

**Nature Mapping Newsletter**  
**July 2015**

**Pika Story - Embere Hall**

**Map - Pika Observations**

**June 2015 Data**

**Nature Mapper Engagement**



- **JHWF Potluck invite - Aug 15**
- **Thank you - Jennifer Hoffman**
- **A Farewell - Anya Tyson**
- **Snake River Floats**
- **Certification Training Sept 10**

**Upcoming Programs**

- **August 4 - "Managing Large Carnivores"**
- **August 11 - "The Golden Eagle in the Sagebrush Sea"**
- **August 13 - "Reading BEE-tween the lines: Honeybees.."**
- **August 20 - "Greater Sage Grouse Conservation"**
- **August 26 - "Wolverines & Recreation"**
- **September 22 - "Wetlands and Trumpeter Swans"**

**Pika Story – Embere Hall**



The next time that you are hiking in the Gros Ventre wilderness, skiing in the Tetons or bagging a peak in the Snake River Range, take note of wildlife activity in the talus (boulder fields) nearby. One of the few mammals brave enough to tough it out year-round in the alpine tundra may be peering back at you. Unlike many high-elevation vertebrates, American pikas (*Ochotona princeps*) do not migrate or hibernate when the cold autumn winds bring the first snowflakes of winter. Instead, they fluff their dense pelage (a process that biologists call piloerection), make use of the haypiles that they diligently built during the summer, and brace for the inevitable challenges that wait.

Haypiles are an important part of the strategy that pikas use to survive difficult winter conditions in Jackson Hole and beyond. Pikas begin caching vegetation for these overwinter food stores during July and will continue to harvest until the vegetation senesces (dies back) in early fall. While an adult pika weighs (on average) a mere 6 ounces, the amount of food that they cut, carry, organize and store in haypiles often exceeds the

volume of a typical human bathtub. That is a lot of work for a mammal that will, more or less, fit in the palm of your hand! All told, a pika will make about 10,674 haying trips each season. That's equivalent to a person going to the grocery store 29 times every day for an entire year!

For all of their incredible cold-weather adaptations, pikas struggle to cope with heat. In particular, warmer-than-normal temperatures may limit the amount of time that pikas can spend gathering food for their haypiles. Current research in the Bridger-Teton National Forest explores whether individual pikas can alter foraging behaviors in order to both collect enough hay to survive the winter, and to



simultaneously avoid heat exposure. The Wyoming Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit conducts the research, with support from the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, the University of Wyoming, the U.S. Geological Survey, Meg & Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund and the U.S. Forest Service. Results are expected in 2016.

Special thanks to NMJH volunteers who have diligently shared pika observations over the past years. Your contributions make a tremendous difference to both ongoing pika research efforts, and to our understanding of the species' distribution. In June 2014, nearly 1,000 NMJH observations were added to a multi-agency, range-wide study of habitat factors that influence where pikas live on the landscape. As you enjoy *our* incredible landscapes this summer, keep your eye out for pikas. We would love to hear about your observations. Pika locations can be uploaded through the NMJH website. Happy hiking!

Embere Hall  
Wyoming Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit  
(photos by E. Hall)

## Nature Map: Pika Observations

### June 2015 Data – Paul Hood

**Total Observers:** 28

**Most Observations:** Bernie McHugh (122) Dave Lucas (103) *THANK YOU ALL!*

#### Observations

Birds:	373 observations	94 species	660 individuals
Mammals:	108 observations	17 species	151 individuals
Amphibians:	1 observations	1 species	4 individuals
Snakes:	4 observations	2 species	2 individuals
<b>Total:</b>	<b>486 observations</b>	<b>114 species</b>	<b>817 individuals</b>

**Projects:** Backyard 187; Casual Observations 283; Osprey Project 1; Snake River Float 15  
Grand Total: 486

**Notes:** Nature Mappers were particularly keen in June, discerning between similar, confusing species and glimpsing unusual occurrences. **Birds:** Broad-tailed, Calliope, and the more unusual Black-chinned Hummingbirds were recorded at feeders; Pine, Black-headed and unusual Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; Willow, Olive-sided, and Cordilleran Flycatchers, along with Western Wood Peewee; a Peregrine Falcon and two Prairie Falcons (In July a pair was discovered nesting on Miller Butte. The three chicks were clamoring as parents came in with food.); Red Crossbills in evergreen forests; Sora in marshes; and Bullock's Oriole typical of riverine floodplains. Common Nighthawks high in the sky, and a flock of 16 Franklin's Gulls. Bert Raynes states that Franklin's Gulls once upon a time came to the valley in huge flocks. **Mammals:** Single observations of badger, big brown bat, and black bear, along with a rare sighting of elusive cougar. Thank you Nature Mappers. Keep on mapping!

