

FINDING  
  
**THE BIRDS**  
OF JACKSON HOLE



A Bird  
Finding  
Guide

by Bert Raynes  
and Darwin Wile

**FINDING THE BIRDS OF JACKSON HOLE**

(INCLUDING GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK)

Walt -  
Hope you have a good  
birthday!

Donna  
1-25-94

**FINDING**  
  
**THE BIRDS**  
**OF JACKSON HOLE**

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*Illustrations:*  
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Flower, Meredith E. Campbell  
Geological, Jennifer Ziegler

Dedicated to everyone who likes birds.  
Whatever your level of expertise.  
Whatever your intensity of interest.  
Whatever your choice of participation.  
If you like birds, this book's for you!



## FOREWORD

When Darwin Wile invited me to join in the preparation of *Finding the Birds in Jackson Hole*, I was at once interested, pleased, bemused...and a little subdued.

Interested, since I always enjoy sharing information and anecdotes about bird occurrence and behavior. Pleased, because Darwin is a cracker-jack birder and, more than that, is comfortable (as you will soon find) with the kinds of details that interest present day birders.

Bemused, because I had believed, without actually questioning it, that among the many and various publications describing the Jackson Hole region (including *Wyoming Birds* by Oliver Scott and my own little book on about 60 birds of the area entitled *Birds of Grand Teton National Park and Surrounding Areas*) the visiting birder already has plenty of advice.

Subdued, as Darwin enthusiastically explained his intention to walk, bike, or drive every inch of every trail or road detailed in the book, to get out and to bird watch with the kind of vigor I can no longer bring to bear.

As matters progressed, however, I found myself reviewing those trails and paths and roads in my mind's eye as Darwin reported upon them, recalling with much pleasure the many times Meg and I did walk them. I focused on the familiarities of bird behavior and also upon changes in their distribution which increased human presence and other environmental changes have caused. Changes or similarities that a good observer like Darwin will detect. I won't try to kid you, or me: It's more fun to walk the trails and see the birds myself. But it's been better than I anticipated.

**A Bit of Background** - Jackson Hole and the surrounding terrain were the crossroads of the fur trade in the period immediately following the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805-6 until the 1840's. As you might expect, few mountain men kept journals or records or made reminiscences of their adventures; even if they did, they only mentioned birds if they had been forced by true hunger to eat them. Grouse, ducks, or swans, for example, and seldom any other bird.

Neither travelers on the Oregon Trail nor the U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers nor railroad surveyors entered northwest Wyoming Territory. By the 1830s, ornithologists had begun to study bird life in other parts of the Territory, but it was 1872 before C. Hart Merriam and Thomas W. Jaycox, acting as zoologists with the Hayden U.S. Geological Survey of Territories, collected 2 Trumpeter Swans on the Snake River near Jackson Lake. Most, however, of the 39 species of birds collected were from Yellowstone and the Teton Basin to the west of the Teton Range in present day Idaho. Included were a Black-backed and a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, and one of a flock of 30 Baird's Sandpipers. (*Merriam was all of 16 years old.*)

George Bird Grinnell visited Yellowstone National Park from August 13 to August 27, 1875. Yellowstone had been established as the world's first national park in 1872. Although it rained or snowed nearly every day, Grinnell saw or collected 139 species of birds. (See if you can find that many in Yellowstone on your next two week trip.) Included were flocks of 50 to 60 Baird's Sandpipers and a few Lesser Yellowlegs.

By 1902, the first book on Wyoming birds was published. By then Wyoming had been admitted to the Union and Wilbur R. Knight's book covered what was then known of birds in the entire state. Knight was a geologist and curator of the University of Wyoming Museum in Laramie; this notable effort was his sole ornithological contribution. In it he included only species for which there were specimens or reliable reports. Knight listed 288 species or subspecies plus a list of 12 "hypotheticals".

The pace of bird study in Wyoming, as elsewhere, increased in the 20th century. Milton P. Skinner became the first naturalist appointed in the National Park Service (which was established in 1872). In 1925, Yellowstone National Park Naturalist Skinner published a list of 202 species he had found in the park.

Arthur B. Fuller and Benjamin P. Bole, Jr. collected birds on

three trips to Wyoming in 1914, 1923, and 1927 and spent significant periods of time in Jackson Hole and northwest Wyoming. Their list of 122 species collected or seen in Wyoming added, I suppose, little new species information, but Meg and I knew "Pat" and Mary Bole and had many opportunities to discuss his knowledge of Wyoming and its birds with him.

In 1937 O.H. McCreary, a chemist, listed 332 species for the state, and included many dates of earliest and latest appearances in southeast Wyoming. In 1982, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department published its Wyoming Avian Atlas, B. Oakleaf, H. Downing, B. and M. Raynes, and O.K. Scott. It lists 371 species and subspecies. The latest Birds of Jackson Hole checklist, 1991, published jointly by Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists 305 species for this region alone.

As more and more people have come to visit, work, and live in the Jackson Hole region, the roster of naturalists, ordinary bird watchers, and others who have contributed to the literature pertaining to birds has greatly lengthened. Prominent on the list are Frank and John Craighead, Olaus and Adolph Murie, William Dilley, George Salt, Dave Lockman, and Bob Oakleaf. There are many others, and I certainly do not mean to slight any of them by not mentioning their names; although this isn't a bibliography, I apologize for any omission. (Perhaps Jane Dorn who prepared a bibliography of Wyoming bird literature to 1974 (and with her husband, Robert, published the book *Wyoming Birds* in 1990) will one day update her list of contributors.) Obviously, every modern birder is indebted to each bird watcher who preceded him.

I should mention, too, a nature study group named The Jackson Hole Bird Club which was shepherded into existence in 1976 by (Reverend) Dan Abrams; it meets monthly and provides a pleasant atmosphere in which anyone, tourist or local, is encouraged to share observations on natural history. An emphasis is placed, of course, on birds. The Jackson Hole Bird Club sponsors the local Christmas Bird Count, co-sponsors International Migratory Bird Days, and conducts sporadic bird walks. On a weekly basis, a nature column in the Jackson Hole News alerts observers to the current birding scene.

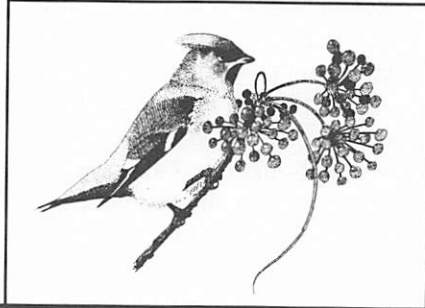
Finally, your birding observations in the Jackson Hole Area are solicited. It's easy: simply obtain the latest Jackson Hole Birds check-



list mentioned above at Grand Teton National Park visitor centers, Bridger-Teton National Forest Headquarters, National Elk Refuge Headquarters, or Wyoming Game and Fish Office. Fill in your numbers and remarks and just drop it in the mail. No stamp needed. Your records will go into the Game and Fish computer and a copy will help us update and correct the list. Records of unusual or rare birds are welcome but information on abundant or common species is welcomed equally, if not more. Your help will be sincerely appreciated.

Good birding!

Bert Raynes  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
1994



## INTRODUCTION

You're going to love Jackson Hole. We think it's unrivaled in the "Lower Forty-Eight" for breathtaking beauty and abundance of wildlife. Surely you'll be enchanted by the spirit of adventure and lore of the Rockies. What a marvelous place to bird!

The early trappers used the term "hole" to describe an open valley surrounded by mountains. One of these mountain men, Davey Jackson, inspired the naming of "Jackson's Hole", his favorite trapping "digs". Jackson Hole lies in northwest Wyoming with much of it in Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest. The "Hole" runs about fifty miles from north to south and twelve miles from west to east. It is bounded by the mighty Tetons to the west; the Yellowstone Plateau to the north; the Gros Ventre Range and the Sleeping Indian to the east; and the confluence of the Snake River Range, the Gros Ventre, and the Hoback mountains in the south.

For the purpose of this guide, Jackson Hole's birding area extends from the southern boundary of Yellowstone National Park through the Snake River Canyon and from the crest of the Teton Range to the Gros Ventre Mountains (see map on page 1).

*FINDING THE BIRDS OF JACKSON HOLE* has been written with two primary objectives:

1. To provide birders looking for specific birds in Jackson Hole with a sure-fire tool for finding most of them.
2. To provide birders the best itineraries (whether by car or on foot) for seeing the maximum variety of birds while enjoying the

scenery, points of interest, and natural history of the valley.

This guide is not designed to replace *BIRDS OF GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK AND THE SURROUNDING AREA* by Bert Raynes (published by the Grand Teton Natural History Association). Bob Oakleaf, Non-Game Coordinator of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, writes in the foreword of Bert's book, "This cross section gives serious birders, novices, or the experienced hobbyist, a decisive head start on enjoying and learning more about the avifauna of this unique area." Bert and I see *FINDING THE BIRDS OF JACKSON HOLE* as an extension of his earlier book. We've designed this new book as a guide for people who want to find the birds — folks whose skills range from those of the beginner to those of the more serious birder.

In traveling to birding "hot spots" around the country, I have gone on many professionally organized trips. But, more often, I've used local bird finding guides, such as the series written by James Lane, to steer me through an area. Many times these books provided all the direction I needed to find what I was looking for. This book started with the general concept of the various guides by Lane and others. Then modifications and improvements were added to accommodate the Jackson Hole birder. The goal of this guide is to provide the birder with all the information he or she needs to find the birds of our unique "hot spot", Jackson Hole.

DARWIN WILE

Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
1994

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to acknowledge some of the people who have helped us with *Finding the Birds of Jackson Hole*. We sincerely thank each of them for his or her effort. The book would be less without any one of them. If we have inadvertently overlooked anyone, we apologize.

Editing is so important. Katy Duffy (Park Ranger at Grand Teton National Park) and Mike Wile (whose idea the book was in the first place) read the manuscript and attempted to keep us technically correct. Lynette Wile edited the copy. She corrected the many grammatical shortcomings and tried to make things more readable.

Special contributions were made by Jennifer Ziegler from the Teton Science School and our mountain man pal, Tom Michael. Jennifer provided the geology illustrations and helped greatly with the geological descriptions and references in the text. Tom walked many of the trails with us and always offered unique and colorful observations.

Others contributing (knowingly or not) include Mike Hedrick and Roxy Rogers (National Elk Refuge); Eric Stone (Teton Science School); Bob Oakleaf, Dave Lockman, and Dan Stevenson (Wyoming Game and Fish Department); Richard Shaw (Utah State University); Will Russell (Wings); Cindy Lippincott (American Birding Association); Meredith Campbell; Bob Wood; Eddie Bowman; Dan Abrams and Tom Toman. And last, but far from least, "Woots" Orwig and Albert Seppi (WGNSS).

We sincerely thank the past and present members and friends of the Jackson Hole Bird Club and the many hundreds of birders who have carefully recorded their bird observations in Jackson Hole and returned their "Jackson Hole Bird Checklist". Thanks also to the publishers of that list: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Grand Teton Natural History Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Raven; Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes; Bohemian and Cedar  
Waxwings; and our nesting Sparrows - Brewer's, Vesper, Lincoln's,  
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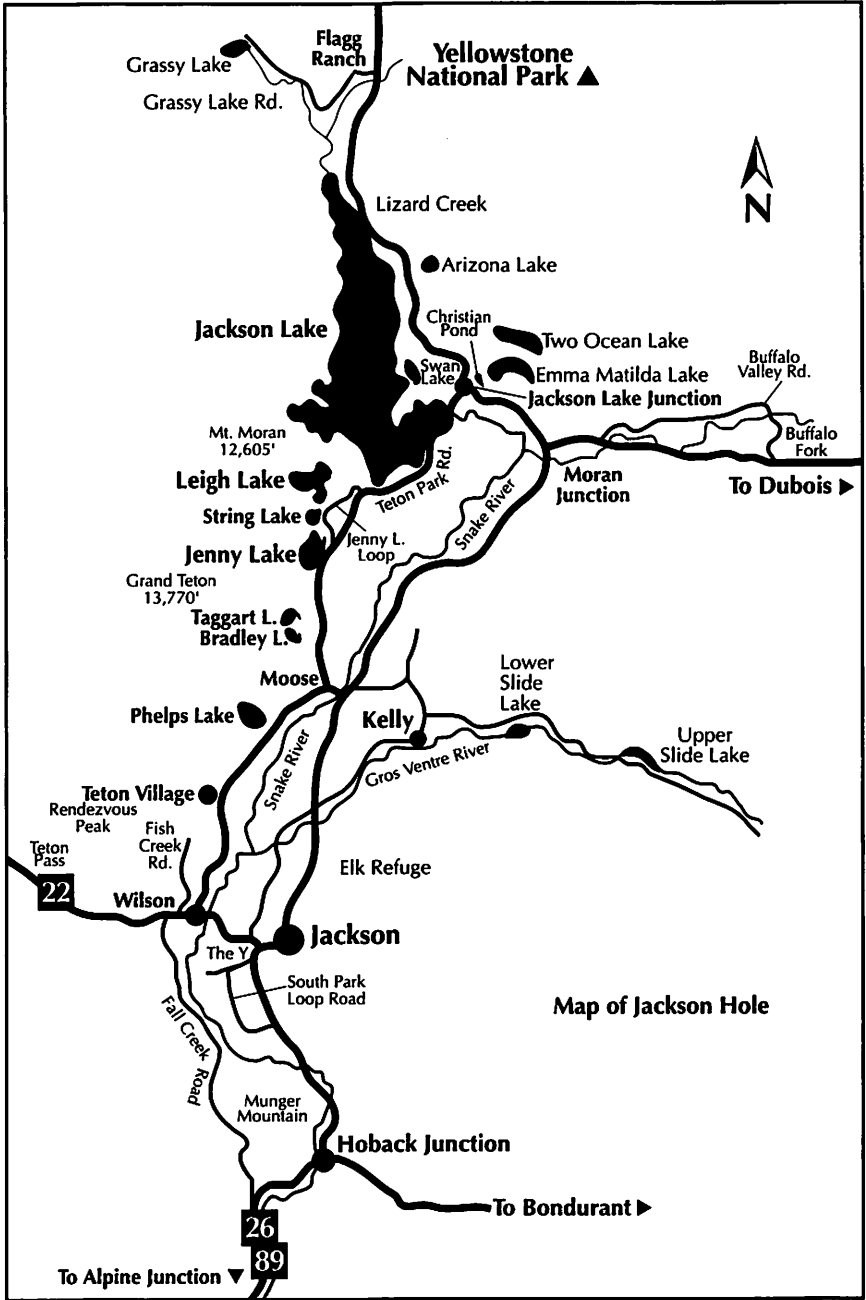
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Map of Jackson Hole

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The beginning of this guide (pages 1-14) is designed to provide you with useful and interesting information about the Jackson Hole area and should make your birding more enjoyable. Reading about weather and altitude expectations, difficulty of terrain, and necessary clothing and equipment will prepare you for the unique conditions of this area. Other information provided – including important telephone numbers and addresses – will simplify your planning.

The habitat descriptions of the area (pages 14-18) include the kind of birds you might expect to see in each habitat. Reading this section better prepares you to identify unfamiliar species and songs by associating birds with their expected habitats.

Driving loops (pages 19-60) are organized to enable you to plan your birding trips based upon your available time and individual interests. Each of the six driving loops is designed to take about a day. Optional walks are included for the birder with more time. Mileage, approximate time required, and difficulty of terrain are included for each loop and the walking options within the loops.

Day hikes (pages 61-89) are included for the birder who has the time, interest, and energy to take advantage of some of Jackson Hole's wonderful hiking trails. Distance, altitude changes, and degree of difficulty are included for each hike.

The section called "Birds to Look For" (pages 90-116) includes all of the species which are seen in Jackson Hole at least "occasionally" as well as some of the more interesting rare and accidental birds. The best locations to see most of the birds are mentioned. This makes it easy for the birder to decide which birds to target and to plan an appropriate itinerary.

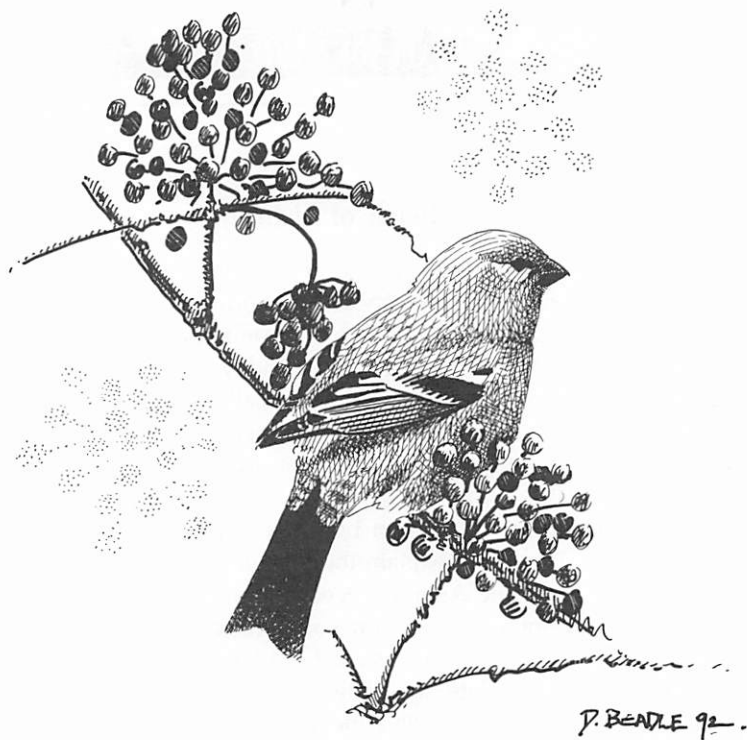
The checklist (pages 117-126) includes all of the Jackson Hole birds, from the abundant to the accidental. It designates which seasons to expect them and notes their breeding status. (Jackson Hole has not been heavily birded over the years. You might surprise yourself, and us, with some very interesting observations. Keep your eyes open!)

A review of some of our most confusing birds has been included (pages 127-135) to help the birder who may not be familiar with some of these species. This section may eliminate your having to carry other reference books with you while you are in the field.

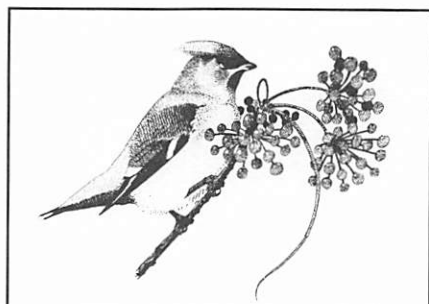
Brief guides to the mammals, wildflowers, and trees of Jackson Hole, including checklists, can be found on pages 136-147.

Finally, a reference list and an index are included for your convenience (pages 148-157).





Pine Grosbeak



## JACKSON HOLE

### A Touch of History

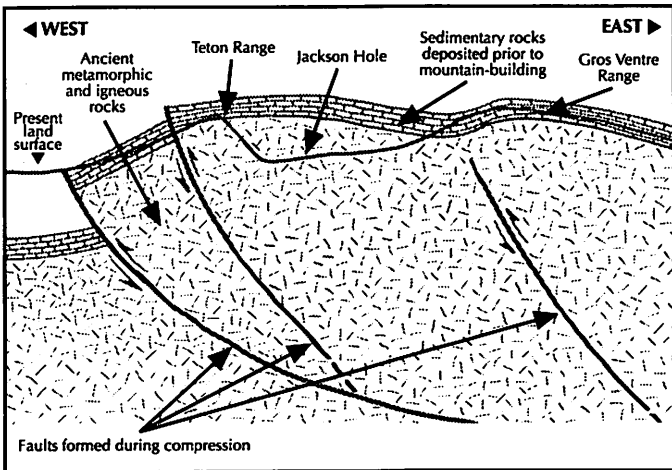
If, geologically speaking, the Rocky Mountains deserve to be called adolescent, the Tetons should be considered infants. "Only" about nine million years ago did these granite peaks emerge from a north-south fault in the valley floor. Today the Tetons dominate Jackson Hole. The mountains rise dramatically without the benefit of foothills to soften the effect. Seven peaks exceed 12,000 feet, with the highest, the Grand Teton at 13,700 feet, towering more than 7000 feet over the valley below.

Understanding mountain building requires a knowledge of Plate Tectonic Theory. To explain the phenomenon of the Tetons, we have to go east to the Atlantic Ocean floor where, for millions of years, volcanic forces have been continuously creating new crust along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. As crust is added to the eastern edge of the North American Plate, the plate moves westward away from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The North American Plate, being more buoyant than the Pacific Plate, rides over it and subducts it, or pushes it down. This subduction was going on 90 million years ago with the impact of the North American Plate being pushed over the Pacific Plate creating much stress. The response to this compression was the formation of an ancient Teton Range. At that time "Jackson Hole" was probably higher than the present day Tetons.

After millions of years of "compression", about 9-11 million years ago Jackson Hole began to witness the phenomenon of "extension", or a pulling apart, which created a stress of a different kind.

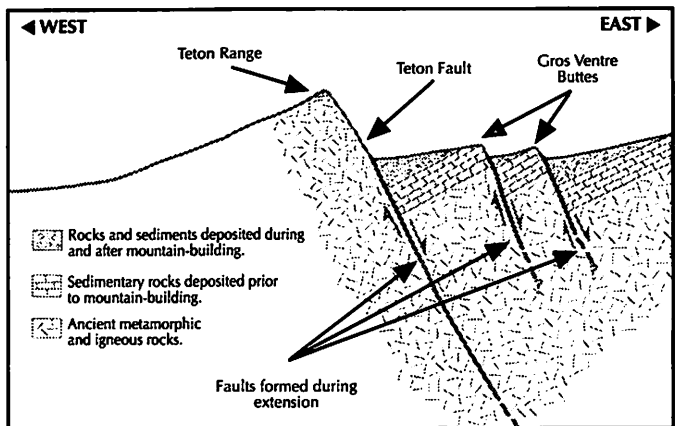
Earthquakes and faults began to wreak geologic havoc. One major fault system is responsible for the creation of Jackson Hole. Many other lesser faults left their mark on the landscape as well, some of the most noticeable results being East and West Gros Ventre and Miller buttes.

Jackson Hole continues to "sink" along the Teton Fault. As the valley sinks, it puts tremendous pressure on the molten layer far below. The sinking valley displaces the molten rock which in turn pushes the Teton Range up, on the average, one inch for each four inches the valley floor drops.



*Simplified schematic cross-section illustrating the formation of an ancient Teton Range. The present land surface is shown for reference.*

*Simplified schematic cross-section illustrating the formation of the present day Teton Range and Jackson Hole.*



Mighty glaciers also played a major part in shaping the landscape of Jackson Hole. About 200,000 years ago, an enormous glacier literally filled the valley with ice and left vast quantities of debris in its melting wake. Another glacial period occurred 35,000-80,000 years ago. While ice did not fill the valley, it did come into it and deposited low ridges of silt-bearing material extending across the valley floor. Today, conifers and mixed woods cover these terminal moraines and contrast dramatically with the sage growing on the dry, sandy flats nearby. If you stand on Signal Mountain and look south, you should be able to see these islands of greenery.

The most recent glacial age, "only" about 15,000 years ago, left its mark at the foot of the Teton Range. The ice descended from the mountains, carrying rocks and debris to the front, forming terminal moraines. When the ice fields receded, the debris remained, impounding the melting waters. Today, gorgeous lakes, such as Phelps, Taggart, Bradley, Jenny, String, Leigh, and Jackson, lie like a string of pearls, jewels wrought by the mighty glaciers.

The last of the glaciers receded. As the conditions became more hospitable, stone age dwellers began to arrive in Jackson Hole about 10,000 years ago. Primitive cultures lived in the valley off and on for centuries. Curiously, nothing has been found to indicate human presence in Jackson Hole between 1640 and 1811, even though Native American cultures prospered in the areas surrounding the valley during that time.

The Lewis and Clark expedition missed Jackson Hole by passing far to the east and north of the valley. But one of the members of that party, an early beaver trapper named John Colter, later became the first white man to see the Tetons when he walked through Jackson Hole in 1808. The beaver trade prospered until 1840, and, during the early part of the nineteenth century, Jackson Hole became a crossroads for the fur trappers. Mountain men with familiar names like Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, Bill Sublette, Joe Meek, Jim Beckwourth, and, of course, David Jackson all trapped the valley and attended "Rendezvous" in Pierre's Hole on the west side of the Tetons.

Soon silk hats for men replaced those made of beaver in the fashion world of London and New York, and the fur trade declined. Jackson Hole became quiet again between 1840 and 1870 with few records of human activity.

Early settlers and explorers began arriving in the 1870's along with various government survey teams. One of the earliest settlers, Beaver Dick Leigh, lived off the land with his Shoshone wife, Jenny, when he was not guiding government teams. Much of their story was captured in Beaver Dick's diary which, along with Leigh and Jenny Lakes, keeps their memory alive.

President Chester A. Arthur organized a fishing expedition to Jackson Hole and Yellowstone in 1883. Also, hunters from the East began arriving in the 1890s just about the time the town of Jackson was springing up. Like other towns in the West, Jackson endured its share of outlaws, killing, and gambling.

The turn of the century ushered in ranching — both dude and cattle. But the event which single-handedly most shaped the nature of Jackson Hole today was a visit by John D. Rockefeller in 1926. Convinced of the need to protect the valley from exploitation, Rockefeller, through the Snake River Land Company, bought up much of the land. His generosity eventually enabled the government to create Grand Teton National Park.

Today, most of Jackson Hole is publicly owned and controlled either by the National Park Service or the Forest Service. The relatively small amount of land still held privately is predictably under great development pressure. Simultaneously, growing tourism creates its own kinds of pressure. Nevertheless, Jackson Hole manages to hold on to its western charm and its outdoor character. Even though the healthily diverse permanent community is struggling with its identity, fortunately, the pristine destiny of this great natural treasure seems to be assured.



## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Expectations

**CLIMATE** — A semi-arid climate brings less than 20 inches of precipitation annually to Jackson Hole. A good percentage of that amount comes in the form of snow. Uncompromising winter rages from December through March, during which several feet of snow blanket the valley. The mountains lie buried ten to twenty feet under. Daytime temperatures tend to be in the 20s and 30s while most nights find the mercury falling well below zero.

Short and unpredictable springs come in April and May, melting the snow and often bringing rain. As the snow recedes up the mountain sides, flowers emerge and blazingly cover the meadows. Temperatures average in the 50s and 60s during the day and 20s and 30s at night.

Lovely summers nurture the valley from June through August. Usually, the sun shines continuously and is only occasionally interrupted by scattered afternoon thunder showers. Temperatures rise into the 70s and low 80s in the day and cool off to the 40s and 50s at night.

September and October are wonderful. Snow covers the high mountains while the sun continues to shine in the valley. Autumn colors reach their peak during this time, usually in early October. Daytime temperatures stay in the 50s and 60s while the mercury sinks into the teens and 20s at night. November can be as lovely as September or as wintry as December—it's hard to say.

Whatever time of the year you come to Jackson Hole—be prepared! Mountains make it difficult for anyone to predict weather. Storms come up suddenly. Snow can fall anytime, especially at the higher elevations, and there is no month in which the valley is certain to be frost free.

Make sure you have a wool sweater and jacket in the summer, and be prepared for the worst in the winter. At these elevations you'll need an appropriate sun screen and sun glasses year round.

**PESTS** —You'll be annoyed by few natural pests in Jackson Hole — no poisonous snakes, poison ivy, or fleas. Only a few rabies cases have been reported, and those only in bats. We do have some ticks, especially in the spring. And sometimes we have more than our share of mosquitoes and biting flies.

**CLOTHING** — Use your normal strategy for outdoor dressing. "Layering" makes sense all year. Small backpacks or fanny packs enable you to bring along rain gear, a water bottle, and a lunch. Jackson Hole enjoys the informal spirit of the West, so you won't really need anything dressy even for the evenings.

**EQUIPMENT** — A good pair of water resistant hiking shoes and wool socks are recommended. Bring a water bottle or two (see **WATER** below). You can get by with just your binoculars, but a scope may be helpful, especially to check out the shorebirds along Jackson Lake. With this guide and your favorite field manual, you should be able to find and identify almost anything you're looking for. Respectfully, we prefer that you leave your tapes at home.

**WHEN TO COME** — The best birding in Jackson Hole is surely in the late spring and early summer. (References to seasons in the text of this manual assume a literal interpretation. That is, "spring" means March 22-June 21, "summer" means June 22-September 21, etc.) At that time the bird population soars, the back roads open, river access improves, and you can walk the trails. With few exceptions, you can see all of Jackson Hole's birds in late spring and early summer. But don't disregard the winter. While winter birding doesn't offer quantity, you'll be rewarded with some very interesting sightings such as Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting.

**ALTITUDE** - Remember, the valley lies higher than 6000 feet. The tree line runs at 10,500 feet. Take a few days to acclimatize before exercising strenuously. Walk slowly and stop often. You'll see more.

**DIFFICULTY OF TERRAIN** - Hikes in Jackson Hole range in difficulty from an easy walk to a "technical" climb of one of the peaks (using ropes and other climbing equipment). None of the hikes described in this manual requires any more skill than the ability to walk on a trail. Each option will be classified as "Easy" (just a walk), "Moderate" (some hills), or "Difficult" (steep hills). Almost anybody who can walk a mile or so on flat terrain will be able to handle the "Easy" hikes. "Moderate" ones require the ability to walk up a hill for about a half mile or for ten minutes. And, to handle a "difficult" hike, a birder should be reasonably fit, working out on a regular basis, and able to walk slowly but steadily uphill for at least an hour.

**HUNTERS** - Hunting season is in late summer through early winter. Be prudent if you're leaving the roads. Wear orange. Check with the appropriate authorities to see where and when hunting is permitted.

**WATER** - Don't drink from lakes or streams. Sorry to say — even the clearest mountain streams may carry giardia. Some people use filters, but the safest course is to carry your water with you.



**WHERE TO STAY** - Jackson Hole can accommodate anyone's needs for hotels, camp grounds, restaurants, etc. Make reservations well in advance, especially in the summer and during the ski season. For information, write or call the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box E, Jackson, Wyoming, 83001. Phone - (307) 733-3316.

**ORGANIZATIONS** - Some organizations that you may want to contact before or during your visit to Jackson Hole are listed below with addresses and phone numbers (area code 307).

*Jackson Hole Bird Club* - A modest group of dedicated amateurs meets on the second Sunday of every month. Times and places of the meetings are announced in the local newspapers. Winter meetings tend to be educational, often with outside speakers and presentations. Visitors are welcome at meetings.



*Grand Teton National Park* – P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012. Phone - 739-3300. The park and its concessioners offer accommodations, restaurants, shops, campgrounds, service stations, groceries, marinas, float trips and many other services. Bird hikes led by rangers are scheduled in the summer.

*Grand Teton Natural History Association* – P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012. Phone - 739-3404. This private not for profit organization operates bookstores in visitor centers in the park, in Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests, and in the National Elk Refuge.

*National Elk Refuge* - P.O. Box C, Jackson, Wyoming, 83001. Phone - 733-9212. While the refuge is best known as a winter range and feeding ground for an average of 7,500 elk in the winter, birds and other wildlife thrive throughout the year. Nearly 175 bird species have been spotted on the refuge. In winter, horse-drawn sleighs take visitors out to the elk herds. Refuge headquarters remains open all year from 8:00 to 4:30.

*Bridger-Teton National Forest* - P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, Wyoming, 83001. Phone - 739-5500. The National Forest borders Jackson Hole on three sides. Recreational activities provided by the forest service include campgrounds, swimming, fishing, hunting, hiking, and boating. Skiing and snowmobiling are permitted in the winter.

*Teton Science School* - P.O. Box 68, Kelly, Wyoming, 83011. Phone - 733-4765. Located in Grand Teton National Park, the school offers courses in the natural sciences, including several courses on birds. Day and residential programs are included for young students and adults.

*Yellowstone National Park* - P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 82190. Phone - 344-7381. The nation's oldest national park, Yellowstone offers extensive services, including a marina on Yellowstone Lake. No one should come to Wyoming without reserving at least a couple days for Yellowstone.

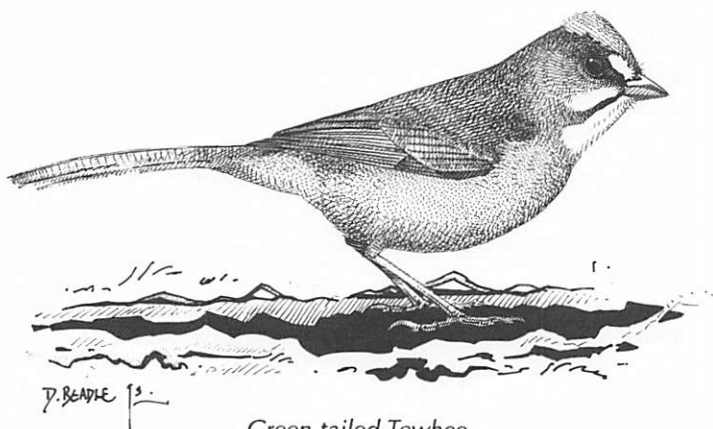
#### OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Area Code 307)

Emergency	911
Teton County Sherriff	733-4052
Jackson Police	733-1430
Road Report	733-9966
Weather Forecast	733-2664
Wyoming Game and Fish	733-2321

MAPS/OTHER INFORMATION - More detailed maps than those in this field guide are available at Grand Teton National Park Headquarters in Moose. Additional information can also be obtained from the respective National Park, Refuge, and National Forest offices above.

JACKSON HOLE BIRD CHECK LIST - A free check list is available at the headquarters of Grand Teton National Park, National Elk Refuge, and the National Forest. Please take the time to acquire a checklist, fill it in during or after your trip, and send it to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in its convenient, postage paid, business reply format.

FEEDING WILDLIFE - Feeding wildlife is prohibited by Grand Teton National Park. Please abide by this rule, not only in the park, but all over Jackson Hole as well.



*Green-tailed Towhee*

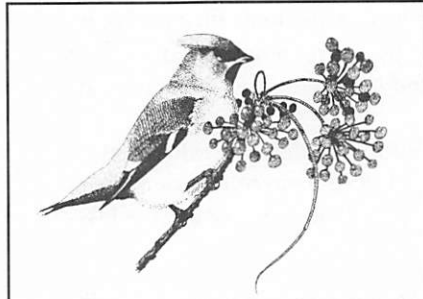
## ETIQUETTE

The American Birding Association provides excellent guidelines for birding behavior in its Code of Ethics. Follow their guidelines, reprinted below, and you will have a positive impact on the birding world.

1. Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife.

- Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any way.

- Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.
  - Only sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and do not use these methods in heavily birded areas.
  - Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger.
  - Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.
2. Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment.
- Stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.
  - Leave all habitat as we found it.
3. Birders must always respect the rights of others.
- Respect the privacy and property of others by observing “No Trespassing” signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
  - Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern public use of birding areas.
  - Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, we will limit our requests for information, and we will make them at reasonable hours of the day.
  - Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.
4. Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities.
- As group members, we will*
- Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.
  - Act in consideration of the group’s interest, as well as our own.
  - Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.
- As group leaders, we will*
- Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
  - Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.
  - Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.
  - Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.



## HABITAT

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** *Thinking back to my early days of birding, I remember how I was oriented to identify birds only by their field marks. Bill Rudden, an early mentor, tried (in vain, I'm afraid) to teach me to "feel the difference" between Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers in winter plumage while I kept looking for the disparity in field marks. I began to realize the limitations of my approach and to recognize how much more was involved in identifying birds.*

*If I could do it again, I would learn birding differently. Thanks to Bert's influence, I would start out paying more attention to habitat. Both of us wanted this manual to have a strong habitat section. I wrote the descriptions below (using Bert's idea that Jackson Hole can be divided into seven distinct habitats) with the hope that it would give the reader a head start on "finding the birds of Jackson Hole" .*

*Darwin Wile*

Bird identification usually involves more than comparing a sitting bird with an illustration in a field manual. Seldom do birds pose so cooperatively. Birders rely on other clues to determine a bird's identity. Songs, behavior, profiles, and size all help. And so does the habitat in which we find the bird. Jackson Hole can reasonably be divided into seven major habitats. Becoming familiar with these habitats should be worth the effort. Many experienced birders practice "habitat birding". If you're looking for a specific bird, visualize the habitat where you would expect to find it. If you're in a certain habitat, visualize the birds that are likely to be there.

