth, Market Lake is the best place in Southeast Idaho for photographing migrant waterfowl. As a non-photographer who birds intensively, I have to agree with him. Using my car as a blind, I have photographed Common Loons and Red-breasted Mergansers as they forage just 20 feet away. Waterfowl viewing is excellent at Market Lake from late-March until mid-May, when most waterfowl have either passed through or begun breeding, which causes them to become very secretive. In early May, Butterworth, like many Eastern Idaho birders, turns his attention to migrant songbirds.

Migrant songbirds are drawn to refuge windbreaks, which include a combination of native and non-native vegetation such as cottonwood, caragana, and Russian olive. These windbreaks provide shelter and food—very important resources for migrant songbirds, some of which are only part of the way through their migratory routes after traveling all the way to Idaho from the tip of South America. Market Lake WMA has a nice trail through one of the windbreaks on the north end of the WMA. The trail through the windbreak is an excellent place to look for rare migratory songbirds, such as the Blackpoll and Chestnut-sided Warblers that were found there last May. Unfortunately, the windbreak has become infamous due to an influx of photographers that are interested in photographing the resident owls in the area. Although many wildlife watchers and photographers act responsibly in the windbreak, a select few have caused problems for nesting owls in recent years. Please avoid harassing owls at any time of year to obtain photographs; this is especially critical in the breeding season.

Camas NWR also has its own windbreaks—rows of cottonwoods and other vegetation along canals that are attractive to migrant songbirds in the spring. These cottonwood rows are fun to walk through each spring, counting migrants and hoping for a rarity like the Hermit Warbler that Butterworth found and photographed in May of 2017.

Trumpeter Swans are identifiable by their lipstick-like red marking on the lower bill. One area in Eastern Idaho to look for Trumpeters is the "tri-state" area - where Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming meet. It is a very important place for nesting and wintering swans.



PHOTO BY: Jason Thompson on Flickr (CC-BY-2.0)

Signs of spring on the sage-brush steppe: a male Greater Sage-Grouse tries to attract a mate by ruffling feathers and making a distinctive noise produced by air sacks in his chest.



SNAKE RIVER CORRIDOR AND TOWN BIRDING

Many birds migrate along waterways as they move from winter to breeding grounds. The Snake River is a major corridor for many migrants, such as gulls and waterfowl, and conveniently for us in Southeast Idaho, it runs right through Idaho Falls. As early as mid-March, the Snake River in Eastern Idaho loses its few inches of ice and becomes a magnet for migrating waterfowl and gulls. Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes gather on the Snake in impressive numbers—right in town! Trumpeter and Tundra Swans also make use of the open water in early March and migrating California and Ring-billed Gulls move along the Snake in large numbers, congregating loudly on islands and sandbars during stopovers.

Gregarious nesting Great Blue Herons can be observed at their river-side rookeries on the edges of town in the early spring. Bald eagles make use of the Snake River year-round, but are fun to observe in the early spring as they hunt waterfowl and fish the newly open water.

Song Sparrows are common residents along the Snake River throughout the year, but in late February, they begin to sing, drawing attention to their presence. Red-winged Blackbirds are early migrants, some of which do overwinter in Idaho, and can be observed and heard along the Snake River early each spring. Aerial insectivores (animals that capture insects while flying), like Tree Swallows, are seen as early as late March and come through Eastern Idaho by the thousands later in the spring.

Birding around town can be fun during the springtime as well. Often during the first few sunny days of the year, House Finches can be heard singing. Even in January, they are inspired when touched by the warm rays. Once I hear House Finches singing, I am sure that spring is on the way, even if there are a few more inevitable snow dumps. Ubiquitous Black-billed Magpies are some of our earliest breeding birds; they are fairly obvious when they start nest construction in mid to late March as they carry bulky twigs for use in their domed nests. Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls also nest early in the spring, sometimes breeding near human development due to the increased supply of small mammals that inhabit these areas. At dusk on warm spring evenings, step outside and listen for duetting great horned owls, even if you are right in town!

Exotic invasive species are also early spring nesters and can cause problems for native birds. European Starlings and House Sparrows are known to destroy the nests and eggs of native species when competing for nest cavities; in some cases they even kill adult birds. You can help native songbirds by installing nest boxes with appropriately-sized entrance holes in town. For example, a nest box entrance hole with a $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter will preclude starlings and House Sparrows but allow chickadees to safely nest.

