



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

Spring 2020

Citizen-Science helps explain irruptions and unexpected nighttime visitors

By Crista Videriksen Worthy

Passionate birders are always on the lookout for “irruptions,” when birds travel outside their normal range in significant numbers. Perhaps the best-known irruptions are those of snowy owls, which can venture as far south as Texas in some winters. Scientists still aren’t sure why some years produce large snowy owl irruptions. The owls don’t seem to suffer population declines as a result. But not all bird irruptions are created equal.

During especially cold winters, coniferous songbirds sometimes desert their normal winter homes in Canada’s northern forests and head south in search of food. A recent study in *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* has, for the first time, shown that these irruptions can significantly shrink some birds’ numbers. The study, conducted by Environment Canada emeritus ornithologist Erica Dunn, relied on 50 years of data collected on red-breasted nuthatches. The data were collected by Project Feederwatch, an effort of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Studies Canada, and other citizen-science sources. Dunn said she focused on nuthatches because they return to the same core nesting areas across northern Canada each winter, making it possible to track breeding populations from year to year.

Dunn discovered that nuthatch population density declined, in some cases significantly, in summers that followed winters when the birds wandered widely. These results suggest that irrupting birds may succumb to the difficulties of avoiding predators and finding food in unfamiliar landscapes. Did you see an unusual number of red-breasted nuthatches this past winter? I sure did. In eight years in the Boise Foothills, I had seen only one, but I saw them dozens of times from late November into late January this year, sometimes several at once, clinging to our feeders. By February, however, they were all gone.

It’s been an unusually warm and dry February here in the Boise Foothills. The nuthatches may have fled, but we’ve been inundated by lesser goldfinches, with lots of brightly colored males at our feeders. The American goldfinches arrived in droves the first week of March, still in their winter clothes, but I expect

to see some in bright yellow finery even before spring’s official arrival March 19. Meanwhile, our extended family of some 140 quail visit three times daily to scoop up the seed I throw out. Most of them are already paired up and squabbles are increasing daily. Soon the group will disintegrate into pairs, before slowly regrouping again in late summer. The birds have fared well this year, partly due to the mild conditions, and partly because my neighbors finally seem to be getting the message that they should

keep their cats indoors. People have learned not to smoke inside public spaces. Most owners these days clean up after their dogs. Taking responsibility for pet cats, I hope, is next on the list of good manners that are also good for the environment.

Unless we get some big late-season rains, it’s shaping up to be a very dry year. In these conditions, you’ll see a lot more birds if you provide a constant, clean water source in your yard. Because I have so many ground-feeding birds, I have my water source on the ground, in the shade of a dwarf blue spruce. I learned the hard way, though, that if the water tray is more than an inch deep, baby quail can’t get out and can actually drown. So I keep it shallow and replace the water daily.

All winter we’ve been serenaded by a pair of great horned owls. One of them spends the morning hours napping in a tree behind our house. I walked up a hill across from the tree and used a telephoto lens to photograph him or her at close to eye level.

There’s a lot to look at in the dark sky this year, besides owls. Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn can be found close together in the early morning hours this March. All year Jupiter and Saturn will get closer to each other until December, when they will appear the closest together in nearly 400 years. Mars will continue to brighten this spring and summer, and shift to the evening sky by fall, when it will be a fiery orange light less than 39 million miles away. For now, you can see a bright Venus in the western sky. It will appear higher each evening until March 24, when it will be at its highest point since 2012, and you won’t see that again until 2028! Wonders fill the sky, both day and night.



Lesser goldfinch

Photo by Doug Greenberg

Volunteer News

Volunteer Acknowledgements

Thanks to Climate Watchers: Alan Crockett, Debbie Wiggins, RL Rowland, Alex Takasugi, Sean Finn, Louisa Evers, Eric Thomson, Patti Guicheteau, Judi Zuckert, Frank Jenks, Amy Silver, Gary Worthington, Terry Rich and Dean Jones.

We are consistently impressed with the field trip leaders and assistants who bring GEAS to life. Thank you to field trip leaders: Louisa Evers, Adra Lobdell, RL Rowland, Alexander Sapiens, Kathy McCoy, Lucian Davis, Jim James, Linda Wentz.

Thank you to everyone that participated in GEAS's Winter Bird Challenge and congratulations to JC Curd for winning both the general and photographer contests! An additional congratulations to those that found more than 100 species: JC Curd, Cheryl Huizinga, Louisa Evers, Pat McGrane and Ceredig Roberts! Nice work!

Thank you to Libby Burtner, Liz Urban, Marie Whitworth, Louisa Evers, Terra Falconer, Adra Lobdell, and Dondi Black for all the work that you put into making GEAS's presence at Camo at the Capitol a success.

A huge thank you to GEAS board member, Alan Crockett, for his leadership and dedication in facilitating Russian olive removal along the greenbelt. His advocacy and partnership development will hopefully create more opportunities to improve habitat along our beloved river corridor! We are grateful to have partners like Boise River Enhancement Network and Ada County Parks & Waterways to help bring this project to fruition.

We appreciate all the work of the Banquet Committee in making the Annual Banquet possible and for the steadfast dedication you showed as we made the difficult decision to postpone. Thank you to Matt McCoy, Sue Norton, Susan Hazelton, Danette Henderson, Liz Urban, Louise Maley, Alex Takasugi, Sheri Robison, Teresa Sabala, Terra Falconer. Thank you to Kathy Barker McCoy for the delicious treats provided at committee meetings.

A huge shout out to Dondi Black, Sean Finn, and Liz Urban for spearheading the board nomination committee. We are

excited to see new faces actively involved in our community.

Thank you to Traci Swift, Adra Lobdell, and Kristen Gnojewski for planning and organizing the Wild Walk series, as well as Rena Ashton and partners for organizing World Migratory Bird Day at ZooBoise. Although we are disappointed to have to postpone so many events, we are thankful for all of the work put into making them happen. Thank you to Haley, Erin, Thill, Aurora Gallowat and Adra Lobdell for organizing wonderful programming at the libraries including the National Audubon Society photography exhibit, the Great Backyard Bird Count, the Heron Walk, 7 Simple Actions, and more. Thank you to Liz Urban, Bryce Robinson, and US Fish and Wildlife Service for hosting a Junior Duck Stamp Workshop this spring.

We were thrilled to have Kathy Barker McCoy and David Potter organize and teach the Intermediate Birding Workshop. Your knowledge is invaluable to GEAS members.

Many thanks to Alexander Sapiens for coordinating excellent speakers for our monthly meetings. We are always excited to see who is lined up next! Thank you to Chris McClure, Marian Herz, and Sean Finn your engaging presentations.

NPN has had a great deal of success this year thanks to our amazing community of conservation minded individuals! Thank you to Miranda Podolski, David Hille, Sean Finn, Debbie Wiggins, Dana Hopper-Kelly, Maggie Wilson, Beth Colket, David Domanski-Miville, Brian Marinelli, Libby Adams, Lorna Snowden, Jon Roundy, Ingrid Jungen, Helen Fisher, Gwendolyn Balmer, Madison Skinner, Julia Jenkins, Lindley Ballen, Michael Martin, Estelle Peak, Maison O'Neill, Scott Cowen, Eileen Beatty, Barb Friedt, Gretel Care, Jack Foxcroft, Annette Hanson, and Adra Lobdell for your active involvement in making this possible.

Thank you to all of our donors this Winter/Spring. You are truly what makes Golden Eagle Audubon Society a success. Each donation, big or small, helps us with our mission to build an understanding, appreciation, and respect for the natural world to conserve and restore ecosystems for birds and other wildlife: Heidi Ware-

Carlisle, Alan & Alice Crockett, Dondi Black, Lisa and Eric Reed, Kirk Lewis, Fred Frahm, Susan Stacy, Charles Kahle, Clarence Buersmeyer, Gayle Moore, A Richard Grant, Suki & William Molina, Paul Cunningham, Gail Nottingham, Mary Lee Wood, Patricia Peebles, Vera Noyce, Henry and Joan Gerke, Jim James, William Clark, Libby Burtner, James Burrell, and Kelley Joan.

Save the date:

The GEAS Annual Picnic is planned for 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 23 in Municipal Park. Help GEAS celebrate a year of achievements our chapter has made together, socialize with fellow members, and install our new board officers and directors. We will provide roasted chicken and drinks, but please bring a dish or beverage to share.

Call for Spring 2020 Small Grants

Grants to individuals or nonprofit organizations will be awarded for projects that directly benefit wildlife or their habitats in Idaho or consist of bird related educational goals. GEAS highly encourages projects that focus on non-game species but will consider game species applications.