**RIPARIAN** — Jackson Hole is drained by four major rivers, three of them are tributaries of the fourth, the Snake River. The Snake flows from its headwaters west through Yellowstone National Park and then south through Jackson Hole. The first major stream coming from the east, the Buffalo Fork, flows through Buffalo Valley and joins the Snake near Moran Junction. The Gros Ventre River also flows from the east and joins the Snake at the north end of West Gros Ventre Butte. The Hoback River, from the east as well, joins the Snake at Hoback Junction.

The bottomlands of the rivers and streams support many of our birds. Some live in these areas and others come there only to feed and drink. American White Pelicans, Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead, and Common Mergansers can be found on the streams. Look for Great Blue Herons and Spotted Sandpipers on or near the sandy shores. Ospreys and Bald Eagles nest in the cottonwoods near the banks. Woodpeckers, Northern Orioles, Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Warbling Vireos also are found in the cottonwoods. The brushes and willows are habitat for Willow Flycatchers, warblers (Yellow, Wilson's, MacGillivray's, and Common Yellowthroats), and sparrows (Song and Lincoln's).

All the driving loops in this manual take advantage of access to this habitat. Some of the short walks outlined in the loops also lead you through riparian areas.

**LAKES, PONDS, AND NEARBY MARSHES** — While the deep, cold lakes at the foot of the Tetons (Jenny, Bradley, Taggart, and Phelps) seldom produce many birds, other, more shallow, lakes and ponds with marshy surroundings support many important bird populations in Jackson Hole.

The impounding of Jackson Lake has created thousands of acres of shallow water and some marshy and mudflat habitat. A large percentage of the valley's bird species may be found on or near Jackson Lake. Loons (during migration), grebes, swans, pelicans, cormorants, and many of our ducks swim on this large lake. The seasonal mudflats to the north of the dam host many of our migratory shorebirds, including avocets, yellowlegs, dowitchers, and "peeps". The willowy, marshy areas near the lake's tributaries are alive in the spring with the songs of Willow Flycatchers, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, and Song and Lincoln's Sparrows. And the mixed woodlands and open, brushy areas near the lake shores support a rich variety of birds.

Many of the smaller lakes and ponds in the valley provide similar habitat and support many of the same birds as Jackson Lake. Most of the driving loops and day hikes include marshes, lakes, and ponds in their descriptions. The Grand Teton National Park Loop includes several access points to Jackson Lake, and the Colter Bay/Jackson Lake Lodge area trails access Jackson, Two Ocean, and Emma Matilda Lakes as well as many smaller lakes and ponds.

**SAGEFLATS AND GRASSLANDS** - Much of the valley floor is covered with sage. Native grasses also thrive in many areas. And cattle ranching has created thousands of acres of irrigated hayfields. Birds using these habitats don't generally sit around and pose for pictures. It's best to get them early in the morning, especially during breeding, when they're perched on the sage or on a fence post singing their hearts out.

Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, and Sage Grouse will all be found in the sageflats. Long-billed Curlew, Western Meadowlark, Mountain Bluebird, and Savannah Sparrow all call the grasslands home.

All of the driving loops except the Buffalo Valley and Alpine-Gray's River loops include sageflats and grasslands.

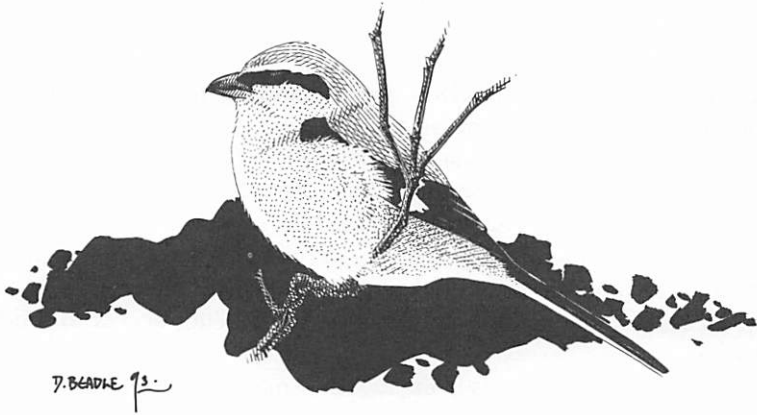
**FORESTED FOOTHILLS AND MORAINES** - The eastern slope of the Teton Range came about largely as the result of the valley floor slipping down the plane of the Teton Fault. Typically, mountains formed in this manner do not have foothills, and the Tetons are no exception. However, the glaciers deposited debris along the base of the mountain range on which forests of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and Douglas fir have grown. Aspens have also found the moraine hospitable in some areas.

Mountains on the east side of the valley tend to have foothills. Douglas fir forests generally grow on their north- and east-facing slopes. Their south-facing hills are less heavily forested, with stands of lodgepole pine and quaking aspen quite often interspersed with open areas.

Owls, accipiters, Hairy Woodpeckers, Hammond's Flycatchers, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Western Tanagers inhabit the deep forests. Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers, Downy

Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Olive-sided and Dusky Flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewees, Tree Swallows, Steller's Jays, House Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Townsend's Solitaires, Cedar Waxwings, Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned Warblers, Red Crossbills, Lazuli Buntings, and Cassin's Finches are attracted to the open woods, aspen stands, and woodland margins. And hummingbirds, Lincoln's Sparrows, and Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers like the brushy, open meadows.

The Valley Trail contains a number of day hikes which run through this habitat. Most of the driving loops also have short walks into this or similar habitat.



*Northern Shrike*

**MOUNTAIN SLOPES** - Conifer forests comprised of Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir, and subalpine fir grow among the rock outcroppings between the forests of the foothills and moraines and the treeless alpine regions. Whitebark pine stands occur above 8000 feet; and mountain meadows cover more of the mountainsides than the forests do. Aspen stands become fewer and smaller while the birds become fewer and larger. Common Ravens, Golden Eagles, Steller's and Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, and an occasional Peregrine Falcon all frequent this habitat.

Only the day hike up (or down) the Rendezvous Mountain ski trail passes through mountain slope habitat. While the birds aren't numerous, the terrain is unique in the valley, and the views are marvelous.

**SUBALPINE** — At or above tree line, this high mountain habitat endures harsh conditions. Hard winds and low temperatures allow only low-growing vegetation above 10,000 feet. The growing season for alpine flowers lasts only a few weeks.

Our vertical migrants, such as Rosy Finches and American Pipits, nest here. Common Ravens, Clark's Nutcrackers, White-crowned Sparrows, Golden Eagles, and Tree Swallows all spend some time in this habitat.

The Rendezvous Mountain ski trail hike is the only trip in this book reaching subalpine habitat. If you're looking for Rosy Finch or American Pipit, and you don't want to endure a long climb, your best bet is taking the tram from Teton Village. The only other alternative is to wait until winter when these birds come down to the valley floor.

**TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS** — During the long, hard winters in the northern Rockies, the towns enhance the birding in two ways:

1. The towns are warmer. They are at the lower elevations, and, in the case of Jackson and Wilson, lie at the warmer, southern end of the valley. And the towns create their own heat – woodstoves, electric lights, automobile engines, and people. Snowfall is lighter than in the mountains, and the heat and activity of the towns results in far less accumulation, affording the birds better access to food sources.

2. People feed birds in the towns — many of them, intentionally, with feeders and more of them, inadvertently, with their shrubs.

While summer birding is sometimes good in the towns and settlements, in the winter, the birds "flock" to the plowed roads and sheltered places like Jackson, Wilson, Kelly, Teton Village, and the housing areas in Moose and Moran. Birding the settlements in winter should net Steller's Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, Common Ravens, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos, Rosy Finches, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Townsend's Solitaires, Bohemian Waxwings, and Red Crossbills.

Settlement habitats are included in all of the driving loops.





## DRIVING (OR BIKING) LOOPS

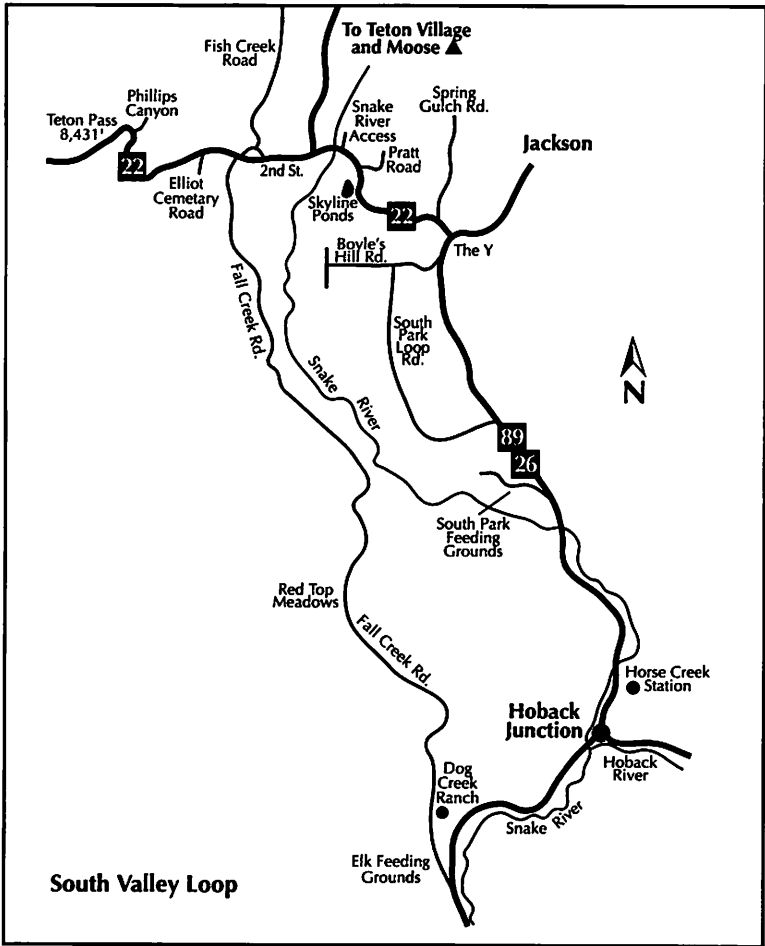
Itineraries have been designed to produce the greatest variety of birds. All the routes offer dividends of spectacular scenery, mammals of all sizes, and wonderful plant life. Driving loops are set up for about one day each. Most of the references are for spring and summer birding unless otherwise noted. If you have certain birds you are targeting, you may want to alter the order of the loops. For example, if you're looking for Sage Thrasher, you may want to be at the airport early in the morning when they are singing rather than later in the day, as would be the case if you drove the loop as presented in the text. Maps are included with the loops.

### **South Valley Loop**

Approximately one day, mostly driving, with short, easy walks. Begin at the intersection of Highways 22 and 89, often called "the Y" by locals.

Take Highway 22 west toward Wilson. At about .6 miles, on a clear day, glance to the right down Spring Gulch and see if you can pick out the Grand Teton.

At 2.6 miles, pull completely off the paved road onto the grass shoulder on the right. Skyline Ponds lie on the other (south) side of the road. You should have no trouble finding the Osprey nest on the power pole. When the water is low, these ponds are good for migrating shorebirds. Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs,



Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Common Snipe were all recorded here in the spring of 1993. Ducks found on Skyline Ponds include Mallard, all three teal, Gadwall, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. Trumpeter Swans, Wilson's Phalaropes, and White-faced Ibis sometimes visit Skyline. Yellow-headed Blackbirds nest there, and all six of our swallows dine above the ponds at one time or another.

Continue west .4 mile (3.0 miles from "the Y"). If you happen to be here in April, turn right along Pratt Road and check the ranch-

lands to the north and west of this road. Almost every spring these fields become flooded. When this happens, a true Jackson Hole phenomenon occurs, and literally thousands of migratory waterfowl spend a week or two on this temporary lake. You can find all our usual ducks, but the real fun is looking for the rarities. Recently a Eurasian Wigeon was recorded here, and about a dozen Wood Ducks showed up in 1993.

Return to Highway 22 from Pratt Road and continue driving west another .6 mile to the Snake River access northeast of the bridge (3.6 miles from "the Y" ). Check the ponds and river for ducks, Belted Kingfishers, and Spotted Sandpipers. Warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, and, in winter, Northern Shrikes can be found in the willows and cottonwoods around the parking area.

Return to Highway 22 and cross the Snake River, looking for a Belted Kingfisher on the power lines to the north of the bridge. Drive 1.7 miles from the access to the town of Wilson. You will pass the turnoff to Teton Village. (Note – see the Teton Village-Moose-Airport-Spring Creek Loop.) If you happen to be going through this intersection just after dark, look for a Great Horned Owl on the poles holding up the stoplight. Check for moose in the cottonwoods on either side of the road, especially in winter. After the cottonwood stands, you drive through ranchlands with hay fields on either side. Raptors often hunt these fields (Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks in the summer and Rough-legged Hawks in the winter), and usually a Great Blue Heron or two can be seen on either side of the road. Upon entering Wilson, turn right on Second Street (5.3 miles from "the Y"). Drive .2 miles, crossing the bridge, and then turn right on Fish Creek Road. (Note: In winter, as you drive around the village of Wilson, watch for flocks of Pine and Evening Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings.)

Fish Creek Road hosts a great variety of birds, making it one of the best drives in the valley. In winter this short drive can produce Canada Geese, Mallards, Gadwalls, both goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Bald Eagles, Northern Goshawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles, Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owls, Belted Kingfishers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Steller's Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, Black-billed Magpies, Common Ravens, both chickadees, both nuthatches, Brown Creepers, American Dippers, Bohemian

Waxwings, Northern Shrikes, Rosy Finches, Pine Grosbeaks, Red Crossbills, and Evening Grosbeaks.

Fish Creek Road passes through a variety of habitats. First you will see small ranches with corrals, good for Brewer's Blackbirds, Starlings, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. About one-third mile north on Fish Creek Road, the fields on either side become good for raptors, including Golden Eagles (especially in winter). At one mile north you should be able to pull off the road and check Fish Creek for ducks.

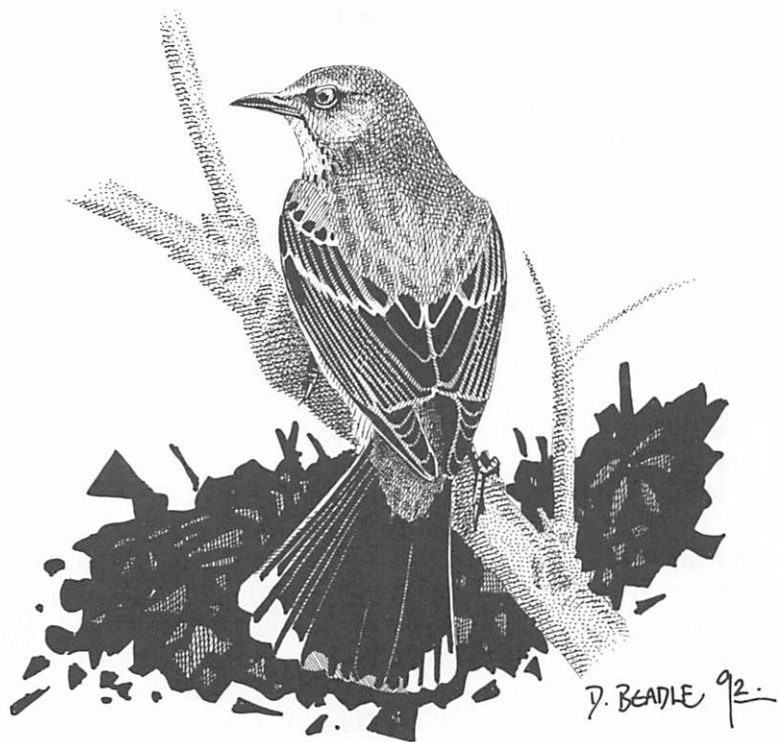
At 1.2 miles north, pull off the road to the right. Red-naped Sapsuckers and Tree Swallows nest in the aspen stand across the road. You should also see Northern Orioles, Western Tanagers, Yellow Warblers, and Warbling Vireos in the aspens and cottonwoods behind.

Cross Fish Creek at 1.5 miles and park in the small area southwest of and next to the bridge. Walk on to the bridge, looking up and down stream for American Dippers and ducks. Then walk north along the road about 200 yards. Good bets include Belted Kingfishers, accipiters, Broad-tailed and Calliope Hummingbirds, Song Sparrows, Warblers (Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Wilson's), Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Northern Flickers. At 1.9 miles, pull completely off the road. Brown Creepers and Steller's Jays are found in the conifers next to the creek while the hillside meadows across the road usually produce Broad-tailed Hummingbirds.

Drive to 2.1 miles and park in the pullout on the left. Walk across the road and check out the habitat below, and then walk along the road 100 yards or so in both directions. Eagles, Ospreys, Belted Kingfishers, hummingbirds (Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Calliope), American Dippers, all three grosbeaks, woodpeckers, accipiters, warblers, and ducks are all possible.

NOTE: The stretch of road between the bridge at 1.5 miles and the pullout at 2.1 miles runs through an excellent variety of habitat. If time permits, the reader may want to leave his or her car at the bridge and walk the 1.2 mile round trip.

Continue to 2.7 miles north and park in the area to the right. This lovely spot usually produces plenty of birds, and you should have no problem spotting trout in the pond. House Wrens nest in the conifers next to the cabin. Most of our warblers, including MacGillivray's, hang around the various habitats that come together here. Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous Hummingbirds; Song,



*Sage Thrasher*

Lincoln's, and Chipping Sparrows; Cordilleran and Dusky Flycatchers, as well as Western Wood-Pewees, are all good bets. Cassin's Finches, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Warbling Vireos regularly appear, and you might even see a Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, or a Ruffed Grouse.

At 3.0 miles, you can park in the pullout to the right and look for woodland birds such as chickadees, nuthatches, creepers, flycatchers, and juncos. From 3.0 to 4.6 miles, mixed habitat makes for interesting birding. Turn around at the end (4.6 miles) and retrace Fish Creek Road back to Wilson. At Main Street turn right and drive .4 mile to Highway 22. (At this intersection, you are a 5.5 mile drive from "the Y".)

Turn right on Highway 22 and drive .4 mile to Elliott Cemetery Road. Turn left and drive .3 miles through the lodgepole pine habitat. Park and walk around the small cemetery on the loop path. You should see Mountain Chickadees, Clark's Nutcrackers, Hammond's Flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Warbling Vireos, and Pine Siskins. Return to Highway 22.

If you still are looking for Red Crossbills, turn left and drive 2.8 miles uphill to the Phillips Canyon sign. Make a hard right and park. Walk a few hundred yards up the trail, past the Ski Lake and Phillips Pass sign. This area is good for Red Crossbills in the summer. White-winged Crossbills have also been recorded here.

If you're looking for Pine Grosbeaks, continue driving up to Teton Pass (another 2.3 miles). Park in the area on the south side of the road and take the trail to the south. Usually grosbeaks can be found in the summer. In the winter, Common Ravens are probably the only birds you'll find, but the views reward the effort of getting there.

Return 5.5 miles down toward Wilson. Turn right (south) on Fall Creek Road. (At this intersection you are 5.6 miles from "the Y" if you were to go straight on Highway 22.) The Fall Creek Road runs along the Snake River and then around Munger Mountain for 17.7 miles at which point it intersects with Highway 89 in the Snake River Canyon. Much of this road is gravel and is not open in the winter south of the settlement of Red Top Meadows. The first 4.6 miles of Fall Creek Road runs along Fish Creek to the point where it joins the Snake. At 4.6 miles, carefully pull off the road to the left. Scope the habitat below looking for Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and ducks.

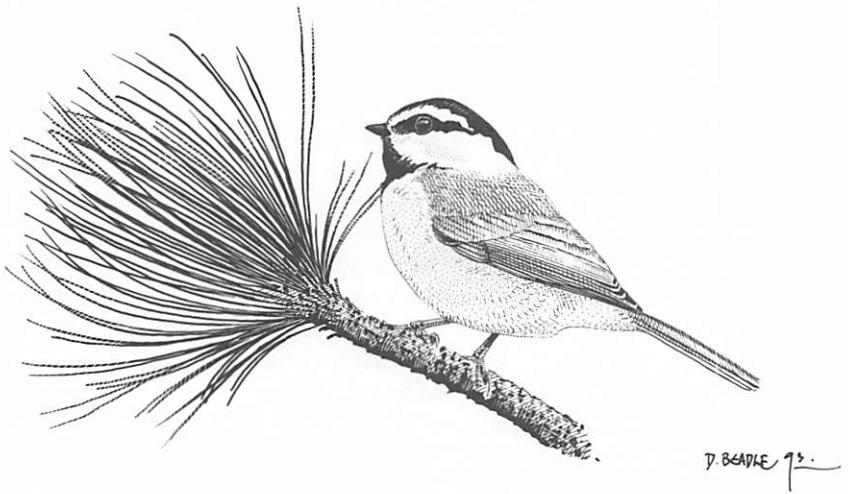
Continue south another 1.6 miles (6.2 miles from the Highway 22-Fall Creek Road intersection) and enter a lowland area with cottonwoods on the left and meadows on the right. Great Gray Owls inhabit this area. Search the woodland margins around the meadows for this, the largest of our owls. Also look to the east at the skies over the Snake River for Bald Eagles and American White Pelicans.

Leaving the lowland area after 2.3 miles, you gradually ascend the next .8 mile where a very rough road on the left turns off and climbs Munger Mountain. (Don't try it without a high clearance, four wheel drive vehicle.) For the next 1.5 miles you continue ascending through mixed forests. Look for Goshawks and other accipiters on this stretch. You will now approach the settlement of Red Top Meadows (10.8 miles from Highway 22-Fall Creek Road intersection). Drive slowly through the settlement and gradually descend for 1.5 miles. Now you enter a lovely valley where Fall Creek winds its way through the willows.

The hillside on the left is good for Green-tailed Towhees and, in wet springs, balsamroot covers any space not occupied by sagebrush. The willows on the right provide habitat for warblers, flycatchers, and moose. And, in the skies overhead, you are likely to see any of the accipiters, buteos, harriers, cranes, and maybe even a falcon or two. Continue through the valley for 2.4 miles where you will cross Fall Creek and then park in the pullout on the left. You are now 14.7 miles from the Highway 22 intersection and 3 miles from the Highway 89 intersection at the Snake River.

Walk back 50 yards or so to the bridge and beyond. You'll see most of the swallows, Willow Flycatchers, and warblers (Yellow, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's). Song Sparrows and Calliope Hummingbirds both find their homes in the willows. This may be the only place in Jackson Hole where you can easily and consistently see Gray Catbirds. Then walk about 100 yards south of where you parked. A small marsh to the left of the road is good for Soras and Common Snipe.

Return to your car and drive 2.3 miles through mixed woodlands and hillside meadows. Look for Olive-sided Flycatchers on tops of dead trees along the way. After descending into the Snake River Canyon, you will see the entrance to Dog Creek Ranch on the left. Pull off the road and look around the entrance area. Rosy Finches hang around here early in spring. Later in the season look for Lazuli



*Mountain Chickadee*



Bunting, Pine Siskin, and Northern Oriole. Then continue on for .5 mile. Pull into the track on the right. This is an elk feeding ground and is closed to public access from November to the end of April. After the beginning of May, marsh birding gets very good here. Look for Soras, Common Snipe, Great Blue Herons, Marsh Wrens, Belted Kingfishers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, and most of the swallows in the marshy areas. Western wood-pewees, Willow and Dusky Flycatchers, Western Tanagers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, and Northern Flickers inhabit the cottonwood stands. Look for goldeneyes and other ducks on the ponds and raptors along and above the cliffs.

Continue on Fall Creek Road .2 mile further until it intersects with Highway 89. You are now in the Snake River Canyon. Turn left and drive 4.2 miles to Hoback Junction, a settlement where the Hoback River flows into the Snake. As you drive north toward Hoback Junction, there are several pullouts on the right where you can park to check the Snake River for ducks. In winter, you are likely to see Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Common Mergansers. Look for Bald Eagles in and above the trees along the river year round.

When you reach Hoback Junction, reset your trip meter to zero. Drive north on Highway 89 and turn right into the parking lot of Horse Creek Station (1.2 miles), a very good local restaurant and bar. The owner faithfully feeds the birds all year long. In winter, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, Steller's Jays, Red Crossbills, and most of the other feeder birds will usually be seen. In summer, hummingbirds (Black-chinned has been reported here), Lazuli Buntings, Pine Siskins, and Goldfinches show up.

Continue north on Highway 89 until you reach the entrance (on the left) to a winter elk feeding ground operated by the Game and Fish Department (4.8 miles). This refuge is comprised of a wonderful variety of riparian, marsh, and grassland habitat. Stop after making the turn, and check the sage fields on either side for Brewer's and Vesper's Sparrows. You may see a Red-tailed Hawk in the cottonwoods to the left, and you certainly will see European Starlings which nest there. Ospreys and Great Horned Owls also nest in these cottonwoods and those further to the west.

Drive in the gravel road 1 mile and park by the small bridge. Before May 1 and after July 15 you may drive in another mile before coming to private lands. But, whenever you're there, you may prefer walking the easy mile each way. The birding is excellent. You should have little trouble finding, in their proper habitat, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Swallows (Tree, Violet-green, and Bank), Pine Siskins, American Goldfinches, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Common Snipe, Soras, Green-tailed Towhees, Lincoln's and Song Sparrows, Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Spotted Sandpipers, Western Wood-Pewees and Dusky Flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Orioles, Sandhill Cranes, and Black-billed Magpies. Savannah, Vesper, and Brewer's Sparrows will all be found in the grassy fields. And this may be the best place in the valley to find Eastern Kingbirds. Bald Eagles and American White Pelicans can often be seen soaring overhead. And, while you probably won't see any elk in the summer, you should pick up a coyote or two.

Drive north 1.4 miles on Highway 89 to the South Park Loop Road. If you come to Nora's Steak Pub, you've gone a few hundred yards too far. Turn left on the loop road and keep your eyes open for sparrows, Mountain Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, Eastern and, perhaps, an occasional Western Kingbird, raptors, and many of the birds of the open fields. The land around here is private, but the habitat is varied, and many of the valley's interesting sightings come from this area. If you have time, drive around the residential neighborhoods on the roads that are not marked private. From time to time get out of the car and see what you can see. The loop road heads west for 1.7 miles and then curves north for 3.4 miles. After the curve to the north, go .8 mile. Every year Northern Orioles nest in the cottonwoods on the right side of the road. Well over 100 species are seen each year in this stretch of 5.1 miles and the immediate area around the loop road.

The north-south leg of the loop road ends in a T-intersection with Boyle's Hill Road. Turn left and drive the 1.4 miles to the end where Boyle's Hill Road intersects with Ely Springs Road, a private road onto which you should not drive. There are several habitats you should check out along this 1.4 mile stretch. Ponds and marshes lie along both sides of the road. Grasslands and mixed woods also line the road. In spring these ponds welcome Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, Trumpeter Swans, Canada

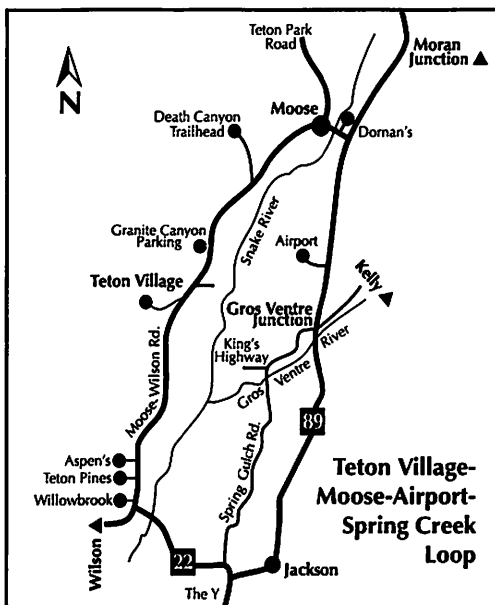
Geese, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Common Mergansers. Soras and Marsh Wrens inhabit the marshy areas. Ospreys nest here. Western Wood-Pewees, Northern Orioles, Townsend's Solitaires, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Dusky Flycatchers inhabit the mixed woods. Wilson's and Yellow Warblers, Savannah Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, and House Wrens can be found in the fields and thickets along the road. Unfortunately, some of this habitat is being lost to development. It remains to be seen what effect this will have on the birds.

Retrace the 1.4 miles back to the loop road intersection, and then continue straight 1.1 miles to Highway 89. Turn left and drive .5 miles where you'll have returned to the "Y".

### Teton Village-Moose-Airport-Spring Creek Loop

Approximately one day, mostly driving, with short, easy walks. Begin at the intersection of Highways 22 and 89. Locals call this intersection, "The Y". Note – the first 4 miles of this loop is identical to the first 4 miles of the South Valley Loop.

After driving west 4 miles from The Y on Highway 22, turn right at the Teton Village sign. You are now on the Moose-Wilson Road. The pond on your right immediately after making this turn is not often productive, usually having only a few Mallards and Gadwalls. Drive just .1 mile and turn right on the gravel road. Drive or walk the .3 mile to the river. Mixed habitat



on both sides of the road hosts Green-tailed Towhees, Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, Downy Woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewees, and Willow Flycatchers. In the winter, check the Snake for Common Mergansers, Barrow's Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads. In summer, look for all six swallow species, Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeer. You can park here and walk the river dike to the north for about a half mile.

Return to the highway, turn right, and drive .8 mile. Turn left at the Willowbrook sign and pull off the road to the right. Check the cottonwood/aspen stand for Cedar Waxwings, Grackles, Brewer's Blackbirds, House Wrens, Chipping Sparrows, and Yellow Warblers. In the willows by the stream, look for Willow Flycatchers and MacGillivray's Warblers. Return to your car and drive about one-half mile. You will go through an open area with willows and cottonwoods. For the past few years, an albino Red-tailed Hawk has been hanging around here. Drive another .4 mile, almost to the sewage treatment plant. In the aspens and willows look for Downy Woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Western Tanagers, nesting Tree Swallows, Warbling Vireos, and Pine Siskins. A Lewis's Woodpecker was spotted here recently. This area also is good for Swainson's Hawk and an occasional Goshawk.

Retrace your route to the Moose-Wilson Road, turn left, and drive 1.1 miles to the Teton Pines entrance. Usually they let you drive through the gate if you hold up your binoculars and tell them you just want to check out the birds. This up-scale development with an Arnold Palmer golf course has a few permanent residents who feed the birds. In winter, look for American Tree Sparrows, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, and Mountain Chickadees. Sometimes ducks are on the ponds, and owls and accipiters are not uncommon. On summer mornings, warblers, sparrows, and kinglets can be heard singing.

Go back to the entrance and turn left. Go .2 miles to the entrance for The Aspens, another residential development. Drive past the little shopping area and turn right on Lake Creek Drive. Stay to the right at each intersection. In summer and winter, this offers good "residential" birding. In summer, look for Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Broad-tailed and Calliope Hummingbirds, warblers, and White-crowned Sparrows. The feeders bring in many

birds in the winter. At Cottonwood Drive turn right. Go about 75 yards and check the small pond on the left - good for ducks in the winter. Go back to Lake Creek Drive and turn right. You can either stay on Lake Creek Drive which takes you back to the entrance or, if you have time, explore some of the other side streets.

When you return to the Moose-Wilson Road, turn left again. After driving two miles north of The Aspens, find a place to pull off the road to the right. Swainson's Hawks have nested in the aspens across the road, and, between here and the turn-off to Teton Village, you should see Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks in the summer and Rough-legged Hawks in the winter. As you continue, you will be driving through the Snake River Ranch. Look for cowboys working the cattle. You should be able to see the ski runs to the left on Rendezvous Mountain. In the summer, these ski runs magically become lovely mountain meadows choked with wild flowers. This stretch of road is also good for American Crows, a species that is becoming fairly common in Jackson Hole.

Go 2.2 miles further and turn left to Teton Village. Even though this area has three ski resorts, when people talk about skiing Jackson Hole, usually they mean Teton Village. The 4135 vertical foot drop is greater than any other ski area in the United States. Drive .3 mile and turn left. Go another .3 mile to Morley Road. You can continue on McCollister Road and bird the residential area which is especially good in winter when people are feeding. Or you can turn left on Morley, go .3 mile and turn right on Michael. Go .2 mile and park in the last condominium lot on the right. Walk to the trail that leads straight up into the aspen stand. You should see Mountain Chickadees, House Wrens, Tree Swallows, Downy Woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Northern Flickers, Western Wood-Pewees, both nuthatches, Cassin's Finches, and Pine Siskins. (See Teton Village Optional Walk.)

### **Teton Village Optional Walk**

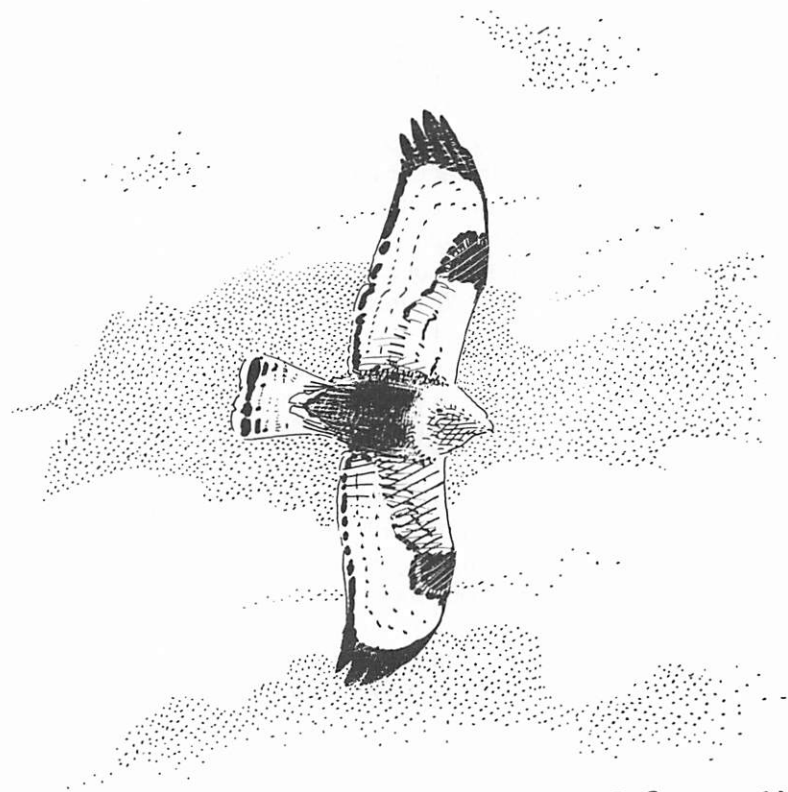
If you come to Jackson Hole on vacation, and your non-birding spouse will only give you a few hours to bird, you certainly should consider this trail. You will have a moderate walk up hill for about 1.3 miles and then an easy down hill return along the same way. Go to Teton Village and park in the lot at the end of Michael (described above).

Begin your walk through the mixed aspen and conifer forest following the trail up the easy hill for about 1/2 mile. You should see Western Wood-Pewees, Mountain Chickadees, House Wrens, Tree Swallows, Dusky Flycatchers, Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and maybe even a Brown Creeper. Turn left and up hill just before the ski lift terminus and walk through a series of aspen and mixed woods and open meadows. In addition to the birds mentioned above, you can reasonably expect to see any of the three accipiters; either eagle; all three common hummingbirds; Ruffed and Blue Grouse; Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers; Hairy Woodpeckers; Olive-sided, Dusky and Cordilleran Flycatchers; Clark's Nutcrackers, Gray and Steller's Jays; both nuthatches; both kinglets; Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes; Warbling Vireos; Yellow, Yellow-rumped, MacGillivray's, and even Townsend's Warblers; Western Tanagers; Black-headed Grosbeaks; Lazuli Buntings; Green-tailed Towhees; Chipping Sparrows; Dark-eyed Juncos; Northern Orioles; Pine Siskins; American Goldfinches; Red Crossbills; and Cassin's Finches.

