



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

May/June, 2017

Stalking Cooper's hawk and diving sharp-shins keep birds alert

By *Crista Videriksen Worthy*

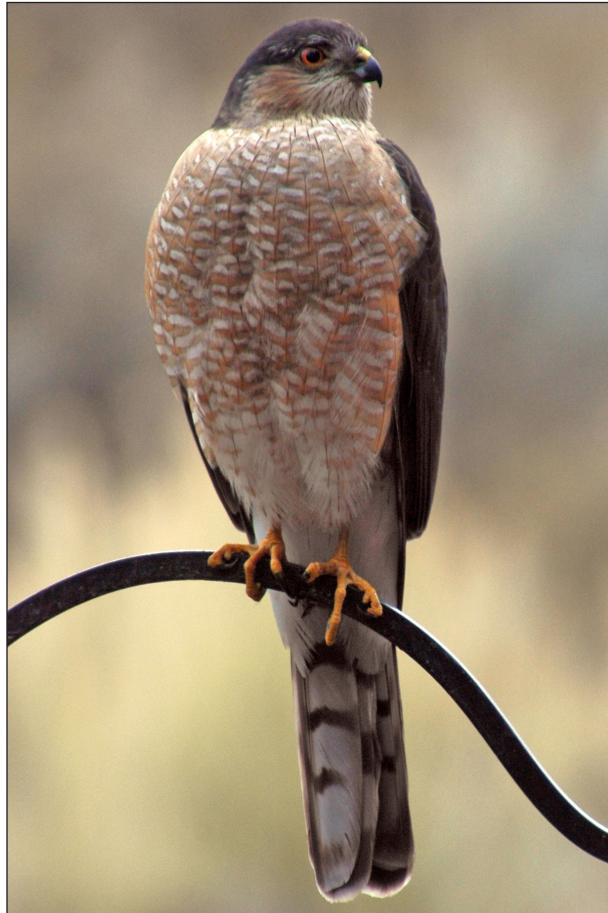
By the end of summer last year, as usual, our yard and feeders were nearly overrun with birds. Fledglings bring the population to its annual height each fall, until winter begins to take its toll.

On September 3rd at 7 p.m. I looked out the window to see about 60–65 quail writhing, squabbling, and scratching in the dirt below the feeders. Another 40 or so roamed the “meadow” (my unmowed lawn) in small groups, feasting on late-summer insects. Every perch at the three feeders was occupied by a finch, and more hovered on and around the feeders, jostling for position—probably 25 finches. Then a movement from above caught my eye as a Cooper's hawk dove in, headed straight for the feeders. The finches burst away in every direction so that the hawk missed and then turned hard, away from the kitchen window. Meanwhile, the quail in the grass had flown toward the safety of the sage-covered hill just beyond the property line. The quail under the feeders had simply vanished in the blink of an eye, probably hiding under the four dense shrubs nearby. The hawk wheeled again and went out of sight.

My husband opened the back kitchen door to the patio, looking for the hawk. A few seconds before, the yard had been filled with a cacophony of birdsong; now there was silence. He took a few steps forward and that flushed half a dozen quail out from under the nearest bush. They flew low across the grass, landed at the back, and ran down the small embankment where a creek flows between the “meadow” and the sage hill. The hawk had apparently been in a nearby tree and it immediately went after the quail, landing right behind them and running after them out of sight down the embankment. We figured it had gotten one, and my husband felt guilty. We waited. And waited. And went back inside. After about five minutes, the hawk emerged, on foot and without a kill. It walked 15 feet over to the area where I always

throw birdseed for the quail, looking all around. I saw it was a juvenile, and large, probably a female.

And then the hawk came all the way across our back yard, on foot. She wasn't just walking; she was stalking, like a lioness, hunched forward a bit, every nerve poised for pursuit, looking from side to side. She stalked over to the shrubs, and dove under each one. But the quail had fled while she was on the other side of the yard. After rummaging around under each shrub several times, she again strode out into the center of the lawn. Not another bird could be seen or heard. Well over 100 birds had disappeared; the party was over. Finally she took off, heavily, and flew away.