Applications are due May 1. GEAS will accept proposals twice a year, for a maximum of \$500 per application. Funding recommendations will be made by the Small Grants Committee and voted on by the GEAS Board at the December and May board meetings.

See <https://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/Small-Grants-Program> on our website for more information on how to apply.

In addition, GEAS needs a new small grants committee chair. This spring will be Libby Burtner's last Small Grants cycle. Please consider this role. It is fun to see what is going on in the research, education and outreach and very rewarding when you get to tell someone their grant is approved. If interested, please let Libby Burtner, lburtner@goldeneagleaudubon.org or Liz Urban know.

Volunteer Spotlight: Alan Crockett

Chances are anyone who lives in or around the Treasure Valley has some connection with the Boise River corridor. Whether they enjoy floating the river, fishing, bike riding, or birding, the river presumably has affected their lives in some way. It is a great way for our community to connect with nature. It also provides habitat for wildlife including more than 150 species of birds. The Boise River corridor matters to our community, it matters to the wildlife that depends on it, and it is a resource that should be protected.

These are just a few of the reasons Golden Eagle Audubon Society (GEAS) board member Alan Crockett cares so much about the restoration and maintenance of the riparian habitat along the river. With the growth and development of the region, more non-native plants are being introduced and outcompeting native plants. So why does this matter? It matters because non-native plants are often poor supporters of the insects that are a critical food source for birds, particularly during breeding season. Take for instance the Russian olive. This invasive tree, often seen along the Greenbelt, has hairs that inhibit insects from eating it. So the shift to non-native trees and plants can affect the ecosystem. Alan says that over time, if we don't manage the riparian area along the Greenbelt carefully, it will no longer be our desired Greenbelt, and it will ultimately diminish the quality of habitat for wildlife.

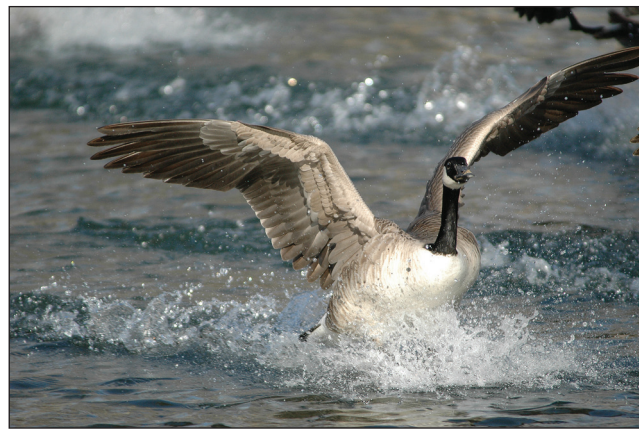
Over the years, Alan has not only been an advocate on behalf of noxious weed management, he has been steadfast in his commitment to the cause. He practices what he preaches in order to see the issues addressed. He has written op-eds for local newspapers and blogs, he volunteers with the Native Plant Network, installed and maintains nest boxes along the Greenbelt, coordinates aspects of GEAS's backyard habitat program, and



Alan Crockett examines the contents of one of the wood duck boxes he has set up and maintains along a section of the Boise River Greenbelt.

for U.S. Navel Oceanographic Office, an EPA branch chief in pesticide monitoring in Washington D.C., the ecological monitoring branch manager for the EPA's environmental monitoring research laboratory in Las Vegas, and then moved to Idaho to work at the Idaho National Laboratory as an environmental scientist. Since retiring, Alan has continued to be active in the communities where he has lived. While in Idaho Falls, he was involved with the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist programs and the Upper Snake River Audubon Society. Since moving to the Treasure Valley, Alan has continued as an avid runner and is active in Boise River Enhancement Network, the Idaho Native Plant Society, Weed Warrior and Master Naturalist programs and of course Golden Eagle Audubon Society.

Alan is an asset to our community as he brings both knowledge and passion to habitat programs. We are thankful for his leadership and hope that his story can inspire others to keep the Greenbelt green.



educates community members on noxious weed identification on our monthly bird walks along Bethine Church River Trail. Most recently, Alan led efforts to remove Russian olives, Siberian elms, and Callery pear trees in Barber Park. He facilitated a partnership between Ada County Parks and Waterways and GEAS and coordinated collaborative efforts from County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement and Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN) to mark and remove invasive trees in the area.