After seeing a good many of these birds, turn around at the large boulder on the left just before the conifer forest and return. (Several habitats come together near the boulder, making it a good place to climb up onto and let the birds come to you while you rest before walking back to your car.) You may or may not be interested (or dismayed) to know that you are walking near the Teton Fault, an ongoing geological event which pretty much created Jackson Hole as we know it today.

Return to the Moose-Wilson Road and turn left toward Moose, keeping a lookout for raptors. After 1 mile bear left, following the sign to Moose. (This road is closed in the winter. Even so, the loop described up to this point is worth taking in the winter. For example, Snow Buntings can be found along this road north of Teton Village to where it is closed.) You are now entering an area where Great Gray Owls nest in some numbers. In the morning and evening, look for these owls along the margins of the sage fields you initially drive through. Vesper Sparrows and Mountain Bluebirds are easy to find in these fields. Much of this fairly busy road is gravel, so please drive carefully. Also, please note that motor homes, trailers, and busses are not permitted.

After driving 2.1 miles from the Teton Village turnoff, you reach



D. BEADLE '92

*Rough-legged Hawk*

the Granite Canyon parking area. (See Granite Canyon Parking Area to Valley Trail hiking option.) Keep alert for deer while driving through this wooded area. At 3.5 miles you come to a narrow bridge. Park in the pullout on the right after you cross the bridge. Walk back and look up and down stream for American Dippers. Continue on and park in the pullout at 4.6 miles. Perusing this area should produce Swainson's Thrushes in the woods on the right and MacGillivray's Warblers in the brush on the left. You should also find Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Western Wood-Pewees, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and the ubiquitous Warbling Vireo. Look for accipiters flying the ridge on the left, and check the woods to the right for Great Horned Owls.

At 5 miles you come to the Death Canyon Trailhead. (See Death Canyon/Beaver Creek Trail - Valley Trail hiking option.) Pull off the road at 5.4 miles. Be sure not to leave the public road. The people who live in the cabin 100 yards east of the road feed birds. In winter, hundreds of Rosy Finches hang out here. Pine and Evening Grosbeaks are also regular visitors in the winter. (You have to approach this spot from Moose in winter, since the road is closed to the south.) In summer look in the trees around the house and the aspen stand next to the road for grosbeaks, warblers, woodpeckers, and flycatchers. The beaver marsh to the east of the road can be productive for the next 500 yards north of the cabin. Look for Soras, Common Snipe, Song Sparrows, warblers, and flycatchers. One recent spring, a pair of Wood Ducks stayed around long enough to tease us into thinking they might nest there. They probably didn't.

Pull into the parking area at 6.8 miles. Often, especially in winter, a moose or two can be seen around the ponds below. The field to the south of this parking lot is filled with spring beauty and balsamroot in the spring. Walk 50 yards down the trail to where the boulders block the path. Then walk to the right along the tree line toward the road. The marshy area is good for Fox Sparrows and Willow Flycatchers.

At 7.1 miles, park again and walk 100 yards along the trail to the east. Green-tailed Towhees inhabit this sage field. The Sawmill Ponds below the overlook attract ducks during migration. Look below in the brush and across into the mixed forest and see how many species you can come up with. On a good day, you should have 20 species in 15 minutes.



Find a place to park off the road after you enter the aspen stand at about 7.5 miles. Woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, and creepers all can be found here. At 8 miles, you have arrived in Moose, Wyoming.

In some respects, the birding around Moose peaks in the winter. Some of the park employees who live in the village feed in the winter. Slowly drive the few streets, and you'll probably see some of your winter target birds. Typically you'll see Clark's Nutcrackers, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Rosy Finches, Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black-billed Magpies, and maybe even one or two wintering or early Red-winged Blackbirds. Perhaps you'll find a flock of Bohemian Waxwings. Next, drive east to the Snake River bridge, and park. Ducks wintering on the river near the bridge include Common Mergansers, Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, Mallards, and, often, Buffleheads.

Be sure to stop at the Grand Teton National Park Visitor Center. The park people are accomodating, and the Grand Teton Natural History Association operates an excellent bookstore there.

Winter or summer, you're probably ready for a break from the life of a naturalist. Drive east a few hundred yards from the Snake and turn left at the sign for Dornan's. This restaurant-tavern-general store exudes local color, and, incidentally, features enormous windows offering some of the best views of the Tetons (from tables warmed by an enormous fireplace). If you're lucky, you'll see a Bald Eagle soaring down the Snake in front of the Grand Teton, a sight you'll never forget.

Return to Teton Park Road and drive the few hundred yards to Highway 89. Turn right and drive 3.5 miles to the airport turnoff. In the winter, up to a dozen moose can be seen along this stretch of highway, not to mention Horned Larks and an occasional Snow Bunting. In spring, all the birds found at the airport in the description below can also be found near the pullouts along this section of Highway 89.

Turn right on the airport road, drive back to the parking lot, and find a place to park at the north end. Walk into the sage fields to the north and east of the airport parking area. You should find Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, Sage Thrashers, and, if you walk around these fields long enough, you should kick up Sage Grouse. You might even see pronghorn antelope in the summer.

Return to Highway 89, turn right, and drive 2.1 miles to the Gros Ventre Junction. In the winter, look for a Northern Shrike in one of the lonely trees along the way. In summer, look for Red-tailed or Swainson's Hawks. Turn right and drive .5 mile to the golf course intersection. Sage Grouse are often seen along this road. You can walk either side of the road and expect to find Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows and Sage Thrashers. Turn left on Spring Gulch Road, and you will now have a drive of 7.7 miles to Highway 22. This drive initially goes by the Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club and along the Gros Ventre River. Pull over near the club house (.8 mile after turning on to Spring Gulch Road) and check the cottonwoods on the left. Swainson's Thrushes, Yellow Warblers, and Red-naped Sapsuckers are good bets here.

At 1.6 miles, King's Highway branches off to the right. This diversion isn't necessary in the summer unless you're still looking for Savannah Sparrows. But, in the winter and early spring, the roadsides back this way can be good for Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

Continue on Spring Gulch Road, stopping after crossing the Gros Ventre River (at 1.8 miles). Check for Belted Kingfishers and other riparian birds and, in winter, for elk, deer, and moose. The tall cottonwoods to the south provide habitat for Black-capped Chickadees, Western Wood-Pewees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Yellow Warblers.

Stop again at 2.2 miles and check the cottonwoods lining the hay fields on both sides of the road for Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks. American Crows and Common Ravens should be hopping around the fields. American Kestrels and Northern Shrikes (in winter) like the power lines. Look for Mountain Bluebirds, Savannah Sparrows, and, possibly, a Say's Phoebe on the fence posts.

A small marshy area at 3.6 miles sometimes has Soras. Stop at 3.9 miles. foxtail barley lines the road, and the aspens and fireweed come all the way down the hill on the left. Look for American Goldfinches, Cedar Waxwings, and Downy Woodpeckers. A Northern Goshawk may be working the ridge above.

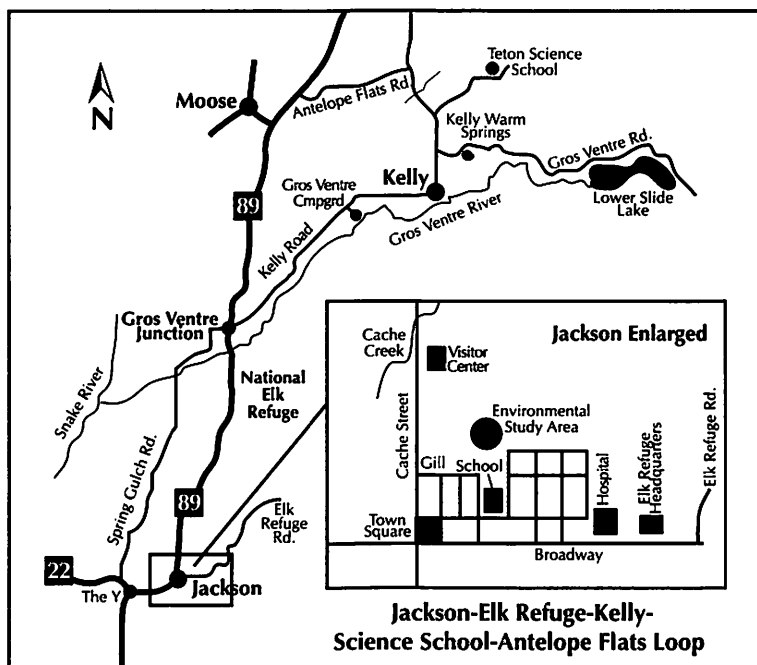
At 4.8 miles, check the rugged slope on the left for Rock Wrens. Late in the morning, high in the sky, you could see any of our raptors, but, most likely, Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks and Ospreys. Willow Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, and Black-capped Chickadees inhabit the willows on the right. Here the road runs through the Hansen Ranch. (Cliff Hansen both governed the state of

Wyoming and represented it in the United States Senate.)

At 7.7 miles you reach Highway 22. Turn left, drive .4 mile, and you return to "The Y" where you began this loop.

## Jackson-Elk Refuge-Kelly-Science School- Antelope Flats Loop

Approximately 1 day, with short, easy walks. Begin at the Jackson town square with the elk antler arches.



In winter, some of the best birding in the valley can be found in the town of Jackson. Drive around the residential areas looking for feeders. Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Evening Grosbeaks are regular visitors. Look in the trees for flocks of Red Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, and Rosy Finches. Clark's Nutcrackers and Steller's Jays also keep the winter birding interesting. Later in the year, head straight east on Broadway toward the National Elk Refuge. Drive .9

miles past St. John's Hospital and the refuge headquarters, both on the left. At the dead end, turn left into the refuge. Stopping and getting out of the car is permitted anywhere along the refuge road, but ***don't leave the road or walk away from your car*** in this environmentally sensitive area.

Drive into the refuge about .5 miles and pull over. The hillside on the right is good for Green-tailed Towhees and Sage Thrashers in the spring. A Canyon Wren was recorded here recently in spring migration. Long-billed Curlews inhabit the meadow on the left side of the road. At about .8 miles, you will be looking down to the left at a series of ponds. Canada Geese nest on the platforms, and, when they've finished, Green-winged Teal often take their place. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Redheads, Northern Pintails, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Gadwalls also can be seen on these ponds from time to time. Wilson's Phalaropes and various shorebirds show up when the water is low. If you look out over the refuge, you may see Trumpeter Swans flying or Sandhill Cranes dancing their mating ritual. And the odds are pretty good that you'll see coyotes hunting, playing, or just walking smartly from one place to another.

Pull over at 1.4 miles. Rock Wrens inhabit the outcroppings on the left. Their tireless, exuberant singing can't be missed. You might also spot Mountain Bluebirds, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Ravens on or above the rocks. Often Bald or Golden Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks can be seen soaring overhead or perched on a tree atop the butte. Brewer's, Chipping, and Vesper Sparrows inhabit the sage fields to the east.

Coyotes seem to like the isolation at the top of Miller Butte for their denning activities. In winter and early spring, bighorn sheep can be seen on the butte. They sometimes wander down to within a few feet of the road.

Stop again at 1.8 miles. Prairie Falcons nest in the cliffs on the left. The sage fields between the road and the butte provide habitat for Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows, Sage Thrashers, and Green-tailed Towhees. Rock Wrens can be heard singing from the cliffs, but usually can't be seen very well at that distance. Remember, you must not leave the road surface to get closer to them.

At 2.0 miles, you will see a parking area on the right with

access to the national forest. The uphill hike has good birding. Please stay on the designated trail.

In winter, the refuge offers sleigh trips into the elk herds. The sleigh ride should not be missed, especially on a sunny day. Unfortunately, this road to the left (2.8 miles) doesn't remain open the rest of the year. Some of the best waterfowl ponds in Jackson Hole lie along this road. As of this writing, they are not open to the public. Recently Boreal Owls have been heard calling from the forest to the east of the refuge road. Stop at 3.4 miles on a clear, spring evening and listen, but, again, you are not permitted to leave the road. Nor are you permitted to use tapes. So, you'll have to be content with just hearing these secretive birds.

Turn around at 3.5 miles, and return to Broadway. Turn right, and, three blocks past the hospital, turn right again on Willow. Drive two blocks. You'll see a school on the right and a Lutheran church on the left. Turn left on Gill and park. Walk back toward the school yard and then left through the school yard for about 200 yards (toward the Elk Refuge fence) until you come to the Environmental Study Area entrance. This study area is administered by the National Elk Refuge and Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The willows on the right produce Yellow Warblers and Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous Hummingbirds. The corrals on the left usually have Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Common Grackles, and, perhaps, House Sparrows. Flying above you may hear Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches, as well as Tree and Rough-winged Swallows.

Wildflowers abound on this walk. You can expect to see yarrow, asters, harebells, flax, cinquefoil, salsify, and roses.

Look into the refuge through the fence to the right. Western Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, Long-billed Curlews, and Sandhill Cranes all can be observed from this perspective.

Follow the fence line on the left to its northern most point. Walk the several paths. The marshy areas provide habitat for Common Snipe, Soras, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, and McGillivray's Warblers. At one time or another, in the ponds, you'll find Mallards, Gadwalls, Cinnamon, Blue-winged, and Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, and Wilson's Phalaropes.

This little walk is developing a reputation for the unusual.

Recent sightings along these paths and in these willows include the Myrtle race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Long-eared Owl, and Ash-throated Flycatcher!

Return to your car, and follow Gill 3 blocks to Cache Street. Turn right and go .3 miles to the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce and Wyoming State Visitors' Center. Park your car and take a few minutes to see the displays inside. The facility is open from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., daily, and the people are very accomodating.

A ramp leading up to a viewing platform is located on the south side of the building. The deck overlooks the marsh behind the Visitors' Center and the Elk Refuge. You should take a scope if you have one. Try to find Soras in the marsh and Sandhill Cranes and Long-billed Curlews out on the refuge. Look for a Prairie Falcon or a Northern Harrier flying over the refuge. In the spring, it's interesting to see how many species you can count from the observation platform. A partial check list would include: Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, American Coot, Barrow's Goldeneye, Marsh Wren, Common Snipe, Sora, 3 Blackbirds (Red-winged, Brewer's, and Yellow-headed), Song and Lincoln's Sparrows, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Sandpiper, Trumpeter Swan, Long-billed Curlew, Sandhill Crane, and Willet.

Walk to the north side of the building and through the picnic area. Killdeer might pull the old injured wing trick on you. Check the willows near the road for Yellow Warbler and the brush on the west side of the pond for Marsh Wren. Depending upon the time of year, the pond might have American Coots, almost any of the valley's ducks, Wilson's Phalarope, or even Trumpeter Swans. When you come to Flat Creek bridge, see how many species of swallows you can identify. At various times of the day, you should be able to record all of them: Barn, Cliff, Rough-winged, Bank, Tree, and Violet-green.

Follow the fence line to the east and then to the south along the east side of the pond. You should find Brewer's, Red-winged, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Common Snipe, Lincoln's and Song Sparrows, and Spotted Sandpipers.

During migration, shorebirds visit this area, each day new species arriving and replacing the ones leaving. Look for Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willets, Long-billed Dowitchers, and Semi-palmated Plovers. Visiting peeps include Semi-palmated, Least, Western, and Baird's Sandpipers.

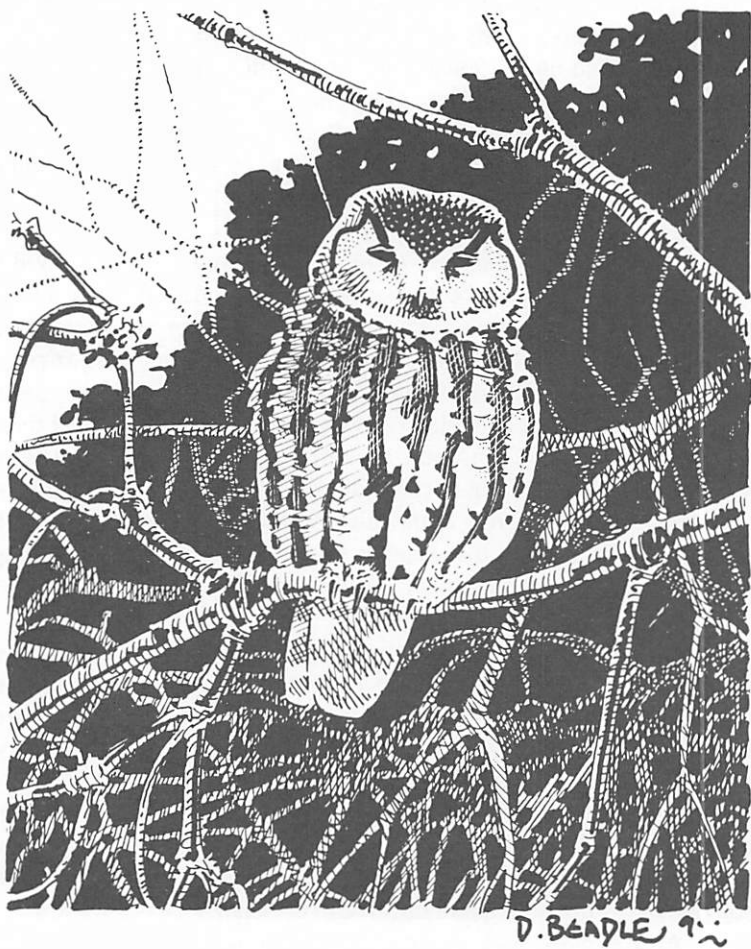
When you reach the point where the fence turns east again, look for Common Yellowthroats, Marsh Wrens, Soras, and more ducks. Anytime near the end of June and the first two weeks of July, look for Franklin's Gulls over the refuge. These birds follow the salmon fly hatch up the Snake River and hardly ever come to Jackson Hole except during this time. Also, check the line of small willows 100-150 yards out into the refuge for Bobolinks. Tom Michael discovered them nesting there in the mid-80s, and they have been coming back ever since.

Return to your car, and drive .3 miles north on Highway 89. Pull off to the right into the National Elk Refuge parking area. In the winter, if the water is open, you could see Trumpeter Swans, Canada Geese, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Common Mergansers, Bufflehead, Barrow's and, perhaps, Common Goldeneyes, Northern Pintail, and Northern Shoveler. Later in the year you can expect most of the above plus Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeons, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaups, and, sometimes, Canvasbacks. You could also see Wilson's Phalaropes and many shorebirds when the water is low. All six swallows, including Rough-winged and Violet-green, show up before long.

Drive north 1.3 miles from the Visitor Center and pull off the road into the parking area on the right. Walk back south along the road about 200 yards. Check the willows for Yellow and McGillivray's Warblers, Willow Flycatchers, and Song Sparrows. Say's Phoebe has been recorded just south of these willows.

In winter and early spring, stop at the pullout at 2.8 miles and check the two lonely cottonwoods way out in the refuge. Often one or two Bald Eagles peruse the refuge from this vantage point, and, sometimes, as many as a half dozen can be seen.

At 3.3 miles, park in the Elk Refuge pullout to the right. This parking area offers an especially good viewing station of the refuge as well as the hillside and cliffs across the road. In the winter, coyotes are easy to find among the elk. Bald Eagles either perch in the lonely trees, hunt from the skies above, or scavenge the remains of dead elk on the ground. Often a Northern Shrike can be seen on the power line or on one of the bushes across the road. Rough-legged Hawks often are in the area. Also in winter, bighorn sheep can be seen on the cliffs across the road, and deer usually feed on the hillside.



*Boreal Owl*



In spring, scan the fields for Long-billed Curlews and just about any migrant appropriate to the habitat. Sometimes Sage Grouse are picking their way along the hill across the road. In summer, Sandhill Cranes almost always are visible on the refuge. Northern Harriers sometimes quarter the fields. And, not infrequently, you can see a Prairie Falcon flying over the refuge or perched on the cliffs across Highway 89. And, if you're lucky, especially during spring migration, you might just record the magnificent Peregrine Falcon hunting on the refuge.

Continue north on Highway 89, checking the fence bordering the Elk Refuge on the right for Rough-legged Hawks in the winter, Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks in the spring and summer, and Common Ravens all year. At 6.3 miles, after entering the Gros Ventre River bottoms, stop at the pullout on the left. Scan both sides of the road for riparian birds. In the winter, these cottonwood lowlands almost always have elk, deer, and moose browsing the willows.

At 6.6 miles, turn right on the Kelly Road. Pull off the road just after making the turn. In April, near dawn, Sage Grouse can usually be found around this intersection. Walk around the sage, and, in addition to the grouse, you'll probably find Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows and maybe even a Sage Thrasher.

Resume your drive toward the town of Kelly, checking the cottonwoods and the skies for American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, and other raptors. Look for elk, deer, and moose in the river bottoms. Birds which inhabit sage will be found on both sides of the road.

At 4.5 miles from the Highway 89 intersection with Kelly Road, turn right and drive to the Gros Ventre Campground. Park where you won't bother anyone and walk south of the camping area into the cottonwoods. Cordilleran and Dusky Flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewees, Black-capped Chickadees, Western Tanagers, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows, Common Ravens, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets all can be found here. And don't be surprised to see a coyote working the area or even a couple of bull moose with trophy racks bedding down in the campground, seemingly oblivious to the campers and their cameras.

Return to the Kelly Road and turn right. You should be able to find pronghorn antelope in the sage fields to the north. At 2.4 miles

from the campground turnoff, you've reached Kelly. The road to the right enters the town which offers good winter birding because of the number of people who feed. Park by the bridge and walk along the river looking for American Dippers and Spotted Sandpipers.

The Kelly Road curves to the north, and so should you. You'll probably see Mountain Bluebirds and either a Swainson's or Red-tailed Hawk, or maybe both. One mile after leaving Kelly, slow up and check the creek for a Belted Kingfisher. At 1.1 miles, turn right to go to Kelly Warm Springs and park in the pullout to the left, .4 miles from the turn. In the winter, check the area for Snow Buntings and Horned Larks. Often our earliest migrants (including Mountain Bluebird) show up here before the snow is gone. Check the ponds and shorelines for migrant shorebirds (Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Baird's Sandpiper) and ducks. Be careful - sometimes a moose is quietly browsing in the willows just beside the road. During a recent spring, more than 30 bison "camped" by Kelly Warm Springs.

Now continue up the valley of the Gros Ventre, perhaps the best wildlife drive in Jackson Hole, especially in winter. In late summer, the early morning sun backlights the foxtail barley growing along the road. The cabin ruins on the left 1.1 miles from the turnoff to Kelly Warm Springs are a favorite subject of photographers. Check the aspens for Downy Woodpeckers and Mountain Chickadees.

At 2.3 miles, you enter the national forest. Pull into the parking area on the right to check out the river valley.

Pull off to the right at 3.7 miles. Follow the path to the west of the parking area. Wildflowers thrive in the meadow along this short walk. Little sunflowers, asters, buckwheat, sego lillies, yarrow, balsamroot, lupine, scarlet gilia, gromwell, deathcamas, and groundsel cover the hillside. Mountain Chickadees, Western Tanagers, Chipping Sparrows, Red-naped Sapsuckers, accipiters, and eagles keep the birding interesting.

At 4.6 miles, pull off to the right and inspect the Gros Ventre Slide, one of the largest natural earth movements ever to take place. Seismic forces set the slide moving in 1925, and, within a few seconds, the mountain fell away and slid up the slope on the other side of the valley and, at the same time, created Lower Slide Lake. Look carefully, and you should be able to trace the movement of the slide from the evidence remaining today. In the winter, bighorn sheep often

roam the red cliffs to the north and east, and it would not be unusual to have seen a dozen moose between the turnoff from the Kelly Road and where you are parked now.

You can pull off on the Lower Slide Lake Overlook at 5.4 miles. Sometimes Broad-tailed Hummingbirds seem to have taken over the area. You should be able to find an Osprey nest across the lake and ducks and gulls on the lake. In winter, this is about as far as you can drive, unless you happen to be using a snow machine. In summer, you can continue driving back the Gros Ventre drainage past some picturesque ranches and scenery. The birding is usually good, especially for raptors. With a little luck, you'll find a Golden Eagle, a Northern Goshawk, and, perhaps, a Peregrine Falcon. Trumpeter Swans usually nest on Upper Slide Lake. An option you have if you started this loop early enough in the morning is to eat lunch at Goose Wing Ranch. You should call ahead of time. If you like ginger cookies, you'll never find any better.

On your return to the Kelly Road, about 2 miles west of the Lower Slide Lake turnout, you go down a hill through a conifer forest and then emerge into the open where you'll have one of the best Teton views in the valley. Turn right when you reach the Kelly Road, and drive .8 mile north. Turn right again and drive to the Teton Science School. The sage fields on either side host Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows, Sage Grouse, Mountain Bluebirds, and Green-tailed Towhees. Northern Harriers quarter these fields, and a Broad-winged Hawk was recently recorded near the entrance to the Science School. This road can produce Horned Larks and Snow Buntings in winter and early spring.

Pull into the Science School parking lot. In the winter you can see Rosy Finches and Pine Grosbeaks in the conifers across from the parking area. In spring, look for Evening Grosbeaks and Townsend's Solitaires in the same trees. Walk the roads around the school, being careful not to interfere with any activities or classes being conducted. Notice the brilliant penstemon and fireweed on the hill. Some of the birds you might find in this relatively small area include Dusky Flycatchers, Red Crossbills, three Swallows (Tree, Cliff, and Barn), Mountain Chickadees, House Wrens, McGillivray's and Yellow Warblers, all three Hummingbirds (Rufous, Broad-tailed and Calliope), Clark's Nutcrackers, Song and White-Crowned Sparrows, Western Wood-Pewees, Western Tanagers, woodpeckers, and Green-

tailed Towhees. Northern Goshawks sometimes work the ridge to the north. American Kestrels hover in the open fields.

Return to Kelly Road, and turn right. Go .7 mile and pull into the parking area on the left just before the line of cottonwoods. Notice the wonderful hollyhock bush on the east side of the bridge. Check the creek on both sides of the road for woodpeckers and riparian birds.

At 1.5 miles, turn left onto Antelope Flats Road. Look for a Prairie Falcon streaking across the road in front of you. Park on the right .5 miles after making the left turn and walk over to the remains of the cabins. At 1.6 miles, pull into the parking area on the right. If, on an April dawn, you walk to the end of the row of cabins, you should find a Sage Grouse lek. House wrens nest in cavities on the fence poles. Sage Thrashers, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows sing zestfully from the sage in the spring.

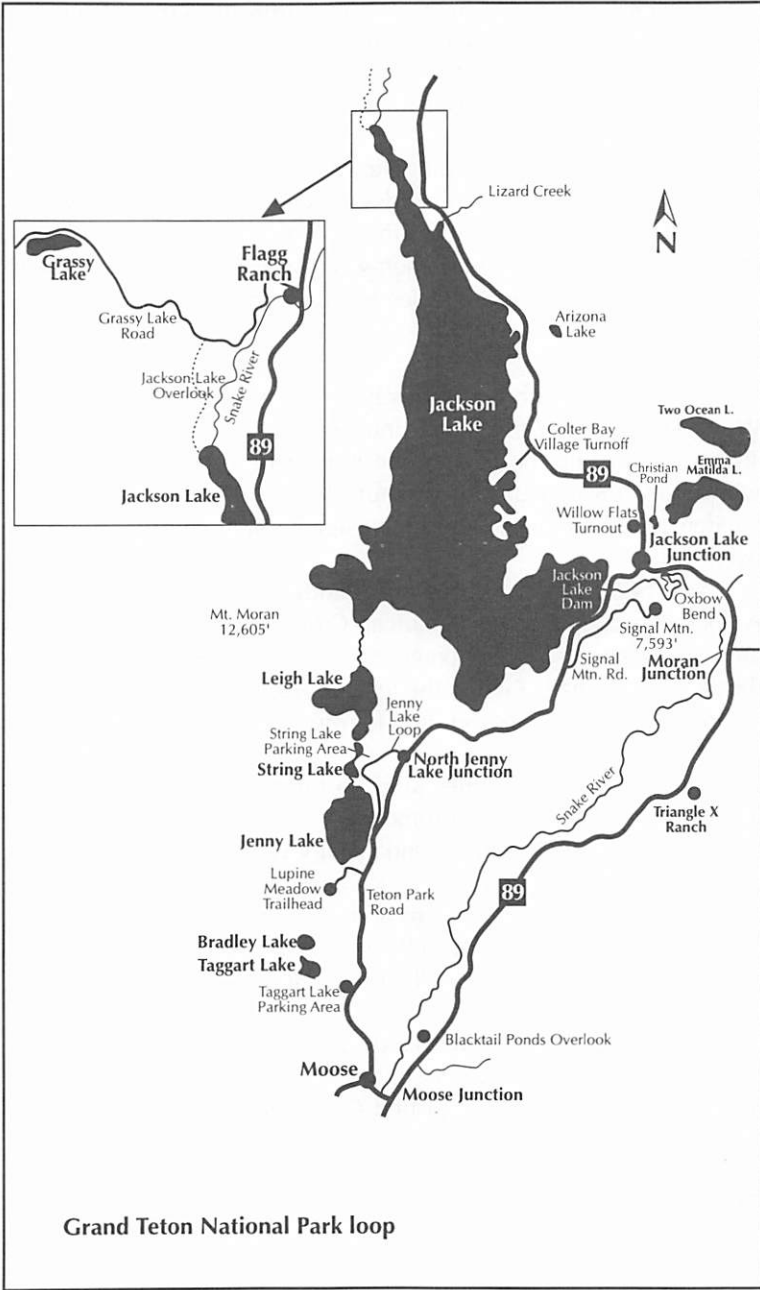
Return to your car and continue driving west on Antelope Flats Road. Soon the sage fields give way to grassy meadows where you can see Long-billed Curlews in the spring.

You will intersect Highway 89 (3.3 miles from where you left the Kelly Road). Turn left, and you have a 13.6 mile drive back to Jackson. Check the Airport write-up near the end of the Teton Village-Moose-Airport-Spring Creek Loop.

## **Grand Teton National Park Loop**

You can plan either one or two days, depending upon how many of the optional walks you choose to take. Take Highway 89 north out of Jackson. At 12.5 miles, you come to Moose Junction.

Continue on 89 to Blacktail Ponds Overlook (1.3 miles from Moose Junction), a pullout on the left. You have a good view of the Snake River system from this vantage point. Often moose can be spotted below. Giant hysop and larkspur cover the hillside. Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and other raptors sometimes perch on the cottonwoods or fly overhead. Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Lincoln's and Song Sparrows, and Green-tailed Towhees usually can be seen in the willows below.



**Grand Teton National Park loop**

Walk through the sage, south, along the crest of the hill. Yarrow, geraniums, and lupine grow among the sagebrush. Look for sparrows (Brewer's and Vesper) and a Sage Thrasher. Orange-crowned Warblers and Gray Catbirds also inhabit the willows below the hill.

In the cottonwoods lining the creek, you should find Northern Flickers, Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Pine Siskins. Western Tanagers and Dusky Flycatchers may reveal themselves as you walk east (upstream) along the hill top. You should see harebells and scarlet gilia growing by the creek.

Continue north on Highway 89, admiring the Teton views. When you drop off the bench into the willow lowlands (near the Triangle X Ranch), look for moose from here to Moran Junction. In winter, it's not unusual to see more than a dozen in this stretch. Golden and Bald Eagles and other raptors often can be seen flying overhead.

At 14.5 miles, you have ranchlands on both sides of the road. A flock of a couple dozen American Crows usually hangs out in this area. In winter, bison can sometimes be seen in the pastures. Check the fields for Canada Geese, the fence posts for Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks, and the power lines for Mountain Bluebirds.

Turn left at 17.5 miles, and go through the Moran Entrance Station to Grand Teton National Park. If you pull over and look around, you should be able to find a Hairy Woodpecker.

Pull over on the left 2.1 miles after the Moran Entrance. Look for coyotes and deer in the fields and a Sandhill Crane flying in front of Mount Moran. Perhaps you'll see a Golden Eagle or a Northern Goshawk working the ridge to the northeast.

You reach the Oxbow Bend pullout on the left at 2.5 miles. Most of the time this backwater of the Snake River is very productive. A spotting scope helps. Try to find Common Mergansers, American White Pelicans, Western Grebes, Canada Geese, Barrow's Goldeneyes, and California Gulls. Another hundred yards further up the road, pull over to the left and look for Trumpeter Swans and Double-crested Cormorants.

At 3.2 miles, turn left. Park your car on the right, and bird the

willows and aspens. Possibles include Yellow, Wilson's and McGillivray's Warblers; Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Calliope Hummingbirds; Red-naped Sapsuckers; and Willow Flycatchers. Return to your car, and drive .6 mile further on the gravel road. Stop here and walk across the field on the right to the Snake River. Look for Cordilleran Flycatchers on the dead snags in the fields, Bald Eagles on the dead snags hanging over the river, and Ospreys flying up and down the river. You may see Cedar Waxwings in the mixed stand by the river, Red-naped Sapsuckers in the aspens on the left, and Clark's Nutcrackers and Mountain Chickadees almost anywhere.

Drive another .4 mile on the gravel road to Cattleman's Bridge. You may find Common Mergansers and Green-winged Teal in the water, a Belted Kingfisher working the water's edge, and, in the mixed woods, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Western Tanagers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Go back to Highway 89, and, 5.7 miles from the park entrance station, you will come to Jackson Lake Junction. Turn right, and stay on 89 north for 1/2 mile. Pull into the Willow Flats parking area on the left. Brewer's, Yellow-headed, and Red-winged Blackbirds can all be seen in or around the parking area. Check the conifers to the north and the willows below for birds. At this point you have a decision to make: You can be content with the birds you are able to find around the parking lot, you can take the short optional walk below, or you can take the extended Willow Flats hike (8.3 miles) described in the Colter Bay/Jackson Lake Lodge hiking section.

**Optional Walk /Willow Flats Turnout** – An easy “stretch your legs” kind of walk of less than a mile. Brown-headed Cowbirds like to hang around the parking area. Follow the path to the west. Walk down the hill to the “Willow Flats”. American Coots frequent the small ponds at the bottom, and you should hear a Gray Catbird singing in the willows.

Take the path that follows to the south and east of Christian Creek, being alert for an American Wigeon or a Lesser Scaup hiding in the stream-side vegetation. Also be alert for moose. Wilson's and Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats should not be too difficult to find in the willow thickets. You should see Common Snipe along the creek and, at least, hear Soras. Barn and Tree Swallows will be flying overhead, and White-crowned, Song, and Lincoln's Sparrows should all be found.

When you reach the grassy field, find a Savannah Sparrow and then turn around and retrace your route. On the way back to the parking area, you should pick up Western Wood-Pewees, Willow Flycatchers, and House Wrens.

When you are .9 mile north of Jackson Lake Junction, pull off the road to the right just north of the bridge. You should hear a Willow Flycatcher as soon as you get out of the car. Christian Pond lies a few hundred yards to the east. You'll be rewarded by terrific birding if you decide to take the short walk to the pond and back. See the Christian Pond description in the Colter Bay/ Jackson Lake Lodge hiking section. The loop walk is about 4 miles, but, if you just walk over to the pond and back, you'll have a fairly easy hike of less than a mile. Some of the birds you could see include: Yellow and Wilson's Warblers; White-crowned, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows; American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins; Common Yellowthroats and Marsh Wrens; Soras and Common Snipe; Sandhill Cranes and Trumpeter Swans; Red-naped Sapsuckers; Pied-billed and Eared Grebes; Green-winged, Cinnamon, and Blue-winged Teal; Rufous, Broad-tailed, and Calliope Hummingbirds; American Wigeon, Redheads, Ruddy Ducks, and Lesser Scaup; all six swallow species; and Common Nighthawks. It is very important that you do not leave the trail at Christian Pond. This breeding area is very sensitive to human presence.

