



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

May/June 2019

Spring is here, and with it some unusual birding surprises

By Crista Videriksen Worthy

As I write on this April Fool's Day, there is no doubt that spring has sprung here in southern Idaho. I can walk out my front door virtually any time of night and hear robins singing. In the sage canyons behind our house, the California quail begin calling before dawn and don't let up until dark. Our super-covey of about 100 quail is still intact, but the birds are definitely paired up. There's plenty of hanky-panky going on, especially in the early evening as they roam around the yard, searching for bugs or seeds. At night, about half of them roost in a pair of pine trees on the small hill behind our house. As dusk approaches, they march like tiny soldiers, single-file and in columns, up the hill between the sage bushes, before flying up into the trees. The other half roost on my next-door neighbor's roof. As the light fades, they burst up to his roof from our lawn in groups of two or four. The rest putter about our yard, dawdling like kids who don't want to go to bed.

I throw seed out for the quail in the early morning and late afternoon, and the covey still feeds together at those times before flying across the canyon to a group of huge wild rose bushes, under which they hide from hawks most of the day. Soon, however, the covey will disperse into pairs that will stroll in and out of our yard all day, the males jealously guarding their mates from interlopers. Meanwhile, a lone male pheasant has taken up residence in the hill right behind our yard. He sleeps in, so by the time he shows up, most of the seed has been eaten by the quail. He steps into the sunlight so that his bronze pectoral feathers seem to glow, calls loudly twice, and then beats his wings so loudly I can hear it inside, even with all the windows closed. We hadn't seen any pheasants since November 2017. I hope he can find a mate.

Last winter we had almost no house finches at our feeders and only a few chickadees, but huge flocks of lesser goldfinches every day. I saw the first male American goldfinches transitioning to their bright yellow summer clothes on March 7 (last year it was March 6) and yesterday, March 31, I saw one that was all yellow.

Speaking of yellow birds, have you seen Mr. Yellow? This one-in-a-million yellow male cardinal was first spotted in Alabaster, Alabama, on January 28, 2018, by Charlie Stephenson. The bird found a mate, raised some chicks, and returned to his old territory this year. Mr. Yellow has his own Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TheYellowCardinal.

Even more fascinating is a cardinal spotted by Shirley Caldwell in her Erie, Pennsylvania, backyard. Viewed from the left, the bird appears to be female, colored in the typical drab beige. But when the bird hops around and you see its right side, it looks like a male, all clad in red. This bird appears to be a rare bilateral gynandromorph, where half its body is male, and the other half is female. This phenomenon has been reported among birds, reptiles, butterflies, and crustaceans. According

to a story in the New York Times, Daniel Hooper, an evolutionary biologist at the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, doesn't see any reason that cardinals would be more likely to be of mixed sex than other creatures, but the color differences by gender make them particularly noticeable.

Gynandromorphs are thought to be infertile, but, as of February, this cardinal was hanging around with a male bird. Like other animals, birds have a pair of ovaries, but only the left one is functional. Since the left side of this bird is female, Hooper noted that it's possible this bird could lay eggs. Any offspring should

be genetically conventional, because the egg cells would have only one sex chromosome.

In gynandromorphs, half of the brain, too, is female, and half male. Male songbirds have many more neural connections in their brains to allow them to sing complex tunes. Hooper wondered how a half-and-half brain would affect this cardinal's ability to learn and produce song, as well as its desire to do so. Keep your eyes peeled, folks, you never know what ornithological wonders you might see out there!



Photos by Jeremy Black Photography and Shirley Caldwell

President’s Message

By Liz Urban

We have decided to make the newsletter quarterly, and predominately electronic. We have long felt that the printed format is not very effective at communicating about field trips and events. Our bimonthly eNews blasts, online calendars, and social media platforms allow more up-to-date information and short notice events. Therefore, we plan to remove the upcoming events section from the quarterly newsletters, allowing us to include more content about the chapter accomplishments. Reducing the newsletter to four issues will ease the pressure on the volunteers responsible for creating content, editing, formatting, printing, addressing, folding, and mailing the hard-copies – something that is not so environmentally or fiscally sound.

