

[Friday, May 13, 2011](#)



(Note: Plan to wear appropriate footwear if hiking and adequate clothing for the weather/temperature conditions. Bring binoculars and cameras if desired)

- #10am-4pm Paddle and/or float the Birds of Prey Area from Swan Falls to Celebration Park**
This approx. 10 mile free flowing section of the Snake River has fantastic scenery, lots of wildlife, historic ranch and stone houses, and famous Rock Art. Class I and II Rapids are easy to negotiate as you paddle a canoe or touring kayak (we have high quality Nova Craft, Mad River, Dagger, and We-no-nah boats, or you can ride in our rafts). We stop for lunch at Wees Bar and a short hike to some of the best preserved petroglyphs in the Northwest. Published retail price is \$95.00 per person, but we are offering a Special Festival Price of \$75.00 which includes all equipment, licensed guides, nice riverside lunch and transport back to put-in. Meet at Swan Falls Park at 10am. Minimum 10 participants. **All arrangements will be made by contacting www.idahoguideservice.com or calling toll free 1-888-73-IDAHO.**
- 3pm-8pm Registration opens**
- 7pm-9pm Hospitality movie night featuring the work of Morley Nelson and including live raptors (Free)-Held at Reed Elementary's Cafeteria**
A live falconry demonstration will begin the evening festivities, including a flight demonstration (weather permitting). Then, join Tyler and Norman Nelson (Morley Nelson's sons) for a glimpse at Morley Nelson's fascinating life, along with the special raptors that were used in Disney movies. Featured will be clips of the Disney movies filmed in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. Slim, Morley's golden eagle will make a live appearance during the evening.

[Saturday, May 14, 2011](#)

- 6am-7pm Registration**
- *7:30am-12:30pm Raptor ID lecture and tour (lecture free w/admission; tour; \$25 adults; \$15 kids under 12; max. 30 people on tour)**
This lecture and tour will be for beginners as well as a great review for experienced bird watchers. Barb Forderhase, an educational specialist for the BLM will provide the lecture: What's that bird?! It's big. It's dark. A golden eagle? Or... maybe it's a turkey vulture? How do you tell the hawks apart? Particularly the immatures? What kind of owl is that? Want to learn how to identify raptors found in southwest Idaho? The lecture will last about 2 hours followed by the field tour conducted by guide Steve Guinn, who together with Morley Nelson, has escorted thousands of visitors from around the world through the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and returning by 12:30pm.
- *8am-4pm Raptor banding in the NCA (\$30 adults, \$20 students 12-17; sack lunch provided; maximum 15 people)**
This will be an all day activity and due to safety issues, the field trip is geared toward students 12 and older and adults. Help band nesting western screech owls and possibly saw-whet owls. John Doremus recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management will provide information about the productivity, food habits, movements, fidelity to nest site and mate, and annual weight cycle of these raptors.
- *8am-2pm Birding and learning in the NCA (\$25 adults, \$15 kids under 12; maximum 20 people; sack lunch provided)**
This tour will highlight the best birding locations in the NCA with commentary on the habitat and other features such as Swan Falls Dam. Things to bring include binoculars, snacks, water, sunscreen, and a camera. Your guide on this tour will be RL Rowland who has extensive birding and tour guiding experience. He has been a member and Vice-president of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society and a charter member and past field trip co-coordinator for the SW Idaho Birders Association.