Continue north until you reach the Colter Bay Village turnoff (5.3 miles). The hiking section contains descriptions of several extended hikes you can take around the Colter Bay area (see Colter/Bay/Jackson Lake Lodge Area). If you don't care to take any of these hikes or to stop at the village for any other reason, continue north on Highway 89 until you have gone 12.7 miles from Jackson Lake Junction. Lizard Creek empties into the bay on the left. Check the Western Grebes to make sure they aren't hiding a Clark's Grebe among them. Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans like this little bay, and often California Gulls can also be found here.

Read the Grassy Lake Road option below to see if you want to continue north or return to Jackson Lake Junction. Flag Ranch is 7.7 miles further north, and Grassy Lake Road is just one-half mile beyond Flag Ranch. If you decide to return to the junction, skip to the eighth paragraph below which begins "At Jackson Lake Junction".



**Grassy Lake Road** – This road is closed by snow usually until late in the spring. Turn left on Grassy Lake Road just .5 mile north of Flag Ranch. At .4 mile, turn right at the stop sign. At 1.0 mile, stop on the west side of the bridge. The marshes contain coots, ducks, and soras. And moose. Cliff swallows fly overhead.

Drive into Campsite Number 1 at 1.4 miles. Willow Flycatchers, Wilson's and Yellow Warblers sing from the willows, and Spotted Sandpipers walk along the Snake River. Return to Grassy Lake Road, and turn left.

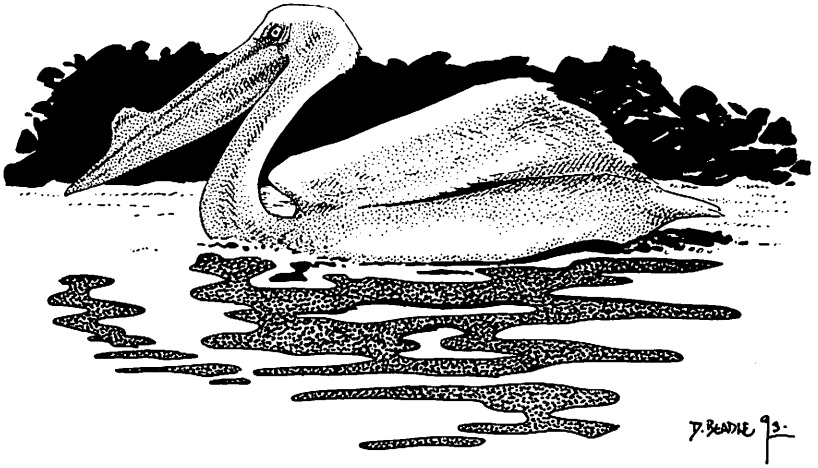
After you have gone 4.4 miles on Grassy Lake Road, there is a parking area on the left. This is a trailhead for a path that goes all the way to Jackson Lake.

**Optional Walk/Jackson Lake Overlook** – Approximately 2 hours. Depending upon the lake level, you will walk 3-5 miles to get to the lake. Birds are not numerous on this trail, but you might see woodpeckers, Pine Grosbeaks and Yellow-rumped Warblers. After about 2 miles, the trail comes to an overlook. A path to the left climbs up to a cliff. Penstemon covers the cliff face. The view from the cliff is something to behold. The Snake River meanders below through marshlands to the head of Jackson Lake. Violet-green Swallows hunt near the cliff. Sandhill Cranes, American White Pelicans, moose, deer, and sometimes even black bear can be seen in the expansive habitat below. This hike gets to be quite long if you continue on to Jackson Lake, so you might want to return to your car.

The Grassy Lake Road continues through alternating stands of lodgepole pine and willow meadows. While the birding is interesting (Wilson's Warbler, Gray Jay, Red-naped Sapsucker, Willow Flycatcher, and maybe even a Turkey Vulture, to name a few), the real attraction along this road is the flowers. Monkshood, Indian paintbrush, cinquefoil, buttercups, and, especially, camas present a remarkable summer canvas.

If you're looking for a Common Loon in Jackson Hole, continue on to Grassy Lake, about 9 miles from the turnoff above Flag Ranch. If you can't find loons when you first approach the lake, drive on to the dam where several of them may be found swimming and diving. Return to Flag Ranch and then to Jackson Lake Junction.

At Jackson Lake Junction, turn right and take the Teton Park Road toward Signal Mountain. At .4 mile, pull off the road to the



*American White Pelican*

right. You should be able to see American White Pelicans, Common Mergansers, and Barrow's Goldeneyes on the river to the left, and, maybe, a Northern Goshawk coming down off Signal Mountain. In winter, it's easy to find a half dozen or more moose among the Willows around you. Some of them are there in the summer, too, but you just have to look harder. (Willow Flats is closed to over the snow travel in winter, so you must look from your car.)

Cross the dam and pull into the parking lot on the south side (1.3 miles). You can see American White Pelicans, Common Mergansers, and Barrow's Goldeneyes below the dam; swallows, Ring-billed and California Gulls, and, perhaps, a Caspian Tern flying above; and Western and Eared Grebes out on Jackson Lake.

Walk back across the spillway and then along the dam until you come to a point where you can check the mud flats with your scope. Look for moose in the willows below the dam. Double-crested Cormorants, Canada Geese, and lots of ducks should be on or near the lake. When the lake level is low, Jackson Hole's best shorebirding takes place here. During migration, you could see almost anything, but look for Killdeer, American Avocets, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, Willets, Spotted Sandpipers, Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, four "peeps" (Semipalmated, Western, Least, and Baird's Sandpipers), and Long-billed Dowitchers.

Return to your car and drive to Signal Mountain Road (4.1 miles) where you will turn left. Your drive of 4.7 miles to the top of Signal Mountain is often rewarded with roadside spottings of Blue Grouse as well as the marvelous views of "The Hole". After one mile on Signal Mountain Road, you will see a pond on the right. Pull off to the right just before the pond. (Be sure to read the write-up on the Signal Mountain 5.5 mile hike in the hiking section.)

Great Gray Owls have been seen around this pond. Often moose dine among the water lilies in the middle of the pond — it's a sight to behold! Find the path on the near side, and slowly walk around the pond. Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Western Tanagers, and other woodland birds inhabit the lodgepole pines, and Mallards usually are swimming on the pond. If you decide not to walk to the top, return to your car, and drive up to Jackson Point.

After returning to Teton Park Road, turn left, drive 4.4 miles and turn right at North Jenny Lake Junction. At .7 miles from this junction, pull into the Cathedral Group turnout on the right. Enjoy the marvelous mountain views, and then go another .7 mile and turn right into the String Lake area. Make an immediate left into the String Lake Trailhead parking area. If you're still looking for a Williamson's Sapsucker, walk around the String Lake parking areas, and you'll eventually find one. Be sure to read the descriptions of the Valley Trail hikes originating from String Lake (Jenny Lake Loop and String Lake to Bear Paw Lake) to see if you want to take some or all of these hikes or just bird around the parking areas.

When you return to the Jenny Lake Loop, turn right and notice that the road is now one-way. At 2.8 miles from North Jenny Lake Junction, pull into the Jenny Lake overlook on the right. Just around the parking area you should have no trouble finding Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Warbling Vireos, and Swainson's Thrushes. The Jenny Lake Loop Road rejoins the Teton Park Road at 3.9 miles. Be aware that the speed limit of 45 m.p.h. is enforced on this road. Turn right and drive .6 miles to the Lupine Meadows Trailhead turnoff on the right.

Drive back to the trailhead and read the description of the Lupine Meadows Parking Area to Amphitheater Lake Trail in the Valley Trail hiking section. Within a few hundred yards of this parking area, you'll find some of the best birding in the valley. Whether you just bird near the parking area or take the trail, you'll be glad you drove back here.

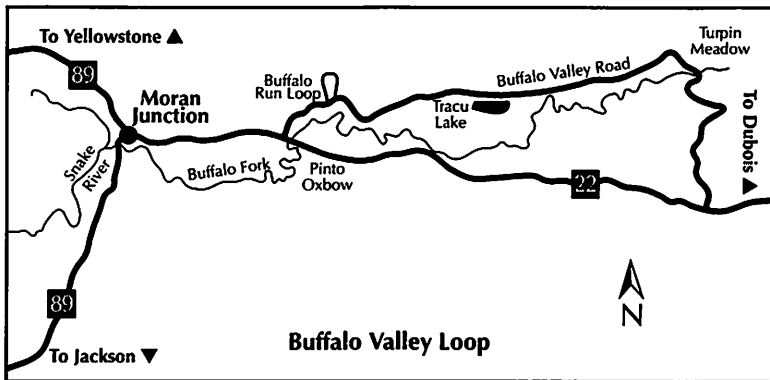
Return to Teton Park Road and turn right. Elk, deer, and antelope often are seen on either side of the road as you drive south. Pull into the Taggart Lake turnout 3.7 miles from the Lupine Meadow turn. Read the Taggart Lake description from the Valley Trail writeup in the hiking section. Much of this trail goes through a burn from 1985. Quite good birding and a chance to see growth of vegetation after a fire await you if you decide you're up to the 4 mile walk.

The Taggart Lake Parking Area is 3.4 miles from the junction with Highway 89 where you began this loop. After driving through the Moose Entrance Station, you still have some good birding stops left, including the village of Moose, the Snake River Bridge, and Dorman's. Read the beginning of the Valley Trail description in the

hiking section and the Moose area portion of the Teton Village-Moose-Airport-Spring Creek Loop description in this driving section.

## Buffalo Valley Loop

Spring arrives late in Buffalo Valley, and the birding does not really heat up until near the end of April. But then this habitat rich valley becomes home to many species. The 30 mile drive from Jackson to Moran Junction is not always convenient, but the variety of birds, wonderful scenery, and abundant wildflowers all combine to make the trip worthwhile. The loop only takes a half day, once you get to Moran Junction.



Drive east on Highway 26 out of Moran Junction. Watch for Red-tailed Hawks working the ridge to the left. At 3.3 miles, pull into the parking area on the right. Trumpeter Swans nest on Pinto Oxbow, the backwater habitat below. These stately birds are easily disturbed, so please stay by your car, and don't try to get closer! Mallards, American Coots, Canada Geese, Gadwalls, American Wigeon, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, and Pied-billed Grebes can also be found swimming with the swans.

About 100 yards further down the road, turn left on Buffalo Valley Road and reset your odometer. The next 1.5 miles has been good for owls: Great Gray, Western Screech-, Northern Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy-, and Boreal have all been occasionally reported. Check the drainage on the right for Sandhill Cranes, Willets, Great Blue Herons, and ducks.

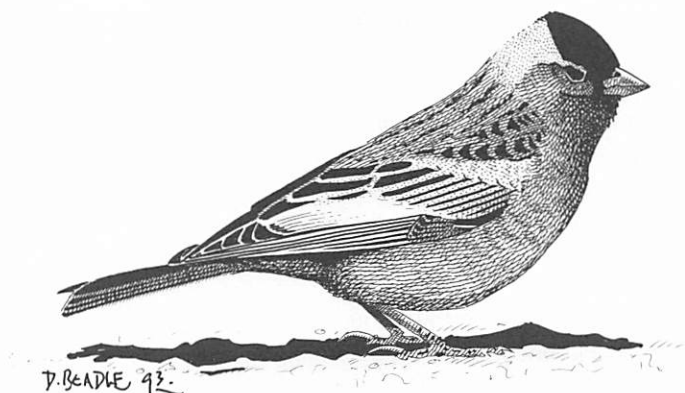
At 1.3 miles , you come to the first turn for Buffalo Run loop. Residents feed birds on this road which is about .5 miles up and .5 miles back down again. Whether you walk or drive this little loop, please be very respectful of the privacy of these residents. Fireweed, Indian paintbrush, and lupine all grow along the roadside. A mixed woodland of spruce, aspen, and Douglas fir provide good habitat for White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Grouse, Northern Flickers and other woodpeckers, Black-headed and Evening Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Steller's Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos, Chipping Sparrows, Cassin's Finches, and Red Crossbills. Try to find an accipiter sitting in a Douglas fir, watching a feeder.

Pull off the road again when you come to the Heart Six Ranch (1.6 miles). Here you should pick up Brown-headed Cowbirds, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Western Meadowlarks, Pine Siskins, American Goldfinches, White-crowned Sparrows, and Black-billed Magpies.

All along this road look for Bald Eagles and Ospreys in the cottonwoods below. Stop again at 2.4 miles. Check the penstemon-covered hill for Vesper Sparrows and Sage Thrashers. Sometimes you can see Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeer walking along the river. Look in the aspen stand just ahead for Red-naped Sapsuckers, Warbling Vireos, and Orange-crowned Warblers. Check the ridge for American Kestrels and Swainson's Hawks. At 2.9 miles, you can stop and look for Yellow-rumped Warblers, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Hairy Woodpeckers. At 4.7 miles, check the spruce/aspen stand for Red-tailed Hawks, woodpeckers, and, in the brushy stream bed, MacGillivray's Warblers.

Be careful finding a safe spot to pull off near 5.1 miles to check the lake below. Good possibilities here include Barrow's Goldeneyes, Eared Grebes, Canada Geese, Blue-winged Teal, Buffleheads, Common Mergansers, and American White Pelicans. At the marshy east end of the lake, look for Common Snipe and Soras. Across the road, check the brush for House Wrens and Rufous Hummingbirds.

At 6.2 miles, pull over on the right and look for Ospreys working the river and Dusky Flycatchers and Western Tanagers in the aspen stand. Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows perch on the power lines servicing the settlement at 7.1 miles. Further along, stop



*Rosy Finch*

at 8.2 miles, and walk back to the aspen stand. Yellow Warblers like these willows, and a Townsend's Warbler was recently recorded in the aspens.

Pull off the road to the left just before the bridge at 9.7 miles. Cliff Swallows swarm around the bridge, and Yellow Warblers and Willow Flycatchers inhabit the willows on the east side of the road.

As you continue driving, climbing through the conifer forest, watch for Sharp-shinned Hawks. Near the top, the flowers become magnificent. Fireweed, larkspur, geranium, columbine, sunflowers, salsify, asters, yarrow, lupine, Indian paintbrush, mountain bluebells, delphinium, and cinquefoil all can be found along the road at 12.5 miles. Stop again at 12.9 miles where a mixture of habitat produces a variety of birds, including Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatchers, Red Crossbills, Wilson's Warblers, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, all three hummingbirds (Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous), and Warbling Vireos.

At 14.0 miles, you rejoin Highway 26. If you have time, you might want to return the way you came. Birding is a lot more difficult on the busy highway than it is on the Buffalo Valley Road. The highway, however, is faster and 4.5 miles shorter to Moran Junction.

## Alpine-Grey's River Loop

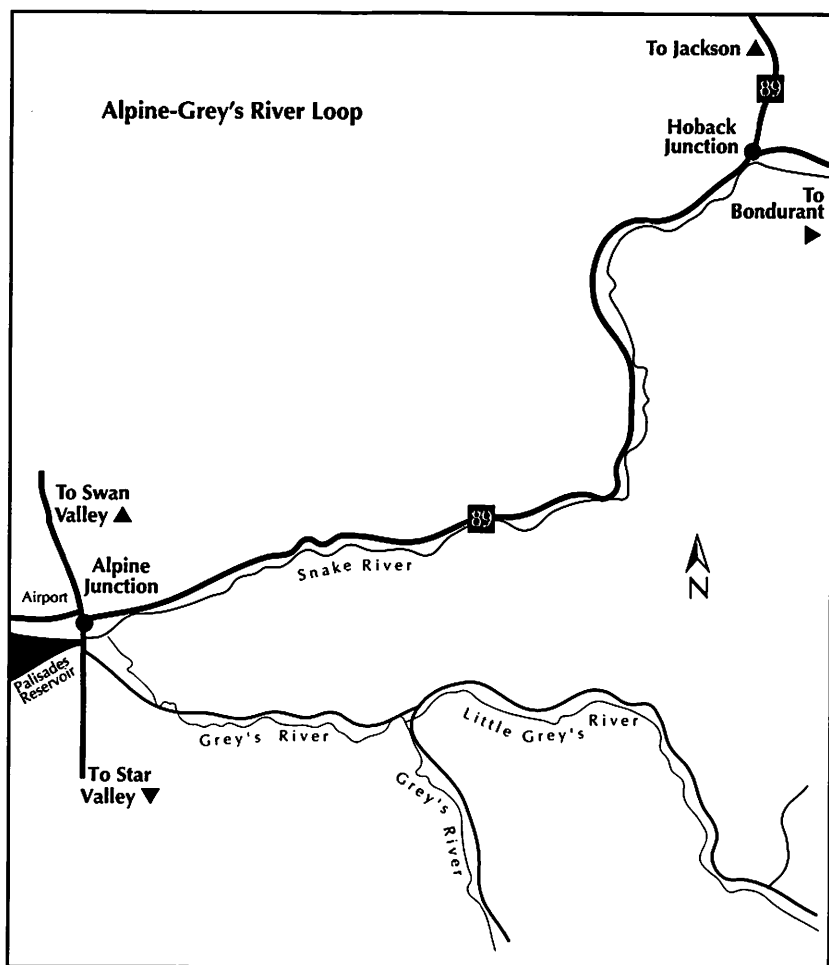
Actually, this picturesque diversion lies outside of Jackson Hole. The rather remote but easily accessible piece of the Bridger-Teton National Forest offers most of the same birds as Jackson Hole as well as a chance to drive into the Wyoming Range. After leaving the town of Alpine, you'll see only a few campers and fishermen. Mile after mile of wild country with greatly varied habitat and wonderful sierra vistas make this one day trip worth while if you have the time.

From the Jackson town square, drive 13.1 miles south on U.S. 89 to Hoback Junction. Continue on Highway 89 (bear right) through the Snake River Canyon 22.6 miles to the town of Alpine. Turn right on Highway 26 for .3 miles and then turn left at the airport sign. Drive about 1.5 miles to the Palisades Reservoir. In a recent spring, more than 500 American White Pelicans congregated here. Western Grebes, various ducks, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, California Gulls, Bald Eagles, and maybe even a migrating Common Loon are all good bets.

Return to the intersection of Highways 89 and 26 and continue south on 26 to the bridge over the Snake River (.3 mile). Carefully park off the road on either side of the bridge and check the river for swallows and ducks. Then drive .2 mile further south and turn left. About .7 mile after this turn, the road enters the Bridger-Teton National Forest and becomes gravel (impassable in winter). Drive 1.1 miles from the sign marking the entrance to the national forest and stop. Early in the spring, shortly after dusk, Northern Saw-whet Owls call from the aspens and conifers beyond the small open area on the right. Continue driving 6.4 miles to the point where the Little Grey's River flows into the Grey's (8.2 miles from where you turned off Highway 26). Check the shores and islets around the confluence of these rivers for American Dippers and Spotted Sandpipers.

Take the left fork, stopping frequently at the many pullouts along the way to see what you can find. A wonderful variety of habitats hosts most of the same birds found in Jackson Hole. You can expect accipiters, Red-tailed Hawks, Ruffed Grouse, Spotted Sandpipers, hummingbirds (Calliope, Broad-tailed, and Rufous), sapsuckers and woodpeckers, flycatchers (Olive-sided, Willow, Hammond's, and Dusky), swallows, Clark's Nutcrackers, Mountain

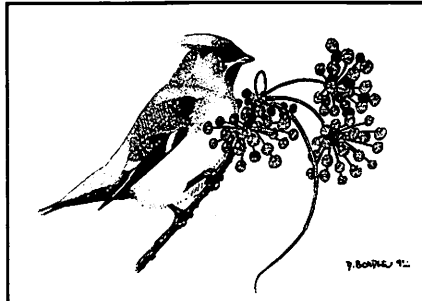




Chickadees, nuthatches, kinglets, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, warblers including MacGillivray's, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Green-tailed Towhees, sparrows (Chipping, Song, Fox, Lincoln's, White-crowned), juncos, Pine Siskins, and Cassin's Finches. After driving 11.9 miles along the Little Gray's, turn left. Drive 2.3 miles up this wonderful little valley until you come to a cattle guard. Continue another 100-200 yards, and park on the left by the small stand of conifers.

You will see a trail that stretches along the foot of the wooded hillside to the left of the marsh. Follow that trail (this will be an easy walk, but possibly soggy in places, of about 1 mile each way), all the while looking in the marsh for the many Soras and Common Snipe you will be hearing, and across the marsh to the tree line where you will be hoping to see a Great Gray Owl. A few hundred yards after leaving the marsh, the trail takes you through several small openings. Check the woodland margins for Great Gray Owls. Also keep your eye out along the way for Northern Goshawks which have been found nesting in this area.

Return to your car and drive back to the confluence of the two rivers. You are about an hour and fifteen minutes drive from Jackson's elk-antlered square. If you have time, you may want to drive up the Grey's Fork for a few miles or more. Conifers and mixed woodlands tend to dominate the habitat at first and then the valley opens some, and begins to look somewhat like the terrain along the Little Grey's. Or you can drive the remaining 8.2 miles back to Highway 26, re-cross the Snake, and take Highway 89 back to Jackson (36 miles).



## DAY HIKES

For those who have the time and energy, Jackson Hole's trails should not be missed. Certainly one can observe many of the wonders of nature from a car. But, to experience first hand this marvelous natural world, you must walk out into it. Trails have been chosen which offer great varieties of birds, diverse habitat, exceptional scenery, and an opportunity to get away from the masses and into a little bit of wilderness. Most of the hikes are rated "easy" or "moderate".

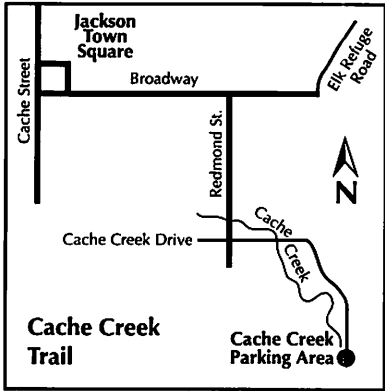
Hiking trips are shown in miles. The time required depends on the pace you choose for your birding. Even walking steadily without stopping to bird, you can't expect to cover much more than two miles an hour in the woods. We usually plan about one mile per hour for birding walks. Altitude changes are provided in addition to distance to give you an idea of what to expect in regard to hill climbing. The hikes are rated according to degree of difficulty. "Easy" implies an ability to walk 3-5 miles slowly on flat terrain. "Moderate" suggests one should be able to walk 3-5 miles on flat terrain plus handle a walk uphill for about a half mile or fifteen minutes. "Difficult" requires the person to be reasonably fit, working out on a regular basis, and able to walk up hill slowly but steadily for at least an hour and to handle ten miles or more.

In Jackson Hole, it gets light very early in the summer. For those accustomed to beginning your birding day at 8:00am, the morning is already well underway here. For the best results, hit the trails as early as 6:00 or 6:30.

## Cache Creek Trail

If you're looking for a good bird walk near the town of Jackson, try this trail. You walk up Cache Creek for about three miles and then return essentially the same way. The altitude gain is only a few hundred feet from the town of Jackson, and most of the walking is fairly easy. Take Redmond Street to Cache Creek Drive (not to be confused with Cache Street). Drive to the end of Cache Creek Drive and park.

Check the Douglas firs around the parking area for Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Red Crossbills. In winter, Common Redpolls can sometimes be found in these trees. Walk back a hundred yards or so and cross the footbridge over Cache Creek to the south. Follow the willows downstream to the fence. Look for Song Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, House Wrens, and flycatchers. In the conifers, you may find Warbling Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Western Tanagers.



Return to the bridge and walk down the road another hundred yards to the "Welcome to Cache Creek" sign. Take the trail up the hill to the right. This trail parallels the road for about 1.5 miles and runs through habitat significantly different from what you will find down by Cache Creek.

Initially geraniums line the trail and Chipping Sparrows call from the sage. Look for Dusky Flycatchers on the snags in the open areas. The trail continues up hill to a four-way intersection with a "Yield to....." sign on the right. Take the right path to the top of the ridge where you might see Clark's Nutcrackers or Red Crossbills. As you walk along the ridge, look for Green-tailed Towhees, Pine siskins, and Chipping Sparrows in the field to the left, or perhaps a Lazuli Bunting on top of one of the lonely trees. Northern Flickers should be calling, and maybe you'll see a Blue Grouse crossing the trail.

Periodically, the trail descends into a wash lined with willow thickets and aspen stands. MacGillivray's Warblers inhabit these thickets. The third and fourth times you descend into these washes,

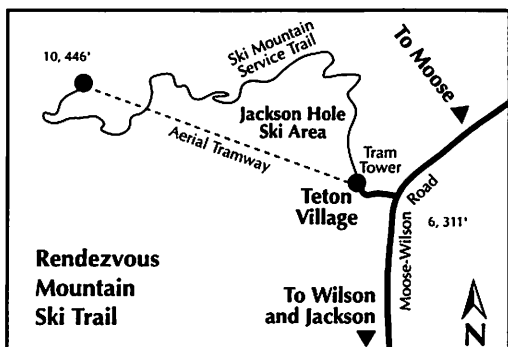
be especially vigilant for Orange-crowned Warblers in the aspen stands. This may be one of the best places in the valley for this often difficult to find bird.

Where the path rejoins the road below, look for Black-headed Grosbeaks and Steller's and Gray Jays in the conifers by the creek. The trail enters the Bridger-Teton National Forest. You will walk through a large stand of tall Douglas firs with thimbleberry and cow parsnip lining the path. Look for Hammond's and Cordilleran Flycatchers in the conifers and American Dippers in Cache Creek.

When you reach the intersection with Game Creek Trail, retrace your steps back down the trail along Cache Creek. Take the road all the way back down to the parking area. Look for Fox Sparrows in the open areas on the right, Red-naped Sapsuckers and Orange-crowned Warblers in the aspen stands, and for Northern Goshawks up on the ridge.

## Rendezvous Mountain Ski Trail

The birder who likes to combine strenuous workouts with his or her birding will get into this one. A service road runs from Teton Village



to the top of the ski mountain, about 8 miles. One can pay to ride the aerial tram up the mountain (the easiest way in Jackson Hole to get above tree level) and then enjoy a moderately difficult walk down. The alternative is to make a difficult

walk up 8 miles and then enjoy a free trip down on the tram. In either case, the birding is terrific, and the views from the top are spectacular.

From the town of Jackson, take Broadway west to the intersection with Highway 22 (The Y), and turn right. Drive 4 miles to the intersection with the Moose-Wilson Road and turn right, following the signs to Teton Village. Then go 6.6 miles and turn left at the entrance to Teton Village.

The "Village" rests at an altitude of 6,311 feet. The top of the mountain, at 10,446 feet, rises 4135 feet above the valley floor and slightly above tree level. Often you have to wait until the end of June for enough snow to be gone to walk around up there. But then you have a very good chance of seeing our vertical migrants, including Rosy Finch and American Pipit. You should also see Clark's Nutcracker, Common Ravens, White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and maybe an occasional Yellow-rumped Warbler or Golden Eagle.

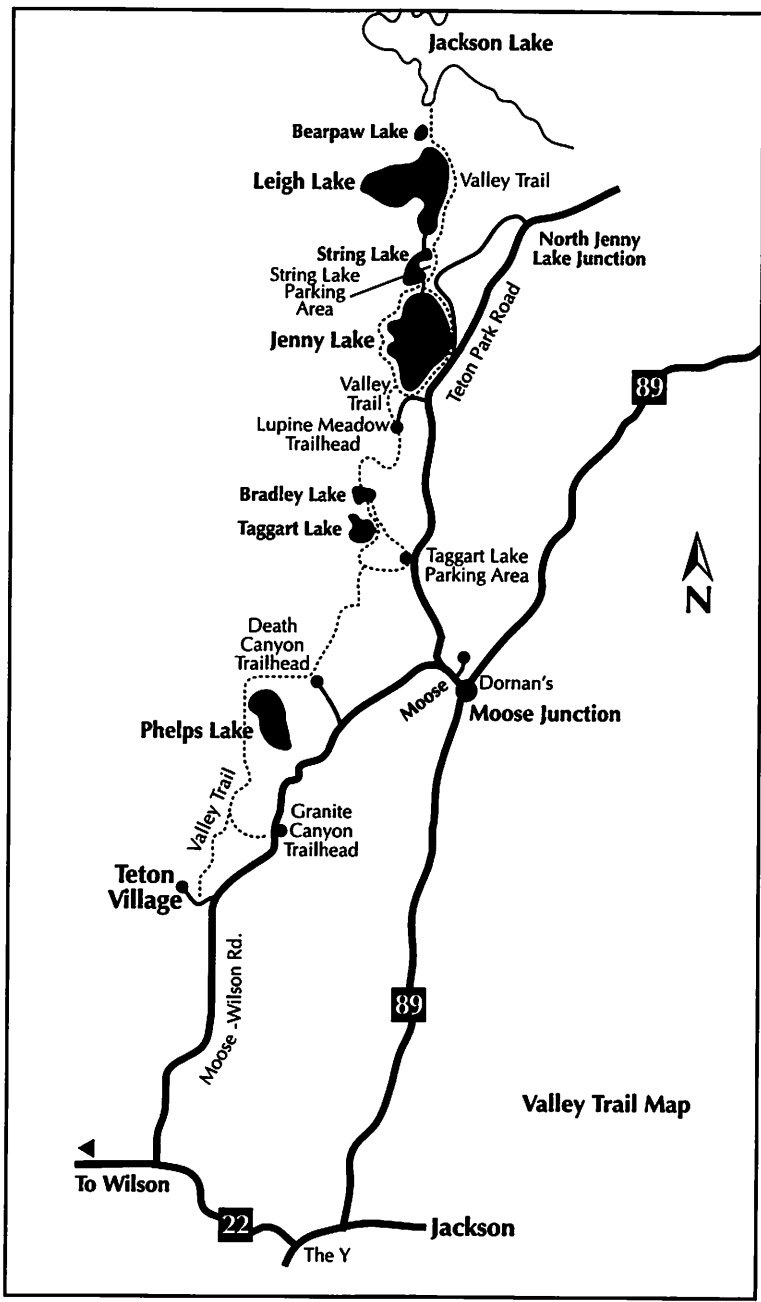
If you decide to walk up the mountain, you begin at the Village clock tower. Walk past the Music Festival building which can have hundreds of Barn, Cliff and even Violet-green Swallows nesting under the roof eaves (and all ignoring the plastic owls strategically placed in an attempt to scare them off). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds visit the flower boxes on the buildings. American Crows hang around the bottom of the trail. The mixed woods near the bottom serve up Mountain Chickadees, Cassin's Finches, Yellow Warblers, Warbling Vireos, and Pine Siskins. Swainson's Thrushes sing in the woods, and accipiters glide along the ridges. Dusky Flycatchers can be seen on the snags, and, if you're lucky, a flock of Red Crossbills will be hanging out in the lodgepole pines. As you follow the trail up the lower slopes, watch for Blue Grouse, Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Townsend's Solitaires, Hermit Thrushes and Western Tanagers.

Small mammals such as marmots and porcupines pop up along this walk, and sometimes you'll kick an elk or deer out of the trees.

Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous Hummingbirds, Green-tailed Towhees, and MacGillivray's Warblers like the brushy meadows. Hammond's Flycatchers hang out in the conifers. The mountain slopes behind Teton Village may be the best place in the valley for Townsend's Warbler. They have been reported from as low as a few hundred feet above the Village to three quarters of the way up the mountain. Keep looking, especially in August, and you should find them.

## Valley Trail

This hiking trail begins at Teton Village and runs along the base of the Tetons all the way to Bearpaw Lake, 24.5 miles to the north. The Valley Trail offers excellent birding over much of its length. Some sections of the trail afford easy walking, and none of it becomes more



Valley Trail Map

than moderately difficult, the greatest altitude change being less than 1000 vertical feet. Much of it tracks the Teton Fault closely. A number of parking areas for intersecting trails along the way provide the ability to access various segments of the Valley Trail without having to walk its entire length. People somewhat frequently encounter large mammals along the Valley Trail - deer, elk, antelope, moose, and, very occasionally, black bear. Please give these animals a wide berth, for their sake and yours!

The northern segments of the Valley Trail are accessed from Taggart Lake, Lupine Meadows, Jenny Lake, and String Lake Parking Areas. To get to these parking areas, drive out of Jackson on Highway 89 north for 12.4 miles to Moose Junction. Turn left, and, after a couple hundred yards, you will see a sign to Dornan's, a local tavern with marvelous views of the Snake River and the Tetons. (See Teton Village-Moose-Airport-Spring Creek Loop.) Another couple hundred yards brings you to a bridge crossing the Snake. In winter, this is as good as any place to see Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes as well as other winter ducks and Bald Eagles.

Just after the bridge, on the right, pull into the Grand Teton National Park Visitor Center parking lot. The rangers in the Visitor Center are accommodating, and the Grand Teton Natural History Association operates an excellent bookstore there.

Continue on a couple hundred yards further to the Moose entrance station to Grand Teton National Park. From May through September an entrance fee is charged. You are now on Teton Park Road. Look at your Grand Teton National Park map which you picked up at the Visitor Center or from the ranger at the entrance station. You should be able to find, going from south to north, Taggart Lake, Lupine Meadows, South Jenny Lake, and String Lake Trailheads. Each of these trailhead/parking areas is well marked. You should note that, to get to String Lake Parking Area, you must drive to North Jenny Lake Junction and take the road back south to String Lake. The road south of this point is one way.

The southern segments of the Valley Trail are accessed from the Moose-Wilson Road. The southern-most portion of this trail begins at Teton Village. Park in the lower village parking lot and access the trail just north of the village.

The parking area for the Granite Canyon Trailhead lies 2.1



miles north of Teton Village on the Moose-Wilson Road. Continue north toward Moose another 2.9 miles to reach the turn-off for the Death Canyon Trailhead. This road runs 2 miles west from the Moose-Wilson Road to the trailhead.

We have broken down the Valley Trail into segments, each requiring about one-half day to bird. The descriptions of these segments run from south to north, beginning with the Granite Canyon-Teton Village portion and ending with the String Lake-Bear Paw Lake portion. Each description takes the birder in either a south to north or a north to south direction, but, obviously, the reader could choose to walk the opposite direction and, likewise, follow the description from back to front.

### **Granite Canyon Parking Area to Valley Trail**

The trail from the Granite Canyon parking area to the Valley Trail intersection is a 1.5 mile moderate walk which gradually increases in altitude from 6356 feet to about 6600 feet.

After leaving the parking area, the trail starts through a sage field in which you'll likely see Mountain Bluebirds, Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows on or near the ground, and Tree Swallows and Common Ravens overhead. After a couple hundred yards the trail follows the edge of an aspen stand in which House Wrens, Warbling Vireos, and a Dusky Flycatcher or two are likely sightings. Keep your eye open for an accipiter hurtling through the trees.

