



BOISE RIDGE NOTES

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The Idaho Bird Observatory's mission is to contribute to the conservation of western migratory landbirds and their habitats through cooperative research and public education.

EDUCATION

Migration Monitoring at Camas NWR: A Promising New Project!

by Jay Carlisle

In October of 2004, several Idaho biologists assembled to discuss songbird monitoring at Camas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Hamer, Idaho. This meeting resulted in a cooperative effort between refuge manager Rob Larrañaga and IBO. Thanks to a Challenge Cost Share grant from USFWS, matching grants from Portneuf Valley Audubon Society and Wildlife Forever, and cooperation from Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Nongame Wildlife Program, IBO began fieldwork on 20 July 2005. Specifically, we studied the abundance, stopover ecology, and migration timing of passerines and near-passerines (woodpeckers, hummingbirds, etc.) in the wooded area surrounding the refuge headquarters with daily mist-netting and regular point-count surveys.

We mist netted for songbirds on 86 different days (20 July–14 October), capturing a total of 4,446 birds of 71 different species for an overall capture rate of 1.106 birds/net hour. The only comparable operation in the state is our Lucky Peak site in southwestern Idaho. The capture rate at Camas NWR is slightly lower than but comparable to the 2005 (1.30 birds/net hour) and nine-year average capture rates (1.22 birds/net hour) at Lucky Peak. Species richness (the number of species captured) at Camas NWR in 2005 was higher than any year experienced at Lucky Peak (high of 60 species). Preliminary stopover ecology data provide evidence that the site is quite suitable for autumn stopover.

There were nine species for which we captured over 100 individuals and six other species whose captures exceeded 50 individuals. The most commonly captured species were Wilson's Warbler (1,841), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (423), Orange-crowned Warbler (337), MacGillivray's Warbler (239), Yellow Warbler (158), Hermit Thrush (131), Dark-eyed Junco (120), Hammond's Flycatcher (119), and White-crowned Sparrow (102). This represents a relatively well-balanced mix of Neotropical and temperate migrants and the capture totals for Wilson's Warblers probably represent some kind of banding record (*I haven't checked with Guinness*).

Camas NWR has a reputation among birders for attracting rarities—likely a reflection of the isolated nature of the refuge, which acts as an oasis that concentrates migrants—and this year was no different. Vagrant species captured in 2005 included Connecticut Warbler (2; representing Idaho's first 2 state records), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2), Black-and-White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2). In addition to birds actually captured in nets,



we also had a number of interesting sightings during our songbird monitoring efforts (point-counts and general observations). These included a Steller's Jay in late July, a Brown Thrasher (27 Jul–28 Aug), a Black-and-White Warbler on 13 Aug, two Blackpoll Warblers (28 August and 15 Sep), a Black-throated Gray Warbler (28 Aug), a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (15 Sep), a Blue-headed Vireo (23 Sep), at least three White-throated Sparrows (28 & 30 Sep, 9 Oct), a Yellow-shafted Flicker (3–7 Oct), two Lewis's Woodpeckers (23 Aug, 3–11 Oct), and five Evening Grosbeaks (6 Oct).

We captured several other species that are rare and/or local to this part of the state including Least Flycatcher (2), Gray Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo (6), Veery (3), Gray Catbird (14), American Redstart (7), and Northern Waterthrush (20). Lastly, while not rare in the state, we did capture good numbers of some species that are not commonly encountered at Lucky Peak; these include the Northern Waterthrush mentioned above as well as Willow Flycatcher (65), Western Wood-pewee (35), and Lincoln's Sparrow (27).

We documented an impressive abundance and diversity of autumn migrants using the refuge and we were able to share that with the general public on many occasions. In our opinion,

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New Study Funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

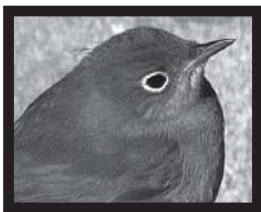
by Jay Carlisle

Early in 2005, Idaho Bird Observatory was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) earmarked towards continuing and expanding our migration research in the region. The grant funded our fall 2005 monitoring/research efforts at Lucky Peak as well as a new study in which we are using a Geographic Information System (GIS) coupled with the Idaho GAP database (a vegetation layer for the entire state) in order to predict and study the occurrence of autumn migrants across southern Idaho. Specifically, our goal was to take what we know from Lucky Peak and the surrounding Boise Foothills and examine whether similar patterns are occurring in other mountain ranges in southern Idaho. We also wanted to include lower elevation riparian areas in order to compare migrant abundance between montane and riparian habitats.

