



<https://www.rayneswildlife.org>

## February 2024 E-NEWS

Happy almost-springtime to all. We have received all of the reports from our 2023 grants, and are presenting a few of the highlights here. A list of the grants funded can be found on our website (address above).

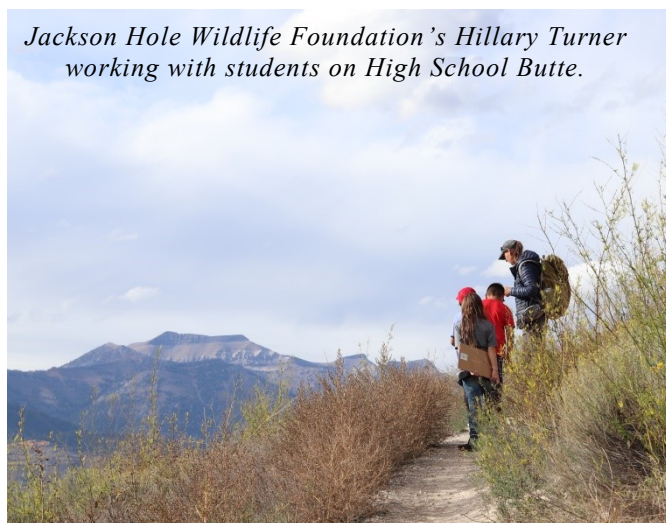
**Loggerhead shrike nesting success:** Graduate student Erik Shoenborn & Professor Anna Chalfoun (University of Wyoming) conducted a study of Loggerhead Shrike reproduction and habitat selection with a Raynes Fund grant. 2023 was the first season of data collection on this project. 98 nests were monitored during the field season, 70 of which fledged young. 28 nests failed as a result of predation. Trail cameras were used to identify nest predators; these included common ravens and one coyote. Over 200 nestlings were banded and measured, with the goal of identifying how their condition is influenced by proximity to disturbance. 68 adults were banded and fitted with GPS tags to determine favored areas within their habitat. A drone, purchased with funds provided by Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund, was used to collect aerial imagery of the study area, from which 3D models of habitats are being constructed.



*Shrike hatchlings*



**Amphibians and Wetlands of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:** Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative research associates Charles Peterson, Andrew Ray, and Debra Patla received a grant in 2023 to complete a traveling exhibit about the importance of amphibians and wetlands in the Greater Yellowstone area. The exhibit opened on January 15 at the Idaho Museum of Natural History, and will run into May in that location. Then it will move to the Teton County (WY) Library in June. A portion of the exhibit will also be presented during Amphibian week (May 4, 5, and 6) in Washington D.C. on the US National Mall. Many other venues are planned.



*Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation's Hillary Turner working with students on High School Butte.*

**High School Butte Living Laboratory:** High School Butte is easily accessible by the Jackson Hole Middle School, Colter Elementary, Summit Innovations and Jackson Hole High School. It offers many opportunities for observation, exploration and citizen science—meaningful learning opportunities for students. Libby Crews Wood, After the Bell Coordinator for Teton County School District, applied for the grant. Fifty-five students accomplished the following work.

<b>10</b> Nesting boxes made in Construction Club were installed on HS Butte	<b>02</b> Wildlife cameras installed on HS Butte for winter, 2024	<b>03</b> Ziplock bags of native seeds were gathered on HS Butte
<b>04</b> Garbage bags of invasive plants removed from HS Butte in October, 2023	<b>35</b> Community service hours earned by middle school students on HS Butte	<b>85</b> Miles trekked up and down HS Butte in 2023

The Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund, along with other partners, supported the first year of what will certainly become an ongoing outdoor learning experience for students.

Our sincere gratitude to all who have supported these and other grants during the 14 years during which we have been able to assist researchers and educators in the Jackson Hole area and beyond. We are excited to have received and reviewed 21 grant proposals for 2024—the most we have ever received. Stay tuned for highlights of these grants in the next e-news.

Read more about our grantees and their work at [www.rayneswildlife.org](http://www.rayneswildlife.org) And feel free to share this e-news with friends interested in wildlife. Thank you!