



The Golden Eagle

Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society

November/December 2016

Blacks Creek Bird Reserve Welcomes Some New Friends

By Sean Finn

Two beautiful September days of work and play at Blacks Creek Bird Reserve saw lots of improvements and upgrades for the enjoyment of birds and birdwatchers alike.

Many of our members are aware of Golden Eagle Audubon Society's adoption of the Important Bird Area back in 2008 and the Chapter's slow but steady effort to make the area live up to its Important Bird Area status. Before 2008, the area, which is now 600-plus acres of protected habitat, was known as a no man's land where illegal and destructive activities were pervasive. Since 2008, GEAS and 21 partner organizations, agencies, clubs and schools, totaling more than 300 individual volunteers, have worked diligently to change the way the area was managed, to clean up loads of trash, to change opinions, designations and appreciation for the area, and ultimately to protect the site from continued degradation while restoring habitat for wildlife and services for wildlife lovers. The story of the transformation into Blacks Creek Bird Reserve can be followed at: <https://www.facebook.com/betterblacksreek/>.

On September 23 and 24, some 60 volunteers gathered to plant native seedlings, measure vegetation recovery, build and repair some fence, replace worn signs and get started on a nature trail. We were joined by elementary and middle school students from the Liberty and Sage schools and the New Roots program, giving volunteers the added opportunity of teaching students some restoration skills while sharing their appreciation of wild places.

Friday turned out to be a bit breezy—OK, very windy!—with partly cloudy skies. Volunteers from several organizations—Idaho BLM State Employees Association, Idaho Botanical Garden, Wednesday Morning Bird Club, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley, Sage International School, and Liberty

Elementary—joined by many freelancers, arrived and got right to work. We constructed fence around a half-acre demonstration restoration garden just west of the main parking area, and the students and adults all planted some beautiful sagebrush, grass and wildflower seedlings donated to Blacks Creek by the Idaho Botanical Garden. Meanwhile teams of botanists and students ventured out across the Reserve to measure permanent vegetation monitoring plots that were established before the Reserve was

protected. The idea from the beginning was to be able to measure the effects our conservation activities are having at Blacks Creek. Now, four years after fence completion, we are starting to measure how the plant life is recovering after being protected. While those teams explored and studied, other teams laid out and cleared a path leading visitors to the slowly developing interpretive trail, and still others tidied up our Chapter's newly adopted highway stretch on Kuna-Mora Road as well as inside the Reserve.

Saturday arrived with much less wind and a new

set of volunteers, including folks from New Roots, Wednesday Morning Bird Club, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley and Idaho Master Naturalists. More of the same commenced, including completion of the demonstration garden, additional plot monitoring, fence and sign repairs, trash pickup and weed pulling. Everyone got a chance to plant a seedling and gain that visceral connection to Blacks Creek Bird Reserve and community-based conservation.

Two great days helped us advance our goals to bring Blacks Creek back to the kind of bird-friendly place we all want close to Boise. Yet, more can and will be done! This winter we will be evaluating the vegetation data—look for a report in the spring—and germinating a new batch of seedlings for future events. We are always looking for fresh ideas and willing hands to help continue restoring the Reserve. Visit the website or contact us at info@goldeneagleaudubon.org for more info and to volunteer.



A GEAS volunteer works on a new nature trail.

Photo by Jason Grey

President's Message

By Liz Urban

President's Message

I can't believe it is already time to be thinking about the holidays and the Christmas Bird Counts. Where did fall disappear to? While the Board and GEAS volunteers have been busy working on behalf of our chapter, many of my fondest species have left us for warmer climates. Fortunately, I have had the opportunity to take interested new birders out on walks these past few weeks, and there is nothing that rekindles my interest in our common residents than seeing folks excited to be able to identify red-winged blackbirds by sound for the first time or get a good look at a cedar waxwing in their binoculars.

I continue to be thankful for all that our dedicated group of birders and conservationists accomplishes. Sean Finn coordinated a wonderful two-day work event at Blacks Creek Bird Reserve that drew more than 60 people and resulted in more than 200 work-hours being contributed to the betterment of this unique birding spot. I was able to attend both days and noted the young students enjoying the site while contributing to vegetative monitoring and planting native species in the new demonstration garden. I believe that engagement like that is what helps create respect and appreciation for nature and our public lands; something that may be more important than ever in this new digital age. We were also able to bring out six of the New Roots Program "graduates" for a special field-trip, and it was great to catch up with these kids that I hope more secure in their knowledge of the natural world around them.

