

# Windows to Wildlife



SPRING 2013 A PUBLICATION OF THE IDAHO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE PROGRAM AND IDAHO'S WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

## The Outhouse Owl: An Instructive Tale

by Terry Thomas\*  
Regional Habitat Manager, Idaho Department of Fish & Game-Idaho Falls Region



If it had been a house cat in the bottom of the outhouse at the North Menan Butte trailhead last Saturday, I might have felt differently. But it was an owl, a boreal owl, uncommon in our area. I couldn't abandon it in its plight, but I was completely perplexed on how to extract him without becoming mired myself in something foul beyond imagination.

My first thought was to try inserting something like a pole that the owl could climb up. I found a long metal fence post, the kind with protrusions to keep wire from sliding up and down. I thought the bumps would yield a perfect foothold. But when I slipped the post down the toilet, I could see that the angle would be almost vertical. Although I waited over half an hour, I despaired that the bird would climb up such a steep incline.

How the owl became entrapped in the vault of the outhouse was not much of a mystery. A large-diameter black vent pipe on the back was clearly at fault. Vertical pipes are an irresistible temptation to birds of all kinds, but especially cavity nesters such as the boreal owl. They are silent killers though, because once inside, the birds are unable to open their wings and the pipe is too slick to climb.

One of the first places to document this wildlife trap was the Kern River Preserve in California. Staff went to retrieve an irrigation vent pipe, about 20 feet long and 8 inches in diameter, that had finally rusted through and fallen over. When they picked it up, they were stunned to find a 7-foot-long mass composed entirely of wildlife skeletons. For 50 years, this pipe had been a death sentence for thousands of birds and other animals.

In Nevada, researchers examined 854 standing pipes marking mining claims. They found 879 birds, 113 reptiles and 20 mammals had perished for an average of 1.2 animals per pipe. With over 3.4 million mining claims in 11 Western states (often with many pipe markers per claim), the number of needless wildlife deaths just from this one source can be staggering.

And it was clear that unscreened outhouse vents pose the same deadly threat. An hour into the ordeal, I still didn't have a good solution, so I visited the nearby office of the Deer Parks Wildlife Mitigation Unit and borrowed some netting, wire and duct tape. With the help of biologist Paul Faulkner and Rob and Caleb, a couple of willing bystanders, I fashioned a hoop net and slipped it into the vault. But the owl was too wary to be caught.

Then Rob discovered that this outhouse was equipped with a large trap door for cleaning. The lock didn't prove to be much of a challenge and we quickly had the big door open. I carefully scooped around, guiding the bird toward the hole. It suddenly seized its opportunity and flew out of the pit and plopped into the snow a few feet away. In another moment it was gone.

It felt great to rescue that owl, but it was a good reminder that a little prevention (screening the vents) would have spared it an unpleasant and potentially tragic experience.



## Poo-Poo Project

a.k.a. Port-o-Potty Owl Project

### How YOU can help!

- Look around and identify all the open top vertical pipes on your property as well as dryer vents!
- Cap, close, remove or screen all your pipes & vents!

For more information, visit:

<http://www.tetonraptorcenter.org/poo-poo-project.html>  
[http://kern.audubon.org/death\\_pipes.htm](http://kern.audubon.org/death_pipes.htm)

Beginning  
Bird Watching  
Page 2

Spring Events  
Page 3

From the Field...  
Report Roadkill  
Page 5

Get the  
Lead Out!  
Page 6

Citizen  
Naturalists  
in Action  
Page 7

# WATCHING IDAHO'S WILDLIFE

## Beginning Birding: How to Get Started

by Joel Sauder\*

Regional Wildlife Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game- Clearwater Region

More and more people are discovering that bird watching provides an enjoyable outdoor activity. Not only does birding get you outdoors, it can give you exercise, make you think, and hones your observational skills. Although birds can be elusive, this adds an air of mystery to the sport, since you never know what you'll see.

From watching birds at a backyard bird feeder to international trips to view rare and exotic species, bird watching is a wonderful sport that can be enjoyed by everyone. In fact, in 2006 a national survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that almost 48 million people in the United States participated in bird watching, spending over \$36 billion dollars annually on expenses related to birding. These numbers are growing each year.

