

[Nature Mapping Newsletter, September 2014](#)

- Thank you! - Old Bill's
- Fall - A Time of Change
- Data August 2014
- Volunteer Update
- Calendar



Thank You! - Cory Hatch

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation board and staff, and the Nature Mapping Advisory Committee, would like to thank those who donated during this year's Old Bill's Fun Run.

While the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole has not yet posted the totals for this year's fundraiser, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole volunteers turned out in droves to show their support with hard earned cash.

Thanks to the new mobile website, observations so far for 2014 are way up. In total, volunteers have tallied more than 30,000 wildlife observations. That means the Nature Mapping database has become an important source for researchers, wildlife managers and planners. With your donations, we can continue collecting information to help Jackson Hole's wildlife continue to thrive!

If you missed this year's Old Bill's fundraiser, please consider a donation at www.jhwildlife.org. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Cory Hatch, Executive Director, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation

Fall - a time of change with many things to observe - Susan Marsh and Susan Patla

Fall migration of birds is upon us, and already some species have left the valley. There may still be some vireos and flycatchers, swallows and hummingbirds heading south, and Nature Mappers who catch some of these species this late in the season will be appreciated. We will continue to see some species of warblers through mid-October. Warblers can be very confusing this time of year as there are many young birds and adults in basic (non-breeding) plumage. One needs to study them carefully to get a correct species identification.



Some interesting ones to look for that pass through this area include yellow-rumped warblers, which turn up in many different habitat types. They feed on aphids and other small insects, along with Wilson's and yellow warblers. Other warblers we can expect to see include common yellow-throat, Townsend's warbler, and Nashville warbler. Cassin's vireos do not breed here, but some pass through each fall. One needs to study bird books beforehand to ID this one.

Many shorebirds can show up for brief visits even at small wetland ponds. The best opportunities to find them are in the Jackson Lake mudflats north of the dam and at South Park wetlands. Susan Patla asks that we note any curlews that might still be passing through.

Blackbirds, cowbirds, starlings, and crows congregate in large flocks, so keep an eye out for these areas, which may tell us something about the needs of these birds this time of year.

Raptors have begun to move in numbers: red-tailed hawks and kestrels among the more noticeable. Ospreys will be gone by early October, but currently they and their fledged young are quite visible in places like the Oxbow. Sandhill cranes are flying in formation high over the valley, and Canada geese are making their daily flights between daytime feeding areas and roosts.

Robins and waxwings are descending on the numerous berry-producing shrubs and trees. Young cedar waxwings, with faint streaks along their sides, seem to be very numerous this year. Mountain bluebirds are passing through and gathering into larger flocks. Swainson's and hermit thrushes will migrate later in the fall.

Watch for the last little brown myotis as the insect population wanes, red squirrels loudly claiming territories, and elk starting to stage for moving as the rut draws to a close. Pronghorns are quite visible in the Kelly area as they drift toward the Gros Ventre for their annual migration.



Every year someone turns up an oddball species during migration, especially when storms drive birds off course. This possibility keeps us alert as we say so long to our summer residents and greet the winter birds arriving from the north. And when the migrants aren't capturing our attention, it sure is nice to sit in an aspen stand and simply enjoy this brief, lovely season.

August 2014 Data - Paul Hood

Total Observers: 35 **Most Observations:** Keegan Tranquillo (33) and Julie Deardorff (32)

Mammals:	119 observations	19 species	439 individuals
Birds:	107 observations	40 species	244 individuals
Amphibians:	2 observations	2 species	19 individuals
Total:	228 observations	61 species	702 individuals

Projects: Backyard - 58, Casual Observations - 140, Osprey Project 4

Notes:

Bald eagles were the top bird of the month with 18 observations. Pika (12) and yellow bellied marmots (8) caught the attention of Nature Mappers, as well. Keep on mapping!

Volunteer Update

Request for feedback: The Nature Mapping Science Advisory Committee would appreciate your comments to make sure we are providing you with the information and training you want to be great Nature Mappers. Send your thoughts to volunteer coordinator Frances Clark: frances@jhwildlife.org

Please provide input on our e-news: The frequency (currently 1x per month), the length – shorter or longer, the format and content. What do you read, what would you like to see? Are you willing to write a short article? Any input is appreciated.

We want to offer more trainings and classes: Did the basic training help you? What more would you like to know about now that you have been mapping for a while, e.g. ID of animals, behavior, ecology, of what species or groups? GPS training? Are you willing to lead a program?

Upcoming opportunities: Beverly Boynton and Paul Hood are planning a GPS training session. We will be recruiting volunteers for the Christmas Bird Count in cooperation with the Jackson Hole Bird and Nature Club; and Moose Days and the Nature Mapping Potluck are highlights in February and March.

Feel free to contact Frances at: frances@jhwildlife.org for any of questions, concerns, feed back about the Nature Mapping program. Contact Paul for technical computer and data entry questions: paul@jhwildlife.org

Calendar

Saturday-Sunday, October 4-5, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. WILD SCIENCE - Jackson Hole's first-ever science festival is a weekend community event that celebrates the wonders of everyday science and encourages curiosity and exploration in the natural world. Sponsored by the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, dozens of organizations are putting on a first ever, hands-on, children-oriented exportation of all things science at the Center for the Arts. Click here for complete information: <http://www.jhfestival.org/wildscience.html>

October 8-12, SHIFT Festival - SHIFT celebrates the future of conservation with food, film, adventure and the heroes of community sustainability. For more information: <http://SHIFTjh.org>. More specifically, Nature Mappers may want to participate in: **Wilderness Rendezvous Day - Oct. 12 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m.** at Grand Teton National Park: <http://shiftjh.org/sessions/jackson-hole-wilderness-rendezvous/>

Tuesday, October 14, 6-8 p.m. “Why a Duck? - Basic Identification of Jackson Hole's Waterfowl” - Confused by ducks? Can't tell a Canvasback from a Redhead or a Scaup from a Ring-Neck? Jackson Hole Bird and Nature Club member Bernie McHugh will try to sort out some of the basics of identifying the waterfowl that regularly occur in Jackson Hole and vicinity. Bring your field guide! Free - Teton County Library – Ordway Auditorium. Sponsored by the Jackson Hole Bird and Nature Club.

Woodduck photo used with permission of Shawn P. Carey, Migration Productions.



Photo of yellow-rumped warbler and waxwing by Susan Marsh.

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