

# Audubon News

Newsletter of Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western South Dakota Inc.  
August, 2021



## Monday, August 16th, 6 pm MT Prairie Hills Audubon Society's August Meeting

### Topic: Mountain Lions in our Region

and other issues related to SD Game Fish and Parks.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433920233?pwd=QmxYU0MvMGRrNW9yRmVON3VPU0dRZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 3392 0233

Passcode: 534620

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,85433920233#,,,\*534620# US (Tacoma)  
+13462487799,,85433920233#,,,\*534620# US (Houston)

Dial by your location - as far as we know all work in SD.

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 854 3392 0233

Passcode: 534620

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433920233?pwd=QmxYU0MvMGRrNW9yRmVON3VPU0dRZz09>

This Zoom information is on the PHAS web site & Facebook page. The same Zoom code is used at every meeting.

We will show the SDGFP powerpoint, shown to the SDGFP Commission in July, that provides updates on the GFP's estimates of the Mountain Lion population on the SD side of the Black Hills. We will also discuss cougar management in SD's Prairie Unit & on some tribal lands in SD. We will discuss cougar management in Nebraska as the Pine Ridge Ecosystem exists in both States on both tribal/non-tribal land. We will also discuss cougar management in Wyoming, as the Black Hills is in both states.

Penny Maldonado of Cougar Fund will join us & staff of Mountain Lion Foundation has also been invited.

SD Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) sets the mountain lion season every 2 years & the Commission will vote on a season proposal at their meeting in Rapid City on Sept 1st or 2nd. GFP proposed no changes to the cougar season in the Black Hills, but proposed increasing the areas of public land where hound hunting is allowed on in the Prairie Unit.

Time permitting we may briefly update folks on beaver & otter management issues, the proposed shooting range at Elk Creek/Elk Vale Rd. & other issues associated with SDGFP. SDGFP may in the future enact a moratorium on or reduction of beaver trapping allowed in the Black Hills.

We will post alerts & information on the September Commission meeting on our web site & send out more information to folks who get "PHAS News" e-mail newsletters. SDGFP provides hunter access to private & landlocked public lands but not access for wildlife watchers. Would folks be interested in a state program to purchase some access to private or landlocked public lands for wildlife watchers or purchase habitat for non-game species at risk (species of greatest conservation need)?

No PHAS monthly membership meeting is currently

planned for September. If any plan is developed it will be posted to web site or Facebook pages

### Thursday, August 12th, 2012 Evening

PHAS will have a **campaign working meeting** to discuss our campaigns associated with SDGFP on evening of Thursday August 12th. This will be a virtual working/discussion meeting & issues to be discussed may include GFP's nest predator bounty & trapping programs & their management of beavers, otters, cougars, grouse and/or turkeys and/or GFP agency bias, transparency, service to wildlife watchers. PHAS has working meetings periodically & they are not normally announced in the newsletter. Members wanting to attend campaign working meeting should contact Nancy - 787-6466, [phas.wsd@rapidnet.com](mailto:phas.wsd@rapidnet.com)

### Field trips notes:

Our new field trip chair - **Jedediah led 5 field trips during the month of July.** Thanks to Jedediah.

Two were in Rapid City - to Outdoor Campus West and along Rapid Creek near Founders Park. Two were in the Black Hills - to the Whitney Preserve and to Rapid Creek, west of Siver City. One was to Sevey Lake, a large marsh area in the prairie NE of Rapid City, bisected by Elk Creek Rd. Below is a photo from the field trip to Silver City.



The rate of field trips will however be reduced in August & September and not all field trips planned will be announced in this postal newsletter. You need to watch our Facebook page or web site for updates or be on our "PHAS news" e-mail mailing list. We also have established a list serve -- [phas-birds@googlegroups.com](mailto:phas-birds@googlegroups.com) for folks who want information about our field trips or want to talk about birds or bird related issues. Contact Jedediah to be added to that list serve. Below is a picture of the birders at Sevey Lake.



Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS) is run by volunteers, we need new volunteers to help run organization, but we are especially looking for and recruiting new Board Members. For information contact any board members whose contact info. is listed on the label fold. Visit our web site or Facebook page to stay updated on our & other organization's functions. Please send us your e-mail address so we can send you PHAS announcements. Much more information about conservation campaigns, events, field trips and deadlines are sent out by e-mail.

**Educational Field Trip on Forestry Basics  
Planned sometime in the next 2 and a half months,  
RSVPs requested**

Prairie Hills Audubon (PHAS) and Norbeck Society are working to set up an educational field trip on some of the basic forestry elements that guide management of the Black Hills National Forest. This field trip would attempt to teach about how stands of timber are categorized by the forest service, show folks the different types of logging prescriptions that can be ordered for a timber sale and show folks some of the issues associated with the aggressive cutting of trees on the Black Hills National Forest.

This field trip will be led by Dave Mertz, a retired forester from the Supervisor's Office of the Black Hills National Forest. We don't yet know when we will schedule it - but it will be on a weekend in late August, Sept or October.

We seek to find a critical mass of people who are interested before we select a date —We want to hear from at least 15 interested persons before we schedule it. We may send out a doodle poll with some date options to those who have sent an RSVP. The selected date will be announced on PHAS's Facebook page & e-mailed to those who replied. Contact Nany Hilding at phas.wsd@rapidnet.com, or Jedediah 207-310-4665.

Some carpooling will happen during the trip, so we will also be restricting the trip to those who have been vaccinated against Covid19 or have recovered from a confirmed Covid19 infection within 6 months. Folks will be required to wear masks during car pooling unless all folks in the car wish differently. Car pools will comply with what ever law exists on the day of the trip for indoor space gatherings. The Norbeck Society has a liability release form for folks to sign on their field trips.

**Prairie Hills Audubon Society** is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society; our territory is much of West River SD. Nancy Hilding - President, nhilding@rapidnet.com, 605-787-6466 or 6779, Helen McGinnis - Treasurer, hissyhelen38@gmail.com, Doris Respects Nothing - Secretary, drn.6501@gmail.com, Jim Petersen - Vice-president, nfearndesire@gmail.com, (605) 939-4995, Jedediah Beadle <jedediahbeadle@gmail.com> (207) 310-4665, PHAS web site: <http://phas-wsd.org/> - We have a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/phas.wsd/> . Our e-mail address is phas.wsd@rapidnet.com.

Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk, SD 57718

**PHAS Zoom Meeting  
August 16th, 6 pm, Topic -  
Mountain Lions in Our Region**

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RAPID CITY SD

**Saturday, August 28th, 2021**

**Prairie Hills Audubon Society's Field Trip  
Birding along Rapid Creek just west of Silver City,**

Folks can meet at 8:30 am - at the Deerfield Trail's trail-head just west of Silver City. Folk wishing to car pool from Rapid City gather at the north side of Founder's Park parking lot to depart for Silver City at 7:45 am. Links for maps and information on the Deerfield trail:



[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/step\\_rdb5277114.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/step_rdb5277114.pdf) - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/black-hills/recarea/?recid=62812> - For info: Jedediah Beadle at jedediahbeadle@gmail.com, 207-310-4665 or Nancy Hilding at 787-6466.

**Prairie Hills Audubon Society's Field Trips - Fall River  
Join Rajni Lerman on Saturday, Sept 18th, 2021**

to learn about the Proposed Fall River Interpretive Trail along Fall River in Hot Springs, SD. Anyone interested in carpooling from Rapid City, contact Jedediah. Everyone else will meet at the Mueller Center Parking lot at 8:45 am. The entire trail is approximately 2 miles of mostly easy walking along the paved Freedom Trail. There is a section, "Spur" trail that has some more challenging footing. There are plenty of exit points along the way. We will end at Chautuqua park. For more info. contact Rajni @ rajni1love@gmail.com, (303) 564-0787, Jedediah @ jedediahbeadle@gmail.com, If bad weather is expected, please check to verify any trips.