While trying to provide resources for birds in town, avoid nest materials that are longer than 1 inch, such as human hair, and never provide drier lint or other materials that are rich in synthetics and chemicals that are toxic to birds. Even dog and cat hair is to be avoided as pets are often treated by owners with pesticidal shampoos that reduce their pet's flea and tick problems. Generally, birds have no problem finding nest materials in nature, so if you are trying to support birds in the spring, water and nest boxes with appropriately sized holes are much more helpful. Another way of thinking of this - many of the resources that humans provide to birds for nest material just end up as micro-trash in the environment anyway!

If you are searching for ways to get involved in bird conservation this spring, look for a [World Migratory Bird Day](#) (WMBD) event near you! These events are annual and held throughout the Americas during the second or third week in May. In Southeastern Idaho, IDFG hosts a WMBD event on May 18th at Market Lake WMA. I hope to see many of you there so we can search the windbreaks for rarities together!



PHOTO BY: Patty Pickett



PHOTO BY: Patty Pickett



PHOTO BY: Mary Rumble

Top: Northern Pintails on the move over Market Lake WMA - the WMA provides the perfect staging and breeding habitat for numerous waterfowl.

Middle: At the peak of migration, Tree Swallows form enormous flocks which can contain hundreds of thousands of birds.

Bottom: Song Sparrows are one of the most recognizable sparrows in Idaho - their streaky plumage that forms a central chest spot helps to identify this bird.

Bird IDAHO

Your statewide birding adventure awaits



The Idaho Birding Trail is your guide to the best birding and wildlife viewing in Idaho!



idahobirdingtrail.com

Wildflower Watch

Wildflower Viewing Around Idaho

by Lynn Kinter, PhD*, Botanist,
Idaho Department of Fish and Game



Idaho has many wonderful areas to see wildflowers. Here are a few favorites from around the state. These sites are at their peak in spring and early summer.

