

# RAYNES FUND NEWSLETTER

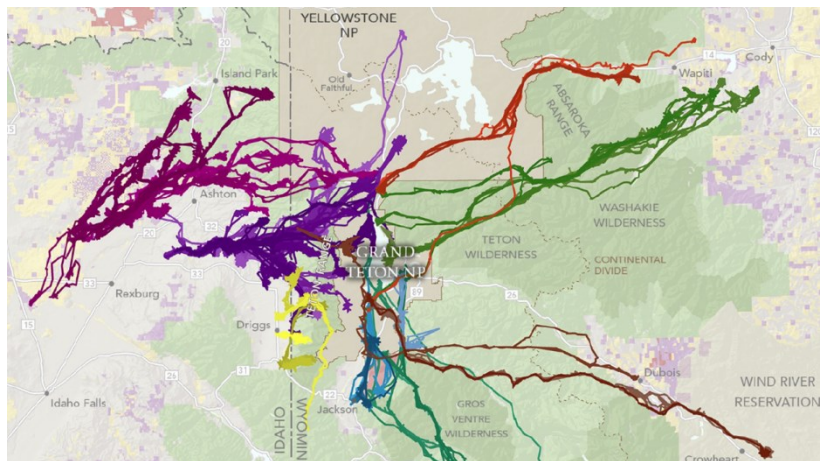
March 2022



<https://www.rayneswildlife.org>

The Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund has awarded 12 grants for 2022. And as in past years, we have chosen a wide variety of projects that support research and conservation efforts. Here is a summary! To view more details on projects (and other information) check out our new website <https://www.rayneswildlife.org>.

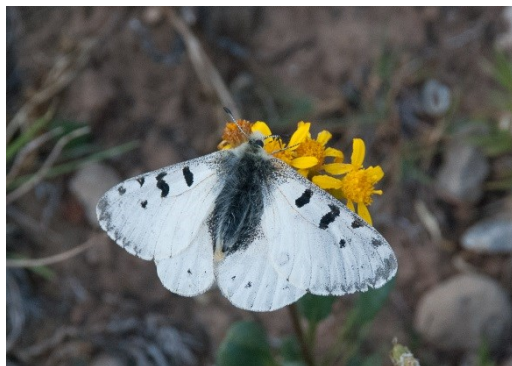
Ongoing research conducted by Teton Raptor Center and the Grand Teton National Park Foundation has been funded this year, including studies of forest raptors, mule deer migration, and the population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the Tetons. Monitoring of breeding harlequin ducks in the Tetons will also continue.



Part of the mule deer migration map presented in the 2021 report, showing the many miles covered by radio-collared animals.

Regionally, the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming will conduct three funded projects through professional faculty and their graduate students: a study of the effects of parasites on sagebrush songbird species; effects of breeding habitat changes on sagebrush songbirds; and a case study of Yellowstone bison and how they have learned to migrate throughout the park and beyond.

Faculty and graduate students at Montana State University have been funded for two studies, one of Parnassian butterflies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with an emphasis on Jackson



Parnassian butterfly nectaring on groundsel

Hole as a study area, the other on arthropod diversity in grasslands grazed by American bison in Yellowstone National Park, which could lead to further understanding of the role of invertebrates in this ecosystem.

Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative (NRCC) artist-in-residence Katy Christiansen will be supported in her work toward publication of the Greater Yellowstone Seasonal Almanac, which will focus on the cyclical happenings of the natural world

in this region, building on past works such as *For Everything There is a Season* by Frank Craighead. (Katy is the editor of *The Artist's Field Guide to Yellowstone*).

NRCC and the National Park Service Greater Yellowstone Network will collaborate on an intriguing study based on recent research that shows amphibians can biofluoresce (like fireflies), emitting a green glow under certain conditions. Very little is known about this newly discovered phenomenon or its uses for the species concerned. This project will study several amphibian species in our area.

Finally, the fund continues to support Nature Mapping Jackson Hole in cooperation with Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation.

Thanks to all of our donors this past year, including Old Bill's gifts and special tributes to Bert. Supporters and grantees together carry on Bert's deep curiosity and love for wild nature here in northwest Wyoming.



Migratory Bird Day at South Park feedground.  
Observations from the annual springtime event go into the Nature Mapping data base.