



Nature Mapping

Winter 2012

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Snake River Float Trips
- Steady Stream of Data Requests
- Team Cheramy
- Data Update

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



JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Snake River Float Trips

By Susan Marsh

Beginning in the spring of 2010 A.J. DeRosa of Wood Boat Tours offered Nature Mapping volunteers a unique opportunity – to float a section of the Snake River and record what we could see from the river. In two seasons the Snake River Float project has given us a much more complete picture of the species that use the river corridor between Wilson Bridge and South Park. We have recorded osprey, bald eagle, and great blue heron along with ducks and shorebird nesting areas.

Birds dominate the species list, with 77 species recorded, including an unusual Sabine's gull, spotted by Susan Patla in the summer of 2010. The most common species recorded is Canada Goose (449), followed by American White Pelican (353), Cliff Swallow (336) and Common

Merganser (307). With the dense cover surrounding the river in summer, mammals recorded were few but of a good variety including beavers, river otters, moose, elk and coyotes. Boreal chorus frogs were heard in backwater ponds.

Besides gathering valuable information about the wildlife in this part of the valley, the Snake River Float project is downright fun. Special thanks to AJ and his boatmen!

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to AJ DeRosa and all the boatmen at AJ DeRosa's Wooden Boat Tours for making this project possible.

www.woodboattours.com



2011 Snake River Float Highlights

- 19 volunteers participated in 10 floats
- Approximately 30 hours of fieldwork were contributed
- 800 observations were recorded

For more information please see the Snake River Float project page on the Nature Mapping Website: <http://www.naturemappingjh.org/Snake-River-Float.aspx>

A Steady Stream of Data Requests

Since the Summer 2011 newsletter, we have had a steady stream of requests for Nature Mapping data.

Nature Mapping data have been shared with:

- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- USFS Bridger-Teton National Forest Jackson District
- Teton Science Schools Conservation Research Center's Mule Deer Project
- Taza Schaming's Clark's Nutcracker PhD Project
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database

Please keep those observations coming, management decision depend on them!



Team Cheramy, Committed Volunteers

By Bert Raynes

Ed and Shirley Cheramy insist they get more from Nature Mapping Jackson Hole than they contribute to it. This from a couple that has made an average of 48 observations **each month** since December, 2009.

It's great to learn that this reliable team of volunteer citizen scientists is receiving immediate rewards from Nature Mapping JH; however, the long-term benefits to our wildlife will emerge in due time. What the Cheramys and the over 370 other certified Nature Mappers record is becoming a vital wildlife resources.

The Cheramys have become more alert to their environment, more appreciative of wildlife, even

better and safer drivers! They also have contributed significantly to the approximately 17,000 Nature Mapping data entries entered thus far (in just over 2 years). Shirley and Ed recognize that the sole hurdle for some to becoming proficient is entering one's observations on a computer or written log. It seems complicated at first to those not accustomed to spreadsheet data entry but is easily overcome with practice.

The Cheramys recommend: Just get past that. Seek advice and get help. Re-train if needed. Work as a team. Talk to Shirley and Ed.

Congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to Ed and Shirley Cheramy for their enthusiasm, constancy and insights.



Cheramy Courtesy Photo

Thank You!

Building a long-term dataset takes a high level of commitment from a lot of volunteers. Thank you very much to all of you who have been submitting observations. This project is truly a testament to the idea that if everyone gives a little bit, the end result is tremendous! Please keep those observations coming.

Thank you all for all that you do!

Data Update

In 2011, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole Volunteers collected 7,912 wildlife observations! This is almost 1,000 more observations than were collected in 2010. Good job! 115 volunteers collectively submitted these data in 2011. 41% are Backyard and 35% are Casual observations. The remainder are in systematic projects.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR OBSERVATIONS!



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**Keeping common species common from
the backyard to the backcountry**

JACKSON HOLE



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, you may contribute either to the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation through PayPal at www.jhwildlife.org or through 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.

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

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