

Nature Photography

**On the Road
in
Wyoming and Colorado**

Alan and Elaine Wilson



Preface

The landscapes of Wyoming and Colorado are remarkably similar, encompassing rugged mountains, vast plains, deserts, canyons and mesas. The Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming where the ridge of the Continental Divide traverses the state and continues southeast into Colorado.

The Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks are in the northwest corner of Wyoming and are arguably two of the best landscape and wildlife photography locations in western North America. At the very least, the incredible access to spectacular volcanic activity and the grandeur created by harsh winters is second to none. In contrast, the remainder of Wyoming is a vast expanse of sagebrush-grasslands with the odd exposed volcanic badlands. Here we encountered the extremes of brutal heat and cold with what seemed to be a never-ending dose of wind. Despite this unexceptional landscape, it's a great area to capture outstanding images of Pronghorn and Greater Sage-Grouse.

Our experience in Colorado, however, was limited to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, most notably Mount Evans which is best known for Mountain Goats. Here we traveled through three life zones containing ancient bristlecone pines, lakes and forests where the rarefied air above the timberline left us physically breathless as we tracked and photographed the small herds in their summer range near the summit.

We've spent many enjoyable hours traversing the outdoors in both these states in search of interesting and compliant subjects. There is no end of exciting venues, especially landscape opportunities. This book contains images from five locations – Mount Evans and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado as well as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and the sagebrush grasslands in Wyoming. It is by no means a compendium of every known species nor does it begin to exhaust the incredible number of tremendous locations that this area has to offer. It is simply a selection of birds, wildlife and natural landscapes we were lucky to encounter and photograph at five locations we feel are some of the best, most interesting and easily accessible in Wyoming and Colorado.

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Vernon, British Columbia

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Mount Evans

Our foray into northwestern Colorado bordered on what almost became a trip to hell. This is high mountain terrain riddled with what seems to be hundreds of old gold mining and mineral properties. Mount Evans, on the outskirts of Idaho Springs, is typical of the "top-of-the-world" scenery that you can experience in this remote and rocky wilderness. Here Mountain Goats, Bighorn Sheep, Pika and the ever-present Yellow-Bellied Marmot, or "Whistle Pig" as it is known locally, populate the mountain slopes. Although there is road access to the 14,264-foot summit, it is precipitous and difficult to stop in most places for any roadside photography if wildlife is present.

Notwithstanding, in our opinion this is the definitive location in North America to photograph Mountain Goats. They can be anywhere between the tree line and the summit depending on the time of year. We visited near the middle of June and trekked the Pesman Trail and the upper slopes surrounding Summit Lake. Unfortunately, a late spring produced colder than normal temperatures and sharp high winds were keeping wildlife off the exposed slopes. In fact, Summit Lake was covered with snow and the surrounding mountainside was devoid of early blooming alpine flowers that should have been peeking through at this time of year. Wind chill made the mornings brisk to say the least. This was certainly disappointing as by all estimates the photography should have been bordering on exceptional. Given the time of year, we were not surprised that the wind soon subsided, and a few days of cloudless skies and warmer temperatures got the animals moving. Mountain Goats made a sudden appearance at Mount Warren next to Summit Lake. We followed a small group throughout the morning on the cliffs and hillside as they foraged and enjoyed the sun. Although the lack of oxygen at this height forced us to pace ourselves as we climbed and sought position, we found our subjects relatively compliant and certainly not stressed by our presence. The backdrops in places were breathtaking and the animals tended to forage and rest in the most precipitous locations. Although it is a fragile and harsh environment, the scenery is spectacular and the early spring activity an exciting event to witness.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Mount Evans near Idaho Springs, Colorado







MOUNTAIN GOAT
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs, Colorado

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Mount Evans near Idaho Springs, Colorado





YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs,
Colorado



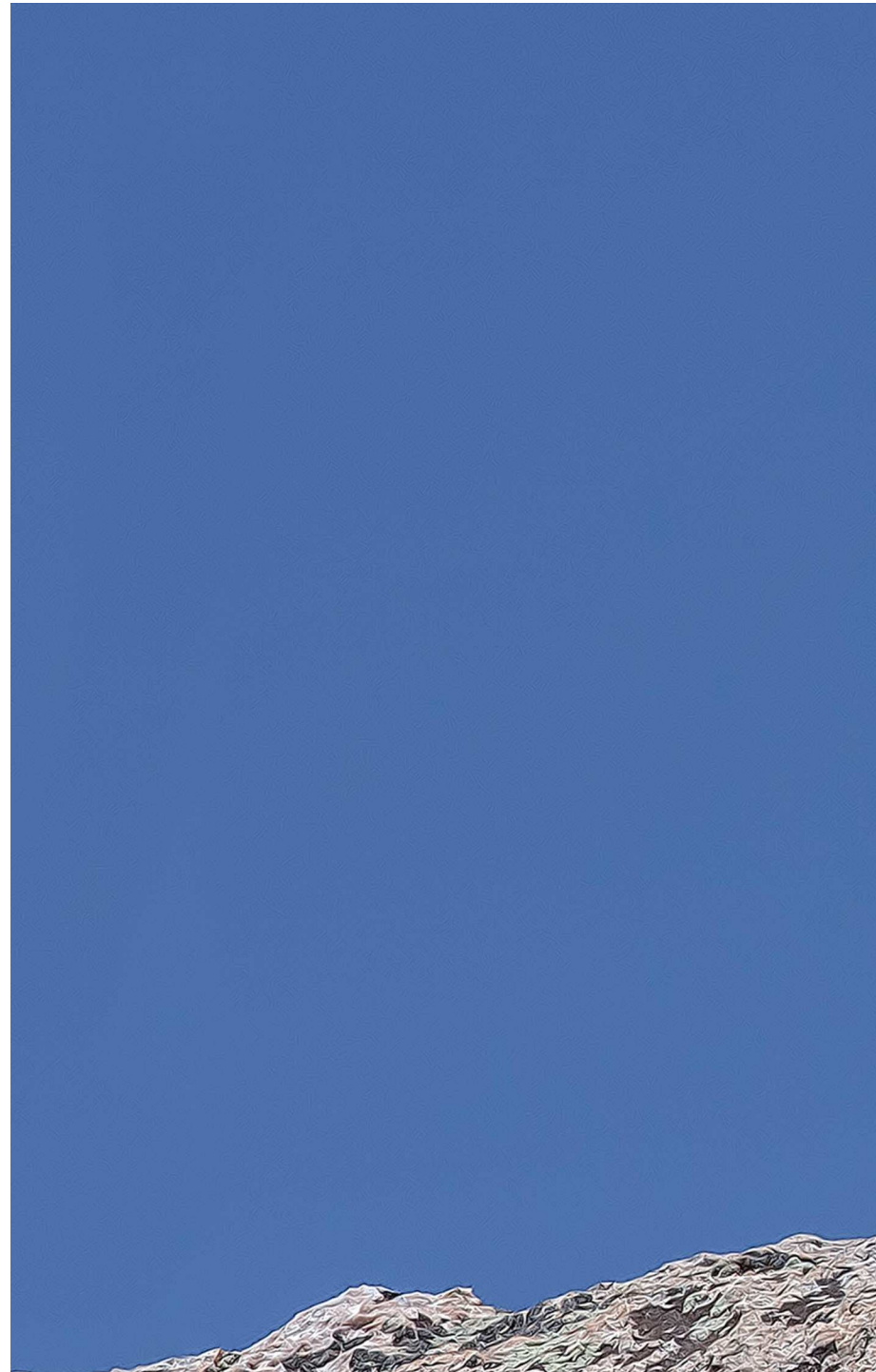
BIGHORN EWE
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs,
Colorado

MOUNTAIN GOAT KID
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs,
Colorado



YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs,
Colorado

MOUNTAIN GOAT
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs, Colorado





MOUNTAIN GOATS
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs,
Colorado





MOUNTAIN GOAT
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs, Colorado



MOUNTAIN GOAT
Mount Evans near Idaho Springs, Colorado



MOUNTAIN GOATS

Mount Evans near Idaho Springs,
Colorado



Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park in northern Colorado spans the Continental Divide and encompasses protected mountains, forests and alpine tundra. It's best known for the Trail Ridge and the Old Falls River roads, drives that pass aspen groves and rivers.

Our foray here began early in the morning at the east entrance through Estes Park. Our plan was to keep the sun at our backs and follow the tour route west looking for good wildlife locations. However, bad weather continued to plague us as the Ridge Trail was closed at Rainbow Curve. Moreover, all the meadows and hillsides surrounding the popular Sheep Lakes location were also closed to the public. Any wildlife we did find were difficult to photograph as roadside barriers inhibited parking. We did find an active American Badger burrow and were enjoying some great photography with a long lens when we were promptly told to move along as the location was off limits, making for an extremely unfriendly atmosphere. We did try to drive the west entrance a few days later but encountered dense fog near the summit of Berthoud Pass and had to turn back at the Robber's Roost beaver pond due to heavy snow flurries. Not to be put off, we tried again a few days later and made it through the Kawuneeche Valley to Milner Pass where the road was once again closed due to icy conditions. Getting through this park in the middle of June was not in the cards this trip!

We did find the valley meadows much better for photographing Elk than the east entrance locations, especially the big males with velvet covered antlers. However, we had difficulty positioning and side light created shadows on most of our images. We did find several Moose near the Beaver Ponds, but park cleanup crews and difficult roadside access made photography impossible. The images we did take were of animals that had undergone a tough winter as our subjects were skeletal, shedding hair and in mangy condition. Despite the tough slog, this is an area we feel is worth a revisit as the scenery and abundant wildlife have the potential to create many exciting opportunities.

AMERICAN BADGER

Sheep Lakes, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado





CLARK'S NUTCRACKER
Rocky Mountain National Park,
Colorado



AMERICAN BADGER
Sheep Lakes,
Rocky Mountain National Park,
Colorado





ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK
Estes Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Sagebrush Grasslands

