



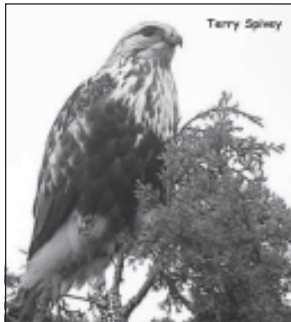
Audubon Wyoming News

Vol. 8, Issue 1

WINTER 2006 / 2007

As winter approaches, I look forward to seeing our winter residents stream in. One of my favorite birds that visit as winter approaches and one of the most conspicuous is the Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*. Traveling from one town to the next, one can't help but notice all of the Rough-leggeds flying, hovering, or perching along roads and interstates. They are always a constant companion while traveling and I enjoy their roadside entertainment.

Rough-legged hawks, so named for the feathers that grow along their legs reaching to the toes, are easily spotted in the sky from the black plumage on their wrist joint. They have both dark and light morphs and because of this, can easily be mistaken for other raptors, including Ferruginous Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks are slightly smaller than the Ferruginous Hawks with a wingspan of 48-56 inches and a length of 18-23 inches. They come to us fresh from the Arctic tundra and taiga regions around the northern hemisphere where they breed. Their diet consists mainly of small mammals but can also



include amphibians, reptiles, and birds. Sources of mortality include collisions with cars and illegal shooting and trapping. Like many species of birds and wildlife, development of agricultural lands may be displacing these hawks in some areas.

In general, it appears that the Rough-legged hawk population in North America is under no

immediate threat and is fairly common across its range in the Arctic and in tundra regions globally. However, as arctic petroleum reserves and other resources are developed, maintenance of appropriate habitat is critical to long-term survival of this and other arctic species. As with most arctic birds of prey, the Rough-legged Hawk's productivity is closely tied to their prey. In years with high prey populations, more eggs are produced and more chicks survive to fledge. In low prey years, the predators may not breed.

Which brings us back to this winter. How well did the Rough-legged Hawks eat this summer? Will we see more or less this year, and in what areas will they show up? To find answers to these questions, I am eagerly awaiting this year's Christmas Bird Counts. The season will kick off on December 14th. If this is your first season, welcome! The CBC is an abundant source of information on the status and distribution of early winter bird populations and is studied by scientists and interested people the world over. And it all starts with you! There is a count circle in nearly every part of Wyoming so it is easy to get involved.

So as you travel this holiday season, whether it be to visit friends and loved ones, to reach shopping destinations, or to meet your Christmas bird count crew, keep an eye out for the Rough-legged Hawks.

—Jacelyn Downey



Christmas Bird Counts

12/14/06 Clark: Meet at Edelweiss at 7:30 a.m. with potluck dinner to follow. Contact Mary "Lefty" Klein at 645-3223 or eweiss@nemont.net.

12/16/06 Kane: Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Lovell Fire Hall with 4:00 p.m. potluck supper to follow. Contact Suzanne Morstad at 568-2128, or smorstad@tctwest.net.

12/16/06 Laramie: Meet at Coal Creek Coffee Co. at 7:30am. Contact Deb Paulson at 742-5623.

12/16/06 Casper: Meet at ACGC at 7:00am with 6pm potluck to follow. Contact Chris Michelson at 234-8726.

12/16/06 Red Desert: Meet at 7:15am and noon at Lander's McDonalds. Contact: Del Nelson at 332-5102.

12/16/06 Dubois: Meet at Kathy's Koffee at 7am. Contact Anna Moscicki at 455-2904.

12/17/06 Guernsey-Ft. Laramie: Meet at 7:30am at Post Office, or if coming from Cheyenne, 7am at Botanical Gardens. 5pm chili/potluck dinner to follow. Contact Jane Dorn at linglebird@yahoo.com or 640-4002.

12/17/06 Sundance: Meet at Conoco at 7:30am. Contact Jennifer Adams at 283-2467.

12/17/06 Buffalo: Meet at 7am at Hardees. Contact Deane Bjerke at 684-2798.

12/17/06 Pinedale: Meet at County Library at 7:30am. Contact Alison King at aking@prbo.org.

12/17/06 Yellowstone: Meet at Best Western in Gardiner, MT at 7:30am. Contact Terry McEaney at terry_mceaney@nps.gov or 344-2222.

