



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

March/April, 2014

Trip Report: Exploring Ancient Mayan Ruins and Birding in the Yucatan

By Susan Hazelton

Dave Hazelton and I have done a fair amount of birding in Mexico, but not in the Yucatan. So when I saw this trip sponsored by Road Scholar, he was easy to convince.

The trip promised a fascinating tour of Mayan ruins and exceptional birding, from Cancun through the states of Yucatan, Quintana Roo, Campeche, Tabasco and Chiapas. Based on this glowing description, we persuaded Sue Norton to travel with us.

Birding began even before the official tour with colorful Yucatan jays, noisy plain chacalacas (endemic) on the hotel grounds and a number of neotropical migrants, including white-eyed vireos, summer tanagers and yellow-throated warblers. Sue and Dave spent most of the day near the pool, with binoculars trained overhead. That evening we met the nine other members of our tour – can you believe, two couples from La Grande, Ore. – and our two guides: Alex and Emilio. Emilio was our view into the Mayan world; Alex showed us the birds. Both are of Mayan descent.

With the assistance of our guides, who were outstanding, we embarked upon 11 days of bus rides, too much food, magnificent ruins, spectacular birds, and dubious baños. The women on the trip developed a system for rating and warning others about the baños along the way. The first one to enter issued a report based on the presence of: toilet seat, toilet paper, running water, soap and towels. The farther into the rural areas, the lower the score.

We visited eight ruins: Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Edzna, Calakmul, Becan, Palenque, Bonampak and Yaxchilan. Nothing prepared us for how immense and impressive they are. We got “warbler neck” just looking up to the tops. An excess of vendors

lined the pathways at Chichen Itza, so that we had to walk a gantlet from one building to another. Other sites were nearly empty of people. The ruins at Yaxchilan, once a powerful Mayan city on the border between Guatemala and Mexico, are accessible only by boat. The boat ride down the Usamacinta River produced close up views of king vultures perched in the trees along the banks of the river.

And the birds.

Eleven species of egrets and herons, including reddish egret and bare-throated tiger heron. On one boat trip, we watched a tiger heron, engrossed in attracting a nearby female, stretch his elegant neck to its fullest extent. Eighteen species of warblers including: worm-eating, Kentucky, magnolia, golden-winged, black-throated green, and American redstart, northern parula, gray-crowned yellowthroat.

David finally got to see a black-collared hawk, in addition to a white hawk and 10 other raptors.

At the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, we had several close up views of ocellated turkeys, and Alex spotted a rarely seen ruddy quail-dove. On our way to Merida, we nearly caused an accident along a busy highway when Alex, known for his enthusiasm, spotted a rufous-necked wood rail. Tino, our driver, pulled to the side of the road, turned on his hazard lights, and we scrambled through the roadside trash to spot three of these elusive birds.

At the Ria Lagartos Reserve we watched a peregrine falcon in aerial battle with a yellowlegs and got stunning

close-up views of roseate spoonbills and flamingos. My proudest moment came as we walked through the ruins at Xpujil. I looked up at one tree and said, “Could I be seeing a trogon here?” It was a black-headed trogon; we saw a gartered trogon later. On our last day, we spotted a pinnated bittern in the Usamacinta marshes.

We swam in a cenote, a natural pit resulting from the collapse of limestone bedrock, which exposes groundwater underneath. We visited the waterfalls at Misol-Ha, where we saw the most hummingbirds and a red-throated ant **(Continued on Page 5)**



Pale-billed woodpecker.

Photo by Alex Dzib

President's Message

By Michele Crist

Greetings Birders!

Spring is just around the corner and I am looking forward to spring migration.

In thinking of the coming season, I would like to highlight our annual GEAS banquet. This gathering celebrates not only spring and birding, but also GEAS and the accomplishments we have made together. The banquet committee has done an excellent job this year, ensuring that everything is “just right” as they have been doing for many years now. This committee works hard all year long to make everything perfect for this event, and they also have a lot of fun while doing it. I would like to honor all of their hard work and dedication in organizing this banquet, which allows us to enjoy time together over dinner, hear a great guest speaker, and learn a little about what GEAS is currently working on and its plans for the future.

