



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

May/June, 2016

Spring, Seasonal Changes and Great Nature Books

By *Crista Videriksen Worthy*

I used to think I wanted two homes: a summer house in North Idaho and one in Utah's red-rock area, for the colder months. But I've decided it's great to be in one place, observe the seasonal changes, and compare them to other years.

The idea of rooting yourself in one spot for a year and paying attention to the natural world around you has led to some cherished books. Thoreau did it for two years and then produced "Walden," actually my least favorite of these classics, simply because Thoreau can be a bit dour. For pure joy in the experience of nature, brilliantly expressed, pick up a copy of Sigurd F. Olson's "The Singing Wilderness," published in 1956, and vicariously spend a year in the Quetico-Superior country filled with loons, geese, wolves and trout, exploring the chains of lakes via canoe—and you won't get a single mosquito bite. Aldo Leopold, a giant of conservation, completed his "Sand County Almanac," which traces a year in the Wisconsin countryside, in 1949 and died less than a month later. This book is often published with additional essays on nature around the country and a series of thought-provoking articles that address philosophical issues about wilderness and sportsmanship. The author of a popular long-running nature column in New York Times, Hal Borland wrote "This Hill, This Valley" in 1957 about a year in the life of his land in rural northwestern Connecticut, where he retired with his writer-wife. They were also superb gardeners; if you need inspiration to get all you can out of your garden in addition to superb ruminations on nature, human and not, this book is for you.

Finally, no discussion of nature writing with a sense of place and time is complete without Edward Abbey's "Desert Solitaire," about his seasons as a ranger in Arches, then a national monument with few visitors. Rough and unpolished in person, Abbey's ability to notice every shred of beauty in the desert and combine it with humor and irony is pure genius.

Currently I'm reading "A Year in the Maine Woods" by renowned naturalist Bernd Heinrich, published in 1994. He lived for a year without electricity in the cabin he built, along with a young raven named Jack. The zoology professor, now a regular contributor to "Natural History" magazine, is a master of observation, particularly of birds. He will notice a subtle

behavior and go to great lengths to understand it. As with any avian observer, sound plays a huge role in his experiences.

If your goal is to hear birds in Treasure Valley, you can do no better than to stand quietly outside before sunrise in early spring. If I go to the front yard I hear robins, now spaced out at about one singer per two front yards. In back, where the sage hills flow down to a tiny creek at our property line, I hear a cacophony of avian life, all desperately trying to establish territories and find mates to maximize reproduction over the next few months. Most small birds don't get a do-over; many of them will be dead next year so it's now or never. Pre-dawn is the best time because the birds are awake but not yet feeding.

Two years ago, spring's first goldfinches arrived on March 13; this year I saw two on March 7.

The following day they appeared in droves and will devour sunflower chips here until fall. They always come in flocks, but there is one particularly melodious goldfinch that occupies one spot in a pine on our western property line. This bird sings more beautifully than a canary in the early morning, but, try as I might, I cannot see him. The goldfinches aren't yet wearing their pretty summer clothes, so maybe I'll spot him after he molts into his bright yellow colors.

Until we switched to Daylight Savings Time, it was getting harder each day for me to be up before the quail arrived. The flock of 64 birds would mill about at the edge of the property until I appeared at 7 a.m. with my cup full of seed. As I walked slowly toward the spot they'd quickly retreat up the hill. I'd toss the seed, about-face, and retreat myself

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Lazuli bunting

Photo by *Crista Videriksen Worthy*

President’s Message

By Sean Finn

I love spring. I get this conceptual and visceral feeling that a lid is being peeled off the soil allowing life to burst forth. Don’t get me wrong, I like the quiet solitude and reflection time winter offers. But I know when I’m ready to reemerge from that semi-torpor and refocus on the promise that the returning sun brings.

Our yard is hopping. Two pairs of mallards have found our dwindling stash of cracked corn and are vying for duck supremacy. Last weekend we had the biggest garter snake I’ve ever seen moving through. That guy was easily 3 ½ feet long. I told the girls it must be 10 years old but was quickly shot down when my daughter did her web-homework – garter snakes rarely reach 4 years of age in the wild. This one was a champion! I hope it stays around.