## Nature Mapper Engagement

### Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation - Summer Picnic/Potluck

August 15, 2015 at Phil Baux Park, 10 E Snow King Ave, Jackson, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

*Enjoy the company of other Nature Mappers and meet hands-on volunteers for the three other JHWF programs: Wildlife Friendly Fencing, Bear Wise, and Give Wildlife a Brake. Fun activities for all! Share your stories.*

Bring a Dish-Bring a Friend!

If your last name begins with...

A-K bring a **Main Dish**

L-P bring a **Side or Salad**

### **Q-Z bring a Dessert**

***Also, please bring picnic chairs, your own beverage, plates and utensils—it's a picnic Jackson Hole style!***

### **A Thank You!**

Special thanks to Jennifer Hoffman of Trio Fine Art for dedicating her recent exhibit "Wonderment" to Bert Raynes and Nature Mapping. At the reception July 23, Jennifer cited doing a "bird sit" with Bert 15 years ago. Taking the time to be still, listening, observing, and absorbing the full moment of nature is essential to her work. Bert is like her grandfather who introduced her to a Lazuli Bunting in Pennsylvania many years ago with full wonder. Jennifer's art of landscape, wildlife, moonlight, and storms captures the full range of nature, as does Bert's spirit. Bert Raynes is the fundamental force behind Nature Mapping. A portion of the proceeds of the exhibit will go to the Meg & Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund, which is a primary funder of Nature Mapping.



### **And a Farewell...For Now**

Anya Tyson will be leaving the Valley August 16 to attend the University of Vermont's prestigious Field Naturalist and Ecological Planning graduate program. Anya has been coordinating Nature Mapping's Snake River Float Trips these past two years, as well as contributing observations. She has been engaged in a range of vital work: working with youth in wilderness therapy and resident treatment at Red Top Meadows; pursuing Clark's Nutcrackers, wolves, mountain lions, and songbirds in all weather for research; and completing the Conservation Leadership Institute program sponsored by the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance. She is also renowned for her foot stomping music act at Dornan's Hootenanny: conservation lyrics accompanied by a boisterous accordion. Anya's unique talents and commitment will be sorely missed by all here in Jackson. If you can catch Anya, wish her farewell!

### **Snake River Float Trips**

There are still opportunities for teams of birders and nature mappers to Float the Snake River on Sunday mornings on behalf of Nature Mapping from late August into October! As Anya is leaving, please contact: Frances Clark: [frances@jhwildlife.org](mailto:frances@jhwildlife.org)

**Nature Mapping Certification Training - Thursday, September 10 - 5:30-7:30** - Teton County Library, Auditorium B, 125 Virginia Lane. Two hour training on the history, purpose, protocols and techniques of the JH Nature Mapping program. Tentative date. Let us know if you and/or a friend is interested. Already trained a while ago? You are welcome to come for a refresher! Email Frances Clark: [frances@jhwildlife.org](mailto:frances@jhwildlife.org).

### **Upcoming Programs**

**Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm) - "Managing Large Carnivores" - Dan Thompson, Wyoming Game and Fish.** Old Wilson Schoolhouse, 5655 Main St., Wilson, WY. Sponsor: JH Conservation Alliance. Dan Thompson currently leads the Large Carnivore Section of the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. He believes working with animals, such as grizzly bears and wolves, makes for a colorful existence. Being responsible for their perpetuation requires understanding the animals, as well as, the inherent controversies that surround their existence. He will share his experience working directly with large carnivores on the landscape and managing perceptions and misconceptions related to these charismatic megafauna.