I would also like to take a moment to give a shout-out to the amazing Amy Silver for her continued spectacular service. She took over as chair for the GEAS Education Committee this year and has already led GEAS to some great achievements. We taught a "Birds of Boise" course this past month through Boise Community Education to a full roster of interested people. She also has coordinated with Boise Parks and Rec to host a bird walk at Hyatt Wetlands to introduce the public to birds and birding. I look forward to the report in the next newsletter, but I know that they have maxed out registration at 75 people well over a week before the event. It makes me so proud of GEAS, and of all of those people focused on education, that we are able to utilize partnerships and reach so many people who are out there and who are clearly interested in learning about birds.

I hope I will get the chance to meet and catch-up with many of you over the coming months, as there are some fun activities and trips coming up. I will present the accomplishments of the latest **Continued on Page 6**

GEAS CALENDAR November-December 2016

Field Trip: CJ Strike East	November 5
Family Birding Walk	November 13
Family Birding Walk	December 10
GEAS Monthly meeting	December 13
Christmas Bird Count: Garden Valley	December 14
Christmas Bird Count: Nampa	December 17
Christmas Bird Count: McCall	December 18
Christmas Bird Count: Boise	December 28
Christmas Bird Count: Cascade	December 31
Christmas Bird Count: Bruneau	January 2

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COMMITTEES

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Conservation:	Matt Podolsky
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News from the Board: September and October

- The Board intends to publish our proposed amended by-laws for the review and approval of the membership in the next newsletter. There will be a designated period for comment and for subsequent voting thereafter.
- At the September meeting, Board members discussed our continued commitment to Al Larson's Bluebird Trails and what steps we will take to ensure that the Oreana and Hilda Larson Prairie trails will be monitored into the future. The GEAS Conservation Committee has also worked to make sure the more than 30 years' worth of nest-box data is entered into an accessible digital database.
- In June of next year GEAS will host the National Audubon Photography Awards Exhibition for the enjoyment of the membership and the public. We have not yet confirmed the location where the amazing photos will be on display, but we are excited to offer this opportunity. You can preview the photos online on the GEAS website shortly.
- The MK Nature Center is changing its policy regarding evening use of their facilities, so the GEAS monthly meeting will no longer be at this location

beginning in January. We are working on securing a new place for our meetings and will alert the membership as soon as we are able.

Call for Nominations for 2016-2017 GEAS Awards

We welcome the membership to nominate exceptional individuals for recognition at the coming GEAS Banquet in March. We have created a simple nomination form on Google forms that can be found via a link on the GEAS homepage to make sure that we consider the contributions of all the people who are exemplary in our community. The board will consider all nominations in the categories of: 1) Conservation Award; 2) Educator of the Year; 3) Volunteer of the Year; 4) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Call for Small Grant Applications

GEAS is proud to continue its successful Small Grants Program this fall. The GEAS Grants and Awards Committee will be accepting applications for the coming grant cycle through December 12. The GEAS Board of Directors votes in January on funding decisions for applications, which generally are about \$500. We welcome conservation, educational, or research projects to apply for consideration. The short application can be found on the

GEAS website under "What We Do" and should be submitted via email to the chair of the committee, Michele Christ, at mrcgoldeneagle@gmail.com.

New Honorary GEAS Board Member, Bill Belknap

The GEAS Board of Directors would like to recognize Bill Belknap as an honorary board member for his substantial contributions to the Society. Belknap was among the founding members of our chapter and was our first president. He has said he is particularly proud of his efforts to help launch the first Christmas Bird Counts in our area and his work that helped protect the Boise River through the establishment of the Boise Greenbelt and the wildlife set-backs written into our city code. He has been a model volunteer, advocate and scientist in our community for decades. Our archives quote him as saying, "If you can get people interested, the birds will do the rest." We hope that we have continued to do him proud in our efforts as a chapter. Just in the past few months, he has made sure to let the Board know of developments impacting bald eagles along the Boise River, and we thank him for his dedication and passion on this issue. We are dedicated to helping preserve habitat, and are grateful for his continued participation in GEAS.

