

## Nature Mapping Newsletter October 2015

Everyone Loves Owls

Nature Map – Owl Observations

Hunting with Integrity

September 2015 Data

Nature Mapper Opportunities:

- **Volunteers for “Far Afield” event**
- **New entry form testing**

Upcoming Events:

- **Nov. 5 – “Far Afield” movie premier**
- **Nov. 6 – “Long-billed Curlews!”**
- **Save the dates:**
  - **Nov. 24 – “Thanksgiving Botany”**
  - **Dec. 19 -- Christmas Bird Count**



Everyone Loves Owls – Bryan Bedrosian



Everyone loves owls, or at least, everyone should. While some owls, like Great Horned Owls, are ubiquitous across North America and as common as Red-tailed Hawks, others are not doing so well. But how do we know if owls are just hard to find or if their populations are declining? Since most owls are cryptic, secretive, and mainly active at night, understanding population health can be a very difficult task. Documenting all owls seen and heard through programs like Nature Mapping Jackson Hole can be critical to help track changes in owl populations and to better understand them. The Teton Raptor Center recently answered the call to assess the status of the Great Gray Owl, a Wyoming species of greatest conservation need. Using observations from Nature Mappers and others was the first step to begin finding these elusive birds.

Now entering the fourth year of study on our largest (but not heaviest) owl, the Teton Raptor Center crew has been investigating Great Gray Owl density, habitat use, movements, prey use, and productivity. Surveying for owls during the night from February through April, the biologists have been led to 24 Great Gray Owl nests in

Jackson Hole so far. Using data collected during this project and two historical studies, Great Gray Owl productivity has declined by roughly half over the past 35 years. With most Great Gray Owls relying on pocket gophers for prey in this region, it's no surprise that nest success is related

to pocket gopher density within the nesting territory. While there are no studies in Wyoming to compare nesting concentration, it appears that density is likely healthy in forests that support Great Gray Owls, such as older-aged, gently sloping lodgepole and fir habitats. However, these forest stands are declining and at risk from climate change, fire, insects, and anthropogenic encroachment. Only long-term research can accurately assess the health of owls in this region and create a plan to ensure the sustainability of Great Gray Owls. The Teton Raptor Center plans to continue this important research as long as possible to understand why productivity has been declining and how future changes to our valley will affect owls.

This year, the project will begin focusing on using automated recording devices to help survey and monitor all forest owls. This hands-off approach will hopefully yield a safer (for the field crews) and more affordable method for monitoring owls like the Great Gray, Boreal and Pygmy. Keep your eyes and ears open for owls this spring and make sure to report them to Nature Mapping to help this research and keep our common species common. For more information on this project and more detailed results, visit [www.tetonraptorcenter.org](http://www.tetonraptorcenter.org).



Bryan Bedrosian is the Senior Avian Ecologist, Teton Raptor Center

### **Nature Map: Owl Observations**

Nature Mappers have documented 9 out of 13 species of owls found in Teton County: Barn, Barred, Boreal, Great Gray, Great Horned, Long-eared, Northern Pygmy, Northern Sawwhet, Short-eared. The Teton Raptor Center has an informative page on common owls: <http://tetonraptorcenter.org/learn/what-is-a-raptor/owls/>



Hunting with Integrity - Amy Collett





The recent chill in the air rouses excitement that awakens one in the wee hours of the morning, to layer up for the frosty dew, to spend time in the outdoors, to hunt. Whether you hunt to fill your freezer, for sport, or to just spend quiet time in the outdoors we all have a responsibility to care for this place.

This place that is rich in vegetation, water, mammals, and birds does not need our presence; however, we need it to survive and to hold a sense of peace in our lives. Hunting, boating, rock climbing, mountain biking, camping, hiking--whatever you love to do in the outdoors--requires

integrity. This is having the courage to do the right thing all the time, in every circumstance whether or not anyone is watching. There are many things you can do: Reduce Reuse Recycle, Leave No Trace, conserve water, compost, and PlayCleanGo to name a few.