I especially would like to honor Sue Norton and Susan Hazelton who have co-chaired the committee for many years and who do such a tremendous job in making this event a real hit. The event wouldn't be the same, and we couldn't do it without them. So please join me in honoring all of their hard work by giving the committee a big thank you when you see them at the banquet this year.

I am looking forward to a great evening and I hope to see you all there.

Michele Crist, President, Golden Eagle Audubon Society



Terns all in a row.

Photo by Susan Hazelton

GEAS CALENDAR

March-April 2014

Field Trip: Wilson Ponds	March 1
Family Birding Walk: Hyatt	March 2
GEAS Annual Banquet	March 8
Field Trip: Fort Boise WMA	March 15
Field Trip: Avimor Birding Walk	March 22
GEAS Monthly meeting	March 25
Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Birding	March 30
Field Trip: Sage-grouse lek	April 5
Family Birding Walk: Barber Park	April 13
Earth Day at Boise Watershed	April 19
GEAS Monthly Meeting	April 22
Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Birding	April 27

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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IN MEMORIAM: HILDA MAE LARSON 1926 - 2014

Hilda Larson passed away February 17. She was 87 years old.

Hilda grew up on her family's ranch, where the Wilderness Ranch subdivision is now. Her family also owned the property where the cabin is now. She went to grade school right there. She worked as a teen at a roadhouse on Dunnigan Creek, on the road we walk up on the annual field trip, south of the highway across from their cabin

Hilda was an active member of GEAS. Hilda and Al published this newsletter for many years. Hilda typed them on a manual typewriter and illustrated them. Hilda wrote a column, "Observations

from my Kitchen Window," for the newsletter for 32 years that recorded the birds and wildlife she saw out the windows at the ranch. She continued to write her column after she moved to Boise to live with her daughter during her recent illness.

The Audubon GEAS annual

picnic has been at Hilda's ranch, for 33 years, since 1980.

Many GEAS members have happy memories of sitting in the yard at the ranch for a picnic lunch and wonderful views of hummingbirds, orioles and tanagers.

Al and Hilda led people on many field trips, to the four Blue Bird Trails and elsewhere. They purchased bird seed in bulk and delivered it to people all around as a fundraiser for GEAS. They were similarly active with Southwestern Idaho Birder's Association.

Knowing Hilda enriched the lives of many of members, and we will miss seeing her and sitting in the shade listening to birdsong with her.



Hilda and Al Larson

Photo by N.S. Nokkentved

Volunteer News

By Gerrie Satz

GEAS Thanks You For Your Help

Let's start with thanks to Pam Conley for her commitment to the CuMo Mine Project. She keeps the board of directors informed of important issues.

A thank you goes out to the folks who helped with the Christmas Bird Counts under the direction of RL Rowland.

Liz Urban, Harold Ward, Suzanne Woodcock, Rod Smith, Jennifer Pazdan, Niels Nokkentved and Sue Norton get thank yous for their help with the newsletter. If you are not receiving the newsletter make sure we have your e-mail address.

Thanks to Bruce Ackerman for the January program presentation on his favorite birding spots in the West. He brought us a full house; standing room only. Good job, Bruce.

Thanks to Heidi Ware for her February program presentation on her research regarding how road noise affects birds

RL Rowland gets another thank you for leading a birding trip to identify gulls at the Ada County landfill. Thanks to Leanne Lloyd Fairey for leading a field trip to Kathryn Albertson Park. Kathy Barker McCoy gets a thank you for doing a bird presentation at the Idaho Families for Clean Water meeting and for giving many bird walks on Wednesday mornings.

Thank you Heidi Ware and Jay Carlisle for doing workshops and leading field trips at the Hagerman Bird Festival.

A grateful thank you to the people who filled out our volunteer forms. We will be in touch.

A delicious thank you to Bessie Skinner and Velma Vance for a wonderful selection of goodies. Everyone went home that evening sated with sweetness.

Even though the weather this month wasn't the best, the above mentioned people brought sunshine to Golden Eagle Audubon Society.

If you have sent in a donation for our

fall fundraiser drive, thank you very much! If you still want to, it is not too late.

