



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

July/August 2018

Spring, and the living is easy — for the carnivores anyway

By Crista Worthy

Summer is well and truly here, and for most of our local feathered friends, the living has been good. At least in the Treasure Valley area, where an exceptionally mild winter has been followed by an exceptionally warm and wet spring. From January through April, I could not go outside any time between dusk and dawn without hearing at least two great horned owls hooting at each other. By March, the male quail began issuing their territorial calls, and our big covey of some 100 birds began to break up. Calling escalated into outright battles so that by late April, we just had pairs strolling in and out of the yard all day. Usually the male simply follows his mate around as she eats, keeping a sharp eye out for any interlopers. The first family of eight chicks showed up on May 23; that's the first time we've seen any before June.

The following day, a neighborhood cat was chasing them through our yard. This cat has been a real problem, constantly hunting and killing birds on the hill behind our house. I'm surprised the owner was letting her out again, as she disappeared for a month last year and the owner was crying to everyone about the dear lost cat. I love kitties

but kept mine strictly indoors. No fatalities—avian or feline—that way, until he departed at the ripe age of 18. So, I picked this otherwise friendly cat up and fitted her with a handwritten note, asking that she be kept indoors to spare the local wildlife. I haven't seen her again, so maybe that worked. When cats roam outdoors, whether they be pets or feral cats, they become invasive predators. Awareness of this fact is beginning to dawn on people, but if you love birds, never pass up a chance to educate someone about the responsibilities of cat ownership. For the cat's health and safety, and for birds and other wildlife, it is better to keep all cats inside. It's also illegal almost everywhere in the U.S. for a domestic animal, whether it's a horse, dog, cat, rabbit, or pet mouse, to roam on another person's property. People used to let their dogs roam freely and not clean up after them, but nowadays

most folks know that's not cool. We don't allow smoking on airplanes any more, either. It's time for cat owners to buy a litter box, take responsibility for their family kitty, and keep it indoors.

I suppose from the quail's point of view, whether you get eaten by a cat or a Cooper's hawk is irrelevant, but I do not mind giving up some of "my" quail to the hawks. And they've been out in force, making daily surprise raids from above. The other day I heard a kestrel and watched from my second-floor office as one male performed a beautiful aerial display for his mate, climbing and diving over and over, accompanied by much calling. One of my neighbors here in the foothills has a pair of Swainson's

hawks nesting near his yard. Another neighbor was grilling steaks and had a piece of meat he just didn't like the look of. He tossed it out into the sage and was shocked when, moments later, two red-tailed hawks dove for the meat. One grabbed it and flew off, with the other in hot pursuit.

In early May I visited family in Los Angeles. My mother lives in a beautiful condo in Brentwood, not far from UCLA, but it's an extremely densely populated area. When we lived nearby I never knew what phase the moon was in, or whether any planets were visible, because



Swainson's hawk

Photo by Trent Mitchell

the sky is blocked by buildings. Now, here in the foothills, I walk outside every night, gaze up at the stars, and really appreciate it. Still, when I arrived at my mother's door, as walls of concrete towered all around me, I heard a familiar sound. At that moment, it brought such joy, and I realized how I've missed that familiar song of spring—a mockingbird. I never saw him, but that one bird filled the courtyard with his songs, literally 24 hours a day. A robin will do that here in spring, but it's monotonous. A mockingbird has a seemingly endless repertoire of calls, usually repeated four times, and moving on to the next. If you live in L.A., every spring, a mockingbird will be there and sing for you all summer, day and night—a reminder that Nature lives on and keeps time with the seasons, even in the most urban of spaces. You only have to listen.

President's Message

By Liz Urban

I have been completely consumed with coordinating our fifth annual New Roots Program the past two weeks, and the months before that. We engaged 28 underserved kids from around the world in environmental education and are happy to say we had another successful program. I hope to include a more detailed report in a coming newsletter, but for now I am happy that our chapter has had five years of offering a unique and important program in our community. Check out the NRP facebook page for some photos of this year's program.

