



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

September/October 2018

Fledglings fill the air as adults feed the juveniles

By Crista Worthy

Despite the long, hot, smoky summer, the feeders are full of fledglings again. American and lesser goldfinches, along with hordes of house finches, inundate our three feeders all day, emptying them by evening. Visits to our hummingbird feeder also increased dramatically the last week of July, and now I need to refill it about every other day. All the hummers we see here in Hidden Springs are black-chinned. The quail, which had been strolling through the yard mostly in pairs, coalesced into one main group of about 100 birds. They now spend the heat of the day under a giant sagebrush and beneath the junipers but fan out across the lawn all morning and evening, gobbling up tiny insects. Several families have 10 to 15 “teenagers” in tow.

I recently finished a book called *Life Everlasting*, written by one of my favorite animal biologists, Bernd Heinrich, who lives in a forest in Maine. The book details myriad ways that the remains of animals are “recycled” after death and makes me wish I could

have a “sky burial” like the Tibetans do, where vultures see to it that people join the cycle of life instead of being locked away underground, filled with embalming fluid.

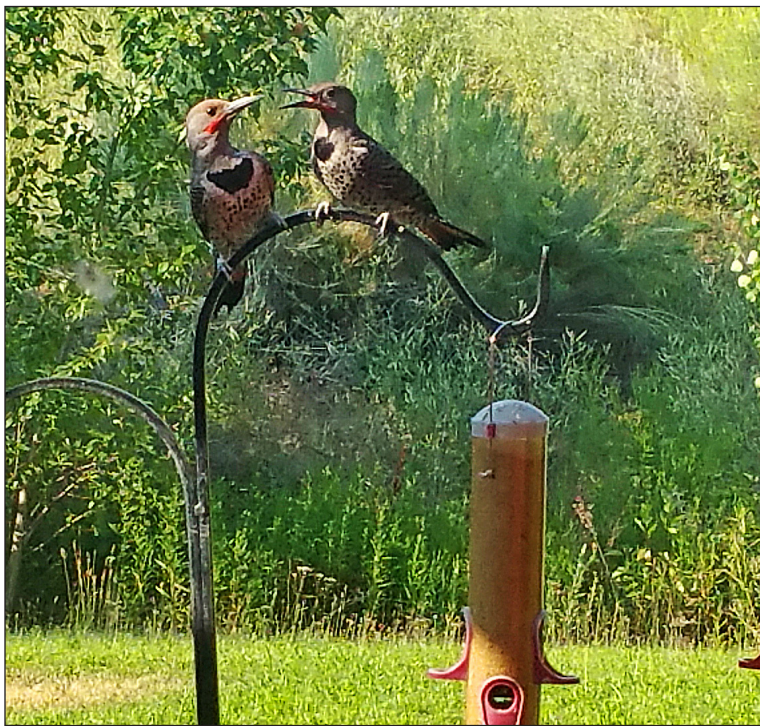
I was standing in our bedroom, the book fresh on my mind, when I heard an enormous noise outside. It sounded like a giant flock of birds gone mad. I rushed into the bathroom to look out the window. There on the lawn, a juvenile Cooper’s hawk stood on top of a bird it had just caught. Its prey was flailing its wings, but to no avail. I looked into the tree above to see a pair of robins; those two birds were the source of all that noise, and it was their fledgling that fought, and lost, the struggle with the hawk. I stood transfixed as the juvenile robin ceased its struggles. Eventually the parents flew off. I’ve watched many Cooper’s hawks after a successful hunt, but this one did something different. After

several minutes, the hawk hopped off the dead robin and walked away. It then flew into the tree above. I didn’t think the hawk could see me, but, just in case, I withdrew from the room, so the hawk could enjoy its meal in peace.

An hour later, I looked out the window again. The robin lay untouched in the grass, and the hawk was gone. I walked outside, looked around—no hawk—and then walked over to the robin. I

wanted to see how the hawk had killed it. I picked up the robin and saw there was not a mark or drop of blood on it, just a few feathers gone around the neck. The hawk had apparently strangled it. Why did it abandon its prize?