We always have opportunities for volunteering – help with mailings and one-time events, participate in projects, serve on the board of directors, run for office.

If you want to send in the volunteer opportunities form, we would be grateful to hear from you.

Our nominations committee is starting to search out nominees for the board of directors in 2014-2015. Let one of us know if you are interested. Or suggest a friend who might be interested.

If you would like to change your newspaper status, from electronic to paper copy, or the reverse, please let us know (membership@goldeneagleaudubon.org).

We went to (mostly) all-electronic in 2013, but we are still trying to make sure everyone who needs to get a paper copy will get one.

Gerrie Satz, Volunteer Coordinator
gerries@iranger.com.

GEAS EVENTS for March and April

Field trip information is subject to change. Please check the website <http://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org> and go to the Calendar and Field Trips section for the latest information or contact Pam Conley at 869-0337 or pam_conley@q.com

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 Morning Club – March - April

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: Janjou Patisserie (best croissants in Boise, the old Moxie Java in the strip mall northwest of State and 17th).

Contact: Kathy Barker McCoy, h- 384-1205 c- 921-1340

Join me this spring to investigate Boise's backyard. We'll be paying attention to the flowers and critters as well as the birds. Starting in March we'll be back to an 8 a.m. meeting time. If you have any suggestions for places that I haven't thought of, please call me and we'll try to put them on the list. March 5, Hyatt Wetland; March 12, Hulls Gulch; March 19, Greenbelt, park at Veterans Park; March 26, Military Reserve, park at Cottonwood Creek trailhead; April 2, Foote Park and Lyle Gulch, near Lucky Peak Dam; April 9, Five Mile trail in Rocky Canyon; April 16, Greenbelt, park in Barber Park; April 23, Blacks Creek or Indian Creek Reservoir or Grimes Creek; April 30, Corral Trail off Bogus Basin Road. I reserve the right to change the destination if weather or special sightings so indicate.

Saturday, March 1

Field Trip: Wilson Ponds, Nampa, (S. Power Line Rd. south of Greenhurst in Nampa)

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: Meet at Park & Ride at NE corner of Eagle & Overland roads, south of the freeway from St. Luke's to organize car pools or meet at Wilson Ponds parking area at 8:45 a.m.

Trip Leader: Leanne Lloyd-Fairey

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

We will start birding around 8:45 a.m. and continue until about 11 or 12. We will see many waterfowl, wading birds, and some song birds. Dress warmly as we will be walking for most of the time on a paved walkway. It's probably three-fourths of a mile long. There are outdoor restrooms at Wilson Ponds.

Sunday, March 2

Family Birding Walk: Hyatt - Especially for children or the child in you.

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve, 5301 N. Maple Grove Rd., Boise, lower parking lot.

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

This Boise City Park is managed especially for wildlife. The area has a number of ponds and upland habitat which support a diverse number of birds and other wildlife. Bring the whole family, especially the young ones. We have binoculars and field guides you can borrow. Sign up the kids in our Frequent Flier Club where they earn rewards for birding. We will finish at 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 8

GEAS Annual Banquet & Silent Auction

New location- Red Lion Downtowner

See details in this newsletter

Saturday, March 15

Field Trip: Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: Meet at Park & Ride at NE corner of Eagle & Overland

Trip Leader: John Shortis

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

Should see large flocks of migrating Snow Geese and other early season migrants. Plan for winter or spring weather. Bring water, snacks, and a lunch. We may go on to look for turkeys and sandhill cranes so could be an all day trip.

Saturday, March 22

SIBA Field Trip: Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Ft. Boise WMA

Leader: RL Rowland 336-9808 or rlrowland@centurylink.net

We will look around the area for marsh and pond birds while waiting for the snow, Ross's and greater white-fronted geese to come in; afterward we will go in search of sandhill cranes and wild turkeys. Dress for weather.

Saturday, March 22

Field Trip: Avimor Bird Walk and Backyard Birding Class

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Location: Meet on Avimor Dr off Hwy 55 - Backyard Birding class at 10:30am in Avimor Conference Room.