We started preparing during late spring by selecting and mapping habitats and regions to study. In the end, we settled on 12 study areas: four mountain ranges north of the Snake River, four ranges south of the Snake River, and four riparian areas along or draining into the Snake River Plain. The areas we studied were Boise Foothills, Boise Mountains, Danskin Mountains, and Soldier Mountains (north of Snake); Owyhee Mountains, South Hills, Deep Creek Mountains, and Bannock Mountains (south of Snake); and Boise River, Bruneau River, Wood River, and the Palisades section of the Snake River (riparian).

From late July through early October, we had experienced birders/field assistants traveling across the state and conducting point count surveys in each of these areas. Each put many miles on their vehicles and enjoyed seeing some places in Idaho that I haven't even seen yet (yes, I'm a little jealous) and, by season's end, they had amassed a wealth of data that we are still sorting and preparing for analysis. From a brief look, it seems that we collected sufficient data on at least 10 (if not 20 or more species) on which to conduct single-species analyses. Especially common were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and a few others. Smaller but still adequate numbers of Dusky and Hammond's Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, MacGillivray's Warbler, and more were sampled. We hope to examine patterns of migrant abundance and species richness across habitats and geographic areas in order to learn more about what western migrants need at this time of year. Stay tuned for future updates

MIGRATION MONITORING continued from page 1



Camas NWR is in many ways an ideal place to investigate migration ecology issues. Reasons for this include: 1) a high abundance and diversity of migrants, 2) a limited breeding bird community so that most individuals and species are known to be passage migrants, and 3) the limited extent of wooded habitats allow for nearly complete monitoring of the refuge oasis via mist-netting, point-counts, and general observations. We are seeking funding to be able to continue this project during both spring and fall migrations in 2006 and beyond.

The fall 2005 Camas NWR crew consisted of Craig Fosdick, Michelle Labbe, Debbie Leick, and myself. We had help for a month or more from both Graham Fairhurst and Evonne Shroeder. In addition, we enjoyed some fantastic volunteer help from the local community. Especially helpful were several Camas NWR volunteers (Sharon Dollar, Nancy Langer, and Elizabeth Smith) and a number of BYU-Idaho students, most notably Holly Morgan. Thanks to all of them for their great help & enjoyable company!

The 2005 point count crew was supervised by Jon Dale (a Texan who saw some of his first snow this fall!) and included Jennipher Karst, EJ Raynor, and Curtis Johnson. All of these guys are enthusiastic birders, worked really hard this fall, and often worked alone for many days at a time; I'm thankful for their efforts. In addition, Bonnie Hunt worked as a GIS technician and did virtually all of the work to prepare us for the field season. Exciting for us is that Bonnie is pursuing a Masters in Biology at Boise State University and will build her thesis around this study. Together with Bonnie, we are seeking further funding sources in order to gather another year of data and possibly focus more on only one or a few mountain ranges in 2006.

Boise Ridge Notes

Is a publication of the Idaho Bird Observatory.

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Lucky Peak Landbird Monitoring 2005

by Caroline Poli and John Warzybok

Inquiring minds want to know just how the songbird season was on Lucky Peak this year. From start to finish, it couldn't have been better. Our first day was a record-breaker. At 7:00am on July 16th, IBO staff, new and old alike, scurried off to check nets for the first time of the season and retrieved an astounding 85 birds. The high capture rate continued throughout the day, and included a new Lucky Peak record for number of birds caught in a single net in 40 minutes (65!). By the end of the day, the more experienced banders were ready for a nap, and the "newbies" were still wondering what had just happened. In all, the day was a great success, with 231 songbirds banded, 73 of which were Nashville Warblers.

During the 2005 season (July 16th through October 15th) we netted a total of 5499 birds representing 60 species. On average, we banded approximately 60 birds per day. The most commonly captured species were Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1363), the "Oregon" subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco (585), "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow (492), "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (314), Western Tanager (297), Dusky Flycatcher (284), Nashville Warbler (259), MacGillivray's Warbler (255), Chipping Sparrow (180), and Spotted Towhee (167). The strong showing of Nashville Warbler on the very first day would foreshadow the record total for the season, narrowly edging out the 257 captured in 2000. Other species with high totals compared to previous seasons included: Ruby-crowned Kinglet (second highest), "Audubon's" Warbler (second highest), and Gray Flycatcher (5; the highest yet). We captured 37 House Wrens this season, 3.5 times the average over the past 8 seasons. This is most likely due the recent addition of nest boxes in the area creating an abundance of nesting habitat. In contrast, this season had the second lowest number of Red-breasted Nuthatch netted and the lowest number of Calliope Hummingbird since the 1999 season.