Our annual officer and board member election occurred at the May monthly meeting, and we are excited to welcome Dondi Black to the board of directors. Dondi already serves as our Climate Watch Program coordinator and is engaged with the Conservation and Education committees. We are thrilled to have her on board in addition to the re-elected board members Alexander Sapiens, Chris McClure and Matt Podolsky. Alex Takasugi has been elected as treasurer and the rest of the executive officers remain the same. We wish to extend our many thanks to outgoing board member Amy Silver for all her work and dedication to GEAS, education, and birds in general.

Liz Urban, president



Swainson's hawk

Photo by Trent Mitchell

GEAS CALENDAR

July-August 2018

Hummingbird workshop	July 11
Workshop continued	July 14
Field Trip: West Central Mountains	July 21
Monthly Meeting	July 24
Field Trip: Owyhee Mountains	August 4
Monthly Meeting	August 28

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News From the Board: May and June

- The board heard a presentation by representatives from the Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Michele Crist joined the CCL in a meeting with U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson to encourage his participation in the climate panel.
- GEAS coordinated World Migratory Bird Day at Zoo Boise in May. Several area partners also participated and together engaged hundreds of visitors in bird activities and education.
- GEAS participated in the Meridian Library Summer Reading Kick-Off and Snake River Raptor Fest in June.
- GEAS partnered with Boise City Parks and Recreation to offer a Spring Bird Tour to the public in May. Additionally, volunteers helped lead three classroom bird walks in May.
- The board heard a presentation from the Intermountain Bird Observatory about partnering to fund an education intern during the fall songbird migration season. Expanding on this concept, the board would be interested in seeing this intern add conservation in addition to bird and migration education. A draft memorandum of understanding is in the works for consideration.
- Interested leaders convened to discuss our field trips programs, needs, and possible changes.
- Thank you for your support during Idaho Gives. We raised nearly \$2,000 before a board match, securing just about \$4000 in funding for GEAS.
- GEAS was proud to be a sponsor of the special Joel Sartore presentation hosted by Zoo Boise. We hope members were able to attend and enjoyed the great event.
- More than 50 people participated in April's bird walk, illustrating the need to create an RSVP system for programs and field trips.

Volunteer News

Volunteer Acknowledgements

Thank you Al Larson and Alex Takasugi for leading and coordinating field trips, and Kathy Barker-McCoy for leading the Wednesday Morning Club. Thank you to Liz Urban for leading and coordinating World Migratory Bird Day at the Zoo, as well as our Pop-Up Bird Walk series for Idaho Gives Day, and the New Roots Program. Thank you to Kristin Gnojewski for coordinating outreach and educational programs, staffing events, and supporting New Roots. Thank you to those who staffed outreach events, including Dondi Black, Patti Guicheteau, Christina Moschella, Gretel Care, and Steve Dougill. Thank you to Alexander Sapiens for coordinating GEAS monthly programs, and to all of our wonderful guest speakers.

Thank you to the summer Climate Watchers: Alex Takasugi, Sean Finn, Judi and Frank Zuckert, Eric Thomson, Dawn

Justice, Patti Guicheteau, Roxann Jensen, Alan Crockett, RL Rowland, Alexander Sapiens, Mary Mellema, and Jeff Black.

Thank you to Sean Finn for coordinating GEAS's Treasure Valley Native Plant Network and its volunteer efforts. We would like to thank the following for contributions to growing plants for bird habitat restoration for the Network: Dane Adams, Libby Adams, Dana Ahlstrom, Rena Ashton, Sue Birnbaum, Leslie Blackburn, Martha Brabec, Ben Brock, Kasey Burkholder, Libby Burtner, Gretel Care, Scott Cohen, Michele Crist, Alan Crockett, Kathy Crowley, Ann DeBolt, Nancy DeWitt, Marilyn Eagleton, Paul Edwards, Maryon Evans, Sean Finn, Sara Focht, Kasia Forester, Kristin Gnojewski, Colleen Greenwalt, Lou Ann Gwartney, Annette Hanson, Hilary Heist, Holly Hovis, Greg Kaltenecker, Gail Kirkpatrick, Connie Kratz, Gina Lockwood, Molly Loyaza, Kristin Lohr, Melinda Lowe,