Contact: Robert Mortensen birdingisfun@gmail.com

Photo presentation of the birds you might expect at your feeder in spring and summer and how to attract a greater variety of birds to your yard. Future Avimor Bird Walk dates: April 19, 9 a.m.; May 24, 8 a.m.; June 14, 8 a.m.; July 19, 8 a.m.; August 23, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, March 25

GEAS Monthly Program: Wolf Ecology and Management in Idaho- Jennifer Struthers

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: M.K. Nature Center, 600 S Walnut., Boise, 83712

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

Idaho Fish and Game wolf researcher Jennifer Struthers will present a slide talk on Wolf Ecology and Management in Idaho.

Sunday, March 30

Boise River Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Bird Watching

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Meet in the Greenbelt parking lot behind the Tavern at Bown Crossing (near east end of Park Center Blvd.)

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

We will walk downriver from the new bridge at Bown Crossing, birding as we go, and pick up litter on our way back. We usually finish around noon. Bring gloves, water and binocs. No public restrooms are available.

Saturday, April 5

Field Trip: Sage Grouse Lek

Time: 4:45 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Park & Ride at Rackham Road, NE Corner of Eagle and Overland roads, south of the freeway from St. Luke's

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

Trip Leader: Dave Hazelton, 362-1119

We need to meet before 5 a.m. to carpool and be on the road promptly at 5 a.m. We'll drive in the

Continued on Page 6

Field Trip Report:

Wednesday Morning Club Report

The Wednesday Morning Club should be getting birdier as spring approaches. This winter we've had to cancel a few times due to bad weather; if the roads are nasty there's no reason for us to be out there during the morning commute. Also, this winter the bird numbers have been low, for whatever reason. On a recent walk we were almost skunked at Discovery State Park. It was cold and the birds were nowhere to be seen. Birds we've seen recently include the white-throated sparrow in Ann Morrison Park, Barrow's and common goldeneyes on the Boise River, along with hooded and common mergansers, ring-necked ducks (why didn't they name them ring-billed duck?) American wigeons, Canada geese, bald eagles, great blue herons (not many), song sparrows, juncos, and a few white crowned sparrows. By the way, I've been watching for the return of the great blue herons to the heronry east of Bown Crossing on the Boise River. It really seems late for them to start congregating. Anyone else noticed this, or am I just being paranoid? Join me this spring to investigate Boise's backyard. We'll be paying attention to the flowers and other critters as well as the birds. Starting in March we'll be back to an 8 a.m. meeting time, at Janjou Pâtisserie in the strip mall at 17th and State Street, west of the Albertson's. If you have any suggestions for places that I haven't thought of, please call me and we'll try to put them on the list. See you on Wednesdays! Kathy Barker McCoy 384-1205h, 921-1340 cell.

Gull ID field Trip, January 18

Seven birders joined RL Rowland for a joint GEAS/SIBA "gulls-at-the-dump" gull-identification field trip. The object of the exercise was to get folks to learn that gulls can be differentiated and identified – just takes a bit of patience. We met beneath the Northgate sign under cold, cloudy, calm conditions with a dissipating morning fog, the recent inversion and last year's super cold day but memories. RL greeted and got all to sign in then went on with his usual talk about the current, as well as out-of-print, literature available on gulls. He talked about "ID" points that, while similar to those used for other birds, are somewhat different when it comes to gulls. As most had never been to the landfill before a talk about entry and etiquette was required then we were off. There have not been many gulls this winter season at the landfill probably due to November's cold snap chasing them out. RL had been up the day before scouting and found about 100 gulls of four species. Saturday almost became a bust, only about 40 gulls of two species. Kind of hard to explain ID-points when one doesn't have any variety. But, you make do with what you have, and the morning did get better with gulls trickling in a dozen at a time until we got between 80 and 90 birds of three species. Our birds consisted overwhelmingly of ring-billed gulls, two first year, the rest adults; about a dozen adult California's; and three herring, two adult, one first year. Not ideal but enough to be able to talk some about ageing and telling the different species apart. We had numbers of both crows and ravens near enough to be able to point out ID-differences between them. A prairie falcon passed through, an adult bald eagle made several sorties about the area, and a couple of red-tailed hawks doing some formation courting flight that caused the gulls to start moving out. A look at some nearby horned larks and it was time to leave. Good birds + good birders = a good time. RL Rowland.