Remembering the book, rather than put the robin in the trash bin, I took it over to the sagebrush and laid it out where I hoped the hawk or some other predator would find it, so it wouldn’t have died in vain. I came to regret this about another hour later when I looked outside again to see the hawk stalking around the grass near where I had picked up the robin, trying, unsuccessfully, to flush out a quail from under the juniper. Maybe if I’d



Northern flicker adult feeds a juvenile

Photo by Crista Worthy

have left the robin, the quail would have gotten a break.

The following day, a pair of flickers landed on the birdfeeder poles. It’s always fun to watch these big birds. The male dropped onto the feeder, stuffing his bill with sunflower chips, and then flew back up. That was when I realized that the other bird was a fledgling male, as his dad stuffed his mouth with the seed before going back several times for more.

It sounds like we’ve had plenty of bluebird fledglings this year too. Recently I spoke with Al Larson, who told me he banded 140 chicks one day and 120 another day this past June; the usual number is more like 10 to 50 birds per day. Al is an inspiration to us all, and High Country News asked me to write a little about how he has helped our bluebirds for the past 36 years; look for the story at HCN.org.

President’s Message

By Liz Urban

September brings a wonderful variety of birds and new opportunities at GEAS. We will have the opportunity to look for some great migrating birds as we resume our field trips, with some new styles in the mix thanks to the dedication of the Field Trips Committee and our volunteers.

The board will also be working on the chapter’s strategic plan this month, reflecting on the progress we have made as a chapter over the past few years and where we are headed. There are two special educational workshops in September, and a representative from National Audubon Society will speak about the importance of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act at our monthly program. There will be a volunteer restoration event at Blacks Creek Bird Reserve celebrating Public Lands Day, a planting event at the IBO river site, and so much more. Please take a look at our calendar online for all the wonderful offerings coming up.

I hope you are as pleased with the momentum and impact our chapter has made this past year as I am. We have streamlined and improved (okay, maybe more like ‘created’) our communications plan, expanded our educational offerings, and more. I’d like to thank our first ever long-term independent contractor, Lizzy Miskell, for her help in making this possible. Lizzy has accepted a full-time position at the Library at Cole and Ustick. We will miss working with her in her role as our outreach and development associate, but we look forward to continuing to partner with her and the library for our monthly programs and future educational offerings. All the best to Lizzy!

Liz Urban, president

Position Opening – Outreach and Development Associate

GEAS is currently seeking a part-time independent contractor to continue this position for another year term. The contractor supports many of our organizational, communication, and volunteer needs with direction from the board of directors. Please visit our website or view the job posting on the Idaho Nonprofit Job Board for details and for how to apply. We anticipate closing the posting by the end of September unless the position is filled sooner.

GEAS CALENDAR September-October 2018

Field Trip: Blacks Creek Reserve	September 2
Field Trip: SIBA migrating shorebirds	September 8
Field Trip: IBO owl banding	September 10
Workshop: Mastering eBird	September 15
Bird Walk in the Park	September 16
Workshop: Raptor Identification	September 20
Field Trip: Garden Valley	September 22
Monthly Program Meeting	September 25
Greenbelt Litter Patrol	September 30
Field Trip: Bennett Mountain	October 6
Big Sit! Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve	October 14
Field Trip: Marianne Williams Park	October 20
Blacks Creek Road Cleanup	October 21
Monthly Program Meeting	October 23
Field Trip: SIBA, C.J. Strike	October 27
Greenbelt Litter Patrol	October 28

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News From the Board: July and August