As always, this season featured some interesting and uncommon species. September 7th brought some excitement when a hatch-year male Blackburnian Warbler was caught, marking only the second capture of this species on Lucky Peak. Unfortunately neither author was present to share in the joy as Jay had sent us to the Camas project for a week – convenient for him! We also netted a Sage Thrasher on July 24th. Although this species is relatively common at lower elevations, it was only the second caught at this site. The most notable rarity was a Chestnut-sided Warbler, captured on September 3rd and recaptured twice within a seven day span. During its stay at Lucky Peak the warbler gained a gram (10.8% of its original body mass) and accumulated a hefty fat store, serving as just another example of the importance of Lucky Peak's habitat to migrants. There were also a few good birds that didn't make it into our nets, including Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, and Pileated Woodpecker.

The 2005 songbird crew included John Warzybok, Caroline Poli, Evonne Schroeder, Jeremy Russell, Emily Stoddard, and Than Boves. We couldn't have done it without the help of many others who generously volunteered their time, including Gary Robinson, Ann Moser, Carol Wike, Dave Wike and Corey Riding. We also received tremendous help from hawkwatchers Gavin and Alacia, as well as owl banders Julie and Tracy. Thanks to everyone for a great season.

Lucky Peak Outreach 2005

by Deniz Aygen

During 2005, IBO's commitment to environmental education made wildlife reachable during the entire year. Formal presentations to participants at Bald Eagle Days in January and as well as banding demonstrations during International Migratory Bird Day received high attendance. In addition, IBO presented lectures to the Anser Charter School, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Southwest Idaho Birders Association, and a Renaissance Learning Group during the spring and summer.

At our Lucky Peak research site, more groups visited during fall 2005 than during previous seasons to observe songbird mist-netting, raptor counts, and raptor banding. Groups included birding organizations, local school groups, boy scouts, university students and a teacher workshop group. Over 350 people participated in these scheduled group visits to Lucky Peak during 2005. In addition, many visitors found their way up to Lucky Peak and experienced an 'in the hand' opportunity to view birds during their fall migratory season. The majority of these visits occurred during September and early October. The education programs provided a better understanding to the research that is conducted on Lucky Peak and the importance of monitoring the population dynamics of migratory birds. We look forward to giving more presentations and seeing you at Lucky Peak in 2006!

Date	Group/Visitor	Approx. # of Visitors
19 Aug.	Boy Scouts	30
21 Aug.	Golden Eagle Audubon	20
27 Aug.	Southwest Idaho Birders	15
9-11 Sept.	University of Idaho Students	3
10 Sept.	Golden Eagle Audubon	20
16 Sept.	Boise State Dean of Arts and Sciences	6
17 Sept.	Riverstone Community School	30
18 Sept.	IDFG Project Wild	30
21 Sept.	Bill and Barbara Tonkin	2
23 Sept.	Dennis Fitzpatrick and Winston Moore	2
24 Sept.	Borah High School Students	4
25 Sept.	Golden Eagle Audubon Society	15
26 Sept.	Anser Charter School	30
29 Sept.	Foothills School	30
29 Sept.	Borah High School Students	3
30 Sept.	Eagle Academy	30
30 Sept.	Winston and Jeffery Moore	2
1 Oct.	Boy Scouts	15
1 Oct	Boise State University	25
5 Oct	Foothills School	30
7 Oct	Boy Scouts	15
8 Oct	Renaissance Group	5
8 Oct	Boy Scouts	15
12 Oct	Pocatello Charter School	25
	Total	371



Greg Kaltenecker Named 2004 Environmental Educator of the Year.

by Mary Dudley, IDFG Southwest Region Volunteer Coordinator

The Idaho Environmental Education Association (IdEEA) selected Idaho Bird Observatory Director Greg Kaltenecker as 2004 Environmental Educator of the Year. IdEEA recognized Greg for his outstanding leadership promoting education as a key component of the IBO. Co-founder of IBO in 1993, Greg combines research and education by providing hands on opportunities for people to learn about wildlife.

School children and volunteers are introduced and involved in hawk counts and raptor, songbird and owl trapping and data collection during fall migration on Lucky Peak, IBO's main site. Greg and his team of knowledgeable volunteer biologists educate youngsters and volunteers by actively engaging them in the long-term monitoring and research program in the Boise Mountains.

Greg and his crew of volunteers make the effort to get people up to Lucky Peak to see birds. Long time volunteer and one of IBO's primary raptor trappers, Dave Wike, remarks, "When I see the look of wonder and excitement on the face of a child or an adult when they release a songbird or a hawk, I get a sense of accomplishment knowing that they have a better understanding of these magnificent creatures and their importance in our every day lives." Dave and his wife Carol volunteer many hundreds of hours each year with every aspect of IBO, including mending nets and building equipment, sewing bird bags, data entry, and field work.

