

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a red vest over a grey sweater and blue jeans, stands in a field of dry grass with patches of snow. In the background, several white sheep are grazing. The title 'Wyoming Library Roundup' is overlaid at the top, with 'Wyoming' and 'Roundup' in script and 'Library' in a large serif font. The date 'Spring/Summer 2015' is in the top right.

# Wyoming Library Roundup

Spring/Summer 2015

Wyoming  
WILDLIFE





*Dan Andrews' painting Running Free wins Wyoming Conservation Stamp Art Competition.*

## Swift Fox “Running Free” Tops Conservation Stamp Competition

Denver resident Dan Andrews took the top honor in the 32nd Annual Wyoming Conservation Stamp Art Competition with his painting of a swift fox in full stride, “Running Free.” A panel of judges selected his work as best in show on April 10, earning Andrews the first prize of \$3,500.

Each year the Wyoming Game and Fish Department selects one species to be the subject of the annual Wyoming Conservation Stamp Art Competition. The winning entry appears on more than 100,000 conservation stamps. The swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) was the subject of the 32nd annual competition in 2015. The swift fox is one of Wyoming’s unique non-game animals. They are the smallest of all canids, about the size of a house cat, and are found in a handful of counties in southern Wyoming. They are most

common in prairie habitats in the southeastern corner of the state.

The 2015 competition received 58 entries from 22 states. Twenty-five Wyoming artists entered the competition this year. Other artists who placed in the competition: second place—Mickey Schilling, Loveland, Colo., \$1,500; third—Sandra Izatt of Freedom, Wyo. \$750. Honorable mentions went to Bill Scheidt, Boerne, Tex., Renee Piskorski, Cheyenne, Nanci Avery, Windsor, Colo., Don Meinders, Otto NC., and Rob Stine, Eutawville, SC.

Winning conservation stamp paintings from previous years are on display at the Game and Fish headquarters in Cheyenne. Next year’s competition subject will be one of the most popular waterfowl species in Wyoming and the U.S., the mallard.

# Wyoming Library Roundup

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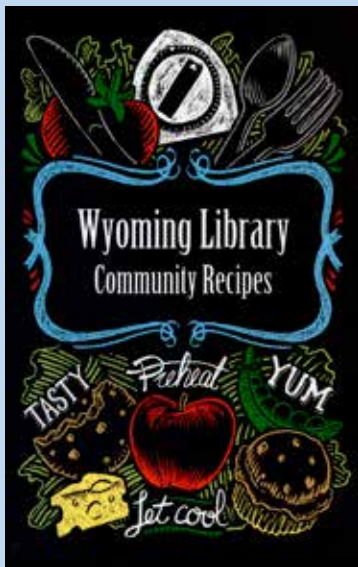


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**Top photo:** From Cat Urbigit's Portraits of Pastoralism exhibit, the subject (from the Rhodopo Mountains of Bulgaria) carved his shepherd's crook with a symbolic representation of his beliefs. **Middle photo:** Tom Mangelsen photographed Pacific bottlenose dolphins "flipping out" in the Sea of Cortez near Baja, California, in 1997. **Bottom photo:** Whiskey Mountain bighorn rams by Nick Dobric.



## Braised Venison

Fern Stringham, Western Wyoming  
Community College Hay Library

- Leg of venison or center-cut at least 4 inches thick
- Slivered garlic
- 2 T salad oil
- ½ c. dry wine or cider
- 1 c. water
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper
- Salt pork or bacon

Rub venison with garlic or insert into meat. Brown well in oil, using a Dutch oven or heavy pot with a tight fitting cover. Add wine or cider, water, bay leaf and salt & pepper. Arrange slices of salt pork or bacon over the top. Cover and cook in oven over 3 hours. To make gravy, thicken with flour paste and add sour cream.

*Recipe from Wyoming Library Community Recipes, a cookbook compiled by Wyoming Library Leadership Institute (WLLI) graduates. Purchases support the work of WLLI.*

### ORDER A COPY

You can pick up your copy of the cookbook for \$15 each at the Wyoming State Library, 2800 Central Ave., Cheyenne WY. To order by mail, visit the Wyoming Library Association website at [www.wyla.org](http://www.wyla.org) and click on "Cookbook Order Form" in the lower-right corner.

# LIBRARY

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# CAT URBIGKIT

Sharing  
Wyoming's  
Beauty

as the 2015 One Book  
Wyoming author

*Rena has proven her devotion to her flock time and again, challenging coyotes, bears, and wolves to keep the sheep safe. She's an Akbash, a guardian breed originating in Turkey. Photo by Cat Urbigkit.*

*"The seasonal movement of livestock with their human tenders is called transhumanance, and it is practiced throughout the world. I am one of a global population of fifty million shepherds."*

*-Cat Urbigkit, Shepherds of Coyote Rocks*

*By Susan Vittitow Mark, Wyoming State Library*

**CAT URBIGKIT** has a passion for agriculture and a love of the guardian dogs and burros who watch over her sheep. She's an author, photographer and sheep rancher in Sublette County. Her love of the land and passion for her livelihood shine through in her work.

Cat has published ten nonfiction books, three for adults and seven picture books for children. She has been selected as the 2015 One Book Wyoming author and will travel throughout the state giving programs at libraries and schools. The memoir *Shepherds of Coyote Rocks: Public Lands, Private Herds, and the Natural World* was selected as the adult read. For children, there are two picture books: *Brave Dogs*, *Gentle Dogs: How They Guard Sheep* (bilingual edition) and *The Guardian Team: On the Job with Rena and Roo*.



*The burros that help guard the Urbigkit sheep enjoy lambs and calves on the ranch. But they wound up in a mess of moose trouble after trying to claim a moose calf. Photo by Cat Urbigkit.*

Her Wyoming is full of the wildlife she sees every day—pronghorn, moose, hawks, sage grouse, eagles, badgers and fox. She has a special fondness for birds of prey, particularly the smallest falcon, the American Kestrel. It's a landscape that also includes the bears, coyotes and wolves that can threaten her flock, or even threaten humans.

While those who are strongly pro- or anti-predator, might make the news, "I think the majority of us who are raising livestock in areas with predators do have a nuanced view. We share the landscape with these animals, and I have no interest in the eradication of any species of animal." She takes a pragmatic stance, recognizing that when livestock, humans and predators all live in the same place, some livestock will be killed, and some predators will have to be killed or removed.

"That's why the guardian dogs are so important to us. They are what keep us in business. Our dogs are challenged by predators every single day. We have coyotes that try to get into the herd every day, so the dogs and burros are our first line of defense."

It's a busy life. Cat's day starts at 4 a.m. She tries to write and take care of business for a couple of hours before she

goes out to check the livestock and do some photography. She takes an iPad and her camera gear, along with her herding dog and shotgun.

She has traveled around the world to Mongolia, Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Turkey, South Africa and Lesotho to examine herding practices in many countries and learn about the guardian dogs they choose.

"The main focus of our travel was to learn about the livestock guardian dogs they use in other countries. We've had several dogs attacked by wolves and killed by wolves while in the process of protecting their flocks. The whole use of livestock guardian dogs in the United States is a fairly recent event. There are cultures where people have been using guardian dogs for thousands of years in the presence of wolves and bear."

She was impressed with Spanish Mastiffs, Karakachans and Kangals. In many countries, herders used spiked collars on their dogs to protect the animals when they're in physical conflict with wolves, so Cat brought some of those back to use on her own animals.

"I've been fortunate enough to photograph migratory domestic sheep operations here in Wyoming and the Western United States for more than

a decade. It was a natural evolution that when we had the opportunity to do some travel, we went to learn about agricultural production in other countries. I did the same thing, taking photographs, realizing that these people are doing the same thing that we do in western Wyoming, and people have been doing this activity, this pastoralism for thousands of years, living in close association with their animals."

Gathering her best photos, with grants from the Wyoming Humanities Council and Wyoming Arts Council and with private donations, she put together *Portraits of Pastoralism*, a traveling exhibit that made it from the East Coast to the West during its two-year run.

One of Cat's tasks is to raise fluffy pups to become fiercely protective, yet gentle, guardians of her flocks. Before their eyes even open, she lines the den with wool or fleece so they can learn the smell of the animals they will watch over. The process of introducing the puppies to the flock and the bond that forms is the focus of *Brave Dogs*, *Gentle Dogs*.

One dog has found fame through her books: Rena. The runt of the litter, Rena nevertheless took it upon herself to pick fights with her siblings until Cat removed her and placed her with Roo,



the scraggiest, littlest wild burro in the BLM corral, to watch over a batch of bum lambs.

“They were in charge of raising six orphan lambs, so that was the whole start of *The Guardian Team*. That was a beautiful story to watch as it developed in real life here. I photographed the whole group of animals for a year to create that book. It is a true ugly duckling story that they all got off to a hard start, and then they all grew up working together to become very beautiful, productive members of the flock. Those lambs are adult ewes in our flock, and Rena and Roo are still out there guarding the herd.”

Cat had a scare when Rena went missing late in 2011. Someone apparently took the dog from their

of shampoo, with a new habit: begging at the kitchen table for food.

“I’m assuming that someone thought they wanted to save this beautiful, big dog from being outside, and then got the dog and realized it’s not an inside dog. Some people do not believe that dogs should be working outside and living outside. They don’t have a realization that these dogs have been doing this. They’ve been bred for this for thousands of years, and given the choice, the dogs will go outside. I hope that most people realize that these dogs may live outside 24-7, but they’re very well cared for. They live grand lives of adventure.”

Those lives of adventure do include risk. In 2013, Rena was injured in a wolf attack. Guardian dogs typically do

sheep dead. She called federal officials and covered the carcasses. She slept that night in her pickup with the window down, facing the sheep. About 4 a.m., Rena took off in a disturbance. The dog returned 45 minutes later, exhausted. In her spotlight, Cat could see some blood along Rena’s backside. Right at daylight, a federal wildlife official in an airplane shot two wolves as they were leaving the pasture, and another official arrived in a pickup and confirmed the sheep had been killed by wolves.

Cat now had a chance to assess Rena’s injuries. She could tell the dog was stiff, so Cat backed her pickup to an irrigation ditch so Rena could try to get in. Still, Cat had to physically pick up her hind end to load her.

