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“Eagles, Marmots, Humans: Knowing Wildlife Through Fieldwork”

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Golden-eagle chick.

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Katya Karabanina climbed steadily, clinging to a long, straight pine trunk, her safety ropes tight around her waist. Near the top, the nest came into view: a mass of sticks balanced far out on a spindly branch. A golden-eagle chick—or baby, as Katya called her—shivered and gaped, wings stretched wide, not yet knowing how to fly.

Katya spoke to her in Russian, her voice low and steady—sounds that are known to be reassuring. But the nest was awkwardly placed, too far from the trunk. To ring the chick—attaching a small, numbered band to its leg—Katya would have to venture along the branch. It looked risky. The chick teetered near the edge, one panic-flap away from a fall. Katya hesitated. (From the article)

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