IBO has expanded tremendously to include the annual Bald Eagle Days, a multi-media event held each January at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, overlooking Barber Pool



along the Boise River where bald eagles winter. Spotting scopes are set up so that people may watch bald eagles and other wildlife. Raptors of many species, brought to the event by local falconers and educators, make a lasting impression on visitors. Bald Eagle Days expanded this year to include hosting the prestigious International Wildlife Film Festival.

The MAPS program, (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), during June and July, is another project piece of

IBO. Other IBO projects include shrub steppe studies across southern Idaho and bald eagle and goshawk nest monitoring in southwest Idaho.

Greg devotes a major part of his job as IBO Director writing grants to obtain funding for the ever-expanding and significant program. Grant writing requires much time, energy, excellent writing skills, patience and salesmanship. Greg works diligently year around seeking funding and he has proven to be successful. IBO is universally recognized as a very high quality educational and research program. Greg is quick to emphasize that all of the volunteers who contribute so much of their lives to making IBO a success deserve the Environmental Educator Award and should be recognized for their dedicated work. Greg recognizes the fact that IBO depends on volunteers, not only their generous contributions of time, energy and expertise, but also and their donations of materials and money. While his sentiment is appreciated, Greg's tenacious and exemplary leadership shine, making him the deserving recipient of the IdEEA's prestigious award.

IBO and the Boise State University Foundation-What is the Connection?

A question that we are frequently asked is "What is the connection between IBO and the Boise State University Foundation?" It may seem like an odd arrangement, but it actually makes perfect sense. The Idaho Bird Observatory is a Boise State University Academic Research Program. In a very mutually beneficial way, IBO provides training and research opportunities for Boise State graduate and undergraduate students, and conducts quality environmental education and outreach within the local community, which brings attention and positive press to the university. Meanwhile, the university provides IBO with a 'home', contributing office space, computers, and other infrastructure needs, and administers grants and contracts which are awarded to IBO. In addition, the Boise State University Foundation, as the fundraising arm for the university, provides IBO with non-profit status in order to accept individual, corporate and foundation donations. The funds raised are then transferred to university accounts and expensed for respective programs. The Foundation maintains a full staff, which allows them to keep close track of donations, acknowledge every contribution, and provide donors with receipts for tax purposes.

That's why if you make a donation to IBO, you usually receive a thank-you letter and receipt from the Boise State University Foundation. Don't be alarmed or suspicious. Your donation went to IBO and will be spent how you intended: *to further our research or education and outreach programs.*

Please take this opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution to IBO through the Boise State University Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization. Use the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided, or mail your gift to the address listed below. Please make your check payable to: **Idaho Bird Observatory.** Thank You!

Idaho Bird Observatory, c/o Boise State University Foundation, Inc., 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83706-9987



Landbird Monitoring in Northern Colombia— Darién Region, Biogeographic Choco

by Gabriel Colorado and Catalina Londoño

Colombia receives around 180 migratory bird species each fall and winter, accounting for almost 10% of its total bird fauna (roughly 1,870 species). Several important migratory routes for birds that come from the northern hemisphere pass through Colombia, splitting into either the lowlands or the Andes of South America. Millions of birds move along these paths on the way to wintering grounds. Unfortunately, little effort to monitor this impressive and important phenomenon has been done in Central and South America.

After receiving training in basic banding techniques at IBO in 1999, we decided to start a monitoring program in northern Colombia, in the area known as the Biogeographic Choco. Our initial goal was to monitor migrant bird populations that move through this area in order to learn more about their ecology of migration. We chose the Reserve and Ecovillage of Sasardi. The station is located 2 miles away from the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Uraba, on the Tripogadi mountain range, 220 m above sea level. The Reserve is in the middle of a lowland tropical rainforest, home to many species of frogs, lizards, snakes, insects, monkeys, and yes, birds.

Fall 2001 was the official starting date for this project. Since then, more than 1,000 neotropical and resident birds have been captured and banded each fall during September and October. We have gathered new and interesting information on the ecology of bird migration, such as the composition of species that pass through this area, as well as their abundance, timing of migration, and age and sex distribution. We now know, for example, that species composition varies throughout the season: flycatchers and vireos move early in September, followed by thrushes and grosbeaks in mid-late October. In contrast, warblers are encountered throughout this period.

A total of 35 neotropical migrant species have been captured so far, including thrushes, warblers, flycatchers, and vireos. More than 180 species of resident birds also have been recorded. Since 2001, the most common migratory species captured include red-eyed vireo, veery, and Swainson's thrush (Table 1). The most common resident species are western long-tailed and pale-bellied hermits (*Phaetornis longirostris* and *P. anthophilus*) and golden-headed manakin (*Pipra erythrocephala*).