Birding is like a treasure hunt. Sometimes you will see a new species that can be added to your "life list." Many birders keep lists of all the species that they observe by day, year, or over their whole life. Adding a new species to your life list is a big deal in the birding world. But often it is something smaller that makes birding so fun, like seeing a new bird behavior such as a territorial display or a breeding ritual, and sometimes you'll observe interesting things that have nothing to do with birds at all, like a muskrat chewing on a cattail stalk or whitetail deer fawns frolicking in a meadow. The point is, rarely does anyone regret spending time outdoors looking for birds.

Getting started in birding is simple and inexpensive. All you really need is a bird identification guide, and you are ready to start, particularly if your primary interest is identifying birds using your backyard feeder. Many bird guides are on the market these days. I recommend [The Sibley Guide to Birds of Western North America](#), by David Allen Sibley. It has great descriptions, beautiful drawings, and good range maps. It is even available as an app for your smart phone so you can have it with you all the time. Other good choices include the [Peterson Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America](#) and the [National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America](#).

The second tool most birders have is binoculars. There are a myriad of choices in binoculars, but not all are well suited for birding. Before purchasing a pair, do some research and talk with other birders to see what they use. It is a good idea to look through as many models as you can. Like many things, you get what you pay for when purchasing binoculars. I recommend staying away from the cheaper compact or zoom style binoculars. For \$200-300 you can get some excellent binoculars that are clear, bright, and solidly built.

Once you have a bird guide book and some binoculars, your next challenge is to start learning the birds. This is where most people new to birding get frustrated. More than 400 species of birds have been seen in Idaho. It is important to remember that bird identification is learned over a period of time with lots of patience. No one becomes an expert overnight. We all begin in the same place - knowing a few common birds we see regularly, such as crows, pigeons, or robins. Other species are often lumped into groups such as woodpeckers, swallows, or ducks. With practice and a helpful guide book you will soon begin to recognize individual species.

Learn to identify the major groups for birds first, like sparrows, warblers, gulls, raptors, ducks, etc. Focus on learning the characteristic features, like bill shape, size, tail and wing shape, plumage, and foraging behavior. This will ease you into the nuances of noticing subtle features that often are used to tell closely related species apart.

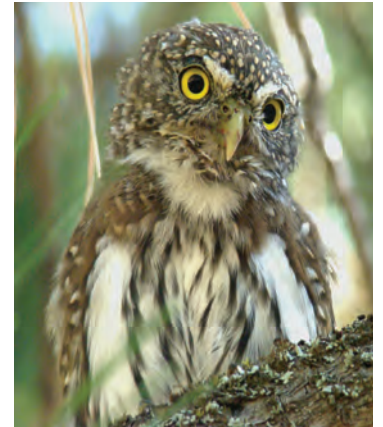
When trying to identify a bird, look particularly at the wings, head, and breast. These areas often hold many of the plumage clues that allow identification. Also note the general size of the bird and the habitat in which it is found. Most field guides include a description of each species typical habitat and this can be helpful in identification. Most of all, don't forget to look at the range maps in your field guide. While birds may wander long distances from their normal distribution (these birds are called vagrants in the birding world), encountering them is not likely.



Rufous hummingbird. Photo © Terry Gray

Another great way to get help learning your birds is to join a local Audubon club. Audubon clubs regularly take birding trips, and this is a great opportunity to have an experienced birder show you the ropes. If you want set to out on your own and go birding, a great place to start is the Idaho Birding Trail. Check it out online at [www.idahobirdingtrail.org](http://www.idahobirdingtrail.org). It highlights some of the best places to go birding in Idaho.

Now that you know the basics, grab your identification guide, your binoculars, and spend some time in the field. In just a short time you will be amazed by all the birds that you have seen and learned to identify. Taking up birding will open a whole new world to explore and learn. You will not regret it.



Northern pygmy owl. Photo © Terry Gray

# SPRING WILDLIFE EVENTS

## Boise Watershed

11818 West Joplin Rd., Boise; (208) 489-1284  
[www.cityofboise.org/Bee/WaterShed/Home/index.aspx](http://www.cityofboise.org/Bee/WaterShed/Home/index.aspx)

The Boise WaterShed is open every 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 am - 2 pm as part of the Watershed Weekend series. Join us for an outdoor walking tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 1 pm. FREE admission! No pre-registration required unless indicated.