We look forward to making better use of your membership dues to serve our community and to benefit birds with the lower printing and mailing costs. We do, however, know that some members prefer the printed newsletter. Please let us know if you prefer a paper copy, and we will mail one to you. We are refreshing our hard-copy mailing list. There is a short form elsewhere in this newsletter or email us to keep your preference up to date. If you are ready to switch to electronic, but haven’t been getting our twice monthly emails, please also update your current email so we can keep you informed of all the great stuff going on.

In addition to those changes, it feels like that crazy time of year when everyone is out enjoying the wonderful birds, weather, and all the great events going on. We hope you enjoyed the banquet as much as we did and a special thank you to everyone who supported the chapter through this annual tradition. There are still many trips and educational events through the end of April and May before things start to taper off slightly in June as the weather gets hotter. We hope you’ll be able to join in the fun while the weather is nice.

Anyone who would like to get more involved in GEAS, please join a committee. We have committees for education and outreach, field trips, and small grants and awards. Let us know if you like to join one or learn more.

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- Liven “Pete” Peterson (Honorary, Deceased)

GEAS CALENDAR

May-June 2019

| | |
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| Workshop: Bird Identification 1 | May 1 |
| Field Trip: Jordan Valley Bluebird Trail | May 4 |
| Field Trip: Blacks Creek Bird Reserve | May 5 |
| Birdwatching at Hyatt Hidden Lakes | May 6 |
| Field Trip: Sweet Connie Bird Hike | May 10 |
| Field Trip: Montour and Sagehen | May 11 |
| Field Trip: Malheur NWR | May 18,19 |
| Birds for All Seasons Walk | May 25 |
| Field Trip: Oreana Bluebird Trail | May 25 |
| Bird Walk: Bethine Church Trail | May 26 |
| Monthly Program Meeting | May 28 |
| Bird Hike: Schoolhouse Gulch | June 1 |
| Workshop: Bird Identification 2 | June 5 |
| Field Trip: Prairie Bluebird Trail | June 8 |
| Field Trip: Daggett Creek and Picnic | June 15 |
| Field Trip: Upper Hulls Bird Hike | June 22 |
| Annual Picnic | June 25 |
| Workshop: Basics of Birding | June 26 |
| Bird Walk: Bethine Church Trail | June 30 |

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News From the Board: March and April

Dear Golden Eagle Audubon Members,

We love keeping our members informed on all that is happening with GEAS, birds, and the environment in our area. We've found that our hardcopy newsletter isn't very effective at communicating about events because it is produced so far in advance, and many opportunities are added or changed as they draw closer. Additionally, we feel that we should be conserving resources and remain an environmentally conscious organization, so we have decided to make several changes to this process that we hope you

will appreciate. Starting in July 2019, we will be:

- 1) Switching to a quarterly newsletter coming out in the spring, summer, autumn and winter months. We will continue to send out our twice-monthly eNews emails with the most up-to-date information on field trips and events. You can also access our online calendar at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/events.
- 2) We will be moving to electronic newsletters that will be sent straight to your email inbox! As always, we will also have a copy of all of our newsletters

posted on our website. We understand that some members may like the option of a printed newsletter to stay informed. If you would like to remain on our mailing list to receive a printed newsletter or update your current email address, please sign and return the information below or email tfalconer@goldeneagleaudubon.org. We appreciate your support in becoming a more effective, efficient, and modern organization!

Sincerely,
Golden Eagle Audubon Society Board

Name: _____

Address: _____

- Please continue to send me a printed version of GEAS's quarterly newsletter in order to keep me updated on events and programs.
- Please update my email address to: _____

Volunteer News

Volunteer Acknowledgments

A big thanks to Alexander Sapiens, Dondi Black, Teresa Sabala, Gail Nottingham, Susan Hazelton, Sue Norton, Danette Henderson, Alex Takasugi, Louise Maley, Alice Crockett, Ann Debolt, Matt McCoy, Ann Swanson, Liz Urban and many others who worked hard to make the evening possible. Thank you to Nathan Pieplow for giving a wonderful presentation. Thank you to all that attended and the donors that made this year's banquet a success.