Each year brings new interesting birds to the station. For example, in 2002 we captured the first official record for Colombia- and South America-of the Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, a species from Central America reported only as far south as Panama. Interesting sightings in 2004 included the American redstart and the golden-winged warbler.

Many thanks to the Reserve and Ecovillage Sasardi for assisting with logistics. Reserve employees Hugo, Andrea, Betty, Feliciano and Sergio have kindly helped maintain the station and this effort. Partial funding has been provided by the Association of Field Ornithologists, The Western Bird Banding Association, and The Sociedad Antioqueña de Ornitología. Thanks also to the IBO,

especially Greg Kaltenecker and Jay Carlisle, for training and help with scientific design. Tomas Cuadros, Walter Weber and Marc Bechard have also enthusiastically assisted with the project during these years.

Table 1. Comparison of yearly capture totals for selected neotropical migrants at the Darién site, Northern Colombia.

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	
Swainson's Thrush	73	62	144	127	
Veery	81	29	20	41	
Red-eyed Vireo	86	24	93	158	
Days of survey	18	15	17	26	
Mist Net Hours	913	667	992	1780	

Gabriel Colorado (gabrielcolorado@hotmail.com) and Catalina Londoño (clondon0@unalmed.edu.co) are doing their postgraduate research at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Forests and Environmental Conservation Program, studying the annual cycle of hummingbirds and frugivorous birds on Montane forests of the Central Andes.

Photos by Catalina Londoño: Black-tailed Trogon, Collared Araçari, Keel-billed Toucan, Golden-headed Manakin

Bald Eagle Days 2005

by Greg Kaltenecker

The 6th annual Bald Eagle Days was a huge success. IBO has always been part of Bald Eagle Day in Boise, but in 2004, we became the main organizer of this special event. First started to help increase public awareness and appreciation for bald eagles and other wildlife along the Boise River, this one-day environmental education event has grown into a week-long celebration of local wildlife and natural areas. Held each year on the last Saturday of January at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, its organizers hope to draw attention to Barber Pool, a 400-acre natural area devoted to wildlife, located in east Boise. Barber Pool supports over 200 species of birds and other wildlife, and is the largest remaining block of cottonwood riparian habitat along the Boise River in Ada County. Home to a bald eagle communal night roost during winter, Barber Pool is truly a gem in an area fast changing from urban development.

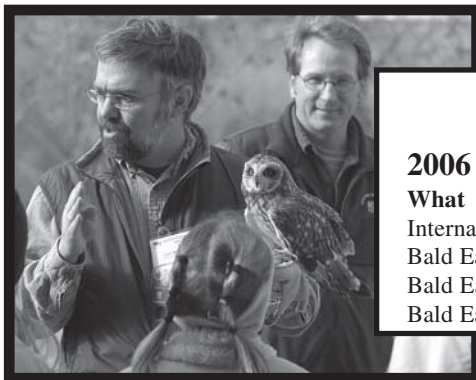
In 2005, we greatly expanded Bald Eagle Day into Bald Eagle Days, including a day for organized school visits to Barber Pool on Friday, the day before the public event. School classes enjoyed lectures from professional bird handlers and saw captive hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls up close and personal. Kids participated in hands-on activities and viewed wild eagles and other wildlife in Barber Pool with spotting scopes and binoculars. Saturday's event, free to the general public as always, attracted nearly 1000 visitors to the Shakespeare Festival.



As part of the event, we also presented the first annual International Wildlife Film Festival at the Flicks in downtown Boise on the Wednesday and Thursday nights prior to Bald Eagle Day. This film festival featured the best wildlife and conservation films from around the world, including many award-winning films. Each evening we featured a children's matinee with kid's wildlife films, and shows for adults later in the evening. We are proud to bring these films to Boise and look forward to making the film festival a yearly event.

Lastly, we held the second annual Bald Eagle Days Gala on the Friday night before Bald Eagle Day. This fund-raising event featured an art auction and film for over 100 guests who showed up to support IBO, Bald Eagle Days, and conservation and education efforts in Barber Pool. In total, we raised over \$7,000 for conservation efforts in Barber Pool at this event. These funds will be used to start an outdoor environmental education program at Barber Pool in the future, and to help make Bald Eagle Days continue to grow as one of our community's showcase events.

IBO has lots of help organizing Bald Eagle Days from the event's other cooperators, including Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, The Peregrine Fund, Bureau of Land Management, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Idaho Parks and Recreation, Echo Films, and many others.