Location	County	Main bloom	Showy species sampler	Access
Boise Foothills trails-Homestead, Sweet Connie, Currant	Ada	mid Apr- mid-May	lupine, balsamroot, biscuitroot, woodland star, golden currant, stoneseed, long-leaved phlox, bitterbrush	trail
Jackson Creek & Goodrich Creek Rds near Council	Adams	mid-late May	camas, mules ears, groundsel, penstemon, mariposa lily	good dirt rd
Bear Basin, northwest of McCall	Adams/ Valley	late May- early July	camas, shooting star, mules ears, balsamroot, bistort, onion	dirt rd
Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park	Benewah/ Latah	late May- early June	sticky geranium, wild hyacinth, shooting star, larkspur, sugarbowl, prairiesmoke, balsamroot, biscuitroot	good dirt rd, trail
Craters of the Moon National Monument	Blaine	May-June	penstemon, buckwheat, balsamroot, cinquefoil, dwarf monkeyflower	paved rd, trail
Red Mountain Lookout	Boise	late May-June	balsamroot, lupine, penstemon, paintbrush, geranium, scarlet gilia, cornlily	dirt rd, trail
Wapiti Creek Trail	Boise	late May	balsamroot, paintbrush, yellowbells	trail
Warm Springs Trail to Eightmile Mountain	Boise	late May	balsamroot, monkshood	trail
Pass Creek Road (Forest Service Road 122)	Butte/	late Jun	mules ears, paintbrush, lupine, phlox, phacelia, larkspur	dirt rd
Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh WMA	Camas	late May- early June	camas, mules ears, groundsel	dirt rd
City of Rocks & Castle Rocks State Park	Cassia	May	balsamroot, sagebrush bluebell, stonecrop, lupine, goldenpea, steershead, sticky geranium, yellowbells	good dirt rd, trail
Weippe Prairie	Clearwater	mid-May- mid-June	camas, bistort, buttercup	paved, good dirt rd
Rapid River trail	Idaho	Apr- mid-May	serviceberry, biscuitroot, larkspur, Dutchman's breeches, mariposa lily, arnica, trillium, Pacific yew	trail
Tubbs Hill, in Coeur d'Alene	Kootenai	May-June	oceanspray, thimbleberry, Oregon grape, serviceberry, snowberry, glacier lily, blue-eyed grass, clarkia	paved rd, trail
Agency Creek/Pattee Creek/Warm Springs Roads	Lemhi	mid-May- early July	penstemon, milkvetch, groundsel, currant, buckwheat, blazingstar	dirt rd
Badger Basin near Carmen Creek Road	Lemhi	May-June	prairiesmoke, mock goldenweed, milkvetch, penstemon, lava aster, buckwheat, death camas, paintbrush	dirt rd, trail
Barracks Lane Trails from Cheney Public Access	Lemhi	May-June	buttercup, milkvetch, cats-eye, cleomella, phacelia, buckwheat, penstemon	trail
Bench between Mollie Gulch & Little Eightmile Creek	Lemhi	early June- early July	paintbrush, locoweed, milkvetch, penstemon	dirt rd
Discovery Hill/Slump Gulch/Owl Canyon	Lemhi	May-June	bitterroot, sagebrush false dandelion, hawksbeard, paintbrush, lava aster, phlox, onion	dirt rd, trail
Divide (or gap) between Cow Creek & Yearian Creek	Lemhi	early June- mid-July	fleabane, milkvetch, paintbrush, locoweed, larkspur, stonecrop, prairiesmoke, yarrow, penstemon	dirt rd
Henry Creek Trail, particularly at basin	Lemhi	May-June	paintbrush, death camas, phlox, milkvetch, larkspur, lupine, bitterroot, buckwheat, cushion cactus	trail
Hot Springs Ridge, southeast of Salmon	Lemhi	May-June	paintbrush, milkvetch, phlox, blazingstar, fleabane, larkspur, onion	dirt rd, trail
Little Sawmill Creek/lower Hayden Creek	Lemhi	late May- early July	cinquefoil, milkvetch, phlox, mock goldenweed, buckwheat, penstemon, bitterroot, fleabane	dirt rd
North Fork	Lemhi	May	balsamroot, scarlet gilia, phacelia, penstemon	paved-Hwy 93
Salmon River Trail downriver from Corn Creek	Lemhi	mid Apr-May	syringa, thimbleberry, balsamroot, phacelia, penstemon	trail
Wagonhammer and Big Silverlead Creeks	Lemhi	mid-May- early June	cushion cactus, lupine, balsamroot, penstemon	dirt rd, trail
Williams Cr Picnic Area/Perreau Creek/Horse Mtn	Lemhi	May-June	aster, milkvetch, penstemon, paintbrush, lupine, cushion cactus	dirt rd, trail
Craig Mountain	Nez Perce	May- early June	ballhead waterleaf, blue-eyed grass, penstemon, phlox, mariposa, sagebrush false dandelion, buckwheat	dirt rd, trail
Bruneau Dunes State Park	Owyhee	Apr-May	bitterbrush, buckwheat, nakedstem sunray, sand lily, white blazingstar	paved rd, dunes
Duck Valley	Owyhee	late May- early June	camas, mules ears, groundsel	paved-Hwy 51
Owyhee Uplands Byway/Mud Flat Road	Owyhee	late May- early June	mules ears, camas, phlox, monkeyflower, iris, penstemon	good dirt rd
Meadows around Clarkia	Shoshone	late May	camas, red kittentails, trillium, buttercup	paved-Hwy 3
Cecil Andrus WMA & Brownlee Summit	Washington	May	biscuitroot, balsamroot, bitterbrush, serviceberry, hawthorn, lupine, buckwheat, penstemon, syringa	paved-Hwy 71

IDAHO NONGAME WILDLIFE FUND

Help conserve Idaho's wildlife and their habitats.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game receives no state tax dollars and nongame wildlife and nongame wildlife projects receive no revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

By making your tax-deductible contribution, you are helping to protect over 90% of Idaho's wildlife diversity as well as supporting important conservation education and watchable wildlife programs.

Do something wild and donate today!



Burrowing owl © Mike Morrison

Donate Today!

Idaho Tax Form 40, Line 34

Check It and Protect It!

Spotlight Species of Greatest Conservation Need

The American Bittern

Reprinted and adapted from the *Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan*

The American Bittern is a secretive marsh bird found seasonally in Idaho, breeding in several locations, including managed wetlands associated with State Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges. They are heard more often than seen with their distinctively odd “pump-er-lunk” call.