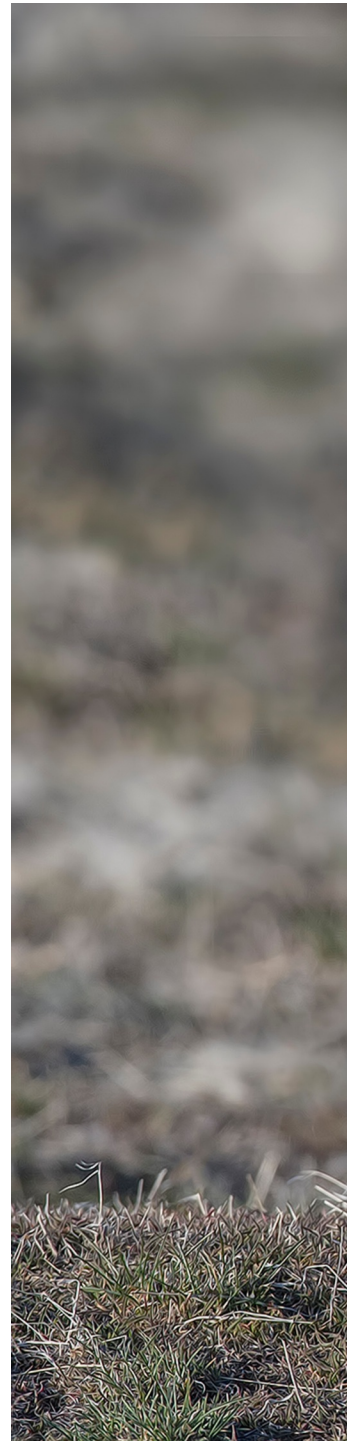
Once you exit the grandeur and exceptional wildlife found in the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, the remainder of Wyoming takes on the distinct appearance of a wasteland. However, it houses an immense wildlife population, most notably Pronghorn, Greater Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer. Each requires these extensive, uninterrupted native habitats to roam freely between summer and winter range. Sagebrush provides their major food source, especially in winter when snow covers most other vegetation.

The best time of year to encounter and photograph Greater Sage-Grouse is late March to early May when they gather in breeding sites or "leks." These are typically open areas surrounded by sagebrush where the male struts and displays to attract females. This activity is confined to sunrise and dusk. Leks are not easy to find and are continually being compromised as livestock grazing, fire and petroleum development either destroy or encroach upon the sparse habitat. We did locate six in early April (Hat Six at Casper, Windy Flats at Cody, Cottonwood at Gillette, North Halfway Hollow at Green River, Twin Creek at Lander and Blue Bank at Worland). Incredibly, this was the easy part. Male display is usually well underway by sunrise and lasts only briefly. The photography window is less than an hour and dependent on weather and the number of females present. Moreover, capturing movement in the yellow cast from early morning light can be challenging. Nonetheless, we found the activity frenetic and with the minor exception of positioning our vehicle, the viewing and photography learning experiences were exceptional.

This is also a great time of year to photograph Pronghorn as their winter coats are still in pristine condition. As we drove between leks, we were always on the lookout for roadside herds or lone individuals that we hoped were relatively inured to human traffic. Invariably this was not the case as we found most animals very wary, especially if we tried to exit our vehicle. This is not all that surprising as wildlife in other than protected, well traveled areas are generally not compliant if approached. Our best success was in-vehicle, on

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Male Courtship Display, Blue Bank Lek near Worland, Wyoming





the outskirts of populated areas where we could pull well off the highway and position the vehicle above the ever-present obstructing fence posts. Opportunities abound, however, as this species is extremely prevalent throughout the state.

It was also fun to stop and photograph the Wyoming Ground Squirrel. As they spend a large portion of their lives hibernating, this is a good time of year if you have the patience. For the most part, we found that colonies were confined to the south western portion of the state, with the best access and most compliant subjects next to rest stops. We soon found that their predator communication skills were extremely well developed, resulting in the need for a fair amount of patience when trying to capture an image close to one of their access holes. They are, however, extremely photogenic and its great fun capturing the antics that unfold as they forage and engage in the routines of their communal life.

WYOMING GROUND SQUIRREL
Bitter Creek, Wyoming





GREATER SAGE-GROUSE
Male Courtship Display, Blue Bank Lek near Worland, Wyoming

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Male Courtship Display, Blue Bank Lek near Worland, Wyoming



GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Mating, Blue Bank Lek near Worland, Wyoming