Thank you to Sean Finn for leading the sage-grouse field trip, it was a magical experience for all involved. Also, JC Curd for driving us safely there and back.

A huge thank you to Matt McCoy for

volunteering to chair both the conservation and banquet committees, and of course all of the banquet related volunteers and donors. Also, to Libby Burtner for chairing the advocacy committee.

Many thanks to our field trip leaders: Tricia Brookman, Alan Crockett, RL Rowland, Kristin Gnojewski, Jim James, Kathy Barker McCoy, Alexander Sapiens. Thank you to Heather Hayes for the Curlew Workshop and David Potter for the Birding by Ear classes and field trips.

We also want to thank Jamie Thill at the Garden City Library for being such a joy to work with for outreach events.

As always, our monthly meetings are successful due to the coordination of Alexander Sapiens and our wonderful

speakers. Thank you.

We would like to thank Carolyn Dean, Lorna Snow, Erika Harmon, Helen Manny, Sean Finn, Rick Olendorff, Zamzows in Eagle, and more for the work that went into making the Native Plant Repotting Party successful. Additionally, thank you to all of our partners for the event.

We have a fantastic team that makes sure our newsletters are edited, assembled and mailed out, which is no small task! Thank you to Niels Nokkentved, our chief editor, as well as the work of Alex Takasugi, Susan Hazelton, Ann Swanson, Jessica Fusek, Leah Dunn, Liz Urban. Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank Sue Norton for all of her years of newsletter coordination.

Idaho Gives 2019 is May 2, and we are asking you to join us in our efforts to make this the most awesome day of giving Idaho has ever seen.

On May 2, we ask that you to take five minutes to give to Golden Eagle Audubon Society. After that, you can give to other nonprofits that do work that you support or just kick back and watch how high the giving can go at <https://www.idahogives.org/organizations/golden-eagle-audubon-society/>

Any amount will help! \$10 will help show support for GEAS, \$25 will help cover expenses for maintaining a long-term bluebird



monitoring project, \$50 will purchase a pair of binoculars to benefit hundreds of people a year, and \$100 will provide all the materials needed for one New Roots participant.

Here's how to make a huge difference:

- Make a donation (www.idahogives.org/organizations/golden-eagle-audubon-society/)
- Spread the word. Text a friend. Post on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #IdahoGives. Oh, and you can also just tell someone in person – that works, too.

GEAS EVENTS for May and June 2019

Field trip information is subject to change. Please check the GEAS calendar online www.goldeneagleaudubon.org for up-to-date information or contact Dondi Black at 208-407-8798 or Dondi@goldeneagleaudubon.org.

Field Trip Etiquette: We carpool for out-of-town field trips. Please contribute gas money to your driver. If you RSVP for field trips, you will be notified of cancellations or changes; otherwise, please check the calendar. RSVP links are on the website calendar for easy access or RSVP by contacting Dondi Black (info above).

Wednesday, May 1

Wings and Wine Game Night

Time: 5 – 8 p.m.

Location: Split Rail Winery, 4338 Chinden Blvd. Garden City
Join us for an evening of fun at Split Rail Winery in support of GEAS. Play a game of Wingspan, test your knowledge at bird trivia, chat with friends, and grab a glass of wine. We will provide light refreshments, and 30 percent of the wine proceeds will be donated to Golden Eagle Audubon Society.

Wednesday, May 1

Idaho Gives Party by the River

Time: 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Location: Julia Davis Park-Ag Pavilion by Zoo Boise
Come celebrate Idaho Gives at the party by the river. Several non-profit organizations will be there to teach Dutch oven cooking, fly-casting and tying demonstrations, as well as bird walks led by GEAS. Join in the fun with raffles, demonstrations and beer from Lost Grove.

