



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

March/April, 2018

New interpretation threatens Migratory Bird Treaty Act

By Crista Videriksen Worthy

The other day, I had an extraordinary experience, which took place in the time it takes to walk a single step.

After throwing seed out for the quail, I was walking back to the house. A dwarf blue spruce grows beside our bird feeders, and as I walked past it, a small finch flew out. The bird fluttered just four feet in front of me and was about to fly away when a large shadow whizzed directly over my right shoulder. In an instant, the Cooper's hawk grabbed the finch in mid-air and turned on a dime to fly away.

For a split-second, our eyes met as the hawk looked at me from less than an arm's length away. Before I could react in any way, the hawk flew back over my right shoulder again. By the time I had taken even a step, it was across the yard. That look is burned into my memory. All I could think of was, "I'm glad that was a raptor, and not a *Velociraptor*, or I'd be dead." Moments like that are why I love where I live. There's just enough wildlife left here to help fight off despair.

These days, there are plenty of things to despair about. Donald Trump and Ryan Zinke shredded Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument. Now they've already opened them up to fossil fuel leasing, even before the courts have ruled whether the unprecedented move was legal.

Now the Interior Department has attacked the essence of a 100-year-old law that birders and environmentalists hold sacred: the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal to kill birds without permission, though hunters can obtain permits. But Interior's new legal opinion legalizes the unintentional killing of most migratory birds.

Why is this important? For decades, the threat of prosecution gave industries that unintentionally killed a lot of birds incentive to minimize bird deaths. Under the new interpretation, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act forbids only intentional killing without a permit. The administration will no longer apply the act to industries that inadvertently kill a lot of birds.

For example, hundreds of thousands of birds die each year after being poisoned by or trapped in wastewater pits. But oil and gas companies can be compelled to store the waste in closed tanks or put nets over their pits to limit the number of deaths.

Communication towers topped by steady red lights killed

millions of neotropical songbirds, especially warblers, each year. Working with government agencies, the industry learned that flashing red lights don't attract birds, yet they still warn pilots, so now the lights blink.

Fishing boats that drag long lines with baited hooks accidentally drown albatross, petrel, and other seabirds. But the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service convinced fishing companies to attach weights to their lines, so they would descend more quickly into the water. Companies that refused to cooperate risked criminal prosecution.

Duke Energy and PacifiCorp Energy were prosecuted during the Obama administration for failing to protect birds at their Wyoming wind farms, despite Fish and Wildlife efforts to get them to do so.

The new legal opinion was written by Interior's principal deputy solicitor, Daniel Jorjani, and issued right before Christmas. Jorjani is a Trump appointee who worked for "Freedom Partners," a political organization largely funded by the fossil-fuel billionaire Koch brothers. They also contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to fund anti-regulatory candidates nationwide.

Brad Bortner, who was Fish and Wildlife's chief of migratory bird management until the end of December, says he and his staff were not consulted or even given a heads-up. On Jan. 10, 17 former wildlife officials, who go all the way back to the Nixon



Photo by Pedro Ramirez, Jr./USFWS

An estimated 500,000 to 1,000,000 migratory birds, like this American coot, die each year in oilfield wastewater pits.

administration, signed a letter to Ryan Zinke, urging him to suspend the "ill-conceived" opinion. They say it will now be almost impossible to enforce the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Their message is that the Trump administration's assault on our wildlife and public lands is not just the normal pendulum swing between Democrats and Republicans. Trump and Zinke are attacking fundamental conservation principles supported by both parties for more than 100 years, since 1918 for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and since 1906 for the Antiquities Act.

I'd ask readers to contact Interior to protest, but more than 98 percent of public comments about our national monuments said to leave them alone, yet the Trump administration eviscerated them anyway. Still, anyone who cares about these issues may call their senators and representative and visit the GEAS website to learn more and find out what more they can do to help.