### April 20 - Earth Day Celebration

At 10:30 and 12:00 take a one-mile birding walk to encounter wildlife and the blue heron rookery at the West Boise Wastewater Treatment Plant. At 11:00 join Pat Stoll with the EPA for a presentation to learn about why we have Environmental Programs and Regulations and their importance in our daily lives. In the exhibit hall participate in activities from our partners, such as fly casting demos, an interactive river model, and nature crafts.

### May 18: Weather in Your Watershed

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Dive into weather and water science as you meet hydrologists in our community. At 10:30, join NOAA National Weather Service for an exciting opportunity to learn how the pros forecast weather, see weather demonstrations, and play a jeopardy game! At 12:30 hike half a mile to the Boise River to release our rainbow trout! Inside the exhibit hall make an edible ice cream aquifer, make and take your own weather instrument, and create a mini tornado! Sponsored by Water Awareness Week region 3.

FREE: No pre-registration required. More info: [www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org](http://www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org)

### June 15: Wetland Adventures at Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve; 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve, 5301 N. Maple Grove Road, about one-quarter of a mile south of the Maple Grove Road-Chinden Boulevard intersection.

Explore the Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve at the corner of Chinden and Maple Grove during this fun outdoor event! Education Stations will be set up along the trail for you to learn about the wildlife and wetland functions at our newest City Park. Tour the park, observe birds with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society, complete a fun scavenger hunt, make origami critters with artist Mark Baltes and admire the art installation 'HaBATat' for bats! Note: The Boise WaterShed will be closed today. No dogs please.

FREE: No pre-registration required. More info: [www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org](http://www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org)

## Deer Flat NWR

13751 Upper Embankment Rd. Nampa; (208) 467-9278; [www.fws.gov/deerflat](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat)

All events are held at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Visit [www.fws.gov/deerflat](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat) or contact 208-467-9278 or [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) for more information.

### Scout Day

Take a hike! Make a nature craft! Earn a badge! Scout day is an opportunity to meet other scouts, have fun, and earn wildlife badges for girl scouts or cub scouts. Saturday, April 6 and May 4.

### April 9- 7pm; Wild About Life Lecture Series- Acoustic Bat Inventory on National Wildlife Refuges

Although they have fascinating life history, bat's small size and nocturnal habits make them challenging to study. The USFWS Inventory and Monitoring Program initiated an acoustic inventory of bat species on National Wildlife Refuges in eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, and Idaho in 2012. Using bat detectors and specialized software, biologists can "eavesdrop" on bats to determine what species are active in a study area.

The talk will focus on basic bat biology, and a brief description of acoustic methods used for inventory. Life history of bat species detected on Deer Flat NWR will be discussed as well.

### May 14- 7pm; Wild About Life Lecture Series- Tough Choices

An "insider's" look at the construction of the U.S.-Mexico Border Fence and the Response to the BP Gulf Oil Spill. Interesting projects the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is involved in that most people don't know about!

### June 8- BioBlitz

10am-3pm; free

Participate in this 24-hr rapid inventory of biological diversity at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge! Scientists, naturalists, and volunteers will survey the Refuge for living things on Friday and Saturday. The public is invited to the BioBlitz festival on Saturday June 8th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. To learn about Idaho's wildlife and plants and the importance of biodiversity through demonstrations, guided walks, booths, live animals, and kids' activities. Volunteers are needed on both days.

### June 8- Kids' Fishing Day, 10am-3pm

Participate in fishing-related activities and crafts, and then practice your new fishing skills! Fishing poles will be available to borrow, or bring your own. At Gotts Point at Lake Lowell. Volunteers are needed.

## Dubois Grouse Days

April 26 and 27; Dubois, ID  
[www.grousedays.org](http://www.grousedays.org)

Witness the unusual mating ritual of sage-grouse as males gather on traditional mating territories (leks) and strut their stuff while females wander around looking for their perfect mate! This annual event in eastern Idaho celebrates the shrub-steppe ecosystem and the unique animals which call it home. For more info, call 208-313-2730

## International Migratory Bird Day

An annual celebration of birds world-wide. This year's theme is "Life Cycles of Migratory Birds." Celebrations will be held on **Saturday, May 11 (Treasure Valley and Lewiston) and Saturday, May 18 (McCall)**

### May 11:

**Treasure Valley: MK Nature Center, 600 S. Walnut St., Boise, 9am-4pm:** Celebration with live birds, bird banding, and children's games and crafts. Call (208) 334-2225 for more info or see MK Nature Center's activities.