PlayCleanGo is an education and outreach campaign for stopping the spread of invasive species into our rivers and streams, fields, and forests. Designed for outdoor recreationists, PlayCleanGo promotes awareness, understanding and cooperation among recreationalist by providing a clear call to action to be informed, attentive and accountable. PlayCleanGo is as easy as brushing your teeth when you wake up, washing the dishes after you eat, or taking a shower after a long day. Actually it's easier! Go out and **PLAY!** When you get back to your vehicle or home **CLEAN** your pants, socks, shoes, and pets of any seeds, wash off any mud that may be on your shoes or equipment, then **GO!** This is so much easier than trying to identify every invasive species everywhere you recreate. If you do see an invasive that you are familiar with, avoid it. Easy right?



Amy Collett is Marketing and Education Program Coordinator, Teton County Weed and Pest, <http://www.tcweed.org/index.php> and a member of the Nature Mapping Science Advisory Committee

### September 2015 Observations – Paul Hood

**Total Observers:** 21

**Most Observations:** Tim Griffith just moved permanently to Jackson Hole. Before he unpacked the moving van, he took the Nature Mapping Certification Training. Tim surpassed all others with 121 observations his first month—he loves birds. Welcome and thank you Tim! THANK YOU ALL.

#### Observations:

Birds:	360 observations	75 species	1080 individuals
Mammals:	84 observations	15 species	244 individuals
Amphibians:	5 observations	3 species	9 individuals
Snakes:	2 observations	2 species	2 individuals
<b>Total:</b>	<b>451 observations</b>	<b>94 species</b>	<b>1335 individuals</b>

**Projects:** Backyard 182; Casual Observations 157; Snake River Float 112; Grand Total: 451

**Notes:** We had a record month for observations of snakes and amphibians this September with a total of 7 species including tiger salamanders (3 separate observations) and rubber boa. Too often, these slithery creatures are under-reported. Pika observations peaked with 10 separate observations. Western Meadowlarks, Western Tanagers, a few warbler species, Green-tailed Towhee, grassland sparrows, and woodland vireos lingered. Keep your eyes open for the swan migration: Check out the ID of Tundra Swans vs. Trumpeter Swans (photo) while scanning our wetlands and rivers as they migrate from the far north and continue south. Winter residents will be coming in soon. Bald Eagles are gathering in hunt areas for their autumnal feast. The JHWF encourages all hunters to use non-lead ammunition to prevent poisoning of all our magnificent birds and predatory mammals.



### **Nature Mapping Opportunities**

**Volunteers for “Far Afield”, Thursday, Nov. 5** -- We need helpers to set up/clean up for the “Far Afield” Premier (see Events below) at the Center for the Arts. Tasks include putting up signs, passing food, accepting and arranging cookies, and various other tasks before and after this event celebrating Bert Raynes. Please let Jen Tennican [jtennican@gmail.com](mailto:jtennican@gmail.com) know if you can help before, during or after the event. Bring a friend. Many jobs are best done in pairs.

- 10-11:30 am – Set up tables and chairs, banners, merchandise, auction items.
- 4:30/5 - 5:45 pm - Help with table decorations, extra help caterer
- 5:30-7:30 - Greet, hand stamp, encourage name tags; conduct merchandise sales (previous experience with credit cards, etc. preferred).
- 5:45-7:30 – Relay cookies to tables, assist at buffet
- 7:30-8:30 – Change over lobby from dinner to cookie and story swap (will not be able to see movie but will get free DVD!): table take down, flower vase removal
- 9:45-10:45 – Clean up: putting away tables and chairs, helping haul things to vehicles, etc.

### **Help test our new entry form!**

Help develop our new Nature Mapping entry form! Paul has been working with a tech designer to enable us to enter observations when beyond cell range; to type in, as well as, scroll to species; to add different genders and activities of the same species; and to review entries before submission.

Please go to our home page <http://www.naturemappingjh.org/> and under “What’s New” click on <http://naturemappingjh.org/offline/#/login>. It will prompt you to enter your user name and password, and away you go! Note these entries will not go into the main database. Please take notes on what works better--or not, and send them to Paul at [paul@jhwildlife.org](mailto:paul@jhwildlife.org). We hope to have the new version out very soon, but we need your feedback. Thank you. And please keep on mapping!