Wednesday, May 1

Workshop: Bird Identification 1

Time: 8 – 9 a.m.

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

Join Terry Rich for an engaging presentation on bird identification in the Treasure Valley. He will focus on identifying the most common birds coming through Hulls' Gulch using both visual and aural clues. There will be a short talk, but most of the time will be spent birding on the trails. Binoculars will be available.

Saturday, May 4

SIBA Field Trip: Jordan Valley Bluebird Trail

Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: I-O-N Truck Plaza, 5644 Buntrock Rd. Marsing
Leader: David Potter 208-365-8380 or joemorgan409@msn.com
Join SIBA for a day on Al Larson's bluebird trails in the Owyhee Mountains in Jordan Valley. After checking boxes with Al, we will try to find as many migrating birds as we can see and hear. Restroom access very limited. Bring beverages, snacks, lunch and a chair for the lunch break. SIBA (Southwestern Idaho Birders Association) is a birding group based in Canyon County. All are welcome on their field trips.

RSVP: <https://jordan-valley2019.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, May 5

Field Trip: Blacks Creek Bird Reserve

Time: 8 – 11 a.m.

Location: Meet at Blacks Creek Bird Reserve parking area with vault toilet

Leader: Jim James

Join GEAS for a morning of birding at Blacks Creek Reserve. We should see the full variety of waterfowl. We'll start by glassing the reservoir from the bluff, then head down into the flat to try to get a little closer to the waterfowl and shorebirds. Those who are up to it can walk out to the wash and bird the tree line for whatever surprises it may have. Warblers are moving! Total distance covered is 1 to 1.5 miles. Level ground but broken, rough walking. Plans may be modified based on the water level of the reservoir. Bring water and sunscreen.

RSVP: <https://blacks-creek-may2019.eventbrite.com>

Monday, May 6

Unplug: Birdwatching at Hyatt Hidden Lakes

Time: 6 – 7 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Hidden Lakes, 5301 N Maple Grove Rd., Garden City

Meridian Parks and Recreation is partnering with GEAS for a beginner-friendly bird walk at Hyatt Hidden Lakes. Meet at the lower parking lot off of Maple Grove. Binoculars provided. This is part of the week long series of events for Unplug and Be Outside, encouraging people of all ages to soak in the marvel of nature.

Friday, May 10

Field Trip: Sweet Connie Bird Hike

Time: 8 a.m. – noon

Location: Miller Gulch Trailhead and Parking Area

Leader: Dondi Black dondi@goldeneagleaudubon.org or 208-407-8798

Please join GEAS for a spring birding hike in the Boise foothills. Plan for a three- to five-mile hike on a well-used trail. Be prepared for rocky and steep sections. This is an out and back hike. Time and distance will be determined by group participants. Wear clothes and shoes appropriate for hiking. Bring water, snacks, binoculars and sun protection. No dogs, please.

RSVP: <https://sweet-connie2019.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, May 11

Field Trip: Montour WMA and Sagehen Reservoir Bluebird Trail

Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Park & Ride on State and Riverside Drive in Eagle

Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Dondi Black dondi@goldeneagleaudubon.org or 208-407-8798

Spend a day with the Bluebird Man, Al Larson, as he shares his expertise and love for bluebirds along his bluebird trails. We will make a brief trip to Montour Wildlife 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 wildflowers as well as birds! Dress for the weather and bring water, lunch, lawn chair and snacks; this is an all-day trip.

RSVP: <https://sagehen2019.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, May 11

International Migratory Bird Day at Zoo Boise

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: Zoo Boise, 355 Julia Davis Dr. Boise

Join GEAS and our community partners at the Zoo for a range

GEAS Events continued

of fun activities, including short bird walks, crafts for the family, door prizes, and more! (Please note that standard entrance fees apply.) Come celebrate birds with us.