Alan has a background in environmental science, spanning the years, and he has been a leader in conservation in our community. He received a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Maine and a masters from the University of Maryland in environmental science. He was once a cartographer

Binoculars from Outside

Golden Eagle Audubon Society was thrilled to receive a grant from Be Outside Idaho for 10 new pairs of binoculars. With the ever-increasing interest in birding and our strong commitment to education, the additional binoculars will allow us to engage with even more students and community members through our binocular loan program and guided bird walks. Thank you Be Outside Idaho for supporting our mission to build understanding, respect, and appreciation for birds and wildlife.

Golden Eagle Audubon Society Annual Banquet - rescheduled for October 5

The GEAS Banquet committee is pleased to announce the new date for the Annual Banquet and Silent Auction will be on Monday, October 5, at the Riverside Hotel with speaker Lauren McGough. All banquet tickets that have been purchased will be

valid for the October 5 date. More details will be available over the summer. For information about tickets or refunds please contact Terra Falconer atinfo@goldeneagleaudubon.org.



Lauren McGough will present her program titled, “Life as a Mongolian Eagle Hunter and the Role of Falconry in Eagle Conservation.”

McGough has been a licensed and practicing falconer since age 14. She has been particularly enamored with golden eagles as hunting partners, a unique branch of falconry that has only a handful of practitioners in the United States. After spending nearly two years as an exchange student in the United Kingdom and learning the strong European tradition of eagle falconry, she graduated from the University of Oklahoma with dual degrees in zoology and international studies.

In 2009, as a Fulbright Scholar to Mongolia, she apprenticed herself to local eagle masters and trained eagles for hunting foxes on horseback. She loved Kazakh eagle culture so much that she earned a doctorate in social anthropology from the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

Most of all, McGough has enjoyed bringing the eagle training techniques she’s learned abroad back to her home country, where she teaches golden eagles in need of rehabilitation how to hunt on the great plains. The past two years she has also been using this technique to rehabilitate eagles in South Africa.

GEAS joins Idaho Wildlife Federation as an affiliate member

By Libby Burtner

In January, the GEAS board voted unanimously to become an affiliate member of the Idaho Wildlife Federation.

At the January board meeting, Brian Brooks, executive director of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, convinced board members of the benefits of being an affiliate of federation.

February 18, GEAS members joined other affiliates for Camo at the Capitol, including:

- Trout Unlimited - Ted Trueblood Chapter
- Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation
- Henrys Fork Wildlife Alliance
- High Desert Pointing Dog Club
- Idaho Brittany Club
- Idaho Trappers Association
- Eastern Idaho Houndsmen Association
- Idaho Traditional Bowhunters
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers - Idaho Chapter
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

GEAS had a table on the fourth floor of the Capitol Rotunda with the other affiliates. The GEAS presentation covered non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle. Volunteers Lorraine Poor, Marie Whitworth, Louisa Evers, Dondi Black, Libby Burtner and Liz Urban staffed the table and answered questions. Our contractors Terra Falconer and Adra Lobdell brought and set up the table and reproduced handouts. Liz Urban made Birders For Our Public Lands pins.

Libby Burtner made take-the-lead-out gluten-free cookies, a team effort. Board member Alex Takasugi stopped by and Libby talked to one senator about lead-free ammunition. She also dropped off the post cards written at the Advocacy Workshop for Gov. Brad Little at his office.

Our conservation contingent was recognized on both the Senate and House floors. Can’t lie, I felt a little thrill when Golden Eagle Audubon Society’s name was read on the House floor.

We also had the opportunity to attend three learning sessions: “How to be involved in IDFG’s rulemaking process,” “Updates on salmon and steelhead in Idaho,” and “How to be an effective advocate for your issues.” Bottom line: All of us have the power to help influence decisions made in the Capitol building.

Then, Gov. Little came to talk with us and answer questions and even had time for a photo-op.

At the end of the day, members of the public, and many Idaho legislators gathered at Beside Bardenay for food and drinks at the legislative reception.

If you weren’t able to make the event this year, you can still stay involved in conservation policy in Idaho. You can write your senator or representative a personal email or letter or join the GEAS Advocacy Committee. We’d love to have you; there is a lot of work to be done. And vote!

(Libby Burtner is chairman of the GEAS Advocacy Committee)

Migratory Bird Treaty Act needs our help - write your congressman

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed changes to the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but efforts are under way in Congress to block the change.

The time for public comments has passed, but it is not too late to write to members of Congress.