* denotes bus transportation provided

denotes own transportation



- *9am-5pm** **Historic Tour of Southwest Idaho (\$30 Adults; \$20 kids under 12; sack-lunch provided; Max. 30 people)**
Your tour guide will be BLM archaeologist Dean Shaw. This tour will take you to some of the best scenic and historical viewing areas in the southwestern part of the state. Initial Point is the beginning point for surveying in Idaho. Dedication Point provides an outstanding view of the Snake River Canyon. Swan Falls Dam, built in 1901 (the first hydroelectric dam on the Snake River), was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Celebration Park, Idaho's first archaeological park, boasts petroglyphs carved on boulders by Native Americans and early settlers. Hands-on demonstration and discussion of lithic technology and survival strategies of indigenous peoples, as well as atlatl (ancient spear throwing device) demonstration, coaching and practice will be given. A stop at the Owyhee County Historical Museum will teach you about the Oregon Trail. With nearly 3,000 cultural and historic sites, Owyhee County contains the richest concentration of archeological sites in Idaho.
- 10am-5pm** **Educational booths, exhibits, vendors, and children's activities open.**
- *10am-1pm** **Burrowing owl lecture and tour (lecture free w/admission; tour \$20 adults; \$15 kids under 12; maximum 20 people)**
Burrowing owls are a declining species across the west and a species of greatest conservation need in Idaho. Learn about these little diurnal owls with Ecologist Justin Welty from the U.S. Geological Survey. He will then lead a short field trip to visit a burrowing owl nesting area. Please, do not follow the bus to the locations of the owls. This will allow all to enjoy the wildlife resources of the area while maintaining personal safety and the welfare of the birds as the highest priority.
- #10am-4pm** **Paddle and/or float the Birds of Prey Area from Swan Falls to Celebration Park**
This approx. 10 mile free flowing section of the Snake River has fantastic scenery, lots of wildlife, historic ranch and stone houses, and famous Rock Art. Class I and II Rapids are easy to negotiate as you paddle a canoe or touring kayak (we have high quality Nova Craft, Mad River, Dagger, and We-no-nah boats, or you can ride in our rafts). We stop for lunch at Wees Bar and a short hike to some of the best preserved petroglyphs in the Northwest. Published retail price is \$95.00 per person, but we are offering a Special Festival Price of \$75.00 which includes all equipment, licensed guides, nice riverside lunch and transport back to put-in. Meet at Swan Falls Park at 10am. Minimum 10 participants. **All arrangements will be made by contacting www.idahoguideservice.com or calling toll free 1-888-73-IDAHO.**
- 11am-Noon** **Falconry lecture with live raptors (free w/admission)**
Join falconers and their birds from the Idaho Falconers Association to learn about the special adaptations of these spectacular hunters. Jesse Woody will make this presentation. He is a life-long master falconer and past president of the Idaho Falconers Association.
- 11:50am** **Youth Art Contest Award Ceremony and Ross Raptor Choir**
- 12:30pm-2pm** **Wildlife Photography. (free w/admission)**
Monte Stiles is an award-winning nature photographer who has been capturing images of birds of prey and other wildlife for many years. Monte's work has been featured on the cover of numerous magazines and in articles about the great outdoors. Monte is also a highly sought-after speaker on the subject of photography, with recent presentations in Phoenix, AZ, Albuquerque, NM, Portland, OR, and Hudson, MA. Monte's informative and interactive slide presentation will increase appreciation for the magnificent birds of prey and other wildlife, and will include valuable information on photographic techniques that can be used to capture wildlife images. This presentation is suitable for anyone who enjoys wildlife or photography. The information presented will assist photographers, from beginners to the very serious amateur. All are welcome. Monte's work can be viewed at www.montestiles.com

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- 2pm-3pm** **The Swainson's Hawk in SW Idaho – an introduction. (free w/admission)**
Idaho is the home of a bird of prey in the same family as our familiar Red-tailed Hawk; it is the Swainson's Hawk, which nests here in good numbers. Each autumn this breeding population leaves Idaho to spend the winter in South America. Bill Mattox will discuss the current population status, nearby nesting areas, threats to the population, and future prospects of this raptor species. He will present photos of capturing and banding the hawks.
- 3pm-4pm** **Merlins in the Treasure Valley lecture. (free w/admission)**
The merlin, a small migratory falcon, is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in our state. While populations in North America appear to be expanding, little is known about its status and range in Idaho. For the past four years, Bruce Haak from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has been counting, capturing and radio-tagging wintering merlins in the Treasure Valley. Come and see what he has learned.
- 4pm-5pm** **Snake River Raptor Volunteers (free w/admission)**
Want to serve and help raptors? Then join SRRV as they assist the BLM in completing various habitat projects within the Birds of Prey Area. This presentation by Leslee Doner will highlight past projects and the need to support BLM's new emphasis on habitat restoration.
- 5pm** **Booths, exhibits, vendors, and children's activities close**
- 6-8pm** **Barbecue Banquet featuring keynote speaker Leon Powers (\$20; Reed Elementary Cafeteria or outside, weather permitting)**
The banquet begins with a live falconry demonstration outside of Reed Elementary (weather permitting). The Barbecue Banquet featuring sliced brisket and pulled pork will be provided by local Caterer Big Daddy's BBQ, well-known throughout the Treasure Valley. Then join Leon Powers for his presentation of his book *Dead Owls Flying* which is part memoir, part wildlife adventure and part expose' of a dark secret. At the heart of this story is Powers' two-decade study of North America's largest and possibly rarest owl, the great grey. A celebrity recluse, this huge bird long ago earned such monikers as Gray Ghost of the Woods, and Phantom of the Northern Forests. The embodiment of elusiveness, its rarity only adds to this owl's mystique-prompting its lofty status among bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts as one of the most sought after birds in North America. Leon's books, *Dead Owls Flying*, *A Hawk in the Sun*, and *The Forgotten Expedition*, will be available.