“She collapsed when I put her in the



**LEFT:** Spending so much time out on the landscape provides Urbigkit opportunities to observe interesting wildlife behaviors. Here a sandhill crane uses a clod of manure as a hacky-sack, bouncing it repeatedly off the top of its head. **RIGHT:** The livestock guardian dogs develop lifelong bonds with their sheep, and seem to sense which animals are most vulnerable. Photos by Cat Urbigkit.

house when they were out moving sheep. She immediately posted on Facebook and notified the news media. Soon people all over the area were on the lookout. “She’s a pretty famous dog. It made news all over western Wyoming and even statewide.”

One week later, to Cat’s relief, Rena was dropped off three miles down the road. A truck driver for the oil field spotted her and called it into the radio station. Cat’s husband Jim ran down to pick her up. The dog came back smelling

well against coyote and grizzly bear, but because wolves often come in packs, it can turn dangerous.

Cat had been camping with the flock because they had bears trying to come into the flock every night. “The dogs do a very good job of harassing the bears and moving them away from the sheep, so to have disturbances in the night was not really an alarming thing. It was rather routine.”

She took one night off to go to a wedding and came back to find nine

truck, and I realized that she was in a bad way.” Cat called the veterinarian on the hour-long drive to town so they were ready for her. “She had just dozens and dozens of bite marks on her. The wolf had nearly bit off her entire tail at the base.”

Cat and Jim were concerned that, having been so badly injured, Rena might be afraid of or intimidated by predators, but Rena recovered nicely and wanted to go right back to work. “It had no effect other than it’s like she has

a chip on her shoulder now. She was a hero in our eyes before just because of her everyday activities, always taking care of the herd, but then after she did that, she's a real hero. She is a dog warrior."

Rena is the co-star of *The Guardian Team*, one of the One Book Wyoming children's selections. She also plays a large role in *Shepherds of Coyote Rocks*. The story follows Cat and the flock from when she moved her flock into the sagebrush desert in May 2010 until she shipped that year's lambs to market in October.

"I wrote in my journal every day. I wrote about what was happening with the sheep, and the weather conditions, and the predators and the other wildlife that we encountered. When you spend so much time out in a landscape alone, you also think about the other people that have gone there before you and the other people around the world that are doing the same thing."

Because Urbigit writes for both children and adults, this year's One Book program was able to span a wider age range with a single author. She has three age ranges targeted for her "Writing from the Range" programs: K-2nd grade, 3rd-4th grades and adults. She's targeting 3rd-4th graders not just by engaging them with the stories and photos, but also to give them insights into the writing process.

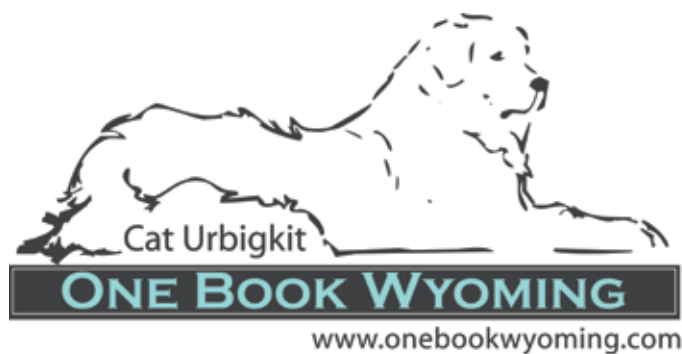
For adults, she'll have a fun tour of her books and photos showing what it's like to live on the ranch, including a few surprises. "I focus on some of the relationships that I get to see, like a cowbird landing on a sheep and sticking its toes in the wool and eating seeds from the wool."

It will be a busy year of appearances, but Cat is looking forward to it.

"Through my books, I try to show the beauty of Wyoming as I see it. And through One Book Wyoming, I get to share that beauty with others."

*Learn more about One Book Wyoming at [onebook.wyo.gov](http://onebook.wyo.gov), or visit Cat Urbigit's website at [paradisesh sheep.com](http://paradisesh sheep.com).*

# one book wyoming



**Many of us have read the same book together in a book club, gathering afterward and sharing our thoughts. What if everyone in Wyoming could be in the same book club? And they could sit down not just with fellow readers, but maybe even with the author?**

**That's the idea behind a One Book project—a city, a county or even an entire state picks one book to share and celebrate. The intent is to create community-wide unity through the reading of a single book.**

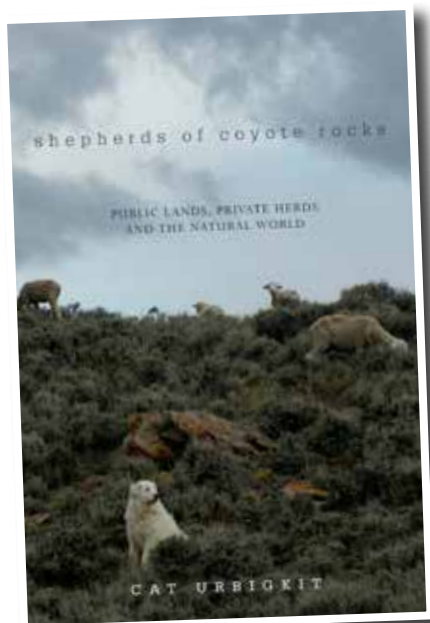
Wyoming's second One Book is beginning now: the Wyoming State Library is pleased to announce it will feature three books by Wyoming author, Cat Urbigit.

Events kicked off at the Albany County Ag Expo Family Night at the University of Wyoming Hansen Arena in Laramie on April 21. The next day, Urbigit started on her grand tour of the state, doing school visits in Sinclair and Rawlins. Libraries across Wyoming will host events to inspire conversation, including book discussions, cultural programs and guest appearances by the author. This type of community dialogue and experience is the purpose of the One Book Wyoming program. Urbigit writes for both children and adults, so this year readers of every age can participate. What's on the reading agenda? For adults and teens, the selection is *Shepherds of Coyote Rocks*. Children may enjoy *Brave Dogs*, *Gentle Dogs* and *The Guardian Team*.

The titles are available in a variety of formats at your local library. To learn more, visit the website [onebook.wyo.gov](http://onebook.wyo.gov) or contact your local library.

**ONEBOOK.WYO.GOV**





## Shepherds of Coyote Rocks: Public Lands, Private Herds and the Natural World

(Countryman Press, c2012.)

Cat Urbigkit journeys alone to spend a season on Wyoming's open range, tending to a flock of domestic sheep as they give birth amid the challenges of nature—from severe weather to a wealth of predators. Her only companions are the guardian animals (big dogs and a pair of burros) that repeatedly prove their worth in their devotion to protecting the flock.

Urbigkit offers interesting reflections on the role of pastoralists around the globe and on the controversial issue in the Western U.S. of private livestock herds being run on public lands. The intimate ways in which abstract public policy plays out on the open range are eye-opening.

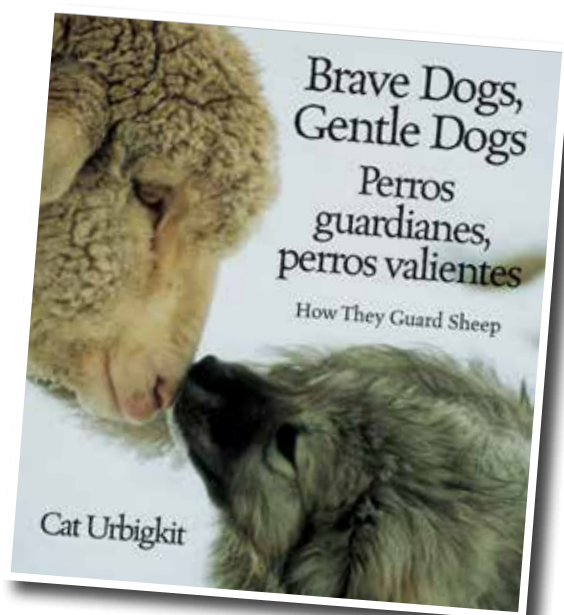
More than a tale of herding sheep, *Shepherds of Coyote Rocks* is an action-packed true story that reveals the broad spectrum of the human relationship with nature, from harmony to rugged adventure.

## Brave Dogs, Gentle Dogs: How They Guard Sheep

(English/Spanish Edition, 32-page picture book, Boyds Mills Press, 2009)

This engaging photoessay shows how guardian dogs form a bond with the sheep that lasts throughout the dogs' lives.

- International Reading Association Notable Book
- Wyoming Ag Book for Kids 2006
- Read Across Wyoming 2007
- Texas, New Jersey, Wyoming & Illinois book honors
- Junior Library Guild Selection 2009
- 2012 New York State Reading Association Charlotte Award suggested title.



## The Guardian Team: On the Job with Rena and Roo

(32-page picture book, Boyds Mills Press, 2011)

A companion book to Urbigkit's award-winning *Brave Dogs, Gentle Dogs*, this is the true story of a scraggly wild burro, the runt of the guardian dog litter and six orphan lambs as they grow together and become a team on a Wyoming ranch.

- 2013 Book of the Year, American Farm Bureau Foundation
- 2013 Ohio Farm Bureau Award for Children's Literature
- 2012 Society Of School Librarians International Honor Book



*Bart Walter (American, b. 1958), Wapiti Trail, modeled 2005, cast 2007. Bronze Lifesize. Anonymous gift, National Museum of Wildlife Art. © Bart Walter. Photo © Adrienne DiLiso.*

# TREASURE TROVE OF STORIES

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART

*By Lynn G. Carlson*

There are stories on the walls of the galleries at the National Museum of Wildlife Art (NMWA) in Jackson—stories that are sketched, etched, photographed and engraved. There are stories on pedestals too, carved in wood, molded in bronze and formed in clay. Some of the stories tell sweeping narratives of man’s encounters with wild things. Some of the stories zoom in on a single moment—an eagle getting ready to touch down on a massive outcropping, or a herd of elephants running from a grass fire on the African savannah. Sometimes it is a true rendering of a scene the artist has witnessed, and sometimes it is pulled from the mystery of the artist’s imagination. Every work of art tells us something about man’s relationship with wilderness and wild creatures, whether we celebrate, fear, mourn or just stand in awe.

