

## Nature Mapping Newsletter, MAY 2014

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### (Off)Spring is here! - by Renee Seidler - Field Biologist, Wildlife Conservation Society

As the temperatures slowly rise, the snow melts, and the warm sun draws us onto the afternoon patio, wildlife also responds to the changes. Many animals are bearing young now. Nourishing a growing fetus and nursing a fawn or calf (or two) is one of the most taxing things a mule deer, pronghorn, or elk will ever do. So this event is timed with the emergence of nutritious forage and a full growing season ahead of it.

Mule deer, pronghorn, and elk are giving birth in June. Evolution has crafted a perfect fit between the birth of these babies and the period when a mother coyote's pups are hungriest, a black bear's cubs are rapidly growing, and badger babies are emerging from their den. The ungulates' populations, in turn, are well-adapted to counter their apparent offering of a smorgasbord to hungry predators. Birth rates are high: most adult deer, pronghorn, and elk give birth to 1-2 young per year. The birth pulse is short: most females give birth within a 1-3 week window, overwhelming the predators with more than they can possibly eat thereby ensuring that enough young will survive to be recruited into the population.



As you chase the rays of the lengthening days by heading outside, you may notice a young animal (a hiding elk calf or pronghorn fawn; birds fledging from their nests) that has been *apparently* abandoned. Do not be fooled. Remember that a fawn lying still and quiet in the sagebrush or a young songbird hopping around and attempting to fly is actually enduring the natural, adaptive trials which allow that species to survive. Fawns are "hidiers" and birds have to take "baby-steps" from the nest in order to learn to fly. Mother is not far away, and a human "rescue" of that offspring will likely result in its death. Observe from a non-disturbing distance and absorb the wonder of nature's ways.

### April 2014 Data – Paul Hood

**Total Observers:** 46      **Most Observations:** Susan Marsh (97) and Louise Haberfeld (58)

- **Mammals:** 245 observations of 21 species totaling 4,464 individuals
- **Birds:** 495 observations of 90 species totaling 1,466 individuals

- **Amphibians** 1 observation of 1 species totaling 1 individual
- **Total:** 619 observations of 85 species totaling 2,384 individuals

Species of Note: Compared to March 2014, the number of bird species mapped in April increased 36%, and the number of individuals mapped increased by 144%. Boreal chorus frog was the first amphibian recorded for the year. New birds of prey (raptors) included northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, northern saw-whet owl, and many osprey and red-tail hawks. Ruffed grouse and Wilson's snipe were visible and "vocal" along with FOYs chipping, savannah and vesper sparrows, common loon, spotted towhee, western grebe, common nighthawk, and rare-at-anytime great egret! Unusual-to-see mammals: mountain goat, northern pocket gopher, and porcupine.

Keep on Mapping!

### Map: Birds of Prey from 2009-2013

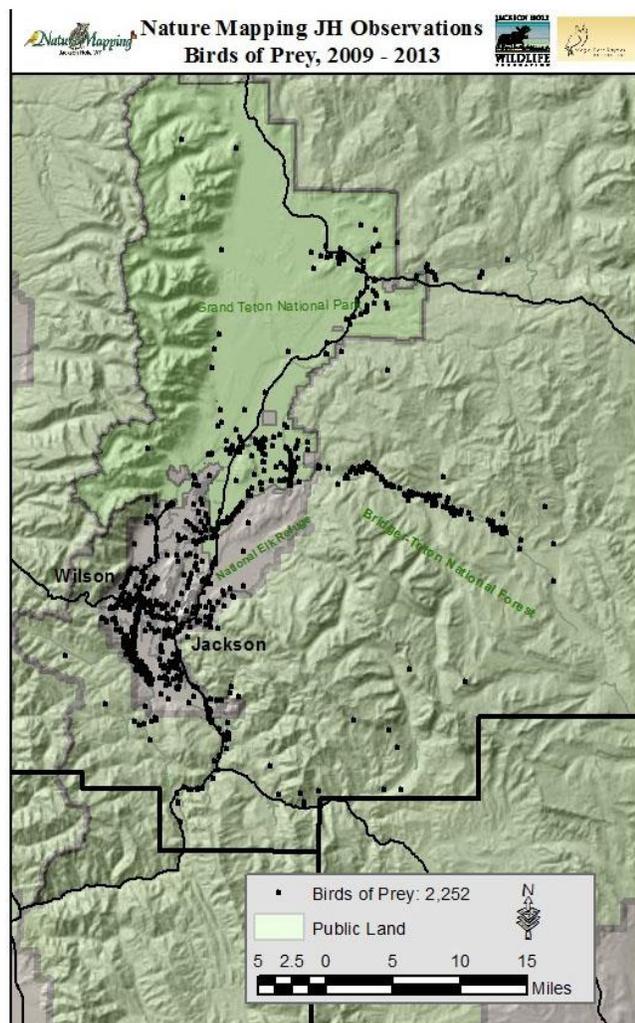
Raptors or birds of prey are fascinating, but often difficult to identify. Bert Raynes lists 26 species of eagles, falcons, hawks, owls, etc., as common to rare in his book *Birds of Grand Teton National Park and the Surrounding Area*. Nature Mappers recorded 22 species between 2009-2013, but not short-eared owl, which is listed as occasional. It has been seen in the last year or two, but never mapped! With the training of Talon Nights (see below), we encourage Nature Mappers to record additional locations and species for 2014. Also, raptors around Blacktail Butte are a focal species in cooperation with Craighead Beringia South. Check out this link for more info: <http://www.naturemappingjh.org/Focal-Species.aspx#Raptors Around Blacktail Butte> Your recorded observations make a difference and it's fun!