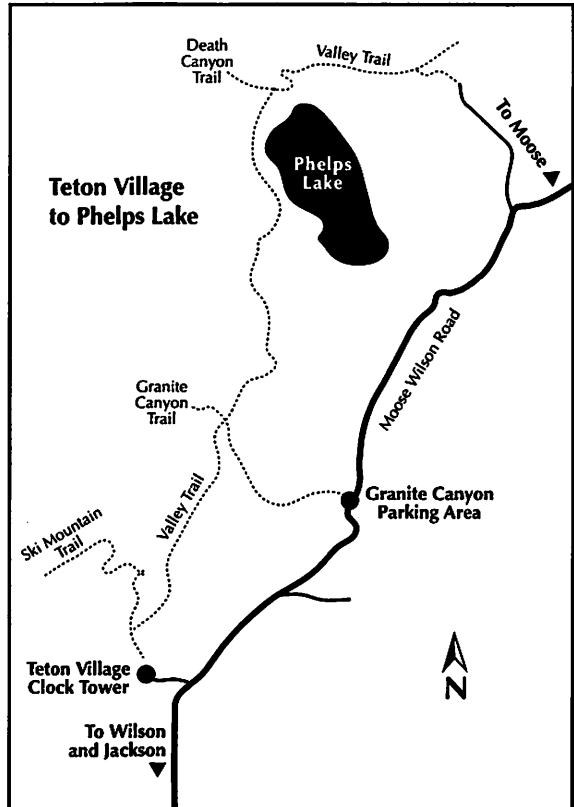
Soon you walk up onto the moraine with open meadows and a few aspens. You can expect to see Green-tailed Towhees, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and maybe a Northern Flicker. Continue straight past the Poker Flats horse trail intersection, and enter a conifer forest. Western Tanagers and Mountain Chickadees should appear. Cross the creek, looking up and down stream for American Dippers. Continue on, looking for Hammond's Flycatchers in the conifers. When you reach the Valley Trail, turn left for Teton Village.

## Granite Canyon/Valley Trail Intersection to Teton Village

This segment of the Valley Trail stretches for 2.4 miles. The walk is moderate, remaining mostly level for close to two miles and then descending into Teton Village (c. 6350 feet).

The first part of this trail follows along just below the Teton Fault in a conifer forest. You can expect to see (and hear) Warbling Vireos, Mountain Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Western Tanagers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Hammond's and Cordilleran Flycatchers, Dark-eyed Juncos, Swainson's Thrushes, and, perhaps, a Hermit Thrush. In the small openings, look for Rufous Hummingbirds and flycatchers.

A relatively steep first part of the descent to Teton Village leads you to the north of an open area with House Wrens and Dusky Flycatchers. The open area continues to the south with aspen stands along the way. Look for Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Steller's Jays, and Swainson's Thrushes. When you arrive at Teton Village, you are standing at the extreme south end of the Valley Trail.



## Death Canyon Trailhead/Beaver Creek Trail

The Valley Trail continues north from the Whitegrass Ranger Station 3.3 miles to its intersection with the Beaver Creek Trail. At this point, you can turn right and follow the Beaver Creek Trail 1.9 miles to the Taggart Lake Parking Area, or turn left and proceed on the Valley Trail to Taggart Lake. (See Taggart Lake Loop section.)

From the Moose-Wilson Road, turn west and drive about 2 miles back to the Death Canyon Trailhead, climbing about 350 feet in the process. Leave the parking area and walk up hill and to the west about 100 yards to the Valley Trail. Here you can turn left and go south to Phelps Lake or turn right and hike north to the Taggart Lake Loop. The trail to the north stays at about 6800 feet all the way on the terminal moraine to Beaver Creek Trail and then descends to the Taggart Lake Parking Area; all in all, a fairly easy 4.9 mile walk (Assuming you have arranged to have someone pick you up at the Taggart Lake Parking Area, and you don't have to retrace your steps back to the Death Canyon Trailhead.) .

Right away the trail to the north enters a mixed woodland of lodgepole pine, aspen, and Douglas fir. Mountain Chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Chipping Sparrows immediately welcome you with their trills and whistles. Before long Red-breasted Nuthatches, Western Tanagers, Warbling Vireos, and Swainson's Thrushes join the chorus. Soon you come to a small, old burn. Look up on the ridge for a Cooper's Hawk sitting on top of one of the conifers. Maybe you'll hear a Clark's Nutcracker screaming at him.

Walking through the woods you should see Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and maybe a Hermit Thrush. Watch for a Ruffed Grouse crossing the trail. And, in the open, brushy areas, look for Green-tailed Towhees and MacGillivray's Warblers. Some of the small meadows between the stands of trees host Lincoln's Sparrows. You should see a Hairy Woodpecker or two along this trail, and be sure to keep alert for Red Crossbills.

When you can see open skies, scan for anything from raptors to swans to pelicans. Upon reaching the Taggart Lake burn, look for Western Wood-Pewees, Olive-sided and Dusky Flycatchers, House Wrens, Hairy and Three-toed Woodpeckers, and Williamson's Sapsuckers.

## Taggart Lake Loop

This trail loops about 4 miles, much of it through a burn that occurred in the summer of 1985. The walk is moderate, beginning at the Taggart Lake Trail parking area and gaining only about 100 vertical feet over the first 1.5 miles. The trail then becomes rather steep and climbs about 400 vertical feet before it drops down to Taggart Lake (6902 feet) and gradually down to the parking area (6625 feet).

You'll be interested in nature's comeback in the burned areas. Some lodgepole pine cones require the heat of a forest fire to open their scales and release the seeds. Look at the tallest of the regenerated lodgepole pine trees and count the clusters of branches. Use that number to count back in years, and you should come to the date of the fire.

All eight of our woodpeckers have been recorded on this trail. Black-backed and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were sure bets in this burn the first few years after the fire, the burned pines being host to the wood-boring beetles which are the staple of these birds' diets. While Three-toed are still being seen here, Black-backed have not been reported for some time.

The trail leaves the parking lot and runs through fields of balsamroot, lupine, and Indian paintbrush. A short distance from the parking area, you cross a small stream. Calliope Hummingbirds usually nest in the willows to the south of the little bridge. The fields on either side are good for Chipping Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, Pine Siskins, Cassin's Finches, Warbling Vireos, White-crowned Sparrows, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. Look for Red-naped Sapsuckers in the cottonwoods and for accipiters overhead. In the spring, elk often are seen grazing to the south.

At the very foot of the moraine, the trail splits north and south. Take the left, or south, option. Walking along the edge of the burn, you should hear a Western Wood-Pewee and see several species of swallows. Mountain Bluebirds perch on the tops of the burned pines. Down the hill and a couple hundred yards to the left, the marshy area surrounded by mule ears hosts Soras and Common Snipe. As you continue to the south, you should be hearing Northern Flickers and House Wrens. Geraniums flank the path and marmots fiendishly wait until you are about to step on them and then shout their startlingly

loud, scolding bark. Bird songs you are likely to hear are the dry trill of the Dark-eyed Junco and the "Quick, three beers!" of the Olive-sided Flycatcher.

The trail then turns west through a patch of larkspur. Look for Black-headed Grosbeaks, Dusky Flycatchers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Beaver Creek flows through the willows below. Look for moose in the willows and along the trail for the next mile. The willows on the left are especially good for MacGillivray's Warblers, but don't be surprised to see Wilson's, Orange-crowned, and Yellow Warblers as well.

Soon you enter several stands of aspens and conifers. You should hear Swainson's and, perhaps, Hermit Thrushes, Mountain Chickadees, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Be alert for Williamson's Sapsuckers and moose. A few hundred yards before the trail begins an ascent through the burn, you intersect the Valley Trail. This area was once a favorite for Black-backed Woodpeckers. It is still good for Williamson's Sapsuckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Western Tanagers, Ruffed Grouse, and an occasional Cordilleran Flycatcher.

The walk uphill is fairly steep, but you should hear an Olive-sided Flycatcher singing from the top of a burned pine and a Warbling Vireo singing in the small aspen stand on the left that the fire somehow missed. Northern Flickers usually chatter at the top of the hill; House Wrens and flycatchers are possible. The walk down through the burn to the lake is often quiet, so just catch your breath and enjoy the recovering forest.

Check the lake for loons during migration. The short walk along the lake shore is fairly good for Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers. At this point you can continue on the Taggart Lake Trail back to the parking area or take the Valley Trail about one mile to Bradley Lake. From Bradley Lake you can continue on the Valley Trail about 1.2 miles to the Amphitheater Lake Trail intersection (see Amphitheater Lake Trail to Taggart Lake Trail section) or return to the Taggart Lake Trail via the Bradley Lake Cutoff (about 1 mile). On both legs of the "loop" to Bradley Lake, you will hike up and down about 200 vertical feet. If you take the diversion to Bradley Lake, most of the birds will be the same as on the trail between Bradley Lake and the Amphitheater Lake Trail intersection. You might pick up Gray

Jays, Green-tailed Towhees, or Lazuli Buntings, and you will increase your chances of seeing a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker.

If you forego the hike to Bradley Lake, you are still 1.6 miles from the parking area. Most of this is through the burn. Look for all the birds mentioned before, especially woodpeckers and flycatchers. Sometimes dippers can be seen in Taggart Creek. When you cross the creek and the trail turns south, you'll follow the foot of the moraine and the edge of the burn. This leg of the trail usually offers a variety of birds, including accipiters.

### **Lupine Meadow Parking Area to Amphitheater Lake Trail**

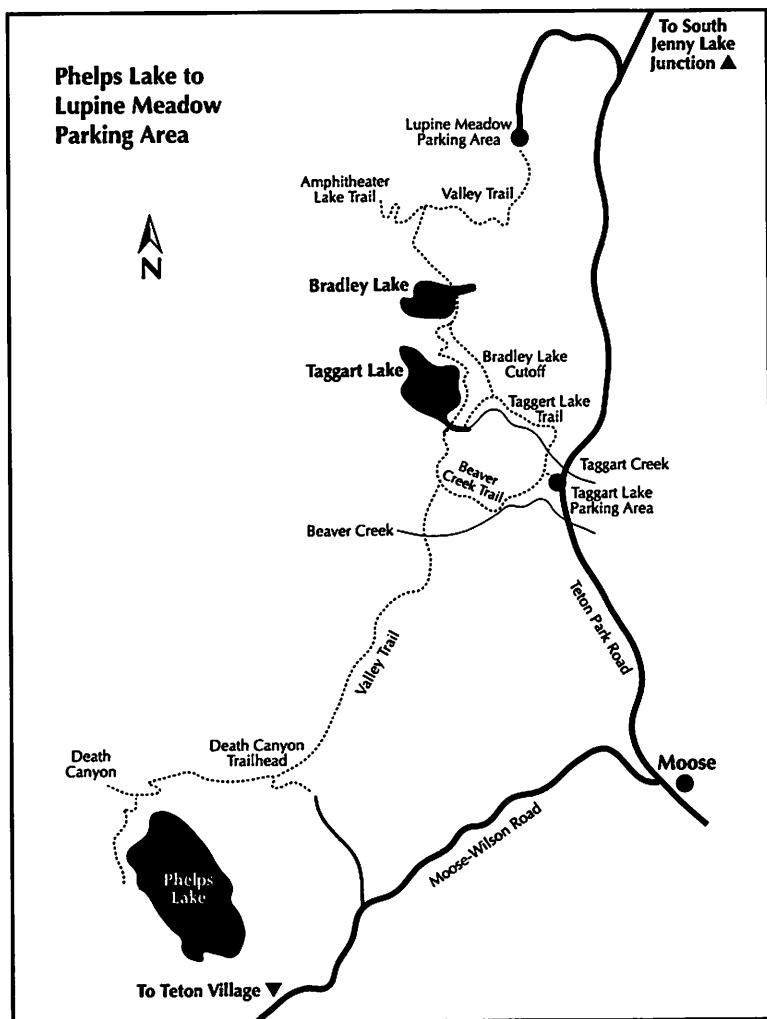
We rate the 1.7 mile trail rising from 6,740 feet to about 7400 feet as "moderately difficult". As soon as you get out of your car, especially early in the morning, you'll hear the birds – Warbling Vireos, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Other birds you'll most likely see and/or hear in the damp, lower habitat you'll initially be walking through include Ruffed Grouse, American Robins, Mountain Chickadees, Cassin's Finches, and Chipping Sparrows. Northern Pygmy-Owls have been recorded here. After about four or five hundred yards you begin a gradual climb for about a mile and a half. This whole stretch usually produces a wonderful variety of birds. Look for Three-toed, Black-backed, and Hairy Woodpeckers, Williamson's Sapsuckers, Steller's Jays, Gray Jays, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Dark-eyed Juncos, Townsend's Solitaires, Red Crossbills, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Western Tanagers, and Clark's Nutcrackers.

You may have noticed people walking with ropes and climbing equipment on this portion of the trail. Most of them intend to scale the Grand Teton. We recommend you remain on the Valley Trail rather than following them up the Amphitheater Lake Trail. It's much easier that way.

### **Amphitheater Lake Trail to Taggart Lake Trail**

At the Amphitheater Lake Trail Junction, the Valley Trail branches off to the left. Decide if you want to continue walking to Bradley Lake, 1.2 miles further along the Valley Trail. If you continue on, you should pick up MacGillivray's Warblers in the dense undergrowth and have more chances to see Three-toed, perhaps a Black-backed,

and Hairy Woodpeckers. The trail is level at first and then drops about 400 vertical feet down to Bradley Lake which lies at 7022 feet elevation. When you cross the foot bridge at Bradley Lake, look for American Dippers along the shore in either direction. Walk .2 mile further to the Taggart Lake Trail. At this point you can either retrace your steps back 3.1 miles to the Lupine Meadows Parking Area or continue 2.0 miles to the Taggart Lake Parking Area. (See the Taggart Lake Loop segment.)



## Jenny Lake Loop

This hike may be the most scenic in Jackson Hole. Unfortunately, a lot of people share that viewpoint. But, if you get on the trail early, you'll beat most of them. Few tourists do much of anything before breakfast, and most of them don't finish breakfast until at least 8:00 or, even more likely, 9:00am.

Jenny Lake lies at an altitude of 6783 feet. The relatively flat trail rarely rises more than a few feet above the lake. A fairly easy walk of about 4.5 miles (if you take the launch described below and forego the diversion to Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point) should produce a good variety of birds.

Drive through the Entrance Station just west of the Moose Visitor Center and then north to North Jenny Lake Junction (11 miles). Turn left, and drive 1.4 miles to the String Lake turnoff. Park immediately on the left at the String Lake Trailhead Parking Area. Get out of your car and look for a Williamson's Sapsucker. Take the footbridge across String Lake, looking for Harlequin Ducks in the spring, and follow the signs to Hidden Falls. You enter a lodgepole pine forest and should see Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Swainson's Thrushes. The trail follows the creek on the west side for a while. Western Tanagers and hummingbirds hang out in the trees near the rapids, and you may see a Common Merganser below the rapids just before the creek empties into Jenny Lake.

The trail around the northwest portion of the lake goes through a large stand of tall Douglas firs. Look for the usual woodland birds here, including both kinglets, Blue and Ruffed Grouse, Mountain Chickadees, Chipping Sparrows, and both nuthatches. In the openings you should see MacGillivray's Warblers, Western Wood-Pewees, and woodpeckers.

The trail offers several options at the West Shore Boat Dock, about half way down the west side of the lake. You can pay three or four dollars and take the launch across the lake, cutting off about 2 miles from the alternative of continuing to walk around the lake to the East Shore Boat Dock. The launch begins operating at 7:00 or 8:00 A.M. and continues through 6:00 or 7:00 P.M., depending upon the time of year. Call 733-2703 to check current schedules and rates. You can also take a popular diversion up Cascade Canyon and walk a half mile to Hidden Falls and then another .4 mile up to Inspiration





*Three-toed Woodpecker*

Point at 7200 feet. The scenery and views make the trip worth while if the birds don't. Nevertheless, perhaps you'll see an American Dipper in Cascade Creek and a Brown Creeper in the conifers behind Inspiration Point.

Return to the West Shore Boat Dock if you've chosen the launch, or take the trail next to the lake if you prefer walking to the East Shore Boat Dock. You should see swallows and California Gulls from the launch (and, possibly, during migration, American Avocets). The walk around the southern portion of the lake will produce similar birds to those you saw coming down from the northwest shore.

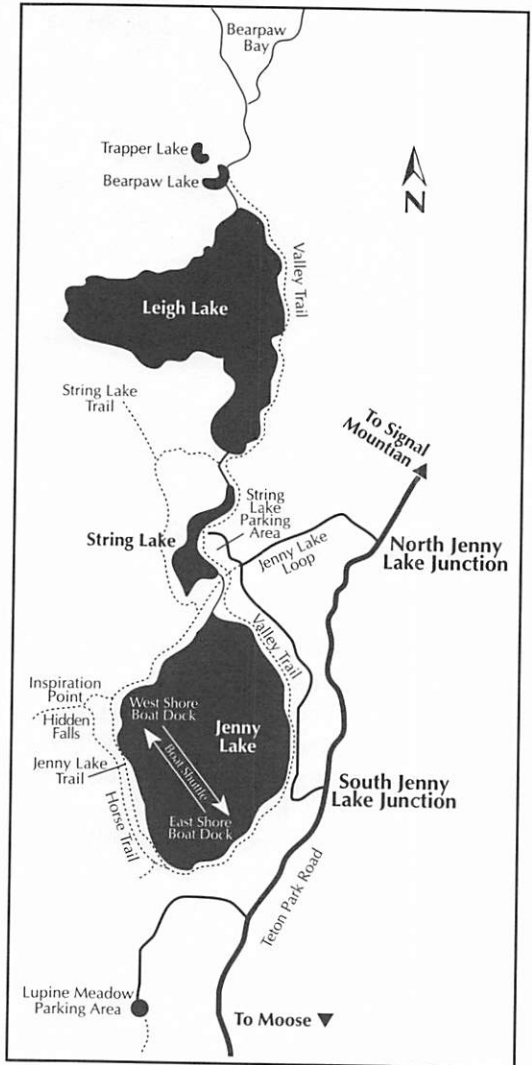
When you arrive at the East Shore Boat Dock, look for White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and Clark's Nutcrackers. Walk across the foot bridge and follow the trail along the east side of Jenny Lake. You now have almost three miles with wonderful scenery and many of the same birds until you return to the String Lake Parking Area. Look for tanagers, chickadees, Cassin's Finches, Warbling Vireos, thrushes, juncos, and Pine Siskins. Several open areas with big "woodpecker trunks" are good for Williamson's Sapsuckers and other woodpeckers.

## String Lake to Bear Paw Lake

Drive to North Jenny Lake Junction, turn left, go 1.4 miles to String Lake turnoff, and drive to the north end of the String Lake Parking Area. This fairly easy hike is long (3.7 miles each way), but flat. The elevation of the trail hardly changes from that of Leigh Lake, 6877 feet.

Williamson's Sapsuckers and Western Tanagers often can be found in the vicinity of the parking area. Enter the Valley Trail to the north and keep an eye on the marshy areas on the other side of String Lake. Sandhill Cranes and Great Blue Herons are possible sightings, and Common Snipe can be heard. In season, listen for an elk bugling, and look for deer, moose, and maybe even a black bear. Harlequin Ducks have visited String Lake in the spring.

The trail cuts through a lodgepole forest with scattered limber pines. You should see the typical woodland birds — Swainson's Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Perhaps a snowshoe hare will sit



next to the path and watch you watch the birds. A Western Wood-Pewee should be sitting on a snag along the lake shore, and a Belted Kingfisher might fly by, chattering its way along the edge of the lake.

When you arrive at the north end of String Lake, walk to the foot bridge and look for American Dippers. Then back track a few yards to the Leigh Lake portage sign and continue on the Valley Trail along Leigh Lake. The island at the south end of Leigh Lake has a large rock outcropping on which you might see mountain climbers practicing. Warbling Vireos should be singing overhead and Song Sparrows should be singing down at the lakeside. Common Mergansers and Northern Goshawks are possibilities in and above the lake. Scope the small island with the lone lodgepole for Spotted Sandpipers. California Gulls and Ospreys seem to like the airspace above Leigh Lake. See if you can find the blackish geologic "dike" in Mount Moran, the imposing massif to the west. As you continue up the trail along Leigh Lake, look for Red-naped Sapsuckers and Gray Jays. And Northern Flickers nest in this area.

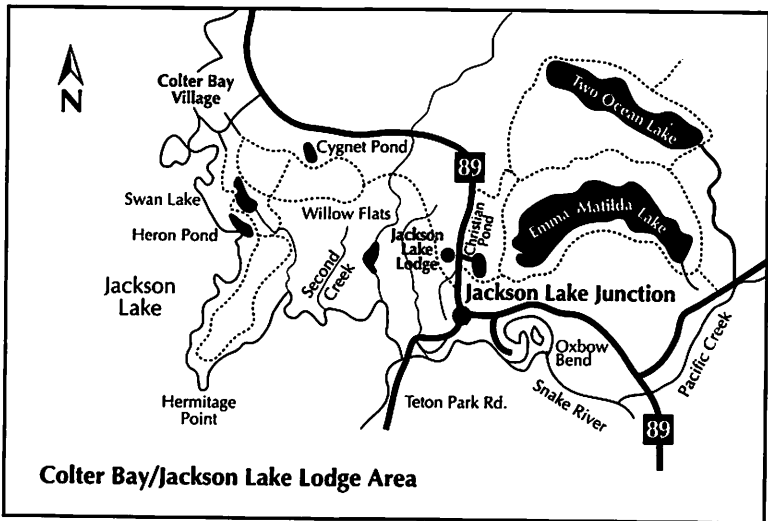
At the north end of Leigh Lake, you come to an old burn. White-crowned Sparrows, Tree Swallows, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Cassin's Finches, Western Wood-Pewees, and House Wrens all call this burn home.

Follow the Valley Trail to its northern terminus at Bear Paw Lake. Walk down to the lake shore, and, if you happen to be here in early to mid-July, look for baby Spotted Sandpipers bobbing their tails and acting just like their parents. Walk to the north of the lake along the marsh and look for Soras and Common Snipe. Sometimes Red Crossbills sit in the tops of the lodgepole pines on the perimeter of the marsh and fly back and forth from one side to the other. You are now within a few hundred yards of Jackson Lake. If you care to bushwack through the woods north of the marsh, you could probably find your way to Bearpaw Bay. A better choice probably would be to return to String Lake on the same trail.

## Colter Bay/Jackson Lake Lodge Area

Some of the best birding in Jackson Hole can be had by taking the numerous trails in this area which include those for Christian Pond, Willow Flats, Swan Lake, and Two Ocean and Emma Matilda Lakes.

Take Highway 89 north from Jackson 30.5 miles to Moran Junction. The Moran Entrance to Grand Teton National Park is located just north of the Junction. After stopping at the gate, continue 4.0 miles north on 89 to Jackson Lake Junction.



### Willow Flats

(See map for Colter Bay Trails) This hike, if long, is flat and easy, varying little from an altitude of about 6800 feet. If the 8.3 miles seems a little long to some, the hike can easily be abbreviated to 5 miles by eliminating the loop that runs up to Cygnet Pond. Trust us on this one – the variety of birds and habitat compensates for the lengthy walk. A bonus on this trail is the opportunity to see some of the large mammals – moose, elk, deer and coyotes.

Bear right at Jackson Lake Junction and stay on 89 another half mile. Pull into the Willow Flats Parking Area on the left. Try to avoid hitting any of the Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds which often hang around the parking area. Aim instead for the Brown-headed Cowbirds.

You should see Yellow-rumped Warblers and maybe a Clark's Nutcracker in the lodgepole pines to the north of the parking area. Take the path down the little hill and look for American Coots and Wigeon in the ponds at the bottom, Barn Swallows flying over the ponds, and Gray Catbirds and Song Sparrows in the willows. You will probably also see Yellow and perhaps MacGillivray's Warblers in the willows and hear the "fitz-bew" call of the Willow Flycatcher as you proceed north on the service road at the base of the hill.

Soon you will pass a concrete bunker-like structure on the right. Look for Northern Flickers and Downy Woodpeckers in the aspens on the hill and Common Yellowthroats and Lincoln's Sparrows in the willows on the left. If you happen to be walking here in July and early August, you should have no trouble finding brilliant scarlet gilia growing among the buckwheat and yarrow on the hill below Grand Teton Lodge. Across the trail, you might see Cinnamon Teal swimming on the pond.

All three of our common hummingbirds (Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous) can be found in this vicinity. Check out the small stand of tall aspens on the left for American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Tree Swallows, and, if you're on the trail early in the day, perhaps a Cooper's Hawk perched at the top of the tallest aspen on the left. Goshawks are also possible in this area. The hill on the right bears continued notice; if not for the birds, then for the flowers. Just as the gilia peters out, the penstemon and Indian paintbrush take over.

Another pond on the right usually has some ducks, and you should hear Common Snipe and Soras in the marshes, and maybe a Savannah Sparrow in the grass or a White-crowned Sparrow in the willows. Soon you come to a stand of lodgepole pines where you should find the typical woodland birds – Mountain Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swainson's Thrushes, Warbling Vireos, Chipping Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Western Tanagers, and House Wrens. Look for Fox Sparrows and Dusky Flycatchers in the willows by the road just after you enter the lodgepole stand. You should also find a Hairy Woodpecker or a Red-naped Sapsucker and, possibly, Gray Jays.

Walk through a stand of subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce where the trail is lined with lupine and geraniums. Then you cross Pilgrim Creek. Sometimes Common Ravens sit on the tall conifers by the creek, serenading each other with their hoarse croaks. The trail

soon winds into a relatively open area interspersed with cottonwoods and conifers.

When you reach the intersection of trails, you will have walked 2.5 miles. If you've had enough, re-trace your steps back to the parking area. Otherwise, turn right and begin a 3 mile loop which goes through a very nice variety of habitat.

Keep a lookout for Red Crossbills in the tall conifers and Wilson's Warblers in the willow thickets along this trail. Woodpeckers and sapsuckers frequent these cottonwoods, Red-breasted Nuthatches sometimes seem to be everywhere, and you might even hear an elk bugling. Dusky Flycatchers like this habitat, as do cinquefoil and harebells. When you come to Cygnet Pond on the right, look for Great Blue Herons and ducks. You might even see a Trumpeter Swan, but probably no cygnets.

At 3.6 miles, you come to a trail intersection. Turn left and you have about 4.7 miles to walk back to the parking area. Fox Sparrows might be singing in the willows. A boardwalk crosses a marsh, and a beaver dam and lodge are clearly visible on the left. Cross the creek and take the left fork on the other side.

Walk across the open meadow and look for Dusky Flycatchers when you enter the lodgepole stand on the other side. Yellow-Bellied sapsuckers have recently been reported in the willows beyond the lodgepole stand. Look for families of Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsuckers and House Wrens in the large cottonwood stand further on. Bear left when you come to the service road and then right where the trail completes the loop. Then back track the trail 2.5 miles to the parking lot looking for what you missed on the way out.

### Christian Pond

A fairly easy walk of about 4 miles, most of the trail is flat, gaining only 250 feet from its 6800 foot base level. The best birding on this trail lies around Christian Pond, so the hike could be abbreviated to include just the short walk to the pond and back. But the loop walk of 4 miles offers some very nice views and some of the best wild flower country in the valley. Drive .9 miles north of Jackson Lake Junction and park just north of the bridge in the small parking area on the right. Because of the Trumpeter Swans' nervousness about people, you are required to remain on the trail rather than approaching the pond closely. For this reason, you probably will see much more if you bring along a scope. PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! Act unobtrusively. ***And do not leave the trail!***

When you get out of the car you might hear the loud croaks of Common Ravens and the raspy "fitz-bew" of the Willow Flycatcher from the thickets below. Walk through the small sage field on the left

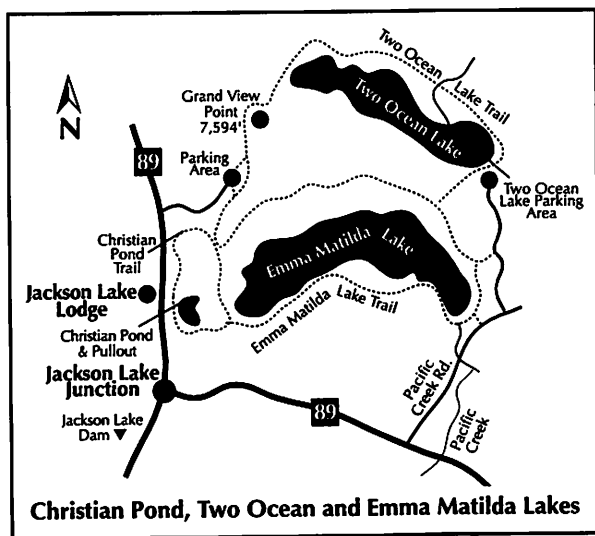
and check out the pond below for American Coots and ducks. Return to the trail and walk through the gate and down to the willow flats. Yellow Warblers, and White-crowned, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows should be easy to find.

American Goldfinches and

Pine Siskins might be "perchickoree"-ing overhead. Cross the creek looking for Gadwalls and other ducks and listening for Marsh Wrens. Sandhill Cranes have nested in the small pond to the left and below the solitary lodgepole by the trail.

Continue through the marshy area watching and listening for Common Yellowthroats, Common Snipe and Soras. As you walk up the hill toward Christian Pond, check the aspen stand on the left for Red-naped Sapsuckers.

Set up your scope at the top of the hill overlooking Christian Pond. In addition to the Trumpeters, you should be able to pick out Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, Green-winged, Cinnamon and perhaps Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Redheads, Lesser Scaup, and, depending upon the day, just about any other duck that visits Jackson Hole. Christian Pond is probably the most reliable place in the valley to see Ruddy Ducks. Yellow-headed Blackbirds nest in the cattails. Rufous Hummingbirds and Willow Flycatchers may try to distract you while you're scoping the pond. Common Nighthawks and any of our swallow species should be flying overhead. And, early in the morning, deer and moose might be watching you from the



woods to the south as closely as you're watching the birds.

Walk toward the south end of the lake through the scarlet gilia, balsamroot, harebells, lupine, and buckwheat. Check out the Great Blue Heron fishing below and listen to the calls of the Mountain Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches coming from the lodgepoles ahead. When the geranium-lined trail enters the woods, look for Yellow-rumped Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, Chipping Sparrows, and, high in the lodgepoles, Red Crossbills. Ruffed Grouse might cross in front of you, and Northern Flickers probably will harrass you.

At the intersection, take the left fork as you will at all the trail intersections you encounter on this walk. Walk up through mixed woodland stands where Warbling Vireos, Cassin's Finches, Western Tanagers, and Hairy Woodpeckers will be good bets to see. Walk through the wildflower filled meadows with giant hyssop and asters, and then enter a lodgepole pine forest. A Western Wood-Pewee should be singing at the perimeter of the woods. When you emerge from the trees and are walking parallel to the forest edge, there will be a meadow on your left with a ridge beyond. Leave the trail and walk to the ridge. Along the way a Green-tailed Towhee should pop up. From the ridge you will have a marvelous view of Jackson Lake Lodge and the Tetons beyond. The side of the ridge is covered with a variety of wildflowers, including gilia, balsamroot, asters, buckwheat, lupine, flax, and harebells. Most likely you'll see hummingbirds visiting the flowers and Red-naped Sapsuckers in the dead trees on the ridge to the north.

Return to the trail and turn left when you reach the Emma Matilda Trail intersection, and descend once again into the willow flats where, in addition to the typical birds, you might run into a moose. You walk through wild strawberries coming up out of the flats. Just before you reach the top of the ridge, you will see a small pond below and to the right. Take the short path to the pond, looking for a Belted Kingfisher, a Dusky Flycatcher, and a Lincoln's Sparrow.

Return to the trail and walk south along the ridge. The walk back to the parking area probably will produce few new birds, but you might see a Northern Harrier quartering the marshy fields below.



## Two Ocean Lake Loop

Moderately difficult. This long hike (9.7 miles) has one climb of about 1000 feet and another of about 500 feet. Otherwise, the trail remains relatively flat. Varied habitat produces a great variety of birds on this trail. Some of the more difficult to find birds sometimes show up on this loop - Great Gray Owls, Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, Cordilleran Flycatchers, and Orange-crowned Warblers, to name a few. From the Moran Junction Entrance Station to Grand Teton National Park, drive north on Highway 89 to Pacific Creek Road (1.0 miles), turn right and drive to the turnoff for Two Ocean Lake (2.1 miles). Turn left and go 2.3 miles to the parking area.

As soon as you leave your car, you might see Common Mergansers on the lake and hear the "fitz-bew" of the Willow Flycatcher from the willows lining the little creek coming out of the lake. Yellow and McGillivray's Warblers and Common Yellowthroats also inhabit these willows. A Belted Kingfisher likes to work the shore of the lake just below the parking area. Early in the morning you should hear Sandhill Cranes calling from the marsh down stream. Swallows feast on the insects coming off the water.

Cross the creek and follow the trail through the glia and harebells into the lodgepole pine stand. Look for a Hammond's Flycatcher in the conifers. Red-breasted Nuthatches may be calling, and deer could be threading their way through the willows to the left. Look in the aspens for Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Red-naped Sapsuckers. You leave the geranium and lupine of the woods and find monkshood and little sunflower in the meadow. Look for Warbling Vireos, Mountain Chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Red Crossbills in the islands of trees. Check the aspen stands for Orange-crowned Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrows, and Northern Flickers. Look for Green-tailed Towhees on the sage covered hillsides, and try not to step on the weasel running down the path, heading straight for you.

When the trail approaches the lake, look for Pied-billed Grebes, Barrow's Goldeneyes, and Lesser Scaup. Another Belted Kingfisher may chatter his way up the lakeshore, and Fox and White-crowned Sparrows might be singing from the brush. You drop down to a marshy area with Sandhill Cranes. Wilson's Warblers and Common Yellowthroats inhabit the willows. Further along Song Sparrows sing from the bushes in the grassy meadow where green gentian, flax, delphinium, and yarrow brighten the trail. Downy and

Hairy Woodpeckers and Red-naped Sapsuckers nest in the aspen stand at the end of the meadow.

You should be able to find Western Tanagers, Clark's Nutcrackers and Gray Jays in the Douglas fir forest. Nearing the lake you could get Buffleheads and will get a great view of the Grand Teton and Teewinot peaks. Listen for the two syllable call of a Cordilleran Flycatcher in the mixed stand of aspens and conifers. A series of aspen stands just before the head of the lake could produce cavity nesting Red-naped Sapsuckers, Western Wood-Pewees, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds.

At 3 miles, you've reached the head of the lake. Look for Williamson's Sapsuckers in the lodgepole woods, Black-headed Grosbeaks in the aspens, Common Snipe in the marshy area between you and the lake, and Cinnamon Teal, Double-crested Cormorants, and, perhaps, Trumpeter Swans on the lake itself.

You now should make a decision. Either retrace your steps 3 miles back to the car and complete a fairly flat and easy 6 mile walk, or continue on another 7 miles and take the long way back. If you decide upon the latter, the birding promises to be relatively unexciting. And some fairly trying uphill walks await you. But you might find the breathtaking perspective from Grand View Point and the exhilarating hike above Emma Matilda Lake worth the effort.

Continuing on, walk .4 miles (ignore the unmarked trail coming in from the left) to the trail intersection marked for Grand View Point, listening for Olive-sided Flycatchers high in the conifers. If you are not breathing too hard while walking up the mile long hill, listen for Red Crossbills in the conifers above, and look for Blue Grouse along the trail. At 7823 feet, Grand View Point is perched about 1000 feet above Two Ocean Lake. Enjoy the marvelous views of the Tetons and the lakes, and the wonderful wildflowers in the meadow at the top.

When you've rested long enough, make your "descent" and, after about 2 miles, turn left at the Emma Matilda Trail intersection where you will be standing 3.7 miles from the parking area. You then climb 400-500 feet onto the ridge separating Two Ocean and Emma Matilda Lakes. You should see many of the woodland birds along the way to your car, including Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Cassin's Finches, Cordilleran Flycatchers, Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, Dark-eyed Juncos, Chipping Sparrows, and Ruffed Grouse.

## Emma Matilda Lake Trail

We rate this trail as moderately difficult because of its length (about 11 miles) and elevation changes. If one is motivated to walk that far, the Two Ocean Lake Trail would be a better choice. The birding is better, and so is the scenery. But the south leg of the Emma Matilda Lake trail is seldom hiked and may be worth the effort for those who have plenty of time. If you can set up a shuttle operation, start at Christian Pond and finish at the Two Ocean Lake parking area, a distance of about 6.5 miles. The walk is relatively flat, ranging between 6900 and 7100 feet.

