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# Yellowstone Wildlife: Ecology And Natural History Of The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem



## Synopsis

Yellowstone Wildlife is a natural history of the wildlife species that call Yellowstone National Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem their home. Illustrated with stunning images by renowned wildlife photographer Thomas Mangelsen, *Yellowstone Wildlife* describes the lives of species in the park, exploring their habitats from the Grand Tetons to Jackson Hole. From charismatic megafauna like elk, bison, wolves, bighorn sheep, and grizzly bears, to smaller mammals like bats, pikas, beavers, and otters, to some of the 279 species of birds, Johnsgard describes the behavior of animals throughout the seasons, with sections on what summer and autumn mean to the wildlife of the park, especially with the intrusion of millions of tourists each year. Enhanced by Mangelsen's wildlife photography, *Yellowstone Wildlife* reveals the beauty and complexity of these species' intertwined lives and that of Yellowstone's greater ecosystem.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Breathtaking, beautiful, and broad in scope, this book brings heart and head together, setting a high standard for future nature writing." —T. Johnson, **CHOICE**

Paul A. Johnsgard is Foundation Professor of Biological Sciences Emeritus at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His previous works include 56 books, mostly reference works on bird groups, such as cranes and waterfowl, and the ecology of Nebraska and the Great Plains. Thomas D. Mangelsen is one of the world's premier nature

photographers. His work is frequently seen in major publications such as National Geographic, Audubon, Smithsonian, Time, and Life and in his Images of Nature galleries in sixteen locations across North America.

I love the Yellowstone region, and I love Thomas Mangelsen's Photography and since he provided the photographs, I had to have it. I have been looking for a good natural history book that has more depth than your typical field guides go into for some specific regions, and I am still looking. The book provides a good overview of different ecological areas within Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and provides some great behavioral items to look for. I was disappointed on two fronts with this book. First, I felt that too little time was spent on the "mega fauna" of the region. Yellowstone is well known as the Serengeti of North America, so I expected some more in depth discussions about the Bears, Wolves, Elk, Moose, and Bison of the area. They are touched upon, but typically for only two or three pages, and I particularly liked the discussion about the birthing cycle for the Elk. However, if you are a bird watcher, the text gives great behavioral items for several of the more charismatic species in the region. The second area that I was disappointed in is Prof. Johnsgard's discussion on the delisting of Wolves and Grizzly Bears, and the hunting that is associated with that. I expected this to be a layman's book on Ecology, but still a book on Science, and not having the policy items inserted into it. Regardless of whether you are for or against hunting, I did not feel that it fit with the overall tone of the book. In general this was a good book and an easy read. Lots of bibliographic references at the end of the book to further your arm chair natural history.

Yellowstone Wildlife Ecology is an excellent overview of the ecology and natural history of the Yellowstone area. Animals of all sizes are looked at and you are given a great idea of their life and importance in the ecology. Admittedly at times it can become a little hard to keep plowing through the information, but if you are looking to learn the ins and outs of Yellowstone ecology this is an excellent source.

Absolutely breath-taking pictures and couldn't put it down looking at the photos then later reading it cover to cover. If you are passionate about nature in Yellowstone or anywhere for that matter, it is the book for you. Enjoy!

I bought the book for the Mangelsen photos, but the text and information exceeded my expectations.

Love the beautiful book. So glad I bought it. Would recommend it to anyone that loves wildlife and our Parks.

This is a good introduction to wildlife in the greater Yellowstone region. The photographs are outstanding and alone are worth the purchase price. I have some disagreements with other aspects of the book. It includes a fair number of drawings, and many of these are simply not professional quality, particularly when compared to the photos. The text is very well written, but I'd have edited them a bit. The chapters are keyed into the photos, and tell a story about wildlife in the area, as if being observed--but in past tense. This is a bit jarring with photo captions in present tense, so things don't fully fit, although it's a minor point. The more general narrative is present tense also. Maps are good and the overall book design is very pleasing. The science is minimal but helpful. There are plenty of details that should interest most readers interested in wildlife. Yellowstone sits above some active geological features, including potentially the world's biggest volcano--if the Yellowstone caldera blows, it will affect the planet in major ways. He mentions the mountain pine beetle and how it has killed half the whiteback pines, and they all may be wiped out, causing problems for wildlife because it alters food availability. This is important because a number of American tree species are being affected by new pests and pathogens--anyone remembering Dutch elm disease and Chestnut blight will see the implications. I was fascinated by the elk descriptions--ebb and flow of populations included. I didn't know that new elk calves have no scent and that coyotes can pass yards away and not see them--bears are a different story. The book does not discuss at length some of the issues affecting wildlife, such as reintroduction of wolves, or alleged brucellosis carried by buffalo, resulting in animosity in many of the communities near the park. Hunting is very controversial, and Johnsgard does consider it with disapproval somewhat veiled. The book has several appendices some readers may find useful, including lists of Yellowstone birds, vertebrates, butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies and formal Latin names of species mentioned in the text. I think these are the best photos: a magnificent great gray owl; a bull moose feeding among willows; an adult pine marten, a hovering female calliope hummingbird; and a regal bull elk bugling.

The pictures are wonderful. The information is very limited though. I was disappointed because I really wanted to learn more about the animals.

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