Sharp-shinned hawk

Photo by Crista V. Worthy

It took 28 minutes, but then several mourning doves, followed by about 30 quail, came back and began to pick up whatever was on the ground below the feeders. Soon, another 13 were in the grass, but the finches did not return before dark. They, and the hawk, went to bed hungry that night.

This spring, it's been a different kind of drama, as a pair of sharp-shin hawks have moved in. My upstairs home office has a large window that looks out onto the sage hills behind our yard. Lately, as I sit at my computer, something outside will catch my eye and I'll glance up to see a life-and-death moment. Unlike the Cooper's hawks that dive bomb the bird

feeders a couple of times a day, the sharp-shins terrorize the local finches by pursuing them in flight above the sage. The finch will desperately zig and zag and the hawk will follow its every move, feathers flashing in the light. Usually the smaller bird escapes and the sharp-shin lands on a fence at the top of the hill to catch its breath. But yesterday afternoon I saw its mate pick up the chase from another angle. It, too, failed, but it's possible that two hawks might have better luck than one, if they can surprise their prey. In any case, the quail missed their dinner last night, hiding under a massive sage bush because of the hawks.

President’s Message

By Liz Urban

With the return of many of our migrating birds and warmer weather comes a flurry of activity at GEAS. Our board and dedicated volunteers are making progress on a number of fronts, and I am grateful for this momentum. I’ve listed some of our work in the board updates section of this newsletter, so please read about some of the specifics there. I hope you feel that GEAS is moving in a good direction, and as always we would welcome more volunteer participation in any committee, project or program of interest to you.

I would like to express my gratitude in this column to the many people who made this year’s banquet a success. It is a lot of work to put together our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it wouldn’t be possible without our dedicated banquet committee and many volunteers. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed our wonderful guest speaker and the great selection of desserts, raffle and auction items. We raised more than \$7,000, and the board will work to make sure we use that money as effectively as we can in offering new and existing programming to our membership and the community.

With the banquet over, I have officially put on my New Roots Program coordinating hat, and that now dominates over half my daily GEAS effort hours. It’s hard to believe this program, which serves refugee and immigrant youths, is already in its fourth year. We have spent well over 2,000 hours with more than 40 under-served youths in nature during that time, and we are fortunate to continue receiving support from the community and Boise National Forest to keep the programming going. We will offer 12 days of programming again this June and hope to recruit some 15 students. The New Roots Program is a truly collaborative effort. So many amazing organizations continue to support the program by offering field sites, activities and staff support that we are often faced with more choices than our time allows. What an amazing problem to have!

This year also brings a new level of partnership with the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley as they help provide leadership for the New Roots Program and take the lead on our sister-program Wild Outdoor Week, which is a more job-oriented program for older refugee students.

I’d like to take a moment and share with you one of the special people I have gotten to know through the New Roots Program. Her name is Cathalee and she contacted me just the other day to see if we would allow her to come to the program again this year. Cathalee has been with us since the very first year and absolutely loves this experience. She is in 10th grade now, and since she is older than our target age group we created a junior leader position for her and another student in 2016. It is wonderful to see her leadership skills grow along with her interest in the sciences and the **Continued Page 5**

GEAS CALENDAR

May-June 2017

Field Trip: Montour and Sagehen	May 13
International Migratory Bird Day	May 13
GEAS Monthly meeting	May 16
Field Trip: Prairie Bluebird Trail	May 27
Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Birding	May 28
Conservation in the City	June 10
Field Trip: Oreana Blue Bird Trail	June 17
GEAS Annual Picnic	June 20
Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Birding	June 25