Tricia Matthews, Tom McGinnis, Maria Minicucci, Lizzy Miskell, Sue Norton, Liz Paul, Dusty Perkins, Kathy Peter, Klaudia Schaller, Blake Schnebly, Kelly Selvege, Lorna Snowden, Alex Takasugi, Jeremy Thompson, Liz Urban, Heidi Ware Carlisle, Eric Willadsen, Maggie Wilson, Angela Wirshing, Tess Wolfenson, and Susan Ziebarth. We could not have been so successful without outstanding efforts from hundreds of students at Borah, Bishop Kelly and Eagle Academy high schools, Lowell Scott Middle School, Sage International School, Summerwind STEM Academy, Riverstone International School, Anser Charter School, and Adams Elementary, as well as Girl Scout Troop 105, the Master Naturalists program and staff and visitors at Zoo Boise.

Thank you also to our newsletter team, including Niels Nokkentved, Jessica Pazden, Sue Norton, Leah Dunn, and Liz Urban.

Recaps:

World Migratory Bird Day

GEAS and numerous partners joined to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day on May 12 at Zoo Boise with a great turnout from the community. The event featured crafts, bird walks, face painting, a photo booth, a scavenger hunt, door prizes and more. The event included activities from numerous partners in addition to GEAS, including Zoo Boise, the Bureau of Land Management Idaho, Birds of Prey National Conservation Area partnership,

Southwestern Idaho Birders Association, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, and the Intermountain Bird Observatory.

Zoo Boise Presents: Joel Sartore

We were proud to help sponsor this sold-out event on April 24 by Zoo Boise featuring Photo Ark photographer Joel Sartore. National Geographic Photo Ark, led by Sartore, is a multiyear effort to raise awareness and find solutions to some of the most pressing issues affecting wildlife and their habitats. Be sure to check out Sartore's work and recent publications, including Birds of the Photo Ark.

Donor Acknowledgments

We would like to extend our gratitude to the following donors who have supported GEAS in 2018. Your gifts make our work possible: Alan Crockett, Alex Takasugi, Alexander Sapiens, Amy Silver, Ann DeBolt, Banana Ink, Barbara Howard, Barry Devine, Bill Upton, Bob Ellis, Brenda and Mike Pulchalski, Bruce Ackerman and Susan Werner, Bryce Robinson, Carol Casler, Carol McDowell, Charlie Rains, Chris McClure, Christine Loucks, Danette and Mathew Henderson, David and Susan Hazelton, Dawn Mitts, Deb Parlman,

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GEAS EVENTS for July and August 2018

Field trip information is subject to change. Please check the Calendar and Field Trips section on the website <http://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org> for the latest information or contact Alex Takasugi at 208-484-9132 or geasfieldtrips@gmail.com and Kristin Gnojewski at kgnojewski@cableone.net.

Field Trip Etiquette: We set up car pools to take as few cars as possible, while making sure everyone has a window. Please give the driver of your ride gas money and arrive 10 minutes early.

Wednesday, July 11 and Saturday July 14

Workshop: Building Your Birding Skills: Get to Know Hummingbirds

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 11 and 7 to 11 a.m. July 14

Join Liz Urban and Heidi Ware Carlisle for this special, two-session workshop to build birding skills, presented in partnership by Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Intermountain Bird Observatory, and Southwestern Idaho Birders Association. Who isn't fascinated by these "flying jewels?" The workshop will cover the five species that breed, migrate, and over-winter in our state. It will include the basics and advanced identification characteristics for our hummingbirds. While the males can be told apart easily, the females and young can be a challenge to identify, and that is the skill we hope to help you refine. The workshop will consist of an evening classroom session to review our hummingbird species, including their size, shape, color patterns, habitats and behaviors. After the classroom work participants will visit the IBO hummingbird banding station near Idaho City for some hands-on explanation of hummingbird identification including species and age feather characteristics. The \$20 fee will cover costs, reimburse instructors, and pay the IBO fee to visit the banding station. Registration is limited, so please register as soon as possible. Additional details are available on the GEAS homepage at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/.

