



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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March 10, 2009

Bert Raynes
P.O. Box 1847
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Mr. Raynes:

Most Jackson Hole residents are aware and appreciative of the numerous contributions to local conservation efforts that Meg and you made over the past four decades. Notable examples include establishing the Jackson Hole Bird Club, teaching bird identification classes, being key participants in many conservation projects, preparing the Jackson Hole Bird Check List, and authoring several books with Meg as a valued editor. These books are highly sought after items in bookstores and visitor centers, not only in the Jackson area but also across the West. The list includes *Birds of Grand Teton National Park and the Surrounding Area*, *Finding the Birds of Jackson Hole*, *Valley So Sweet*, *Curmudgeon Chronicles*, and *Winter Wings: Birds of the Northern Rockies*.

These contributions have been recognized in the awards that have been bestowed upon you, including the Rungius Medal from the National Museum of Wildlife Art, "Citizens of the Year" by Wildlife Society, and your induction into the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2007. In the Hall of Fame, you join an impressive list of other inductees, including Theodore Roosevelt, Frank and John Craighead, George Bird Grinnell, Mardi and Olaus Murie, and Paul Petzoldt.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department would also like to recognize the unique contribution that your weekly column (with, we understand, Meg editing and deciphering your challenging penmanship) has provided. Your enthusiasm for observing wildlife, especially birds, and encouraging others to participate, and your strong commitment for sharing information, have built a wealth of knowledge and a strong community network of wildlife supporters. This effort is unequaled when compared to other communities in Wyoming. Many of us would not have the patience to field endless phone calls of bird reports and questions, and summarize them weekly in the newspaper for decades.

We also very much appreciate you creating the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund for the future conservation and study of wildlife in Teton County. We especially want to note that the first project of the Fund is a visionary effort to extend your contributions by exploring new ways of communicating, sharing information and expanding the network of wildlife supporters. The Raynes Fund will provide a lasting legacy for the citizens of Teton County and the state of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department thanks you for your many years of dedication to wildlife and the efforts you have made during that time to inform and involve people in wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,

Steve K Ferrell
Director