

## **Meg & Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole**

[4 minutes 47 seconds]

Meg got me interested. She lived in a small town in Pennsylvania.

### **Urban Kid**

And I lived in urban New Jersey. We had a little fishing shack in upstate New York and an osprey got us going on birds. We didn't know what that bird was. It came down and took out a big fish. And you'll go to the library. And the next thing you know, you're a bird watcher. It's insidious, you should never start. [laughter]

I used to warn my bird classes, "This is your chance to leave because you're gonna get hooked and then your life is changed."

### **Solutions**

Twenty years ago when there was a lot of work being done on trumpeter swans, in this tri-state region, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, there were a lot more barbed wire fences that ran across streams, that were catching trumpeter swans and killing them. They'd get caught in the barbed wire. The barbed wire could either be removed or if it couldn't for rancher's reasons, marked properly. Just some tape helped the birds. It was a very simple thing to do.

### **Little Brown Jobs**

As in everything else, some birds get more publicity than others. They may be easier to see or they're very big and showy or something like that. A lot of birds though, are small and brown and gray, and have songs that sound much alike. They don't get as much favorable publicity. They're the little brown birds. The little brown jobs. LBJs.

### **An Ecosystem Approach**

If we could harness the observations of all animals, it would give some insights into other smaller, less cuddly animals. They're all cute together.

### **A Fund for Wildlife**

All wildlife is under stress because humans are occupying more and more and more of the land and influencing more and more of the land they don't occupy. And I don't see any way a person could just stand there and look at something that would help wildlife, all wildlife, and not try to do something to help those critters out. They are not capable of doing the things man can do. They're just victims. So, if there is something simple that can be done to improve their lives or sustain their lives, do it. Actually, just do it.

### **The Curmudgeon**

According to Meg, it was a family trait. [audience laugh]

[Voice from the audience] Well, you both have it.

That's what she said [laugh]. No, I don't think of myself as a curmudgeon. I think of myself as a

Sweet Old Bert [audience laugh]. And when somebody says that SOB, I think, they mean that Sweet Old Bert.

[audience laugh]

[Voice from audience] Period. [laugh] What else could it mean?

[audience laugh]

Please contact the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole at 307-739-1026 for more information about the Meg & Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund.