



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

RAPTORS OVER YELLOWSTONE

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 1** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 1 mile per day, comfortably, through relatively flat terrain on maintained trails.*

**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: Program begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The course begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2023, and ends Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 5:00 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

Get ready to scan the skies for raptors (birds of prey) streaming south through Yellowstone. Twelve raptor species leave or cross Yellowstone on their autumnal journey to wintering sites as distant as Argentina. Raptor migration is a fascinating phenomenon!

We'll prepare for a day in the field with an hour or so in a classroom to help you to become familiar with raptors likely to be found in Yellowstone. Then we'll board a YF bus to spend the day looking for and talking about raptors. We'll stop at sites where raptors can be observed during fall migration and spend much of the day in Hayden Valley, an important stopover site where raptors actively fuel their migration by foraging on plentiful grasshoppers and small rodents.

I have been banding and conducting other studies of raptors for more than 40 years and I can't wait to share my intense passion for raptors with you.

Please see the Program Itinerary and Program Equipment for specific details, including important items to bring with you. Most of all, bring your enthusiasm for raptors and your curiosity!

- *Katy Duffy, M.S.*

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 - classroom in the morning followed by all-day field trip.

8:00 a.m.

Participants meet at the Yellowstone Forever office at 308 W. Park Street, Gardiner, MT. The class will gather in a classroom for meet and greet in addition to covering course logistics and itinerary.

The group will view a PowerPoint program on raptor species found in Yellowstone during the nesting season and during migration, focusing on identification and ecology. Additionally, the class will look at raptor wings, tails, and feet on loan from Yellowstone National Park. This session is designed to prepare participants to look for, observe, and identify raptors in the park.

Participants should bring the following items for the day: a folding lawn chair for raptor observation in the park, binoculars, and a spotting scope (loaner binoculars and scopes will be available), warm clothing, water, lunch and snacks, hat, rain gear, sunscreen, and insect repellent (September may still be no-see-um time).

9:30 a.m.

Field trip

The class will leave the classroom, board a YF bus and enter Yellowstone National Park to view raptors during migration. The group will walk short distances and sit in lawn chairs, to be comfortable, while observing raptors. Lunch will be in the field.

4:45 p.m.

Return to Mammoth Hot Springs for class conclusion.

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
- Waterproof clothing - *top and bottom*
- Light hiking boots
- Layers - *suited for spending time outside, including in the evening*
- Lunch

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