President’s Message

By Liz Urban

Did you know Golden Eagle Audubon has joined more than 100 organizations celebrating 2018 as the ‘Year of the Bird’? It has been 100 years since the landmark Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed, a pivotal law that has saved hundreds of millions of birds, if not more, and has helped protect their habitats. The timing couldn’t be more important, as an administrative decision came in December 2017 that changes the past 100 years of interpretation of this law and effectively removes the vital enforcement piece of this legislation. I hope you will read more about the importance of the act in this newsletter and let your representatives know that we want to keep this law intact for the benefit of all.

We are now several months into this year of storytelling, science, and conservation and hope you will join us in this year-long call to action and celebration. We are proud to be partnering with the Library! At Cole & Ustick to offer a slew of bird programming in the second half of March, including the presentation of the National Audubon Photography Awards Exhibit – a series of stunning award-winning bird photographs. In April we are also proud to announce that we will be joining Zoo Boise in bringing National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore to Boise for a special presentation. Tickets are free but are anticipated to sell-out so please see the event details elsewhere in this newsletter for additional information.

Our chapter continues to thrive and grow, and it is all thanks to our amazing members, supporters, and volunteers, and to our wonderful outreach and development associate, Lizzy Miskell. Thank you for helping us provide new opportunities for our community to engage with nature and birds. We hope to see you at the banquet so we can share all of our accomplishments from the past year and recognize those in our community who go above and beyond for birds.

Please join us as we continue to celebrate the The Year of the Bird and work together to make the world better for us all.

Liz Urban, president

Spring Wildlife Celebration, Idaho Native Plant Society Plant Sale. 10 a.m to 4 p.m., April 28, at the MK Nature Center; admission is \$3 for ages 3 and up—plant sale is free. Details will be posted on the GEAS calendar when they become available.

GEAS CALENDAR

March-April 2018

Field Trip: Canyon County	March 3
Family Bird Walk	March 11
Field Trip: SIBA Garden Valley	March 17
Greenbelt Birding and Litter Patrol	March 25
Monthly Program Meeting	March 27
Family Bird Walk	April 15
Monthly Program Meeting	April 24
Blacks Creek Reserve Cleanup	April 28
Field Trip: SIBA Grandview area	April 28
Greenbelt Birding and Litter Patrol	April 29

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bill Belknap (Honorary)	

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Banquet: Sue Norton, Susan Hazelton and Liz Urban	208-378-4248
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Webmaster	
Grants and Awards Libby Burtner	burtnerlibby@hotmail.com 208-473-0870

News From the Board: January and February

- Winter Small Grants Review Period: The grants committee recommended, and the board approved:
 - Funds to Celebration Park to increase resources for raptor field trip education offerings.
 - A graduate student research project on golden eagles at BSU.
 - Partial funding to IBO for a fall bird bander at their Boise River research station.
- Additional requests from IBO and the Bird by Bird program were discussed and moved into consideration as budget line-items for when formal partnership terms can be drawn.
- Alex Takasugi was appointed interim Treasurer in January after the resignation of Lew Ulrey. The board thanks Lew for his many years of service.
- The board signed a letter from more than 500 organizations asking Congress to restore the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- GEAS was awarded a collaborative funding grant from National Audubon Society to help connect area partners with birdseed for school or community program bird feeders and their respective participation in citizen science programming.
- The chapter applied for a Plants for Birds grant to expand our capacity.
- The Education & Outreach Committee is partnering with the YMCA at the Horsethief Camp to provide bird identification instruction for teachers.
- About 1,500 people attended the kick-off party at JUMP for the year-long celebration of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA, and they engaged with others who staffed educational tables from many of the area's conservation and bird partners, including GEAS. Thank you to Alex Takasugi, Genny Gerke, Patti Guicheteau, and Christina Moschella for volunteering.
- We are happy to report that the Sparrow Identification Workshop was a success and want to share with members the intent to hold net proceeds for this and future advanced course series offerings to create a Master Birder program.
- At the February board meeting the board reviewed all award nominations and voted on recipients. Awards will be announced at the upcoming banquet.