American Bitterns nest in freshwater wetlands with tall, emergent vegetation, primarily bulrush and cattail, and rarely dense upland vegetation surrounding wetland habitat. Most nests have been found placed 3.5 to 8 inches above the water’s surface, in dense emergent vegetation, using surrounding vegetation to construct a platform. The construction of the nest, incubation of the eggs, and rearing of the young is done by the female.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data indicate long-term (1966–2013) population declines in the United States and Western BBS Region of 1.5% and 3.4% per year, respectively. BBS data also indicate both long-term (1966–2013) and short-term (2003–2013) declines in Idaho of greater than 15% per year; however, these trends are based upon extremely small sample sizes and should be interpreted cautiously. Surveys conducted throughout Idaho in 2005–2007 indicated that Bear Lake NWR supported the densest population of American Bitterns in the state (IDFG unpublished data).

There is concern at Bear Lake NWR that the once dense population of bitterns, as documented by these surveys, has declined dramatically in recent years. Loss of suitable wetland habitat is of primary concern for American Bitterns, and managing these wetlands for the structural characteristics needed by American Bittern can be a challenge. For example, some sites may need burning to open decadent stands of bulrush and cattail, which can be logistically and financially difficult to accomplish. Impacts of climate change, particularly from drought, are also of concern for this species. Declines in the US may indicate a northern population shift, in part because of habitat destruction and drought at the southern extent of this species’ range.

Strike a Pose

American Bitterns are masters of camouflage with their streaky plumage, blending into their background. As stealthy predators, they stand motionless as they wait for prey to approach. The bittern’s eyes allows it to point its head to the sky and still see what is happening in front, below, and to the sides.



SPRING WILDLIFE CELEBRATION

at the
MK Nature Center

600 S. Walnut, Boise

Saturday, April 28
10am - 4pm

\$3 per person (ages 3 and over)



Family Friendly Event ***

- ☀ Live Bird Presentations
- ☀ Wildlife Themed Education Tables
- ☀ Activities and Games
- ☀ Hunting Dog Demonstrations



Questions? Contact Sue Dudley
sue.dudley@idfg.idaho.gov
208-287-2900



Spring Wildlife Events

Boise WaterShed

11818 West Joplin Rd., Boise; (208) 489-1284

bee.cityofboise.org/watershed/events/calendar-of-events

WATERSHED WEEKEND SERIES: 3rd Saturdays, 10AM to 1PM

Join us for hands-on activities, interactive exhibits, public art, and presentations the whole family can enjoy! A Water Renewal Facility tour starts at 11:30AM. FREE admission! No pre-registration required for families/individuals but groups of ten or more must call in advance.

April 20 - Easter Eve Party

Spend Easter Eve at the Boise WaterShed with spring activities sure to delight all ages. Meet and pet live animals that 4-H youth have raised, plant a vegetable for your garden, and create spring crafts. At 11:00 join us for an Easter egg hunt.

May 18 - O-fish-al Fish Day

Fish are one of the most important resources in Idaho – from our state symbol, the Cutthroat Trout, to the iconic Steelhead and Salmon. Join us at 10:30 to hike down to the Boise River to release our Rainbow Trout, meet some live water bugs and more!

June 15 - Global Water Dance

On June 15, communities around the world will “dance for safe water everywhere.” Choreographers, dance groups, organizations, water activists and members of the community will come together and will be encouraged to take action to solve their immediate water problems.

Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center

3188 Sunset Peak Rd., Boise; (208) 493-2530

bee.cityofboise.org/foothills/events/calendar-of-events

BOISE BIRDING SERIES: 1st Wednesdays, 8AM to 9AM

Our free birding program is great for experienced and novice birders alike. Terry Rich, our local ornithologist, provides information and tips on birds in the Boise area and beyond! Come to one or all sessions! Bird books and binoculars are available to borrow. No registration necessary.

May 1 - Bird Identification

We will focus on identifying the most common birds coming through Hulls' Gulch using both visual and aural clues. This is the best time of year for birding! There will be a short talk, but most of the time will be spent birding on the trails.

June 5 - Bird Identification II

A second round of identifying the more of the common birds coming through Hulls Gulch. There will be a short talk but most of the time will be spent outside birding.

SCIENCE @ SUNSET SERIES: 2nd Wednesdays, 6:30PM to 8PM

Join us for our free monthly adult education series: Science @ Sunset. No registration necessary.

April 10 - Morel Hunting

Curious about morel hunting? These mushrooms are relatively easy to identify, widespread, and give us a great reason to get out of the house and onto public lands. Join us for an informal discussion on mushroom-picking ecology, etiquette, and edibility with Jonathan Oppenheimer, from the Idaho Conservation League. Learn everything from foraging and cleaning, to how to cook these delicious mushrooms.