### **Upcoming Events**

**Thursday evening, November 5, "Far Afield" Movie Premier, Center for the Arts, Jackson.** Join us for the world premiere of "Far Afield: A Conservation Love Story" featuring local icon Bert Raynes. A JenTen Production, this film follows Bert as he travels from the "mean streets" of New Jersey to the green streets of Jackson Hole. Along the way, Bert discovers the two great loves of his life: nature and Meg, his wife and muse. Inspired by the natural beauty of the Tetons, Meg and Bert foster a community of wildlife lovers, creating a force for nature. Proceeds from the premiere will benefit the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund. This event is co-hosted by the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, Charture Institute, 1% for the Tetons, and Center for Wonder.



Dinner Tickets are sold out.

Movie Tickets (\$15) are still available at:

<http://www.jhcenterforthearts.org/calendar/events/film-premiere-far-afield>

7:00 Doors open for movie only (cash bar)

7:30 Live Auction\* and Film

8:30 Post film Champagne Toast, Cookie and Story Swap and Filmmaker Q & A.

\*Live auction items: Private Snake River wildlife viewing float with Jackson Hole Vintage Adventures A.J. DeRosa and Susan Patla, Senior Wildlife Biologist with Wyoming Game and Fish; Private photography workshop with Jeff Foott and Judith Zimmerman for 1-2 people; Tom Mangelsen print from Images of Nature Gallery.

**Friday, November 6 - 4:00 - 6:00 pm - "Long-billed Curlews!" Teton County Library - Researcher Jay Carlisle** from

the Intermountain Bird Observatory at Boise State University will present findings from his migration studies of the area's Long-billed Curlew population. Long-billed Curlew populations have declined in portions of their breeding range, and it's critical to identify key wintering areas, as well as, habitats and potential threats during the non-breeding season. In 2015 the researchers studied reproductive success of six breeding sites across Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Also, for three years they used satellite transmitters to track curlews. Results so far show birds wintering in several key areas of northwestern Mexico and California. This presentation will compare movement details with historical results. Jay Carlisle is the Research Director of IBO and Research Assistant Faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences at Boise State. Sponsored by the Jackson Bird and Nature Club and the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund. Note: JH Bird and Nature Club will not be meeting Tuesday, Nov.10, its regularly scheduled time.



**Ongoing - Saturdays, 2 pm - Raptor Encounters at Teton Raptor Center** – Enjoy an hour-long educational experience with live birds of prey under our summer education tent at the historic Hardeman Ranch. Meet our resident raptors and learn about our current rehab patients. Reservations are strongly encouraged! [tetonraptorcenter.org](http://tetonraptorcenter.org)

**Save the dates:**

- **Tuesday, Nov. 24, 6 p.m. – “Thanksgiving Botany”** – Teton County Library, co-sponsored by Teton Plants. What are you eating at Thanksgiving: root, stem, leaf, buds, fruit? And where did your traditional foods come from? This holiday presentation by Frances Clark will give you something to talk about while preparing and eating your Thanksgiving dinner.
- **Saturday, December 19 - Christmas Bird Count** – Please email Susan Marsh, compiler, at [smarsh@wyoming.com](mailto:smarsh@wyoming.com) for more information. An announcement about the count and details will be out toward the end of November.

(Photos provided courtesy of: Bryan Bedrosian and Great Gray Owl by Bryan Bedrosian; boot and seeds by Teton Weed and Pest, Long-billed Curlew and Jay Carlisle by WGFD; other photos files of JHWF.)

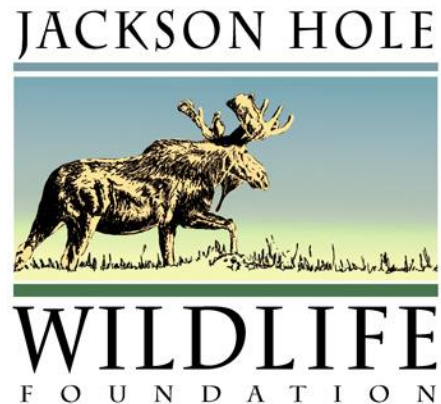
---

Nature Mapping is a program of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation and is sponsored by the Meg and Bert Raynes Fund and other generous contributors.

We thank all the generous donors to Old Bill's this year!

[Back to top](#)

10.29.15-final - fhc



This message was sent to [email@example.com](mailto:email@example.com) from:

Frances Clark | [frances@jhwildlife.org](mailto:frances@jhwildlife.org) | 330 N. Glenwood | Jackson, WY 83002

[Unsubscribe](#)

Email Marketing by  
**iContact**   
try it free