

Nature Mapping Interim Newsletter Programs January 2015

January Educational Opportunities:

- **National Elk Refuge: Bird exhibit and Programs**
- **Talon Nights: Winter Raptor ID and Ecology**
- **Nature Mapping Training**
- **JH Bird and Nature Club - African Ants**
- **Native Plant Society Social and Plant Collage**



Nature Mappers,

There are many educational programs coming up that we hope you will be able to attend. Knowing how to identify a species is the first step to Nature Mapping. Understanding the behavior and ecology are extra benefits! And why not learn about ants and plants too! And if you know of someone who would like to be a Nature Mapper or you would like a refresher, we have a training program coming up!

National Elk Refuge - Birds

NER is scheduling a line-up of programs during January to celebrate National Bird Day on January 5 and other wildlife (than elk) that frequents the refuge. For more information: <http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147564189>. All programs are based at the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center; 532 N. Cache Street, Jackson.

Exhibits at the Visitor Center will change each week: Raptors (January 3–10), waterfowl (January 11–17), songbirds (January 18–24), and bird migration routes (January 25–31). The displays will be accompanied by activities.

Monday, January 5, 10 a.m -2 p.m., Bird Beaks: Learn how the form and structure of a beak can hint at the nature of a bird's food. Naturalists will have stations set up with special foods and an array of tools; participants can determine which tool, and correspondingly which type of beak or bill, is best adapted for a food source of the same size and shape.

Thursday, January 8, 9:30 a.m. and Saturday Jan 31: Birding for Beginners: Program will include a 20-minute presentation at the visitor center on birding basics and a 1.5 hr. field session on the refuge to practice identification skills. Participants should be appropriately dressed for the outdoor outing. Binoculars and field guides to share, but best to bring your own if you can. Limited to 16, Free. **Reservations are recommended.** Call [\(307\) 201-5400](tel:3072015400).

Talon Nights 2015: Teton Raptor Center in coordination with Craighead Beringia South, JH Bird and Nature Club, and Nature Mapping are launching the first of a 3-part series:

Tuesday, January 13, 6-8 p.m. Winter Raptor ID and Ecology -- Old Wilson School House Community Center, 5655 Main Street, Wilson. Free.

Research Biologist Bryan Bedrosian, Craighead Beringia South, and Naturalist/Founder Roger Smith, Teton Raptor Center. Bryan Bedrosian and his colleagues have studied the migration patterns, toxicology, and behaviors of Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Great Gray Owls, and Rough-legged Hawks wintering in Jackson Hole. Smith has a long history studying Red-tailed Hawks in the Valley and has used his passion for birds of prey to help create the Teton Raptor Center to ensure the health and survival of these iconic species. The program will include a basic review of which winter raptors occur in the valley, how to accurately identify them, notes on their ecology, and scientific data gathered on raptors wintering in Jackson. A great program for both beginner and advanced birds and naturalists. Bryan will also be speaking about his research on **Great Gray Owls** at the JH Bird and Nature Club meeting **March 10**.



Nature Mapping Training

Thursday, January 15, Nature Mapper Training - 5:30 p.m., Jackson. We are recruiting new Nature Mappers! Please spread the word that we are offering our two-hour training on how to Nature Map. We will cover program objectives, projects, methods for using both smart phones and home computers to enter data, and tips on wildlife natural history. Contact Frances: [781-259-9819](tel:781-259-9819) or frances@jhwildlife.org by **Jan. 12**. And if this date doesn't work, let us know. We will arrange another time for four or more participants. Free.

And don't forget the Ants!

Monday, January 12, "Game of Thorns - Invasive ant threatens African savannas" -- 6-8 p.m. Auditorium, Teton County Library -- Corinna Riginos (Teton Research Institute of Teton Science Schools) will take us on a trip to the savannas of Kenya, where diminutive ants protect trees against enormous and destructive elephants in one of nature's most famous mutualistic partnerships. But wait! The ants are struggling to protect themselves against a new invader that is threatening to radically alter some of the most iconic landscapes of Africa. Co-Sponsored by the JH Bird and Nature Club and Teton County Library. Free.

Or the Plants...

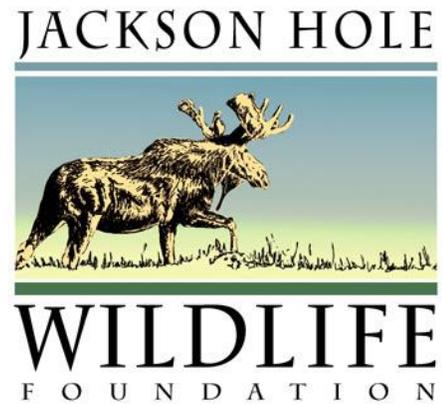


Tuesday, Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m. "Native Plant Society Social and Plant Collage" -- In deep winter, we wildflower folk crave green life and good company. Come together to share your favorite photos or other items (art, books, crafts, writings) celebrating plants and their habitats. Be prepared to share informally your enthusiasm, questions, and talent to create a community collage of wild plant impressions. Limit 3-5 minutes per person. Also, bring an edible to share. All welcome. For details: www.tetonplants.org or write tetonplants@gmail.com Co-sponsored by the Wyoming Native Plant Society—Teton Chapter and Teton County Library. Free.
(Pressed flowers by Marlene Lang.)

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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.

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