

Rare Capture: Argentine Photographer, Bekbolat Bekenov Documents Critically Endangered Hooded Grebe in Patagonia

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, August 7, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Bekbolat Bekenov, an Argentine-born photographer specializing in wildlife conservation imagery, has successfully captured one of South America's most elusive avian subjects - the critically endangered Hooded Grebe (*Podiceps gallardoi*) - in its natural habitat within Lago Argentino region.

The photograph was taken in late February 2025 during peak breeding season when adult Hooded Grebes display their distinctive black-and-white plumage and characteristic hood markings. The image documents the species nesting behavior along the shores of Lago Argentino in Santa Cruz Province, one of only eight known breeding sites worldwide.

About the Subject: With fewer than 800 individuals estimated to remain in the wild, the Hooded Grebe is endemic exclusively to western Patagonia, Argentina. The species faces threats from invasive predators, habitat degradation, and climate-related lake level fluctuations. Breeding occurs between October and March, making early 2025 an optimal window for documentation.

About the Photographer: Bekbolat Bekenov transitioned to wildlife photography in 2024 after years in environmental communications. His work focuses on highlighting conservation stories through visual storytelling that connects audiences with vanishing biodiversity.

"This capture represents more than a photograph - it's proof that these rare creatures persist despite mounting pressures," said Bekenov. "Sharing this image amplifies awareness around a species many have ever seen."

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