Chapter News

Kuna-Mora Road Cleanup Thanks

On September 23 and 24, some 14 volunteers (the Dirty Dozen, Plus!) braved the cold winds and walked the 3.3 mile stretch of Kuna-Mora Road that runs in front of the Blacks Creek Bird Reserve picking up trash. Golden Eagle Audubon adopted this section earlier in the year. This stretch of road had never been cleaned up, and thus was a monumental job. We filled the 20 orange bags given to us by ACHD, plus two orange bags left over from another project, plus an unknown number of black bags! This does not include all the shredded tires, car parts, cowboy boots, strands of barbed wire and miscellaneous items that were too large to put in a bag. Many thanks to all who participated. We'll do a cleanup twice a year from now on, but after this one, there should be much less trash to gather in the future. Thank you all again!

Got Feeders? Have a little time to watch them two days a week?

Consider participating in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feederwatch! Citizen scientists keep track of the birds at their backyard feeders for two days a week and record what they see online; it's easy and you don't need to make a big time commitment. You never know what you'll see—a big pine siskin year or interesting visitors like mountain chickadees or

even an odd blue jay in Boise. Your data is important, and you'll receive a copy of Winter Bird Highlights the following fall that summarizes all the data from the regions. A small fee is collected—\$18, or \$15 for Cornell Lab members—to cover the materials and support for the program. Project Feederwatch runs from November 12 through April 7 next year. Visit www.feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate/ to learn about the program and sign up.



American dipper contemplates the North Fork Big Wood River.

Photo by N.S. Nokkentved

GEAS EVENTS for November and December

Field trip information is subject to change. Please check the website <http://www.goldeneagleadubon.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.

Saturday, November 5

Field Trip: C. J. Strike East – Ted Trueblood, C.J. Strike Dam, Jacks Creek WMA and Bruneau Dunes

Time: 7:30 a.m.

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

Trip leader: Jay Carlisle

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

Our first planned stop will be at Ted Trueblood WMA. Then we'll work our way toward C. J. Strike Dam, Jacks Creek WMA and Bruneau Dunes if time allows. This will be an all-day trip. Bring lunch, water, snacks and wind protection. Be prepared for any kind of weather.

Sunday, November 13

Family Bird Walk in the Park

Time: 9 to 11 a.m.

Location: Bethine Church Nature Trail

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

Meet at Bown Crossing, parking lot behind St. Al's Urgent Care. The Bethine Church trail, a peaceful gravel path off-limits to bicycles, follows the river and is bordered by ponds and lots of trees and undergrowth, affording habitat for a large variety of birds. 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 rewards for birding.

Saturday, November 19

Special Yoga Fundraiser for GEAS Refugee Youth Programming
Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Jack's Urban Meeting Place (JUMP), 1000 W Myrtle Zen Boise is hosting this fundraiser to benefit the New Roots Program and Wild Outdoor Week. Come join this yoga practice and support these important programs. Learn about the event on the JUMP event calendar. Advance \$15 registration required.

Saturday, November 19

Habitat For the Holidays Family-Friendly Craft Event

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Sage International School, 431 E Parkcenter Blvd.

Join the GEAS Education Committee for a fun event to create bird-themed crafts for birds and for your yard. We will have stations to create birdseed ornaments, window decals to discourage window collisions, and more. We will also be preparing a tree to donate on behalf of GEAS to the charitable 'Festival of Trees' event. Please RSVP on the GEAS homepage link so we can be sure to bring enough supplies for everyone to take a project home with them.

Saturday, December 10

Family Bird Walk in the Park—Kids' Christmas Bird Count at

Hyatt Reserve

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

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

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

This trip will be our fifth Children's Christmas Bird Count. We will see what species we can find, and keep count of the numbers we see. 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 rewards for birding. We will finish at noon.

Tuesday, December 13

GEAS Monthly Meeting: American Kestrel, Chris McClure

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Trophy Room, 600 S Walnut St., Boise.

American Kestrels are declining across most of their range yet the reasons remain a mystery. Hypothesized causes include pesticides, climate change, habitat destruction and predation. Chris McClure will review the evidence for causes of decline using data from across North America.

Christmas Bird Count Dates and Information

There is no cost for the bird counts. Results will eventually be available on the Internet.