2006 Bald Eagle Days Schedule of Events

What	When	Where
International Wildlife Film Festival	January 25 th and 26 th	The Flicks
Bald Eagle Days Gala and Art Auction	January 27 th	Basque Center
Bald Eagle Day for Schools	January 27 th	Shakespeare Festival
Bald Eagle Day for the Public	January 28 th	Shakespeare Festival

International Migratory Bird Day Banding Demonstration

by Greg Kaltenecker

On May 14th 2005, IBO participated in the annual International Migratory Bird Day event held at the MK Nature Center in Boise. IBO set up mist nets at the Center's main interpretive building near the birdfeeders and put on a banding demonstration. We captured and banded red-winged blackbirds, black-capped chickadees, brow-headed cowbirds, and house finches. Also captured but not banded were California quail, European starlings, and house sparrows. Nearly 700 people attended this great event to participate in the various activities. We met some new people interested in birds, like Hunter and Archer Berry who got turned on and came up to Lucky Peak a few times last summer and fall. We also ran into some old friends like Luke and Becky Parkinson. We hope to do more demonstrations like IMBD in Boise at places like the MK Nature Center, Barber Pool, and the new Hull's Gulch Interpretive Center to meet new people and introduce them to birds and the important research conducted by IBO.

Hunter Berry holdscaption





Volunteer Spotlight: Mr. Gary Robinson

Every once in a while, a volunteer gets sucked into IBO's research up at Lucky Peak and can't get enough of it. Gary Robinson is just that kind of volunteer. For those who have the time to spend and the enthusiasm for birds and bird banding, IBO is a great home away from home. Gary began banding birds with an instructor named Ruth Habeger in 1965, at what was then General Beadle State College, but is now South Dakota State University. In 1966 he received his own master permit, banding in both South Dakota and Colorado (while receiving his M.S. at Fort Collins), until his job with Wyoming Game and Fish Department forced him to put his permit on inactive status. His passion for birds did not fade, though, as he continued his interest in birding for many more years. Upon moving to Idaho 3 years ago, he wanted to become active in bird banding again and found IBO's website. The first time he found Lucky Peak, he met Jay Carlisle and the rest of the banding crew.

"I introduced myself and gave a brief background. Jay was very polite but a little leery of a new guy removing birds from the nets. As time went on I got to know the banding crew and as they got to know me, and I was allowed more time alone at the nets. The crew members were very professional and polite."



Gary came back every morning until school (and his job) started. After that, he still came back to Lucky Peak every weekend. In all, Gary volunteered about 50 days for IBO in 2004! In 2005, Gary started helping us with MAPS banding at Lucky Peak in June. When we started migration banding in mid-July, he was right there, every day, until some health problems kept him away in mid-September. He banded over 50 days with us again in 2005!

"The first day of banding in 2005 was incredible: we had a lot of staff and volunteers, but as it turned out, we needed every hand. On the second run of the day, net 9 had over 50 birds! Things settled down to normal the next day. As you can tell, I am very excited about birding and bird banding. Thanks to Greg and Jay for allowing me to help at the IBO. I volunteer at the IBO because of the professional staff and the dedication of the interns (not many young people would live in tents w/o electricity or running water for 3 months). The knowledge of Jay and his staff about birds and their plumage is phenomenal. I plan to be back at the IBO next spring for MAPS and the regular banding season. I would encourage anyone interested in learning more about birds, aging, sexing, and molt patterns to look up the IBO and join us."

Goodbye and Thank You to Jerrold Scholten

by Greg Kaltenecker

Last spring, after years of threatening and promising, Jerry finally retired. Jerry, Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Manager of the Boise River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), has been a friend and supporter of IBO for many years. What many people don't realize is that our Lucky Peak research site is situated on Idaho Department of Fish and Game land, within the Boise River WMA. Jerry ran the WMA since 1971; that's 33 years! When IBO discovered the concentration of migratory birds at Lucky Peak in 1993, Jerry took us in. He allowed us to establish and expand our research programs. Over the years, Jerry allowed our crews to work on the WMA, live there, shower, use the telephone, computer, tools, vehicles, even fuel. He gave us space to store our equipment and park our camp trailers. He somehow squeaked funds from his small budget each year to pay for mist nets and other equipment, and covered costs of the porta-potties each season.

Jerry recognized the importance of IBO's work, and realized that the migration phenomena made the WMA more valuable. He also thought it was important for an outside entity, namely IBO and BSU, to conduct the research rather than his own department. He thought it added credibility to the results. Well, look at us now, Jerry. After 12 years, IBO is a well-known organization. Several students have studied bird migration on the WMA, thousands of birds have been banded there, and thousands of members of the public have traveled there to view wildlife.

Jerry was born in Walla Walla, Washington, but moved shortly thereafter to Graingeville, Idaho with his family, where they bought a farm in 1952. Jerry spent a few years in the Army in the 60's, but also went to college at Boise Junior College and the University of Idaho, earning degrees in Forestry and Industrial Arts. After working for a while as a hunting guide, he eventually came to



work for IDFG in 1971 at the Boise River WMA, and stayed there his entire career. In his retirement, Jerry farms about 400 acres in Graingeville on the family farm. He likes to go to the Oregon coast with his wife Judy when he finds the time, and has two daughters who still live in Boise.

