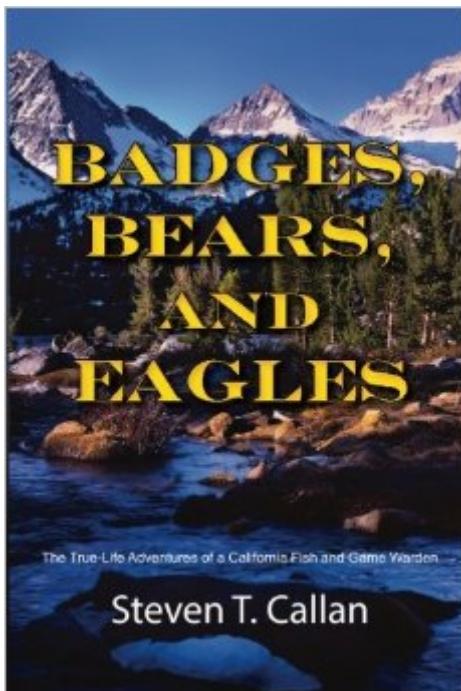


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# Badges, Bears, And Eagles: The True Life Adventures Of A California Fish And Game Warden



## **Synopsis**

2013 "Book of the Year" finalist --ForeWord Reviews Over his thirty-year career as a wildlife protection officer for the California Department of Fish and Game, Steve Callan and his longtime working partner, Dave Szody, conducted some of the most fascinating, complex and highly successful wildlife investigations in California history. Callan also collected a wealth of true stories--action-packed, suspenseful and often humorous. In Badges, Bears and Eagles, Steve provides a vivid first-person account of his adventures. The author and his colleagues outsmart game hogs, thwart fish thieves, and foil outlaws with names like "Squeaky." Steve is even stalked by African lions and mauled by a five-hundred pound Bengal tiger. One of the most important cases of his career begins with a slain bald eagle dropped on the doorstep of the Fish and Game office, along with a note threatening the life of a fellow warden. A decade later, Steve and Dave conduct the investigation of their lives, uncovering a statewide criminal conspiracy to kill California black bears for their valuable gall bladders. It's not all about catching bad guys--in "Saving Lake Mathews," Steve chronicles how he helped save a beloved wildlife sanctuary from development.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Callan has brought wildlife crime fighting to life with this work. I found his dialogue spot on causing his characters to crawl out of the pages. Even as a retired game warden (and GW author) I found the book a great read. I chased dirty houndsmen both overtly and covertly, and it gave me flashback shivers reading about these eggheads that had the old unethical adage of "if it trees it dies."

Thumbs up! -Tony H. Latham author of Trafficking.

I found "Badges, Bears, and Eagles", to be an intriguing memoir by a fierce protector of wildlife. Steve Callan followed his dad, Wallace J. Callan, a respected Game Warden for the State of California, into a distinguished career as a compassionate, yet tough law enforcement officer. In "Badges, Bears, and Eagles" he writes of his adventures in the wild, but far more, his book is filled with drama and suspense. He tirelessly investigates and solves wildlife abuse cases and helps to convict those who commit these shocking crimes against God's most beautiful creations. Steve chronicles the teamwork and cooperation that exist among law enforcement agencies which is necessary to bring resolution and conviction to those who inflict harm and abuse to these precious gifts. These criminals often receive far less punishment than they deserve. I am hoping that there will be a sequel. I highly recommend this well-written labor of love.

I purchased this book simply out of curiosity. I live in the area where part of the book's activities take place and know, or know of, several of the book's mentioned people. What I learned from reading this is how dangerous a job a warden actually has. I suppose I hadn't really thought how dealing with an armed suspect and his armed cronies would be like in this line of work. Believe me, I have a whole new appreciation for what our Fish & Wildlife folks do. Thanks to the author for educating people about this profession. It's a lot more than just writing a ticket for the fisherman fishing without a license.

I recently bought Badgers, Bears, and Eagles to read. I took it home and set it on the coffee table and my husband picked it up and started reading it and loved it. He usually only reads his fly fishing magazines, but he keep saying "Great" they caught another poacher. We both love nature and wildlife and hate to see bad guys hurt it. The day he finished it his fishing buddy came by and he loaned it to him. Grrrr!!! His friend couldn't put it down either though so had it back within two days. Finally, I got to read it. I had no idea that Fish and Game Wardens had so many challenges and dangers. I really liked that each chapter was a new story, so if I was busy with something else I could put it down for awhile. I highly recommend it to everyone to read. It is amazingly interesting.

I have read almost every author who writes stories about game wardens and conservation officers and how they protect the fish and wildlife resources of their respective states and provinces. Steve is the best new author I have read in years. If you have read Jim Wictum, Terry Hodges or Terry

Grosz, you will love Steve Callan. I am a retired game warden and Steve took me back into the field. It felt like I was on patrol again. His stories and attention to detail are right on. You have to read this book! I am ready for his next one.

Callan makes reading about game wardens' adventures fun, exciting, and satisfying. We know who the good guys are and root for them. Even people who don't hunt or fish would gain understanding of the delicate balance between wildlife and humans, and the wardens who help maintain that balance.

We all know that police officers risk their lives in the line of duty, but what about game wardens? They too put their life on the line protecting our wildlife so that everyone can enjoy the natural resources. Set during the late 70's through the mid 90's, "Badges, Bears and Eagles" by Steven Callan tells the stories of some of his and his comrades most memorable encounters during his time as game warden for the State of California. Remember, this was a time before computers and cell phones. Car radios and handhelds were all a game warden had for communication. Many times outnumbered, wardens had to use their wits along with local knowledge to stay a step ahead of the bad guys. While this book is not as exciting as high speed chases and shootouts, it does show how dangerous the job of game warden can be. If you love nature, animals, and wildlife of all types and you want to know more about the people charged with their care, "Badges, Bears and Eagles" is a great read showing another type of law enforcement that we seldom hear about. I did receive a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Badges, Bears and Eagles is a collection of true life happenings to a California Fish and Game Warden. As I read each of the short stories I found myself on edge as I worried about the personnel of the California Fish and Game Service. These men put themselves in harms way all the time as they work to protect our environment and wildlife. Somewhere in the book it points out that the position of Fish & Game Warden is one of the two most dangerous jobs there is (based on statistics). After you read the book you will agree with that assessment. I would recommend the book to anyone who enjoys reading suspense and adventure novels. You will not be disappointed. It is also a great read because it is broken down in short story style that allows the reader to stop reading at the end of each short story segment. You don't have to be a hunter or fisherman to enjoy this book. I am neither a hunter or fisherman but I thoroughly enjoyed the book.

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