Wednesday, December 14

Garden Valley CBC

Leader: Gary Worthington, garyworthington@outlook.com 208-853-2599

Location: Meet at Gary's home, 8109 W. Powell, Boise at 6:15 a.m. to carpool/caravan; or meet at Wild Bill's Coffee Shop, downtown Crouch at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 17

Nampa CBC:

Leaders: Denise Hughes, deniseh449@gmail.com 208-850-5885 or Cheryl Huizinga bchuizinga@cableone.net 208-880-5687

Location: Deer Flat NWR Visitor Center

Time: 7:30 a.m.

We will split into area groups and start the count at 8 a.m. We will meet back at the Visitor Center at 5 p.m. to hand in the count sheets and have a hot chili and soup supper to warm-up afterwards. There is also a Feeder Count part for those not able to be in the field. Please contact Cheryl or Denise for more information.

Sunday, December 18

McCall CBC:

Compiler/contact: Matt Dresser, mattdresser@gmail.com 208-718-1434

Location: IDFG/McCall Resource Management Complex, 555 Deinhard Lane

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Please contact compiler Matt Dresser if interested in participating. This will be the third official McCall count. The count circle includes McCall, Payette Lake, Ponderosa State Park, N. Fork Payette River and portions of Meadows Valley and Long Valley. If there is sufficient snow some areas may be covered on skis or snowshoes. McCall is likely to be one of the highest and most

Events Continued:

scenic CBCs in the state.

Wednesday, December 28

Boise CBC: Boise's 50th CBC

Contact: RL Rowland, rrowland@centurylink.net 336-9808 or 297-9953

Time: 7 a.m.

Location: Trophy Room at Idaho Fish & Game, 600 S. Walnut, Boise, northeast entrance (in rear)

RL will furnish the morning's sugar jump-start of Uncle Joe's finest mixed pastries, participants please to bring their own breakfast beverage of choice to go with. About 5 p.m. of Count Day we will start gathering at Sue Norton's (directions to be furnished at the morning meeting) to check and turn count data in to RL, have an after count get-together and some supper. As this is a semi-potluck, Sue will have a couple varieties of delicious soups. Please bring something to complement and share, such as salads, desserts, veggie platters, beverages, etc. Last year several folks stayed a bit to help with the clean up and if that can be repeated it will be much appreciated. If not able to stay for supper please stop by long enough to drop off your completed data sheets. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Saturday, December 31, Cascade CBC

Leader; Ingrid Brudenell, ibrudenell@gmail.com 336- 4136

Location: Meet at the Ashley Inn, Highway 55, on the north end of Cascade

Time: 8 a.m.

This count will focus on the area around Cascade Reservoir, north fork of the Payette River, and surrounding country side. Be prepared for cold and wind. We will meet and divide into teams for the count. We will warm up with a chili lunch and exchange bird counts and stories. Birding may continue in the afternoon. Final counts will be compiled at the end of the day. Please RSVP to Ingrid Brudenell for a head count for lunch.

Monday, January 2, 2017, Bruneau CBC

Leader: Larry Ridenhour, ridenhour.larry@gmail.com 863-5596,

Time: 7 a.m., for all day trip

Location: Meet at Boise BLM Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise.

This is expedition quality birding around CJ Strike Reservoir and the Snake River from below the dam to Bruneau Dunes State Park. Be prepared for bitter cold and relentless wind—and great birds! We will finish at the CJ Strike bridge at sunset to watch thousands of common goldeneye fly in for the evening. Then we will go to the Y Bar and Cafe in Grand View to compile numbers and exchange stories. Dinner will be about \$12—spaghetti, vegetarian sauce will be available, with soup or salad and French bread; dessert \$4, either a cheesecake or caramel apple crisp; wine or beer is extra, depending on type and kind. Gratuity not included and always welcome. They put on a great dinner for us!! Please RSVP to Alex Takasugi 208-484-9132 alextakasugi@cableone.net for a head count for dinner at the restaurant—helps them plan.

Reminder: Starting in January, the GEAS Monthly meeting will change to the third Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Trophy room at the Idaho Fish and Game headquarters, 600 S Walnut St.

Anatomy of the Christmas Bird Count

By RL Rowland

This year is the National Audubon Society's 117th Christmas Bird Count, arguably the oldest continuous citizen science project in the country. This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of our Boise CBC.