Saturday & Sunday, May 18-19

Field Trip: Malheur NWR

Location: Page Springs Campground, Frenchglen, OR

Leader: Kathy Barker-McCoy, 208.921.1340

Spend the weekend birding with GEAS at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. We will be camping at Page Springs, approximately 5 1/2 hours from Boise, and will be spending two full days birding. You may register for Saturday or Sunday or both days. Please visit our RSVP link for more details and to register. RSVP: <https://malheur2019.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, May 25

Birds for All Seasons Walk

Time: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Location: Kathryn Albertson Park

GEAS and Boise Parks and Recreation will sponsor beginner-friendly bird walks highlighting the myriad birds that can be found in and around Boise this spring. Dress for the weather. Binoculars provided. Space is limited.

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birds-for-all-seasons-tickets-27190869623>

Saturday, May 25

Field Trip: Oreana Bluebird Trail

Time: 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: St. Luke's Park and Ride on Eagle Rd.

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Dondi Black dondi@goldeneagleaudubon.org or 208-407-8798

Don't miss the chance to explore Owyhee County with Al Larson. There will be lots of wildflowers in addition to the bluebirds, other colorful breeders and probably a few late migrants as we climb through varied habitats towards Spencer Reservoir. Pack lunch and water for an all-day outing and don't forget the sun block. Dress for variable weather conditions.

RSVP: <https://oreana2019.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, May 26

Bird Walk: Bethine Church Nature Trail

Time: 9 a.m. – noon

Meeting Location: *Note new meeting location-the large parking area between the Griddle and SpringHill Suites on Parkcenter.

Please join GEAS for a monthly bird walk along the Bethine Church Nature Trail. Expect to see songbirds, waterfowl, woodpeckers, herons and kingfishers. No public restrooms available.

RSVP: <https://bethine-church-may2019.eventbrite.com>

Tuesday, May 28

Monthly Program: Ferruginous Hawk

Time: 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Library! At Cole and Ustick,

Join Golden Eagle Audubon Society for our monthly meeting and presentation. Leon Powers will present a personal look into the private life of North America's largest and rarest hawk, the Ferruginous Hawk, the subject of his PhD studies and resulting book, *A Hawk in the Sun*. Powers will discuss why this shy desert raptor has teetered on the edge of "Threatened" status over past

decades and what it's future likely holds. Regrettably, *A Hawk in the Sun* is out of print, but he will have some of his other books available for sale and signing. Powers, professor emeritus at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, has taught birds of prey classes for 30 years in addition to various biology classes. He is currently "Doc Hawk," nature writer for *Boy Scout's Boys' Life* magazine. He is also the author of the nonfiction books, *A Hawk in the Sun*, *Dead Owls Flying*, *The Forgotten Expedition*, *Doc Hawk Stories for Everyone*, and his just released *Seven Summers*, about flammulated owls.

Saturday, June 1

Bird Hike: Schoolhouse Gulch

Time: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location: Schoolhouse Gulch Trail, Garden Valley

Trip Leader: Jim James

Join GEAS as we spend the day birding in beautiful Garden Valley, specifically the Schoolhouse Gulch area. The Schoolhouse Gulch trail is a 2-mile loop that will pass through Ponderosa Pine habitat as well as a wooded riparian area where we can expect to see woodpeckers and nuthatches. From there we will head to other areas in Garden Valley and Crouch. Bring lunch if you plan to stay with the group the entire time. No public restrooms are available, but there is a Chevron station just down the road on the way. For more details please visit our RSVP link.

RSVP: <https://schoolhouse-gulch2019.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday, June 5

Bird Identification 2

Time: 8 – 9 a.m.

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

Join Terry Rich for an engaging presentation on bird identification in the Treasure Valley. He will focus on identifying the most common birds coming through Hulls Gulch using both visual and aural clues. There will be a short talk, but most of the time will be spent birding on the trails. Binoculars will be available to borrow.

Saturday, June 8

Field Trip: Prairie Bluebird Trail

Time: 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: BLM district office near the airport

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Dondi Black dondi@goldeneagleaudubon.org or 208-407-8798

Spend the day birding with Al Larson, as he shares 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. RSVP: <https://prairie-2019.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, June 15

Field Trip: Daggett Creek Birding and Picnic

Time: 7:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Meeting location: MK Nature Center, 600 S. Walnut St. Boise

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Dondi Black dondi@goldeneagleaudubon.org or 208-407-8798

Join GEAS and Al Larson for

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a day of birding and a picnic. We'll carpool to 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. RSVP: <https://daggett-creek2019.eventbrite.com>.