Saturday July 21

SIBA Field Trip: Subalpine Forest Habitats of the West Central Mountains

Leader: David Potter

Time: 7 a.m.

Location: Meet at Chevron in north end of Horseshoe Bend. We will carpool from there. On the road from Garden Valley to Lowman, a forest road called the triple nickel leaves the valley floor and climbs through several forest types before reaching 8000 ft and the subalpine zone with subalpine fir, white-bark pine and the cushion plants of this hostile and fragile habitat. On Scott Mt, we might find Clark's Nutcracker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Williamson's Sapsucker, a Spruce Grouse or early migrant raptor working its way down the ridges from the Salmon River. Plan for a full day. Bring water, snacks, lunch and sturdy clothes. Little hiking will be involved. If you plan to attend, an RSVP is not required but would be nice. For information and to RSVP, contact David Potter at (208) 365-8380 or joemorgan409@msn.com

Tuesday, July 24

Program Meeting: Long-billed Curlews

Location: Sagebrush Room, at the Cole & Ustick Library

Time: 7 p.m.

Speakers: Heidi and Jay Carlisle

Intermountain Bird Observatory curlew biologists, known as "the

curlew crew" will share curlew photos, information about curlew life history as well as pressing conservation issues during this slideshow presentation. They will talk about the work on long-billed curlews in Idaho that the IBO began about 10 years. Since then, IBO has expanded its research to include three western states and a number of study areas in various habitats. Over the years researchers have learned a lot about curlew nesting biology, migratory patterns, and overwintering habitat use in the curlew populations of the intermountain west. They have also learned that one of the greatest threats to a declining southwest Idaho population may be poaching.

Saturday August 4

SIBA Field Trip: Juniper and Montane Forest Habitats of the Owyhee Mountains

Leader: David Potter

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Walter's Ferry Bridge on Idaho 45 S. of Nampa at the boat launch area on west side of the river. We will begin birding at the Snake River and hit several points on our transect up the Owyhee mountains to historic Silver City. We hope to have lunch near hummingbird bird feeders and be able to see the possible four species of hummers while there. Most high elevation birds will have families, and early migration of songbirds will have started. Plan for a full day. Bring water, snacks, lunch and sturdy clothes. Little hiking will be involved. If you plan to attend, an RSVP is not required but would be nice. For more information and your RSVP, contact David Potter at (208) 365-8380 or joemorgan409@msn.com.

Tuesday, August 28

Program Meeting: The Amazing World of Hummingbirds

Location: Sagebrush Room, at the Cole & Ustick Library

Time: 7 p.m.

Presenter: Liz Urban

GEAS President Liz Urban will talk about the captivating world of hummingbirds. She will cover some of the unique adaptation of these "flying jewels" and the ongoing story of speciation of the second largest family of birds in the world. Urban has a master's degree in wildlife conservation and management from the University of Arizona and is a hummingbird bander with the Intermountain Bird Observatory.

Donor Acknowledgments, continued from page 3

Deborah Erwin and Christopher Dresden, Dondi and Jeff Black, Ed and Muriel Shaul, Eileen Peterson, Elise Lufkin, Gail Lebow, Ingrid and Bill Brudenell, James Burrell, Jean Terra, Jill Cooper, Kerry Cooke, Leah Dunn, Lew Ulrey, Libby Burtner, Liz and Mark Urban, Liz and Sean Finn, Louise and Terry Maley, Maria Minicucci, Marilyn Lay, Mark Collie, Mary Schofield and Allen Lockhart, Matt McCoy and Kathy Barker-McCoy, Matt Podolsky, Michele Crist, Patrick and Vicki McGrane, Phil and Nancy Bucher, Roxann Jenson, Sandra Beebe, Sarah Blumenstein, Sheri and Bill Robison, Star Garnet Media, Steve Bouffard, Sue Norton, Susan Caldwell, Susan Chaloupka and Tom McCabe, Suzanne Woodcock, Tempe Regan, Thomas Todrank, Vera Noyce, Kathy Hopkins, Linda and Bart Kline, Melissa Stoner, Vesta Bergin, Belinda Knochel.