**Lewiston area:** 8am-12pm at the Moscow Farmers Market: IMBD booth with live birds Contact Joel at the Idaho Fish & Game office (208) 799-5010 for more info.

**Coeur d'Alene area:** 9am-1pm at Blackwell Island on Hwy 95. Bird bingo, bird feeder projects, prizes, guided bird walks, live birds of prey, and more! For more info, contact: Carrie Hugo at (208) 769-5048.

### Castle Rocks State Park, Alma:

7-11am- Advanced birding & citizen science project: we need your eyes to help survey the Almo Creek and eagle Rock Grove Wetlands. If interested, contact Wallace Keck, Park Superintendent, at 208/824-5911

1:30-3pm- beginner birdwatching: Come learn how to properly identify birds. We are offering a basic and beginner trail walk to find common birds, to identify calls, songs and field marks, and how to use a field guide. Parents and kids (ages 5 and up) are welcome!

### May 18:

**McCall area:** All activities take place at Ponderosa State Park from 8:30am-1pm. Activities planned include an early morning bird walk at 8:30am and kestrel nest box presentation from 11am-1pm. Games and other activities for kids. Contact Terri Bryant at Ponderosa State Park at: [terri.bryant@idpr.idaho.gov](mailto:terri.bryant@idpr.idaho.gov) for event details.

[Continued page 4]

# SPRING WILDLIFE EVENTS

## Foothills Learning Center

3188 Sunset Peak Rd., Boise; (208) 514-3755

[www.cityofboise.org/Bee/Foothills/index.aspx](http://www.cityofboise.org/Bee/Foothills/index.aspx)

*Second Saturday Series: Programs are from 10am to 2pm. All ages welcome! Free; no registration is required. Please leave pets at home, thanks!*

### April 13- The Owls are Coming!

Every year we are blessed with the arrival of Great Horned Owl babies in Halls Gulch. Come learn about the owls of Idaho, do some fun owl crafts and activities, and take a walk to view the owls and their young ones. Bring binoculars if you have them – we'll have some to borrow, and will also set up spotting scopes for really great views of the owls.

### May 11- Snowmelt Party!

Come to the Foothills Learning Center for a spring run-off celebration. You can explore the ecological importance of snowmelt by becoming a beaver and building a dam, experiment with a hands-on floodplain model to see the danger floods pose to river communities, and learn about the Boise river watershed. You will also have a chance to take a hike to see the flood control system devised in Halls Gulch! Danny Tappa, our BSU fellow in hydrology, is our host for the day.

### June 8- Foothills in Bloom

Spring and early summer are a glorious time for wildflowers in the Boise Foothills. Come learn about our native flowers from one of the greatest botanists in Boise, Anne DeBolt of the Idaho Botanical Garden. Try your hand at painting some with watercolor artist, Brian Schreiner, who can help you create your own wildflower masterpiece. Enjoy other flower-related activities, inside and out, including taking a guided hike to see foothills wildflowers in bloom.

## UNPLUG AND



## BE OUTSIDE!

### Unplug Week

North Idaho: March 30th-April 6th

Treasure Valley: April 20th-27th

Idaho Falls: May 4th-11th

[www.unplugandbeoutside.com/](http://www.unplugandbeoutside.com/)

Join us for the 3rd annual Unplug Week- a series of FREE events to inspire and empower families to get off the couch and get active!

For more information, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYUNAIqh3TQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYUNAIqh3TQ)

Thank You  
for Your Support!


Thank you to those who made direct donations, purchased or renewed a wildlife license plate, or let us know of a tax check-off donation between January 1- March 30, 2013.

Idaho's nongame wildlife thanks you ALL!

# FROM THE FIELD



New!