We spotted the snake while spring cleaning our native plant beds. It is one of my joys to have native plants attracting native wildlife to our yard. Despite my enthusiasm—which may be a little over the top—I find it hard to translate it to my tween-age daughter. Yes, she likes being outside and likes seeing birds and other wildlife, but the challenge is to motivate her to want to seek it out. I get it. Wildlife watching and naturalist activities are not for everyone. Maybe you’re not thrilled by seeing a 3-foot snake wandering around in your yard. Maybe it’s the bugs or too much sun. Though I understand, I also argue that nearly everyone would benefit from more time outside, and that’s especially true for our kids. As author Richard Louv pointed out in his Last Child in the Woods, many of the disturbing trends in childhood health and wellness, including asthma, obesity, attention deficit and depression can be linked to what he termed “nature-deficit.” So I encourage you to get outside and take your kids with you. Go in the morning when snakes, bugs and the sun are less of a concern. Besides, that’s when most birds are singing their songs of spring.

We are going to make a concerted effort at our house to spend more quality time out in nature and I encourage you and your family to do it too. Here are two great opportunities to help you get started: GEAS hosts family birding walks the second Sunday of every month. These are low-key, easy walking trips that are usually in or close to town. The leaders help kids use binoculars to enjoy seeing wildlife up close. We also have a variety of field guides available for kids and families who want to learn more about what they’re seeing. But mostly these trips are about getting closer to nature. The next one is on Sunday, May 15. Look in this Newsletter or on goldeneagleaudubon.org/calendar for details. The second opportunity is International Migratory Bird Day on May 14 at the World Center for Birds of Prey. Again check our website for details and Get Outside!

GEAS CALENDAR

May-June 2016

SIBA Field Trip: Jordan Valley	May 7
Field Trip: Montour and Sagehen	May 14
Family Birding Walk: Hyatt Lakes	May 15
Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Birding	May 29
SIBA Field Trip: Lake Walcott, City of Rocks	June 1–3
Field Trip: Oreaana Bluebird Trail	June 4
Picnic at Daggett Creek	June 11
Family Birding Walk: Albertson Park	June 12
GEAS Monthly meeting	June 23
Greenbelt Litter Patrol & Birding	June 28

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sean Finn, President a.gentilis@gmail.com	371-2740
Leah Dunn, Vice President ldboise@gmail.com	
Sue Norton, Secretary nortonsu@msn.com	378-4248
Lew Ulrey, Treasurer lulrey@cableone.net	322-8246
Michele Crist, Past President mrcgoldeneagle@gmail.com	
Lindsay Alsup linzybird@gmail.com,	
Maria Minicucci idmini@cableone.net,	
Liz Urban urbanhawk137@gmail.com	629-2146
Kristin Gnojewski kgnojewski@cableone.net	
Chris McClure chrimcc@gmail.com	
Matt Podolsky matthew@wildlensinc.org	
Alexander Sapiens dr.sapiens@gmail.com	
Linda Schueck lschueck@msn.com	
Amy Silver amysilver819@gmail.com	
Al Larson (Honorary) larson83703@msn.com	343-0959
Levi Mohler (Honorary, Deceased)	
Liven “Pete” Peterson (Honorary, Deceased)	

COMMITTEES

Banquet: Liz Urban, Danette Henderson	629-2146
Conservation: Lindsay Alsup	linzybird@gmail.com
Education: Liz Urban	urbanhawk137@gmail.com 629-2146
Field Trips: Alex Takasugi, Kristin Gnojewski,	484-9132 kgnojewski@cableone.net
Membership: Bruce Ackerman Susan Werner	342-0896 342-0896
Program: Bruce Ackerman	342-0896
Publicity: Susan Hazelton	suehazelton@cableone.net
Newsletter: Niels S. Nokkentved	sparre47@gmail.com 377-3360
Volunteer Information Megan Llewellyn	m.rose.llewellyn@gmail.com
Website: Rod Smith	rods325@gmail.com 859-3298
Historian: Jennifer Robbins-Smith	threehappycampers@hotmail.com 859-3298
Webmaster Harold Ward	geas@seeboise.com 338-7015