The Treasure Valley Native Plant Network is a growing concern

By Sean Finn

The winter and spring seemed to fly by as GEAS members and a host of partners geared up the first full year of operation for the Treasure Valley Native Plant Network. Over the summer, more than 350 citizen conservationists were kept busy collecting native seed, propagating and germinating those seeds, repotting the baby seedlings, transporting them to summer homes and now caring for the growing plants.

Why go to all this trouble? Habitat loss and fragmentation is a primary threat to bird and other wildlife populations, and it's becoming increasingly clear that providing habitat in urban areas is a key component to keeping common birds common. Native plants are necessary for high-quality habitat because native wildlife species are adapted to the plant communities that were here before the city. Part of Golden Eagle Audubon Society's mission is to "conserve and restore ecosystems for birds and other wildlife," and the Native Plant Network is dedicated to restoring bird-friendly sites around the Valley for the benefit of birds and bird watchers.

Yet, as any gardener knows, buying plants can be expensive. Moreover, most available plants, retail or wholesale, are not sourced locally and therefore are likely to be maladapted to local conditions. Maladapted plants tend to have low survival rates. So even if you have the money, it's a risk to spend it on plants that may not survive and provide habitat. The Native Plant Network was born to remedy this situation, to put GEAS's mission in the hands of members, to produce native plants cheaply, to restore bird habitat and to build community and educational components so that Valley residents grow their appreciation and respect for these little, wild places while they are growing baby plants in their school yards and backyards. The Network produces locally-adapted native plants, selected for their value to birds and other wildlife, for about 70



cents per plant, or about one-fifth of the commercial cost.

Over the past eight months, more than 350 participants got their hands dirty collecting and germinating native plant seeds and growing out seedlings. More than 7,700 native plants are growing right now and will be planted at conservation sites around the Valley in the fall. Volunteers came from 19 classrooms (9 K-12 schools), two scouting groups, local enthusiasts like the Master Naturalists and ZooTeens programs, and from GEAS members. In the fall we will be planting at great birding spots like the Intermountain Bird Observatory's Boise River site, Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve, Warm Springs Community Park and, of course, Blacks Creek Bird Reserve. Check the GEAS Events

page, at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/Events, for these restoration sessions when you can help get the plants in the ground and providing bird habitat for years to come.

There are opportunities to join and contribute to the Network year-around for anyone who likes to collect seeds, prepare seed beds or transplant exquisite baby seedlings. All of these tasks are easy to learn and master, most of the tasks are not strenuous, and we provide the training. Believe it or not, most of our 350 plus volunteers spent less than three hours contributing to the Network, and we produced 7,700 plants! Added up, that's more than \$30,000 worth of native plants at retail price and enough plants to fully restore four acres. Think about what a few hours enhancing habitats for birds could be worth. The Network has ample room to grow (pun intended). We think that doubling or tripling our production next year is easily within reach. We invite all who are interested to join the Network, any time of year. There is a way to participate at every ability level. To get started, visit the Native Plant Network page at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/npn.



Learning to keep my distance, despite the temptation

By N.S. Nokkentved

Another splendid outing along Daggett Creek and a pleasant picnic at Al Larson's hummingbird haven. We saw lots of interesting birds including a couple I had never seen before.

I watched an osprey bring a fish to its waiting nestlings across the valley, and a female cedar waxwing stoically guarding her nest. Probably 20 people showed up to share the experience. Later in the day, however, when I paused to reflect I realized that bird was probably scared to death with all those gawkers peering at it. It reminded me of an earlier experience, though much more emphatic, that taught me to keep my distance.

One day while driving across southern Idaho some years ago, I pulled off the lonely two-lane highway to stretch my legs and answer the call of nature. I stopped on an abandoned side road between Carey and Richfield on my way across the vast expanse of broken lava of the Eastern Snake River Plain.