Saturday, June 22

Field Trip: Upper Hulls Bird Hike

Time: 7 – 11 a.m.

Leader: Dondi Black dondi@goldeneagleaudubon.org or 208-407-8798

Please join Golden Eagle Audubon Society for a hike in the Boise foothills. This is a two-mile loop in Upper Hulls. Expect to see buntings, towhees, chats, warblers, vireos, wrens, etc. Some sections are steep, rocky and slippery. Wear clothes and shoes appropriate for hiking. Bring water, snacks, binoculars and sun protection. No dogs, please. This hike is limited to 10 participants. Carpool location will be sent out prior to the event.

RSVP: <https://hulls-june2019.eventbrite.com>

Tuesday, June 25

Save the date: GEAS Annual Picnic

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: TBD

Wednesday, June 26

Basics of Birding

Time: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Intro to Birding; 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Walk; 7:30 p.m. Beverages

Location: Library! At Bown Crossing, Boise

Spend a fun evening with GEAS and the Bown Crossing Library as we learn all about Boise's common birds. We will start off at the library for a lesson on the basics of birding and the common birds that you might see in the area. Next, we will head out for a short bird walk along the Boise River to see what we can find. We expect to see songbirds, waterfowl and kingfishers. We have binoculars for people to borrow. To wrap up our evening of birding, we will end at Bier Thirty for some brews and conversation. Drop-in and participate with us in one or all of the night's activities.

Sunday, June 30

Bird Walk: Bethine Church Nature Trail

Time: 9 a.m. – noon

Location: Note new meeting location: the large parking area between the Griddle and SpringHill Suites on Parkcenter.

Join GEAS for our monthly bird walk along the Bethine Church Nature Trail. Expect to see songbirds, waterfowl, woodpeckers, herons and kingfishers. No public restrooms are available.

RSVP: <https://bethine-church-june2019.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday Morning Club will continue to meet through the spring on the second, third and fourth Wednesday of each month. Please visit www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/events or contact Kathy Barker-McCoy for details 208-921-1340.

If you change your email address, please send an email message from your new email address to that effect to: membership@goldeneagleaudubon.org

GEAS gets Audubon in Action Grant

We are thrilled to announce that GEAS received an Audubon in Action Grant from National Audubon Society in order to build an effective conservation advocacy community in here Southwestern Idaho! We have started an advocacy committee, led by Libby Burtner, that will focus on taking action on laws, events or policies that affect birds and wildlife. We will be starting with issues concerning the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, CuMo Mine, and Stop the Think. We hope to share advocacy resources and work towards an Advocacy Day at the Capitol in 2020. Anyone interested in joining the committee, may contact Libby Burtner at burtnerlibby@hotmail.com, subject, GEAS Advocacy Committee.



Washington Lobby Day

Photo by Luke Frank/Audubon

Native Plant Network Invites You!

Spring is a season of opportunity, and that's especially true for the GEAS-led Treasure Valley Native Plant Network.

Thousands of seedlings carefully planted in seed trays by hundreds of school children and community members are sprouting as the sun gets warmer and the days lengthen. These seedlings are destined for habitat restoration sites around the Valley, including some of the best birding sites like Hyatt Hidden Lakes, Blacks Creek Bird Reserve and IBO's Boise River Research Station. But the little baby plants have a months-long journey in front of them while they grow into strong plants ready for planting. The collective work of people who care about native plants, wildlife and good habitat will make that journey possible. The Network is people, GEAS members and other citizens, and plants contributing what they can to make the valley beautiful.