News from the Board: March-April 2016

1. The banquet was a great success. The Board would like to sincerely thank co-chairs Liz Urban and Danette Henderson for putting on a great event. Guest speaker Ken Dial gave a fantastic presentation and the Chapter netted approximately \$7,000, which we will use to further the goals of the GEAS strategic plan. Thanks to all who attended and donated.
2. The elevated bird viewing blind at Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area is almost complete. In fact, it will be by the time this Newsletter is published. Kudos to Idaho Fish and Game for addressing this need. GEAS contributed \$5,000 for – your donations at work.
3. GEAS will have a booth at the Capitol City Public Market this summer. Tentative dates are May 7 and June 11. Come visit.
4. Mark your calendar for the Annual Picnic: June 28 at Municipal Park. We'll have food and drink (but bring a dish to share) and induct the new 2016 slate of officers and board members.
5. GEAS, with our partners at Idaho Families for Clean Water, continue to fight against exploratory drilling at the CuMo site in the Grimes Creek Area in the Boise River watershed. We feel that the U.S. Forest Service has not provided enough protection for the rare Sacagawea's bitterroot and has not provided assurance that exploration will not harm Boise River water quality.
6. We recently submitted comments to Idaho Fish and Game regarding its upcoming draft Management Plan for the Conservation of American White Pelicans.

Volunteer News

GEAS Banquet and Auction a Success

We are happy to report that more than 160 people attended this year's banquet and that our speaker, Ken Dial, was extremely well received. His presentation discussing the evolution and de-evolution of flight was fascinating and one that will be remembered for years to come. We also highlighted our achievements over the past year, honored five outstanding volunteers, and raised more than \$7,000 for GEAS during this event.

Alex Takasugi received the GEAS Volunteer of the Year Award for her efforts on many fronts in the past year. She has stepped up to help coordinate our field trips, begun the "Saturday Stroll" series, filled in as a leader at many field trips and events when needed, and helped with several other aspects that make GEAS successful. We are lucky to have her passion and enthusiasm.

We honored Pam Conley with our Conservation Award this year. Pam has been a dedicated voice for GEAS for many years and is our strong advocate against the CuMo Mine. She is active in multiple organizations and lends her voice and expertise to many important conservation issues in Idaho. We honored board member Kristin Gnojewski as our Educator of the Year. She is an inspiration to many, both in and outside her classroom. She has led Family Bird Walks, sits on the Education Committee, participates in the Bird by Bird Program, and was instrumental in helping create a pond for wildlife at her school. She has added wonderful energy to GEAS and works to advance our education goals,

benefiting the community through all of her hard work.

We also recognized the years of work and dedication by Bruce Ackerman and Susan Werner. They are headed on to a new adventure in Colorado, and GEAS will miss them greatly. They have served in many capacities over the years, and much of their work was behind the scenes, managing the membership database, processing donations, and writing thank-you letters are all vital pieces of GEAS. We can't thank them enough for all their work over the years. We wish them the best and hope they will be back often to visit and bird with us.

We would like to say a special thank you to the fund-raising volunteers the night of the banquet. All of the dessert bakers and graduate student volunteers helped us raise over \$650 and Jay Carlisle, Heidi Ware and RL Rowland sold more than \$750 in raffle tickets. We appreciate everyone's time and effort to make these aspects of the fund raiser a success.

The banquet is possible because of the work of many individuals, so be sure to see the list of thank yous to our volunteers and donors printed in this newsletter. This was the first year that Danette Henderson and I chaired the banquet committee, and we can't say thank you enough, especially to our families, for the help and support in helping to make this year's banquet a reality.

Thank You to the Banquet Volunteers

Many people gave their time and effort to make our banquet and auction a success. Many thanks to Danette Henderson and Liz Urban for chairing the

event and to Sue Norton, Susan Hazelton, Teresa Sabala, Louise Maley, Maria Minnicucci, Suzanne Woodcock, Leslie Harrison, Ann Swanson and Hope Denney for their work on the committee.

The people who volunteered the day of the event include Heidi Ware, Jay Carlisle, RL Rowland, Stephanie Coates, Gerrie Satz, Ben Dudek, Eli Cinto Mejia, Shawn Smith, Jessie Sherburne, Ben Dicus, Diana Dicus, Mark Urban, Gerrie Satz, Iris Henderson, Matthew Henderson, Bruce Ackerman, Michele Crist, Anne Jestadt, Jo Henderson, Bessie Skinner, Sandy Beebe, Beth Jones, Tempe Regan, the banquet committee and the GEAS Board.

