

From: [Hester Minor, Amy L.](#)
To: [Marla Morales](#)
Subject: Raptor nest seasonal timing and spatial buffers
Date: Thursday, July 31, 2014 11:01:36 AM
Attachments: [WGFD Raptor Survey Dates, Disturbance-free Dates, & Buffers.pdf](#)

Marla,

Please keep this correspondence and attachment with your other documents that need to be uploaded to ADAMS.

From: Andrea Orabona [mailto:andrea.orabona@wyo.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 4:18 PM
To: Amy Hester
Subject: Re: Raptor nest seasonal timing and spatial buffers

Hello Amy -

Attached is the WGFD recommended disturbance-free dates and buffers for raptors, Great Blue Herons, and songbirds.

I hope this information is useful to you.

Best - Andrea

Andrea Orabona
Nongame Bird Biologist
WY Game and Fish Dept.
260 Buena Vista
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-7723 ext. 232
Andrea.Orabona@wyo.gov

*"Like the resource it seeks to protect, wildlife conservation must be dynamic, changing as conditions change, seeking always to become more effective."
~Rachel Carson*



On Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 3:09 PM, Amy Hester <ahester@swri.org> wrote:
Hello Andrea,

Thank you for taking my call today. You mentioned that the WGFD has recommended seasonal timing and spatial buffer information for some bird nests, but that information is not publicly available. Below is a list of avian species that were observed during baseline wildlife surveys at the proposed Reno Creek project site in Campbell County. Unoccupied and occupied nests have been observed in the project area for those species in bold print.

At your convenience, please provide the WGFD recommended seasonal timing and spatial buffers for occupied and unoccupied nests that may be used by the following species. Thank you again for your time and please call with any questions.

<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged blackbird
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern pintail
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green-winged teal
<i>Anas americana</i>	American wigeon
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern shoveler
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous hawk
<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur
<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	Lark bunting
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern harrier
<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Greater sage-grouse
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Lark sparrow
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned lark
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed cowbird
<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Sage thrasher
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Eared grebe
<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Vesper sparrow
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank swallow
<i>Spizella reweri</i>	Brewer's sparrow
<i>Steganopus tricolor</i>	Wilson's phalarope
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western meadowlark
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern kingbird
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning dove

Amy Hester

Research Scientist
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
Southwest Research Institute
6220 Culebra Road
San Antonio, TX 78238
210.522.5750
<http://www.ged.swri.org/>

E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

WGFD RECOMMENDED DIURNAL RAPTOR SURVEY DATES

SPECIES	MARCH			APRIL			MAY			JUNE			JULY			AUGUST		
	1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	15	30
American Kestrel				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXX								
Bald Eagle	XXXXXXXXXXXX									XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Cooper's Hawk				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Ferruginous Hawk				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXX								
Golden Eagle	XX																	
Merlin				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXX								
Northern Goshawk				XXXXXXXXXXXX						XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Northern Harrier				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXX								
Osprey				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXX								
Peregrine Falcon				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Prairie Falcon				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Red-tailed Hawk				XXXXXXX			XXXXXXX											
Sharp-shinned Hawk							XXXXXXX			XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Swainson's Hawk				XXXXXXX						XXXXXXXXXXXX								

XXXXX: Indicates best times to detect birds in courtship (early dates) or with young in the nest when adults will be conspicuous (later dates). For accipiters, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons, detectability during courtship is variable, with some pairs almost impossible to detect.

-----: Indicates periods for species with conspicuous nests during which surveys can also be conducted effectively.

Note: Dates may vary slightly by latitude, altitude or other factors affecting phenology and should be adjusted depending on field conditions.

WGFD DISTURBANCE-FREE DATES AND BUFFERS

SPECIES	DISTURBANCE-FREE DATES	DISTURBANCE-FREE BUFFER
Bald Eagle	February 15 – August 15	½ mile
Ferruginous Hawk	April 1 – July 31	1 mile
Golden Eagle	February 1 – July 31	½ mile
Merlin	April 1 – August 15	½ mile
Northern Goshawk	April 1 – August 15	½ mile
Peregrine Falcon	March 15 – August 15	½ mile
Prairie Falcon	March 1 – August 15	½ mile
Great Blue Heron	February 15 – August 7	825 feet (land), 500 feet (water) *
Songbirds	April 1 – 31 August	300 feet

Note: Disturbance-free dates include territory establishment through fledging.

Note: Additional considerations include line of sight, visibility, type of disturbance activity, location of disturbance above or below the occupied nest, and specific situations.

*Vos, D. K., R. A. Ryder, and W. D. Gaul. 1985. Response of breeding Great Blue Herons to human disturbance in northcentral Colorado. Colonial Waterbirds 8(1):13-22.