Starting at Christian Pond (See Christian Pond segment), look for the "Trail Not Maintained" sign as you climb the hill on the east side of Christian Pond. Maintained or not, that's your turn. Gromwell and stonecrop line the trail, and soon you enter a lodgepole pine stand. You'll be greeted by the typical woodland birds. You then emerge into a meadow with sage and lots of harebells. Take the trail coming in from the left after about a half mile. Look for Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows and Sage Thrashers. Approaching the woods, look on the margins for Western Wood-Pewees and American Kestrels; Northern Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers, and Red-naped Sapsuckers in the aspens; and Olive-sided Flycatchers in the conifers. Near the willows you'll find monkshood, and in the willows you'll find McGillivray's Warblers.

Walk carefully toward the lake in case the Western Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, and Common Mergansers are near the shore. Across the bay you might see a bull moose in velvet feeding in the shallow water. Take the trail to the right through the delphinium and look for Lincoln's Sparrows. Check out the view from Lookout Rock and look for Yellow Warblers, Northern Flickers, and Red Crossbills in the habitat around you.

Much of this trail winds through mixed conifer forests of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir, and limber pine. The forest floor is often thick with lupine and other flowers. At one point, near the lake, look-a-like flowers of cow parsnip and water hemlock grow next to one another - the first edible and the second lethal. Birds you can expect to see include Ruffed Grouse, Swainson's Thrushes, Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, and, hopefully, Northern Three-toed

Woodpeckers. Usually you can find Trumpeter Swans in the lake, and Northern Goshawks nest along this trail. Cross the footbridge and walk around the east end of the lake until you turn right on the trail taking you to the Two Ocean Lake parking area.

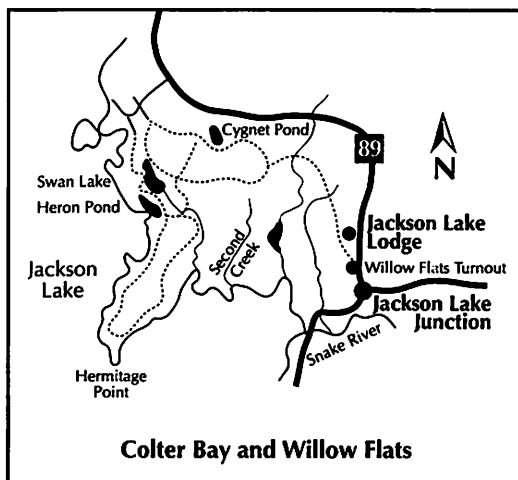
## Colter Bay Trails

A relatively easy walk of 4.5 to 5 miles, most of the trail lies at about 6800 feet and is fairly flat except for two or three ridges of about 150 feet. Varied habitat usually produces lots of birds and some large mammals on this hike. Bear right at Jackson Lake Junction and stay on Highway 89 for 5.4 miles to the Colter Bay turnoff. Turn left and drive .9 mile to the marina parking area. The trailhead is just south of the marina. Park and follow the signs to Hermitage Point and Swan Lake Foot Trail.

While you're reading the trail sign you'll probably hear the "Quick, three beers!" call of the Olive-sided Flycatcher coming from the conifers lining the lake. Common Mergansers and California Gulls often are in the bay, especially if you're there early enough to beat the boaters. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Warbling Vireos, and

White-crowned Sparrows should be singing in the lodgepole pines. Sooner or later, especially in August, as you walk along Jackson Lake admiring the little sunflowers and asters, you should hear Canada Geese honking overhead, practicing maneuvers for their journey south.

At the trail intersection, follow the signs to Swan Lake. Chipping Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Yellow-rumped Warblers should be easy to find. As you approach Swan Lake, check the opposite shore for deer and moose. Ring-billed Gulls might be circling the



lake. Look for Western Tanagers in the lodgepoles bordering the water. Follow the shoreline and look for Trumpeter Swans on the island, Lesser Scaup on the lake, and Lincoln's Sparrows in the lake-side thickets. By this time you should also be hearing hummingbirds, Common Yellowthroats, and Red-breasted Nuthatches.

The trail leaves the lake and climbs a ridge through fallen timber, lupine, and harebells where you should get a remarkable view of Mount Moran. Look for Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Red Crossbills. As you approach Heron Pond, you might hear the "kyew - kyew - kyew" of an Osprey. Leave the trail at the intersection and walk down the hill to the pond through scarlet gilia, buckwheat, yarrow, harebells, asters, and lupine. American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Common Mergansers, and Canada Geese should be swimming on the lake, and a Belted Kingfisher might be flying and chattering along the opposite shoreline. Early in the morning, deer come to the pond to drink. Look for Spotted Sandpipers and Soras in the water lilies.

Return to the intersection and take the trail to the left (take "Hermitage Point - 3.4"; don't take "Hermitage Point - 3.0"). You climb back up the ridge through the downed trees. Williamson's Sapsuckers and Northern Flickers are good bets. At the next intersection, take the left fork. As you approach Third Creek, you should begin hearing the "fitz-bew" of a Willow Flycatcher. American Coots are in the creek, and, early in the morning, you may be serenaded by the Sandhill Cranes. Lincoln's and Song Sparrows and Yellow and Wilson's Warblers inhabit the willows.

When you come to the short diversion to the Swan Lake Overlook, take it and look for Green-tailed Towhees on the hillside. Cross the boardwalk bridge, noticing the beaver lodge and dam on the right. Often ducks and geese swim in the beaver pond. Walk through the willows on the other side, listening for Fox Sparrows and Warbling Vireos singing. When you come to the "island" of lodgepoles and large aspens, look for Yellow-bellied (not Red-naped) Sapsuckers. At the time of this writing, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are thought to be rare, non-breeders in Jackson Hole. But two adult males, one adult female, and one juvenile were recently reported here.

At the next trail intersection, turn left at the service road. Soon you'll see sewage lagoons on the left. Barrow's Goldeneyes, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal can be found here. Spotted Sandpipers,

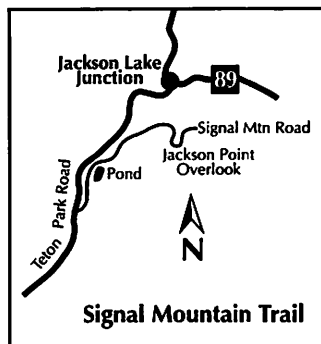
Lesser Yellowlegs, and other shorebirds might be walking on or near the concrete aprons around the treatment tanks. Marmots like to sun on the aprons. Look for Vesper and Chipping Sparrows and Mountain Bluebirds in the nearby grassy fields.

Further down the trail you'll see corrals with Brewer's Blackbirds on the right. Leave the corrals, and stay on the trail rather than taking the paved road to the right. You'll climb a ridge where you'll see Red-breasted Nuthatches, Cassin's Finches and Mountain Chickadees. At the "T" intersection you can go right to the Colter Bay General Store vicinity or turn left and walk about a mile back to the parking area.

### Signal Mountain Trail

This moderately difficult hike of 5.5 miles offers a good variety of birds. About half the hike is in a loop format, providing diversity of habitat and scenery. An altitude gain of about 600 feet is deceiving, in that much of the hike is up and down hills and possibly tiring to some. The real altitude gain doesn't occur until about 1.5 miles into the hike where the trail then climbs to Signal Mountain Summit.

From Jackson Lake Junction, take the Teton Park Road south to the intersection with Signal Mountain Road (4.1 miles). Turn left, and drive 1.1 miles. Pull off the road just before the pond on the right. You should see an unmarked trail on the near side of the pond.



Follow the path halfway around the pond, being careful not to stress out any moose dining among the lily pads in the pond. The lodgepole habitat likely will turn up Red-breasted Nuthatches, Dark-eyed Juncos, Mountain Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Chipping Sparrows, Western Tanagers, and, possibly, Red Crossbills. Great Gray Owls have been seen in this area. Lupine, harebells, Indian paintbrush, and pussytoes sprinkle color along this lakeside path.

Soon after leaving the pond, you come to a fork with a sign advertising two routes to Signal Mountain Summit, both 2.5 miles.

Choose "Via Ponds", and bear right. Don't worry about missing anything. You'll return "Via Ridge" and be facing toward, rather than away from, the Tetons.

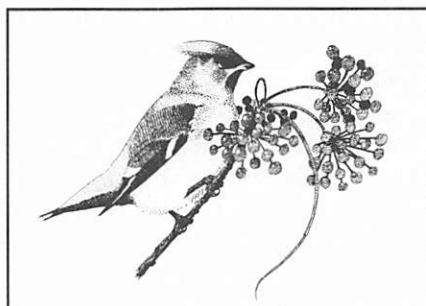
First you walk through a meadow with asters, scarlet gilia, balsamroot, yarrow, and buckwheat. Then you come to a mixed stand of conifers and aspens. In the woods you might pick up Townsend's Solitaires, Northern Flickers, Clark's Nutcrackers, Swainson's Thrushes, Warbling Vireos, and maybe a Wilson's Warbler. Signal Mountain often is the first place locals think of if they want to see Blue Grouse, so look for them anywhere along the trail.

Check both ponds along the way for ducks and geese. Scan the ridges of the open, sage areas for Common Ravens, accipiters and other raptors.

You begin the climb to the summit just before you join the "Ridge" trail, from which you have a mile to go. The uphill struggle is rewarded not only by the view from the top (after all, you could much more easily have driven up there), but also by a wonderful variety of wild flowers. You should find giant hysop, salsify, little sunflowers, geraniums, hawkweed, scarlet gilia, and cinquefoil. American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, and Cassin's Finches should be found either in the fields or in the Douglas fir/aspen stands.

When you reach Jackson Point, relax for a while and soak in the wonders of Jackson Hole. Try to find some of the evidence of the great Teton Fault scarring the Teton Range just above the remains of the last glacial age, 15,000 years ago. You should be able to see the conifer stands in the valley growing on the terminal moraines of the glacial age that occurred 35-80,000 years ago. While you are puzzling the geologic history of the valley, you'll probably notice Broad-tailed and Rufous Hummingbirds feeding from the myriad of wild flowers surrounding you. Perhaps a Blue Grouse will bob its way into view. Look for the glacial kettles or "potholes" to the southeast and see if you can spot any Trumpeter Swans.

When you're ready to leave, return on the same trail you came up. After a mile of down hill walking you'll come to a fork. Take the Ridge Trail to the right and be prepared for some gorgeous views of the Teton Range. Most of the birds you'll see on this route will be repeats of your hike up, but you should run across a Green-tailed Towhee or two in the serviceberry bushes.



## BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

The birds in this section are found every year in Jackson Hole, at least with “occasional” frequency. Some of these birds are listed as “Rare” or “Accidental” but have been seen recently enough or frequently enough to be included. Many of these birds (identified with \*) nest, or are thought to nest, in the valley. Habitats and locations are described where one has the best chance of finding each species.

**Common Loon\*** *Gavia immer* — Open water bird, found occasionally on Jackson Lake, Two Ocean Lake, Jenny Lake, Taggart Lake, and Oxbow Bend. Nests only on a few small lakes just south of Yellowstone National Park. Best bet - Grassy Lake and Jackson Lake near the dam.

**Pied-billed Grebe\*** *Podilymbus podiceps* — Found occasionally on marshy, shallow lakes and ponds. Try Flat Creek pullout, Elk Refuge, Christian Pond, Two Ocean Lake, ponds at South Park elk feeding grounds, and Oxbow Bend.

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* — Occasional fall migrant. Found on lakes and ponds. Try Oxbow Bend and Jackson Lake.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* — Accidental. One individual recorded on Two Ocean Lake in 1988.



**Eared Grebe\*** *Podiceps nigricollis* — Common spring migrant. Occasional in summer and fall. Found on lakes and ponds with best bets Jackson Lake, Oxbow Bend, Buffalo Fork, Elk Refuge, and Flat Creek pullout.

**Clark's Grebe** *Aechmophorus clarkii* — Occasionally found in large, reedy lakes. Best bet - Jackson Lake, Oxbow Bend.

**Western Grebe\*** *Aechmophorus occidentalis* — Same habitat as Clark's. Best bet is Jackson Lake. Also Oxbow Bend.

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* — Found rather easily most of year except winter. These birds don't nest in Jackson Hole but do nest as near as Yellowstone Lake. Many sexually immature non-nesters spend the summer in the valley, presumably awaiting their turn in years to come. Often seen flying in flocks of several dozen over the Snake River near Munger Mountain. Best bet - Jackson Lake, Oxbow Bend.



**Double-crested Cormorant\*** *Phalacrocorax auritus* — Easily seen around valley lakes and ponds except in winter. Try north end of Jackson Lake Dam, Lizard Creek Bay, Oxbow Bend, and ponds along Boyle's Hill Road.

**American Bittern\*** *Botaurus lentiginosus* — Occasional, spring through fall. Found in dense marshes. Try Willow Flats, Elk Refuge. Also Flat Creek pullout.

**Great Blue Heron\*** *Ardea herodias* — Common most of year and occasional in winter. Found by lakes, streams, marshes and even irrigation ditches. Try Oxbow Bend, Blacktail Ponds, Snake River, and ponds in South Park.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* — Found some years in marshes and ponds. Have to get lucky.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* - Rare spring visitor to Jackson Hole. One individual showed up and stayed less than a day among the cattle on the Walton Ranch (across from Skyline Ponds) in the spring of 1993.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* - Rare migrant. Three to five individuals were recorded on private lands in South Park in late spring of 1993.

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi* - Occasional spring migrant. Found in marshes, wetlands. Best bet - Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, Christian Pond and Skyline Ponds. Seen frequently in spring, flying over South Park area.

**Tundra Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* - Found in shallow ponds and lakes, marshes. Occasional in late fall or early winter. Try Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout.

**Trumpeter Swan\*** *Cygnus buccinator* - Lakes, ponds, rivers. Fairly common all year. While the Trumpeter population in Jackson Hole remains substantial, it has aged in recent years. To the consternation and dismay of everyone, we have seen few successful nests in the early nineties. Best bet - Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, Pinto Oxbow, and Two Ocean Lake.

**Snow Goose** *Chen caerulescens* - Occasional spring and fall migrant. Found in marshes and ponds. Usually seen flying along Snake River in migration. Look up, and get lucky.

**Canada Goose\*** *Branta canadensis* - Common all year. Found on lakes, river sandbars, grassy fields. Hard to miss. Try South Park, Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, anywhere on the Snake, and Oxbow Bend.

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa* - Rare migrant. Recently seen during spring migration on Moose-Wilson Road and on flooded fields at Walton Ranch.

**Green-winged Teal\*** *Anas crecca* - Found on small, marshy lakes, ponds. Fairly common except in winter when only occasional. Try Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, Two Ocean Lake, and Sawmill Ponds.

**Mallard\*** *Anas platyrhynchos* - Hard to miss at any time of the year. If you see water, check it out.

**Northern Pintail\*** *Anas acuta* - Fairly regular, if uncommon, all year. Marshes, lakes and ponds. Try Elk Refuge and Flat Creek pullout.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* - Common migrant. Occasional in spring and summer. Found on marshes, ponds and lakes. Try Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, Skyline Ponds.

**Cinnamon Teal\*** *Anas cyanoptera* - Listed as "occasional" in spring and summer, but "common" may be more appropriate. Lakes, ponds, rivers, and even small streams and irrigation ditches. Try Two Ocean Lake, Willow Flats ponds, Oxbow Bend, Flat Creek pullout, Elk Refuge ponds..

**Northern Shoveler\*** *Anas clypeata* - Found occasionally on ponds, lakes, and marshes. Try Colter Bay sewage lagoons, Oxbow Bend, Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, and Skyline Ponds.

**Gadwall\*** *Anas strepera* - Fairly common all year on rivers, lakes and ponds. Usually can be found on Elk Refuge and Flat Creek pullout.

**American Wigeon\*** *Anas americana* - Common all year except winter. Found in marshes and shallow lakes and ponds. Check Jackson Lake, Swan Lake, Oxbow Bend, Sawmill Ponds, Elk Refuge, and Flat Creek pullout.

**Canvasback\*** *Aythya valisineria* - Occasional migrant. Open lakes. Best bet - Jackson Lake.

**Redhead\*** *Aythya americana* - Found on marshes, lakes and ponds. Seen fairly regularly. Best bet - Elk Refuge ponds, Flat Creek pullout, and Jackson Lake in fall.

**Ring-necked Duck\*** *Aythya collaris* - Found on ponds, lakes, marshes, and creeks. Common all year except winter. Try Swan Lake, Elk Refuge, and Flat Creek pullout.

**Lesser Scaup\*** *Aythya affinis* - Occasional all year except winter. Found on marshes, small lakes and ponds. Try Willow Flats ponds, Skyline Ponds, Elk Refuge, and Flat Creek pullout.

**Harlequin Duck\*** *Histrionicus histrionicus* - Can be found on Teton Range mountain streams, west shore of Jackson Lake, and upper Snake River near Flagg Ranch. Also try String Lake in spring.

**Common Goldeneye\*** *Bucephala clangula* - Found occasionally all year and more often in winter, on lakes in the summer and on rivers in winter. Often among Barrow's Goldeneyes. Try any lake in summer, especially Elk Refuge. Snake River bridge at Moose, Snake River Canyon, and Fish Creek in winter.

**Barrow's Goldeneye\*** *Bucephala islandica* - Common most of the year. Same habitat as Common Goldeneye. Should find almost anywhere on the Snake, Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, Oxbow Bend, Swan Lake, and smaller creeks and ponds.

**Bufflehead\*** *Bucephala albeola* - Fairly common all year, more difficult in summer. Found on lakes, ponds, and rivers. Try Oxbow Bend, Jackson Lake, Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout and, if you can't find one anywhere else in summer, Two Ocean Lake.

**Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* - Occasional in winter. Found on ponds and creeks. Try Fish Creek.

**Common Merganser\*** *Mergus merganser* - Common all year. Usually found on rivers. Try anywhere along the Snake (especially at Highway 22 bridge), Elk Refuge, Jackson Lake, Oxbow Bend, Jenny Lake, and Two Ocean Lake.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* - Occasional migrant. Usually found on rivers and lakes. Try Jackson Lake, Jenny Lake, Two Ocean Lake, and, in spring, Oxbow Bend.

**Ruddy Duck\*** *Oxyura jamaicensis* - Found on marshes, lakes and ponds. Occasional all year except winter. Try especially Christian pond, Elk Refuge ponds, Flat Creek pullout, and Skyline Ponds.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* - Listed as rare, spring through fall. Recent sightings all over the valley more numerous. Possibly nesting in southern Yellowstone or northern Grand Teton. Best bet is road to Grassy Lake, but could be seen anywhere.

**Osprey\*** *Pandion haliaetus* - Common except in winter. Found along rivers, lakes and ponds. Nest sites at Skyline Ponds, Snake River Bridge on road to Wilson, Buffalo Valley Road, and Boyle's Hill Road. Also try north end of Leigh Lake, Oxbow Bend, Colter Bay, and west side of Jackson Lake.

**Bald Eagle\*** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* - Common all year. Usually near water. River float trips almost always produce them. Try Jackson Lake, Elk Refuge, Oxbow Bend, and anywhere along the Snake and Gros Ventre Rivers.

**Northern Harrier\*** *Circus cyaneus* - Occasional all year except winter. Seen "quartering" wetlands and open fields. Best bet - Scan the Elk Refuge from the Highway 89 pullouts. Also Willow Flats, Fall Creek Road south of Red Top Meadows, and South Park Loop Road.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk\*** *Accipiter striatus* - Occasionally seen all year except winter. Inhabits forests and thickets. Try Fish Creek Road, the Moose-Wilson Road, Valley Trail along ridges, and Two Ocean Lake.

**Cooper's Hawk\*** *Accipiter cooperii* - Same description as Sharp-shinned Hawk.

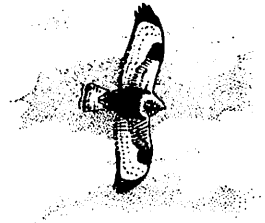
**Northern Goshawk\*** *Accipiter gentilis* - Fairly common, if not easy to locate, all year. Inhabits deep woodlands. Try Colter Bay Campground, Oxbow Bend, conifer forests along the Snake, Fish Creek Road, Fall Creek Road just north or south of Red Top Meadows, Buffalo Valley Road, and Valley Trail. Usually, if you drive or walk around the area long enough, you'll see a Goshawk.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* - Accidental, but one showed up at the entrance to the Teton Science School for the 1993 Spring Migratory Bird Count.

**Swainson's Hawk\*** *Buteo swainsoni* - Fairly common around open fields except in winter. Try Teton Village Road, the Elk Refuge fence line along Highway 89 just south of the Gros Ventre River, Jackson Lake Dam, Willow Flats, and Triangle X Ranch.

**Red-tailed Hawk\*** *Buteo jamaicensis* - Hard to miss except in winter. Usually found around open fields but also often seen on the margins of forested areas. Drive any road and you'll eventually see a Red-tailed Hawk.

**Rough-legged Hawk** *Buteo lagopus* - Fairly common migrant seen from fall to early spring in open areas. The Moose-Wilson Road, Elk Refuge, South Park Loop Road, and Highway 89 between Jackson and the airport are your best bets.



**Golden Eagle\*** *Aquila chrysaetos* - Hunts over open country. Seen occasionally any time of year. Best bets are Fish Creek Road, Oxbow Bend, high in the Tetons, and the Gros Ventre Road (above Lower Slide Lake).

**American Kestrel\*** *Falco sparverius* - Common all year except winter. Inhabits open country. Hard to miss on powerlines along the roads of Jackson Hole.

**Merlin\*** *Falco columbarius* - Occasionally seen in spring and fall. Found in open woods, marshes, and woodland margins. Not easy to find, but look for merlins in aspens and cottonwoods along Snake River.

**Peregrine Falcon\*** *Falco peregrinus* - Open country, near water and cliffs. Rare all year, but sightings have increased last few years, especially during spring migration. Look near cliffs of the Teton Range, over the Elk Refuge, near the western shore of Jackson Lake, and along the rivers.

**Prairie Falcon\*** *Falco mexicanus* - Inhabits open areas near cliffs. Often observed hunting riverine courses and near cliffs almost anywhere in the valley. Best bet - on or near cliffs on east side of Miller Butte just inside Elk Refuge and flying almost anywhere over Elk Refuge. Also Blacktail Butte, Antelope Flats, Kelly, and Gros Ventre Road.

**Gray Partridge\*** *Perdix perdix* - Irregular but occasionally found some years in grassy or Sage fields. Try area around airport.

**Blue Grouse\*** *Dendragapus obscurus* - Commonly found all year. Inhabits coniferous forests. Often seen near roadsides and trails. Best bet - along roadside on drive up Signal Mountain, Jackson Pt. Overlook. Also, Grand View Pt., Lupine Meadows, west shore of Jenny Lake, and on the trail from String Lake to Leigh Lake.

**Ruffed Grouse\*** *Bonasa umbellus* - Common all year. Found in or near woodlands. Walk the trails recommended in this guide long enough and you'll find them. Try Fish Creek Road, Rendezvous Mountain Trail, Willow Flats, Colter Bay to Jackson Lake Lodge trail, Two Ocean Lake, Death Canyon/Valley Trail, and Jenny Lake's west shore.

**Sage Grouse\*** *Centrocercus urophasianus* - Common all year, harder to find in winter. Inhabits sagebrush flats over much of the valley. Walk around the sage just north and east of the airport parking lot and you should find them. Also try area around intersection of Highway 89 with the Kelly Road, and Highway 89 just north and south of Moose intersection. If you are in Jackson Hole in April, check with Teton Science School and the Park Service about visits to leks.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** *Tympanuchus phasianellus* - Accidental visitor. Displaying male recently recorded on South Park Loop road.

**Sora\*** *Porzana carolina* - Considered "occasional" in check list, but really quite common in its habitat. Inhabits most of our marshy areas. Try marsh in back of Jackson Visitor Center, Willow Flats, the marshy area south of Red Top Meadows, and the marsh southwest of the intersection of Fall Creek Road and highway 89 in the Snake River Canyon.

**American Coot\*** *Fulica americana* - Fairly easy to find except in winter. In spring, they prefer shallow ponds. In summer and fall, look on deeper lakes. Try Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, Willow Flats ponds, Oxbow Bend, and Jackson Lake.

**Sandhill Crane\*** *Grus canadensis* - Found in marshy grasslands. Common spring and fall migrant and seen fairly easily in summer. Best bets are Elk Refuge, meadows near Two Ocean Lake, and Willow Flats.

**Whooping Crane** *Grus americana* - A rare visitor to Jackson Hole, and becoming more rare since the abandonment of the foster parent project at Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho. Two confirmed sightings in 1993, but the chances of seeing this wonderful bird in the valley are not good..

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* - Rare migrant. Half a dozen individuals recently showed up in spring migration at the Flat Creek pullout.

**Killdeer\*** *Charadrius vociferus* - Easy to find from spring through fall in flat, open areas near water. Look on river and creek edges, mud flats at rear of Jackson Visitor Center, and Jackson Lake and Colter Bay mud flats.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* - Found only occasionally on ponds and lakes. Recent summer resident. Try Jackson Lake mud flats.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* - Very occasionally found on mud flats and in marshy areas. Try Jackson Lake mud flats, behind Jackson Visitor Center, and Skyline Ponds.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* - Occasional, but occurs more frequently than Greater Yellowlegs. Found on mud flats and marshy areas. Try Jackson Lake, the Jackson Visitor Center, and Skyline Ponds.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* - Occasional spring and fall migrant. Can be found almost anywhere there is a small amount of water and mud flats. Try same areas as Yellowlegs species.



**Willet** *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* - Occasionally found in marshy areas and on shores. Try marsh behind Jackson Visitor Center, Elk Refuge, Jackson Lake, and Willow Flats.

**Spotted Sandpiper\*** *Actitis macularia* - Common except in winter. Found on shores of streams, mud flats, and in marshy areas. Walk anywhere along Snake River. Try shores of Jenny and Jackson Lakes.

**Long-billed Curlew\*** *Numenius americanus* - Found occasionally, especially during spring, in grassy fields. Nests on Elk Refuge. In spring, try ranchlands in South Park and grassy fields north of Antelope Flats Road.

**Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa* - Occasional and hard to find. Frequents mud flats and grassy fields near water. Try Jackson Lake Dam area.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* - Occasional fall migrant. Try Jackson Lake mud flats, Skyline Ponds, Colter Bay sewage treatment plant.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* - Same as Semipalmated Sandpiper.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* - Occasional spring and fall migrant. Try Jackson Lake mud flats, Skyline Ponds, Colter Bay sewage treatment plant.

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* - Occasional summer, and fall migrant. Same as Least Sandpiper.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* - Found occasionally except in winter. Try mud flats of Jackson Lake or Skyline Ponds.

**Common Snipe\*** *Gallinago gallinago* - Common except in winter. Found in marshy areas and near small streams. Try Jackson Visitor Center marsh, Elk Refuge and Willow Flats.

**Wilson's Phalarope\*** *Phalaropus tricolor* - Fairly easy to find in spring, more difficult in summer, in shallow lakes and marshes. Try Elk Refuge, Flat Creek pullout, Christian Pond, Oxbow Bend, and Skyline Ponds.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* - Uncommon spring migrant. Best bet would be Jackson Lake.

**Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* - Seldom seen except during last week in June through first two weeks in July. These birds follow the salmon fly hatch up the Snake River and can be found in large numbers during this time flying over the town of Jackson and the Elk Refuge eating these insects as they emerge from Flat Creek.

**Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia* - Occasionally seen in spring. Try Jackson Lake, springtime flooded fields north of Highway 22 near Skyline Ponds.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* - Fairly easy to find in summer. Try Jackson Lake and Oxbow Bend.

**California Gull** *Larus californicus* - Common except in winter. Try Jackson Lake (Colter Bay Marina, Signal Mountain boat ramp, and just below the dam). Also Two Ocean Lake, Oxbow Bend, Christian Pond, and along the Snake River.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* - Occasional, but regularly seen in summer and fall. Try Jackson Lake near the dam and Two Ocean Lake.

**Black Tern** *Chilidonias niger* - Occasional except in winter, seen some years more than others. Try Jackson Lake and along the Snake.

**Rock Dove\*** *Columba livia* - Introduced bird occasionally seen in South Park, Jackson, Wilson, and around ranches in between.

**Band-tailed Pigeon** *Columba fasciata* - Accidental with several recent reports. One confirmed sighting at Horse Creek Station.

**Mourning Dove\*** *Zenaida macroura* - Regularly seen, but variable, except in winter. Can be found all over the valley in meadows, ranchlands, and near feeders. Usually reliable in the area around Jackson Visitor Center.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* - Inhabits woodlands around streams. Occasionally seen, but difficult to find.

NOTE - Jackson Hole offers a great variety of owls. At least 8 species, including the Boreal Owl, nest here. But owls usually are nocturnal and very secretive. Your best bet for finding owls is to find the correct habitat and then look for them. Good luck!

**Western Screech-Owl\*** *Otus kennicottii* - A rare, probable nester. Inhabits open and riparian woodland. Nests in tree cavities and old woodpecker holes. Most recent sightings in Buffalo Valley.

**Great Horned Owl\*** *Bubo virginianus* - Occasionally found all year in river bottoms and piedmont forests. Try the villages of Moose, Jackson, and Wilson. Seen frequently at homes in the South Park area; also Colter Bay.

**Northern Pygmy-Owl\*** *Glaucidium gnoma* - Rare, probable nester. Inhabits coniferous or mixed woodlands, often in canyons. Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes. Try Valley Trail, Buffalo Valley.

**Great Gray Owl\*** *Strix nebulosa* - Occasional all year but difficult to find. Nocturnal, but hunts early in mornings and late in afternoons as well. Often perches conspicuously in trees adjacent to forest and, sometimes, can be approached rather closely. Look at edges of forests next to open meadows. Try Signal Mountain, Two Ocean Lake, Valley Trail, Fall Creek Road, the Moose-Wilson Road, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

**Long-eared Owl\*** *Asio otus* - Seen occasionally in summer and fall. Uses abandoned nests of hawks and ravens. Inhabits woodlands. Nocturnal hunter, roosts in trees near trunk in day. Best bet is to look for "whitewash" while walking the trails.

**Short-eared Owl\*** *Asio flammeus* - Seen occasionally in summer and fall. Inhabits open, sage country and marshy areas. Nests on or near ground. Hunts at dusk and dawn. Roosts on or near ground in daylight, sometimes in groups. Check small clumps of willows in open country. Try Elk Refuge, Jackson Visitor Center area, Antelope Flats, and Willow Flats.

**Boreal Owl\*** *Aegolius funereus* - Rare; probable nester. Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes. Inhabits conifer forests. Recent reports from canyons in the Teton Range, Buffalo Valley, and National Forest to east of Elk Refuge.



**Northern Saw-whet Owl\*** *Aegolius acadicus* - Listed as a rare resident, more probably, a fairly common nester. Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes. Inhabits coniferous forests. Recent reports include Grey's River area and Buffalo Valley.

**Common Nighthawk\*** *Chordeiles minor* - Commonly seen almost anywhere in the valley except in winter. Try town of Jackson, along rivers and streams, Jackson Lake Dam, Colter Bay and Willow Flats.

**Common Poorwill** *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* - Listed as accidental, but the birds have been heard regularly since 1985 on the cliffs to the west of Fish Creek Road.

**Magnificent Hummingbird** *Eugenes fulgens* - There have been several records in the past few years in the Wilson area.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri* - Occasionally found in summer. Seen in low mountain meadows and at feeders. Try Willow Flats, Oxbow Bend, and feeder at Horse Creek Station.

**Calliope Hummingbird\*** *Stellula calliope* - Commonly found near streams all over valley from late spring to early fall. Try Willow Flats, Jackson Lake Lodge, Two Ocean Lake, Taggart Lake Trail, willows along streams, and feeders in towns and settlements.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird\*** *Selasphorus platycercus* - Fairly common. Seen early in summer all over valley in willow flats and at feeders. Later in summer they move higher up the mountain meadows. Try Fish Creek Road, Blacktail Ponds, Signal Mountain, Willow Flats, Two Ocean Lake and Oxbow Bend.

**Rufous Hummingbird\*** *Selasphorus rufus* - Fairly easy to find all over the valley from late spring to fall. Comes to feeders away from town. Try Moose-Wilson Road, Signal Mountain, Willow Flats, trails along mountain meadows (behind Teton Village), and willow areas south of Red Top Meadows.

**Belted Kingfisher\*** *Ceryle alcyon* - Easily found all year. Seen near streams of all sizes, ponds and marshes. Drive around the valley, and you can't miss it sitting on a power line, tree, or fence. Try Flat Creek pullout, Fish Creek Road, and Highway 22 Snake River bridge.

**Lewis's Woodpecker\*** *Melanerpes lewis* - Occasionally seen in spring and summer. Unexpected; but keep your eyes open on the trails and along river edges.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* - Unconfirmed recent sighting of male, female, and juvenile near Colter Bay. Needs to be documented.

**Red-naped Sapsucker\*** *Sphyrapicus nuchalis* - Common from late spring to fall. Found in Aspens and mixed forests. Try lower Taggart Lake Trail near the ranch, Gros Ventre Campground, Oxbow Bend, Willow Flats, Emma Matilda Lake, Two Ocean Lake, Cache Creek, and Fish Creek Road.

**Williamson's Sapsucker\*** *Sphyrapicus thyroideus* - Occasionally found in spring and summer. Try the lower elevation Teton trails, Taggart Lake Trail, Lupine Meadows Trailhead, Valley Trail, Rendezvous Mountain Trail, and Grand View Point.

**Downy Woodpecker\*** *Picoides pubescens* - Commonly seen throughout Jackson Hole all year, but not in large numbers. Walk any of the lower trails with aspen and mixed forests and you will see them.

**Hairy Woodpecker\*** *Picoides villosus* - Commonly seen all year in forest habitats, but not in large numbers. Try Cache Creek, Teton Village, Taggart Lake (especially southern part of loop), Lupine Meadows/Valley Trail, Jenny Lake, and Oxbow Bend.

**Three-toed Woodpecker\*** *Picoides tridactylus* -

Occasionally found in spring and summer.

Habitat in and near coniferous forest burns. Try northern parts of Grand Teton Park - Flagg Ranch area, Scheffield Creek, and Arizona Creek. Also Lupine Meadows/Valley Trail and Emma Matilda Lake.



**Black-backed Woodpecker\*** *Picoides arcticus* - Occasional spring through fall, but recently more rare. Difficult to find. Habitat in and near coniferous forest burns. Recent record between Taggart Lake burn and Lupine Meadows/Valley Trail.

**Northern Flicker\*** *Colaptes auratus* - Most of the flickers found in Jackson Hole are Red-shafted. Yellow-shafted are rarely seen. Widespread and common in river bottoms and mixed forests. Try the towns and settlements, Willow Flats, Jenny Lake and String Lake trails, and Taggart Lake Trail.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher\*** *Contopus borealis* - Common late spring to early fall. Open, coniferous forests in higher elevations, especially after cuts and fires. Try Taggart Lake Trail, especially southern portion. Also Granite Creek, Sawmill Ponds, Lupine Meadows, Colter Bay, Cache Creek, and Game Creek.

**Western Wood-Pewee\*** *Contopus sordidulus* - Common late spring to early fall. Found in open woodlands. Try Teton Village, Moose, Taggart Lake Trail, Oxbow Bend, Cache Creek, Granite Creek, and Boyle's Hill Road.

**Willow Flycatcher\*** *Empidonax traillii* - Fairly easy to find late spring to early fall in the appropriate habitat. Look in the willows along streams. Try anywhere along Snake River in the willows, elk feeding grounds on Fall Creek Road near Snake River Canyon, Willow Flats, Taggart Lake Trail, and Grassy Lake Road.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondii* - Occasionally found late spring to early fall. Inhabits mixed and coniferous forests. Try higher trails, Granite Creek, Rendezvous Mountain, and Lupine Meadows/Valley Trail.