Our wonderful dessert bakers were Lindsay Alsup, Judy Baker, Carol Casler, Michele Crist, Ann DeBolt, Hope Denney, Leah Dunn, Liz and Sean Finn, Susan Hazelton, Kathy and Matt McCoy, Sue Norton, Alex Takasugi, Lew Ulrey, Jennifer Robbins-Smith, Ann Swanson, Suzanne Woodcock, Hope Denney and Megan Jones.

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into the kitchen—after my fruitless search for the aforementioned goldfinch singer. Then the quail would scramble back down the hill, hurry between the sage in single-file lines, hop the creek, and cover the seed pile in a mad mass of plump bodies. By summer this flock will have broken up into pairs that stroll in and out all day. The males are already filling the morning air with their "Chi-ca-go!" calls that signal the beginnings of territoriality between males.

GEAS EVENTS for May and June

Field trip information is subject to change. Please check the website <http://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org> and go to the Calendar and Field Trips section for the latest information or contact Alex Takasugi at 484-9132 or alextakasugi@cableone.net 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.

IBO Hummingbird Banding Project

Dates: Thursday May 19, Wednesday June 8, Saturday June 18, Saturday July 2, Saturday July 16, Thursday July 28 and Thursday August 11, from 6:30 or 7 a.m. until 10:30 or 11 a.m.
Contact: Jessica Pollock jessicapollock@boisestate.edu 426-2225
Watch IBO folks banding hummingbirds near Idaho City.
Reservations must be made in advance and space is limited.
Reserve your place by registering at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hummingbird-banding-with-ibo-tickets-15310045759>

Saturday, May 7

SIBA Jordan Valley Bluebird Trail

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Letty Percifield 208-459-9277

Time: 8 a.m. sharp from the Marsing bridge park

Those wishing to carpool should meet at the Rackham Road (Eagle and Overland) Park and Ride at 7, or at the Marsing bridge and park around 7:45. We will leave promptly at 8 a.m. We would like folks to carpool as much as possible. We should be back to Marsing by mid-afternoon. You will need a lunch and chair as we stop and have a picnic lunch at noon. This is another trip with not a lot of restrooms.

Saturday, May 14

Montour Wildlife Management Area and Sagehen Reservoir Bluebird Trail

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132

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

Those wishing to carpool should meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Park and Ride on State and Riverside Drive (SW corner of State and Edgewood) in Eagle, or 8:45 a.m. at the Sweet-Ola Hwy/Montour junction on Hwy 52 between Emmett and Horseshoe Bend at the Triangle restaurant parking lot. We will make a brief trip to Montour management area and then head for Sagehen Reservoir. We hope our lunch stop will be in the forest at nest box #1. We will continue on to the reservoir where the official trip ends. This is a great opportunity to observe wild flowers as well as birds. Dress for the weather and bring water, lunch, lawn chair and snacks; this is an all day trip.

Sunday, May 15

Family Bird Walk

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132 or Kristin Gnojewski, kgnojewski@cableone.net, 860-3658

This Boise city park is managed especially for wildlife. The area has a number of ponds and upland habitat which support

a diverse number of birds and other wildlife. Bring the whole family, especially the young ones. We have binoculars and field guides you can borrow. Sign up the kids in our Frequent Flyer Club where they earn points for birding. Bring your sunscreen if it's sunny; there's not much shade. This will be our last outing here until fall when the weather cools. We finish at 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 29

Boise River Greenbelt Bird Watching and Litter Patrol

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Park near the Tavern at Bown Crossing (east end of Parkcenter Blvd)

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132

We'll walk the Bethine Church Nature Trail going downriver, birding as we go, then pick up litter on our way back. Birds abound in the pond/river/riparian wooded habitat. We usually finish around noon. Bring gloves, water and binocs. No public restrooms are available.