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Liz Urban, President urbanhawk137@gmail.com	629-2146
Leah Dunn, Vice President ldboise@gmail.com	
Sue Norton, Secretary nortonsu@msn.com	378-4248
Lew Ulrey, Treasurer lulrey@cableone.net	322-8246
Sean Finn, Past President a.gentilis@gmail.com	371-2740
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Chris McClure chrimcc@gmail.com	362-8241
Matt Podolsky matthew@wildlensinc.org	724-6388
Alexander Sapiens dr.sapiens@gmail.com	408-832-5400
Amy Silver amysilver819@gmail.com	407-0423
Al Larson (Honorary) larson83703@msn.com	343-0959
Levi Mohler (Honorary, Deceased)	
Liven “Pete” Peterson (Honorary, Deceased)	
Bill Belknap (Honorary)	

COMMITTEES

Banquet: Susan Hazelton, Sue Norton and Liz Urban	
Conservation: Matt Podolsky	724-6388
Education: Amy Silver	amysilver819@gmail.com 407-0423
Field Trips: Alex Takasugi, Kristin Gnojewski,	alextakasugi@cableone.net 484-9132 kgnojewski@cableone.net
Membership: Leah Dunn	ldboise@gmail.com
Program: Alexander Sapiens	408-832-5400 dr.sapiens@gmail.com
Publicity:	
Newsletter: Niels S. Nokkentved	sparre47@gmail.com 377-3360
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Historian: Jennifer Robbins-Smith	threehappycampers@hotmail.com 859-3298
Webmaster	
Grants and Awards Michele Crist	mrcgoldeneagle@gmail.com

News From the Board:

- The GEAS Board of Directors awarded the Peregrine Fund a \$500 grant to help support the Raptor High Summer Youth Volunteer Program. This program will introduce about 25 teens to raptor conservation this summer, with each student committing to 30 hours of service.
- The by-laws amendments have been approved by the membership. They can be viewed on our website.
- The board pledged funds for Zoo Boise's Capital Campaign over the next three years. GEAS funds will be committed to direct conservation efforts in Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique.
- We continue to explore the potential opportunity for office and meeting space at the Terry Day House. We have an ad hoc committee working to express the community's interest in seeing the house preserved and available for public use.
- Several board members will attend the National Audubon Society's Convention this July in Utah. Those who are going have either received a scholarship from National Audubon Society or are paying to go on their own. Thank you to those who are taking the time and making a commitment to better our chapter.
- As part of the Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership, GEAS has been working in partnership with Intermountain Bird Observatory, Idaho Fish and Game and the Master Naturalists to create and implement a citizen science survey in downtown Boise to assess window collisions during migration. Thank you to the volunteers who are out collecting data at dawn each week!
- GEAS, again working with the Bird Conservation Partnership, has launched the "Stop the Thunk" Awareness Campaign to bring attention to the risk of at-home window collisions. More later in this newsletter, on our website and on Facebook.
- GEAS will participate in International Migratory Bird Day at the Peregrine Fund in May and at a city of Boise's "Conservation in the City" in June. We will also have a booth at the Capital City Market on May 27 and June 3. We need volunteers for each event.
- Our New Roots Program is being offered again for two weeks this June. Coordination and recruitment are underway. This year the Land Trust of Treasure Valley has expressed interest in helping implement New Roots and will take over leading the Wild Outdoor Week program for high-school aged refugee youth.
- Alexander Sapiens and his son-in-law created 20 life-sized long-billed curlews for area classrooms in the Bird by Bird Program to decorate. We will use this "flock" for art installations at International Migratory Bird Day and at other locations to promote the importance of stop-over habitat.
- Sean Finn and our partners at the Land Trust of Treasure Valley, Idaho Botanical Garden and Edwards Greenhouse are working to connect with at least four area classrooms to repot native seedlings as part of the Native Plant Network.
- GEAS honorary board member Bill Belknap brought to the board's attention that new con-

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Volunteer News

Thank you to these volunteers:

We have great appreciation for all the people who work to put out both the on-line and print forms of the newsletter: Jessica Pasden, Niels Nokkentved, Leah Dunn, Ann Swanson, Susan Hazelton, Lew Ulrey and Sue Norton.