- GEAS produced a summary of current literature on bird-friendly building design that was submitted to the Boise City Council and the architect firm working on the Main Library Design in Boise. We were concerned with the large amount of glass proposed in the initial concept submitted to the public for comments, and we thank our members and the birding community for taking the time to let our concerns be known. We will continue to offer to work with the architects to ensure the building is as bird-friendly as possible, and will be vigilant in watching for the next comment period.
- The annual picnic and board member installation served as the June board meeting. Thanks to all those who attended and brought wonderful food!
- At the July board meeting we discussed the tasks that would need to be assigned with our contractor's departure and decided to list the job posting as soon as possible. The board had previously approved the position for another fiscal year. Dondi Black, Sue Norton, Sean Finn, and Liz Urban are serving as the ad-hoc hiring committee with oversight and approval by the board.
- An ad-hoc committee including Alan Crockett, Alexander Sapiens, Dondi Black, and Liz Urban are exploring the idea of an international birding trip with an Audubon partner in 2019 or 2020.
- The board will be working to update the chapter strategic plan starting in September. If you'd like to provide any feedback or insights, please email Liz at LUrban@goldeneagleaudubon.org. We welcome member participation.
- The field trip and education committees have drafted field trips through the end of the year and should be published on our online calendar shortly.
- Along with several partners, we hosted the second Build Your Birding Skills workshop on hummingbirds in July.
- GEAS has agreed to participate in the collaborative Bird by Bird program, connecting classrooms with bird curriculum and experts, for another school year.

Volunteer News

Volunteer thank yous

Many thanks to the team of volunteers who worked on the newsletter, including Niels Nokkentved, Jessica Fusek, Suzanne Woodcock, Alex Takasugi, Susan Hazelton, and Sue Norton. Thanks to the volunteers who stepped up to provide support and feedback for Field Trips and form the new Field Trip Committee: Jim James, Dondi Black, Alan Crockett, RL Rowland, Kathy McCoy, David Potter, and Alexander Sapiens, Alex Takasugi. Thanks to our Education Committee for planning out some great programs for the upcoming year: Alex Takasugi, Liz Urban, Heidi Ware Carlisle, and Kristin Gnojewski.

Thanks to Alex Takasugi for finding us a more affordable storage solution and to her, Alan Crockett, Alexander Sapiens, Chris McClure, Dondi & Jeff Black, and the Urban clan for moving us into the new space in August.

Thanks to Krisitn Gnojewski for her continued leadership on creating a pollinator garden in Warm Springs Park in partnership with the city, local schools and homeowner's associations, and additional partners.

Donor acknowledgements

Thank you to the following donors who have given to GEAS since June: Denise Weis, Alex Takasugi, Sue Norton, Ken Johnson.

Remembering Colleen Harden

Colleen Harden, a former Golden Eagle Audubon Society member, died recently and left a generous donation to our chapter. Ms. Harden served on the GEAS board from 1980 to 1983. Al Larson was president during most of Ms. Harden's time on the board and remembers her as a good friend to Hilda and him. They would sit on the deck in Ms. Harden's yard and watch and photograph wood ducks on the pond in back of her house. Al said Ms. Harden enjoyed birding with friends, attended field trips, and represented GEAS at a National Audubon Society regional conference in Logan, Utah.

Ms. Harden was born in Woodburn, Oregon on June 26, 1930, and died in Boise on October 21, 2017. She wrote for the Oregonian newspaper and was an arborist. She enjoyed photography and watching birds. We are thankful for her participation in GEAS and deeply appreciate her thoughtfulness in remembering the chapter with this kind bequest.

Call for small grant applications

The GEAS Grants and Awards Committee will accept applications for the fall/winter grant cycle through November 15. The board votes in December on grants, which are generally \$500 or less. We welcome conservation, education, or research projects to apply for consideration. The

application can be found on the GEAS website under Programs and should be submitted via email to Libby Burtner at lburtner@goldeneagleaudubon.org

Bird-Friendly coffee at a discount

Save on bird-friendly coffee by ordering through our Coffee Club! GEAS is partnering with Birds and Beans—a Smithsonian Certified Bird-Friendly brand—to offer a special rate on their coffee. Traditional coffee farms and subsequent loss of habitat are a major contributor to the alarming decline in migratory songbird populations. Anyone can feel good about that morning cup of joe when they order coffee through the GEAS coffee club. Visit our website, www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/, and click on the "Store" menu tab to place an order and receive our discounted rate.

Coffee Club volunteer opportunity

We are seeking a volunteer to coordinate the Coffee Club—about a three-hour commitment per month. This volunteer will be responsible for submitting the bulk order with Birds and Beans on the 15th of each month, distributing the coffee orders to two designated pickup locations, and alerting members when coffee is available for pickup. Please contact us at info@goldeneagleaudubon.org if you are interested in this position.