WYOMING GROUND SQUIRREL

Bitter Creek,
Wyoming

PRONGHORN

Gillette,
Wyoming



PRONGHORN

Gillette,
Wyoming



WYOMING GROUND SQUIRREL

Bitter Creek,
Wyoming

GRAY JAY

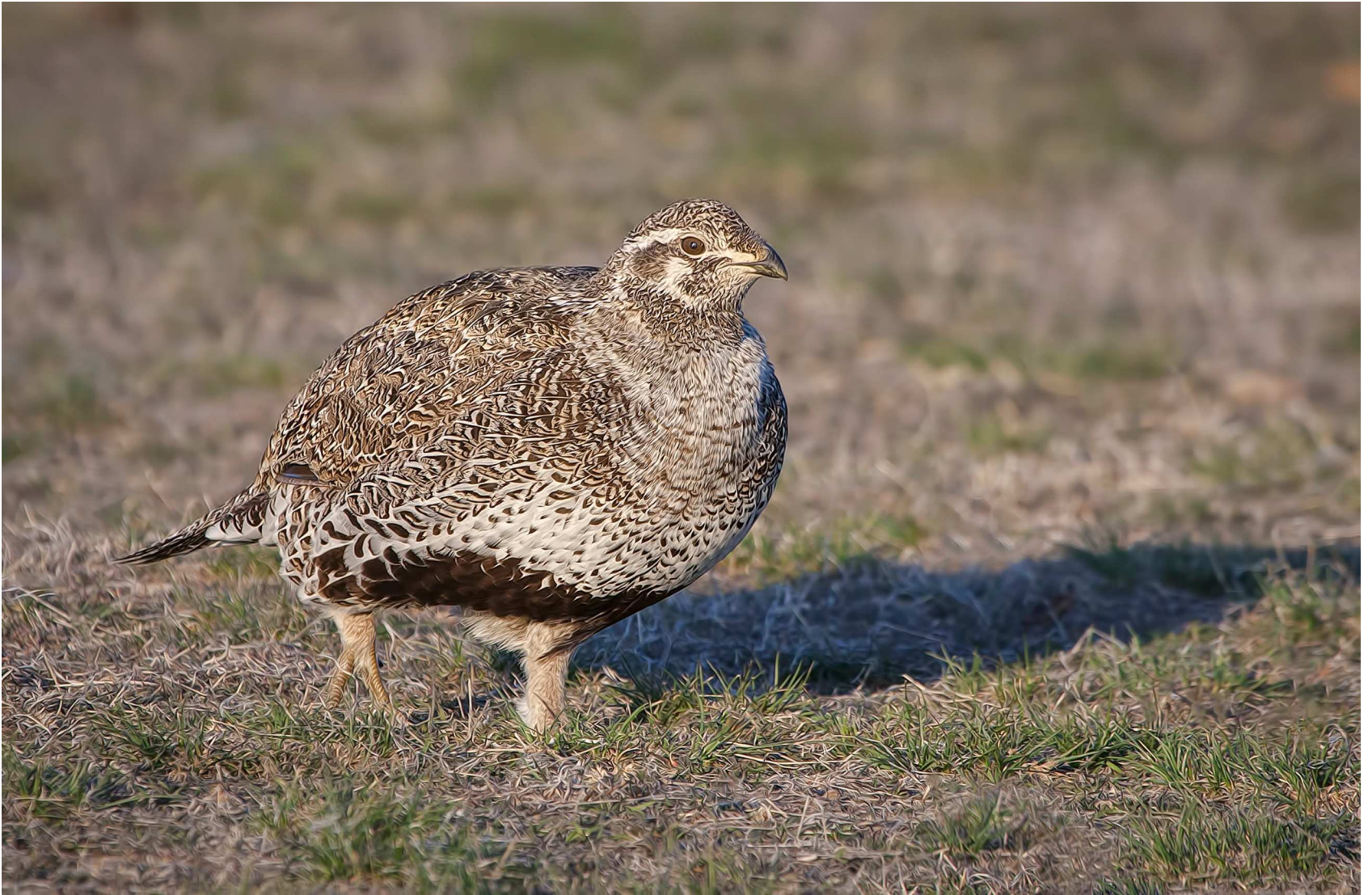
Loaf Mountain Lookout, Bighorn National Forest near Buffalo, Wyoming





GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Male Courtship Display, Blue Bank Lek near Worland, Wyoming



FEMALE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE
Blue Bank Lek near Worland, Wyoming



MALE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE
Blue Bank Lek near Worland, Wyoming





Yellowstone National Park

The Yellowstone region is home to more wild animals than anywhere in the lower forty-eight states. The abundant and diverse wildlife are as famous as its geysers. It is home to significant concentrations of large and small mammals, including Bison, Elk, Moose, Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep, Coyote, Red Fox, Mule and White-Tailed Deer as well as two types of bear – Grizzly and Black. Yellowstone is a vast and diverse area. Bison, the largest land-dwelling animal in North America, are a central fixture on the Yellowstone landscape. Habitat preferences, time of day and seasonal cycles of movement determine where they will concentrate. Most of the species that live in the park also inhabit regions of Grand Teton National Park, greater Wyoming and the states of Montana and Idaho.

Photography is arguably best in late January or early February as winter coats, wind and abundant snow make for very compelling images. Nonetheless, our first visit was in the early fall when we found most wildlife concentrated in the central to northern regions of the park, specifically Hayden Valley, Lamar Valley and Blacktail Plateau. Driving south from Gardiner, we stopped at Sheepeater Cliffs and found Pika nesting throughout the columnar basalt formations in the upper grotto. Further along, we spotted a lone Coyote hunting in the fields at the entrance to the Norris Campground. We encountered Bison in Hayden Valley where a river crossing, and dust roll produced some interesting opportunities. Heading east, we looked for a Great Gray Owl in the off-road clearings near Canyon Junction but were informed that the resident pair had been killed by traffic earlier in the year.

Heading north, we traversed Dunraven Pass and were disappointed to find no Black Bear or Grizzly Bear feeding on late season pine nuts. Tower Junction, however, produced Bighorn Sheep. We took the turn to Lamar Valley and travelled as far as the Ranger Station. Walking the fields, we encountered several small groups of breeding Pronghorn and watched a Coyote catch voles in the tall grass. We also discovered that a full sun can produce visible heat waves on moist grassland, creating a situation where auto-focusing can be

COYOTE

Norris Campground, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

extremely difficult. We'd never encountered this before and had to discard an afternoon's shoot that produced extremely soft or out of focus images.

Our second visit was a winter adventure where we were treated to many scavengers feasting on Elk kills, particularly Coyote, Bald Eagles and Ravens. The early morning mist created by the constant geyser activity also produced a hoar frost that coated Bison as they continued to rest well after sunrise. Winter is our favourite time here and it's worth enduring the extreme cold to witness the harsh conditions that plague wildlife survival.