12/23/06 Sheridan: Contact Helen Moriarity @ 473-2512 to get route info prior to the count.

12/30/06 Story/Bighorn: Contact Jean Daly @ 674-9728 to get route info prior to the count. Meet at 7am at 37 N. 2nd St. in Big Horn.

12/30/06 Cheyenne: Meet at Downtown Post Office at 7:30am. 6pm Potluck dinner to follow at Westgate Activity Center. Contact Greg Johnson at 634-1056 or gjohnson@west-inc.com.

12/30/06 Riverton: Meet at 7:15 am at McDonald's. Contact Wanda Major at 856-6690

12/30/06 Cody: Contact Joyce Cicco at 527-5030 or jccico00@tritel.net to get route info prior to the count. 6pm Potluck at the Christ Episcopal Church to follow.

12/30/06 Gillette: Meet at 7am at Perkins. Contact Mark Winland at mwinland@ccsd.k12.wy.us

1/1/07 Bates Hole: Meet at Two Bar Ranch at 7:30am. Contact Charles Scott at 473-2512.

1/1/07 Cotton Valley: Contact Susan Patla at 413-1222 or susan_patla@hotmail.com.

1/1/07 Crowheart: Meet at Firehall at 7:30am. Contact Evelyn Wilkinson at 856-3557

Evanston: Contact Tim Gorman at 789-3833.
Green River: Contact Rick Steenberg at 872-2239.

The Mission of Audubon Wyoming is to be a strong, unified voice for the ethic of conservation in Wyoming, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.

COMMUNITY NATURALIST UPDATE

AUDUBON WYOMING
CONTACT INFORMATION
www.audubonwyoming.com
Audubon Wyoming, the state office for the National Audubon Society, is the state liaison for local chapters and volunteers, and is the primary contact for education, conservation, and outreach.

STATE OFFICE
154 N. 8th Street
Laramie, WY 82072
Phone/Fax: (307) 745-4848

AUDUBON CENTER AT GARDEN CREEK
101 Garden Creek Rd.
Casper, WY 82604
Phone: (307) 235-4385
(307) 473-1987
Fax: (307) 473-1967

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
410 Mckean Rd.
Moorcroft, WY 82721
Phone/Fax: (307) 756-3941
Cell Phone: (504)-453-4139

CHEYENNE OFFICE
Phone: (307) 514-2247

AUDUBON STAFF
Brian A. Rutledge
Executive Director
brutledge@audubon.org

Alison Lyon-Holloran
Conservation Programs Manager
aholloran@audubon.org

Dusty Downey
Community Naturalist
dtdowney@audubon.org

Jacelyn Downey
Community Naturalist
jdowney@audubon.org

Ken Keffer
Community Naturalist
kkeffer@audubon.org

Kim Check
Community Naturalist
kcheck@audubon.org

Noelle Mathews
Administrative Assistant
nmathews@audubon.org

Larry Keffer
Garden Creek Center Assistant
lkeffer@audubon.org

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION AND UPCOMING EVENTS

For further information about a chapter near you, please contact the leaders listed below.

Murie Audubon Society
Casper
Bruce Walgren, President
(307) 234-7455
timperley-walgren@bresnan.net
Murieaudubon.org

Red Desert Audubon Society
Lander
Andrea Cervoski, President
(307) 332-7723
Andrea.cervoski@wgf.state.us

Rendezvous Valley Audubon Society
Pinedale
Steve Smith
sbsangler@hotmail.com
(307) 367-4629

Bighorn Audubon Society
Sheridan
Jean Daly (307) 674-9728
Charles Gibson (307) 672-5233

Cheyenne High Plains Audubon Society
Mark Gorges, President
morges@juno.com
(307) 634-0463

Laramie Audubon Society
Deb Paulson, President
dbp@uwyo.edu
(307) 766-2628

Meadowlark Audubon Society
Big Horn Basin
Dennis Saville, President
(307) 587-6702
dtsaville@wyoming.com
www.meadowlarkwyo.org

Powder River Audubon Society
Gillette
Rohy Keffer
rkeffer@sherdan.edu

Audubon Wyoming's Community Naturalist Program has accomplished all that it had originally hoped to accomplish and more. The Community Naturalists' have given programs for school and community groups since December of 2005. Over 2,200 students have Connected With Nature thanks to Community Naturalists this year. They have also contributed their expertise to Rotary Clubs, Historical Societies, other Nonprofit Conservation Organizations, Church Groups, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Museum Consortium of Casper, and the Wildlife Society. With increased funding Audubon Wyoming hopes to expand this program throughout the state.