We hope Jerry's retirement is enjoyable. Jerry, you deserve it after all the hard work you put in over the past 30 plus years. We can't say thank you enough for all of the support you have shown IBO. You were there for us when things were tough, and you stuck with us through it all. Thank you!

IDFG's new Manager of the WMA, Mr. Ed Bottum, is a great guy, and is very knowledgeable about habitat and plant ecology. Ed is also a supporter of IBO, and we look forward to working with him in the future!



Hawk Watch 2005

by Gavin Emmons and Alacia Welch

Hawk-watching at Lucky Peak was amazingly productive during the 2005 season, with the highest count day and the second-highest season total on record. Raptor migration numbers remained strong throughout the season, with over 5,400 birds documented during September, and nearly 2,000 birds recorded in October. The full-time hawk-watchers, Gavin Emmons and Alacia Welch, were especially fortunate to have the assistance of IBO staff and volunteers to document the migration of 754 raptors on September 21st, the highest daily count recorded during the past 12 years of the project. We recorded 14 species of raptors that day, including a kettle of 8 Swainson's hawks (out of 19 for the day), a dark morph broad-winged hawk, and groups of 5 to 20 accipiters and buteos soaring south throughout the day.

High numbers were recorded for nearly all of the raptor species documented annually during fall migration at Lucky Peak. We documented the highest totals in 12 years for 5 species:

Cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, merlins, and peregrine falcons (the last tied with the 2004 total). We also recorded the second-highest totals for sharp-shinned hawks, bald eagles, and turkey vultures, and the third-highest total for broad-winged hawks, including 3 dark morphs through the season.

Accipiter numbers were particularly unusual this year, with a nearly even split of sharp-shinned hawks (at 1512) and Cooper's hawks (at 1471) observed, as opposed to the normal 2:3 split between sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks in most previous years. Evidently this was a great year for Cooper's hawks, as their numbers were double the usual hawk-watch season counts. Red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, and merlins were also observed in unusually high numbers, particularly in October, marked by mostly mild days until the very end of the month.

We would like to thank the IBO staff and volunteers for all of their efforts and support this year. In particular, thanks to Jeremy Russell, John Warzybok, Jay Carlisle, and Julie Groce for assistance and relief on a few much-needed rest days, and to Craig Fosdick and Justin Barrett for their valuable insights into hawk-watching techniques and species identification. The rest of the IBO crew also deserves our gratitude for hawk-watching and logistical support, company, and entertainment, including: Greg Kaltenecker, Deniz Aygen, Caroline Poli, Eric Hallingstad, Steve Alsup, Corey Riding, Dave & Carol Wike, Bruce Ackerman, and Mark Collie. Thanks for all the help!



Raptor Migration Counts at Lucky Peak, fall 2005 results compared to long-term averages (1995-2005); Idaho Bird Observatory.

Species	Long-term Average (1995-2005)	2005 Totals	% Change	Comparison to Long-term Average (LTA)
<i>Obs. Hours</i>	468.9	474	+1.09%	At LTA
American Kestrel	1239.7	930	-24.98%	Below LTA
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1173.5	1512	+28.84%	Well Above LTA
Red-tailed Hawk	1015.9	1459	+43.62%	Well Above LTA
Cooper's Hawk	805.4	1471	+82.65%	Well Above LTA
Turkey Vulture	995.1	1319	+32.55%	Well Above LTA
Northern Harrier	237.7	438	+84.24%	Well Above LTA
Golden Eagle	52.3	65	+24.35%	Above LTA
Swainson's Hawk	72.0	63	-12.50%	Below LTA
Northern Goshawk	42.2	43	+1.94%	At LTA
Osprey	62.8	75	+19.39%	Above LTA
Merlin	31.8	67	+110.57%	Well Above LTA
Prairie Falcon	10.3	8	-22.12%	Below LTA
Ferruginous Hawk	2.7	3	+10.00%	Above LTA
Broad-winged Hawk	17.9	27	+50.76%	Well Above LTA
Bald Eagle	5.4	9	+67.80%	Well Above LTA
Peregrine Falcon	7.3	16	+120.00%	Well Above LTA
Rough-legged Hawk	5.3	2	-62.07%	Below LTA
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.7	0	-100.00%	
Totals	6246.9	7605		







IBO Wish List

Recent thefts at the university have hit IBO hard. We recently lost binoculars and digital cameras from our offices on campus. In addition to funding, IBO requires other types of support to continue its yearly programs. Do you have a 4-WD vehicle that you wish to get rid of? An ATV? An old camper that just sits around? Do you own a restaurant, bakery, or other food service business? Could you make a donation of gift certificates, day-olds, or coupons? We never seem to have enough vehicles, trailers, or camping gear for everyone. Are you a carpenter? Could you donate a few weekends to help us build things? Could you donate building materials?