Wednesday, June 1 through Friday, June 3

SIBA Trip to Lake Walcott, Almo and City of Rocks

Trip Leader: Letty Percifield 208-459-9277

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Black's Creek Rest Stop on I-84 before Exit 64

We will meet folks at the Black's Creek rest area on I-84 at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 1. We will travel to Lake Walcott to look for birds and have lunch. In the afternoon, we will travel to Almo and the City of Rocks. We will bird in the afternoon and evening, then meet at 7 p.m. for dinner at the Almo Inn Outpost. We will meet at the City of Rocks National Reserve visitor center at 8 a.m. on Thursday and Friday mornings for daily trips and/or hikes. Rooms are being held for us until May 1st at the Almo Inn, 208-824-5577. The owner, Janine, will give us special rates for Wednesday and Thursday nights; mention you are with SIBA. Primitive camping is available at the City of Rocks National Reserve. Castle Rocks State Park has yurts and RV camping with showers and restrooms. Camping reservations: 1-888-922-6743, or reserveamerica.com

Saturday, June 4

Oreana Bluebird Trail

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132

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

Location: Walter's Ferry Bridge over the Snake on Idaho 45 south of Nampa. Those wishing to carpool should meet at the Rackham Road (Eagle and Overland) Park and Ride at 7 or at the Walter's Ferry bridge over the Snake on Idaho 45 at 7:45.

Don't miss a 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 all day outing and don't forget the sun block. Dress for variable weather conditions.

Saturday, June 11

Picnic at Daggett Creek with Al Larson

Trip Leader: Al Larson

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132

Time: 8 a.m. sharp at the Daggett Creek Bridge

Events continued

Location: Those wishing to car pool should meet at MK Nature Center, 600 S. Walnut in Boise, at 7, or meet at 7:45 at the Daggett Creek Bridge, Milepost 24 on Highway 21.

We'll meet at the Daggett Creek Bridge and spend the morning birding the area, which will be alive with many nesting species. Then we'll meander up Daggett Creek Road to Al's Ranch and enjoy a picnic lunch with the hummingbirds at the feeders.

Pack your picnic basket and lawn chair and join us for this great traditional GEAS trip.

Sunday, June 12

Family Bird Walk

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Location: Kathryn Albertson Park. Meet in the parking lot, 1001 N. Americana Blvd., Boise

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132 or Kristin Gnojewski, kgnojewski@cableone.net, 860-3658

We will walk the paved loop around this gem of a park looking for geese, ducks, and herons on the water, as well as songbirds in the brush. Bring the whole family, especially the young ones. We go over the basics of using binoculars. We have binoculars and field guides you can borrow. Sign up the kids in our Frequent Flyer Club where they earn rewards for birding. We will finish at 11 a.m.

Saturday, June 18

Birding near Prairie

Trip Leaders: Bill Belknap and Al Larson

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132

Time: 8:30 a.m. sharp at the Black's Creek Rest Stop on I-84

Location: Rest stop by Blacks Creek Exit on I-84 (before Exit 64). Those wishing to car pool meet at the BLM parking lot at 7:45, or at the Black's Creek Rest Area at 8:15.

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

Sunday, June 26

Boise River Greenbelt Bird Watching and Litter Patrol

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Park near the Tavern at Bown Crossing (east end of Parkcenter Blvd)

Contact: Alex Takasugi alextakasugi@cableone.net, 484-9132

We'll walk the Bethine Church Nature Trail going downriver, birding as we go, then pick up litter on our way back. Birds abound in the pond/river/riparian wooded habitat. We usually finish around noon. Bring gloves, water and binocs. No public restrooms are available.

Tuesday, June 28

GEAS Annual Picnic & New Board Member Induction

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Municipal Park, north-east of Fish and Game office in Boise, 500 S Walnut. If it rains, MK Nature Center.

GEAS will provide food and drinks, and plates and silverware; bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will be inducting the new board members and officers.

Hilda's Columns, Sketches Collected

Hilda Larson began writing a column for the Golden Eagle Audubon Society in the 1980s. She began writing a column for the Southwestern Idaho Birders Association in 2007. She also drew cartoons and sketches of birds and birders for the newsletters. She continued writing for both groups until her death in 2014.

Sue Norton and Cathy Eells have compiled a collection of Hilda Larson's columns and sketches from the newsletters called *My Kitchen Window*. Niels Nokkentved did the design and layout. It also contains a history of Al Larson and Hilda's project of setting up blue bird trails in Idaho.

The book will be of interest to people who like to watch birds and other wildlife and those who would like a glimpse into the world outside the windows in Hilda's life. She writes with great warmth, curiosity, and humor.