BOBCAT

Madison River, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



BIGHORN EWE
Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



BIGHORN RAM
Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming





BIGHORN RAM

Lamar Valley, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



PLAINS BISON
Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



BALD EAGLE
Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming

BULL ELK
Madison River,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



TUNDRA SWAN
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming

FEMALE PRONGHORN

Lamar Valley, Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



MALE PRONGHORN

Lamar Valley, Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



COYOTES
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming





COYOTE

Norris Campground, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



PLAINS BISON

Morning Hoar Frost, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



PLAINS BISON

Morning Hoar Frost, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



BOBCAT
Madison River,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming

BIGHORN RAM
Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



BIGHORN RAM
Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



BOBCAT
Madison River,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



COYOTE

Lamar Valley, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



COYOTES
Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming

PLAINS BISON

Morning Hoar Frost, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming





COYOTE

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

The Yellowstone Landscape

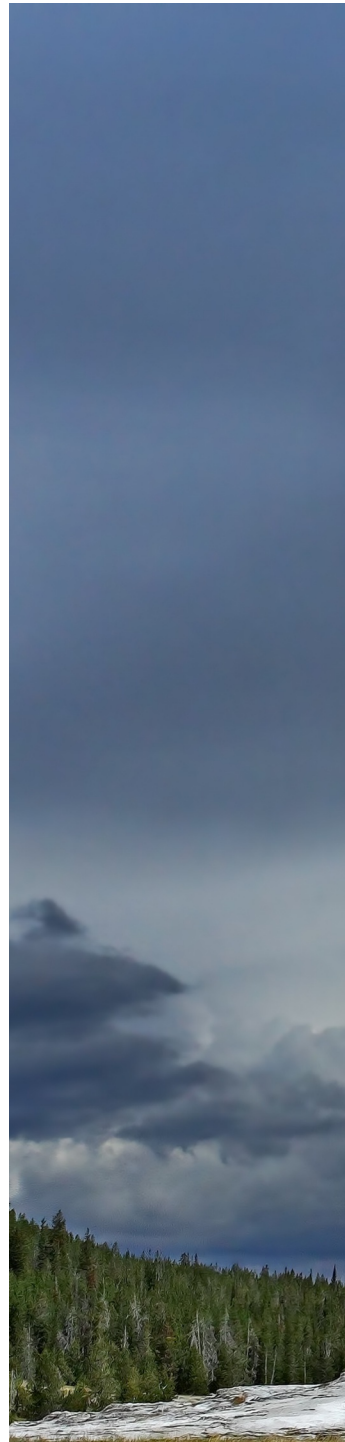
The immense 2.2 million acres that encompass the Yellowstone landscape is incredibly accessible. The park is comprised of high, forested, volcanic plateaus that have been eroded over the millennia by glaciation and stream flow. It's also in constant flux, ever changeable with variations in light and weather conditions that create dramatic photography opportunities. The routes and access points for the thermal activity and other geologic formations at Yellowstone are relatively short, located either roadside or along walkways constructed for ease of viewing. That's the good news. On the darker side, it's an immense park and requires a fair amount of driving time. There are four types of thermal features – geysers, hot springs, mud pots and steam vents or fumaroles. The park guidebooks list so many attractions that it's hard to visualize just how to take it all in on a single visit. The timing of geyser eruptions can be especially heart breaking for photographers trying to cram too much into each day. The answer, as always, is to research and winnow out those that are most attractive for photography and skirt the rest, working with whatever the weather and the subterranean haunts might bring each day. We chose a couple of weeks in the latter part of August and early September to tackle this area, reserving several days for a quick trip to the Grand Tetons.

Yellowstone is best approached in five sections: Mammoth Hot Springs to Norris Geyser Basin; Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone to the Lamar Valley; Grand Prismatic Spring; Old Faithful Geyser and the Upper Basin; and, West Thumb Geyser Basin to Hayden Valley. We planned roughly a day for each area with three tacked on to the end as a contingency for return visits if we missed a notable landmark, the weather was not cooperating, or time simply didn't permit completing our itinerary each day.

The boardwalks at Mammoth Hot Springs housed our first look at the colourful and often desolate hydrothermal activity that characterizes much of Yellowstone. It's easy to walk through the various terrace and spring locations. We found Palette Spring, Mound Terrace, Canary Spring and the Orange Spring Mound to be the most productive for photography. The boardwalks are serviceable, but the nails protrude

OLD FAITHFUL GEYSER

Upper Geyser Basin, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming





and a lot of the timber has aged and is in serious need of repair. It's quite an introduction to the austerity measures hitting the National Park Service.

One of the most underrated features of the park is the waterfalls. Besides the majesty of Tower, Upper and Lower Yellowstone Falls, the back country is filled with spectacular, seldom seen cascades such as Fairy Falls which is a lung burning hike into the Midway Geyser Basin. For the less adventuresome, there are many that can be reached at roadside such as Firehole or Udine Falls. Whatever your energy level, most are well worth the effort and attractions that must not be missed.