Last winter 300 students, elementary and high school, seeded more than 200 trays with 25 native species. The seeds "cold stratified" or sat in their snowy beds waiting for signs of spring. Now the baby plants are growing and will soon need to be moved to bigger pots to give their roots a full summer to lengthen and strengthen. Re-potting will start in late April in classrooms and at events at Zoo Boise, Boise Public Library, and at Zamzows in Eagle. In fact, GEAS and partners are hosting a big re-potting party on Saturday April 27. Drop in anytime between 1 and 5 p.m. You'll get a chance to learn about and work with a variety of native plant seedlings, understand and participate in the process of creating habitat and get your hands dirty. There will be games and laughs and a barbecue lunch available for a small donation.

If April 27 just doesn't work for you, keep an eye on the GEAS on-line calendar. There will be other opportunities as spring goes on. We are also looking for folks to host plants over the summer, so let us know if that interests you: visit <https://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/npn> for more information.

2019/20 GEAS Board of Directors & Officers Election

President: Liz Urban

Liz Urban is the current GEAS president and has been on the board for the previous four years. She is a member of the education, banquet, and small grants and awards committees. She is the director of the Audubon 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 enjoyed researching Cooper's hawks, Harris's hawks, American kestrels, long-billed curlews, and more. She has a 3 1/2-year-old son, infant daughter, and a husband of 12 years. Liz hopes to continue to develop conservation and education partnerships this year for GEAS to effectively 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 seven years.

Secretary: Jim Lyons

Jim Lyons moved to Boise in 1981, and got involved with GEAS right away, serving as vice-president and president during the 1980s. Raising a family with his wife Marcia and a busy work life with HP kept him away from birding and associated activities for many years. Now with three grown offspring living in other parts of the country, and "mostly retired" status, Jim and his wife enjoy being able to give back to the community. He started seriously birding during his college days in the '70s, hit a life list of about 500 shortly after moving to Idaho, and has plateaued since, adding four just since the first of 2019.

Treasurer: Alex Takasugi

Alex Takasugi grew up in Indiana, where her backyard bordered on thick woods where she spent as much time as she could, roaming and enjoying the wildlife. She joined the local Audubon chapter as a teenager, and created one of the best feeding stations in the neighborhood. She remembers seeing her first wood duck and hearing her first wood thrush in southern Indiana. After retiring from Hewlett-Packard in Boise she resumed birding. Now she wants to work to preserve the birds and other living treasures of this area through learning and volunteering—she is a Master Naturalist. She enjoys meeting the active folks in the birding community, and hopes to continue the chapter's work.

Board of Directors Candidates:

Libby Burtner

Libby is a retired RN who served in the U.S. Air Force as a nurse for eight years, and rounded out the other 32 years of nursing in hospitals, clinics and schools. She has always been a back-yard birder, but ventured out beyond those borders about five years

ago. She is also a Master Naturalist, a docent at Birds of Prey and an avid photographer. Gardening, learning Spanish, reading, travel and mail art round out her interests. Libby has served as secretary the past two years and chairs both the small grants and advocacy committees.

Michele Crist

Michele Crist has been on the board of Golden Eagle Audubon Society for seven years. She has served as president, past-president, and as a board member. She is committed to the conservation of birds and their habitat, and she enjoys bird-watching. Michele is a director on National Audubon's Board, representing 50 chapters across nine states of the Central-North Flyway. Being on a local chapter board and a national board allows her to share knowledge and bring integration and collaboration between the national and local chapters to achieve a more cohesive Audubon voice in bird conservation. She works as a landscape ecologist at the National Interagency Fire Center.

Ballot

Any current GEAS member, 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 23 when the election concludes at our monthly meeting.

Members may cast one vote 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 23 to be counted. An online ballot is available through the member's membership portal (login on the site to access). Or members may vote in person at the May monthly meeting, held at 7 p.m. May 23 at the Library at Cole and Ustick.

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)

Jim Lyons
Other (write in name)

Treasurer (Vote for one)

Alex Takasugi
Other (write in name)

Board of Directors (Vote for 2)

Libby Burtner
Michele Crist

Other (write in name)

Golden Eagle Audubon Society
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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