### ONCE UPON A TIME

The museum’s story of creation and evolution is quite a tale in itself. It chronicles humble beginnings, hard labor by people passionate about exploring man’s connection with the land and wildlife, and a decision to expand the collection from a focus on the West and North American wildlife to one that embraces wildlife art from around the world. Story highlights include:

- **1984:** Ten founding trustees selected Jackson for the location of a wildlife art museum.
- **1987:** The museum breathes its first breath as the Wildlife of the American West Art Museum. It totals three galleries wedged inside a storefront in Jackson’s Town Square. The initial collection includes works from the collection of William (Bill) and Joffa Kerr.
- **1992:** The museum’s collection is spilling out of the storefront, so a capital campaign is launched to raise funds for a new facility and an operating endowment.
- **1994:** The NMWA moves into its new home and wins the Wyoming Humanities Award for “exemplary efforts in fostering the humanities in Wyoming.”
- **2008:** A Congressional order des-



ignates the museum as the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States.

• **2012:** A sculpture trail is added that takes visitors on a 3/4 mile trip through the surrounding landscape, showcasing incredible sculptures and incomparable views. The trail is free to the public and links to the Community Pathways system in Jackson. A sheltered amphitheater near the museum's entrance provides a venue for events.

## FAIRY TALE SETTING

The National Museum of Wildlife Art has 14 galleries and over 5,000 pieces of art from more than 550 artists, housed in 51,000 square feet. The architects who designed the structure were inspired by the Slain castle ruins in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The building's façade is constructed of Idaho Quartzite, a material that matches the landscape perfectly.

One of the remarkable tales that can be told about this museum is its proximity to its subject matter. NMWA is tucked into a Gros Ventre Mountain Range cliff and faces the National Elk Refuge.

Alongside the museum, a bull elk bugles a challenge to its living brethren across the road, warning them away from his harem of four, in the impressive sculpture installation, *Wapiti Trail*, created by Bart Walter. Occasionally a moose will meander into the sculpture

garden and come nose-to-nose with a bronze statue of itself. The resident pika steals grass from the edge of the amphitheater and packs it away for the long winter.

Few art museums can boast having *that* kind of relationship with the focus of their art.

## ENTER THE LIBRARY

When you enter the museum's Library and Archives, you are encompassed in warm wood, from the bookshelves to the wood beams overhead, to the long tables. Art books are laid open and lamps illuminate the pages. There is artwork, too, of course.

NMWA's Library consists of a general art holding and more than 5,500 items that center on wildlife art and artists, particularly ones that expand on the stories of the artists and artworks in NMWA's permanent collection. Additional materials address topics such as general art history, art conservation, natural history, wildlife biology, wildlife cinematography, conservation and photography. The library collection is diverse, containing books, journals, artist biographical files, and video and DVD recordings.

This non-circulating research library gets a lot of use by the museum's curatorial team, volunteers and docents. Members of the community also visit on a regular basis.

The library is open by appointment

only for browsing, research and reference. The public can discover what's in this great collection via the WYLD system ([www.wildlifeart.org/collection/library-archives/](http://www.wildlifeart.org/collection/library-archives/)).

## STORIES THAT EDUCATE

Around 10,000 students visit the museum each year to hear, see and touch the stories. Museum staff use the art collection to teach about natural science, western history, art appreciation and creative writing, all at no charge for organized educational groups of children.

The Children's Discovery Gallery lets kids get their hands on art. There are interactive exhibits, as well as an art studio and reading nook. NMWA brings in storytellers and musicians for children at different times of the year. Programs are announced by fliers distributed to schools and through radio broadcasts and newspaper stories. Educators who are interested in bringing their students to the museum can fill out a "Request a Visit" form on the website, under the *Onsite Programs* tab.

## VISIT ONLINE

NMWA strives to serve a wider audience including those who can't make the trip to Jackson. The museum staff has developed several online programs that can be accessed via their website.

For example, one program called "Inside Out," asks big questions about



*Wilhelm Kuhnert*  
(German, 1865 – 1926),  
*Elephants*, c. 1917. Oil  
on Canvas. 48 x 86  
inches. JKM Collection®,  
National Museum of  
Wildlife Art.

the connection between art and identity, using the artist Carl Rungius and his work as a focal point. Four lessons share information and lead teachers and students through activities, including a lesson where students explore their identities and identify what is important to them. Additional topics include “Land-forms” and “Wildlife in Winter.”

Funding for this outreach effort comes from the Brinson Foundation, Wyoming Arts Council, Cultural Council of Jackson Hole, the Cross Charitable Foundation, Town Square Inns of Jackson Hole and Lynn & Foster Friess.

### SMALL TOWN MUSEUM

*“Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.” – John Muir*

Sometimes those of us in Wyoming forget how fortunate we are to live so close to natural wonders and wildlife. Maybe we didn’t know or forgot this fact too: the NMWA has the most comprehensive collection of North American wildlife art *in the world*. Lucky us, to have these treasures right here in Wyoming.

NMWA is Jackson’s top attraction with more than 80,000 people visiting

the museum annually.

In March 2015, Fodor’s Travel, the online version of the popular travel guide, included NMWA in the list of “15 Best Small-Town Museums in the U.S.”—a distinction that is sure to draw even more travelers.

### THE STORIES LIVE ON

The future of the National Museum of Wildlife Art will no doubt include many more stories and dramatic episodes—like the impending arrival of art from the controversial and prolific Chinese artist, Ai Weiwei. NMWA will host Weiwei’s “Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads” installation, featuring the eleven animals of the Chinese zodiac (plus a dragon), from May 9 through October 11, 2015.

A short video describing the history and creation of these sculptures by the winner of the Human Rights Foundation’s Václav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent will accompany the exhibit. At the art studio, visitors will be able to explore the zodiac and animal theme artistically and learn about the Chinese tradition of paper cutting.

“The museum has displayed international art in the past, mostly European art,” said Jim McNutt, president and CEO of NMWA, “but this installation

is one of the first that is an expansion into Asian wildlife art.”

The Weiwei installation will join the other art on the sculpture trail and no doubt draw some stares from local wildlife.

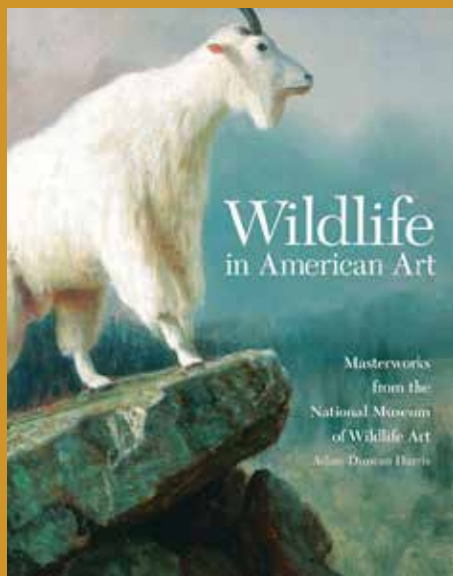
### LET THE STORIES LIVE ON

There is no “The End” in sight for the stories told at the NMWA. Additional chapters are added every year, like the recent acquisition of works from Africa and New Zealand.

As William G. Kerr, Chairman Emeritus, says of this treasured museum: “May it long serve those who come to its place in search of the wild, the natural, the forgotten and the serene.”

...

*Lynn G. Carlson is a freelance writer from Cheyenne, Wyoming. She has published essays, creative nonfiction, and fiction in several literary magazines and received Honorable Mention in the Wyoming Art Council’s Frank Nelson Doubleday Award in 2012 and 2015. Lynn also has an essay in National Public Radio’s This I Believe archives. She blogs at Writing Wyoming, [www.writingwyoming.com](http://www.writingwyoming.com).*



### Wildlife in American Art: Masterworks from the National Museum of Wildlife Art

by Adam Duncan Harris

2009. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman OK. 320 p.

Want to keep a bit of the museum for yourself? *Wildlife in American Art* presents a generous sampling of the museum’s holdings, charts the history of this enduring theme in American art and explores the evolving relationship between Americans and the natural resources of this continent. More than a museum catalogue, this volume offers descriptions of individual artists in the collection as well as in-depth, informative essays about what the natural environment has meant to Americans over time—untamed wilderness, sublime creation, endless resource, threatened habitat. Author and art historian Adam Duncan Harris also describes how these meanings have played out in painting and sculpture over the past two centuries. More than 125 full-color illustrations highlight the entire range of the museum’s collection, from the western wilds of George Catlin to the desert drama of Georgia O’Keeffe.





*"Catch of the Day" taken Katmai National Park, Alaska in 1988 is one of photographer Tom Mangelsen's most famous pictures. It's included in his new book Last Great Wild Places.*

# TOM MANGELSEN INTERVIEW:

## The Last Great Wild Places

*by Kelsey Dayton, Courtesy of WyoFile*

It took photographer Tom Mangelsen, along with a staff of three people, a year to whittle down his more than 4 million images to about 1200, then 500, then 300. And then it was in the graphic designer's hand make about 140 pictures fit in Mangelsen's new book, *The Last Great Wild Places*.

The book includes a foreword by Mangelsen's friend Jane Goodall, as well as text by Todd Wilkinson. It's a retrospective of Mangelsen's more than 40 years of photography.

It features new work, including the cover that shows Grand Teton National Park's grizzly bear No. 399 crossing a river, as well as images created through the years Mangelsen never printed, along with a few Mangelsen classics. *The Last Great Wild Places* is organized by ecosystems. The images come from across the globe, from Botswana to Antarctica to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. *Peaks to Plains* caught up

with Mangelsen to talk about his career, work and new book.

### When did you get interested in photography?

**Mangelsen:** I picked it up when I was in college. I grew up in Nebraska. My dad was a hunter and fisherman, and as long as I can remember I was out hunting and fishing with him, hunting ducks and geese and rabbits and pheasants. From those early experiences using decoys and blinds and preparing for the fall hunt, I learned about just observing and being patient and waiting for the moment. I didn't buy a camera until I was 23. I had just graduated from Doane College, a small liberal arts school where I got a degree in biology, thinking I was going to do something in wildlife biology and research.

I met a guy named Paul Johnsgard from the University

of Nebraska. He was the world authority on water fowl—ducks, geese and swans—and he was doing a book on waterfowl in North America and I asked him to take me on as a grad student. He said ‘Well your grades aren’t really that great.’ And I said ‘But I did win the World Goose Calling Championship—twice.’ And he said, ‘Well, we do make exceptions.’ From him I learned a lot about the behavior of birds. My first job was as a cinematographer making educational biology films for the University of Colorado. I wanted to do that singular image that showed the animal in its habitat. I vacillated between film and stills and found stills the most rewarding.