The components to a Christmas Bird Count are:

1. **Count Period.** The chosen eleven day period either side of Christmas, in which each individual count is to be completed, runs from December 14 to January 5. All counts must be done during this time.
2. **Count Week.** Three days either side of Count Day, only species can be noted no numbers of individuals. These noted species are added into the compilation as Count Week Birds.
3. **Count Day.** The actual day of the count, a census of all bird species and their numbers.
4. **Count Circle.** The area covered. The Boise circle, as with all circles, has a 7.5-mile radius. Boise's is centered on the State Capitol dome, making for an area of nearly 178 square miles. and broken into 14 individual sections. Folks at the morning meeting can decide in what section they would like to count and collect their data sheets.
5. **Feeder Watch.** Those not able to participate in the field can count birds coming to feeders, whether theirs or a friend's. Contact RL for info on how to do a Feeder Watch. Very simple and doesn't take much time.

All birds noted or counted during Count Week, Count Day and Feeder Watch must be within the Count Circle.

The way our western calendar works, every few years the two major holidays, Christmas Eve/Day and New Year's Eve/Day fall on weekend dates leaving only one free weekend of the period to do counts, as it does this year. Most CBC compilers try to have their counts on weekends, Saturday being the optimal day for turnout. In areas where there are multiple counts many must be done the same day causing potential participants to have to choose which count to join.

Here in southwest Idaho we, Nampa and Boise, have in the past chosen to do back-to-back counts, one on Saturday, the other on Sunday a day later when the holidays fall as they do this year. As back-to-back count days can get long, a certain amount burn-out on those second-day folks can occur, and so many choose to do only a single count. So, for the first time in the history of the Boise CBC, we are doing our count on a weekday.

We've tried to mix the areas so that each includes some walking and some driving. Plenty of choices. Still a beginning birder? We can put you with others to help you learn. You don't need to sign-up in advance, just show up on Count Day. No fees to participate, just your time, maybe some gas, some shoe leather. We are all volunteers, so whether you can only do a part day or, better yet, all day please to join us and Count Some Birds!

MK Nature Center Bird Seed Sale, December 2-3

The MK Nature Center in collaboration with Wild Birds Unlimited will host its annual Bird Seed Sale on December 2 and 3. Contact Sue Dudley, Gift Shop Manager, MK Nature Center, at 287-2900 to preorder. Payment must be made with cash or check.

Top Four Silent Auction Ideas

It's fall, and the GEAS banquet/auction committee has started planning for the 2017 event. Funds from the auction support many GEAS projects, among them: school birding programs, bluebird trails, Black's Creek cleanup and day camps for area refugee children.

The committee has reviewed sales from previous auctions and developed this list of the top four auction ideas:

1. Food

Cookie baskets, jam baskets, pie baskets, coffee baskets and more. Who doesn't love something tasty and homemade? If you have ever lurked by a jam basket to make sure you enter the winning bid, you know how popular these items can be. And it's not just food. In past years, board members have contributed toward the purchase of wines from the Boise Co-Op. The wine steward selects the wine and sells it to us at a discount. The donation of beer from the Payette Brewing Company always sells well. So if you bake killer gingerbread cookies, brew your own beer, or concoct spicy jams, jellies and salsa, consider sharing your bounty.

2. Trips and Travel

Travel related auction items are popular and have the potential of raising lots of money. Whether it's a four-day getaway to a condo in Park City, free airline tickets, or a weekend getaway to a cabin in the mountains, event guests love a chance to win an amazing trip. Maybe you know someone who has a mountain or seaside cabin. If you like to solve mysteries, use your sleuthing ability to track down a few days of donated lodging from Airbnb or VRBO. Birders are responsible and grateful guests. By the time they have finished birding for the day, they are usually too tired for wild parties.

3. Birding and Adventure Gear

For the past four years, REI has donated a day pack to the GEAS auction. It is always a popular item. So too are binoculars, scopes and tripods—of course!—and smaller items, such as binocular harnesses, lens cleaning kits or birding vests. There are many sports and wildlife stores in the valley, but GEAS has not been successful in securing items from them. If you have a contact at Cabela's, Sierra Trading Post, Sportsman's Warehouse or any other outdoor gear store, you may have the secret technique that will wrest a donation from them.