**Dusky Flycatcher\*** *Empidonax oberholseri* - Common from late spring to early fall. Willow/sagebrush flats and open aspen and mixed forests. Try Fall Creek Road, Taggart Lake Trail, Willow Flats, and Lupine Meadows.

**Cordilleran Flycatcher\*** *Empidonax occidentalis* - Occasionally found late spring to early fall. Inhabits dark canyons and foothills near streams. Can be seen on Fish Creek Road, Gros Ventre Campground, and Arizona Creek Trail.

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya* - Rarely seen, but several sightings in recent years. Perches on bushes, small trees and fences. Best bet - Elk Refuge, Antelope Flats, and sage fields near Kelly.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* - First Jackson Hole confirmed sighting in summer of 1993. Found, and photographed, in nature study area behind Jackson Visitor Center.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis* - Listed as rare, but recently seen most years in South Park area. Perches on fences and power lines next to open fields. Try north-south leg of South Park Loop Road, Antelope Flats, and Kelly area.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* - Occasionally seen late spring to early fall. Inhabits woodland margins near water. Try Moose-Wilson Road, Fall Creek Road, South Park Elk feeding grounds, and Boyle's Hill Road.

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* - Easily found in winter and early in spring. More casual later in year. Seen along gravel roads and open sage fields. In early spring, when snow still covers the valley floor, try roads near airport, Kelly Warm Springs, Elk Refuge Road, South Park Loop Road. Later, try sagebrush flats and high alpine areas.

**Tree Swallow\*** *Tachycineta bicolor* - Easily found spring through early fall. Likes to be near water. Find water in Jackson Hole and usually Tree Swallows will be there. Try Jackson Visitor Center (Flat Creek bridge).

**Violet-green Swallow\*** *Tachycineta thalassina* - Fairly common spring through early fall. Prefers open areas and woodland margins. Try Jackson Visitor Center (Flat Creek bridge), Moose, Miller Butte in Elk Refuge, Jenny Lake, and Jackson Lake Lodge.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow\*** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* - Listed as "Occasional", but fairly easy to find spring through early fall. Look near river banks and cliffs and under bridges. Try Jackson Visitor Center (Flat Creek bridge), Oxbow Bend, and Snake River crossings.

**Bank Swallow\*** *Riparia riparia* - Common spring through summer. Nests in river banks and cliffs. Best bet - cliffs north of Boyle's Hill Road. Also try Jackson Visitor Center (Flat Creek bridge), bank behind the Maverick Station at the "Y", Oxbow Bend, and Willow Flats.

**Cliff Swallow\*** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* - Easy to find spring through early fall. Seen under bridges, near barns and outbuildings, and around cliffs. Best bet - Jackson Visitor Center (Flat Creek bridge), Colter Bay, Jackson Lake Lodge, and Moose.

**Barn Swallow\*** *Hirundo rustica* - Common spring through fall. Nests on barns and bridges. Best bet Jackson Visitor Center (Flat Creek bridge), Colter Bay, Snake River bridges.

**Gray Jay\*** *Perisoreus canadensis* - Locally common all year. Found near campgrounds and trailheads, and, in winter, near settlements. Try Lizard Creek Campground, Jenny Lake, String Lake picnic area, and behind Teton Village.

**Steller's Jay\*** *Cyanocitta stelleri* - Locally common all year. Prefers coniferous forests, canyons, and, in winter, settlements. Try Horse Creek Station feeders, Cache Creek, behind Teton Village, Jenny Lake, and Valley Trail.



**Clark's Nutcracker\*** *Nucifraga columbiana* - Common all year. Scavenges near campgrounds and settlements. Found at higher elevations in summer. Try town of Jackson, Lupine Meadows, Valley Trail, Jackson Lake Lodge, and Rendezvous Mountain.

**Black-billed Magpie\*** *Pica pica* - Ubiquitous at lower elevations all year. Open areas bordered by mixed woods. Just drive or walk around the valley and you'll see them (and hear them).

**American Crow\*** *Corvus brachyrhynchos* - Listed as occasional, but crows are beginning to pop up everywhere in Jackson Hole. Found in towns, on ranches, and in mixed forests. Try town of Jackson, Kelly, Antelope Flats, Teton Village, South Park Loop Road.

**Common Raven\*** *Corvus corax* - Hard to miss all year. Found in towns, along rivers, in forests, and in open sagebrush and ranch lands.

**Black-capped Chickadee\*** *Parus atricapillus* - Common all year. Prefers willows and aspens in low, open areas. Find a feeder in any town, and you'll see them.

**Mountain Chickadee\*** *Parus gambeli* - Common all year. In winter, comes to feeders, especially near base of mountains. In summer found in mixed and conifer forests on mountainsides. Try Jackson feeders near Snow King Mountain in winter and any mountainside trail or road in summer.



**Red-breasted Nuthatch\*** *Sitta canadensis* - Common year round resident. Prefers conifers throughout valley and lower elevations. Walk any trail - Jenny Lake, Taggart Lake, Valley.

**White-breasted Nuthatch\*** *Sitta carolinensis* - Common all year, but not as easy to find as Red-breasted Nuthatch. Prefers aspen stands, lower elevations in winter and higher in summer. Just walk the trails and sooner or later you'll find one.

**Brown Creeper\*** *Certhia americana* - Not too hard to find all year if you walk through coniferous and mixed woodland habitat long enough. Try Fish Creek Road and behind Teton Village, Valley Trail.

**Rock Wren\*** *Salpinctes obsoletus* - Occasionally found all year. Prefers rocky cliffs and slopes. Best bet - large rocks on south side of Miller Butte just to left of Elk Refuge Road. Do not leave the road. Also rocky hillside to east of Spring Creek Road.

**Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus* - Several recent records during spring migration. Listen for lovely, cascading series of notes coming from the dry, gently sloping, sage hillsides.

**House Wren\*** *Troglodytes aedon* - Common spring through fall. Prefers lower altitude aspen groves. Try Teton Village, Moose, Two Ocean Lake, and Valley Trail.

**Marsh Wren\*** *Cistothorus palustris* - Common spring through fall. Inhabits marshy areas. Look in marsh behind Jackson Visitor Center, Willow Flats, and Christian Pond.

**American Dipper\*** *Cinclus mexicanus* - Common resident all year long. Inhabits fast moving mountain streams. Best bet - Fish Creek, Fall Creek, Hidden Falls, Cascade Creek, and Granite Creek.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa* - Occasionally found spring through fall. Prefers the high country, conifers. Try Hidden Falls Trail, Rendezvous Mountain, pullouts on Teton Pass, and Cache Creek.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet\*** *Regulus calendula* - Easy to find except in winter. Inhabits variety of mixed woodlands and thickets. Try town of Jackson, Moose, Valley Trail, Jackson Lake Lodge, Colter Bay, Cache Creek, almost anywhere.

**Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana* - Occasional migrant. Check flocks of Mountain Bluebirds in spring. Best bet probably South Park Loop Road and Kelly.

**Mountain Bluebird\*** *Sialia currucoides* - Common resident spring through fall. Inhabits Sagebrush areas, ranchlands, and valley mead-

ows. Drive the South Park Loop Road or the Antelope Flats - Kelly loop, and you can't miss.

**Townsend's Solitaire\*** *Myadestes townsendi* - Fairly easy to find most of year. More difficult in winter when town of Jackson is probably best bet. Often perches high on mountain slopes or along base of mountain. Try Teton Science School (Ditch Creek), Grand View Point, Lupine Meadows/Valley Trail, Granite Creek, Moose-Wilson Road, and Rendezvous Mountain.

**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*- Occasionally seen spring through fall. Inhabits dense, cottonwood swamps. Try Blacktail Butte Trail.

**Swainson's Thrush\*** *Catharus ustulatus* - Easy to see spring through fall. Found in moist, mixed woodlands. Best bet - east side of Jenny Lake. Also try Colter Bay, Granite Creek Trail, and Lupine Meadows Trail.

**Hermit Thrush\*** *Catharus guttatus* - Supposedly easy to see spring through fall, but, in some years these thrushes can hardly be found. Inhabits mixed woodlands, often at higher altitudes than Swainson's Thrush. Try Granite Creek Trail, Lupine Meadows Trail, Rendezvous Mountain Trail as high up as the peak, and the upper canyons.

**American Robin\*** *Turdus migratorius* - Seen everywhere spring through fall; a few have even spent the winter here. You can't miss them, wherever you go.

**Gray Catbird\*** *Dumetella carolinensis* - Occasionally seen spring through early fall. Found in dense willow thickets. Try Willow Flats, Blacktail Ponds, and willow covered valley south of Red Top Meadows.

**Sage Thrasher\*** *Oreoscoptes montanus* - Fairly easy to find spring through summer. More difficult later. Inhabits sagebrush flats. Best bet - walk through the sage north of the Airport parking lot. Also try Antelope Flats and both sides of the road into the Elk Refuge.



**American Pipit\*** *Anthus rubescens* - Commonly found in alpine areas spring through fall. Sometimes found near water in the valley in early spring and late fall. Try Rendezvous Mountain.



**Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* - Occasionally found in winter and early spring. Look in Jackson, Wilson and other settlements. When they're here, you should see them in large flocks.

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum* - Found occasionally all year, especially spring through fall. Try town of Jackson, Horse Creek Station, Willow Flats, South Park elk feeding grounds, and Moose-Wilson Road near Sawmill Ponds.

**Northern Shrike** *Lanius excubitor* - Found occasionally late fall through early spring. Often seen perching on power lines and poles, trees in open areas, and fences. Best bet - power line between Highway 89 and the Elk Refuge north of town. Also Highway 89 between Park Boundary turnout north of Jackson and the airport. Also try Highway 22 between Spring Creek Road and the Snake River.



**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus* - Seen occasionally during winter and spring. Habitat and locations similar to those described above for Northern Shrike.

**European Starling\*** *Sturnus vulgaris* - Easy to find all year. Look in the towns, trees around farms and ranches, and cottonwood trees along streams.

**Warbling Vireo\*** *Vireo gilvus* - Easy to find late spring through fall. Inhabits mixed and aspen forests and stands. Try Fall Creek Road, Moose-Wilson Road, Valley Trail, and Colter Bay.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* - Very occasional migrant. Inhabits mixed woodlands. Walk trails, listen for song, and get lucky.

**Orange-crowned Warbler\*** *Vermivora celata* - Occasional late spring through fall. Look at the margins of mixed forests and in willow thickets. Try Moose-Wilson Road, Fall Creek Road near entrance to Crescent H Ranch, Cache Creek, Two Ocean Lake, and Willow Flats.

**Yellow Warbler\*** *Dendroica petechia* - Hard to miss late spring through fall. Look for anything deciduous in the valley, and you should find a Yellow Warbler. Try Jackson Visitor Center area, Willow Flats, Christian Pond, Oxbow Bend, and south side of Taggart Lake Loop.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler\*** *Dendroica coronata* - Abundant spring through fall. Prefers cottonwoods and aspens but can also be found in conifer stands. Try Jackson Lake Lodge and all trails at the foot of the Tetons (Lupine Meadows, Valley, Jenny Lake, Rendezvous Mountain).

**Townsend's Warbler** *Dendroica townsendi* - Found in coniferous forests. Listed as rare. However, we've had a number of recent records in the valley. Try Teton trails, especially at higher altitudes and Buffalo Valley. Best bet - Rendezvous Mountain Trail where recently, late in the summer, it has been seen frequently and in good numbers.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* - Very occasional in spring and summer. Difficult to find. Try Willow Flats and trails through mixed woods and willow thickets, and get very lucky.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis* - Listed as rare. Being reported more frequently in recent years. Try Willow Flats and the willows behind Jackson Visitor Center.

**MacGillivray's Warbler\*** *Oporornis tolmiei* - Common spring through fall. Inhabits Willows and other thickets, especially near the mountains. Try Moose-Wilson Road, south portion of Taggart Lake Trail loop, Jenny Lake, Oxbow Bend, and Blacktail Ponds.

**Common Yellowthroat\*** *Geothlypis trichas* - Common spring through summer. Prefers shrubs and marshes. Best bet - marshy area behind Jackson Visitor Center. Also try Willow Flats, Oxbow Bend, Moose-Wilson Road, and Blacktail Ponds.

**Wilson's Warbler\*** *Wilsonia pusilla* - Common spring through fall. Search the Willows and thickets in and near wetlands. Try south portion of Taggart Lake Trail loop, Willow Flats, Oxbow Bend, Blacktail Ponds, and behind the Jackson Visitor Center.

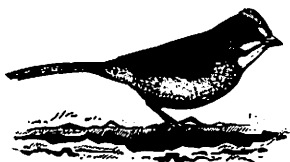
**Western Tanager\*** *Piranga ludoviciana* - Fairly easy to find in spring and summer. Inhabits open woodlands at the foot and lower elevations of the mountains. Most of the lower Teton trails are good - Lupine Meadows, Valley, Jenny Lake, Death Canyon, and behind Teton Village.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* - Occasional spring migrant. Look in open woodlands and hope.

**Black-headed Grosbeak\*** *Pheucticus melanocephalus* - Fairly common nester. Found in open woodlands and margins of coniferous forests. Try Valley Trail, Fish Creek Road, Moose-Wilson Road near Sawmill Ponds, and lower Cache Creek.

**Lazuli Bunting\*** *Passerina amoena* - Occasionally found in spring and summer. Found in open woodlands. Best bet - feeders at Horse Creek Station. Also try Oxbow Bend, Valley Trail near Taggart Lake Trail, and Phelps Lake Overlook.

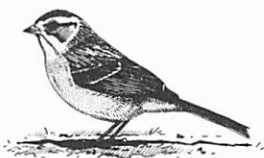
**Green-tailed Towhee\*** *Pipilo chlorurus* - Fairly easy to find late spring through early fall. Inhabits sagebrush flats and rocky hillsides. Try Blacktail Butte, sagebrush area north of airport parking lot, Taggart Lake Trail, Sawmill Ponds, Snake River dikes (west side) south of Wilson Bridge, and Red Top Meadows.



**American Tree Sparrow** *Spizella arborea* - Found occasionally during fall, winter, and spring in brushy, open areas. Comes to feeders in valley, especially in winter and in less populated areas.

**Chipping Sparrow\*** *Spizella passerina* - Common except in winter. Inhabits mixed and conifer forests. Easy to find on lower Teton trails (Lupine Meadows, Valley, Jenny Lake, Taggart Lake, Rendezvous Mountain), Gros Ventre Campground, Colter Bay, and Moose-Wilson Road.

**Brewer's Sparrow\*** *Spizella breweri* - Common breeder spring through fall. Found in sagebrush flats all over the valley. Try sagebrush area north of airport parking lot, Antelope Flats, and sagebrush areas next to the Elk Refuge road.



**Vesper Sparrow\*** *Pooecetes gramineus* - Common spring through fall. Found in sagebrush flats and dry, grassy fields. Try sagebrush area north of airport parking lot, Antelope Flats, fields on either side of Teton Park Road, and both sides of Elk Refuge Road.

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* - Occasionally found in summer and fall. Just pay attention while looking for other sparrows.

**Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys* - Listed as rare, but found in the last few years more frequently. Try the Elk Refuge, Antelope Flats, and the area north of the airport parking lot.

**Savannah Sparrow\*** *Passerculus sandwichensis* - Commonly seen spring through fall. Inhabits grasslands and sagebrush flats. Try fields to the west of South Park Loop Road, Antelope Flats, grassy fields in South Park elk feeding grounds, and area to north of airport parking lot.

**Fox Sparrow\*** *Passerella iliaca* - Occasionally seen in spring and summer. Found in dense, marshy thickets. Best bets - Willow Flats, Cache Creek, Moose-Wilson Road.

**Song Sparrow\*** *Melospiza melodia* - Common except in winter when only occasionally found. Inhabits willows and thickets on edges of streams and ponds. Easy to find. Try area behind Jackson Visitor Center, Boyle's Hill Road, Willow Flats, and Oxbow Bend.

**Lincoln's Sparrow\*** *Melospiza lincolnii* - Common late spring through fall. Prefers thick, marshy areas, lakeside brushes, and mountain meadows. Try Willow Flats, Valley Trail, Oxbow Bend, Blacktail Ponds, Jackson Visitor Center area, and Fish Creek Road.

**White-crowned Sparrow\*** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* - Easy to find except in winter. Inhabits open woodlands, brushy areas, and willows near water. Try Willow Flats, Colter Bay Campground, the shores of Jackson and Jenny Lakes, Oxbow Bend, Blacktail Ponds, Jackson Visitor Center area, Fall Creek Road, and near irrigation ditches.

**Dark-eyed Junco\*** *Junco hyemalis* - Easy to find most of the year. Check out the towns in winter and almost anywhere near water anytime else. Try anywhere along the Snake, the Jackson Visitor Center area, or any of the trails in the park.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* - Occasionally found in winter. Best bet - drive the roads around the airport, Antelope Flats, Teton Village, and check Kelly Warm Springs.

**Bobolink\*** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* - Occasionally found in spring and summer. Try grasslands of the Elk Refuge. May be nesting in the refuge near Jackson Visitor Center. Have been seen every year since 1988 in the small willows, a couple hundred yards out into the Refuge.

**Red-winged Blackbird\*** *Agelaius phoeniceus* - Common spring through summer and occasional in winter. Likes marshy areas, cattails. Try area near Jackson Visitor Center, Elk Refuge, Moose-Wilson Road, Fall Creek Road, Boyle's Hill Road, and most anywhere with appropriate habitat.

**Western Meadowlark\*** *Sturnella neglecta* - Fairly easy to find except in winter. Inhabits grassy fields. Best bet - South Park Loop Road. Also try Elk Refuge and Antelope Flats.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird\*** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* - Commonly found spring through fall. Inhabits marshy areas with cattails. Best bet - around Jackson Visitor Center. Willow Flats and Christian Pond also reliable.



**Brewer's Blackbird\*** *Euphagus cyanocephalus* - Easy to find most of year. Look in ranchland pastures and corrals - Highway 22, Moose-Wilson Road, South Park Loop Road. Also Willow Flats.

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula* - Occasionally found spring through fall, more commonly in recent years. Best bet - Jackson Visitor Center area. Also Elk Refuge, South Park residential feeders.

**Brown-headed Cowbird\*** *Molothrus ater* - Common breeder found spring through fall. Try ranchlands (corrals), Colter Bay, Fish Creek Road, Willow Flats, and Jackson Lake Lodge.

**Northern Oriole (Bullock's)\*** *Icterus galbula* - Fairly easy to find spring through fall. Inhabits open woodlands and willows near water. Try the willows behind Jackson Visitor Center, Oxbow Bend, and the row of cottonwoods on the west leg of the South Park Loop Road (across from entrance to Rancho Alegre) where they nest.

**Rosy Finch\*** *Leucosticte arctoa* - Vertical migrant found at feeders in the valley in winter and high country areas in summer. In winter try feeders in Jackson, Wilson, and Moose. In summer, visit Rendezvous Peak or the high trails (Teton Crest).



**Pine Grosbeak\*** *Pinicola enucleator* - Usually can be found all year, but easier in winter when they sometimes visit feeders all over the valley. Inhabits coniferous and mixed forests. In some winters, just find the feeders in the towns and settlements and you'll probably eventually see them. In summer try Teton Pass, Rendezvous Mountain Trail, Valley Trail, Colter Bay trails, and Two Ocean Lake.

**Cassin's Finch\*** *Carpodacus cassinii* - Commonly seen most of year except winter. Inhabits open coniferous forests and mixed woodlands. Check the feeders in the towns and the campgrounds. Try Colter Bay, Two Ocean Lake, and Moose. Hard to miss in the summer if you walk the trails.

**House Finch** *Carpodacus mexicanus* - Listed as accidental. Recently, a singing male and up to 5 singing females were documented near a feeder on the north leg of the South Park Loop Road. Another House Finch was recently reported singing in the Jackson Town Square. Ominous.

**Red Crossbill\*** *Loxia curvirostra* - Occasionally found all year. In some years more abundant than in others. In some summers, Red Crossbills are downright common. Inhabits conifers, usually at the tops. Try Moose, Signal Mountain Campground, Lizard Creek Campground, Colter Bay Trail, and Two Ocean Lake. Locating Red Crossbills can be simplified by knowing their calls.

**White-winged Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera* - Accidental most of the year. Not found every year. Recently recorded in the conifers of Phillips Canyon.

**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* - Seen very irregularly, more often in winter and spring. Found in brushy areas and at feeders. It's one of those birds for which you just have to be here when they are. Good Luck.

**Pine Siskin\*** *Carduelis pinus* - Fairly easy to find most of the year. Inhabits coniferous and mixed forests. Try area feeders, ranchlands, and the trails. In winter, stick with the feeders.

**American Goldfinch\*** *Carduelis tristis* - Seen fairly easily spring through fall. Find ranchlands with thistles growing in or along the pastures. Along roads and irrigation ditches in southern end of valley. Regular visitors to feeders in South Park area. Also seen in thistles along Fall Creek Road, the South Park elk feeding grounds, and Willow Flats.

**Evening Grosbeak\*** *Coccothraustes vespertinus* - A vertical migrant, easy to find most of the time. Visits feeders fall through spring. In winter, check Jackson and the villages. In summer, look at higher altitude conifers, Two Ocean Lake, and Colter Bay.

**House Sparrow\*** *Passer domesticus* - Common breeder, but not in great numbers. Best bet - in and around the town of Jackson. Some winters they almost disappear entirely.



## CHECKLIST OF JACKSON HOLE BIRDS

### RELATIVE FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE

- a **ABUNDANT**—likely to be seen in large numbers in appropriate habitat and season.
- c **COMMON**—may be observed most of the time and in good numbers in appropriate habitat and season.
- o **OCCASIONAL**—occurs irregularly or in small numbers, but in appropriate habitat and season.
- r **RARE**—unexpected as to season or range.
- x **ACCIDENTAL or SURPRISING**—out of its range, or recorded only once or twice.
- ? **VERIFICATION UNAVAILABLE**—additional information especially welcome!

### SEASONS

SP March-May  
SU June-August

F September-November  
W December-February

### BREEDING STATUS

- \* following species' name indicates nest or dependent young have been observed
- following species' name indicates only circumstantial evidence of breeding.

NO. SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
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**LOONS**

- Red-throated Loon .....X.....
- Pacific Loon .....X.....X.....
- Common Loon\* .....O.....O.....O.....X.....

**GREBES**

- Pied-billed Grebe\* .....O.....O.....O.....r.....
- Horned Grebe .....r.....r.....O.....
- Red-necked Grebe .....X.....X.....
- Eared Grebe\* .....C.....O.....O.....
- Western Grebe\* .....O.....O.....C.....
- Clark's Grebe .....O.....O.....O.....

**PELICANS**

- American White Pelican .....C.....C.....C.....

**CORMORANTS**

- Double-crested Cormorant\* .....C.....C.....C.....

**BITTERNS AND HERONS**

- American Bittern\* .....O.....O.....O.....
- Great Blue Heron\* .....C.....C.....C.....O.....
- Great Egret .....X.....X.....
- Snowy Egret .....r.....r.....r.....
- Little Blue Heron .....?
- Cattle Egret .....r.....
- Green-backed Heron .....X.....
- Black-crowned Night-Heron .....r.....r.....

**IBISES**

- White-faced Ibis .....O.....

**WATERFOWL**

- Tundra Swan .....O.....O.....O.....
- Trumpeter Swan\* .....C.....C.....C.....C.....
- Greater White-fronted Goose .....X.....
- Snow Goose .....O.....O.....r.....
- Ross's Goose .....X.....
- Canada Goose\* .....C.....C.....C.....C.....
- Wood Duck .....r.....r.....r.....r.....
- Green-winged Teal\* .....C.....C.....C.....O.....
- Mallard\* .....a.....C.....a.....C.....
- Northern Pintail\* .....O.....O.....O.....O.....
- Blue-winged Teal .....C.....O.....C.....r.....
- Cinnamon Teal\* .....C.....C.....O.....X.....
- Northern Shoveler .....O.....O.....O.....O.....
- Gadwall\* .....C.....C.....C.....O.....
- Eurasian Wigeon .....X.....X.....
- American Wigeon\* .....C.....C.....C.....r.....

**WATERFOWL CONTINUED**

<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback*	.....O	.....r	.....O	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead•	.....O	.....O	.....C	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....r
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup	.....	.....X	.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Harlequin Duck*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf Scoter	.....	.....	.....X	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Scoter	.....	.....	.....X	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....O
<input type="checkbox"/> Barrow's Goldeneye*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....O
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead*	.....C	.....O	.....C	.....O
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	.....O	.....r	.....O	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser	.....r	.....r	.....r	.....?
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....X

**VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	.....r	.....r	.....r	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-shouldered Kite	.....	.....	.....X	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....r
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....X
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....X
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....O
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	.....X	.....	.....?	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....r
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferruginous Hawk*	.....r	.....r	.....r	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	.....O	.....	.....C	.....O
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....r
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin•	.....O	.....r	.....O	.....X
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon*	.....r	.....r	.....r	.....r
<input type="checkbox"/> Gyrfalcon	.....X	.....	.....X	.....X
<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Falcon*	.....O	.....O	.....O	.....X

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge*	.....r	.....r	.....r	.....r
<input type="checkbox"/> Chukar*	.....r	.....r	.....r	.....r
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grouse*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....C
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....C
<input type="checkbox"/> Sage Grouse*	.....C	.....C	.....C	.....C
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-tailed Grouse	.....r	.....r	.....r	.....X

NO. SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
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**RAILS AND COOTS**

- Virginia Rail .....f .....f .....
- Sora\* .....c .....c .....c .....
- American Coot\* .....o .....o .....c .....f

**CRANES**

- Sandhill Crane\* .....c .....o .....c .....
- Whooping Crane .....f .....f .....f .....

**PLOVERS**

- Black-bellied Plover .....f .....f .....
- Lesser Golden-Plover .....x .....
- Semipalmated Plover .....f .....f .....
- Killdeer\* .....o .....c .....c .....o
- Mountain Plover .....x .....
- Black-necked Stilt .....x .....x .....x .....
- American Avocet\* .....o .....o .....o .....
- Greater Yellowlegs .....o .....o .....o .....
- Lesser Yellowlegs .....o .....o .....o .....
- Solitary Sandpiper .....o .....f .....o .....
- Willet\* .....o .....f .....o .....
- Spotted Sandpiper\* .....c .....c .....c .....
- Upland Sandpiper .....x .....
- Whimbrel .....x .....
- Long-billed Curlew\* .....o .....o .....o .....
- Marbled Godwit .....o .....f .....f .....
- Red Knot .....x .....x .....
- Sanderling .....x .....f .....x .....
- Semipalmated Sandpiper .....f .....o .....
- Western Sandpiper .....x .....f .....o .....
- Least Sandpiper .....o .....f .....o .....
- Baird's Sandpiper .....f .....o .....o .....
- Pectoral Sandpiper .....f .....
- Dunlin .....? .....x .....
- Stilt Sandpiper .....f .....
- Long-billed Dowitcher .....o .....o .....o .....
- Common Snipe\* .....c .....c .....c .....o
- American Woodcock .....? .....? .....

**PHALAROPES**

- Wilson's Phalarope\* .....c .....o .....f
- Red-necked Phalarope .....f .....f .....
- Red Phalarope .....x .....

**JAEGERS**

- Parasitic Jaeger .....x .....

### GULLS AND TERNS

<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull	r	C	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull	O		r	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> California Gull	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Gull			?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sabine's Gull			X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern	r	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Tern		r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Murrelet			X	

### DOVES AND CUCKOOS

<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Dove*	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Band-tailed Pigeon	X	X	?	?
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove*	O	O	O	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X	X	

### OWLS

<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl			X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flammulated Owl			X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Screech-Owl*	r	r	r	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Owl			X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Hawk Owl			?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pygmy-Owl*	O	O	O	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Burrowing Owl*	r	r	r	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	X	X	X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Gray Owl*	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl*	X	O	O	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl*	r	O	O	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Owl*	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl*	O	O	O	O

### NIGHTHAWKS

<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk*	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Poorwill*	X	X		

### SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS

<input type="checkbox"/> Black Swift			?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vaux's Swift			?	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Swift		X		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-throated Hummingbird	X	X		
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnificent Hummingbird	X	X		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-chinned Hummingbird		r	r	

**SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS CONTINUED**

- Calliope Hummingbird\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird\* .....C.....C.....O.....
- Rufous Hummingbird\* .....O.....C.....O.....

**KINGFISHERS**

- Belted Kingfisher\* .....C.....C.....C.....C.....

**WOODPECKERS**

- Lewis's Woodpecker\* .....O.....O.....f.....
- Red-headed Woodpecker .....X.....X.....
- Acorn Woodpecker .....X.....
- Red-naped Sapsucker .....C.....C.....C.....X.....
- Williamson's Sapsucker\* .....O.....O.....f.....
- Downy Woodpecker\* .....C.....C.....C.....C.....
- Hairy Woodpecker\* .....C.....C.....C.....C.....
- White-headed Woodpecker .....X.....X.....
- Three-toed Woodpecker\* .....O.....O.....f.....f.....
- Black-backed Woodpecker\* .....f.....f.....f.....f.....
- Northern Flicker\* .....C.....C.....C.....O.....
- Pileated Woodpecker .....X.....

**FLYCATCHERS**

- Olive-sided Flycatcher\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Western Wood-Pewee\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Willow Flycatcher\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Least Flycatcher .....O.....
- Hammond's Flycatcher .....O.....O.....O.....
- Dusky Flycatcher\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Cordilleran Flycatcher• .....C.....C.....C.....
- Say's Phoebe .....f.....f.....f.....
- Vermilion Flycatcher .....X.....
- Ash-throated Flycatcher .....X.....
- Great Crested Flycatcher .....X.....
- Western Kingbird .....f.....f.....f.....
- Eastern Kingbird .....O.....O.....O.....
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher .....X.....

**LARKS**

- Horned Lark• .....C.....C.....C.....O.....

**SWALLOWS**

- Tree Swallow\* .....a.....a.....a.....
- Violet-green Swallow\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow\* .....O.....O.....O.....
- Bank Swallow\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Cliff Swallow\* .....a.....a.....C.....
- Barn Swallow\* .....C.....C.....C.....



**JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Jay*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Steller's Jay*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	X			X
<input type="checkbox"/> Pinyon Jay		X	X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Clark's Nutcracker*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow*	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven*	C	C	C	C

**CHICKADEES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Plain Titmouse			?	

**NUTHATCHES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Pygmy Nuthatch			X	

**CREEPERS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper*	O	O	O	O
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**WRENS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Wren*	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Canyon Wren		X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren*	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren•	X	r	?	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren*	C	C	C	

**DIPPERS**

<input type="checkbox"/> American Dipper*	C	C	C	C
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**KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet•	O	O	O	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet*	C	C	O	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X		X	

**THRUSHES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Western Bluebird	O	r	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Bluebird*	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Solitaire*	C	C	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery•	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush*	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush*	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin*	a	a	a	r
<input type="checkbox"/> Varied Thrush	X	X	X	

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS**

- Gray Catbird• .....O.....O .....r.....
- Northern Mockingbird.....X.....X.....
- Sage Thrasher\* .....C.....C.....O.....
- Brown Thrasher.....X.....

**PIPITS**

- American Pipit• .....C.....C.....C.....?
- Sprague's Pipit.....X.....X.....

**WAXWINGS**

- Bohemian Waxwing.....O.....r.....O.....
- Cedar Waxwing .....O.....O.....O.....O.....

**SHRIKES**

- Northern Shrike.....O.....O.....O.....
- Loggerhead Shrike• .....O.....r.....r.....O.....

**STARLINGS**

- European Starling\* .....C.....C.....C.....O.....

**VIREOS**

- Solitary Vireo .....r.....r.....
- Warbling Vireo\* .....a.....a.....O.....
- Red-eyed Vireo .....r.....r.....

**WARBLERS**

- Tennessee Warbler .....X.....r.....X.....
- Orange-crowned Warbler• .....O.....O.....O.....
- Nashville Warbler .....X.....X.....
- Yellow Warbler\* .....a.....a.....C.....
- Chestnut-sided Warbler .....X.....X.....
- Black-throated Blue Warbler.....X.....
- Yellow-rumped Warbler\* .....a.....a.....C.....
- Townsend's Warbler .....O.....O.....
- Blackburnian Warbler .....X.....
- Palm Warbler .....X.....
- Bay-breasted Warbler .....X.....
- American Redstart .....r.....r.....
- Prothonotary Warbler .....X.....
- Northern Waterthrush.....r.....r.....X.....
- MacGillivray's Warbler\* .....C.....C.....O.....
- Common Yellowthroat\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Wilson's Warbler\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Painted Redstart.....?
- Yellow-breasted Chat .....X.....X.....X.....

NO. SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
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**TANAGERS**

- Scarlet Tanager .....X .....
- Western Tanager\* .....C.....C.....O .....

**GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS,  
ORIOLES & FINCHES**

- Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....O .....
- Black-headed Grosbeak\* .....O.....C.....O .....
- Lazuli Bunting\* .....O.....O.....r .....
- Indigo Bunting.....X.....X .....
- Dickcissel.....X .....
- Green-tailed Towhee\* .....O.....C.....C .....
- Rufous-sided Towhee.....r.....r.....r .....
- Canyon Towhee .....X.....? .....
- American Tree Sparrow .....O.....O.....O .....
- Chipping Sparrow\* .....C.....C.....C.....?
- Clay-colored Sparrow\* .....r .....
- Brewer's Sparrow\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Vesper Sparrow .....C.....C.....C .....
- Lark Sparrow .....O.....O.....O .....
- Black-throated Sparrow .....X .....
- Sage Sparrow .....X.....X .....
- Lark Bunting.....r.....r .....
- Savannah Sparrow\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Grasshopper Sparrow .....X .....
- Fox Sparrow\* .....O.....r .....
- Song Sparrow\* .....C.....C.....C.....O .....
- Lincoln's Sparrow\* .....O.....C.....C.....
- Swamp Sparrow .....?.....? .....
- White-throated Sparrow .....r.....r .....
- White-crowned Sparrow\* .....a.....a.....a.....r .....
- Harris's Sparrow .....O.....O.....O .....
- Dark-eyed Junco\* .....a.....a.....C.....O .....
- McCown's Longspur.....X.....X .....
- Lapland Longspur.....X.....X .....
- Snow Bunting.....X.....r.....O .....
- Bobolink\* .....O.....O .....
- Red-winged Blackbird\* .....C.....C.....C.....O .....
- Western Meadowlark\* .....C.....C.....C.....X .....
- Yellow-headed Blackbird\* .....C.....C.....C.....X .....
- Rusty Blackbird.....X .....
- Brewer's Blackbird\* .....C.....C.....a.....O .....
- Common Grackle\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Brown-headed Cowbird\* .....C.....C.....C.....
- Orchard Oriole\* .....X .....
- Northern Oriole\* .....O.....O.....O .....

NO. SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
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**GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS,  
ORIOLES & FINCHES CONTINUED**

<input type="checkbox"/> Rosy Finch*	C	C	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Grosbeak*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch				?
<input type="checkbox"/> Cassin's Finch*	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	X	X	X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill*	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Crossbill*	X	X		X
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	C		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoary Redpoll	X			X
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin*	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch*	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak*	C	O	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow*	C	C	C	C



## IDENTIFYING CONFUSING BIRDS

This section is included to provide a quick reference for some of our more difficult-to-identify birds. Some of the information is based upon personal observations, but much of it is merely gleaned from existing manuals (especially National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and Kenn Kaufman's *Advanced Birding*) and other sources. We include this information as a convenience to you in the field.

**Western and Clark's Grebes** - In the late 80s, the light phase of the Western Grebe was "split" into a new species called Clark's Grebe. The dark phase birds retained the original name, Western Grebe.