## What are your favorite animals to photograph?

**Mangelsen:** Polar bears and brown bears are my favorite species to photograph, along with... cougars and jaguars. I love all the big cats in Africa and, of course, the wolves. I think wolves are, unfortunately, being demonized and that’s the attitude people have against all the large predators like wolves, cougars and bears. I try to spend a lot of time to bring better awareness to those species in particular.

## What made you move to Jackson?

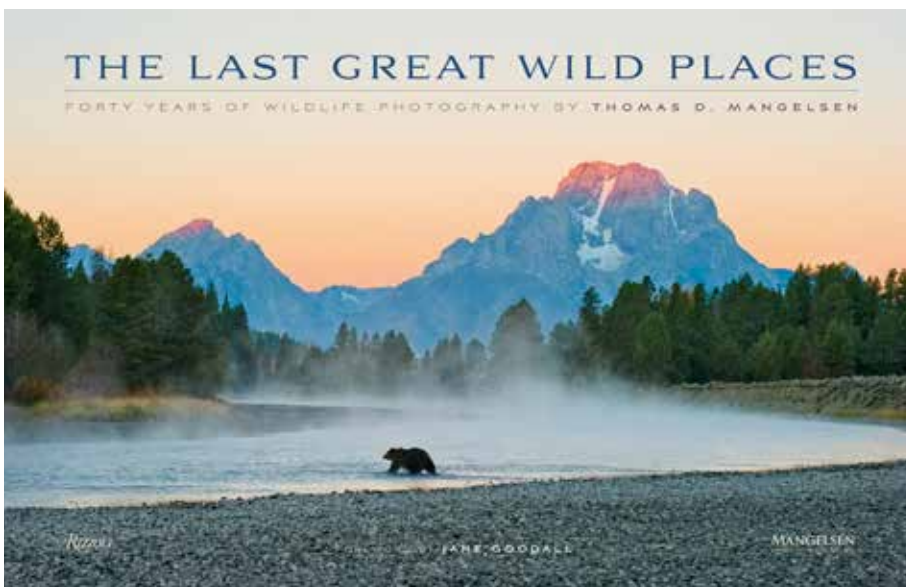
**Mangelsen:** The beauty of the place, certainly. The mountains. The

wildlife. I lived in Boulder and there wasn’t much wildlife left in the Front Range of Colorado. I’d come here and see coyotes and foxes and wolves and bears and I fell in love with it. I met Mardy Murie, and I was sitting in her backyard photographing wildlife, and I realized ‘I want to be here.’ I went home and moved six months later. That was 1978.

## You’ve been vocal in wildlife issues, from grizzly bear delisting to criticizing Grand Teton National Park’s elk hunt. Does that come from being a wildlife photographer, or are these views you’ve always held?

**Mangelsen:** Growing up in Nebraska, my dad was probably the first conservationist, or environmentalist, that I knew. My dad fought to save the Platte River from going dry. That influenced my thinking about conservation. I quit hunting 15 years ago. You need to protect what you love. I sort of traded the gun in for the camera long before that. The more I learned about the animals I photographed, the less interest I had in shooting them. I’m not against hunting. I think it should be done ethically and for meat. And not bears and wolves and jaguars that no one eats and are important in the ecosystem.

I watched a pack of wolves and saw how tight the family bonds are, and I realized if you shoot the alpha female you’ve destroyed part of the pack. The more you know the about an animal, the more you appreciate it and the more you love it, and when you love animals



**TOP:** The cover of photographer Tom Mangelsen’s new book shows Grand Teton National Park’s grizzly bear No. 399 crossing a river. **BOTTOM:** Mangelsen photographs all over the world, but one of his favorite places remains his backyard where he captures images like “Druid’s Frost Morning Passage” featuring gray wolves in Yellowstone National Park.



you hate to see them trapped or snared or poisoned. I just can't believe that someone could spend time watching wolves or cougars or bears and want to kill them. People are threatened by the competition of a wolf or bear killing an elk and there are plenty of elk. And the predator is supposed to regulate the prey, and it's a much more natural way of regulating. We've got it all ass-backwards when we are killing predators and having hunts on the elk refuge and hunts in the park. It's insanity. It's out-dated. The elk refuge is basically a farm for raising elk, and there are too many, and when chronic wasting disease hits the elk refuge—which is just down the road, it's marching this way— it's going to be disastrous.

### What do you think defines your work?

**Mangelsen:** I try to catch the spirit, you might say, or the character, or the gesture of an animal. A lot of people do that; I have no claim on that, but I watch an animal for a long enough time to be able to know or predict where it might go and I'm very aware of the background. A lot of new photographers want to capture the trophy animal, and I did that at one time and grew out of it. Now I back off and see what would a smaller lens do and what about the surroundings? Most people don't take enough time. I might sit and watch an elephant or lion all day. And I'm not there to take a picture and say, 'Got it, let's go to the wildebeest. Let's go get the cheetah.' I'm not into collecting numbers. It takes a lot of time and patience and knowledge of observation.

### Do you have a favorite shot you've captured?

**Mangelsen:** I have a number of favorite shots; many are in my book. There are classics like *Catch of the Day*. That's one of about 20 images that were 'must-be-included' ones.



**TOP:** Tom Mangelsen will spend hours watching an animal to capture a shot like "The Moose Pond," which he shot in Denali National Park in Alaska in 2009.

**BOTTOM:** Mangelsen's new book features work he's shot around the world, such as "Butterfly Kisses Caiman," which he photographed in Mato Grosso, Brazil in 2010.

### You've photographed all over the world, yet made Wyoming home. What makes the wildlife so special here?

**Mangelsen:** It has the diversity, especially of the large animals. Nebraska has the birds, but it doesn't have the bears and wolves and elk. Any day you can drive into the park and see these major animals, and you can go to the Oxbow bend and see swans or river otters. You can go out any day and see a moose. That's remarkable.

### ABOUT this ARTICLE

*Peaks to Plains* is a blog focused on Wyoming's outdoors and communities.

**Kelsey Dayton** is a freelancer and the editor of *Outdoors Unlimited*, the magazine of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

**WyoFile** is a nonprofit news organization focused on Wyoming people, places and policy. [www.wyofile.com](http://www.wyofile.com).

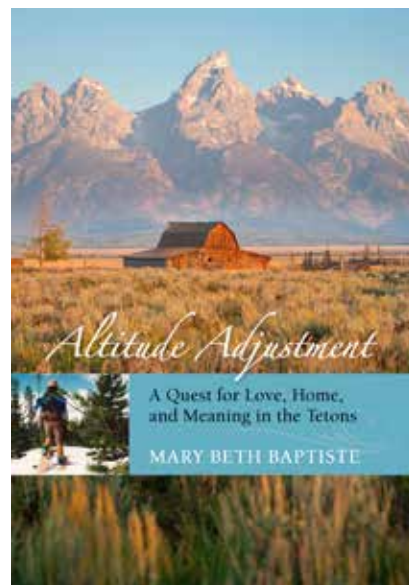
## Altitude Adjustment: A Quest for Love, Home, and Meaning in the Tetons

By Mary Beth Baptiste

2014. Published by TwoDot, an imprint of Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, CT. 259 p.

Mary Beth Baptiste needed to change her life. As the memoir opens in May 1992, she is newly divorced and still reeling from the emotional upheaval of the loss of her 15-year marriage. She does not feel supported by her East Coast area friends and family who just can't understand her recent decisions. So when she sees an opportunity to follow a dream, she seizes it with gusto. She'd always dreamed of a life living and working in the Rocky Mountains but never had the opportunity to actually use her master's degree in wildlife management before accepting a low paid seasonal job at Grand Teton National Park. Baptiste's memoir covers the next two years of her life as she finds love and life satisfaction working with elk, bears, frogs, raptors, sage grouse, swans and other exotic and mundane wildlife in one of our most beautiful national parks. Part wildlife adventure story, part romance and part self-help book, Baptiste's book is wholly entertaining and recommended for all of us who wish we could be with her adjusting our attitudes by engaging in the challenging but rewarding labor of banding hawks, relocating troublesome bears, taking long hikes and doing mountain sheep counts at high altitudes.

- Elaine Jones Hayes, Assistant Manager Reference Service, Special Collections Librarian, Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne



## A Hunger for High Country: One Woman's Journey to the Wild in Yellowstone Country

By Susan Marsh

2014. Published by Oregon State University Press, Corvallis. 221 p.

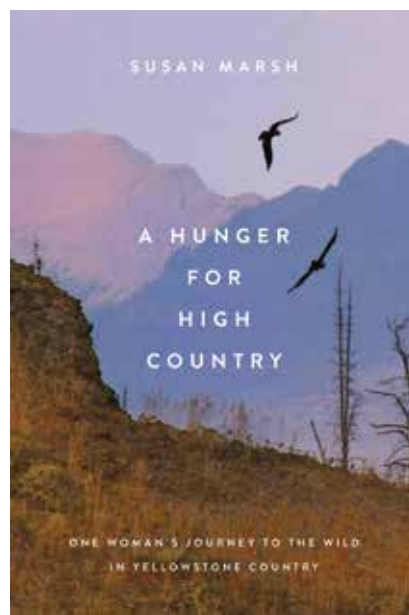
This book is about a woman's journey not only in the wilds of the Yellowstone but also in the wilds of the National Forest Service during the 1970s. She tells a story of profound betrayal by those who she thought had the same ideals. You'll journey with her as she triumphs over all to become part of something special as she sought the refuge of the high country.

Her love of nature began in western Washington, where she would escape her home life to seek solitude in the wild-forested area around her home. She pursued a degree in landscape architecture that landed her a job in Montana working for the National Forest Service, finding it to be run largely by men. She loved the high mountain peaks of the Gallatin mountain range but seized the chance to move to the Bridger-Teton National Forest where her passions for the high country became a reality.

Reading this book, you will experience standing at the headwaters of Upper Yellowstone River as she stands in the confluence of the North Fork and the South Fork rivers high in the backcountry of Yellowstone. She says, "The upper Yellowstone was a place infused with power, not painted in prettiness." ... "On those mountains, on those boulders in the river, were the fingerprints of God."