From where I parked, I spotted a great horned owl, so I grabbed my binoculars for a closer look. That's when I spotted a second owl, sitting on a nest. Naturally curious, I wondered if any owlets were in that nest. The answer came when the second owl left the nest, and three woolly little heads juttled from the tangle of twigs.

The sight was irresistible. I had to get a picture. I loaded some film in my camera. But, alas, I didn't have my long lens. I would have to try to sneak up as close to the nest as possible without alarming the adults. The task would put my best wait-observe-and-move stalking skills to the test.

I should have known better.

The adult owls were not impressed with my stalking skills. They did not approve of my approaching the nest. I heard a whole new range of noises that I didn't know owls could make—clicks and hisses and a bark that sounded like a small dog. All intended, I am sure, to drive me away.

I have often watched these great birds with fascination, but rarely had I been so close. I could have touched the nest from the ground. I know better than to disturb wildlife with young, but I couldn't suppress the urge to get a picture of the furry little nestlings.

I was wary of the big birds of prey. With distinctive ear tufts and piercing yellow eyes, the great horned owl—*Bubo virginianus*—is unmistakable. The adults range from eighteen inches to two feet tall, with powerful muscles and wicked talons. They are the biggest owl in southern Idaho. They make a respectable adversary for a human armed with nothing more than a 35mm Nikon.

These owls typically nest in another bird's abandoned nest, or in a hollow tree or a cliff. The females usually lay three eggs in a

clutch. They eat small animals such as gophers, lizards, rabbits, even skunks and the occasional grouse—and they are not above attacking any all-too-nosy photographers.

Keeping an eye on both birds wasn't easy, and at some point I knew I'd have to stand up and reveal myself to get a picture of the nest. I stayed close to the bole of a large cottonwood, as the two adults prowled the air, swooping close, hooting and barking as they flew.

I was not deterred. I saw one owl land in a tree ahead of me and I had just seen the other one in a tree about fifty yards behind me, I stood up and clicked off several frames. All three of the big-eyed fluff balls looked straight into the camera. Not satisfied, I stretched on tiptoe. Just a few more frames. I was sure one owl was still in that tree behind me.

Now I was clear of the sagebrush cover, looking right into the nest. Just a couple of more — WHAM!

Something unheard, soft and sharp at the same time, like a feather pillow with rocks in it, hit me in the back of the head. It didn't hurt much at first, but it startled me and nearly bowled me over.

I realized instantly that one of the adults had swooped in behind me without making a sound. But I got the message loud and clear. I clambered back through the brush and took refuge in the safety of my pickup truck. My hands fumbled for my keys and shook as I started the truck. I felt the back of my head, and my fingers came away bloody. The owl's talons had pierced my scalp. I put a paper towel on the wound, and turned the truck around with my left hand holding the towel.

As I drove away, I trembled with thoughts of how much worse it could have been, and I wondered whether I could get tetanus from owl talons.

The bleeding soon stopped. The few scratches healed quickly, but the lesson stays with me still. I had learned emphatically about respecting wildlife and keeping my distance—especially when

they have young. Adults don't think of their own safety when protecting their young. They will do whatever it takes to drive intruders away.

My brush with the owl was a bone-headed move, but I was lucky. Since then I have tried to keep my distance—if I don't need the binoculars, I am probably too close. I checked back on the owls to find three large, healthy-looking nestlings crowding the nest. This time I brought the long lens. I wore an old felt hat and kept at a respectful distance. A hand absentmindedly strayed to some lingering scabs on the back of my head.

Excerpt from "Backroad Daydreams" by Niels S. Nokkentved.



My Granddaughter came today

by Jim James

My Granddaughter came today
To see the Saw-whet Owl
In Barber Park
Near where the Great-horned hangs out.

He's really hidden.
Only beer-can size.
Silhouetted dark shape,
Pine needles in the way.

At seventeen she wants to study,
To be, an ornithologist.
Damn Greeks,
Make us string their words together.