The Migratory Bird Protection Act of 2020, introduced by Alan Lowenthal, D. Calif. has passed House Natural Resources Committee. It now goes to the full U.S. House of Representative. If passed it would reverse much of the Trump administration's efforts to weaken the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The current bill has more than 40 bipartisan co-sponsors. Prospects for the Senate are uncertain. Anyone interested in this vital issue for migratory birds should write to Reps. Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher and ask them to support and co-sponsor House Resolution 5552, as have several other fellow Republicans. They may also write to Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch.

The Interior Department's proposed modifications of the 1918 act, would mean that oil, gas, mining interests and other industries could kill birds in their operations without legal consequences unless the government proves the killings were intentional.

The official Fish and Wildlife Service release on January 30, announcing the proposed changes, included favorable statements from 28 industry organizations and others, ranging from the governor of Alaska to the National Association of Home Builders. Opponents of the change contend that including such comments in the release announcing the proposed changes, artificially tainted the entire public comment process and represents a violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

"In my 35-year professional career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Public Affairs, I have never witnessed a more blatant attempt to 'steer' a rule-making action to a predetermined conclusion by the inappropriate use of an official public pronouncement, such as this agency press release," wrote David Klinger of Boise. Klinger is a former Fish and Wildlife Service assistant regional director for public affairs. The change would represent an emasculation of one of the nation's

oldest and most important conservation laws, he said.

The Migratory Bird Treaty was signed by the United States and Great Britain on behalf of Canada in 1916. Two years later it was codified in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. In 1936, Mexico joined, as did Japan in 1972 and the former Soviet Union in 1976. The treaty has provided legal protection for migrating warblers, hawks, ducks, and many other types of birds for the past 100 years.

"If the White House expected to gut the most important bird protection law without a fight, then they underestimated the National Audubon Society and America's 46 million bird-lovers," David Yarnold, said in an August 2019 news release. "Industries that kill birds have been held accountable for decades, and we'll fight and win in the courts to protect the birds Americans love."

Yarnold is president and CEO of National Audubon Society. His comments came in response to a decision by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to allow Audubon v. Department of the Interior to proceed, rejecting an effort by the government to dismiss the lawsuit.

Audubon and other conservation groups filed suit in May 2018 challenging an opinion by the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's Office saying it will no longer enforce the MBTA in cases of incidental bird deaths. This decision effectively gives a blank check to industry to avoid measures that reduce gruesome and preventable bird deaths. Eight states filed a similar suit in September 2018. The opinion undermines the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's prohibition on the killing or "taking" of migratory birds, which has long been understood to include the "incidental" take of birds from industrial activities like birds flying into uncovered oil pits or other predictable and avoidable or negligent killing.

Audubon is joined in the lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and the American Bird Conservancy.

For information see www.peer.org/even-bureaucracies-taking-on-trumpian-tone/.

Events and program updates: 2020 has been a rollercoaster for GEAS

We started the year off with a bang by leading over 15 field trips, partnering with the library for the Great Backyard Bird Count, hosting the Winter Bird Challenge, leading an intermediate birding workshop and hosting volunteer workdays along the Greenbelt. We also advocated for birds at Camo at the Capitol, taught a backyard habitat workshop, began the Master Naturalist season, offered a Junior Duck Stamp Workshop for K-12 students, coordinated great speakers at our monthly meetings, and facilitated the removal of invasive trees along the river corridor. To top that all off, the Native Plant Network worked with hundreds of students and volunteers to germinate and grow native plants for important bird areas in the valley.

Amidst our preparation to offer more programs, events, and field trips this spring, the threat of Coronavirus halted our programming. To keep our members and community safe, we made the difficult decision to take a pause on our programming until it is responsible to resume.

While we are disappointed that we had to postpone or cancel most of these events due to social distancing, we have been working hard to create content that members can enjoy from home. Some of the programs we have in store include an online backyard habitat class, a self-guided heron rookery tour and presentation, weekly blog posts, hands on activities from home, local bird and birding trail highlights, and more. If anyone would like to contribute to our programming during this time of social distancing, we would love to hear from you at info@goldeneagleaudubon.org.

Join us online for Golden Eagle Audubon programming at www.facebook.com/GoldenEagleAudubon or www.goldeneagleaudubon.org.

Zoom Presentations on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/412826877>.

Nature Art Tutorials: Follow along on Facebook or visit our website at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/NatureArtTutorials.