4. Outings/Experiences

It could be the chance to enjoy familiar activities like a visit to the Shakespeare Festival, The Idaho Botanical Gardens, or the Flicks, or the chance to experience something new. Bidders enjoy experiences: cooking classes, hummingbird banding in Idaho City, rafting trips, visits to the Birds of Prey.

Are you sensing a theme here? People appreciate experiences and consumables. Many of us just have too much "stuff" and are trying to downsize, rather than acquire new things. If you have an item to donate or if you would like to help GEAS by requesting a donation, **please contact Sue Norton: 378-4248 or nortonsu@msn.com**. Sue will coordinate donations so we don't get 14 birding vests or have multiple people soliciting a donation from the same organization.

Bluebird Trails 2016 Report

By Al Larson

The first project at Prairie this year was to set up three signs designating this bluebird trail as "Hilda Larson Bluebird Trail." One sign on Spring Creek and two by the old Prairie store.

Thanks to The Golden Eagle Audubon Society for the signs and for renaming the bluebird trail in honor of Hilda.

Despite some losses to adverse weather, this year was relatively productive for our bluebirds. Records indicate that close to 900 nestlings fledged on our bluebird trails. Early warm spring weather started egg laying that was aborted due to a cold period resulting in abandoned nests. The eggs that survived and subsequent nesting offset earlier losses.

Under normal conditions 60 to 65 percent of the eggs result in fledging. This year Prairie produced 395 mountain bluebird nestlings from 523 eggs—76 percent. Western bluebirds did not fare so well with only 34 percent of 140 eggs resulting in 47 fledglings. This includes nest boxes set up by Gary Hendrickson at Prairie.

The Owyhee and SIBA trails produced 52 percent or 338, and 41 percent or 113 fledglings, respectively. The Sage Hen and Cascade trails produced a small number of fledglings. Late nesting bluebirds have to compete with house wrens and tree swallows for cavities. There are a lot more predators to be fed as the summer progresses too.

Boyd Steele accompanied me on most of my bluebird trips this year. Occasionally I had other assistants. I appreciate all of the help I have had monitoring the trails. Thank you.

Boyd and I made one last trip to the Owyhees October 5 to clean out and repair a few nest boxes. To my surprise and satisfaction we observed several family groups of mountain bluebirds along the Flint Creek road. We also saw ravens, robins, kestrels, ducks, killdeer, great blue heron, flickers, partridge and unidentified sparrow type birds.

President's message continued from Page 2

New Roots Program at our October meeting. There is also a fun family-oriented holiday event set for November 19, more details found in the event calendar, and then there is the fifth annual kids' Christmas bird count at Hyatt in December for our families and novice birders. And I hope you will consider joining some of our great birders for one of the longest running citizen-science projects ever created, the so important Christmas Bird Counts!

Liz Urban, president

Join GEAS to create
Habitat for the Holidays

A family-friendly crafting event to bring
birds to your yard this holiday season

November 19th, 1-3pm

Sage International School, 431 E Parkcenter Blvd, Boise, ID 83706

Golden Eagle Audubon Society Annual Banquet and Auction

6 p.m., Saturday, March 11, 2017
 Red Lion Downtowner, 1800 Fairview Avenue, Boise
 \$45 Per Person



The speaker for the 2017 GEAS Banquet will be P. Dee Boersma, the “Jane Goodall of penguins.” Boersma, who has a doctorate in zoology, holds the Wadsworth Endowed Chair in Conservation Science at the University of Washington. Her academic research in conservation biology focuses on seabirds as indicators of environmental change. She has been the director of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s study of Magellanic penguins at Punta Tombo, Argentina, home of the world’s largest colony of Magellanic penguins for 30 years. Boersma and her students follow the lives of individual penguins, monitor the colony, and develop the data needed to plan effective conservation efforts. In the Galapagos Islands she is building “condos” to increase the Galapagos penguin population. Boersma was awarded a 2010 Fulbright fellowship to study wildlife videography in New Zealand and was named one of the Nature Conservancy’s “Conservation

Heroes of the last 50 years” in 2011. She received the Ocean Conservation Award from the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California in 2012. Dr. Boersma and Pablo Borboroglu edited “Penguins: Natural History and Conservation” in 2013.

Please join us for this annual fundraising event. In addition to our distinguished presenter, we will have a silent auction before dinner during the social hour at 6 p.m. Come spend an evening in good company and select a homemade dessert for \$5. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

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GEAS BANQUET REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS — DUE BY MARCH 6, 2017.