Kathryn Albertson Park, February 1

Leanne Lloyd-Fairey led this trip of three birders. It was cold and cloudy with a slight breeze and threatening to snow but we saw some good birds. There were the usual Canada geese and mallards but also lots of wood ducks along with some gadwalls, American wigeon, and hooded mergansers. We saw California quail in the brush along with song sparrows and dark eyed juncos. A great blue heron flew over as well as an immature bald eagle (head was dark), and a red-tailed hawk. There were large flocks of American robins which we search in hopes of catching sight of a varied thrush. We later found the varied thrush with some northern flickers near the railroad bridge. In the brushy west end of the park we saw black-capped chickadees and a ruby crowned kinglet. Along the canal near the wood ducks we saw a Townsend's solitaire. Near the ponds on the east end of the park we watched a brown creeper work its way up the trunk of a tree, saw a couple of hermit thrushes, lots of cedar waxwings, American and lesser goldfinch, house finch, red-breasted nuthatch and red-winged black birds. We also saw black-billed magpies, American crow, mourning dove and European starling for a total of 30 species.

(Continued from Page 1)

anager. Alex, our birding guide, trains researchers for a project to prevent the extinction of scarlet macaws and to reintroduce them into the wild. One early morning he escorted us to the Aluxes Eco Park in Palenque, where he works. The macaws greeted us with "Hola" as we walked by their cages.



Ruddy quail-dove.

Photo by Alex Dzib

I was a little concerned that Sue Norton and Dave might have some regrets about the trip. But each day, after several hours of pre- and post-breakfast birding, Sue would say, "Oh, what a wonderful morning."

As we went through customs in Houston on our return, the customs officer asked us if we had seen any interesting birds.

"How about a rufus-browed peppershrike," said Dave.

The offer smiled condescendingly and returned our passports. He probably should have answered "white-whiskered puffbird."

The final total for Dave: 231 species and 26 lifers. And an enthusiastic recommendation for this trip.

Avian Research: The Effect of Noise on Owl Hunting Ability

By Tate Mason

Spring is nearly upon us, and we've once again opened our windows to let in the refreshingly cool air of the Intermountain West.



Photo courtesy Tate Mason

In the still of these beautiful Boise mornings, I often listen to the din of the city waking up. I mostly hear the sounds of our transportation networks, both air and road, in a constant low-frequency wash. Noise from our global society is not limited to cities but stretches to nearly every corner of the planet. This relatively new phenomenon lays the foundation for my research.

I started as a graduate student at Boise State University in 2011 and began working with the new Sensory Ecology Lab within the biology department. We study how sound is produced, transmitted and received and how this relates to wildlife.

Did you know that many insects can sense sound through specialized receptors on their legs? And that many species of owls exhibit ear asymmetry, where one ear opens high in the head and the other low? Such adaptations have evolved over millions of years and each has contributed to the success of all living species. But why do these adaptations arise?

The first insect that had ear-like structures on its legs must have had some competitive advantage over its extended family. It was best suited to its environment and therefore lived long enough to pass on its unique trait. In owls, ear asymmetry evolved independently and in different form, at least four times. This adaptation must have been particularly useful for four distantly related genera of owls to all stumble upon the same adaptation.

In what context did such traits arise? These auditory adaptations arose long before the industrial revolution, circa 1890, when the soundscape, or the sum of all sounds within a landscape, was much quieter than it is today. Within the past 50 years, the amount of noise humans have broadcast across the planet is staggering. Indeed, much industrial noise is purposely placed where it is less of a bother to people, often in or near prime wildlife habitat.

Does elevated human-caused noise (known as anthropogenic noise) impact wildlife? Could noise affect the ability of an owl to detect its prey? These are the basic question we've been asking at Boise State. Over the past two years we designed and ran an experiment in which wild saw-whet owls could hunt mice in a controlled environment.