2005/2006: Community Naturalists have been a near constant presence at numerous local Audubon chapter activities ranging from presentations, board meetings, field trips, classes, and fundraising events. In addition, they have been instrumental in expanding Audubon programming throughout the state. All of Audubon's professional naturalists have become Certified Interpretive Guides through the National Association of Interpretation, while some are also GLOBE Certified Teacher Trainers. They have partnered with Project Learning Tree to become facilitators allowing them the opportunity to host teacher training workshops that help local educators become more efficient nature interpreters. They hosted one such training in Laramie in September. They have had booths at the Wyoming Game and Fish Expo and the Campbell County Natural Resources Ag Expo. In Gillette, two park clean ups were organized. They helped out with the Casper and Laramie MAPS Banding Stations which were a huge success that yielded great participation where volunteers were encouraged to get up close and personal with birds and participate in some citizen science with our Naturalists.

2007: All Community Naturalists are hoping to get volunteers more involved in both education and citizen science activities. Naturalists are also putting together various educational trunks available to teachers and group leaders in the coming year. These trunks have exciting hands on learning tools as well as solid information for educators to build on. Additionally, Southeast Naturalist Kim Check is spearheading a field trip to Nebraska to watch Sandhill Cranes this spring. Casper Naturalist Ken Keffer is looking forward to the upcoming spring bird surveys and summer MAPS bird banding program. While Dusty and Jacelyn Downey, in the Northeast corner plan to continue to work with the Small Acreage Issue Team of Wyoming and provide up to date programming for school and community groups in that corner of the state. Audubon Wyoming encourages everyone to get to know the Community Naturalists in their area. By partnering together we can all cultivate the culture of conservation for Wyoming's future.

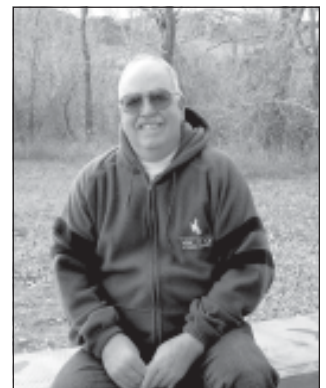
ADDITIONAL CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

From backyards and city streets to remote ranches, anyone who counts birds can contribute to the efforts of citizen science. Data from the projects described below are used to monitor bird populations and outline conservation efforts. Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatch helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. It is designed for anyone with an interest in birds! The survey is conducted each winter from November through early April. You may join at any time of year. For more information visit <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/index.html>. Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16-19, 2007. It's fun, it's free, it takes as little as 15 minutes — and it helps the birds. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all levels in counting birds and reporting their results to create a mid-winter snapshot of the numbers, kinds, and distribution of birds across the continent. At the Great Backyard Bird Count web site, <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>, they fill out an online checklist to submit their counts. In 2005, participants sent in 51,926 checklists with a total tally of 6,546,606 birds of 613 species.

AUDUBON WYOMING WELCOMES LARRY AND NOELLE!!!

Audubon Wyoming is currently expanding its staff to include an office manager and a center assistant. Larry Keffer is the new assistant at Audubon Center at Garden Creek. Larry has been an active volunteer with Audubon Wyoming since the spring of 2005. He received Audubon Wyoming's Volunteer of the Year Award that year for his involvement in the MAPS bird banding, Pathfinder NWR Surveys, Greater Sage-grouse lek surveys, as well as for lending a helping hand at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. In addition to his Audubon experience Larry also volunteers on various bird counts and surveys and is the current president of the Casper Photography Association. His interests include birding, hunting, fishing, rafting, and most importantly his grandchildren.

Noelle Mathews now holds the office manager position at the Laramie office. She received her B.S. Degree in Geography with a minor in Geology from Northwest Missouri State University. During her undergraduate studies she often volunteered for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Noelle is very happy to be part of an organization so thoroughly committed to wildlife and habitat restoration.