LOWER FALLS

Yellowstone River, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming





PALETTE SPRING
Lower Terrace, Mammoth Hot Springs,
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



PALETTE SPRING
Lower Terrace, Mammoth Hot Springs,
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

HOAR FROST

Ranger Station, Lamar Valley,
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



MORNING MIST

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming





MORNING MIST
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



GIANT GEYSER

Upper Geyser Basin, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



CASTLE GEYSER

Upper Geyser Basin, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

MORNING GLORY POOL
Upper Geyser Basin,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



WHITE DOME GEYSER
Firehole Lake Drive,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming





GREAT FOUNTAIN GEYSER

Firehole Lake Drive,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



CHROMATIC POOL

Upper Geyser Basin,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



FAIRY FALLS

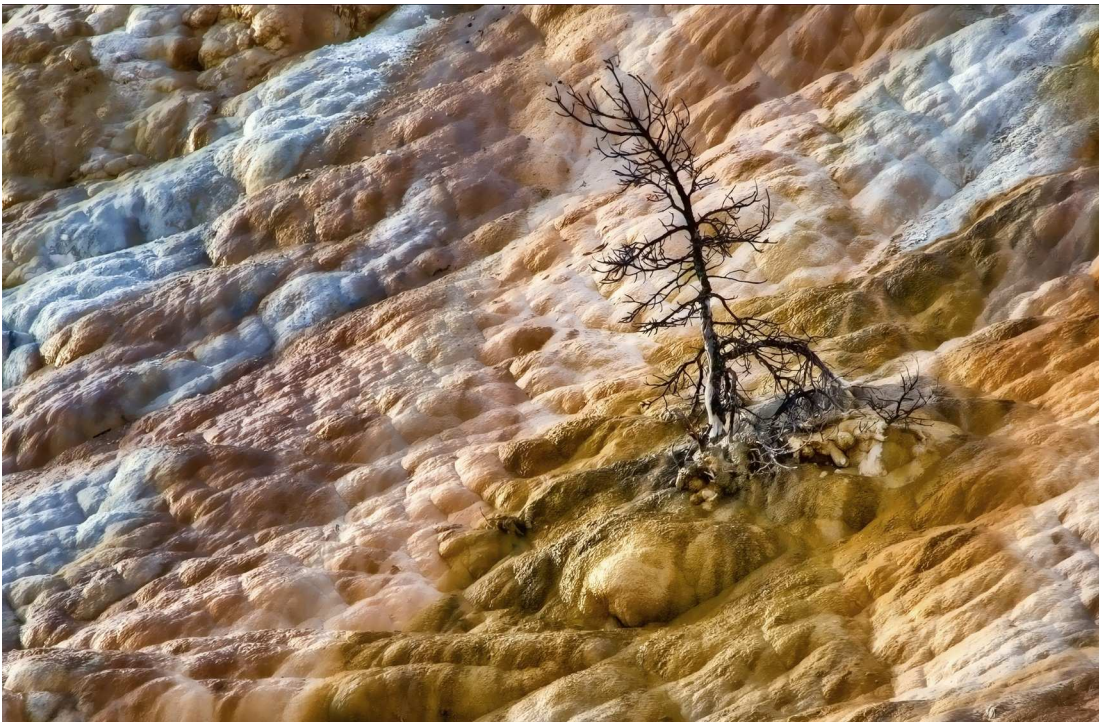
Midway Geyser Basin, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



SUNRISE
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



CANARY SPRING
Upper Terrace, Mammoth Hot Springs,
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



PALETTE SPRING
Lower Terrace,
Mammoth Hot Springs,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming

EMERALD POOL
Black Sand Basin,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming



EXCELSIOR GEYSER
Midway Geyser Basin,
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming





PUNCH BOWL SPRING
Upper Geyser Basin, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



HEART SPRING
Upper Geyser Basin, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



GRAND PRISMATIC SPRING
Midway Geyser Basin, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Grand Teton National Park

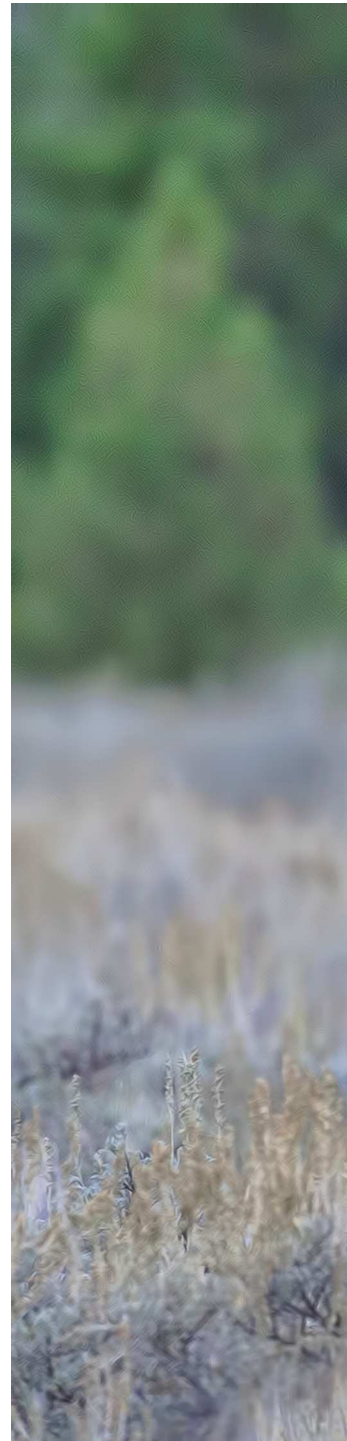
The Grand Teton's lie at the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, an area considered to be one of the few remaining, nearly intact, temperate ecosystems on earth. This park houses a striking contrast of sagebrush grassland, willow wetlands with small lily pad laden lakes bordering steep alpine grandeur. Nearby Jackson Hole is aptly named as the Snake River meanders through the cavernous lowland. Bordered on the west by the majestic Teton Range, the east by the Bridger-Teton National Forest and National Elk Refuge, the park is a haven for wildlife. The animals inhabiting the park depend on this vast area for survival, residing and migrating to different areas depending on the season. Productive photography, therefore, requires an understanding of just where a species is likely to be hanging out at any particular time of year.