## ROADKILL



WILDLIFE COLLISION OBSERVATIONS

Online Reporting  
Excel, RSS, ArcGIS,  
Google Earth Formats  
Upload Detached Photos

[HTTPS://FISHANDGAME.IDAHO.GOV/IFWIS/ROADKILL/](https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/roadkill/)

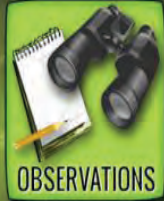
Who

### EMPOWER YOUR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DATA!

New!

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System's

## OBSERVATIONS



OBSERVATIONS

An easy to use single-source data repository  
Web technologies have simplified the data entry process


Your data are as close as a web browser  
Browse by Observations to start now

Expansive species list (all species in North America)  
From *Accipiter cooperii* to *Zonotrichia querula*

Share your data with coworkers and collaborators. Just by entering ID  
data are immediately available to users with permissions

Data exports available as ArcGIS, Excel, Access, and Google Earth formats  
Export data by: [CSV](#), [XML](#), [JSON](#), [PDF](#), [Excel](#) and more

Secure data for threatened and endangered species  
Editly level security lets us manage data protection for each record



<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/observations/>

## Idaho Roadkill- Help Be A Part Of The Solution

by Beth Waterbury\*

Regional Wildlife Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game- Salmon Region

Citizen science – or the involvement of volunteers in science – has a long and rich tradition in the U.S. Over the past decade, communication technologies through the internet have revolutionized citizen science, increasing the number and variety of projects that improve our knowledge of the natural world. The range of projects is mind-boggling: there are planet hunters, earthquake spotters, killer whale trackers, and citizen projects to monitor bees, frogs, bats ... even jellyfish! When planned and executed well, citizen science is a great tool for scientific discovery and engagement – and is a fun and rewarding pastime.

Idaho Fish and Game has joined the citizen science revolution with two new internet-based tools that offer nature enthusiasts a way of contributing to the state's fish, wildlife, and plant database. The Observations tool allows you to record an observation of an animal or plant, upload photos, and map a location. The application allows you to establish an account from which you can view and download your observations in multiple formats from spreadsheets to maps. These observations provide Fish and Game biologists with valuable, real-time data that improves our understanding of the distribution and abundance of our native flora and fauna. The Observations tool has generated citizen reports of the rare (such as wolverine) to the regular (such as gopher snake), but all contribute to our knowledge of Idaho's natural environment.

The second web-based tool is the Report Roadkill application. This tool allows people to report the date, location, and species of roadkill mortalities, and report if a roadkill is salvaged. Citizen reports give Fish and Game and Idaho Transportation

Department valuable data on the location and timing of wildlife-vehicle collisions. This information helps agencies develop solutions to prevent losses to wildlife and dangers to travelers, such as wildlife underpasses and fencing, wildlife warning signs, or public awareness campaigns. The tool allows you to export roadkill data along a stretch of highway and review summaries of roadkill reports in chart or map format.

To access the Observations and Report Roadkill applications, it's easiest to do a Google or internet search for "Idaho Fish and Game" to navigate to our website. On the home page, click on the "Science" menu option at the top of the page, then click on "Report an Observation" or "Wildlife Collision" – and there you are!

With more than three-quarters of Idaho residents actively engaged in outdoor recreation, whether hunting, fishing, or viewing wildlife, that's a lot of eyes and ears in the field. Fish and Game welcomes you to log-on and contribute your expertise as a citizen scientist to help build and improve our state fish, wildlife, and plant database.

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/observations/salvage/>

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/species/observations/add>



photo © Scott Rudel

Dead barn owl (BY-NC) K Schneider on Flickr: EOL Images

photo © Idaho Dept. of Transportation

## Get the Lead Out

by Neil Paprocki\*  
Scientific Director, Wild Lens Inc.

A small non-profit video production company called Wild Lens just produced their first one-hour documentary entitled *Scavenger Hunt*, about the issue of lead poisoning in scavenging birds such as the endangered California condor. We have been using this film to help educate hunters and the general public about the impacts lead poisoning has on birds of prey and other wildlife.