Reading this book will give you an insight into the struggles many women faced as they pursued professional level jobs throughout the National Forest Service. You'll get insight into her personal life and the effect it had on her, how she came to find peace on her travels in the high country of Wyoming. She'll leave you with a profound challenge to be vigilant in the preservation of our wild and scenic places.

- Linda Skeen, District Elementary Librarian and Outdoor Photographer/Naturalist, Park County School District 6, Cody





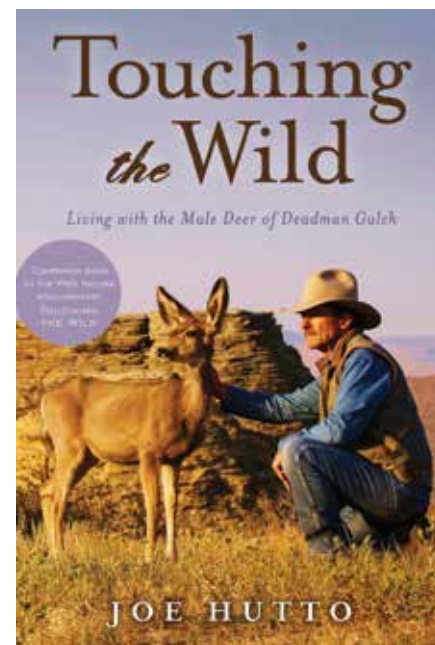
## Touching the Wild: Living With the Mule Deer of Deadman Gulch

By Joe Hutto

2014. Published by Skyhorse Publishing, New York. 306 p.

The author, an experienced field biologist, accidentally fell into a seven-year mule deer study and quickly found that there was no going back. Unknowingly buying a mule deer home winter range along with a ranch in northeastern Wyoming, the author walked a thin line between science, sentiment and mule deer as his qualitative study became a practice in ethology, observing under natural circumstances to see from the animal's point of view. I enjoyed reading about the relationships that grew between the author and 200 mule deer as they lived together on the mule deer's home range and the author's Deadman Gulch Ranch. Their story gave me a view into both the author's and herd's challenges, celebrations and heartache through the many color photos and accounts of individual herd members' life stories. I found the details of deer communication, complex social life and behaviors, quality of life, births and deaths well written, including the scientific and author-observed details. Through the author's close study and hands-on experience, I learned about the age-old predatory threats and of the modern political and economic threats to the mule deer's continued existence. This work is an interesting study that brought me along with the author, even as the deer allowed him to see the inconceivable—mule deer as a truly conscious creature, a species of value during a period in time that challenges their continued existence.

- Nancy Venable, Manager, Rock Springs Library



## Writing Wild: Forming a Creative Partnership with Nature

By Tina Welling

2014. Published by New World Library, Novato, CA. 248 p.

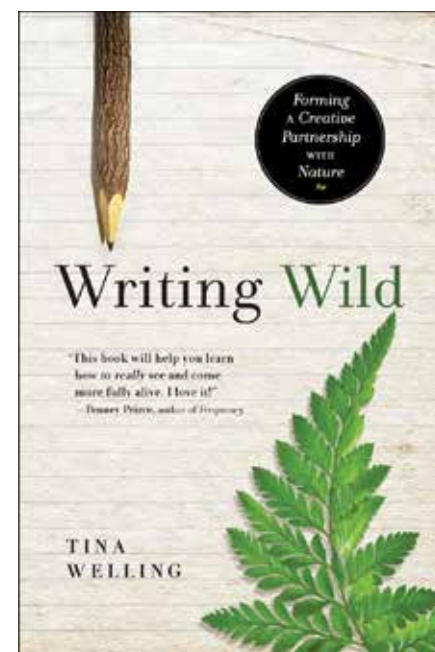
Tina Welling answers an old question of how we can reach an intimate relationship with nature in our frenzied world today in her recent nonfiction book on learning to write about nature, *Writing Wild*. She intersperses her kernels of wisdom with anecdotes from her experiences about growing as a writer and being present with the wilds. Welling begins by inviting her readers to engage in “spirit walks,” which involve a three-part approach. For the first part, “naming,” Welling explains that we must have a “heightened awareness” of our five senses, that this is an early pathway to being aware and connected with the wilds by naming sensory experiences—things seen, heard, smelled, touched and occasionally, tasted. For the second part of her spirit walks, Welling describes what her senses have told her. This frees her to “open myself to place and allow an exchange or interaction between the outer world of nature and my inner world of emotion and intimate experience.”

Her spirit walks provide for her that connectivity with nature. Welling describes some of her spirit walks, walking the reader through experiences with her three-part approach. “This,” she says about her three-part approach and having pen and notebook hand to record the experiences of a spirit walk, “is writing wild.”

Welling invites her readers to realize that we're not separate from nature but that we must participate rather than simply watching it. “We realize that we are part of the unfolding of life, that our listening to birdsong is the other half of the bird's singing of it, that witnessing the unfurling of a wave or leaf is partnering with the water or the tree.”

*Writing Wild* is a well-crafted work and a must read for those wishing to ignite their nature writings.

- Dan Syljuberget, Librarian, Hot Springs County High School, Thermopolis



## Raptors of the West: Captured in Photographs

By Kate Davis, photographs by Rob Palmer, Nick Dunlop and Kate Davis  
2011. Published by Mountain Press Publishing Company. Paperback, 242 p.  
Winner of the 2011 National Outdoor Book Award and Montana Book of the Year

This is a book of photographs. But, it is much more than that. The photos include not only spectacular portraits of all of our Western raptors. There are also many superb action shots of raptors—in flight, hunting, playing, mating, feeding and caring for their young.

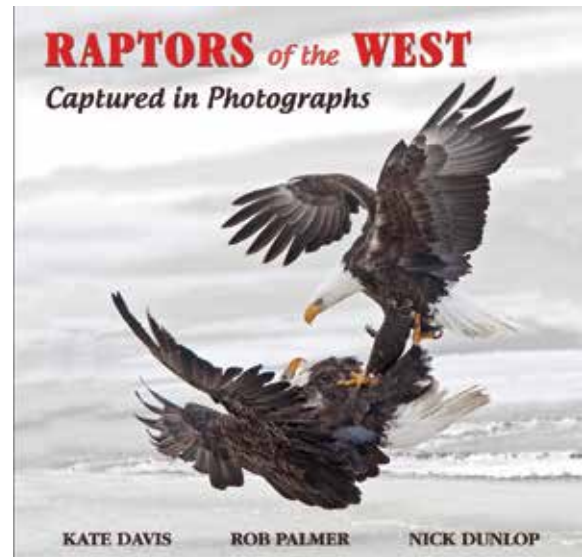
The more than 400 photos are each accompanied by brief but enlightening captions, which include information on behavior, identification tips, hunting techniques and prey, nesting habits, plumage variations, population status, migration, mythology and other intimate facts that you won't find in a field guide.

All three of the photographers, Kate, Rob and Nick are skilled and also passionate about their subjects. All have won awards for their photography and writing.

Although the book includes all raptor species that occur in the Western U.S., it is not presented in the usual taxonomic order. Instead, it is divided by the habitats and regions in which they occur, starting with the Arctic tundra and boreal forests and concluding with Southwest specialties that occur in the deserts of the southwestern U.S. This grouping enables the reader to know where to look for each species and which species occur together.

I would recommend this book for anyone casually interested in birds of prey, and even experienced, avid birders will learn something new about these majestic birds. If you want to know our raptors, or just enjoy their beauty, this is the book for you. You'll read it more than once!

- Alan Beske, Raptor Biologist & Falconer, Hawk Springs



## When Man Becomes Prey: Fatal Encounters with North America's Most Feared Predators

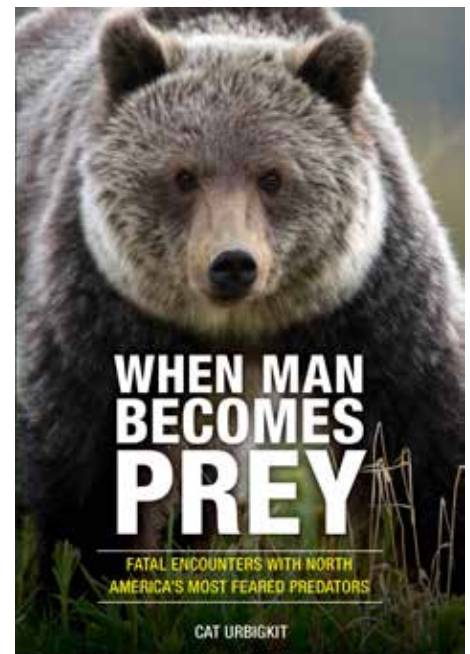
By Cat Urbigkit  
2014. Published by Lyons Press Guilford, CT. 224 p.

Predators are neither heroes nor villains, but simply wild animals being themselves. In keeping with that animal pragmatism, this guide to fatal encounters between predators and humans is, above all, practical. This isn't a collection of harrowing anecdotes to be read around the campfire. Instead, and while avoiding blame and politics, Urbigkit simply seeks to describe what people can do to avoid fatal confrontations with animals.

Drawing upon a wealth of up-to-date scientific research, Urbigkit details the who, what, when, why and how of deadly attacks on humans by five predators—black bears, coyotes, gray wolves, mountain lions and grizzly bears—and what that means for those of us who may cross paths with them. The book isn't specific to Wyoming, but Urbigkit, who lives in Pinedale, focuses on predators that are especially familiar to Wyoming readers.

Not only is this guide evenhanded and meticulously researched, but it's also an engaging read. Urbigkit extracts risk management lessons from well-told stories, then distills those lessons down into fascinating fact nuggets (coyotes have been photographed in Chicago's Wrigley Field) and actionable tips (landscape your yard in a way that doesn't attract deer or provide cover for mountain lions). The book is also visually appealing, with plenty of pictures, graphics and insets that make it easy to browse and learn from—even in a casual five minutes.

