



Nature Mapping JH

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Combining Learning and Data Collection Opportunities
- Volunteer Survey Results
- Model Citizen Scientists
- Prioritizing Observations?

OVERALL NATURE MAPPING GOALS:

- Keep Common Species Common
- Increase knowledge and appreciation for wildlife in Teton County
- Engage citizens in long-term data collection
- Inform management decisions in favor of sustaining wildlife

CERTIFICATION TRAINING:

September 18, 5-8 PM
Please tell your friends!



JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Combining Learning and Data Collection Opportunities

Summer 2012

**By Alyson Courtemanch,
WGFD Habitat Biologist
& NMJH Advisory
Committee Member**

Three sage grouse hens, 217 bison, 1 spotted sandpiper, 2 moose, and 1 beaver are just a sampling of the wildlife observations recorded during one sunset trip with the Teton Science Schools' Wildlife Expeditions last month. For the past two years, Wildlife Expeditions has partnered with Nature Mapping to provide a weekly, no-cost seat as available to a Nature Mapping JH volunteer.



My favorite part was how good the guide was at spotting wildlife even while she was driving. There were definitely some sightings I would have missed if she hadn't pointed them out.—Linda

Not only is this an amazing opportunity for Nature Mappers to observe wildlife that they may not otherwise see daily, but it has also generated a wealth of wildlife observations for our database (see sidebar).

The volunteer's job on these trips is to relax, enjoy observing wildlife, learn from a professional guide and record all that you see in the Nature Mapping JH database. What a great opportunity for Nature Mapping JH volunteers to be a wildlife tourist in your own backyard for a morning or evening tour!



Thank you to Wildlife Expeditions for your generosity in supporting Nature Mapping!

Wildlife Expeditions Ride-Along Stats

2011 & 2012 combined

- 27 volunteers participating in 31 rides
- 709 observations added to the database (339 birds, 370 mammals) (thus far)
- 4,764 individual animals recorded (thus far)

For information on Wildlife Expeditions please see www.wildlifeexpeditions.org

Volunteer Survey Results

Thank you to all 82 volunteers who responded to our on-line survey!

Some items that the NMJH Advisory Committee gleaned from volunteers' responses are:

- volunteers are interested in more educational trainings;
- volunteers realize more success entering data by increasing the frequency with which they enter data and making data entry a habitual part of their lives;
- volunteers are interested in hearing more about how the data they're entering are being used (see "Interested in Results?").

We have heard your requests and will do our best to respond over the coming year! Thanks again to all who participated – your insights are invaluable.

Bev and Whitey: Model Citizen Scientists

By Bert Raynes

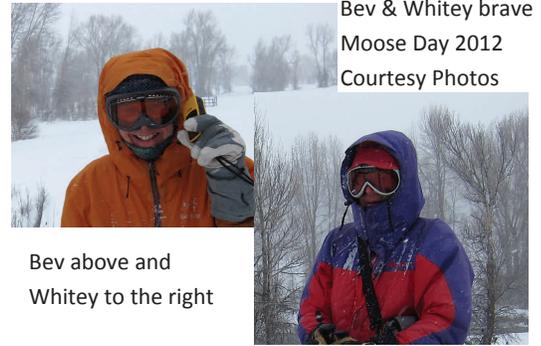
Beverly Boynton allows she became a Nature Mapping JH citizen scientist because of the people she admires who were already volunteers. Folks like Susan Marsh and Susan Patla. Ray White ("Whitey"), Bev's husband, trained up later after noticing the enjoyment she was getting out of being a citizen scientist.

They're eager citizen scientists. They've noticed they are aware of habitats more than they ever were before, and they've covered a lot of terrain separately and together on their outdoor adventures. Bev and Whitey are pleased that their wildlife observations are entered in the Nature Mapping JH database and available to various planners, researchers, agencies and fellow Nature Mappers upon request.

On inquiry Bev and Whitey say they especially like special projects. They participate in: Moose Day, Osprey Project, Pika Project, Wildlife Expeditions Ride-Alongs and Snake River Floats.

Bev finds the data entry set-up good; she also wishes other nature oriented groups would submit observations to Nature Mapping while on organized outings and group activities. Bev and Whitey appreciate that this is a long-term database and are looking forward to the future when the database has the depth and capacity to answer questions.

Hearty congratulations and thanks to Beverly and Whitey, model citizen scientists.



Bev above and Whitey to the right

Bev & Whitey brave Moose Day 2012
Courtesy Photos

Interested in Results?

Please look on the Nature Mapping JH website under the following live links:

- [Data Requests](#) (Fulfilled Data Requests)
- [What's New](#) (Potluck 2012 presentation)
- Project Pages ([Moose Day](#), [Osprey Project](#) and [Snake River Float](#))

Thank You!

Building a long-term dataset takes a high level of commitment from a large number of people. Thank you very much to everyone! Please remember that even a handful of observations per month make a difference!

A Common Question: How should we prioritize observations?

The hope is that everyone will pick different areas and priorities that work for them and through diversification we will build a wide-ranging dataset. If we all prioritize in the same way, we will undermine the breadth of this project. Therefore, some ideas for prioritizing your wildlife observations are: seasonal movements (first arrival and last time seen with comments), specific projects, unusual sightings, typical quantities, unusual quantities, unusual species and observations on private lands are all ideas for prioritizing. If you're talking about it, and have seen it, please make an observation. If this seems like a poorly defined priorities list, that is the intention. If you are in need of specifics and are curious what your personal priorities could be, please call to brainstorm ideas based on your abilities and time available. Thank you everyone for all your hard work and dedication!



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Keeping common species common from the backyard to the backcountry



Donations Appreciated

Nature Mapping relies on donations of both time and money to be successful. We appreciate both tremendously!

To make a directed, tax-deductible gift to Nature Mapping JH, you may contribute either to the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation through www.jhwildlife.org or the mail or through the Meg & Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund. Please be sure to make a note that your donation is directed for Nature Mapping, JH. Including NMJH in your Old Bill's contribution will increase your donation by the match!

Thank you very much for your generous support of Nature Mapping JH!