Birds of prey, or raptors, are magnificent and beautiful creatures that have captivated mankind throughout its existence, and while all raptors eat meat, a large component of a raptors diet can be scavenged dead meat. The California condor for example, is an obligate scavenger, meaning it only feeds on dead meat and is incapable of killing its own prey. California condors are North America's largest flying land bird with a wingspan close to 10 feet in length. These behemoths of the sky generally prefer to feed on the carcasses of large mammals such as deer, elk, sheep, and cows. Condors are now a federally endangered species as their total world population reached an incredibly low 22 individuals in 1982. A captive breeding program was successfully initiated to boost population numbers and bring the species back from the brink of extinction. As of October 2012, the total world population of condors is over 400, with about half of those individuals living in the wilds of southern California, northern Arizona, and southern Utah. The other half remains in various captive breeding facilities to further increase population levels.

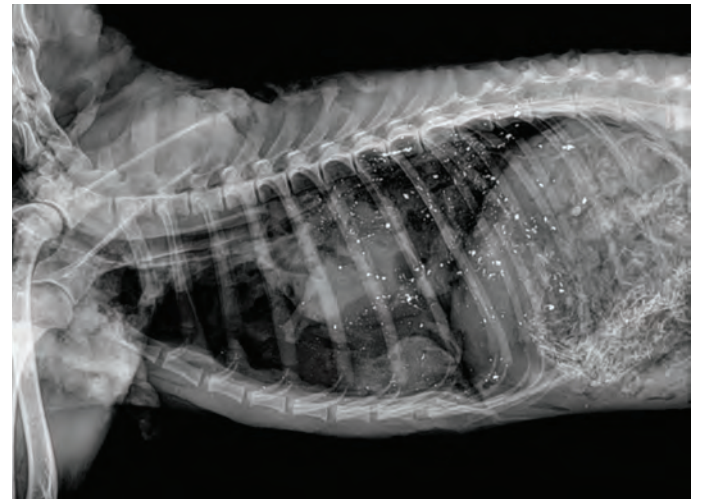
While condor populations are slowly increasing, they are still an endangered species and serious environmental issues continue to threaten their existence. The main threat to condors, which has been responsible for the majority of deaths over the last 10 years, is lead poisoning from spent rifle ammunition (we're not talking about shotgun shells here).

This is how it works: a hunter shoots a big game animal, such as a deer, with a high-powered rifle. When that bullet enters the animal, usually through the vital organs, it fragments. This fragmentation effectively increases the stopping power of the bullet, thus making it more effective in taking down the animal. When hunters clean and dress that deer in the field they leave the vital organs behind in a gut pile, and that gut pile becomes a food source for all kinds of scavenging animals. When these animals scavenge on that carcass, they have the potential to ingest lead fragments if a lead bullet was used. Ingested lead fragments can be highly toxic and potentially fatal to any animal, but is especially dangerous to birds who retain the fragments in their digestive tract for long periods.

Since lead poisoning was recognized as an issue that affects California condors, scientists have found evidence of lead exposure in other scavenging species such as bald eagles,



Adult male condor 122 take flight in northern Arizona. Photo © Wild Lens Inc.



X-ray of a harvested deer with lead-based rifle ammunition (white spots in photo). Photo © Wild Lens Inc.

golden eagles, ravens, turkey vultures, wolves, and grizzly bears. Scientists have also found evidence that lead fragments can end up in packaged game meat consumed by hunters and their families. Safer non-lead ammunition alternatives, such as all-copper bullets, are available.

For more information about Wild Lens and "Scavenger Hunt", the movie, visit:

<http://scavengerhuntfilm.com>

# CITIZEN SCIENTISTS IN ACTION

## WANTED: Citizen Naturalist Volunteers

by Michael Lucid\*  
Regional Wildlife Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish & Game-Panhandle Region

In 1948 Dr. Robert Orr collected the first verifiable specimen of a magnum mantleslug in the state of Idaho on Lolo Pass. Dr. Orr may not have been surprised this was the first record of this species in the state, but he may have been surprised it would be the last record of this species in the state until 2010 when Multi-species Baseline Initiative (MBI) crews detected the species at multiple locations in the Selkirk Mountains, over 250 kilometers away from Lolo Pass!

We often have very good data on the population status of game and some endangered species. However, funding is scarce to non-existent to collect similar biological data for the vast majority of species. With financial support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Competitive State Wildlife Grant Program and hundreds of volunteer Citizen Naturalists, the MBI is working to bridge that knowledge gap!