Mail this form and your check payable to GEAS to: GEAS, 1963 Teal Lane, Boise, ID 83706.

You may pay by credit card online at www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/banquet.

Questions? Contact Sue Norton at 378-4248 or nortonsu@msn.com.

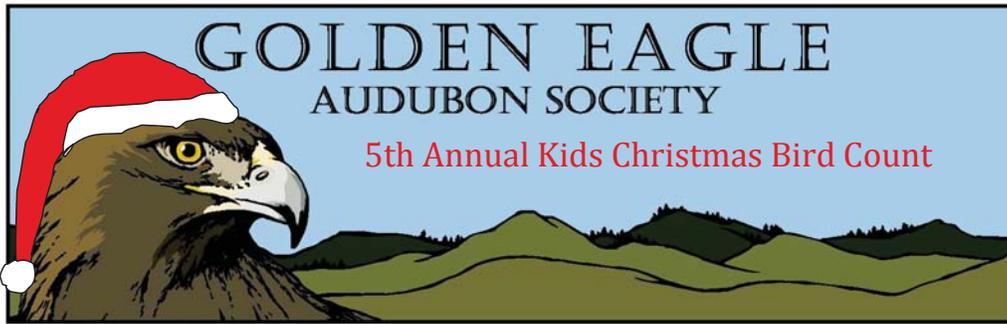
To Pay By Check:	
Name: _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	
Number of tickets @ \$45 per guest: _____	Check enclosed: \$ _____

The entrée choices are: 1) Rosemary and Cracked Pepper Roasted Prime Rib, 2) Char-Grilled Northwest Salmon, or 3) Vegetable Yakisoba. Please circle a meal choice for each guest.

Guest Name: _____	Meal Choice: Prime Rib Salmon Vegetable
Guest Name: _____	Meal Choice: Prime Rib Salmon Vegetable
Guest Name: _____	Meal Choice: Prime Rib Salmon Vegetable
Guest Name: _____	Meal Choice: Prime Rib Salmon Vegetable

If you would like to support GEAS by donating an auction item or homemade dessert, please contact Sue Norton at: (208) 378-4248 or nortonsu@msn.com. To preserve the sanity of the auction committee, all donations (except desserts) should be received by February 28.

I would like to donate \$ _____ for a teacher/student ticket to attend the banquet.



The Golden Eagle Audubon Society is happy to announce our fifth annual Kids Christmas Bird Count! Families are welcome to participate in this FREE, fun event!

WHEN: 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, December 10

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

Volunteers will be posted by the lower entrance to guide visitors on how the count works and to loan out binoculars and guidebooks. There will also be some snacks and hot drinks to enjoy! This event does not require participating for the full two hours, so stop by any time between 10 and noon and contribute to citizen science!

Hope to see you there!

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

- Please help us save paper and mailing costs; if you would like to receive your newsletter online, send your name and zip code in an e-mail to membership@goldeneagleaudubon.org. GEAS does not share your email address.
- For membership/subscription information, renewals, or change of address, e-mail membership@goldeneagleaudubon.org.
- For newsletter submissions, send an e-mail to Niels S. Nokkentved at sparre47@gmail.com. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the second Sunday of the month.

We invite you to join the Golden Eagle Audubon Chapter

Membership in the local chapter includes a one-year subscription to *The Golden Eagle*, and all my dues remain with the local chapter and support local activities.

Name: _____
 E-Mail: _____ (allows for website login)
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

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

I would like to donate an additional \$ _____

Make check payable to Golden Eagle Audubon Society. Mail to: Golden Eagle Audubon Society, PO Box 8261, Boise, ID 83707, **or pay by credit card on our website www.goldeneagleaudubon.org (click support GEAS).**

Please contact us for information on membership scholarships.

To join the National Audubon Society visit <http://www.audubon.org/> and use chapter code G00 for Golden Eagle Audubon Society, or write to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250.

The Golden Eagle Audubon Society is southwest Idaho's chapter of the National Audubon Society. GEAS promotes environmental awareness through field trips, local programs and volunteer work.

Post Office Box 8261, Boise, Idaho 83707
www.goldeneagleaudubon.org

Chapter Code: C5ZG000Z