



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

RAPTORS OVER YELLOWSTONE

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Katy Duffy, M.S.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Katy Duffy has studied owls, diurnal raptors and other birds in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by banding, surveying and other techniques for more than 35 years. Katy loves to share her knowledge of avian ecology and identification. She worked for the National Park Service as a supervisory education ranger in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks for 32 years. Katy has a M.S. in ecology from Rutgers University.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is 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 participants cannot meet the activity level expectations during the program, they may be restricted from participation in daily outings. Program itineraries or activities will not be altered 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 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2024, and goes through Sunday, September 22, 2024, 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: This course is not catered. Participants will need to bring their own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field.

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

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Would you like to learn more about raptor identification and ecology? Would you like to see perched and flying raptors to enhance your identification skills? You will first spend classroom time looking at a presentation of images, including perched and flying raptors and their usual habitats, then you will spend hours in the field observing raptors during migration!

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**

The program starts with an evening orientation. You will get to know one another and be introduced to the program. Throughout the evening, the itinerary and seminar key concepts will be discussed, as well as what to expect to pack for the field each day.

Day 2 **Raptor migration.**

You will first view a PowerPoint of images of raptors found in Yellowstone. Then you will head into the park to look for and observe migrating raptors. Viewing of raptors will entail comfortably sitting in lawn chairs in appropriate habitat for looking for and watching perched and flying raptors. The class will end with a summary.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

- a comfortable folding chair

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program.

- National Park Service. *2023 Resource and Issues Handbook*. NPS, 2023.

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and general program 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.