Nominations for GEAS officers and board members

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: Dondi Black

Dondi Black has a biology degree from the University of Montana and a master's in environmental engineering from Boise State University. She has been an avid backyard birder for more than 15 years in Boise. She has re-landscaped two urban yards for birds and pollinators. She is passionate about restoring habitat for birds and other wildlife. GEAS's projects at Blacks Creek, Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve and the Native Plant Network inspired her to get more involved. Dondi has been an active GEAS board member and participant of most committees for the past two years. She has focused on increasing the diversity of field trips and adult education opportunities as well as initiating the Winter Bird Challenge.

Secretary: Jim Lyons

Jim Lyons returned to GEAS leadership via the board and the role of secretary in 2019, after serving the chapter as vice-president and president during the 1980s. A birder and Audubon member for five decades, he has been honored to be part of today's Golden Eagle chapter, with its strong membership and wide range of environmental activities, and looks forward to growing in the roles of board member and secretary during the 2020/2021 program year.

Board of Directors Candidates:

Lucian Davis:

I am a freshman at Boise State University studying biology with an emphasis in ecology, evolution and behavior. I have been a birder for a little over two years, and I plan to spend my career working in bird conservation. I am passionate about sharing my love of birds with others, particularly young people. I am interested in joining the GEAS board because I want to take my commitment to birds and the people who love them to the next level, and because I want to give back to the bird loving community that has been so generous to me.

Patti Guicheteau:

Patti Guicheteau was born and raised in Wyoming. She has a master of education degree from the University of Washington and has spent the last four decades working in various areas of education, including special education, elementary education, English, non-native English, and assessment. While being an active birder and eBirder, Patti has participated in GEAS Christmas Bird Count, Backyard Bird Count, Climate Watch winter and summer surveys, the annual clean up at Blacks Creek, habitat restoration on the Boise River, and the Advocacy

Committee. She also volunteers with the Intermountain Bird Observatory seasonal banding and outreach. Patti hopes to continue advocating for conservation, habitat restoration, and outreach.

Sierra Laverty:

Sierra Laverty grew up watching her mother reintroduce wolves into Idaho and Yellowstone, and her father fighting for salmon conservation and habitat throughout the state. Sierra now works at Idaho Botanical Garden as their assistant horticulture director where she's created an insect and wildlife conservation policy, and display areas designed to show homeowners and landscapers how to develop urban habitat. Her passion for Idaho's natural world extends into everything she does, from teaching classes to coalition building with other conservation groups. Sierra has a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Oregon State University. She's excited to learn North America's 2,000 bird species, as she's given up on trying to learn all 30,000 beetles.

Rob Magill:

I began my interest in conservation and birds as a kid roaming the woodlots of New England. Soon after entering college I was introduced to wildlife biology as a possible career and birding as an actual past time that could develop into a career. My first formal experience with the Audubon Society was as a member participating in various Christmas Bird Counts and then joined as a board member with the Grand Valley Audubon Chapter in Grand Junction Colorado. I later assisted the Moab Birding Club with their Christmas Bird Count, and through the club I helped Hawk Watch International develop a winter raptor counting route in Grand Valley. I would like to build on these efforts to assist the GEAS Audubon, and indirectly SIBA, to meet their mission of avian conservation.

Lisa Reed:

After working in foundations and nonprofits for more than 25 years in preK-12 education and health, I am excited to put my focus toward protecting birds, other wildlife, and the habitats they need to thrive. GEAS demonstrates great community partnerships and vitality, and I look forward to being a part of this group's work. My husband Eric and I have bicycled, canoed, hiked, and birded in many countries, giving us an appreciation for the incredible opportunities we have in the U.S. to protect wildlife and their habitat.

Ceredig Roberts:

Ceredig Roberts was born in Aberystwyth, Wales, UK and spent his youth enjoying the Welsh wilderness and playing soccer and rugby. He then left Wales for Oxford University to study physics and materials science receiving a master's degree and a doctorate. After working in the semiconductor industry in the U.K. for 5 years he moved to Boise to work for Micron Technology. Most recently he was a senior technical director responsible for new memory technology developments. Ceredig retired in 2019 and can now focus on his passion for photographing the wildlife of Idaho. I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the GEAS board and to contribute to the mission of the society in educating and communicating to the community about our natural world and what we can do to conserve our fragile ecosystem.

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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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