Volunteer News

Volunteer Acknowledgments

Thank you to Dondi Black for stepping up to coordinate our new Climate Watch program, and to the many volunteers who signed up for this important citizen science initiative. Thank you to Kristin Gnojewski for all of her outreach and coordination efforts as the Education Chair and to the rest of the education committee for all of their support. Special thanks to Genny Gerke, Patti Guicheteau, Alex Takasugi, Kristin Gnojewski, Liz Urban, and Christina Moschella for staffing the table at the February 1 Raptor Fest kickoff.

We have many volunteers to recognize who have supported our native plant restoration work. We thank Lisa Harloe, Tamsen Binggeli, Jon Roundy, Carla Fay, H. Wynn, Gina Hundt, Erin Brooks, Tom Yergo, Hilary Heist, BB Smith, Maggie Smith, Dane and Libby Adams, Gretel Care, Angela Wirshing, Eric Willadsen, Lorna Snowden, and Michele Crist for growing native plants destined for bird habitat conservation around the valley. Likewise we thank Jeremy Thompson and Gina Lockwood (Borah HS), Brian Marinelli (Collister), Molly Loayza (Bishop Kelly), Scott Cowen (Lowell Scott), Kasia Forester and Dana Ahlstrom (Summerwind STEM Academy), Kelly Selvege (Anser), Kasey Burkholder (Eagle Academy) and Alicia Suski and Casi Wyatt (Girl Scout Troop 105) for educating students on the value of native

plants and teaching them to nurture plants and contribute to the community.

Kristin Gnojewski, Eric Willadsen, Liz Paul and Sean Finn provided classroom support for these outstanding educators. Kristin Lohr, Holly Hovis, Melinda Lowe and Dusty Perkins generously shared native seed and represent a broad array of organizations partnering to restore bird and pollinator habitat in the Treasure Valley. And a big thank you to our newsletter team: Niels Nokkentved, Leah Dunn, Liz Urban, Jessica Pazdan, Ann Swanson, Louise Maley, Suzanne Woodcock, Lew Ulrey, Alan Crockett, Alex Takasugi, Susan Hazelton, Jerry Denney, and Sue Norton.

A special thank you to all who stepped up to volunteer for Audubon's new Climate Watch program: Dawn Justice, Alex Takasugi, Alan Crockett, Amy Silver, Eric Thomson, David Potter, Patti Guicheteau, Sean Finn, Judi Zuckert, Frank Jenks, Jane Rohling and Ron Marquart.

Donor Acknowledgements

Whether by buying a ticket to our March 10 annual banquet, becoming a member, or making a contribution, we would like to extend our gratitude to the following donors who supported GEAS between December 2017 and February 2018: James Burrell, Christine Loucks, Thomas Todrank, Bill Robison, Bill Upton, Deborah Erwin, Dondi Black, Roxann

Jensen, Maria Minicucci, David and Susan Hazelton, Danette Henderson, Belinda Knochel, Vesta Bergin, Patrick and Vicki McGrane, Dawn Justice, William Clark, Effie Schultsmeier, Lorraine Poor, Karin Lindholm, Eric Thomson, Lorrie Suess, Carol Arrizabalaga, Lizzy Miskell, and Alex Takasugi.

If you donated to GEAS recently and have not received your tax receipt, or would like an additional copy, please let us know at info@goldeneagleaudubon.org.

Ways to Give

From donating gently used binoculars, to joining our volunteer corps, or selecting us as your Amazon Smile or Fred Meyer Rewards recipient, there are many ways to support GEAS beyond membership and donations. Visit our website for more information: www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/waystogive.



Cooper's hawk

Photo by Crista Worthy

GEAS EVENTS for March and April 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.

Saturday, March 3

Field Trip: Goosapalooza! in Canyon County

Trip leader: Alex Takasugi

Location: Meet at the Park and Ride lot at St. Luke's on Eagle Road just north of I-84 across from the Chevron/McDonald's

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Contact: Alex Takasugi geasfieldtrips@gmail.com 208-484-9132

Join us for the annual wild goose chase! We will tour western Canyon County—Ft. Boise, Martin Landing and Roswell Marsh—looking for huge flocks of migrating snow geese, white-fronted geese, sandhill cranes and other spring delights. Bring a lunch and dress for the ever-unpredictable Spring weather. We should finish in mid-afternoon.