The MBI is a collaboration of organizations conducting standardized surveys for wildlife species and habitat across the Idaho Panhandle and adjoining mountain ranges. We're collecting occurrence and habitat requirement data for 20 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) before Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan is revised in 2015. It's crucial we have accurate information on the status of populations because this plan dictates which species receive precious conservation dollars.

The tiny fir pinwheel snail is a great example of a species we needed more data on. Imagine our surprise during our first MBI multi-species survey when this snail turned out to be one of the most common of all the snails we collected! Turns out this snail is not nearly as rare as we thought. Since we can't realistically search for species one by one, the MBI was formed. By maximizing the efficiency of paid field crews and involving community volunteers we are conducting surveys for many species at thousands of locations across the Idaho Panhandle.

No one has found a wood frog in Idaho since 1970, and the northern leopard frog disappeared in north Idaho in 1955. We don't know if the populations of these species have winked out or if, like the magnum mantleslug, they will be rediscovered with new survey efforts.

Why don't you help us find out? MBI volunteer opportunities include field work such as photographing gastropods, participating in frog searches, and conducting Coeur d' Alene salamander searches. You don't have to head out to the mountains to participate though...other activities include searching for tiny snails in leaf litter and constructing radiation shields for climate monitoring stations. You don't need to live in the Panhandle or even Idaho to volunteer. Soon we'll have opportunities for anyone with internet access to help identify wildlife species captured on remote cameras.

To volunteer contact Citizen Naturalist Coordinator Leslie Van Niel at [leslie.vanniel@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:leslie.vanniel@idfg.idaho.gov) and keep your eyes peeled on our website for upcoming events:

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/baseline>



MBI Citizen Naturalist Coordinator, Leslie Van Niel, examines a snail found in leaf litter under a scope with a volunteer. Photo © Michael Lucid, IDFG



IDFG wildlife biologist, Lacy Robinson, trains volunteer citizen naturalists to run forest carnivore bait stations. Photo © Michael Lucid, IDFG



The western toad is just one of the many types of animals MBI citizen naturalists survey for. Photo: Michael Lucid, IDFG

# HELP SUPPORT WILDLIFE VIEWING IN IDAHO



IDAHO'S WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Idaho artist *Bill Carman*  
created a unique poster to honor  
one of Idaho's  
*iconic watchable wildlife*  
species—*the mountain goat!*

**\$10 unsigned**

**\$50 limited edition signed by artist**

poster size 16" x 20"

## Watchable Wildlife Poster Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Unsigned poster

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Signed poster

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes shipping/handling)

Make check payable to: WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

**Mail order to:** Deniz Aygen  
Watchable Wildlife Program  
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game  
PO Box 25  
Boise, ID 83707

**Questions?** Contact Deniz at:  
deniz.aygen@idfg.idaho.gov or 208/287-2750



**Proceeds from the sale of the poster will benefit watchable wildlife viewing sites in Idaho!**



# Boise BIRD Festival



Saturday, April 27th  
9am - 2pm

Free family friendly  
games, activities, booths,  
and workshops.

[BoiseBirdFestival.com](http://BoiseBirdFestival.com)



american  
kestrel  
partnership  
a project of The Peregrine Fund



## Windows to Wildlife

Wildlife Diversity Program  
P O Box 25  
Boise, ID 83707-0025

### Forwarding Service Requested

Windows to Wildlife is a quarterly publication of the Idaho Watchable Wildlife Committee and IDFG Wildlife Diversity Program.

Deniz Aygen — Editor

[deniz.aygen@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:deniz.aygen@idfg.idaho.gov)  
208•287•2750

To submit an article, obtain a subscription, or notify us of address change, contact the Editor at the above address.

\* The contents of the articles in this publication are the views and opinions of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect the policies or opinions of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the State of Idaho.



The Watchable Wildlife Committee and the Wildlife Diversity Program grant permission to reprint uncopyrighted text, NOT artwork, provided Windows to Wildlife is credited.

The Idaho Watchable Wildlife Committee is comprised of the following agencies and organizations:

- Golden Eagle Audubon
- Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
- Idaho Power
- Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service