



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

A CELEBRATION OF BIRD MIGRATION

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Katy Duffy, M.S.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Katy Duffy has been a licensed bird bander specializing in diurnal raptors, owls, and songbirds for more than 40 years. She has also conducted late winter – spring surveys for advertising male forest owls in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks for 23 years. She has counted diurnal raptors in Yellowstone National Park during fall migration since 2010. She has given programs and taught classes on diurnal raptors, owls, and other birds of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for more than 20 years.

Katy worked for the National Park Service in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks for 32 years. She was a supervisory resource education ranger in Yellowstone and a ranger-naturalist in Grand Teton. She has a M.S. in ecology from Rutgers University.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 2** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. Some off trail hiking possible.*

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.*

LOCATION: Course begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12, 2023, and ends on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: No lodging is provided for this course, however, there may be limited lodging available through Yellowstone Forever at the Yellowstone Field Overlook Campus. For more information, please contact the Institute at institute@yellowstone.org. You can also find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#). (Yellowstone River Motel will grant you 10% off their rooms if you mention that you are taking a Yellowstone Forever Field Seminar.)

MEALS: You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

I am very pleased that you have signed up to celebrate the amazing phenomenon of bird migration! We will begin our celebration with a classroom session where we will talk about the fascinating strategies birds employ as they venture from their wintering sites to where they will nest. We will discuss new technology and traditional techniques used by ornithologists to research how birds as tiny as hummingbirds and as large as American white pelicans perform the mind-boggling feat of long-distance migration. Then we will view my PowerPoint program showing images of birds we are likely to encounter in the field the following day. To enhance our appreciation of these birds, I will include an introduction to the ecology of each species along with identification tips. As we conclude our evening session, migration will be happening. While we sleep, birds will take to the sky—most songbird species migrate under cover of darkness.

The following day, Saturday, May 13 is International Migratory Bird Day. We will celebrate this special day looking for and observing an array of migrating birds in Yellowstone! We will explore some ponds in northern Yellowstone, then we will travel down the west side of the park to wetlands like Swan Lake Flat on our way to Hayden Valley and Pelican Bay where we will watch for waterfowl and other waterbirds. Throughout our day in the field, we will keep an eye out for raptors that have already started nesting and listen for songbirds that have just arrived. Expect a busy day of exploration and celebration of the spectacle of migration as we welcome returning birds!

- Katy Duffy

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction. *The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.*

Day 1

Welcome – Evening Discussions & Presentations (YF Classrooms)

- 6:00 p.m.** Participants meet at the Yellowstone Forever office at 308 W. Park Street, Gardiner, MT. The group will gather in a classroom for meet-and-greet in addition to covering course logistics and itinerary. Then we will discuss the phenomenon of migration, especially new discoveries of an age-old process. We will view a PowerPoint program of Yellowstone's migratory birds and cover aspects of avian ecology and identification.
- 9:00 p.m.** End of evening session

Day 2

- 7:30 a.m.** All-day Field Trip; meet at the bus outside the YF classroom.
- The class will board the bus, enter Yellowstone National Park and travel to observe migrating birds from northern Yellowstone to Hayden Valley and Pelican Bay. The group will walk short distances to explore bird-rich habitats and view birds from pullouts along park roads. Participants should bring binoculars, water, lunch, snacks, and sunscreen. Participants should wear sturdy hiking shoes/boots and have layered warm clothing and rain gear as May weather can be unpredictable.
- 5:30 p.m.** Return to Gardiner for class summary, including a list of bird species seen, and conclusion of our celebration.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

Items specific to this course are:

- ☐ Binoculars, if you have them - *loaners will be available*
- ☐ Light day pack
- ☐ Warm layers and waterproof clothing - *top and bottom*
- ☐ Sturdy hiking shoes/boots
- ☐ Lunch, snacks, and water

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required or recommended for this course.

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400