We want to thank all the volunteers who helped make the banquet a success: Many of our members baked desserts for the dessert sales: Alex Takasugi, Ann DeBolt, Ann Swanson, Carol Casler, Hope Denney, Judy Baker, Kathy Barker-McCoy, Kerry Cooke, Leah Dunn, Lew Ulrey, Liz and Sean Finn, Sue Norton, Susan Hazelton, Suzanne Woodcock and Velma Vance. Special thanks to Suzanne Woodcock and Hope Denney for organizing the sales and the volunteers.

Many thanks to the banquet committee members for all their time and talent: Alexander Sapiens, Danette Henderson, Hope Denney, Lew Ulrey, Liz Urban, Louise Maley, Sue Norton, Suzanne Woodcock, Susan Hazelton and Teresa Sabala.

We had a great group of volunteers for

the night of the banquet: Alex Takasugi, Alexander Sapiens, Allen Dietz, Ann Swanson, Ann DeBolt, Diana and Ben Dicus, Ben Dudek, Caitlin Davis, Leah Dunn, Dave Hazelton, Elizeth Cinto Mejia, Hanna Kim, Heidi Ware, Iris Henderson, Jay Carlisle, Jerry Denny, Katie Paulding, Mathew Podolsky, Matthew Henderson, Mitch Levenhagen, Michaela Brinkmeyer, Pam Conley, RL Rowland, Sean Finn, Stephanie Coates and Stephany Erwin.

We especially want to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations for the silent auction and the raffle. We hope you will support the businesses that donate so generously to us. The money we raised with their donations will be used to advance GEAS's education and conservation goals:

Barb Forderhase	Bob Ellis
The Basque Market	Caitlin Davis
Bird House and Habitat	Chocolat Bar
Bryce Robinson	Corliss Neuber
Cheryl Clark Lawson	Dan Kolsky
Cloverdale Nursery	Deb Parlman
Danette Henderson	Deborah Erwin

Draggin' Wing Nursery	Dylan Stark
Edwards Green House	Jill Cooper
Firefly Garden Art	Judy Baker
Idaho Botanical Garden	Leah Dunn
Ingrid and Bill Brudenell	Lew Ulrey
Intermountain Gas	Leslie Harrison
Jeanette Germain	Louise Maley
Joe and Anita Twitchell	Matt Podolsky
Marilyn Dorman	Mike Morrison
Phil and Nancy Bucher	Pam Conley
Poo Wright-Pulliam	Sandra Beebe
Scott and Bev Pressman	REI
Liz and Sean Finn	Sue Norton
Signe Sather-Blair	Tom Dolan
Susan Chaloupka	Tom McCabe
Suzanne Woodcock	Wild Lens, Inc.
Southwest Airlines	Divit Cardoza
The Peregrine Fund	Helen Lloyd
Wild Birds Unlimited	Alex Takasugi
Liz and Mark Urban	Amy Silver
Susan and David Hazelton	
Kathy Barker-McCoy and Matt McCoy	
Lisette Artiga Charitable Fund	
Mary Schofield and Allen Lockhart	
Mike and Brenda Pulchalski	
Snake River Seed Cooperative	
The Henderson Corporation	
Woodland Empire Craft Ale	

GEAS EVENTS for May and June, 2017

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 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, May 13

Field Trip: Montour WMA and Sagehen Reservoir Bluebird Trail
Trip Leader: Al Larson

Time: 9 a.m. sharp at the Triangle restaurant parking lot

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

Location: To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at the Park and Ride on State and Riverside Drive (SW corner of State and Edgewood, across from Starbucks) in Eagle, or 8:45 a.m. at the Sweet-Ola Hwy/Montour junction on Hwy 52 between Emmett and Horseshoe Bend at the Triangle restaurant parking lot. We will make a brief trip to Montour management area and then head for Sagehen Reservoir. We hope our lunch stop will be in the forest at nest box #1. We will continue on to the reservoir where the official trip ends. This is a great opportunity to observe wild flowers as well as birds. Dress for the weather and bring water, lunch, lawn chair and snacks; this is an all day trip.