We altered the background noise level and assessed the owls' ability to detect and capture its prey in each condition. I am in the process of analyzing the data, but in a nutshell, the noise greatly decreased the hunting ability of the owls.

The scientific manuscript detailing this research is in preparation, and I look forward to sharing the full results of this experiment soon. In the meantime you can follow up with my research at my website, www.tatemason.wix.com/tate-mason or visit me at the Peregrine Fund, where I will be serving as their new education coordinator.

Continued from Page 4

dark to arrive around first light at the sage grouse lek near Midvale. After viewing these great boomers, we'll travel remote unpaved roads to C. Ben Ross Reservoir, arriving around noon. Our route is weather flexible, but the plan is to check out other areas in the vicinity. In the past, we have walked along the Weiser River trail in Goodrich in the early afternoon. Bring lunch, water and protection from the elements. This is an all day trip.

Sunday, April 13

Family Birding Walk: Especially for children or the child in you.

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Barber Park. Meet in parking lot back by event center.

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

On this walk we will explore the winding trails along the Boise River. Bring the whole family, especially the young ones. We have binoculars and field guides you can borrow. Sign up the kids in our Frequent Flier Club where they earn rewards for birding. We will finish at 11 a.m.

Saturday, April 19

Earth Day at the Boise Watershed. West Boise Wastewater Treatment Plant- Bird Walks

Time: 10:30 a.m. and noon

Location: 11818 W. Joplin Rd., Boise 83714

Trip Leader: John Shortis and Gary Worthington

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

At 10:30 a.m. and noon take a 1-mile birding walk to view the blue heron rookery at the West Boise Wastewater treatment Plant. In and around the center, visitors can plant a tree, make paper, interact with a river model, paint a forest mural and make their own green cleaner. A wastewater treatment plant tour is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Closed-toe shoes are required for the tour.

Tuesday, April 22

GEAS Monthly Program: Poaching in Idaho, Matt O'Connell
Time: 7 p.m.

Location: M.K. Nature Center, 600 S Walnut., Boise

Contact: Pam Conley 869-0337 pam_conley@q.com

"Stopping Idaho's Game Thieves: A Look at Poaching in the Gem State." Idaho Fish and Game Conservation Officer Matt O'Connell will discuss poaching history and cases, and efforts to combat poaching.

Saturday, April 26

SIBA Field Trip- Jordan Valley Blue Bird Trail

Time: 7:45 a.m.

Location: Meet at Marsing Island Park to set up car pools.

Leader: Al Larson 343-0959

For additional info contact: RL Rowland 208-336-9808

or rlrowland@centurylink.net

This is a long day so bring lunch, snacks, drinks; dress for weather. We will be doing any needed maintenance on the mountain bluebird nest boxes as well as looking for other early spring arriving birds.

Sunday, April 27

Boise River Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Bird Watching

See March 30 entry

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

37th Annual Conference



Hosted by Wild Lens, Inc.



June 13 - 15, 2014
The Boise Centre and Grove Hotel, Boise ID

Full conference information and registration forms can be found on the North American Bluebird Society website by following this link:

<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/conventions/2014/NABS2014.pdf>

Join us in beautiful **Boise, Idaho** for the **37th Annual Convention** of the **North American Bluebird Society** at the Boise Centre and Grove Hotel in downtown Boise, Idaho. As producers of the forthcoming film *Bluebird Man* we welcome you to this year's opportunity to "**Continue the Legacy of our Founding Members.**"

Please join us for this unique annual event to experience bluebirds on the big screen, great trips to local bluebird trails, and other fantastic field trips. Wild Lens is proud to be hosting this event with special help from members of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society.

Wild Lens, Inc. is a not-for-profit video production company focused on addressing wildlife conservation issues through film and media. Our forthcoming documentary film *Bluebird Man* documents one citizen scientist's effort to increase bluebird populations in southwest Idaho and looks to inspire the next generation of bluebird conservationists across North America. We hope this film helps continue the great legacy of citizen science-based conservation started by the **North American Bluebird Society** decades earlier.