May 8 - Wildland/Urban Interface

As more people build in Idaho's forests and rangelands, they become part of the ever-increasing landscape where urban meets wild—the wildland/urban interface (WUI). People living in the WUI have higher wildfire risk, as well as greater responsibility for the safety of their families, property, pets, and livestock. Learn how to make your home and landscape less vulnerable to ignition from a wildfire. Develop an evacuation plan to ensure the safety of you, your family and your pets and livestock. Discover how you can prevent wildfires and learn more about fire ecology, fire-based ecosystems and how wildfires are managed.

June 12 - Wildflowers

The sagebrush-steppe slopes, meadows, and valleys of south-central Idaho offer a great array of wildflowers. On this educational hike, we will be observing and identifying many local species of plants. Join Idaho Botanical Garden's Collections Curator, Daniel Murphy and Native Plant Specialist, Anna Lindquist on a beautiful walk to explore our ecosystem.

FOOTHILLS FAMILY DAYS: 2nd Saturdays, 10AM to 1PM

Each month we open our doors for this free, family friendly program with activities, crafts, and interpretive stations. Come and go as you please. You are even welcome to bring a picnic and enjoy our backyard when the weather is nice! No registration required.

May 11 - Invasive Species

Invasive species come in many shapes and forms and are taking the place of many native plants and animals. Come learn more with live animals, crafts and more.

June 15 - Idaho Outdoor Quest

Join in the city wide Idaho Outdoor Quest! Watch our Facebook for registration information.

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge

287 West Side Rd., Bonners Ferry; (208) 267-3888

www.fws.gov/refuge/kootenai

April 20 and May 18 - Bird Walk on the Refuge

Some of the birds are beginning to arrive here for spring and summer. Our Bird Walk group will meet at the Refuge Education Barn at 9am. Bring your binoculars and/or a scope and a field guide if you have them. Wear hiking shoes and come dressed for the weather. We go out rain or shine. Water and sun protection (hat, sun glasses, sunscreen) may be a good idea. Expect to be out about 2 hours. Everyone, regardless of their level of birding expertise, is welcome. Young people under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. See updates on the [Friends of KNWR Facebook page](#).

MK Nature Center

600 S. Walnut Street, Boise; (208) 334-2225

idfg.idaho.gov/site/mk-nature-center

WILDLIFE WEEKEND PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES: 1PM to 4PM

These program are designed for families with kids ages 3-13 years and will be an open-house-style format. Free (donations encouraged).

May 19 - Worms

Worms are so weird...cool...gross! Learn about the secret lives of worms... how they live and why we need them!

June 16 - Scat and Tracks

Signs of animals are all around us. Come to this open-house style program to learn about all the clues animals leave behind, including scat (droppings and tracks).

EVENING LECTURE SERIES: 6:30PM to 8PM

These lectures are free, open to the public, and are designed for adults but families with children can attend. Donations encouraged.

April 25 - Raptor Identification

Ornithologist Bryce Robinson will help us identify all those raptors that look alike. Ah, but by the end of this class, you will be able to tell the difference. Come find out that there is more in the sky than Red-tailed hawks!