Sunday, March 11

Family Bird Walk in the Park – Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve

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

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Contact: Alex Takasugi geasfieldtrips@gmail.com 208-484-9132

This wonderful park is managed especially for wildlife. The ponds, trees and shrubs are host to a wide range of species. All levels of experience and ages are welcome. Binoculars and guide books will be available for use. Meet at the lower parking lot on Maple Grove. Bathrooms are available, and trails are gravel.

Saturday, March 17

SIBA Field Trip: Ponderosa Pine Habitat of Garden Valley and Boise Basin

Trip leader: David Potter

Location: Chevron parking lot in Horseshoe Bend

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Garden Valley, specifically Schoolhouse Gulch area, has a good selection of ponderosa pine habitat and its accompanying birds, like white-headed woodpecker, pygmy nuthatches and western bluebirds. These residents and early migrant arrivals will be tuning up for spring and should be available for us. If we have time, we will cut across Boise Basin toward Idaho City area examining more habitat on the way. This will be our first foray into forested habitats this year; we are planning several more later. Plan for a full day. Bring warm beverages, snacks, lunch and warm clothes. 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

Sunday, March 25

Birding on the Bethine and Litter Patrol

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Park at the Greenbelt parking area SE of the Bown Crossing Library

Contact: Alex Takasugi geasfieldtrips@gmail.com 208-484-9132

We'll walk the Bethine Church Nature Trail going downriver, birding as we go, then pick up whatever bits of litter we find on the way back. Birds abound in the pond/river/riparian wooded habitat. We usually finish around noon. Bring water, binocs and maybe a plastic grocery bag in case we see any trash (it's usually minimal) No public restrooms are available.

Tuesday, March 27

Monthly Program Meeting: eBird and the eBird Mobile App:

Almost Everything You Need Know

Location: Sagebrush Room at the Ustick/Cole Library.

Time: 7 p.m.

Presenter: Terry Rich

Terry Rich will explain "eBird," which has become the most important source of data about bird distribution and frequency of occurrence on earth. We will look at how the eBird app works on a mobile device, go behind the scenes to examine certain settings, and go through eBird's recommendations for making the best use of this amazing tool. Rich has a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master's degree in zoology from Idaho State University, and is pursuing a doctorate in public policy from Boise State University. He is an honorary life-time member of the American Ornithological Society.

Sunday, April 15

Family Bird Walk in the Park – Hull's Gulch

Location: Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Rd., Boise

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Contact: Alex Takasugi geasfieldtrips@gmail.com 208-484-9132

Meet at the Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center parking lot.

We will walk through the Grove and check out the pond to see what birds are around. The baby great horned owls should be visible in their nest, and spring migration should bring new songbird arrivals throughout the area. All levels of experience and ages are welcome. Binoculars and guidebooks will be available for use.

Tuesday, April 24

Monthly Program Meeting: Wildlife Conservation Series

Location: The Egyptian Theatre, tickets required

Time: 7:30-8:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Presenter: Joel Sartore

GEAS is sponsoring a special presentation for Zoo Boise's Wildlife Conservation Series on April 24; this event will replace our regular monthly meeting. Joel Sartore, National Geographic photographer, will talk about his spectacular Photo Ark Project.

Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance. Tickets are expected to sell out. GEAS will be able to offer registration before the tickets are open to the public; we will be notifying members with an e-mail when registration opens. Please make sure we have your email if you are interested in attending. GEAS will have an informational table in the lobby, so please stop by and say hello.

Saturday, April 28

Blacks Creek Kuna-Mora Road Cleanup and Birding

Location: park lot near bathroom on Kuna-Mora Road

Time: 8 a.m.