Saturday, May 13

International Migratory Bird Day

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey
The celebration welcomes back to Boise all of the migratory birds that have been wintering in Central and South America. The party will include fun games, activities, and prizes for the whole family as well as opportunities to learn about bird conservation from Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Intermountain Bird Observatory, and Idaho Fish and Game's MK Nature Center. The day will also feature live bird presentations where you can meet raptors up-close! "The Importance of Stopover Sites" is the theme for International Migratory Bird Day 2017. Food will be available for purchase courtesy of Foxy Franks.

Tuesday, May 16

GEAS Program Meeting: Native Plants and Native Birds, Sean Finn

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Trophy Room, Idaho Fish and Game Headquarters
Sean Finn will discuss Native Plants and Native Birds: Networking to Create Habitat Locally. With such abundant and diverse birding opportunities in Idaho, it can be easy to overlook the importance of the native plant communities our birds depend on for some or all of their forage and cover needs. We will discuss the relationship birds have with plants and then talk about some opportunities and programs GEAS is leading to promote native bird habitat. Finn is a research coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Elections for new board members also will be at the May GEAS Program meeting. Induction of new board members takes place at the annual June picnic.

Saturday, May 27

Field Trip: Prairie Bluebird Trail

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Time: 8 a.m.

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

Location: BLM parking lot at 3948 Development Ave. by the airport

Al will share his expertise and love for the bluebirds with us as we travel along his trail. We may see the bobolinks near Prairie if the hay is still uncut. There are varied habitats, beautiful scenery, and many of Idaho's breeding birds—all in one trip. Bring lunch, water, a lawn chair and sun protection for an all day trip. Restrooms are available at Willow Creek and Prairie.

Sunday, May 28

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 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 and binocs. No public restrooms are available.

Saturday, June 10

Conservation in the City

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Kathryn Albertson Park

Boise Parks and Rec is hosting this family event. Details are still evolving at press time, so check the website for the latest details: <http://parks.cityofboise.org/vo-learn-teer/boise-parks-community-education/conservation-in-the-city/>. Conservation in the City will feature some of the great work the city of Boise and local partners are doing in the world of conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. The event is free.

Saturday, June 10

Picnic at Daggett Creek with Al Larson

Trip Leader: Al Larson

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

Time: 8 a.m. sharp

Location: Daggett Creek Bridge, Milepost 24 on Highway 21.

Those wishing to car pool should meet at MK Nature Center, 600 S. Walnut in Boise, at 7 a.m. We'll meet at the Daggett Creek Bridge and spend the morning birding the area, which will be alive with many nesting species. Then we'll meander up Daggett Creek Road to Al's Ranch and enjoy a picnic lunch with the hummingbirds at the feeders. Pack your picnic basket and lawn chair and join us for this great traditional favorite GEAS trip.

Saturday, June 17

Field Trip: Oreana Bluebird Trail

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Time: 8 a.m. sharp from the Walter's Ferry Bridge

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

Location: Walter's Ferry Bridge on Idaho 45 south of Nampa.

Those wishing to carpool should meet at the St. Luke's Meridian Park and Ride on Eagle Road across from McDonald's/Chevron

GEAS EVENTS continued

at 7 a.m. Explore Owyhee County with Al Larson. There will be lots of wildflowers in addition to the bluebirds, Pack lunch and water for an all day outing; don't forget the sun block. Dress for variable weather.

Tuesday, June 20

GEAS annual picnic

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Municipal Park, Space #4. (MK Nature Center if it rains.) GEAS will provide chicken and drinks, plates and silverware; bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will be inducting the new board members and officers.

Sunday, June 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 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. We usually finish around noon. Bring water, binocs and maybe a plastic grocery bag in case we see any trash. No public restrooms are available.

