

# Rocky Mountain Naturalists

## Newsletter

Rocky Mountain Naturalists

Volume 5, Issue 4



Moyie Falls (T.Wideski)



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### Club News

- Remember to check your email for dates and locations of next meetings.



### Editors Corner



Send your items to [scoutfir@shaw.ca](mailto:scoutfir@shaw.ca). Spring issue articles by March 21 please. Have added a Upper Kootenay rare bird table that will appear in the newsletter periodically. This is meant to capture the rarer birds that appear from time to time and also summarise what has been seen on the "EKBIRDS" website.





## WINTER OUTINGS LISTS

### Dec 6th

Xmas Party

Peter & Maureen's Ph: 426-2458

6:00 p.m. Turkey Dinner

Bring a Vegetable Dish or Salad or Dessert

Gift exchange

### Dec. 6th

Idelwild Park

Young Naturalist Birding

Meet: Scout Hall

1:00 p.m.

Greg -- 489-2566

### Dec. 14th

Fernie Xmas Bird Count

Greg -- 489-2566

### Dec. 27th

Cranbrook Xmas Bird Count

Meet: Elisabeth Lake 8:45

Pot Luck -- Alan & Kathy's

6:00 Bring a Hot Dish or Salad or Dessert

Ph: 489--4749

328 Mission Cres.

### Jan 3rd

Kimberley Xmas Bird Count

Meet: Platzl 8:45

Pot Luck -- Dianne's

Ph: 427-1921

### Jan 14th

Meeting: Super Store

7:00

### Jan17th

Snowshoe Ramble

Marianne & Daryl

Meet: at their Place 1:30

Ph:489-1601

### Feb. 15th

X - Country Skiing

Pighan Rd. near the end.

10:00 Laura & Jim

Ph: 427-2600

### Feb. 28th

Snowshoe Ramble

Meet: McClure Rd.

10:00 -- Peter & Tony

### March 8th

Ft. Steele to Wardner

Birding Ramble

Meet: Staples parking lot, 0900 hrs

Tony:489-1813

## Feature Species: Northern Mockingbird

A bit of a rarity in our neck of the woods but regular enough to keep us all searching. During the summer RMNATS meeting at Reid Lake, we were fortunate to encounter one along the lake. Although a bit elusive, several of us got close enough to make a positive ID. It reminded me of a scene out of "Finding Nemo". Instead of a gaggle of gulls chasing Nemo, shouting "mine, mine", it was a company of RM Nats calling "there, here, where...", all good fun as usual.

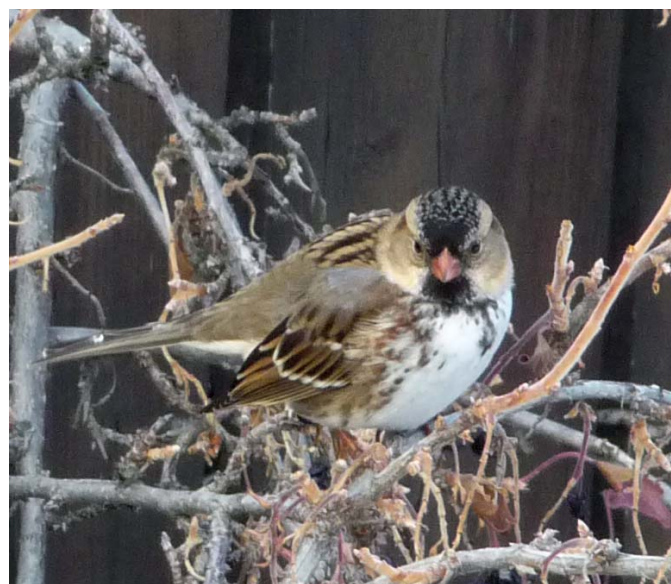
NOMO is a bit of an enigma in the birding world. Unmated male mockingbirds sing more than mated ones, and only unmated males sing at night. Both sexes sing in the fall to claim winter feeding territories. These areas are often different than their spring breeding territories. Mockingbirds mimic 50 other bird's songs. They have also been known to imitate other sounds they hear such as rusty hinges, whistling, cackling hens, and dogs barking so expertly that even an electronic analysis could not tell the difference between the mockingbird and the original. Scientists have found that female mockingbirds are attracted to males that can make the most different sounds

Keep your eyes peeled!!



### Rare bird shows up in Kimberley!!

Ruth Goodwin had a rare Harris's sparrow show up at her feeder recently. Great shot Ruth!





### Tips for Outing Etiquette

The leader of an outing is responsible for:

- Finding a replacement contact/leader if you cannot be available for your planned outing. A replacement *leader* may choose to do the same outing, or they may suggest another,
- Ensuring you have the safety kit including hand held radios
- Make it a policy with the entire group to keep the person behind you in sight. If your follower on the trail is lagging, slow your pace to keep them in sight. If everyone in the group continually checks to make sure they can see the person behind them, it is impossible for anyone to get into serious trouble. If you split into groups, do not allow any one person to take off by him/herself.
- Making sure that no one is left behind with car trouble at the parking area, especially in winter,
- Arranging to have the outing trip report forwarded to the Editor. It is not necessary to write it - you may delegate this, of course, but please advise the Editor from whom to expect it. In a perfect world, we would have a different participant write each report, so we could have many different viewpoints.
- If you bring a dog, ensure it is kept under control

### Small contest to rename newsletter

Thinking about renaming the newsletter to something other than the Rocky Mountain Naturalists Newsletter. Other groups have names like the "Osprey" or the "Wandering Tattler. Use your imagination. All nominations due by **January 30, 2009** and then we'll put it to a vote

### Season's Greetings

#### Membership Information

Mail to:  
Rocky Mountain Naturalists  
P.O. Box 701  
Cranbrook, B.C.  
V1C 4J5

\$25 per Family

\$20 per Individual

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_