GEAS EVENTS continued

Contact: Alex Takasugi geasfieldtrips@gmail.com 208-484-9132
 New this year: the stretch of road GEAS cleans up has been shortened by one mile. Two previous cleanups have removed most of the large items, leaving the usual road trash. Trash pickup grabbers and pokers will be provided, just bring gloves. Let's give the Blacks Creek Bird Reserve a bit of love by picking up trash on the road in front of it, then spend as much time as we like birding in the Reserve.

Saturday, April 28

SIBA Field Trip: Sagebrush Ocean and Salt Desert Scrub of Southwest Idaho

Trip leader: David Potter

Location: Walter's Ferry Public Parking Lot on Hwy 45 (SW side of Snake River)

Time: 7 a.m.

The areas southwest of Grandview have a good selection of sage and salt scrub habitat with its accompanying birds, such as sage thrasher, sagebrush sparrow and possibly the striking black-throated sparrow. These migrants will be tuning up for spring and should be available for us. If we have time we will turn north and cut across country to the Snake River Birds of Prey area, examining more habitat on our way. We should find some ferruginous hawks and prairie falcons as well as some interesting water and little brown birds at Swan Falls Dam. Plan for a full day. Bring warm beverages, snacks, lunch and warm clothes. 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.

Sunday, April 29

Birding on the Bethine Church Nature Trail and Litter Patrol
 Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Park at the Greenbelt parking area SE of the Bown Crossing Library

Contact: Alex Takasugi geasfieldtrips@gmail.com 208-484-9132

We'll walk the Bethine Church Nature Trail going downriver, birding as we go, then pick up whatever bits of litter we find on the way back. Birds abound in the pond/river/riparian wooded habitat. We usually finish around noon. Bring water, binocs and maybe a plastic grocery bag in case we see any trash (it's usually minimal). No public restrooms are available.

Upcoming Bird Festivals & Learning Opportunities Migration Mysteries Course Series

Taught by Heidi Ware at the Intermountain Bird Observatory, this class will dive in to the secrets of bird migration.

Recommended for students ages 16 and up. Online and in-person attendance. Cost: \$20 per course, or \$65 for the series. At 6 p.m., every Wednesday evening in March, at the Boise State University Riverfront Hall, or online streaming.

[Intermountainbirdobservatory.eventbrite.com](http://intermountainbirdobservatory.eventbrite.com).

Harney County Migratory Bird Festival, April 5-8

Explore Malheur NWR and the surrounding area. Visit <https://www.migratorybirdfestival.com> for more info.

Olympic Birdfest, April 13-15

BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Hagerman Bird Festival, April 20-22

Details at <https://hagermanvalleyfoundation.wordpress.com>.

Sparrows Rock, Right? Right.

By Libby Burtner

Who knew little brown birds, sparrows even, would bring birders out in force? But the two-part Improve Your Birding, Sparrow Identification Workshop, taught by Bryce Robinson, did just that.

Part one was on Wednesday, January 31, at the Meridian Public Library where we maxed out the room at 40 participants. Birders of all levels followed along as Bryce reviewed resources for becoming better birders including books, apps, and the use of sound recordings. Check out the recommended Xeno Canto-<https://www.xeno-canto.org>. Occasionally, the room burst forth with songs or calls from Lincoln, white crowned or Harris sparrows as we tried out different smart phone apps or websites.

Bryce encouraged all of us to use eBird to keep our own lists, as part of the biggest citizen science project to date and a useful tool to check out birding activity for birding trips near or far. Another regional resource was: www.idahobirds.net.

He used his own drawings of winter sparrows to hone in



on the differences between species, and his art was half the fun. A truly gifted artist, his drawings made the identification process easier. He was generous enough to give a copy of a print including all the sparrows reviewed to a lucky lady in the back row who had the winning ticket number. No tickets sold; no raffles here. Just a wonderful gift.

Then, we put our class-room lecture to the test on a weekend field trip. Whether in the Saturday or Sunday group, we caravanned out to Ted Trueblood Wildlife Area near Grandview. There we checked out sparrows, raptors and anything else that flew, hopped, popped or skittered in our optics. David Potter and Heidi Ware helped Bryce on Sunday when I went out. I finally got to see a tree sparrow, and when a northern shrike made an appearance I had two lifers! Flocks of killdeer, snow geese, tundra swans and dowitchers were other surprises.