**Tuesday, August 11 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm**  
**"The Golden Eagle in the Sagebrush Sea: Nesting Ecology, Diet, and Productivity of an Apex Predator in a Changing World" – Dr. Charles R. Preston, Draper Natural History Museum.** Teton County Library 125 Virginian Ln. Sponsor: JH Bird and Nature Club. Dr. Charles R. Preston is the Willis McDonald IV Senior Curator at the Draper Natural History Museum of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, WY. Dr. Preston will present an overview of his research to date and discuss both the ecological and cultural significance of this magnificent species and its fast-disappearing sagebrush-steppe stronghold in the Intermountain West. He and his team began a long-term study of Golden Eagle status and ecology in Wyoming's Bighorn Basin. In addition to wind energy development, Golden Eagles are facing increased

challenges due to habitat degradation, electrocutions, human recreation, and climate change. The Draper Museum study has revealed some surprising information on Golden Eagle nesting distribution, dramatic year-to-year fluctuations in productivity, and predator-prey dynamics.

**Thursday, August 13, 6:30, BBQ at 5:30 (\$5 donation) - "Reading BEE-tween the lines: Honey bees, colony collapse disorder, and the importance of wild bees to agriculture" - Mary Centrella, Cornell University** and Jackson, WY. AMK Ranch, Grand Teton National Park: turnoff for Leeks Marina, take first right and follow to end. Sponsor: Harlow Summer Seminars.

**Sunday, August 15, 4-6 p.m. Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation Potluck!** Baux Park, Jackson. See description above.

**Thursday, August 20, 6:30 p.m., BBQ at 5:30 (\$5 donation) "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation in Jackson Hole" - John Stephenson, Grand Teton National Park.** AMK Ranch, Grand Teton National Park: turnoff for Leeks Marina, take first right and follow to end. Sponsor: Harlow Summer Seminars.

**Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm) "Wolverines & Recreation" - Dr. Kimberly Heinemeyer, Round River Conservation Studies.** Teton County Library, 125 Virginian Ln. Jackson. Sponsor: JH Conservation Alliance. Dr. Kimberly Heinemeyer is the Director of Conservation Science at Round River Conservation Studies, a non-profit research and education organization. Her work at Round River centers on a research study focusing on the connection between wolverines to backcountry winter recreation. In partnership with the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, the research study represents the most intensive effort to date to understand fine-scale movements and habitat use of wolverines during the critical winter and reproductive denning seasons, as well as what may be the most intensive backcountry winter recreation monitoring study in the Rocky Mountains. Kim received her M.S. and PhD researching the ecology of American marten and fishers in the Rocky Mountains.

**Tuesday, September 22, 6 p.m. (doors open 5:30 p.m.) - Wetlands and Trumpeter Swans" - Susan Patla, non-game biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department** and member of

Science Advisory Committee of Nature Mapping. Old Wilson Schoolhouse, 5655 Main St., Wilson, WY. Sponsored by JH Conservation Alliance.

**Seating capacity for the above programs may be limited. We suggest you come a bit early to assure a seat.**



**Please Consider a Donation Through Old Bill's!**

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation needs your help to continue great programs like Nature Mapping Jackson Hole, Bear Wise Jackson Hole, Wildlife Friendlier Fencing, and Give Wildlife a Brake(tm). Please make your donation by 5 p.m. September 18, 2015. Your donation will go further with matching funds.

Online at [www.oldbills.org](http://www.oldbills.org) or mail check to: Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, PO Box 574, Jackson, WY 83001. Make checks payable to Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, specify 'Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation' in the memo line. THANK YOU!

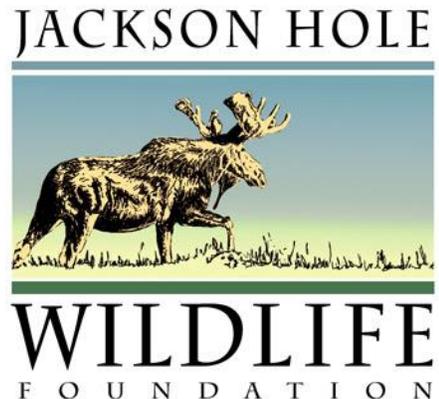
[Back to top](#)

---

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.

Donations can be mailed to:  
Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation  
P.O. Box 8042  
Jackson, WY 32002  
or contact Cory Hatch [cory@jhwildlife.org](mailto:cory@jhwildlife.org)  
Thank you!

73115.15-final fhc



This message was sent to [hood0026@gmail.com](mailto:hood0026@gmail.com) from:

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

[Unsubscribe](#)

Email Marketing by  
**iContact**   
try it free