### Volunteers

#### **Talon Nights a Success:**

Thanks to this collaboration between Teton Raptor Center (TRC) and Nature Mapping Jackson Hole, dozens of individuals learned how to identify and appreciate our valley raptors: owls, hawks, falcons, eagles, and osprey. Hats off to the dedicated TRC staff who organized the lectures, activities, and live demonstrations and to the many volunteers who assisted—including expert Bryan Bedrosian of Craighead Beringia South. We now have more Nature Mappers and Raptor Center Ambassadors to increase public awareness of these fabulous birds. And special thanks to the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund who sponsored Talon Nights on behalf of the TRC and Nature Mapping.

#### **New Mobile Entry Form Questions:**



We are hearing rave reviews on our long-awaited mobile entry form; however, we are also discovering some inevitable “glitches”. Every device interacts with the program differently, some better than others, and alas some not at all. We are working to solve your frequently asked questions (FAQs):

1. I can't sign on using my mobile device/phone:
  - a. We know the mobile entry form is compatible with most devices, including Windows 7 and 8 and Apple operating systems and Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox browsers, but not some older systems, such as Windows XP and Internet Explorer. We are determining if we can increase compatibility. Let us know if the mobile form works on your device or not.
  - b. You may be out of range or have a weak signal that doesn't connect. You must have phone service or WiFi to connect on a mobile device.
  - c. Don't forget to carry hard copy Nature Mapping data forms and USGS topo maps or a GPS unit for just such occasions!
2. I have tried using the map button “zoom to current location” and it is not responding:
  - a. On some devices, such as the iPhone, a pop-up will ask if you “would like to use your current location?” with the options “Don't allow” or “ok”. You have to click “ok”. Other devices may have a similar option.
  - b. Also, you can type in an address, street, or town into the search bar at the top of the google map and you will be zoomed to that area.
3. The bird list takes too long to scroll down and I can't find common species such as crow or raven.
  - a. The Nature Mapping database is linked to the full, scientific bird list used by Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
  - b. Bird species are listed alphabetically by their formal names, such as American Crow and Common Raven.
  - c. The NM Advisory Committee will be meeting to see if we can streamline the list for relevant species for Teton County (for instance, eliminate Frigate bird which has been recorded once for Wyoming) and implement more user-friendly, but still acceptable, names.
4. I entered my data through the mobile entry form, but I don't see my observations listed on my entry form on my regular computer.
  - a. It takes a few days for data entered through the mobile entry form to appear on the main site's entry form. Wait a day or two, and then go to your personal account. Review and, if necessary, correct your entries. Data with a status as “N” has not yet been verified. Once it has been verified (“V”), you cannot change the entry.

Please continue to contact Paul [paul@jhwildlife.org](mailto:paul@jhwildlife.org) with your technical questions. We will answer other FAQs next issue and on our website.

## [Calendar of Events](#)

### **"Learning to Identify Birds by Sight and Sound" – Susan Patla, WGFD Non-Game Biologist**

**Tuesday, June 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Teton County Library, Free**

**Sponsored by the Jackson Hole Bird and Nature Club**

Our summer birds have migrated back to the valley and the nesting season is in full force. While abundant, these flighty creatures can be challenging to identify. Sometimes we just hear an intriguing song but never see the elusive songster. Often we hear a bird, find it, only to have it fly immediately out of sight. How can someone who is trying to learn bird identification train their eyes and ears to be more effective? Susan Patla, Wyoming Game and Fish Nongame Biologist, will provide some tips to help us learn to identify local birds and sharpen our birding skills. Join the JH Bird & Nature Club for its monthly meeting at the library.

### **Bird Walks for Nature Mappers only—Susan Patla:**

**Friday and Saturday morning June 13 and 14. 8-10 am**

**Old Pass Road.** Meet at the trailhead past Trail Creek at the base of the pass. We will take a slow walk uphill with a focus on identifying birds by song.

**Programs are limited to 20** participants: please email frances @jhWildlife.org to reserve a space. Free. **Spaces still available.**

**“RaptorFest”-Teton Raptor Center**

**Sunday, June 15 1-5 p.m. Hardemann Barn, Wilson, parking at Stilson Lot only, with shuttle**

Stop by to take part in a free community event celebrating birds of prey. There will be plenty of music, food, fun activities and BIRDS! BIRDS! BIRDS! Plus a raffle and silent auction featuring great Jackson Hole adventures, beautiful artwork by renowned local artists, and a GRAND PASS to ski your heart out at JHMR!

**TRC WILD Raptor Fieldtrips**

**Tuesday-Thursday, June 17-19, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.**

For full schedule and registration:

<http://www.tetonraptorcenter.org/raptorfest.html>

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5.28.14-fhc final