IBO Hummingbird Banding Dates

Tuesday, June 6; Saturday, June 17; Saturday, July 1;

Saturday, July 15; Wednesday, August 2

Time: 7 to 11 a.m.

Location: Idaho Cty

To obtain a free ticket, go to the Eventbrite website at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hummingbird-banding-with-ibo-tickets-32626335247>.

IBO Songbird Banding Dates on the Boise River

Thursday, June 8; Sunday, June 18; Thursday, June 29;

Saturday, July 8

Time: 6:40 to 11:30 a.m. except July 8 starts at 6:50 a.m.

Location: Boise River.

Attendance is free, but a \$5 donation is requested. Details and registration are at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boise-river-songbird-banding-tickets-33228239559>.

President's message continued from Page 2

outdoors. She has actually been through about seven weeks of hands-on environmental education experiences through the New Roots and Wild Outdoor Week programs and has expressed interest in studying botany when she goes to college. It has been my privilege to watch her engage in our programming year after year, and I hope to be able to help her pursue an education in science however I'm able. She is an amazing young woman and is one of the many people that make all the work that goes into New Roots so worthwhile. We intend to participate in the city of Boise's "Conservation in the City" on June 10 and the World Refugee Day event on June 17 if you would like to come and meet Cathalee and the New Roots participants!

We hope to see you at our Annual Picnic the following week as well!

Liz Urban, president

In Memory of Bob Crum Sr.
October 21, 1926-February 14, 2017

Bob Crum, one of our long-time members, died recently. We will miss seeing him at meetings and on field trips. Many of us have special memories of a GEAS field trip to his home in Eagle to see birds, tour his gardens and enjoy a picnic on the lawn.

Bob was born October 21, 1924, in Pana, Ill. He grew up in Nampa, where he completed high school and worked for Western Union, delivering messages by bicycle to Nampa residents. Drafted into the Navy, he served two years during World War II as a medical corpsman. After the war, he earned his dental degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., where he met his wife, Betty, and they married in 1949. He was called up as an Army reserve officer and served in the Korean War as a dentist with a M.A.S.H. company. Bob spent most of his career as a dentist with the Veterans Administration and taught at Loyola University and University of Illinois dental schools. He and Betty had three children.

After retirement, he and Betty settled in the Boise area. Bob was a man of wide interests, hobbies and passions, including hiking, birding, stained glass, photography, home renovation, genealogy and travel. Bob was a Master Gardener, a member of Golden Eagle Audubon Society, and an avid participant in Road Scholar courses. In his seventies, he walked across England with his son, and in his late eighties he could be seen skiing at the Bogus Basin Nordic Ski Area.

Coming of age in the Great Depression, Bob knew privation and insecurity in his early years. But against those odds, he built a life that was professionally successful, rich with family and friends, sustained by optimism and curiosity, and fulfilled in love and generosity. We will miss his companionship, good humor, and enthusiasm for birds and gardens as well as his appreciation for GEAS and our volunteers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Golden Eagle Audubon Society at <http://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/donate>.

News from the board continued from Page 3

struction along the Boise River may be violating the greenbelt setback meant to protect wildlife, and in this case, specific bald eagle perch trees. GEAS is working with a lawyer to ask the county to ensure that the code is enforced, and to take the necessary steps to correct any violations. This is an important issue as more development occurs in the riparian corridor.

- Liz Urban is working with other Audubon chapter leaders in Idaho to try to align our efforts and share ideas.
- The board appointed a committee to review GEAS books for the past year. The audit should be completed over the summer.
- The board created a committee to craft a job description for a part-time contractor and will present recommendations to the board in May along with our 2017-2018 budget.
- Liz Urban and Matt Podolsky are coordinating with MING Studios to host the National Audubon Society's Roadshow of 2016's Best Avian Photography. The exhibit will likely be available for public viewing during a weekend in June. We hope to feature artwork from our New Roots students and workshops to make this an action-packed weekend. Look for updates on our website and online calendar.