That's not all. Lots of eagle activity, more than 20 great blue herons hanging out with cattle, a male northern harrier performing a courting flight, a great horned owl and the camaraderie of so many folks so excited about little brown birds made it a very special day. It is nesting season, and anyone heading out should honor all restricted areas as posted. More info here: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/ibt/site.aspx?id=SW25>.

GEAS intends to continue offering an advanced birder series this year. We will put a call for instructors and courses on the GEAS website shortly and hope to announce the next course in an upcoming eNews email blast. Please add your email to the list if you would like to signup; we have a maximum number of participants we can take and registration is likely to fill.

Native Plant Network is growing, well, like a weed

Golden Eagle Audubon Society along with an ever expanding array of partners continues to work on producing native plants for bird and wildlife habitat restoration around the Treasure Valley.

We first reported a vision for the concept – a Native Plant Network – one year ago in the March-April newsletter, and we're proud to say the vision is being realized. What started as a modest concept to coordinate partners around seed collection, seedling propagation and planting locally-sourced native plants is attracting partners locally and nationally.

Last year we grew about 1,900 seedlings that were planted at Hyatt Hidden Lakes, Hillside to the Hollow, the Boise Watershed, the Table Rock fire, IBO's River site and Blacks Creek Bird Reserve.

Volunteers nurturing the full plant cycle included K-12 and college students and educators, staff from local nurseries, conservation partners, such as Idaho Botanical Garden and Land Trust of the Treasure Valley, and many others including GEAS members. All of that planting concluded last fall. We hope that the mild winter fostered a high survival rate. We will begin checking on those plants in the coming weeks. The success of 2017 inspired us to expand the program.

In December, we began working with local schools, scouting and community groups, GEAS members and other plant enthusiasts to expand this "cottage industry" approach to plant production. With locally-sourced seeds provided by Melinda Lowe, Holly Hovis, Kristin Lohr, Dusty Perkins, Eric Willadsen and Sean Finn, we continued a hands-on training program, preparing seed trays for the 2018 growing season. To date we've worked with seven schools and a handful of community groups to prepare 170 seed

trays of 24 native plant species. With a little luck, we are estimating about 50 percent germination and survival, and that should create more than 8,000 seedlings for restoration planting in the fall of 2018.

Where will those restoration plantings



Photo courtesy Treasure Valley Land Trust
A volunteer nurtures native plants at Star Elementary School.

occur? We expect to continue work at most of our 2017 sites with a heavy emphasis on Blacks Creek, Hyatt Lakes and the IBO River site. We also hope to add a project at Warm Springs Community Park. Stay tuned to the GEAS calendar and website for opportunities to get these plants in the ground during restoration events starting in September. Before we get there though, we could use some help.

Taking care of so many plants is a big chore, but many hands make for lighter work, and that's where we invite anyone interested to join us. In April and May we will be hosting re-potting sessions to transplant seedlings to bigger pots for the summer. Those are typically one- to two-hour sessions, usually working with school kids. We may also be looking for folks to care for plants over the summer – just water once a week. Meanwhile GEAS will be linking this program with Year of the Bird and doing outreach to educate and inspire Treasure Valley residents about Plants for Birds. We need volunteers for all of these tasks. Please reach out to us at volunteer@goldeneagleaudubon.org. We promise it will be rewarding and gratifying as we create and improve bird habitat right here in Boise.