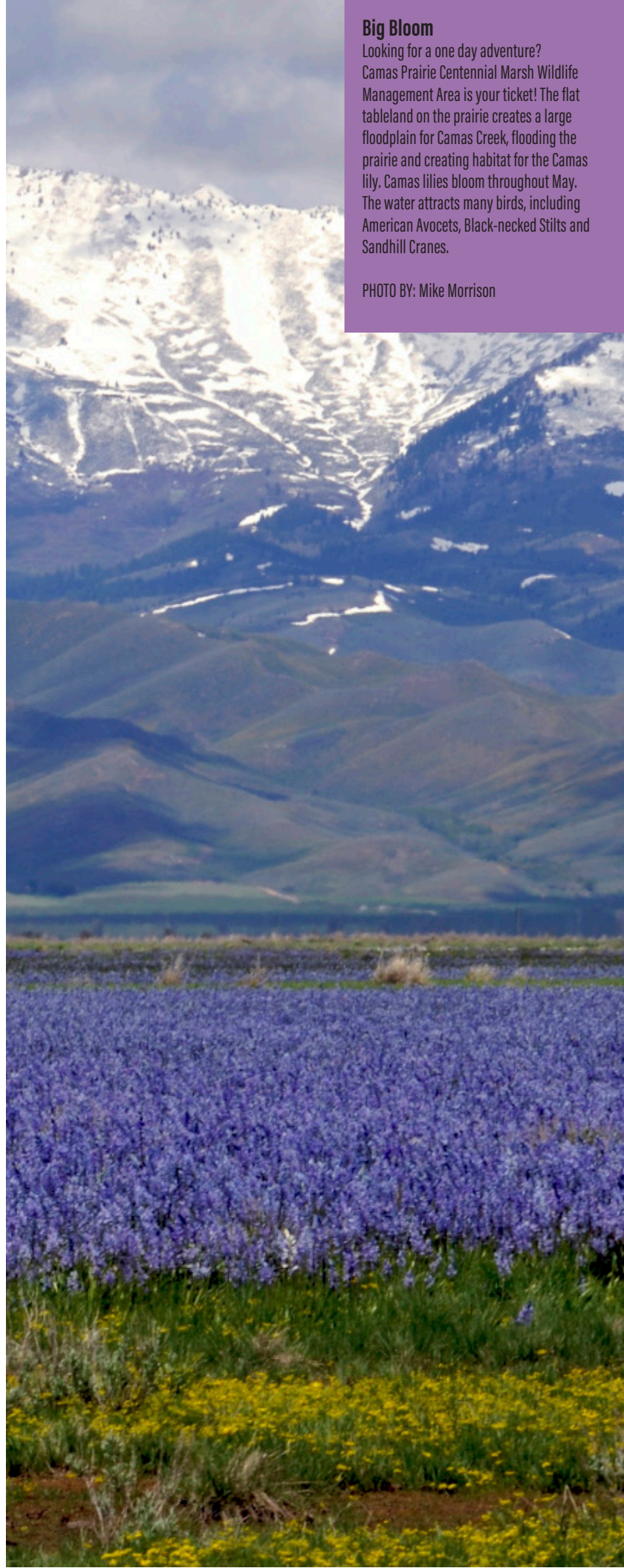
May 20 - The White Sturgeon

Idaho Fish and Game's Natural Resource Program Manager, Martin Koenig will tell us about the natural history of the white sturgeon. This captivating fish has been on the earth a long time. Find out how it lives, where it lives and the current conservation challenges for this charismatic species.

Big Bloom

Looking for a one day adventure? Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area is your ticket! The flat floodplain for Camas Creek, flooding the prairie and creating habitat for the Camas lily. Camas lilies bloom throughout May. The water attracts many birds, including American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts and Sandhill Cranes.

PHOTO BY: Mike Morrison



2019 Idaho NATIVE PLANT SALE!

Sponsored by the Pahove Chapter of the
Idaho Native Plant Society
and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game
MK Nature Center

Saturday, April 27, 10AM - 1PM

at the MK Nature Center
600 S. Walnut, Boise
behind the Fish and Game Building

Conservation in action!

Native plants help build beautiful outdoor spaces and resilient ecosystems.

*Choose from a wide variety of trees, shrubs, perennial flowers and grasses

*Plants adapted to the Treasure Valley's soil and climate

*Experts on hand to answer questions

*Pollinator and Bird Friendly

*Organized by sun, shade and watering requirements

~~~ INPS Members Only Sale: Friday, April 26, 5-7PM ~~~

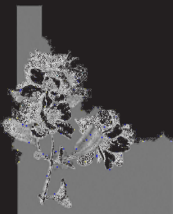
If you are not a member, you may join at the Friday sale.

Watch the INPS website: www.idahonativeplants.org for availability list to be posted in mid-April

Questions? Call Susan: 208-867-6188

Sorry, no debit or credit cards,
cash and checks only.

nursery license OT0016



Thank You for Your Support!

Blue Jewels

These "robin blue" eggs belong to the American robin. A robin can have up to three successful nests in one year - that's a lot of mouths to feed!

PHOTO: public domain

Thank you to those who made direct donations, purchased or renewed a wildlife license plate, or let us know of a tax check-off donation between January 1- March 31, 2019.

Your contribution provides important funding for wildlife and habitat conservation in Idaho.



Windows to Wildlife

Wildlife Diversity Program
PO Box 25
Boise, ID 83707-0025

Forwarding Service Requested

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