We have compiled a list of our most-needed items.

- *4-WD vehicles
- *Food Donations
- *Camping Gear
- *Binoculars
- *Photography Equipment
- *ATV's
- *Campers or Trailers
- *Tripods
- *Spotting Scopes

We understand that this list represents some very wishful thinking. But, it doesn't hurt to ask. If you wish to contribute any of the above items, or anything else you think we could use, your tax-deductible donation can be made directly to the IBO. Appraisals and receipts for tax purposes can be provided for more valuable items. Please contact the project Director if you wish to make any donations.

FOR SALE

IBO T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, & Hats

The following IBO designs are available on long-sleeved t-shirts, sweatshirts, fleece pullovers, and fleece-lined nylon vests in youth and adult sizes. Hats are one-size fits all.

T-shirts (100% cotton)	\$20.00 each
Hats with IBO logo (NEW!)	\$20.00 each
Sweatshirts	\$40.00 each
Fleece Pullover	\$40.00 each
Nylon/Fleece Vest	\$40.00 each
IBO Decals (2 designs)	\$5.00/pair

Contact the Director for more details on special-order items
gregorykaltenecker@boisestate.edu



Accipiter cooperii
Cooper's Hawk



Saw-whet Owl



Townsend's Warbler



Collage



Merlin & Chickadee

Mail your order and check to:

Idaho Bird Observatory, Department of Biology
 Boise State University, 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83725

Add \$5.00 postage/handling per order, except for decals.
 Sweatshirts, pullovers, and vests are special-order items. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

The IBO is supported strictly through small grants, contributions from corporations and local businesses, and donations from private individuals and foundations. We can't continue without support from people like you!

Contributions can be made directly to the IBO through the Boise State University Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax-

deductible. Please make a contribution to the IBO using the self-addressed envelope provided in this newsletter, or mail your gift to the address listed below. Thank you!

Idaho Bird Observatory
 c/o Boise State University Foundation, Inc.
 1910 University Dr.
 Boise, ID 83725

THANK YOU!

We wish to thank all of those who make the Idaho Bird Observatory possible. The IBO truly is a cooperative project. The following organizations provide invaluable funding, in-kind support, and assistance each year. Without their contributions, the IBO could not continue its research, monitoring, and education programs.

Boise State University
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 U.S. Forest Service
 Golden Eagle Chapter, Audubon Society
 Boise Cascade Corporation
 U.S.G.S., Biological Resources Division, Snake River Field Station
 U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Thank You!

We wish to thank all of those cooperators who make the Idaho Bird Observatory Possible. The IBO truly is a cooperative project. The following organizations provide invaluable funding, in-kind support, and assistance each year. Without their contributions, the IBO could not continue its research, monitoring, and education programs.

<i>Regina Ahrens</i>	<i>Nancy DeWitt</i>	<i>James Henderson</i>	<i>Brian McColl</i>	<i>Gary Robinson</i>
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<i>Boise State University</i>	<i>Beverly Gholson</i>	<i>Kaltenecker</i>	<i>Jennifer Murray</i>	<i>Charles Trost</i>
<i>Boise State University</i>	<i>William Gipson</i>	<i>Gregory Kaltenecker</i>	<i>National Science Foundation</i>	<i>Ann Tuthill</i>
<i>Raptor Research Center</i>	<i>Golden Eagle Audubon</i>	<i>Phyllis Kochert</i>	<i>Gawain Neighbor</i>	<i>U.S. Forest Service</i>
<i>Stephen Bouffard</i>	<i>Society</i>	<i>Connie Leavitt</i>	<i>Terri Nicholson</i>	<i>U.S. Bureau of Land</i>
<i>Stephen Brady</i>	<i>Kirk Gorringer Construction</i>	<i>Andy Lerner</i>	<i>Susan Norton</i>	<i>Management</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Carlisle</i>	<i>Great Harvest Bread Co.</i>	<i>Gina Lockwood</i>	<i>Kaye O'Riordan</i>	<i>Robert Vestal</i>
<i>Douglas Christensen</i>	<i>Gary Griffin</i>	<i>Lightfoot Foundation</i>	<i>Sharree Olsen</i>	<i>The Waldo Trust</i>
<i>Robert Cirillo</i>	<i>Guido's Pizza</i>	<i>Kristen Lyons</i>	<i>John Patey</i>	<i>Loyle Washam</i>
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