Kids' Corner



Name This Track!

Hint: This large mammal hibernates in winter and, if woken, can be quite a grump! GRRRR!



Color Me!

Santa Says:

This year, decorate your presents with old newspapers or scarves instead of the usual wrapping paper. The average person wraps 20 gifts during the holidays, and if just three of those gifts were wrapped in reused paper or scarves, the new paper saved could cover 45,000 football fields!



Did You Know...



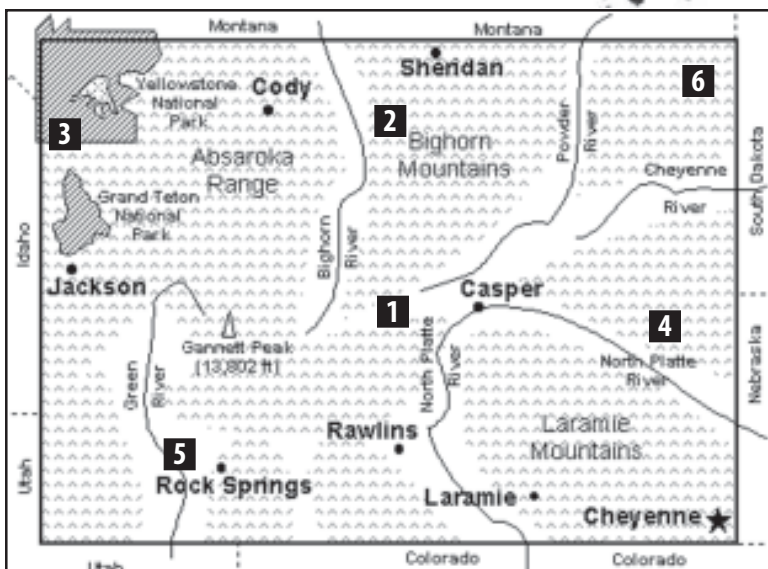
You can tell if a skunk is around if you smell only .000 000 000 000 071 ounce of its spray.

Despite their appearance, Mountain Goats are not really goats at all. They are in the antelope family!



A group of owls is called a parliament.

During World War II, American military tried to train bats to drop bombs.



Draw a line from the animal to where in Wyoming it might live!

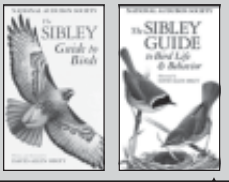
- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Prairie Dog | 1. North Platte River |
| Three Toed Woodpecker | 2. Bighorn Mountains |
| Wild Horses | 3. Yellowstone N.P. |
| Bighorn Sheep | 4. Thunderbasin N.G. |
| Rainbow Trout | 5. Red Desert |
| Grizzly Bear | 6. Black Hills of Wyo. |



Audubon Wyoming News

154 North 8th Street
Laramie, WY 82070

Help support Wyoming's wildlife and wild lands by purchasing your copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (\$42.50) and *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* (\$32.50) from Audubon Wyoming! Other titles also available. Stop by 101 Garden Creek Road to browse our selection!



Looking for a great gift idea? 

Audubon Wyoming would like to thank its donors, chapter members and volunteers for their continued *GENEROSITY, SUPPORT and COMMITMENT* to the organization.

THANK YOU!



Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

Make a Difference for Wyoming's Wildlife & Wildlands!!

JOIN/DONATE

Membership — \$20.00

All donations received in the Audubon Wyoming office are tax-deductible and used to benefit Wyoming's birds, wildlife and their habitats.

Complete & return to: **Audubon Wyoming**
101 Garden Creek Rd.
Casper, WY 82604

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Payment (Please do not send cash):

- Check (make payable to Audubon Wyoming)
- Visa MasterCard AMEX

Card # _____

Card expiration date (MM/YYYY) _____ / _____

Signature _____

VOLUNTEER

Do you enjoy watching wildlife? Love spending time in the outdoors? Then we invite you to volunteer with Audubon Wyoming! You don't have to be a bird expert...you just have to be willing to learn and want to have fun! Contact the Community Naturalist in your area for volunteer opportunities.



Volunteers are the heart of Audubon Wyoming programs. We would not succeed without the assistance you provide. Thank you!