- Louisa Hunker, Assistant Librarian, Central Wyoming College Library, Riverton





# ROAMING RAMS: Sheep-viewing opportunities abound in Dubois

*By Josh Cooper, Jackson Hole News & Guide  
Reprinted with permission from [jhnewsandguide.com](http://jhnewsandguide.com)*

**The Whiskey Mountain area just east of Dubois is home to a shaggy group of residents—the largest wintering bighorn sheep herd in North America.**

Wyomingites looking to find some out-of-town adventure and see some amazing wildlife can head over to the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center near the heart of Dubois. The center not only has exhibits where young and old can learn about this native animal, but center staff will also lead visitors on tours of the nearby herds.

About 10,000 visitors come to the interpretive center every year. Summer hours, from May to September, are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Winter hours, from September to May, are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Tours depart at 9 a.m. on those days, but require reservations made in advance.

There are two routes visitors take to see the sheep. One route leads to the top of a ridge, and one stays near the valley floor near three large lakes—Torrey Lake, Ring Lake and Trail Lake. When the snow starts to pile up, the lower route is easier.

It's possible for visitors to see sheep by the dozens on a good day. The sheep generally aren't afraid of cars and are a bit curious about them, so they can be seen quite close if they are near the road.

**TOP:** Mixed herd of bighorn sheep on Whiskey Mountain, photo by Amy Anderson. **PHOTO 2:** Whiskey Mountain bighorn ram and lamb near mineral lick in Whiskey Basin, photo by Mike and Dilka Slivinski. **PHOTO 3:** Whiskey Mountain bighorn rams pushing against one another, photo by Jeff Vanuga. **BOTTOM:** Whiskey Mountain bighorn rams silhouetted, photo by Jeff Vanuga.



The interpretive center has mapped out in detail the routes that the herds take and at what time they take them, so tour leaders generally know where the sheep are likely to be when they take groups out. As a side benefit, the areas where the sheep hang out are peppered with various petroglyphs carved into rock centuries ago by native tribes. Even if, on the rare occasion, a tour group has trouble finding sheep, visitors can see several petroglyphs, including ones depicting bighorn sheep, near the road.

In 2013 the interpretive center celebrated its 20th anniversary. While its role is primarily educational, it has a side benefit that is economic. In 1988 the Dubois area suffered through the closure of the Louisiana-Pacific lumber mill, the major economic engine in the community. The town scrambled to find more revenue and job opportunities for residents to subsist on, and one of those ideas was the interpretive center.

Wyoming Game and Fish was the driving force behind getting the center into operation. It was originally going to be built outside of town, closer to the areas where the sheep live, but the mayor at the time insisted it be in Dubois to bring more visitors into town. The money to build the center came from a number of sources, among them Wyoming Game and Fish, the town of Dubois, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation and many private donors.

In the area around Dubois there are three main herds that generally hang together—one near Whiskey Basin, one near Arrow Mountain and one near the BLM Ridge. In the winter they head to the lower lands, and in the summer they head higher up into the hills. The annual migration of the Dubois herds moves them between 15 and 20 miles each way, which is relatively long for sheep.

November through December is breeding season. The ewes and lambs generally stay together for three-quarters of the year, as do the rams. In a group of rams, one is considered the dominant ram. If a ram from another area comes along, the rival rams will fight by butting their heads together with a mighty crack. The fights can last hours.

Among the problems the sheep face is their lack of adaptability. Other species such as deer can find new habitat if their land is taken over by settlers, but the sheep will stubbornly stay in one place.

In order to preserve the land the bighorns needed, the Bureau of Land Management made a unique real estate deal with private landowners to acquire the Whiskey Mountain lands where the sheep live. The Nature Conservancy purchased privately owned land critical to the bighorn's winter habitat and swapped it to the BLM for several scattered tracts of BLM grazing lands important to ranchers, who then bought the grazing tracts from the Nature Conservancy.

The mission of the center is to educate the public on the habitat and environmental needs of bighorn sheep. Many of those environmental needs are being met as a result of conservation efforts. In fact, bighorn sheep population management efforts at Whiskey Mountain have been so successful at times that there is risk of overpopulation, which causes stress among the sheep and lack of food. Wildlife managers have introduced several population control measures to keep herd numbers stable and sustainable, including relocating more than 1,700 sheep to other areas and establishing new herds.

While herd populations are steady now, that wasn't always the case. When the transcontinental railroad was built, it brought an onslaught of people to the area and the need for lumber, minerals, oil, gas and grazing lands for domestic

cattle and sheep. Along with the domesticated livestock came new diseases and parasites that affected wild sheep. By 1900 the wild sheep survived only in the most remote and rugged areas—areas that settlers found too difficult to farm or ranch, such as the land near Whiskey Mountain.

As of the latest count, there were approximately 1,000 sheep scattered through the Whiskey Creek area. There are an estimated 6,200 in Wyoming and eight state-identified core native bighorn sheep herd habitat areas. There are also several areas that have sheep herds but where the herds are not doing well, like the southern Wind River Mountains.

Another challenge the sheep face is illness. Almost five years ago a bout of pneumonia swept through the herd, killing many. No lambs survived that year, and the numbers in the herds went down. Scientists trapped and studied the sheep afterward to determine exactly what happened, but results have indicated many factors may play a role in overall herd health. Ongoing research is underway to better understand bighorn sheep pathogens, habitat quality and other factors that may affect bighorn sheep in the Whiskey Mountain area and elsewhere across Wyoming.

## THE NATIONAL BIGHORN SHEEP INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center is located at 10 Bighorn Lane, just off the main street in Dubois, Wyoming.

**Admission:** adults \$4, children 8-17 \$2, children 8 and under free. Contact the center at 1-888-209-2795 or 1-307-455-3429 for tour information. Learn more at [www.bighorn.org](http://www.bighorn.org).





*The first Wyoming State Fish Hatchery was established in 1884 near Laramie.*

# “CSI” OF WILDLIFE FORENSICS

## Wyoming Game & Fish Department Wildlife Forensics and Fish Health Laboratory

The Wyoming Game & Fish Department Wildlife Forensics and Fish Health Laboratory, located on the campus of the University of Wyoming in Laramie, is one of the premier wildlife forensic labs in the county.

It's been called the “CSI” of wildlife forensics by the Associated Press and others. Its director, Dee Dee Hawk, is president of the Society of Wildlife Forensic Science, an international society with more than fifty member labs.

The lab was established in the 1947-

48 biennium, organized and equipped by the Game and Fish Commission utilizing funds from the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act program. The University of Wyoming agreed to furnish space, utilities and library service without cost to the Commission.<sup>1</sup> The lab is currently located on the third floor of the Biological Sciences Building.

It has three sections: fish health, big game tooth aging and wildlife forensics. There's a staff of nine—seven full-time

and two part-time employees.

Brandon Taro is the manager of the Fish Health Section. The responsibility of this section is to utilize annual fish health inspections to determine the disease status of fish populations and to classify fish culture facilities.

Wyoming has 10 state hatcheries, all located on springs or wells. The earliest was established in 1884 at Soldier Springs on the abandoned site of Fort Sanders, about five and half miles from Laramie.<sup>2</sup> It's important that

the hatcheries are on springs or wells as this significantly reduces the amount of bacteria in the water.

Tom Pridmore and Carl Smith conduct inspections and collect diagnostic samples to detect, describe and document fish diseases or causative agents occurring in the state hatcheries, commercial facilities, quarantine units and several feral brood populations in Wyoming. Both are currently working to become certified Aquatic Animal Health Inspectors by the American Fisheries Society. They estimate they traveled more than 30,000 miles in the last year to perform these state-mandated inspections and are dedicated to ensuring that Wyoming has healthy fish for a sport fishing program that contributes almost \$464 million to the state's economy.<sup>3</sup>

The purpose of the Tooth Aging Section of the laboratory is to aid biologists in determining age structure and population dynamics for different species of Wyoming game animals. Game and Fish Department biologists determine which species and herds they wish to study and send hunters who draw in those areas a small postage prepaid box with instructions on collecting and returning the two front teeth of the animal they harvest. All hunters who

draw permits for mountain lions and bear are required to submit teeth for aging.

Miranda DeSmith processes approximately 2,500 teeth each year. It takes two weeks to complete the process. Hunters who include their license number on the return box will receive a postcard informing them of the age of their animal. DeSmith says that only about 1/3 of the boxes sent to hunters are returned. "It would," she says, "provide better data for herd management if more boxes were returned."

The Forensics Section is one of the most advanced forensic laboratories in the country and can test samples from eighteen different species. The lab uses both proteins and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) to answer the questions asked by submitting law enforcement officers, and it contracts with ten states to do this kind of analysis. Kim Frazier and Tasha Bauman handle 70 to 80 cases annually and can process weapons, clothing, animal parts, bones, and tissue.

The evidence is often small or degraded, which may not allow definitive results. Unlike popular television shows where results are readily available, the work of the lab takes time to complete.

The lab maintains a database of approximately 30,000 tissue samples from known species and areas for law enforcement and research purposes.

Hawk stresses that the lab is completely unbiased. It's part of the services division of the department, not the wildlife or fish divisions; her goal is fair and rigorous analysis of the evidence sent to them, and she hopes that their work serves as a deterrent to poachers. She spent eleven years as a forensics analyst before becoming director of the lab in 2006.

The lab needs more space. It currently occupies approximately 2,975 sq. ft. in the Biological Sciences Building that does not adequately meet their needs. It's not possible for the Fish Health Section to meet space recommendations of the American Fisheries Society or for the Forensics Section to meet standards and guidelines of the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science. The lab will be unable to meet upcoming federal accreditation standards for laboratories that receive federal funding. The state's Construction Management Division is aware of the need and is beginning an assessment of the requirements to relocate this important and highly regarded lab.

## ENDNOTES

1. Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. Biennial Report 1947-1948, p. 77-78.
2. Office of the Territorial Fish Commissioner. Report to Governor Warren, 1885.
3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife, Table 19.