This is Moose country, best timed for the latter part of September. We hiked most of the recommended areas such as Blacktail Pond and Wilson Road with absolutely no success. After several frustrating days, a hiker told us to try the Gros Ventre campground and look for the photographers! Sure enough, we finally found several large males preparing for the rut to commence. The nearby buttes were also a terrific location for Plains Bison and Pronghorn where the mountain peaks made interesting backdrops. To complete a morning circuit, we also found Plains Bison and Pronghorn in numbers on the grassland at Mormon Row and along Antelope Flats Road. The latter will soon leave, however, migrating to their winter range near Green River.

Not surprisingly, Elk seem to hang out near the north Jenny Lake entrance. They are habituated to feeding in open areas during early morning and late evening, spending the remainder of the day staying cool in the adjacent dense forests.

BULL ELK

North Jenny Lake Road, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming





Our favourite afternoon location was Signal Mountain. Here we found Blue Grouse near the summit. It was also fun to photograph smaller animals such as the Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel that were abundant throughout Cascade Canyon and at Inspiration Point.

Birds and wildlife are always engaging and thrilling to see. Although we enjoyed this area, it was obvious we were a bit early. A return trip was in the cards and one where we would certainly dedicate significantly more time.

BLUE GROUSE

Signal Mountain, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming





PLAINS BISON

Gros Ventre Road, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



PLAINS BISON BULL

Mormon Row, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

BULL MOOSE
Gros Ventre Campground,
Grand Teton National Park,
Wyoming





COW MOOSE

Wilson Road, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



BLUE GROUSE

Signal Mountain, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



BLUE GROUSE

Signal Mountain, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



BULL ELK AT SUNRISE

North Jenny Lake Road, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



PLAINS BISON BULL

Gros Ventre Road, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



PLAINS BISON BULL

Gros Ventre Road, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



MOOSE CALF

Wilson Road, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming





The Grand Teton Landscape

The Teton Range towers over the valley of Jackson Hole, providing dramatic alpine scenery formed over millennia by natural forces such as earthquakes, glaciers and erosion. As the ice receded, several beautiful glacial lakes were formed, the most prominent being Jenny Lake in Cascade Canyon at the base of the Cathedral Group.

As the seismic activity in the bowels of the Yellowstone caldera was always the major focus of our trips to northwestern Wyoming, we certainly underestimated the landscape potential of the Teton Range. We were awe struck on our first encounter and immediately regretted the limited time we had allotted. Our research indicated that landscape photography in this area is primarily a morning event, forcing us to limit the locations we could realistically visit given the time available. Moreover, it's arguably a better late fall or early winter event as snow adds definite character to the locations that are must stops. However, we hit the high points and certainly were not disappointed with the images we were able to capture, especially the beaver pond at Lower Schwabacher's Landing. Here the sun casts light on the Cathedral Group at sunrise, creating breathtaking mountain backdrops and reflections in the calm water. No visit to the area is complete without a look at John Moulton's Barn along Mormon Row where the photography can be spectacular at any time of day, especially if character clouds form a contrast to the mountain backdrop.

As with our Yellowstone experience, we intend to revisit the Tetons when early winter snow creates an element of drama to the scenery that is not present in the late spring and early fall months.