Volunteer Spotlight: Niels Nokkentved

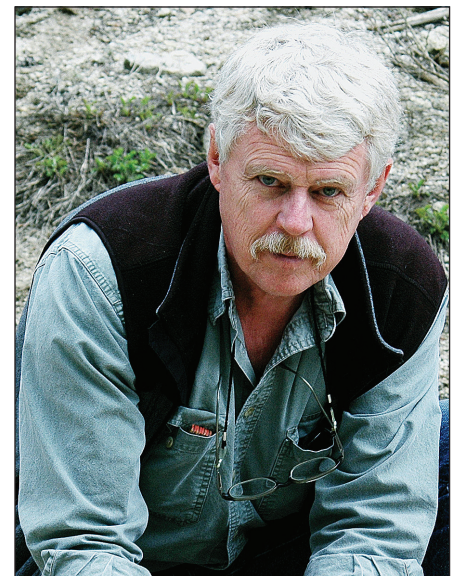
You may not know Niels Nokkentved, but he has been a Golden Eagle Audubon Society volunteer since 2007. He served on the board of directors for two years and then took on the task of editing our bi-monthly newsletters. With his background in journalism and environmental studies "it was a natural fit," he said.

Niels doesn't just edit the newsletter; he sends out a friendly reminder to its many contributors, collects all of the bits and pieces, and thoughtfully assembles the stories that connect our members to each other and our work. He also contributes photos and articles to the newsletter, and he has volunteered at Blacks Creek. When asked what motivates him to volunteer he said: "I like supporting the conservation work that GEAS does. I think it is important."

In addition to writing, Niels' other hobbies include music, photography, and woodworking.

A storyteller at heart, when asked what his favorite bird is Niels said: "My favorite bird is probably the crow. They are clever and intelligent and highly social, and I am glad for the opportunity to share the world with them. I have a stuffed one perched on a bookcase in my office at home. I call it Ford---found on road dead--which is how I acquired it."

We are grateful to Niels for his important contributions to GEAS, and for patiently awaiting and editing the submissions for *The Golden Eagle*, which roll in (mostly on time) every two months.



Golden Eagle Audubon Society Annual Banquet and Auction

6 p.m. Saturday, March 10, 2018

Red Lion Downtowner, 1800 Fairview Ave., Boise

\$45 Per Person



The speaker for the 2018 banquet will be Paul Bannick, an award-winning wildlife photographer specializing in the natural history of North America with a focus on birds and habitat. Mr. Bannick will present a program featuring video, sound, stories from the field and several dozen new images from his brand-new book: *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. Mr. Bannick uses intimate yet dramatic images to follow owls in their distinct habitats through the course of one year.

You will witness each stage in an owl's life as it is chronicled through images of courtship, mating, and nesting in spring; fledging and feeding of young in summer; dispersal and gaining independence in fall; and, finally, winter's migrations and competitions for food. His program shows how owls use the unique resources available to them in each habitat to face these challenges. Nearly ten years of work in some of the most remote parts of the continent, at the darkest hours of the day, tracking owls as they move through their lives has rewarded Paul with striking images that he uses in his book and presentations.

Please join us for this annual event, which raises funds for GEAS projects: New Roots, and Blacks Creek Bird Reserve, to name a few. In addition to our dynamic presenter, we will have a silent auction and dessert sales (\$5) during the social hour, starting at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

GEAS BANQUET REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS — DUE BY MARCH 5.

Mail this form and your check payable to GEAS to: 1963 Teal Lane, Boise, ID 83706

You may pay by credit card online at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/banquet.

Questions? Call Sue Norton at 208-378-4248 or nortonsu@msn.com

To Pay By Check:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Number of tickets @ \$45 per guest: _____ Check enclosed: \$ _____

The entrée choices are: Rosemary and cracked pepper prime rib, Hagerman trout, or vegetarian enchiladas. Please circle a meal choice for each guest.

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: Prime Rib Trout Vegetarian

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: Prime Rib Trout Vegetarian

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: Prime Rib Trout Vegetarian

Guest Name: _____ Meal Choice: Prime Rib Trout Vegetarian

If you would like to donate an auction item, please contact Sue Norton at: 208-378-4248 or nortonsu@msn.com.

To donate a homemade dessert, contact Danette Henderson: danette444@gmail.com or 208-631-6602.

To preserve the sanity of the auction committee, all donations (except desserts) must be received by February 28.

I would like to donate \$ _____ for a teacher or student to attend the banquet.

Golden Eagle Audubon Society
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Boise, ID 83707
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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. GEAS does not share your e-mail address.
- 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