The conference will feature a banquet dinner followed by a screening of *Bluebird Man* on Friday, June 13 at the Boise Centre on the Grove in downtown Boise. Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15 are reserved for field trips to the Prairie and Owyhee Bluebird Trails, respectively. Registration is *not* required to attend the film screening Friday night, but is required for attendance of the banquet dinner or any of the field trips.



Please Consider Volunteering With The Golden Eagle Audubon Society

GEAS is looking for people interested in running for one of three spots that will be available on the Board of Directors or participating on one of our standing committees. Board of Directors elections conclude at the May monthly meeting and the three-year positions begin in June. Current standing committees are conservation, education, and membership. Interested individuals should please contact the Board by **April 1**; an application must be submitted by **April 11** to be included on this year's ballot in the GEAS newsletter.

We welcome all interested folks, but the Board would greatly benefit from people with expertise or experience in legal policy, business, volunteer and field trip coordination, membership recruitment, website/communications and fundraising. Time and a passion for GEAS's mission are a must.

What We Do:

GEAS is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that works to protect the habitats important to birds and to provide experiences for enjoying them. Some examples of what we do:

- **Birding Trips and Family Bird Walks:** We provide binoculars, bird books, and fun for children and their families during walks through local parks and other birding areas.
- **Blacks Creek Bird Reserve:** We led a community-based partnership to protect a 600-acre Important Bird Area just south of Boise. We are now following up that critical step by restoring native vegetation to improve bird habitat.
- **Blue Bird Trails:** We support Al Larson's Bluebird Trails. We have provided financial and volunteer assistance for many years and are committed to continuing a citizen monitoring project into the future.
- **Education:** We provide birding classes, funding for Bird By Bird classrooms, and are involved in community events such as Kokanee Days, International Migratory Bird Day, and the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge's BioBlitz.

Board of Directors Position Description:

Each member of the Board of Directors is elected to serve three year terms and is responsible for the direction of all GEAS activities. We meet monthly to discuss business and also lead and participate on committees to advance our goals. Beyond the standing committees, *ad hoc* panels manage the annual banquet, grant and award distribution, fundraising, nominations and policy issues. Any member may participate in any committee or panel.

Committee Members:

We invite interested individuals to join any of the standing committees. Ideally committees meet every other month, but many works and communications occur through email. Committees brainstorm and achieve many of GEAS's important works; they report activities and provide recommendations to the Board of Directors. Board members or community members that are not on the board of directors are all encouraged to participate.

For more information, please contact Liz Urban at urbanhawk137@gmail.com or send a letter of interest to: GEAS POB 8261, Boise, ID 83707. The nominations committee members are Liz Urban, Leah Dunn and Suzanne Woodcock.

Golden Eagle Audubon Society Annual Banquet and Auction

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Red Lion Downtowner, 1800 Fairview Ave.

\$40 Per Person

Social Hour – 6 p.m. Dinner Served – 7 p.m.



The speaker for the 2014 banquet is Kurt K. Burnham, president and CEO of the High Arctic Institute. His topic will be “Birds and Bergs: Twenty years of Avian Research in Greenland.”

Burnham was born in Colorado and moved to Idaho when he was 9. He grew up in the outdoors and traveled the world extensively, visiting conservation and research projects throughout the Third World with his father, William Burham, former president of The Peregrine Fund.

Kurt Burnham first visited Greenland in 1991. He received his bachelor’s degree in biology from Albertson College of Idaho in 1997. After graduation, he began working for The Peregrine Fund, managing its Greenland Project. In 2003, he was appointed as the Fund’s Arctic projects director. In the fall of 2006, he created the High Arctic Institute, and in the spring of 2008 he received his doctorate from the University of Oxford, with his research focusing on peregrine and gyrfalcon populations in Greenland.

Burnham has conducted field research in Greenland every summer since 1991, spending nearly three combined years of his life in Greenland.

The High Arctic Institute is a nonprofit conservation, research and education organization. Based in the United States, scientists from the High Arctic Institute travel to northwest Greenland each summer to conduct a variety of scientific studies on the many species of birds that occur there.

GEAS BANQUET REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS — DUE BY MARCH 1, 2014.