GEAS EVENTS for September and October 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.

Starting this fall, GEAS asks participants to register for field trips so that we can communicate changes and cancellations and late-breaking information. RSVP links are on the website calendar for easy access.

Sunday, September 2

Field Trip: Blacks Creek Bird Reserve

Trip leader: Jim James

Location: Albertson's on Federal Way and Highway 21 (6560 S. Federal Way)

Time: 8 a.m.

Contact: Alex Takasugi geasfieldtrips@gmail.com 208-484-9132
RSVP at <https://blacks-creek-fieldtrip.eventbrite.com>

At this time we should see the full variety of waterfowl. It is also peak time for shorebirds. Study up!

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. We'll probably finish by 11. Bring water and sunscreen. September can be hot, but early in the morning with a wind, be sure to have at least a light jacket. A restroom is available.

Saturday, September 8

SIBA Field Trip: Finding Some Mud: Migrating Shorebirds

Trip leader: David Potter

Location: Deer Flat NWR at the boat ramp near Visitor Center
Time: 8 a.m.

Contact: David Potter joemorgan409@msn.com 208-365-8380
RSVP at <https://siba-shorebirds.eventbrite.com>

We will be looking for early season shorebirds. Our destination TBD based on the location of best mud in southern Canyon or Ada county. Plan on at least half a day. This coincides with the Annual Global Shorebird Count. While we don't have a lot of shorebirds in Idaho, we do have a pretty good variety. Let's go out and practice our shorebird skills and count some peeps. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen and a lunch.

Monday, September 10

Field Trip: IBO Owl Banding

Trip Leader: Dondi Black

Location: MK Nature Center parking lot (600 S. Walnut St.)

Time: 7 p.m.

Contact: Dondi Black dondiblack@gmail.com 208-407-8798
RSVP at <https://ibo-owls.eventbrite.com>

Meet at the MK Nature Center parking lot and carpool to IBO's owl banding site. It is a great opportunity to see owls and observe researchers in action and to learn more about the owls passing through our forests. Please bring a flashlight, layers-- it will get

cold after the sun goes down -- hot/cold beverages and snacks as desired. There is a rustic outhouse in the parking area. There is a 200 yard hike to the banding area. Wear sturdy shoes if you want to hike to the netting areas; the paths are steep, rocky and dark. The nets are checked about every hour so be prepared for down time in between. Anyone with a 4-WD high-clearance vehicle willing to drive, please let us know. Participation will be limited by the appropriate vehicles available. Parking space is limited so we will need to carpool.

Saturday, September 15

Workshop: Mastering eBird

Time: 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Instructor: Ian Davies, eBird Project Coordinator

Learn how eBird can help you whether you are just getting started, or a long-time eBirder, this workshop has something for you. Course fee is \$30 and advance registration required. Details and sign-up at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org.

Sunday, September 16

Bird Walk in the Park – Military Reserve

Trip Leader: Kristin Gnojewski

Location: Cottonwood Creek Trailhead on Mountain Cove Road
Time: 9 to 11 a.m.

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

RSVP at: <https://military-reserve-bird-walk.eventbrite.com>

Please join Golden Eagle Audubon Society for our family and beginner friendly Bird Walk in the Park. We will meet at the Cottonwood Creek Trailhead off Mountain Cove Road at 9 a.m. Bring plenty of water, wear sturdy hiking shoes and be aware that there is some (avoidable) poison ivy in the area. Binoculars and guidebooks will be available.

Thursday, September 20 and 23

Workshop: Raptor Identification

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Classroom session at Meridian Public Library

Instructor: Bryce Robinson

Field session: Sunday, September 23,

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Lucky Peak

Learn about advanced field identification of raptors. This two-part workshop includes a classroom session and a self-drive field trip to the Lucky Peak Field Station. Course fee is \$20 and advanced registration required. Details and sign-up at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org.

Saturday, September 22

Field Trip: Schoolhouse Gulch and Garden Valley

Trip leader: Alex Takasugi

Location: Park and Ride on Edgewood and Hwy 44 in Eagle (SW corner across from Starbucks)

Time: 8 a.m.