*Dee Dee Hawk, Laboratory Director, has been with the department since 1994. Her specialty areas include: DNA genotyping, LiCor automated sequencer and electrophoresis. She's currently court qualified as a wildlife forensic expert in Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Missouri and Ohio. Her formal education includes a Master's of Science in Pathobiology, and a Bachelor's in Microbiology.*



# Library Collections Celebrate Wyoming's Hunting & Fishing Heritage

By Venice Beske,  
Wyoming State Library Special Projects Librarian



*The Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station published pamphlets on Wyoming's flora and fauna including The Birds of Wyoming by Wilbur C. Knight in 1902. Wyoming State Library collection.*

Prior to becoming a librarian, I worked with trout and raptors. After getting my degree, I was interested in combining my interest in natural history with being a librarian, but there weren't many jobs available in such a specialization in Wyoming. I chose to take the government information librarian position at the Wyoming State Library. I learned that because of the government's responsibility for fisheries and wildlife, many wonderful publications about the subject exist in both our state and federal government collections. The earliest include the publications of the various Geographical and Geological surveys and the Bureau of Biological Survey and early Game and Fish Department documents. These treasures and many more can be viewed at the State Library. Many can also be found online. Other collections about the biology and management of fish and wildlife, including fishing and hunting can be found in special places throughout Wyoming. Here are a few.

## Natrona County Public Library North Platte River Collection

Nicholle Gerharter, Reference Librarian

In 2011, Natrona County Public Library launched a project and collection based on the unique history of the North Platte River. Few realize, but prior to the 1950s, the North Platte was one of the most polluted rivers in the nation. It has since, through the efforts of many talented and dedicated individuals, become a blue-ribbon fishery known nationwide. This incredible story was one we wanted to capture from those who championed the changes. What started as a small collection to tell the story of the North Platte River, mainly through oral histories and related research, has now grown to be much larger in scope.

It's now a non-circulating heritage collection, covering both fishing and hunting. It contains material related to habitat management, recreation, general tactics and literature, with a focus on Wyoming and the West. Currently, there are over 100 titles in the fishing collection and 84 in the hunting collection. Key holdings include a signed and numbered book by Casper resident and former Wyoming Game and Fish Department Deputy Director Doug Crowe, *The First Century: A Hundred Years of Wildlife Conservation in Wyoming*, a large book and a rare find. Calvin King, another legend in the history of Wyoming wildlife management is the author of several more rare books found in our collection.

Significant holdings in the fishing collection are *Come Wade the Water* signed by Roderick Haig-Brown, *Learn-*

*ing from the Water* by Rene Harrop and *Freshwater Wilderness* signed by both authors, Paul Varley and Paul Shullery. These fledgling collections are the start of a much larger vision, to gather items that highlight this uniquely Wyoming heritage. To see and use the items in the Hunting and Fishing Collection, please visit the second floor at Natrona County Public Library. For questions, call 307-577-READ.

## American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming Manuscript Collections

Rachael Dreyer, Reference Archivist

The American Heritage Center has a number of collections that relate to Wyoming's wildlife, in both rare books and manuscript collections.

We have a hefty collection of books

in the Toppan Rare Books Library that share perspectives on hunting and fishing—indeed, hunting and fishing is one of Toppan’s dedicated collecting areas. Our manuscript collections include a wide range of materials that offer researchers a look at the varied role that wildlife plays in Wyoming’s history, from homesteading days to tourism and outdoor recreation. Highlights include the photos of elk and other wildlife in the Stephen N. Leek collection and the Murie Family papers that document wildlife conservation and management issues in Yellowstone and the Grand Teton National Parks.

Many of our researchers are interested in wildlife management in Wyoming, and several collections provide different views on the subject—the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone and the breeding of black-footed ferrets, for example. The AHC also holds the records of many organizations that have worked to enact environmental protections for Wyoming’s wildlife; these protections promote careful stewardship and ensure that the enjoyment of hunting and fishing remains sustainable for years to come. The AHC’s collections have much to interest both the casual and focused researcher, and best of all; the AHC is open to anyone. Learn more about what we have to offer and check out our hours and visitor information at [www.uwyo.edu/ahc/](http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc/).

## American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming Toppan Rare Book Library

As Rachael mentioned, the American Heritage Center is also home to the Toppan Library. It holds the Toppan collection of books primarily about hunting and fishing. It also has the LaFontaine Memorial Angling Book Collection, a contemporary collection of angling books. A recent addition to it is *Rainbow Trout Fly Fishing A Guide for Still Waters* by Ron Newman, photographs by Patrick Harrison and others. It was donated to the LaFontaine Collection by Patrick Harrison, who also works as the security guard for the American Heritage Center.

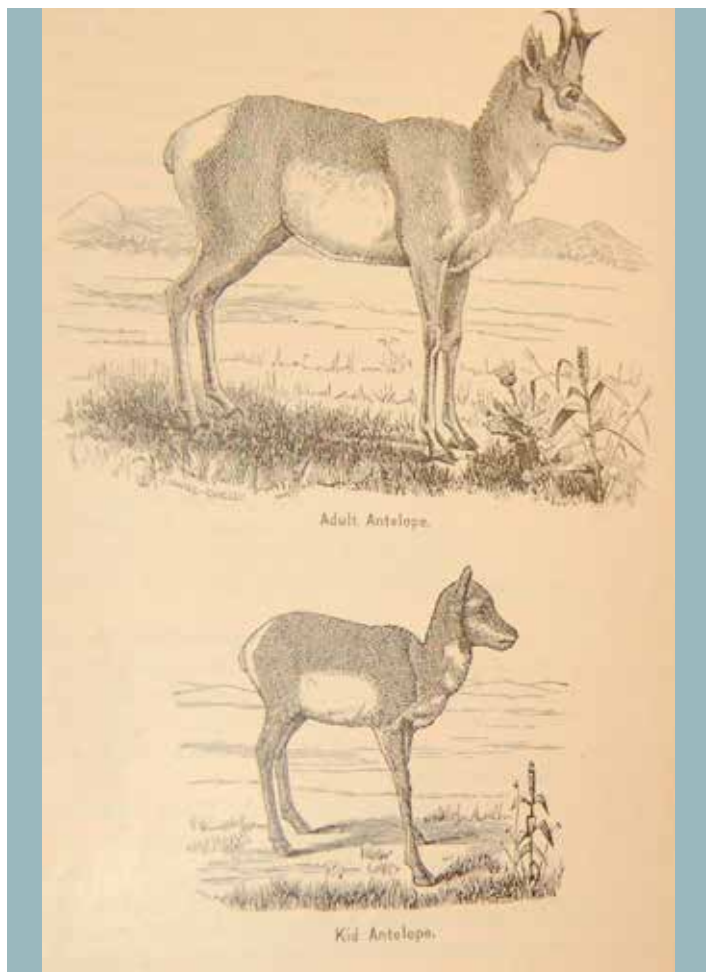
Both of these collections were described in an article by Jay Lawson, former Chief Game Warden of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. (“The Toppan Rare Book Library” *Wyoming Library Roundup* Spring 2006, [will.state.wy.us/roundup](http://will.state.wy.us/roundup)).

Although its strength is books on hunting and fishing, the Toppan collection also includes classic titles on fish, reptiles,

**ELK HERD:** “Elk Herd,” by Stephen N. Leek, *Stephen N. Leek Collection*. ANTELOPE from “*The Antelope and Deer of America: A Comprehensive Scientific Treatise upon the Natural History, Including the Characteristics, Habits, Affinities, and Capacity for Domestication of the Antilocapra and Cervidae of North America*” by John Dean Caton (1877).



“Elk Herd,” by Stephen N. Leek, *Stephen N. Leek Collection*. American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.



From *The Antelope and Deer of America: A Comprehensive Scientific Treatise upon the Natural History, Including the Characteristics, Habits, Affinities, and Capacity for Domestication of the Antilocapra and Cervidae of North America* by John Dean Caton (1877). American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Toppan Rare Book Library.



birds and mammals. Examples include Thomas Nuttall's *A Popular Handbook of the Ornithology of Eastern North America* (1896) with "one hundred and ten illustrations in colors" and *The Antelope and Deer of America: A Comprehensive Scientific Treatise upon the Natural History, Including the Characteristics, Habits, Affinities, and Capacity for Domestication of the Antilocapra and Cervidae of North America* by John Dean Caton (1877). A section on antelope reads "The native range of the Prong Buck is comparatively limited. It is not only confined to North America but also the temperate region of the western part of this portion of the continent... Their favorite haunts are the naked plains or barren rolling country."

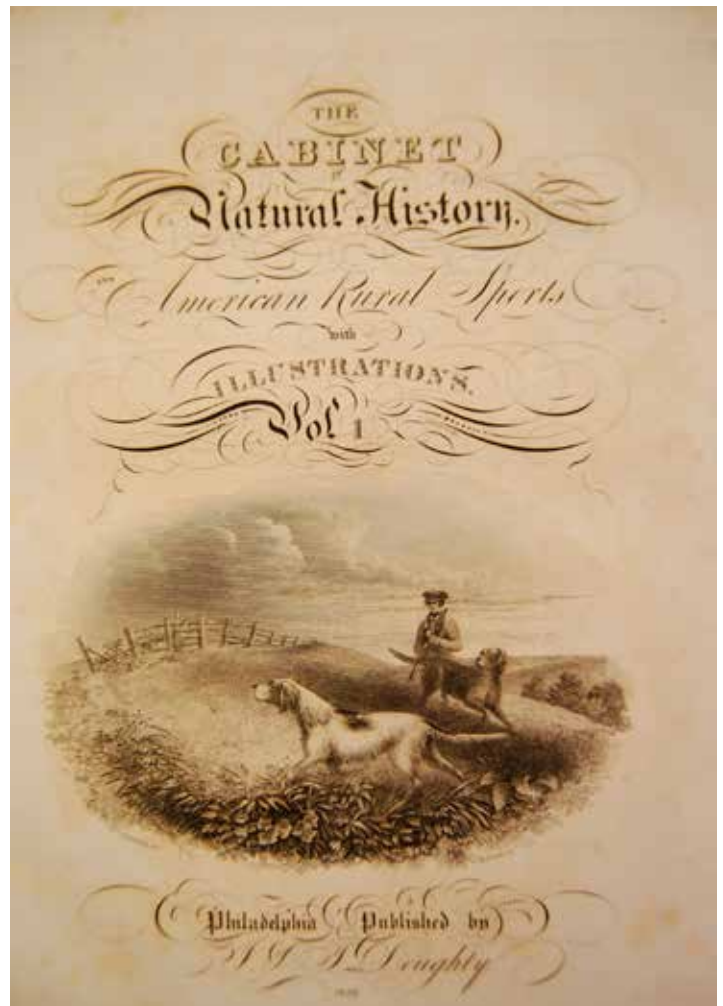
The Toppan collection also has two volumes of *The Cabinet of Natural History and American Rural Sports* a three-volume set published by J. & T. Doughty, 1830-1833. It includes sketches and illustrations of all aspects of natural history from bison to tanagers to tarantulas and short pieces such as "An interesting mode of finding wild bees," and "The dispersal of seeds." This book, along with the others, can be found online, but if you enjoy books and natural history, it's worth the time to spend some time paging through this 185-year-old book and absorbing its illustrations and content.