Please complete one of the payment forms below. Send payment form along with list of guests and meal choices to: GEAS, 1963 Teal Lane, Boise, ID 83706. Checks should be made out to GEAS. Questions? Call Sue Norton 378-4248.

To Pay By Check:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ (Number of guests ____ guests @ \$40 per guest)

To Pay By Credit Card:

Please charge my credit card (circle one) : VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ (Number of guests ____ guests @ \$40 per guest)

Choose from the following entrees: Rosemary and Cracked Pepper Roasted Prime Rib, Char-Grilled Northwest Salmon, or Fettuccini with Wild Mushroom Bolognese.

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: _____

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: _____

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: _____

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: _____

I am not able to attend, but I would like to make a donation to GEAS: \$ _____

I have an _ auction item or a _ dessert to donate. Please contact me at: _____

In order to preserve the sanity of the auction committee, all donations (except desserts) should be received by February 28.

Banquet and Silent Auction News

GEAS hopes to see a good turnout for its annual banquet and silent auction and wants to highlight some auction items that you may find appealing:

- Southwest Airlines is donating two tickets good for round trip transportation only on Southwest-operated, published, scheduled service, between any two cities within the Southwest Airlines system within the continental United States.
- Sun Valley is donating a one-night stay for two and two tickets for the Ice Show (bleacher seating), valued at \$385.
- Mike Morrison is donating a photograph of a brown pelican in flight.
- Spike Baker is donating a photograph.
- A guided field trip to Camas Prairie with Bruce Ackerman
- Two nights at the Bronze Antler Bed and Breakfast in Joseph, Oregon.
- Four nights at a condo in Park City, Utah.
- A portable gas grill from Intermountain Gas.
- A print from Grey Fox studio by Katherine Grey.
- Handmade, jewel toned quilt with cranes by Sue Norton.

Snake River Raptor Volunteers

2014 Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 8 and March 15, join members of Snake River Raptor Volunteers to clean out owl boxes. Meet at 9 a.m. at the BLM District office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise. We will car-pool and caravan. Bring lunch and water, gloves and a long screw driver or digging tool, and wear layered clothing. You may want to bring a bandana or face mask for covering your nose and mouth. If you plan to go, please call Leslee Doner at 208-685-9800.

On Saturday March 29, the Snake River Raptor Volunteers will maintain ferruginous hawk nesting platforms. Meet at 9 a.m. at the BLM District office. This project involves driving to the nest platform locations in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and inspecting the existing nest platforms. The teams will check nests to ensure the platform and post are solid and make repairs where necessary, and either remove excess nesting material or scatter sagebrush branches (nest building materials) nearby as needed. This involves a lot of driving on dirt roads and off road around the conservation area. This event will take four to six hours, mostly driving. Most platforms do not need any work. Each team should have a 10- to 12-foot ladder, cordless drill, bolts, socket wrench or open wrench, digger bar, post-hole digger, shovel and pitchfork. If you have any of these items, please bring them. Bring your own lunch and water.

If you plan to go, please call Leslee Doner: 208-685-9800.

See <http://srrvraptors.org/> for more info

The Golden Eagle Audubon Society publishes *The Golden Eagle* six times a year.

- Please help us save paper and mailing costs; if you would like to receive your newsletter online, send your name and zip code in an e-mail to membership@goldeneagleaudubon.org.
- 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 our organization. Please choose **one** of the options below:

Join the National Audubon Society

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter. I will receive the Audubon Magazine and The Golden Eagle. (National membership includes local membership.)

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

E-Mail: Phone:

- Introductory offer for the first year: \$20
- Senior or student offer for first year: \$15

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250.

Chapter Code: C2ZG000Z

Join the Golden Eagle Audubon Chapter

My membership in the local chapter includes a one-year subscription to The Golden Eagle. I understand that my dues remain with the local chapter and support its activities. (Local membership only.)

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

E-Mail: Phone:

- Please enroll me in the local chapter only for a cost of \$15.
- Please send my newsletter via e-mail.
- Please mail my newsletter to me.
- I would like to donate an additional \$ _____

Make check payable to Golden Eagle Audubon Society and mail to: Golden Eagle Audubon Society, PO Box 8261, Boise, ID 83707.

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