PLAINS BISON BULL

Mormon Row, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

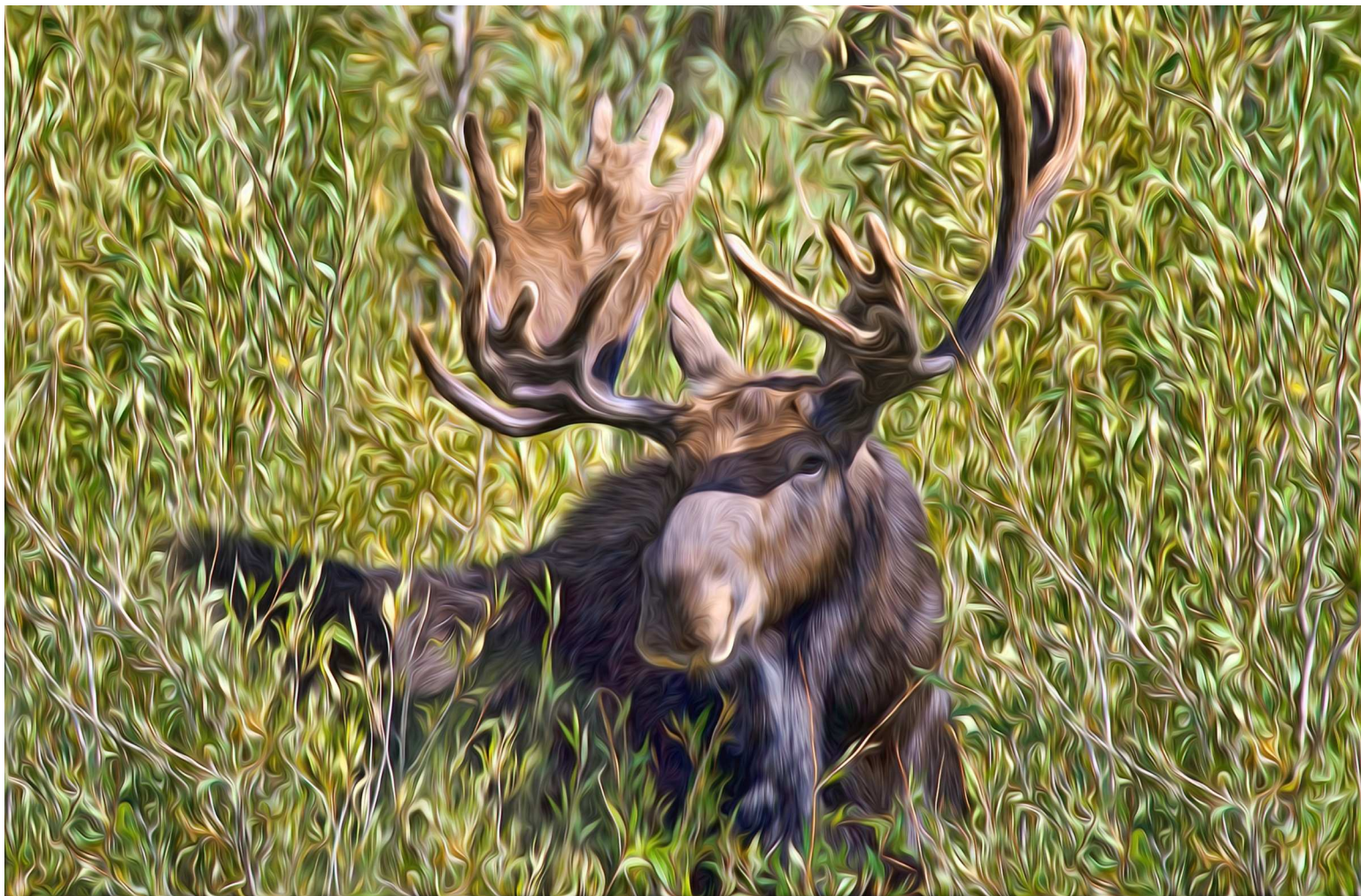


JOHN MOULTON'S BARN

Mormon Row, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



SCHWABACHER'S LANDING
Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



**PIXEL BENDER OIL PAINTING
BULL MOOSE “RESTING IN THE TREES”**

Our Photography Journey...

The adventure began during the latter part of our careers when we started to ponder the question of what to do during our retirement. We had no objective in mind but finally settled on the combination of travel and nature photography as something that might be an interesting pastime. After months of agonizing research, we became early adopters of Canon's transition from film to digital camera bodies. What started as an overwhelming introduction to an emerging and complex technology soon mushroomed into somewhat of an obsession, especially as we progressed from wandering around local habitat searching for compliant subjects to attracting birds to sets we designed and photographed from a blind in our back yard. As we became more proficient behind the camera, we decided to focus our attention on travelling to locations in western North America, targeting sites known for outstanding bird, wildlife and natural landscape photography. Although our approach to stalking subjects "in the wild" produced some compelling images, we soon learned that most eye-catching exposures are the result of set-piece creations where subject behavior and ambient light are manipulated in a controlled setting. This is most readily achieved when photographing birds. The concept of "Birds as Art" was first introduced by Arthur Morris and subsequently taken to unprecedented heights as an artform by Alan Murphy. Both photographers raised the bar for what eventually became a photographic standard and one we passionately pursued as an adjunct to the traditional approach of simply searching for subjects in their natural habitat.

Not surprisingly, we were soon overcome with the urge to display and share our images. We began by producing web graphics and hosting an educational blog online for beginner photographers. As the sophistication of the digital darkroom evolved, a host of programs began to appear that elevated post-processing techniques to a new and exciting level. This led us to not only improve our web graphics but also to experiment in-house with the production of large prints on specialty media, including textured watercolor paper and canvas. During this time, we became overwhelmed by the emerging world of digital art, a niche genre designed to create stunning special effects from photographs. At the time of publication, our favorites were Pixel Bender, a Photoshop plug-in with an Oil Paint filter and LucisArt, a standalone program that creates incredible watercolor renditions. Both programs became mainstays in our Photoshop workflow.

This book is our self-published attempt to showcase, in print, a selection of photographs from our Wyoming and Colorado travels.

Wyoming and Colorado

Nature Photography

Bird, wildlife and natural landscape photography is an enjoyable and absorbing pastime. It's also an immense amount of fun! The advent of the digital camera and image enhancement software has had a significant impact on what was once the domain of professionals and serious amateurs. Today, it's an accessible and affordable hobby, no matter what your level of entry.

Like most photographers, we were soon overcome with the urge to display and share our images. We began with web graphics of photographs captured at outstanding locations throughout western North America, including: Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Nunavut, Oregon, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, the Yukon and several sites we visited in eastern Canada.

This book contains selected images from our travels throughout Wyoming and Colorado.