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

RSVP at: <https://schoolhouse-gulch.eventbrite.com>

Garden Valley, specifically the Schoolhouse Gulch area, has a good selection of ponderosa pine habitat and its accompanying birds. The trail passes through a wooded riparian area and across snag-covered hillsides that are host to lots of woodpeckers and nuthatches. After the Schoolhouse Gulch walk, which should take about two to three hours, people may choose to call it a day,

GEAS Events continued

or continue on to other areas in Garden Valley and Crouch The Schoolhouse Gulch trail is a two-mile loop, a combination of single-track and dirt road with easy elevation gain. Fall weather can be unpredictable at elevation. Bring water, snacks and appropriate clothing for cool mornings and warm afternoons. If you choose to make a half-day trip, there are lunch places in Crouch, otherwise bring lunch. No public restrooms are available, but there is a gas station just down the road on the way in.

Tuesday, September 25

Monthly Program Meeting: Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

Location: Sagebrush Room, Cole & Ustick Library

Time: 7 p.m.

Presenter: David J. Ringer, National Audubon Society

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, signed into law in 1918, was one of the Audubon Society's first major victories. The act protects birds from people. National Audubon Society is celebrating its 100-year anniversary. Legislation in Congress and a new interpretation of the law by the administration would end the ability to hold industries accountable for bird deaths. We need to educate our community and legislators on the importance of the treaty. Ringer oversees Audubon's vast network of Audubon chapters, more than 40 Audubon nature centers, thousands of deeply committed advocates and volunteers, and a wide range of partner organizations.

Sunday, September 30

Birding on the Bethine and Litter Patrol

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

Time: 9 a.m.

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

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

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 and riparian habitat. We usually finish around noon. Bring water, binoculars and maybe a plastic grocery bag in case we see any trash (it's usually minimal). No public restrooms are available on the trail.

Saturday, October 6

Field Trip: Bennett Mountain and Beyond

Trip leader: RL Rowland

Location: Boise District BLM, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise

Time: 8 a.m.

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

RSVP at: <https://elmore-county.eventbrite.com>

We will be off to the far side of Elmore County for quick stops at a couple reservoirs for late shorebirds. We'll look for migrating raptors while we cross the sagebrush on our way across Old Oregon Trail Road, to Bennett Mountain Road. Then up and over the mountain stopping for the occasional "whatever we see that looks interesting" and along one of the Bluebird Trails for late ones of those guys. At one point we will have a road split, from here we can either go on to Camas Prairie Marsh and see what fall birds may still be there or take the other road to Cat Creek Summit, across US 20 to Castle Rock Road and back thru to Little Camas Reservoir then homeward bound. A longish but not difficult day.

Sunday, October 14

Big Sit! At Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve

Organizer: RL Rowland

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

Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

RSVP at: <https://the-big-sit.eventbrite.com>

After a one-year hiatus, Boise's "The Big Sit" is back, this year under the umbrella of Golden Eagle Audubon as a field trip. For those who wish to start early and help with set up we meet at 6:30 at Hyatt's lower parking lot off Maple Grove. Bring a lunch, extra chairs, water, dress for the day's weather. Stay for the day or a bit. RL will again be the team captain. The Big Sit! is an international bird-watching event sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest and Swarovski Optik. Originally started by the New Haven Bird Club, The Big Sit has become the "tailgate party for birders." The simplicity of the concept is what makes the "Sit" so appealing. Find a good spot for bird watching, preferably one with good views and a variety of habitats and lots of birds, create a real or imaginary circle 17 feet in diameter, and sit inside the circle for 24 hours (12 hours for Boise), counting all the bird species you see and/or hear from within the confines of the circle. That's it. Everyone with an interest in birds is invited. You don't have to be an expert. Folks can come and go as they please, follow the main path until you see us. Local birders will share their knowledge and experience about identifying birds and their behavior. Extra binoculars and spotting scopes will be available for visitors to get close-up looks at the variety of birds at one of Boise's best birding hotspots. The Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve is a Boise city park that doubles as a storm-water treatment facility. There is a restroom, pathways and educational kiosks.