## The Game and Fish Historical Center Wyoming Game and Fish Department Casper, Wyoming

*Janet Milek, Public Information Specialist, Casper Region*

The Game and Fish Historical Center in honor of Jay Lawson hopes to open its doors soon. The focus of this visitor center, located in the upstairs of the Casper Region Game and Fish office, is to show the history of wildlife and fisheries management in Wyoming and the role the Wyoming Game and Fish Department played. Colorful characters highlighted in the museum include Albert Nelson, D.C. Nowlin, and James Simon among others. Displays showcase game preserves, backcountry patrol camps, the Thorofare Cabin, and the history of fish culture and management. The development of the historical center has been guided by a board of Game and Fish retirees hoping to preserve a part of the past. The Board has collected historical Game and Fish items from around the state including the first electrofisher developed to help study fish, badge collections, and some of the first licenses issued. If you are interested in seeing a piece of the past, watch for the doors to open in late 2015.

These are just a few of the collections that focus on Wyoming's natural environment. We're lucky to not only be home to these collections but also to people who are interested in supporting and caring for this part of our heritage.



**THE CABINET:** Title page from *The Cabinet of Natural History and American Rural Sports*, a three-volume set published by J. & T. Doughty, 1830-1833. American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Toppan Rare Book Library.

**GAME AND FISH HISTORICAL CENTER:** Patrol camps were a large part of game management and enforcement.



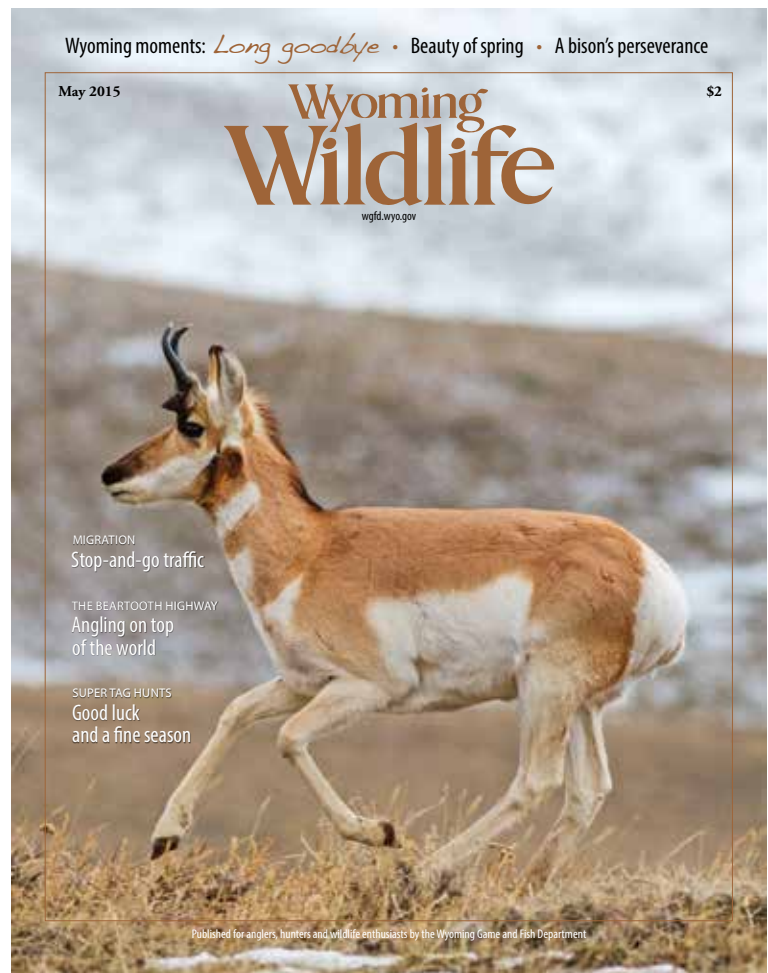
# See Wildlife from the Comfort of a Library Chair

In publication for 78 years, *Wyoming Wildlife* continues to take readers on a monthly journey around the state and into the wild. The flagship publication of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, it appeals not only to hunters and anglers, but also to wildlife enthusiasts of all types—photographers, hikers, backpackers and those visiting the state's abundant public lands for the opportunity to experience wildlife.

The magazine's bold photography celebrates the Wyoming outdoor experience through the eyes of Wyoming-based photographers (and those who spend a great deal of time within the state's borders). Throughout the year, articles introduce readers to the West's most iconic species—and some of its lesser-known fish and wildlife, too. They read about wildlife's importance to Wyoming's history and culture. Each issue features some of the state's best places for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation. And readers meet the people who live for, work with and protect the state's wildlife.

During the past year, the magazine has featured articles about recreation opportunities along the Beartooth Highway, in the Bighorn Basin in the Platte Valley and near South Pass, Jackson, Sheridan, Cokeville, Arlington, Thermopolis, Casper, Buffalo and Dubois.

The magazine's annual photo contest attracts entries from amateur and professional photographers alike. Photo contest guidelines are released in early September (in the magazine and online at [wgfd.wyo.gov](http://wgfd.wyo.gov)). This year's deadline will be November 23. Winners are announced in the February issue. Several photographers who now regularly provide photography for the magazine were first identified through the photo contest.



**MAY 2015 ISSUE COVER:** Pronghorn buck in Yellowstone National Park. Photo by Dawn Wilson



**BIGHORN SHEEP:** Ewes and lamb near the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Whiskey Mountain Conservation. Camp photo by Wyoming Wildlife editor Amber Leberman.

Find a copy of Wyoming Wildlife at your local library. To subscribe, call 1-800-710-8345 or visit [wgfd.wyo.gov](http://wgfd.wyo.gov) (choose "Multimedia" then "Wyoming Wildlife magazine").



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VIRTUAL LIBRARY AVAILABLE THROUGH GOWYLD.NET

Many of us grew up with a bookcase full of *National Geographic* magazines, with the latest one on the end table for everybody to peruse. Now, with the National Geographic Virtual Library available through GoWYLD.net, Wyoming residents can enjoy them online from home, school or at their local library.


This collection brings together a complete archive of *National Geographic* magazine—every page of every issue—along with a cross-searchable collection of National Geographic books, maps, images and videos. The National Geographic Virtual Library also includes *National Geographic Traveler* and *National Geographic Kids*.

Conduct a search, explore topics or browse full issues from 1888-present. The Wyoming State Library has a video tutorial to help on YouTube: [youtu.be/CHKzix0taU](http://youtu.be/CHKzix0taU). For help navigating, you can also check with your library.



Want some ideas to get started to view a little wildlife? Head to the National Geographic Virtual Library at GoWYLD.net, use *Explore Topics* and select Animals. For a great sampling, search for *First Bird: Bald Eagle*; *Polar Bears: On Thin Ice*; and *Spirit Bear*.








In Kids: Read up on *Whooping Cranes*, *Great Migrations*, or *Snow Frogs*; check out videos, such as *Audacious Antlers* or *Fierce Falcons*; or National Geographic books, such as *Frogs*, *Kids Bird Guide to North America* and *Wolves*.

In 2014, the University of Wyoming (UW) expanded its database licensing to purchase this online resource. From its founding in 1888, the National Geographic Society has grown into an organization synonymous with exploration, photography, maps and rethinking the world as we know it. Thanks to UW, the world according to National Geographic is open to everyone in the Cowboy State.


**First Bird: Bald Eagle** 

Nigge, Klaus.  
National Geographic Magazine, January 2015, Vol. 227, Issue 1, p.139+.

 Listen 

  138 / 148  GO   14%  

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**First Bird**  
by Klaus Nigge

The eagle is a national symbol, not just for Americans, but for Germans like me and many other people too. Photographers tend to portray the birds as these majestic animals, always soaring in a blue sky with their plumage perfectly in place. In the Aleutian Islands in Alaska I found bald eagles that were wilder and tougher than that. They were dirty, they were wet, and they fought with each other, which is not what we expect from our national symbols. But maybe a bird that can deal with strong weather and difficult comrades makes a better source of inspiration.

Around the village of Ulaulasia and nearby Dutch Harbor, the largest fishing port in the United States, the eagles are very much used to people. Just as everywhere, and the eagles hang around, looking for leftovers. They go to fishing boats, where they search on the decks after the boats come in. They go to where the fishermen clean their nets. They sit on the roofs of processing plants.

To make these photographs, I would go to the wild places outside of town where these habituated eagles congregated. There I could face the eagles eye to eye. I could get close to them without being a blind. They were always fully aware of me. I had to be careful. I had to study them, and I had to know what they liked and what they didn't like. You might have found me lying on my belly, surrounded by 40 eagles.

I have been to the Aleutians seven times, and I will go again. I am an eagle man—I like eagles so much.

You see, they can fly and I cannot. □

Days of heavy rain, a common phenomenon in the Aleutian Islands, have drenched the bald eagle. The



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**"IF WYOMING'S WILDLIFE IS  
WORTH THE WATCHING, IT'S  
WORTH SUPPORTING."**

~ Governor Matt Mead, State of the State Address  
to the 62nd Legislature, February 10, 2014

## **SUPPORTING SOUND MANAGEMENT**

The Wyoming Sportsmen's Alliance was created in July 2013 when representatives from a number of hunting, angling, and conservation organizations met to discuss ways to support sound management of Wyoming's wildlife. A top priority: funding for the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. The mission of the organization is to "collectively advocate for policies and practices that support the sound scientific conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitat for the benefit of present and future hunters and anglers."

Members of the Alliance include:

- Bowhunters of Wyoming
- Muley Fanatic Foundation
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Trout Unlimited (Wyoming Chapter)
- Wild Sheep Foundation (Wyoming Chapter)
- Wyoming Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Wyoming Federation of Union Sportsmen
- Wyoming Wildlife Federation
- Yellowstone County Bear Hunters

For more information about the Alliance go to [www.wyomingsportsmensalliance.org](http://www.wyomingsportsmensalliance.org).