You can order a copy by contacting Sue Norton at 378-4248 or at nortonsu@msn.com or Cathy Eells at 459-4435 or cathyeeells53@gmail.com. Copies are \$13. Sue or Cathy will mail one to you for \$16. Proceeds will go to GEAS and SIBA.

My Kitchen Window



Observations on Life and Nature
by Hilda Larson
Edited by Sue Norton and Cathy Eells

2016 GEAS Officer and Board Candidates

Liz Urban

Liz Urban has served on the GEAS board for the past four years, and she currently chairs the education committee and co-chairs the banquet and grants committees. She created and coordinates the New Roots Program, and is a Bird by Bird Program facilitator. Liz received her master’s degree in Natural Resources in 2011 from the University of Arizona. She has worked on a number of avian research projects at Boise State University since arriving in Boise. Liz hopes to continue to develop conservation and education partnerships this year for GEAS to effectively expand our impact in the community and the environment.

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 four years.

Sue Norton

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

Lew Ulrey

I have been a birder since I was a child. The natural world is very important to me, and I very much support the work that Golden Eagle Audubon Society does on behalf of nature and birds. I earned a master’s degree in business administration at Idaho State University, and I spent the vast majority of my working years as assistant controller at First Security Bank of Idaho. I feel that bringing my business and accounting experience to the job of treasurer would be the best way for me to make a contribution to the work that Golden Eagle Audubon Society does.

Michele Crist

Michele Crist has been on the board of Golden Eagle Audubon Society for four years. She has served as president for three years and as past-president for one year. She has been 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 Michele to share knowledge and bring integration and collaboration between the national and local chapters to achieve a more cohesive Audubon voice in bird conservation. Michele works as a landscape ecologist at the National Interagency Fire Center. Michele asks for your vote to continue her work and passion with birds as a GEAS board member.

Alex Takasugi

Alex Takasugi grew up in Indiana, where her backyard bordered on thick woods where she spent as much time as she could get away with, roaming and enjoying the wildlife. She was always interested in birds and joined the local Audubon chapter as a teenager. “I’ll never forget seeing my first wood duck and hearing my first wood thrush in southern Indiana.” When she went to work at Hewlett-Packard in Boise 30 years ago, the birding went on hold. After retiring from HP, she resumed birding and became determined to learn about the ecosystem she had initially found to be brown and dead. Alex wants to do what she can to preserve the birds and other living treasures of this area through learning. She enjoys meeting active, engaged folks in our birding community, and hopes to continue our good work.

Megan Llewellyn

Megan Llewellyn moved to Boise last October from Georgia and since has jumped into volunteering with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society as the new volunteer coordinator. She graduated last year with her Master of Science in Medical Illustration from Augusta University and has a biology degree from Kenyon College. She got her passion for conservation at Kenyon and studied wildlife ecology and land management in Kenya and Tanzania. Megan works as a scientific illustrator and has a contract doing graphics work for the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control. She also works at the Huntington Learning Center as a tutor and volunteers at the World Center for Birds of Prey. Megan wants to keep working with GEAS, promoting conservation and community involvement in Boise.



Golden Eagle Audubon Society			
2016 Board of Directors Election Ballot			
Executive Positions (vote for one for each position):			
President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> Leah Dunn	<input type="checkbox"/> Sue Norton	<input type="checkbox"/> Lew Ulrey
General Board (vote for any 3):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Michele Crist	<input type="checkbox"/> Alex Takasugi	<input type="checkbox"/> Megan Llewellyn	

To submit your vote, cut out the above ballot and mail to: Golden Eagle Audubon Society, PO Box 8261, Boise, ID 83707, or bring it to the monthly GEAS meeting on Tuesday, May 24 at the MK Nature Center on South Walnut St. in Boise.

'The Bluebird Man' Wins Film Award

A short film featuring Al Larson, "The Bluebird Man," has won the 2016 Eric Moe Sustainability Film Award at the Environmental Film Festival in Washington D.C.

Larson attended the March 17 event and noted in his journal: "Had breakfast at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington D.C. Later lunched with a group from The Environmental Film Festival to discuss the evening's schedule. We proceeded to the Carnegie Institution for Science and rehearsed the procedure for the evening's program."

Following the screenings, Larson joined a discussion, alongside its director, Matthew Podolsky, and editor, Emily Bender, moderated by Greg McGruder.

