



DECEMBER 2022 E-NEWS

Thanks to all for your support during Old Bills Fun Run, allowing us to continue granting important work for the benefit of our wildlife. Help us spread the word in the research and environmental education community that grant applications are available for download on our website www.rayneswildlife.org. Proposals are due by February 1.

Grantee Profile: Teton Valley Land Trust

The Teton Valley Land Trust, based in Driggs, Idaho, has protected over 11,000 acres of habitat for sandhill cranes and other wildlife, as well as 15 miles along the banks of the Teton River. The Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund has awarded this non-profit three grants over the past decade, helping the land trust continue its work. Teton County, Idaho, harbors the largest sandhill crane population in the Greater Yellowstone region. Our grants have been used for determining critical crane staging areas and other habitat needs, along with supporting the annual Greater Yellowstone Crane Festival.



The Raynes fund joins a number of partners in crane habitat protection, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Legacy Works Group, and private landowners. The main goal of this partnership is to permanently protect a designated Crane Management Area in Teton Valley, along with providing educational opportunities. Ongoing educational workshops and crane tours emphasize crane habitat, behaviors, ecology, and how conservation is necessary to sustain their population. Volunteers are trained to conduct annual surveys and expanding the food plots in proximity to roosting habitat. We're proud to be part of this important conservation work on behalf of a species we all love.

An update: Nature Mapping Jackson Hole

Nature Mapping Jackson Hole was begun in 2009 by a group of volunteers and local biologists as the initial project of the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund. The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, with our continued support, has built on the initial success of the program. To date, we have collected over 90,000 observations, and 900 citizen scientists have gone through the training.

Since we are on the subject of sandhill cranes in this issue, it is interesting to take a look at the nature mapping observations. Total numbers seen each year are influenced primarily by the number of nature mappers (relatively few before more people were trained), and whether or not observers were lucky to catch the migration when large numbers of cranes are observed together. Of the 2,918 total sightings, a great majority were of one or two birds. The most seen was a flock of 200 in November 2014. Another 100 cranes were seen this year in April, during the spring migration. Each sighting places a dot on the map that will provide useful information about where cranes are being seen and when, adding to our knowledge of staging, roosting and nesting areas so they might be further protected.

Year	obs/yr	total seen
2009	2	42
2010	29	90
2011	40	227
2012	37	81
2013	26	104
2014	55	347
2015	49	161
2016	53	192
2017	74	261
2018	182	580
2019	36	103
2020	78	353
2021	44	151
2022	56	226



To get involved with Nature Mapping Jackson Hole, contact the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation <https://jhwildlife.org>. And read more about our many grantees and their work at www.rayneswildlife.org.

Happy holidays to all! The Meg and Bert Wildlife Fund board