[Sunday, May 15, 2011](#)

- 7am** **Registration opens**
- *8am-4pm** **Raptor banding in the NCA (\$30 adults, \$20 students 12-17; sack lunch provided; maximum 15 people)**
This will be an all day activity and due to safety issues, the field trip is geared toward students 12 and older and adults. Help band nesting western screech owls and possibly saw-whet owls. John Doremus recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management will provide information about the productivity, food habits, movements, fidelity to nest site and mate, and annual weight cycle of these raptors.

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- 8:30am-10:00am Raptor ID lecture (no tour) (lecture free w/admission)**
 This lecture will be for beginners as well as a great review for experienced bird watchers. Barb Forderhase, an educational specialist for the BLM will provide the lecture; what's that bird?! It's big. It's dark. A golden eagle? Or... maybe it's a turkey vulture? How do you tell the hawks apart? Particularly the immatures? What kind of owl is that? Want to learn how to identify raptors found in southwest Idaho?
- *9am-Noon Ecology of Golden Eagles in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA (. \$20 adults; \$15 kids under 12; max 15 people)**
 Join Mike Kochert, Emeritus Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, on an exciting tour which will consist of viewing 2 to 3 Golden Eagle nests in the NCA and interactive field lectures dealing with the life history, behavior, nesting ecology, predator-prey relationships, and responses to habitat alteration of Golden Eagles nesting in the NCA. Plan to bring your binoculars – a limited number of spotting scopes will be available.
- 10am-4pm Educational booths, vendors, exhibits, and children's activities open**
- *10am-1pm Burrowing owl lecture and tour (lecture free w/admission; tour \$20 adults; \$15 kids under 12; maximum 20 people)**
 Burrowing owls are a declining species across the west and a species of greatest conservation need in Idaho. Learn about these little diurnal owls with Ecologist Justin Welty from the U.S. Geological Survey. He will then lead a short field trip to visit a burrowing owl nesting area. Please, do not follow the bus to the locations of the owls. This will allow all to enjoy the wildlife resources of the area while maintaining personal safety and the welfare of the birds as the highest priority.
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- 11am-Noon Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA w/live birds lecture (free w/admission)**
 The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area was established by Congress in 1993 to protect a unique desert environment that supports one of the world's densest concentrations of nesting birds of prey. Learn about the falcons, eagles, hawks, and owls occurring here in unique profusion and variety with Larry Ridenhour, BLM's Outdoor Recreation Planner. Larry will bring along a few feathered educational ambassadors to complete his lecture.
- Noon-1pm Bats of Southwestern Idaho (free w/admission)**
 Dr Rita Dixon, Biodiversity Program Leader for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Bill Doering, an environmental scientist with Power Engineers, Boise, will give an introduction to the bats of southwestern Idaho, including an overview of their natural history, unique aspects of their ecology and physiology, bat migration, echolocation and foraging ecology, as well as emerging conservation issues such as wind energy and white-nose syndrome.
- 1pm-2pm Raptor Migration in the Intermountain West: an 18-year Study of Raptor Banding at the Idaho Bird Observatory (free w/admission)**
 Greg Kaltenecker, Executive Director of the Idaho Bird Observatory, will explore raptor migration patterns in the Intermountain West based on banding results from Idaho Bird Observatory's raptor migration monitoring work on the Boise Ridge from 1993-2010.
- 2pm-3pm Transmission Lines, Greater Sage-grouse, Ravens, and Raptors in Southwestern Idaho (free with admission)**
 The Gateway West Transmission Project plans to construct new electrical transmission lines in and near the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. Research Wildlife Biologist, Karen Steenhof, has studied raptors and their responses to transmission lines in the NCA. Steenhof will discuss how each of the BLM alternatives for Gateway West will affect raptors as well as Greater Sage-Grouse in southwestern Idaho.
- 3pm Silent Auction closes**
- 4pm Educational booths, vendors, exhibits, and children's activities close**
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