Saturday, October 20

Field Trip: Marianne Williams Park and Barber Park

Trip leader: Alexander Sapiens

Location: Marianne Williams Park, 3451 E Barber Valley Drive, Boise

Time: 8 a.m.

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

RSVP at: <https://marianne-williams-barber-loop.eventbrite.com>

Meet at the restrooms by the pond in Marianne Williams Park. We'll bird the four-mile loop through Barber Park and the natural areas on both sides of the river. Expect to see: ducks, herons, geese, raptors, owl, woodpeckers, kingfishers, songbirds, quail, etc. Bring water, layers, binoculars, snacks. Anyone may do a shorter distance but please let the trip leader know before leaving.

Sunday, October 21

Blacks Creek Kuna-Mora Road Cleanup

Location: Blacks Creek Bird Reserve off Kuna-Mora Road

Time: 9 a.m.

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

RSVP at: <https://road-cleanup.eventbrite.com>

Let's give the Blacks Creek Bird Reserve a bit of love by picking up the trash on the road in front of it then spend as much time as we like birding in the Reserve. 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 **Continued on page 7**

The Bluebird Man in his own words: An interview with Al Larson

Recent issues of The Golden Eagle have featured a volunteer spotlight to highlight some of the individuals who make our chapter successful. One volunteer in particular has dedicated so much time, over so many years, that a volunteer spotlight wasn't quite enough.



Al Larson leads a GEAS bluebird field trip to Prairie in May 2010. *GEAS file photo*

Al Larson has been a member of the local birding community since before Golden Eagle Audubon (GEAS) existed—more than 40 years.

"I have never considered myself as a volunteer," he said. "I have been involved with GEAS since its beginning."

He then shared the story about how our chapter began: "On a cold winter day while on a Christmas Bird Count in 1971, I suggested to Liven Peterson that it would be nice if there were a birding group in the Boise Valley. A few months later Liven invited me to a scoping meeting that included several birders from Ada and Canyon counties to discuss starting an Audubon chapter."



Birds aren't the only flying creatures that capture Al's interest; he pulled this young flying squirrel out of a bluebird box near his house.

As founding members, Al and his late wife Hilda Larson were involved in many aspects of the organization. "I took on the task, as one of the early presidents to start publishing a monthly newsletter, The Golden Eagle. I was its editor for

100 issues. Hilda and I collaborated on many of the articles. She sketched the early masthead of a golden eagle soaring across the Snake River canyon. For many years my personal home telephone was also listed in the phone book under Golden Eagle Audubon Society. We received calls from many birders visiting our area."

Al represented GEAS on several committees, lobbied government agencies on issues of concern, served a term as

president of the Idaho Audubon Council, a group of delegates from all the Idaho Audubon chapters. He attended many National Audubon meetings and has led field trips almost every year since the chapter's inception. That's more than 40 years of field trips—with his Bluebird Trail trips remaining annual favorites for many GEAS members.

He was the GEAS Christmas Bird Count compiler for 17 years. Along with his wife Hilda, Al also taught a beginning birding class for Boise Community Education for a number of years. He also visited fourth-grade classes in the Treasure Valley elementary schools to share his vast knowledge of our Idaho state bird, the Mountain Bluebird.

When asked what motivates him to give his time to this unpaid work, his answer is simple: "My love for nature. I enjoy sharing my outdoor experiences with others."

Al has many interests beyond birding and bluebird trails, including at one point hunting and fishing, as well as photography, rock hounding and genealogy. Birds and bluebirds, however, are a passion of Al's.

As a boy, Al collected stamps and as an adult he keeps a coin collection. During WWII he enlisted in the U.S Marine Corps. He is a self-taught musician and plays guitar, piano and harmonica. He made a flute out of bamboo while on Okinawa. When Al's son Jim was a teenager, father and son satisfied their need for adventure by climbing several peaks in the western US. In one four day span, they climbed Castle Peak, Mount Borah and Teewinot in the Grand Tetons.



The annual picnic at Al and Hilda's house is a GEAS favorite.