Does an ornithologist
Have to be a birder?
I suppose you could get by,
But why would you?

You have to understand,
I'm there for the hunt.
What's the next species I can see
And add to my ever-growing list?

You've seen one Chickadee, you've seen them all.
That's not true, I know.
They've stared me face to face
While pruning the apple tree.

But even a guilty "lister" like myself
Can only wonder
Why one Pelican sits in
A pond full of Swans.

And why the thousand Snow Geese
Settle into that pond
And erupt only moments later
To leave some imagined threat.

The swirling, sweeping cloud of geese.
Gathers itself into the sky.
Escaping an imaginary eagle.
Only they can see.

They drag the Pelican along,
But after reconsideration,
It returns, alone, to the pond
And the Swans.

Without the wonder of
What these creatures do, and why,
It would be an empty science,
Ornithology.

My hope is that Lauren
Becomes a birder.
I hope she sees the wonder first.
And becomes an ornithologist later.

GEAS Field Trip Program Needs YOU!

We're planning upgrades to the GEAS field trip program!
Proposed changes include:

- More trips! At least two outings most months, one shorter and close to town, one longer and farther away.
- Reservation system to communicate details, changes or cancellations.
- Special-focus outings — photography, birding by ear, "big day," lawn chair birding and more.

To do this, we need more leaders—that's YOU. You don't have to be a Roger Tory Peterson, just have a desire to contribute to making GEAS's field trip program more diverse and successful. Just think of it. If all our field trip participants offered to lead one outing a year we would have multiple trips every week! If you aren't confident in your birding skills, you can still show people new places to visit, OR you can partner with a friend. Co-leading a field trip is double the fun.

Leading a trip is easy. Just three steps. Choose:

1. A trip location; we have a big list to inspire you.
2. The duration, from a two-hour Greenbelt walk to an all-day expedition.
3. The size of group you feel comfortable with.

Then just show up and talk to people. That's it! The chapter coordinator will handle the sticky details—advertising, reservations and providing necessary info and materials. You just

show up, take folks around and get credit for being an all-around great person.

We need you! The National Audubon Society runs on volunteers. Without your participation there would be no Golden Eagle Audubon. Our free field trips are a vital part of GEAS and are only possible with your assistance.

We will have a meeting in July to discuss the program improvements, sign up leaders for the upcoming half-year or so, and set up a short orientation meeting for field trip leaders. Watch for the meeting date in an email or on the online calendar, then come and see if you'd like to lead an outing. For more information, contact Alex Takasugi at geasfieldtrips@gmail.com or 208- 484-9132.



Sandhill cranes near Carey

Photo by N.S. Nokkentved

Golden Eagle Audubon Society
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- For membership/subscription information, renewals, or change of address, e-mail membership@goldeneagleaudubon.org.
- For newsletter submissions, send an e-mail to Niels S. Nokkentved at sparre47@gmail.com. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the second Sunday of the month.

We invite you to join the Golden Eagle Audubon Chapter

Membership in the local chapter includes a one-year subscription to *The Golden Eagle*, and all my dues remain with the local chapter and support local activities.

Name: _____
E-Mail: _____ (allows for website login)
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

- Student membership \$15
- Individual membership \$20
- Family membership \$35
- Golden Eagle Lifetime membership \$500

I would like to donate an additional \$ _____

Make check payable to Golden Eagle Audubon Society. Mail to: Golden Eagle Audubon Society, PO Box 8261, Boise, ID 83707, **or pay by credit card on our website www.goldeneagleaudubon.org (click support GEAS).**

Please contact us for information on membership scholarships.

To join the National Audubon Society visit <http://www.audubon.org/> and use chapter code G00 for Golden Eagle Audubon Society, or write to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250.

The Golden Eagle Audubon Society is southwest Idaho's chapter of the National Audubon Society.
GEAS promotes environmental awareness through field trips, local programs and volunteer work.

Post Office Box 8261, Boise, Idaho 83707
www.goldeneagleaudubon.org

Chapter Code: C5ZG000Z