Western Grebes may almost always be found in Jackson Hole from late spring through early fall, especially on Jackson lake. But, occasionally, we also have Clark's Grebes. While there are hybrid birds, and while winter plumage can sometimes be confusing, the birds you are likely to see in Jackson Hole can usually be told apart quite easily (with proper lighting and reasonable distance) by either of two field marks:

1. The bill of the Western is a dull yellow-green color. That of the Clark's is a bright yellowish-orange.

2. The eyes and lores of the Western Grebe are dark. The white area of the Clark's Grebe extends to the lores and above and behind the eyes.

**Trumpeter and Tundra Swans** - Trumpeter Swans may easily be seen in Jackson Hole all year. Usually, in the fall and even winter, Tundra Swans show up. When they are seen together, the Trumpeters usually are a little (10-15%) bigger.

If you are close enough, you may also see a yellow spot between the eye and the bill of many, but not all, Tundra Swans. The Tundra's head is rounded, and the top of the bill is slightly concave, giving a gently curving impression in profile. The same profile of the Trumpeter from the top of the head to the tip of the bill is more of a straight line.

When the birds are sitting in the water, the Trumpeter's otherwise straight neck is often held "kinked" over the body at its base. The Tundra's neck usually is held straight up from its base.

The call of the Tundra Swan is higher pitched and not as loud as that of the Trumpeter. The Trumpeter's call is a loud honking that often sounds like a low pitched horn.

**Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks** - In *Advanced Birding*, Kenn Kaufman states that these birds "can be named with confidence only if several different field marks are seen well." Helpful field marks include:

1. Size - Cooper's Hawks are larger than Sharp-shinned Hawks. And female accipiters generally are larger than the males of the same species. The smallest female Cooper's Hawks are approximately 40% longer than the largest male Sharp-shinned Hawks, and the largest female Cooper's are 100% longer than the smallest male Sharp-shinneds. So size can be very helpful in comparing male Sharpies and female Coops. If it's really little, it's a Sharp-shinned. And if it's very big and definitely not a Northern Goshawk, then it's a Cooper's Hawk. Size of birds between these extremes usually will not be a reliable field mark.

2. Tail Shape - If the tail of the bird is precisely squared, you can be fairly sure it's a Sharp-shinned. This condition occurs when the tail is folded (not fanned) and during the months soon after the molt, before the new feathers are worn - usually late fall through winter.

Even when the bird's tail is fanned, the Sharpie's tail is not as rounded as is the Cooper's. But now the call gets tougher than when the tail is folded.

3. Head Size - The Sharp-shinned's head size relative to its body is smaller than that of the Cooper's. This becomes apparent in

flight when, because of head size and the positioning of the wings, the head of the Cooper's usually extends well beyond the leading edge of the wings while the Sharpie's head appears fairly even with the front of the bird's wrists.

4. Other Considerations - Relative to body size, the tail of the Cooper's appears to be longer than that of the Sharp-shinned. The cap on the adult male Cooper's is darker than that of the male Sharp-shinned. And the line separating the dark cap from the nape is much more vivid in the Cooper's than it is in the Sharp-shinned.

The White band at the end of the Cooper's tail is much wider than that of the Sharp-shinned. This feature is diagnostic in the fall and winter before the tail feathers have begun to wear.

**Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Calliope Hummingbirds** - The adult males of these species are easy to tell apart and will not be discussed here. The adult females and immature birds are another story. Kaufman's *Advanced Birding* is very helpful in distinguishing among these birds.

All three of these females show rufous in their tails and buffiness on their under parts. The Calliope is the smallest of the three; the Broad-tailed is the largest (about 25% longer than the Calliope); the Rufous is about mid-way between the other two.

The tail of the Broad-tailed, expectedly, is much larger when fanned than the tails of the other two birds. The buffiness is restricted to the Broad-tailed's sides and flanks and often is quite washed out.

The bill and tail of the Calliope are much shorter, even relative to the body, than those of the Broad-tailed and Rufous. When perched, the Calliope's wings extend well beyond its short tail. The rufous color in the Calliope's tail usually is much less than the other two birds, and it is restricted to an area near the base of the outer tail feathers. The buffiness on the sides of the Calliope often extends across the chest.

The Rufous Hummingbird's sides and flanks are usually more rufous than buffy and often darker than those of the other two hummers. The Rufous usually has far more extensive rufous coloring in the tail than the Broad-tailed and Calliope.

**Empidonax Flycatchers** - The birds of this genus are among the most frustrating to birders. Four species in this group regularly visit and nest in Jackson Hole: Willow, Dusky, Hammond's (probable nester), and Cordilleran Flycatchers.

Our friend, Katy Duffy, believes these flycatchers can not safely be identified in the field without hearing their songs or calls. She tells the story of a bird she once saw on Willow Flats while leading a field trip for the Park Service. This flycatcher had a bold eye ring broadening into a tear drop behind the eye. Its lower mandible was bright yellow. And it was sitting on a conifer at the edge of a mixed forest. An experienced birder in the group identified the bird, quite reasonably, as a Cordilleran Flycatcher. Soon after he announced his opinion, the bird flew from the forest edge into a willow and began singing, "Fitz-bew"!

Anyone would be daunted by such an experience. We believe Katy's conservative approach to be prudent in trying to identify these flycatchers in the field — if they're not singing or calling, don't be afraid to say you just don't know.

Nevertheless, we'll try to give you some tools to help identify these four confusing birds, again relying heavily on Kaufman's *Advanced Birding*. We'll start with the two most difficult, Hammond's and Dusky.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** - The most common mistake local birders make with the Empids is probably calling a Dusky "Hammond's" rather than calling a Hammond's "Dusky". If, for no other reason, we have a lot more Dusky than Hammond's Flycatchers in Jackson Hole. The best tool to distinguish between these two birds is their "primary extension", a term Kaufman describes as "the distance that the longest primaries extend beyond the tertials and secondaries on the folded wing". The dee-hic call of the Dusky seems to be diagnostic, but, unless you're an expert, be careful in using their songs to distinguish between these two birds.

Song - a two syllable chi-pit, or even a che-bek similar to the song of the Least Flycatcher which is accidental in Jackson Hole.

Call - a sharp peek.

Habitat - mostly conifers.

Behavior - very active, flying from twig to twig. When perched, flicks tail frequently, often flicking wings at same time.

Field Marks - Primaries extend far beyond secondaries, giving a long wing and short tail impression. Bill is relatively short and thin, helping to create a large head appearance. Lower mandible usually mostly dark, fading to dull yellow near base. Conspicuous white eye ring, usually thicker behind. Throat does not contrast greatly from face.



**Dusky Flycatcher** - Probably our most common flycatcher, it can most easily be confused with Hammond's.

Song - similar to extended song of Hammond's, but less hoarse and often ending in a clear, high seet.

Call - a mournful dee-hic.

Habitat - tall shrubs, open and mixed woodland.

Behavior - Not as active as Hammond's. Occasionally flicks tail, but usually not wings.

Field Marks - The primary extension is short, creating the impression that the bird's tail is long. The big difference in the primary extension of Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers is probably the most reliable field mark in separating these two species. You should note that the illustrations in National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* does not reflect this. The illustrations show the primary extension of the Dusky to be much longer than that of the Hammond's. It seems these illustrations are not correct in this regard.

While the bill is not as short and thin as the Hammond's, it is not as large as some of the other Empids, notably the Willow. The pale yellow at the base of the lower mandible usually extends farther out toward the tip than is the case with the Hammond's. The Dusky's white eye ring not as conspicuous as Hammond's. Its throat is pale gray and does contrast somewhat with the chest and face.

**Willow Flycatcher** - This may be our easiest Empid to identify. It is the only one of the four whose eye ring is usually lacking or, at least, very faint.

Song - Fitz-bew. Sometimes, a rising breet.

Call - a rising whit.

Habitat - Can be found in mountain meadows, but, in Jackson Hole, most common in willow bushes and trees near lakes and streams.

Behavior - not very active. Little flicking of wings and tail.

Field Marks - Bill is quite wide compared to Hammond's and even Dusky. Lower mandible usually entirely yellowish. White throat contrasts with dark breast and face. Relatively long primary extension.

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** - Formerly, the Western Flycatcher, and now divided. This bird is distinguishable in the field from its closest relative, the Pacific Slope Flycatcher, only by the males' call notes.

Song - a high pitched and thin tseweep.

Call - Cordilleran and Pacific Slope similar pit-seet, but Cordilleran call is two distinct syllables while Pacific Slope slurs the notes. Cordilleran call sometimes reminiscent of Acadian peet-sah song.

Habitat - Mixed woodlands, conifer forests, and shady, moist forest margins.

Behavior - Quite active, flying from twig to twig. Flicks tail frequently, often flicking wings simultaneously.

Field Marks - Primary extension relatively short, creating appearance of long tail. Rear of head often peaked. Relatively wide bill. Lower mandible bright yellow or even orange. Conspicuous white eye ring (sometimes slightly yellowish) with tear drop shape behind the eye. Throat often yellowish contrasting, with dark face and breast.

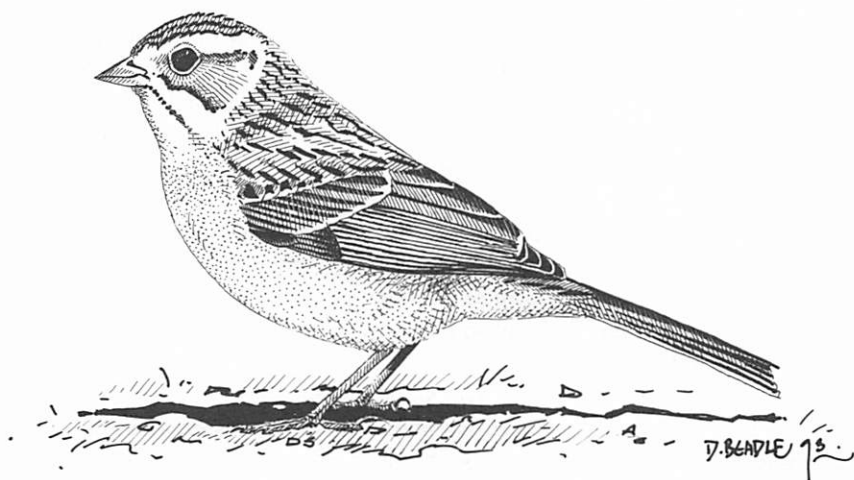
**American Crow and Common Raven** - In Jackson Hole, these two *Corvus* species often share the same habitat, sometimes causing confusion among birders who are not familiar with their differences, the main ones of which are:

1. Ravens are one-third again as big as crows.
2. Ravens soar; Crows don't.
3. In flight, Ravens' tails are wedge shaped; Crows' tails are only slightly rounded at the end.
4. Ravens are much heavier looking birds, especially noticeable in the head and bill.
5. Crows caw while Ravens croak. Be careful, though, since Ravens also occasionally utter caw -like calls.

**Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes** - Both of these birds visit Jackson Hole, and often at the same time of year. We usually seem to see more Northern than Loggerheads, however. The best field marks to tell them apart are:

1. In mature birds, look for fine barring on underparts of Northern Shrike.
2. On mature Loggerhead, black mask extends above eye.
3. Northern Shrike's rump is white; Loggerhead's rump is dark.
4. Northern pumps tail while perched. Loggerhead does not.

**Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings** - While Cedar Waxwings are in Jackson Hole all year, we usually only see Bohemians in winter and



*Brewer's Sparrow*

spring. As you can see on the cover of this manual, they sometimes occur together. The best field marks to distinguish between them are:

1. Bohemians' wings are more colorful than Cedars' wings, having white and yellow spots in addition to the red.
2. Bohemian appears more gray, Cedar more brown.
3. Bohemian has gray belly and cinnamon undertail coverts. Cedar has yellow belly and white undertail coverts.

**Sparrows - Vesper, Savannah, Song, Chipping, Brewer's, White-crowned, Fox, and Lincoln's** - These sparrows all nest in Jackson Hole. They are presented according to the habitat in which you are most likely to find them.

*Sage fields* - Most of the sparrows you will see in the sage will be Chipping, Vesper, and Brewer's.

1. Chippers, of course, will be seen in other habitats as well, including the margins of conifer and mixed woodlands. Their dry trill can be heard on most of our trails during the spring and early summer. This bird is of average length, but its rather slender, non-bulky body creates an appearance of smallness. The best field marks include its bright, chestnut crown; bold, white eye brow; black eye line; gray nape contrasting with its brown, streaked back; white wing bars; and unstreaked breast.

2. Vespers are most easy to find in sage and dry, grassy fields. The length of their song is only exceeded by that of the Brewer's. Usually, slurred introductory notes are followed by a series of high notes and trills. This rather large sparrow has a distinct, white eye ring and a lightly streaked breast. Its chestnut shoulder patches are quite visible in flight, as is its dark tail with conspicuous white, outer feathers.

3. Brewer's Sparrows are most often seen in sage fields. Long, enthusiastic song consists of many bubbling phrases and buzzy trills. Field marks include a prominent, white eye ring; light brown crown with thin, dark streaks; whitish eye brow; light brown ear patch; and unstreaked breast.

*Open grasslands* - Brewer's and Savannah Sparrows are those most likely to be seen in grassy fields. Brewer's was covered above (sage fields). The Savannah is confused most easily with the Song Sparrow. Even though some of their field marks are similar, the Song Sparrow is larger than the Savannah, has a much longer tail, and, usually, but not always, appears in quite different habitat. Sometimes we see both birds in marshy areas.

The Savannah's breast is streaked, often heavily, and sometimes showing a "stick pin". Usually the lores are yellowish or even bright yellow. Bird appears rather stocky with a short tail. Its song consists of buzzy trills.

*Riparian wetlands* - Song and Lincoln's Sparrows are likely to be found in this habitat. Lincoln's also inhabits mountain meadows.

1. Song Sparrows, found in stream side brushes, are fairly large with long, rounded tails. Song consists of three short introductory notes, a long note, and a trill. Heavy streaking on sides and breast, usually with a "stick pin". Off-white eye brow and dark stripe along throat.

2. Smallish, short tailed, and compact, Lincoln's Sparrow has a buffy wash with fine streaks on its upper breast. Jackson Hole birds often have a "stick pin". Gray central crown stripe and eye brow, buffy eye ring. Responds to "pishing", often raising feathers at back of head. Long, warbling song with trills.

*Mixed, open woodlands* - Fox and White-crowned Sparrows inhabit a variety of habitats, including open woodland areas. The Fox Sparrow is found in dense, moist undergrowth. White-crowned Sparrows are seen on the ground and on exposed perches.

1. The very large Fox Sparrow is most easily confused with the

Song Sparrow. The brownish-gray crown and face of the Fox, unlike the Song, is not striped. The Fox Sparrow's breast is heavily streaked and usually has a large "stick pin". Listen for its exuberant song with loud whistles and trills.

2. Adult White-crowned Sparrow has distinctive black and white striped crown, white stripe above eye separated from gray face with thin, black eye stripe. Crown of juvenile similar with brown and buffy stripes. Gray breast is unstreaked.



## MAMMALS

Many small mammals thrive in Jackson Hole. On the trails, you should see more than a few of them. Some of the most common include shrews, bats, pikas, snowshoe hares, chipmunks, marmots, squirrels, pocket gophers, deer mice, voles, muskrats, porcupines, beavers, martens, weasels, and badgers.

Larger mammals which are seen almost anywhere in the valley include coyotes, elk, mule deer, moose, antelope, and bison. A drive up the Gros Ventre River past Slide Lake often produces most of these large mammals. The text in the "loop" descriptions points out good areas for seeing large mammals.

Bighorn sheep are difficult to see from the roads in the summer, because they prefer the high country. During winter, sheep frequently feed close to the roads. Look on the cliffs to the left near the snow machine parking area on the Gros Ventre Road; on the slopes of the large butte on the left side of the road (beyond the equipment sheds) just inside the Elk Refuge; and on both sides of the road to Pinedale about two miles southeast of Hoback Junction.

Don't count on seeing bears or mountain lions from the roads. Even on the optional hikes in this manual, you probably won't come across these animals. (See "NOTE" below.) But you are likely to run into moose, elk, deer, and even bison either driving or hiking. Remember to respect these large creatures! Keep your distance and

give them their way. Don't run or make abrupt moves or loud noises. And certainly don't try to get ever closer for that perfect photo. Leave that to the pros. If you meet one or more of these giants on the trail, just talk calmly in a normal tone of voice (mentioning how pleased you are to know them!), walk slowly away from or around them, and count yourself lucky that these wonderful animals gave you a look.

The information below regarding bear notes, mammal habitats, where to look for mammals, and the mammal check list was obtained from Grand Teton National Park.

**BEAR NOTES:** While it is unlikely you will encounter a bear on the trail, it is possible. Grand Teton National Park recommends you familiarize yourself with the following do's and don't's.

1. Avoid bear encounters - Make bears aware of your presence on trails by making loud noises such as shouting or singing. This lessens the chance of sudden encounters. Be especially careful in dense brush and along streams where water makes noise. Bells are not recommended, as the sound does not carry well. Look ahead for bears when hiking to avoid surprising them.

2. If you encounter a bear - Do not run! Bears can run over 30 miles per hour. Running often elicits attacks from otherwise non-aggressive bears. If the bear is unaware of you, detour quietly yet quickly away from the bear. If the bear is aware of you and nearby but has not acted aggressively, slowly back away, talking in an even tone while waving your arms.

3. If a bear approaches or charges you - Do not run! "Bluff" charges are often used to scare people away, with the bear stopping before contact. Bear experts generally recommend standing still until the bear stops and then backing off slowly. Climbing trees provides little or no protection from black bears.

4. Where and when you might see a bear - Anytime, anywhere. Bears are active day and night and have been observed in campgrounds, on canyon trails, around rivers and lakes, crossing roads, in sagebrush flats, and, occasionally, in developed areas. They are most common along the lower elevations of the Teton Range.

## HABITATS

**Alpine** - Look for yellow-bellied marmots, pikas and bighorn sheep.

**Forests** - Look for elk, mule deer, martens, red squirrels, black bears and snowshoe hares.

**Sagebrush** - Look for pronghorns, coyotes, bison, badgers, elk and Uinta ground squirrels.

**Rivers, Lakes and Ponds** - Look for moose, river otters, beavers, muskrats, coyotes, bison and mule deer.

## WHERE TO LOOK FOR WILDLIFE

**Antelope Flats-Kelly Loop** - In spring and throughout winters with low snowfall, moose feed on bitterbrush, a shrub that commonly grows in the sagebrush flats here. Elk and bison pass through as they migrate south to the National Elk Refuge in the fall and north in the spring. During winter, these roads are not plowed at night.

**Sawmill Ponds** - Moose eat willows and mountain alders growing at the water's edge throughout the year. When the ponds are ice-free during spring and fall, waterfowl congregate. Elk feed on grasses on the hillsides west of this area during spring and fall.

**Buffalo Fork Meadows** - The extensive willow meadows south of the Buffalo Fork near Moran Junction attract moose during the fall, winter, and spring.

**Oxbow Bend** - River otters fish this area year-round. In winter, otters can occasionally be seen eating fish near holes in the ice. Moose browse on willows at the water's edge. Coyotes hunt for small rodents in the nearby meadows. Elk feed on grasses in the adjacent meadows during spring and fall. Bald Eagles frequent the Oxbow year-round.

**Willow Flats** - Beavers have dammed creeks, forming ponds that harbor waterfowl in spring and fall. Elk feed on moist meadows grasses



growing among the willows during spring and fall. Abundant willows attract moose throughout the year. During winter, please observe wildlife from roads and turnouts as Willow Flats is closed to all human access to protect wildlife.

**National Elk Refuge** - Thousands of elk spend winters on the refuge and can be viewed from turnouts along Highway 89 or by taking a sleigh ride that runs daily in winter. Coyotes, Bald and Golden Eagles, and Common Ravens scavenge on carcasses of elk that die during the winter. Trumpeter Swans concentrate on the open waters of Flat Creek at the southern end of the Refuge.

**Gros Ventre Road near Slide Lake** - Bighorn sheep eat plants on ridgetops and south-facing hillsides during fall, winter, and spring.

## MAMMAL CHECKLIST

### Key To Symbols

- a ABUNDANT** – frequently seen in appropriate habitat and season.
- c COMMON** – seen occasionally in appropriate habitat and season.
- u UNCOMMON** – seen irregularly in appropriate habitat and season.
- r RARE** – seldom seen even in appropriate habitat and season.
- x ACCIDENTAL or SURPRISING** – out of known range.
- ?** **QUESTIONABLE** – verification unavailable

### INSECTIVORA - Insect-eaters

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| c - Masked Shrew  | r - Dwarf Shrew    |
| c - Vagrant Shrew | u - Northern Shrew |

### CHIROPTERA - Bats

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| c - Little Brown Bat   | u - Silver-haired Myotis |
| u - Long-eared Myotis  | r - Hoary Bat            |
| u - Long-legged Myotis | u - Big Brown Bat        |

### LAGOMORPHA - Rabbits and Hares

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| c - Pika          | u - White-tailed Jackrabbit |
| c - Snowshoe Hare |                             |

## RODENTIA - Gnawing Mammals

- c - Least Chipmunk
- c - Yellow Pine Chipmunk
- a - Mountane Vole
- a - Beaver
- a - Deer Mouse
- u - Bushy-tailed Woodrat
- c - Southern Red-backed Vole
- c - Heather Vole
- u - Northern Flying Squirrel
- u - Uinta Chipmunk
- u - Long-tailed Vole
- c - Richardson Vole
- r - Sagebrush Vole
- c - Muskrat
- c - Western Jumping
- c - Porcupine
- a - Meadows Vole
- a - Northern Pocket Gopher
- c - Yellow-bellied Marmot
- a - Uinta Ground Squirrel
- c - Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
- a - Red Squirrel

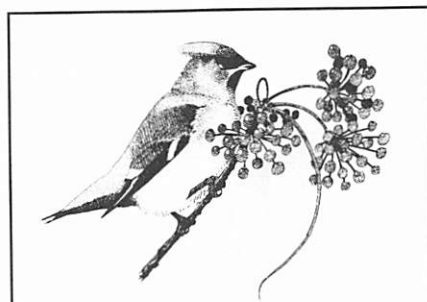
## CARNIVORA - Flesh-eaters

- Canidae** - Dog Family
  - c - Coyote
  - ? - Gray Wolf
  - r - Red Fox
- Mustelidae** - Weasel Family
  - c - Marten
  - u - Short-tailed Weasel
  - r - Least Weasel
  - c - Long-tailed Weasel
  - u - Mink
  - r - Wolverine
- c - Badger
  - u - Striped Skunk
  - u - River Otter
- Ursidae** - Bear Family
  - u - Black Bear
  - r - Grizzly Bear
- Felidae** - Cat Family
  - r - Mountain Lion
  - r - Lynx
  - r - Bobcat
- Procyonidae** - Raccoon Family
  - x - Raccoon

## ARTIODACTYLA - Even-toed Hooves

- Cervidae** - Deer Family
  - a - Wapiti (Elk)
  - c - Mule Deer
  - x - White-tailed Deer
  - a - Moose
- Bovidae** - Cattle Family
  - c - Bison
  - x - Mountain Goat
  - u - Bighorn Sheep

- Antilocapridae** - Pronghorn Family
  - c - Pronghorn



## WILDFLOWERS

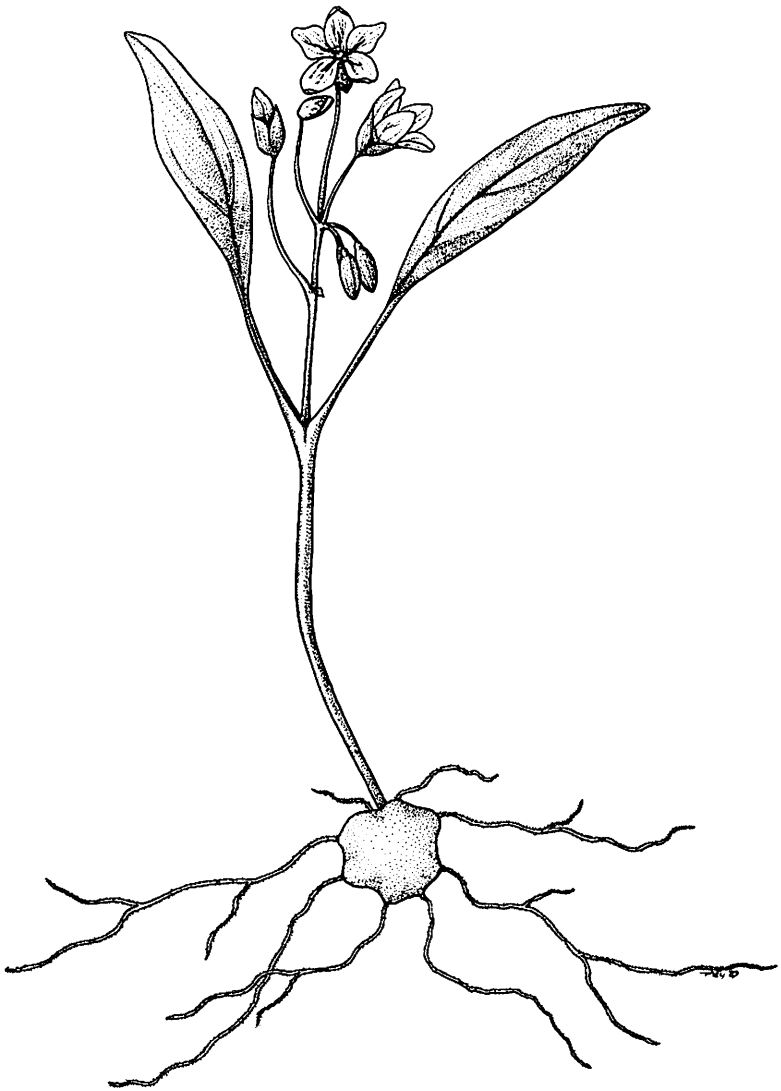
Snow melts from the valley floor in March and April. During the remainder of the spring, the snow line gradually ascends the mountain sides, leaving in its wake a profusion of wildflowers. The birding experience is enhanced by an appreciation of the flowers around us. The wildflower information below was obtained from Grand Teton National Park. Two good reference books for Jackson Hole wildflowers are *Plants of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks* by Shaw and *Rocky Mountain Wildflowers* by Craighead/Craighead/Davis. Picking flowers is prohibited in the park. We ask you to abide by the same policy when outside the park.

### HABITATS

**Alpine** - Above treeline, plants adapt to wind, snow, and lack of soil by growing close to the ground. Alpine plants take advantage of a brief growing season by flowering soon after the snow melts. Some species grow only in alpine area; others grow tall at lower elevations but are dwarfed in the alpine.

**Canyons and Sub-Alpine** - Between the crags of the Tetons, ice age glaciers have carved deep canyons. Today the canyons contain dense forests and open meadows of wildflowers. As elevation increases, trees become stunted while wildflowers abound.

**Valley** - Porous valley soils support plants able to tolerate hot and dry conditions. In addition to abundant sagebrush, numerous wildflowers grow. During June and July, a profusion of color enlivens the valley: the yellow of balsamroot, the blue of lupine, and the red of gilia. During August, sunflowers replace balsamroot.



*Spring Beauty*

## Flowering Times of Selected Flowers and Shrubs

FLOWERS	VALLEY	CANYONS	ALPINE
<b>WHITE</b>			
Mountain Ash		Jul	
Birchleaf Spirea	Jul	Jul	
Woodlandstar	Jun		
Richardson Geranium	Jun-Aug	Jun-Aug	
Thimbleberry		Jun-Jul	
Green Gentian	Jun-Jul	Jul-mid Aug	
Cowparsnip	late Jun-mid Aug		
Ladies-tresses	Aug-mid Sep	Aug-Sep	
White Bog-Orchid	late Jun-mid Aug	Jul-Aug	
Colorado Columbine		late Jun-Aug	
Marsh Marigold		Jun-mid Jul	Jun-Jul
Yampah	Jul-mid Aug	mid Jul-Aug	
Englemann Aster		Jul-Aug	
Yarrow	Jul-early Aug	mid Jul-late Aug	Aug
<b>YELLOW</b>			
Mules-ear Wyethia	mid Jun-Jul		
Hymenoxys			Jul-Aug
Sunflower	mid Jul-Aug		
Balsamroot	Jun-mid Jul		
Rabbitbrush	mid Aug-Sep		
Heartleaf Arnica	mid Jun-mid Jul	late Jun-late Jul	
Yellow Monkeyflower	Jun-mid Jul	mid Jun-mid Aug	
Subalpine Buttercup		Jul-Aug	
Deathcamas	Jun	mid Jun-early Aug	mid Jul-Aug
Sulfur Buckwheat	mid Jun-mid Aug		
Bracted Lousewort	late Jun-mid Jul	Jul	
Yellow Columbine	late Jun-Jul	Jul-late Aug	
Yellow Fritillary	mid May-mid Jun		
<b>PINK-RED</b>			
Springbeauty	May	Jun-mid Jul	
Sticky Geranium	Jun-Aug		
Globemallow	Jul-mid Aug	mid Jul-Aug	
Steershead	late May-mid Jun	late Jun-mid Jul	
Subalpine Spirea		mid Jul-Aug	
Shooting Star	Jun	late Jun-late Aug	
Ladysthumb Knotweed	Aug		
Lewis Monkeyflower		late Jun-Aug	
Spreading Dogbane	Jul-Aug		
Fireweed	mid Jul-Aug		
Moss Campion			Jul-mid Aug
Calypso Orchid	Jun		
Elephanthead	late Jun-Jul	mid Jul-Aug	

Indian Paintbrush	Jun-Jul	Jul-Aug	Jul-early Sep
Skyrocket Gilia	mid Jun-Jul		
<b>BLUE-PURPLE</b>			
Wild Blue Flax	Jul-Aug		
Sky Pilot			Jul-Aug
Monkshood	late Jun-mid Jul	mid Jul-mid Aug	
Low Larkspur	mid May-Jun		
Mountain Bluebell		mid Jul-early Sep	
Fringed Gentian	late Jul-mid Aug	Aug-early Sep	
Harebell	mid Jun-early Sep		
Lupine	Jun-Jul		
Mountain Bog Gentian		late Jul-early Sep	
Silky Phacelia	late Jun-Jul	mid Jul-late Aug	Jul-early Sep
Alpine Forget-me-not			Jul-early Aug



## IDENTIFYING JACKSON HOLE TREES

Many species of shrubs and willows call Jackson Hole home. In fact, we have at least 20 willows alone. But the number of larger “trees” in the valley is not as great. If you can master the 9 trees described below, you should be able to identify more than 99 percent of the plants we usually think of when we use the word “trees”.

**Subalpine Fir** *Abies lasiocarpa* — “Firs are friendly,” so they say. Grab a branch, and, if you can run it through your hand without feeling a prickliness, you have a fir. This tree grows at elevations up to tree line



(10,000 feet) and not much below 7000 feet, often in mixed stands with lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce. Fir needles have no “stalks” at their base. The dead branches are smooth to the touch, having only scars rather than stalks remaining from the needles which have fallen off. Subalpine firs and other true firs do not drop their cones. Instead, the cones disintegrate

and are borne away by the air. Unique among evergreens, their cones grow erect from the branches. Notice that the profile usually has a long, slender top.

**Douglas Fir** *Pseudotsuga menziesii* — Not a true fir, the cones fall off and litter the ground around the tree, offering the best clue to the identity of this species.



Look for the cones with prickly, three pointed bracts growing among the cone scales. Generally, these trees grow on north facing slopes. The cones hang down on the tree. The needles of the “Dougs” are thinner near the base. Their profile is full and not in the typical “Christmas tree” shape.

**Lodgepole Pine** *Pinus contorta* — Jackson Hole’s most common conifer, this yellow pine’s needles are in clusters of two. The cones are hard and “woody” and not soft and “papery” like the cones of the Engelmann spruce and the Douglas fir. These cones grow on the branches and have sharp pins on their scales. The profile of the lodgepole tends to be tall and slender, especially when growing in dense stands.



Its irregularly shaped profile is often determined by the prevailing winds.

**Limber Pine** *Pinus flexilis* — One of our two white pines, the limber grows below 8000 feet, often on ridges, and usually singly or with just a few other trees. Needles grow in clusters of five. Its green cones are four to five inches long and substantially larger than those of the whitebark pine. The very flexible branches of the limber permit it to grow in an environment with strong



**Whitebark Pine** *Pinus albicaulis* — Two primary distinctions separate this white pine from the limber pine. The whitebark usually grows above 8000 feet, and its cones are purple and smaller (2-3 inches long). The needles of this white pine species grow in clusters of five. Like the limber pine, the whitebark’s branches are very flexible, permitting it to grow in the windy environment near treeline. Its irregular profile also tends to be shaped by the winds.



**Engelmann Spruce** *Picea engelmannii* — The prickling needles of this species grow singly, are square in cross section, and have stalks, leaving its dead twigs rough to the touch. The cones are small (1-1.5 inches) and papery. Crush the needles between your fingers and notice the skunky smell, unlike the fragrant piney smell of blue spruce needles. These trees grow above 7000 feet, usually liking the cool, moist canyons and ravines. The Engelmann's profile is tall, slender, and graceful.



**Blue Spruce** *Picea pungens* — While fairly common along the Snake River, the blue spruce is hard to find elsewhere. The sharp needles grow singly, have stalks, and are square in cross section. The papery cones are larger than those of the Engelmann spruce. With its blue tint and full, graceful profile, the blue spruce is probably our most attractive conifer.

**Quaking Aspen** *Populus tremuloides* — This deciduous tree is hard to miss in Jackson Hole. It usually grows in stands which continue to reproduce themselves with shoots growing up from the root system. The white or whitish bark and the light green, rustling or "quaking" leaves identify this tree. Aspens are often mistaken for birch trees, but the birches found here are low shrubs. Note the profile of a longish trunk with a bushy top.



**Cottonwood** *Populus angustifolia*, *Populus acuminata* — Our largest deciduous tree can be found throughout the valley in riparian areas. The narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and its various hybrids (*Populus acuminata*) are, aside from the aspen, the most common of our large, deciduous trees. The bark is a yellow-green color on the young trees and becomes grayish and deeply furrowed on older trees. Mature trees may be 50-60 feet high and over 1 foot in diameter. The large, bulky profile is unique among deciduous trees in Jackson Hole.



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# Notes

# Notes

## BERT RAYNES

Bert's birding experience in Jackson Hole began in 1950. He enjoyed it then and still enjoys birds and natural history today. In the early 1970's, Bert and his wife, Meg, developed the Jackson Hole Bird Checklist by updating and combining records then maintained by various federal and state agencies. This checklist is periodically revised; a copy is included as part of this book.



Bert takes pleasure both in seeing birds himself and in helping others to find and learn about them. He writes a nature oriented column, "Far Afield", in the weekly *Jackson Hole News* and teaches birdwatching courses at the Teton Science School. He has written an award winning book, *Birds of Grand Teton*

*National Park and Surrounding Areas*, and a pocket guide ("Birds of Jackson Hole") which specifies the dates of occurrence and preferred habitat of most of the common birds of the area. He helped organize and has been presiding over the activities of the Jackson Hole Bird Club for almost two decades.

Bert hopes, and anticipates, that this book will assist birdwatchers and nature lovers in their enjoyment of the wildlife in Jackson Hole, and he sincerely hopes they will share their observations with "us locals".

## DARWIN WILE

Darwin, like many birders, began as a back yard birdwatcher. His interest has intensified over the years. "Business travel around the United States really helped my birding. Wherever I went, it was easy to toss a field manual and a pair of binoculars in my briefcase and carve out a few hours to check out the local birds."

Darwin and his wife, Lynette, have travelled over much of the world in Volkswagen campers. These adventures, while offering another story that, perhaps, should be told elsewhere, provided first hand looks at the birds of South America, Europe, Alaska, and Africa.

Jackson Hole became Darwin and Lynette's permanent home in 1987. Darwin has spent many hours walking the trails and has led bird walks all over the valley. He knows the birds of Jackson Hole and where to find them.