It shouldn't come as a surprise then when Al selected his favorite bird: "I should say that bluebird, *Sialia*, is my favorite since I spend so much time with them. I find it hard to name a second-best favorite bird. Most species are welcome to fly across my path." It is safe to say GEAS was founded and shaped in so many important ways by this dedicated individual.

For Al Larson stories and tributes from GEAS members, please see the website at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org.

Native Plant Network Grows On

Golden Eagle Audubon Society members and partners grew around 8,000 native wildflowers, shrubs and grasses for bird habitat restoration in the Treasure Valley this year.

At the GEAS Picnic in June the chapter awarded two very dedicated members for their efforts. Lorna Snow received the Citizen Grower award and Dana Ahlstrom and Summerwind STEM Academy won the Classroom Grower award. Both were responsible for germinating and nurturing more than 1,000 plants that are now big and strong and will be planted out at restoration sites this Fall.

We are working on schedules; at this time the one confirmed date/site we have is Saturday, October 13, at the IBO Boise River Research Station. Check the GEAS calendar for details on that event and for other planting opportunities in the fall.

Can't make those dates or hate kneeling? There are many other ways to participate in the Network for seed collection, to seedling germination, classroom visits and community events. Contact us through the Native Plant Network webpage.

GEAS is now offering the federal Duck Stamp

The chapter is proud to offer this federal conservation stamp at cost to members.

The Federal Duck Stamp, or Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, program began more than 90 years ago and has led to more than \$850 million dollars in dedicated funding to protect and improve the more than 6 million acres in our National Wildlife Refuge system. For each stamp sold, \$0.98 of every dollar goes directly to protecting important habitats.

Purchase your 2018-19 Federal Duck Stamp with GEAS and support wetland and grassland conservation on the public lands managed by our national refuge system. These annual stamps are required for waterfowl hunters, but birders and wildlife enthusiasts are encouraged to show their support for this important program. GEAS is selling these stamps as a service to our supporters and to support this important program; we do not make money on their sale. We hope to help provide some information on the monetary support of this great program that comes from non-consumptive users like birders! This information is impossible to assess if we purchase the stamp at the post-office, online, or elsewhere.



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items, leaving the usual road trash. Tools will be provided, bring gloves and a water bottle. **Note: participants must be over 18 years old!** Please register so we know how many vests we need.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018,

Monthly Program Meeting: See what Morley Nelson saw in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

Location: Ustick/Cole Library

Time: 7 p.m.

Presenter: Jordan Valentine

Jordan will describe her four day backpacking trip from Celebration Park to Grand View, what she did, what she saw, and how she picked her drawing subjects for the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Artist-In-Residence program. Her goal was to capture the amazing inhabitants through drawings. Valentine recently graduated with honors from Oregon State University with a degree in zoology. Jordan is a self-taught artist who works mostly with pen and watercolors. She hopes to pursue a career in ornithology.

Saturday, October 27

SIBA Field Trip: C. J. Strike Area – Ted Trueblood and Jack's Creek WMAs

Trip leader: David Potter

Location: BLM office at 3948 Development Ave. by the airport

Time: 8 a.m.

Contact: David Potter joemorgan409@msn.com 208-365-8380

RSVP at: <https://siba-cj-strike.eventbrite.com>

The CJ Strike area has always been a birdy interesting autumn field trip. We will be looking for late season and lost migrants as well as early winter birds taking up residence. Call your birding buddies. Please carpool as much as possible to eliminate extra cars. This will be a long day trip. Bring water, snacks and a lunch.

Sunday, October 28

Birding on the Bethine and Litter Patrol

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

Time: 9 a.m.

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

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

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 on the trail.

Field Trip Program Updates and RSVPs

After a couple of planning meetings with our new Field Trip Committee we are making a few changes to update and streamline the program. Beginning in September, we will be requesting RSVPs through an online system for field trips so that we can inform members of any last minute changes or cancelations due to weather. If you prefer not to use an online system to RSVP, you are still welcome to join us for field trips, but we do ask that you consult our online calendar before attending any program to ensure that it has not been cancelled or contact the field trip coordinator, Alex Takasugi at geasfieldtrips@gmail.com or 208-484-9132.

Golden Eagle Audubon Society
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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

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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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