"It was a most humbling experience for me to be welcomed by a standing ovation from the audience as I stepped up onto the stage," Larson wrote in his journal.



Al Larson on the bluebird trail.

File photo

The film was directed and produced by Neil Paprocki and Matthew Podolsky and written and edited by Emily Bender. Film makers Podolsky and Bender accepted the award from Alexandra Moe. The Eric Moe Sustainability Film Award was established for the 2014 Festival by Julia and Richard Moe in memory of their son, Eric, to honor his interest in film and his commitment to sustainability. The award recognizes a short film for its inventive solutions to balancing the needs of humans and nature. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

"A very pleasant and entertaining experience for me," Larson wrote.

People call Larson "The Bluebird Man" for good reason. At 94, this self-taught conservationist has dedicated 35 years of his life to saving North America's bluebirds by maintaining a network of more than 300 bluebird nest boxes in Idaho that provide vital support to a recovering population. The 28-minute film aims to inspire the next generation of citizen scientists, reveling in the humble effort of Larson's endeavor and the grandeur of the birds he's fighting to save.

The National Wildlife Federation co-presented the award.

GEAS, New Roots Program part of 'Idaho Gives'

We're counting down to Idaho Gives! Idaho Gives is powerful way for Idahoans to come together to support nonprofit causes across the state. Join your fellow Idahoans and be a part of something big, as we come together to celebrate the non-profits that change lives and make Idaho a great place.

On May 5, log on to IdahoGives.org and donate to one or more of 500-plus participating non-profit causes, including GEAS and our New Roots

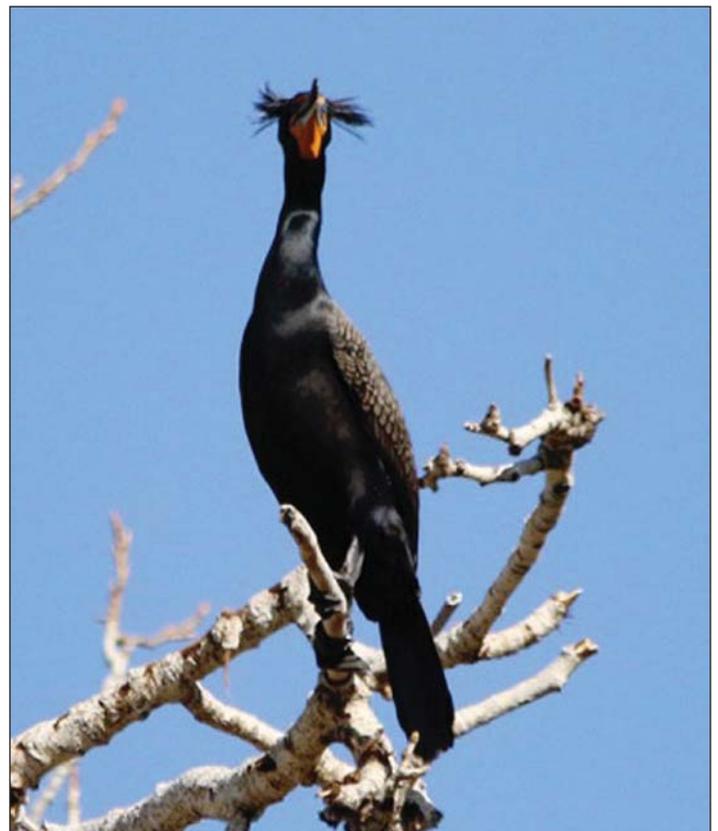
Program. Your donation could help us win extra award money. To make the event even more powerful, a generous donor will match all donations to New Roots up to \$500, so every dollar given will go twice as far.

On Idaho Gives day, give to the causes you know and love, or find a new cause that shares your passion. On May 5th, Idaho Gives--will you?



Hummingbirds at Home Citizen Science Project

The National Audubon Society has a new citizen science project to track hummingbirds and their nectar sources. Create up to six patches, survey each patch and log results on a computer, smartphone or tablet via a free app. Details are at: www.hummingbirdsathome.org.



Double-crested cormorant

Photo by Alexander Sapiens

GEAS is grateful to our auction donors:

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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.

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____ (allows for website login)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to donate an additional \$ _____

- Student membership \$15
- Individual membership \$20
- Family membership \$35
- Golden Eagle Lifetime membership \$500

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

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