Ballot
GEAS Board of Directors & Officers Election

Current GEAS members, please take a moment to vote for this year's candidates for the board of directors and officer positions. Board members serve three-year terms while officers are elected every year. Nominations may be made through May 16 when the election concludes at our monthly meeting.

President:

Vote for one
Liz Urban
Other (write in name)

Vice President: Vote for one

Leah Dunn
Other (write in name)

Secretary: Vote for one

No Candidate
Other (write in name)

Treasurer: Vote for one

Lew Ulrey
Other (write in name)

Board of Directors: Vote for three

Alan Crockett
Sue Norton
Sarah Schulwitz
Joseph Weldon
Other (write in name)

Members may vote once either by mail, online, or in person. Ballots may be mailed to GEAS, P.O. Box 8261, Boise, ID 83707. Mailed ballots must be received no later than Tuesday, May 16 to be counted. An online ballot will be available on the GEAS website by May 1. Or members may vote in person at the May monthly meeting 7 p.m. May 16, at the Idaho Fish and Game Department in the Trophy Room.

Candidate profiles:

President: Liz Urban

Liz Urban has been the GEAS president for the past year and has served on the board for the previous four years. She is a member of the education, banquet, and small grants and awards committees. She created and coordinates the New Roots Program and is a Bird by Bird Program facilitator. Liz received her master's degree in natural resources in 2011 from the University of Arizona. She has worked on a number of avian research projects at Boise State University since arriving in Boise. Liz hopes to continue to develop conservation and education partnerships this year for GEAS to expand our impact in the community and the environment.

Vice President: Leah Dunn

Leah Dunn is an ecologist with more than 15 years of avian ecology experience working with various non-profits, state and federal agencies. She works with Boise State University and the U.S. Geological Survey for the National Gap Program. Leah's work on bird conservation strategies with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative, the Department of Defense and several others has provided her with birding opportunities ranging from the Arctic Circle to the Sonoran Desert. She hopes to continue to serve as a board member of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society and she hopes to contribute to GEAS's conservation goals and local efforts. Leah has served on the GEAS Audubon board for the past five years.

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Lew Ulrey

Lew Ulrey has been a birder since he was a child. The natural world is very important to him, and he supports the work that Golden Eagle Audubon Society does on behalf of nature and birds. He earned a master's degree in business administration at Idaho State University, and he spent the vast majority of his working years as assistant controller at First Security Bank of Idaho. Lew says that bringing his business and accounting

experience to the job of treasurer would be the best way for him to make a contribution to the work that Golden Eagle Audubon Society does. Lew has served on the board for several years as a board member and as treasurer.

Board Members:

Sue Norton

Sue Norton has been active on the Golden Eagle Audubon Society board for years. She has served as secretary, volunteer coordinator and banquet committee co-chair. Sue is a retired English teacher and an active bird enthusiast. Working with GEAS and the board has been a rewarding experience and a chance to meet and work with many wonderful people who care about birds and the world we all live in.

Sarah Schulwitz

Sarah Schulwitz's passion for avian conservation began when she led hikes for The Nature Conservancy in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. After earning her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Carolina, Sarah worked as a field assistant, researching Lincoln sparrows in southwestern Colorado, red-backed fairy wrens in Queensland, Australia, and common and roseate terns in Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts. She applied her experience to earn her master's degree in biology from the University of North Texas with research focused on mercury in birds in Texas and Chile. She investigated genetics of greater sage-grouse and short-eared owls. She is assistant director of The Peregrine Fund's American Kestrel Partnership, working to uncover the cause of kestrel declines.

Joseph Weldon

Joseph Weldon moved to Boise five years ago to begin his career as a Bureau of Land Management wildlife biologist. He graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor of science in fisheries and wildlife science. The majority of his work experiences have been focused on greater sage grouse and sagebrush steppe habitat conservation in

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GEAS picks speaker for 2018 banquet

GEAS is pleased to announce that 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.

Bannick will present a program featuring video, sound and stories from the field and several dozen new images from his new book, *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*.



He uses intimate yet dramatic images to follow owls through the course of one year and in their distinct habitats. Audiences will witness the four seasons on territory, as each stage in an owl's life is chronicled through rare images: 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 those challenges. All 19 species found in Canada and the United States are featured in photos, video and narrative throughout the book, with a special focus on the northern pygmy owl, great gray owl, burrowing owl and snowy owl.

Owl is a stunning follow-up to Bannick's bestselling title, *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, giving bird lovers yet another gorgeous photographic tribute, engaging natural history, and a compelling call to preserve the habitats that sustain these most iconic of birds.

Nearly 10 years of working 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.

Be sure to save the date for this fascinating presentation, March 10, 2018.

Candidates continued from page 6

the Four Rivers Field Office. He recently started a new position in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Weldon has enjoyed working with The Intermountain Bird Observatory, Boise State University's Raptor Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to help support wildlife research and conservation. He enjoys trail running in the Boise foothills, backpacking, and casual bird-watching. Though this is his first experience with the Audubon Society, he wishes to be more involved with the local conservation community, and believes that serving, as a board member would be a great opportunity.

Alan Crockett: Information not available at press time.

GEAS Banquet draws enthusiastic crowd

More than 175 birders and nature enthusiasts joined GEAS for our annual banquet fundraiser on March 11.

It was a lovely evening filled with new and familiar faces. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and support GEAS. Our speaker, P. Dee Boersma, gave a fascinating recount of her long-term research on Magellanic and Galapagos penguins. I think many of us were in awe of her commitment to conservation and continue to be inspired by the differences she and her research have made for the Magellanic penguin in Argentina. I know I will keep an eye out for an opportunity to join Boersma on a volunteer research mission in the future.

This year we recognized three individuals for their outstanding volunteer service to GEAS; Kathy Barker-McCoy, Leah Dunn and Amy Silver are our amazing volunteers of the year.

Kathy founded and runs the highly successfully Wednesday Morning Birding Club. Each week she coordinates a local field trip for interested birders—that's a lot of trips!

Leah has served on the board of directors for five years and as our vice president for the past two years. She dedicated a huge amount of time to seeing our website updated a few years ago, and to this day works to keep our membership rosters current.

GEAS is also lucky to have a volunteer of Amy's caliber. Not only is she a fabulous classroom teacher who engages her students in birding, she chairs the Education and Outreach committee here at GEAS. She is creative and tireless.

The night of the banquet we had the privilege of recognizing Sue Norton with our Lifetime Achievement Award. Sue joins the ranks of Al and Hilda Larson and Matt McCoy as individuals whose service to GEAS has defined the core of our organization. Sue joined the board in 2003 and has served as secretary for a number of years. She has been a chair of the banquet committee for many years, and we thank her for her continued work making this year's banquet a success. She has served on the education and grants committees. She is an important part of the puzzle that makes sure our newsletters are mailed out. She is not only one of the powerhouses behind our organization, she personifies the heart of GEAS. We are honored to work alongside her to see GEAS thrive and grow.

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

The International Migratory Bird Day Celebration will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Peregrine Fund World Center for Birds of Prey, a celebration of the importance of stop-over sites and their habitats.

When birds migrate, they rely on a handful of resource-rich and strategically located stop-over sites where they can double their body weight as they acquire the energy-rich fat stores needed to fly thousands of kilometers across continents and oceans. Some sites are well known, such as the coasts of Louisiana, New Jersey, and the Upper Bay of Panama. Others are inland, such as Venezuela's grasslands, wetlands in the central United States, and even urban parks and backyards.

Whether you learn about a stopover site near your home, visit one far away, or create a safe place for birds in your backyard, your support can mean a safe journey for a migratory bird. For more information visit www.peregrinefund.org/visit.

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

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- 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.

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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.

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