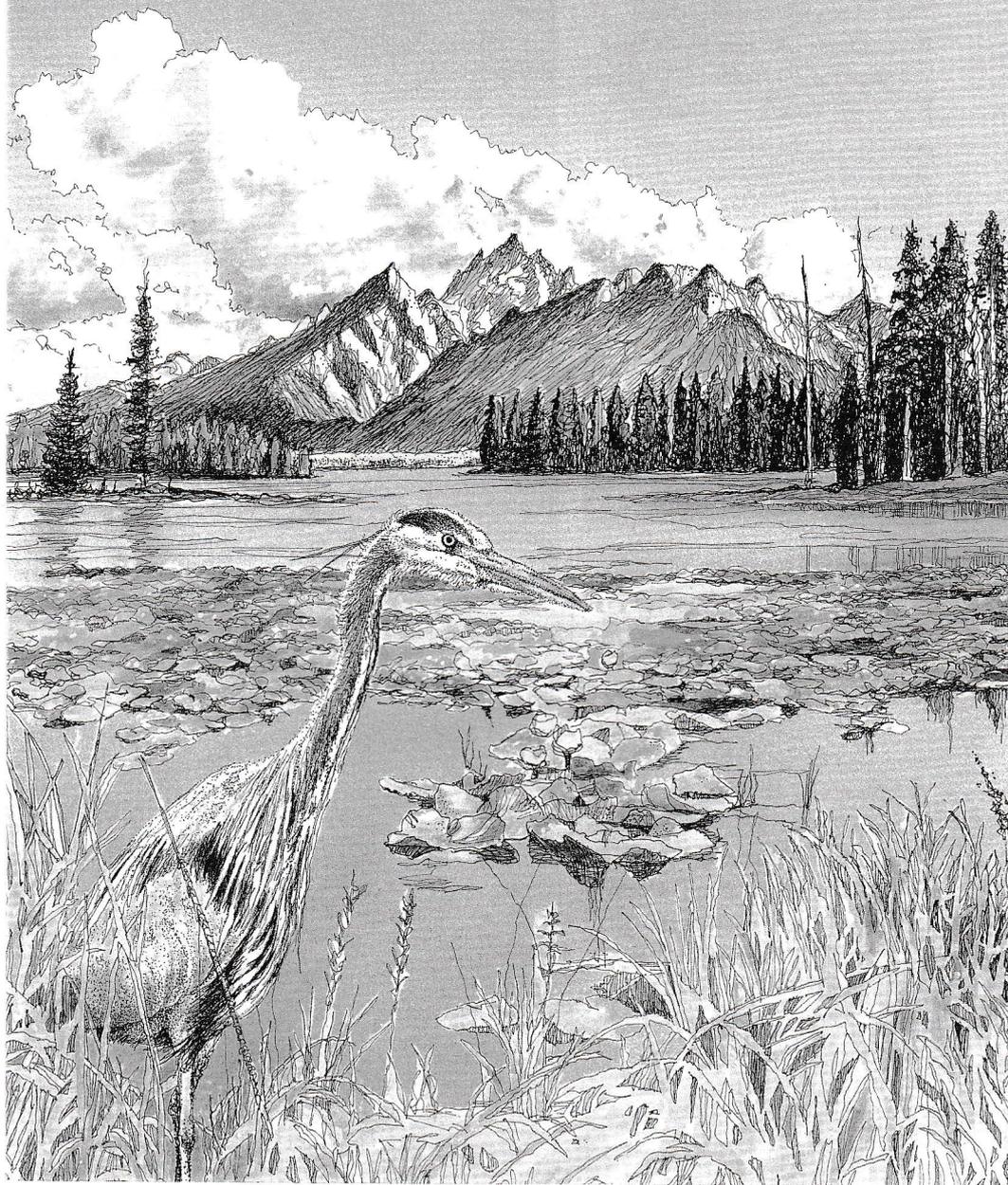


MAP, TRAIL GUIDE & INFORMATION
FOR THE TRAILS AROUND

Colter Bay



COLTER BAY WILDLIFE

Beaver thrive in the ponds and creeks of Heritage Point and Willow Flats. These nocturnal animals dam creeks to form ponds and build conical lodges of woven branches plastered with mud. **Red squirrels** chatter from lodgepole pine, spruce or fir branches, while **Uinta ground squirrels** dig burrows in sagebrush meadows. **Moose** browse on shrubs in meadows or on aquatic plants and willows growing along streams and ponds. **Mule deer** munch on grasses, wildflowers and shrubs in open forests. Elk seek the shade of forests during the day, venturing into grassy meadows to forage at night. **Osprey, bald eagles and white pelicans** catch fish in Jackson Lake and in nearby ponds.

Trumpeter swans feed on underwater plants in Swan Lake and Cygnet Pond. **Canada geese** and

several kinds of ducks, including **American**

wigeons, mallards

and ring-necked

ducks, nest on ponds or rivers and in marshy areas near

lakes. **Black**

bears frequent this area and

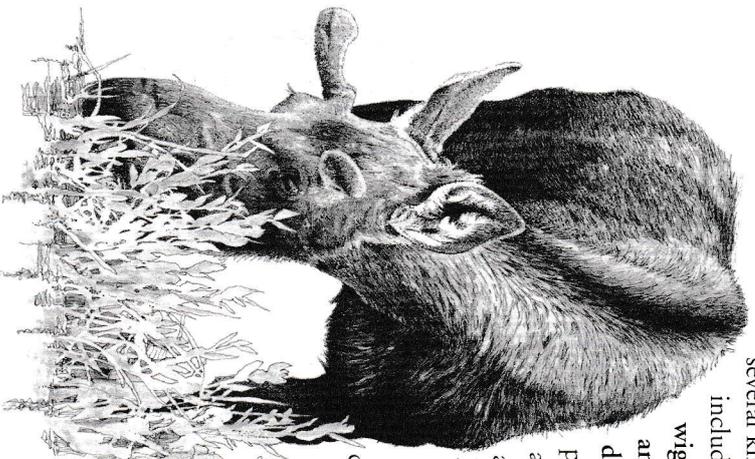
can be active at any time of the day or night. Make noise while

hiking to prevent sudden bear encounters. If a bear approaches or charges you, do not run as

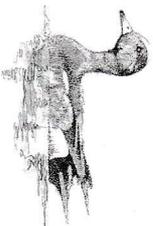
bears can run over 30 mph. Do not drop your pack. A fed bear is a dead bear, so be

sure that your food never becomes available to a bear. Please help monitor bear

populations by reporting all bear sightings to visitor centers or ranger stations.



moose browsing on willows



AMERICAN WIGEON

Shiny white crown. Deep glossy green band on side of head. Brown body. This dabbling duck eats insects on the surface of the water and underwater plants.



MALLARD

Smooth gloss-green head, narrow white band on neck and a chestnut chest. Yellow bill. Common throughout North America.



RING-NECKED DUCK

Black head, chest and back; sides light grey with a white wave shape before wing. Blue bill with prominent black and white markings. Diving duck that frequents large ponds.



COMMON MERGANSER

Long bodied ducks, white body, and green-black head. Found on Jackson Lake and the Snake River. Dives to catch small fish.



CANADA GOOSE

Big! Black head and neck with a white cheek patch. Light colored chest and gray-brown body. Black bill. Grazes on meadow grasses. Common throughout North America.

TREES, SHRUBS & WILDFLOWERS

Lodgepole pine is the most abundant tree in this area. Lodgepoles require direct sunlight and grow quickly after fire, windfall and other disturbances.

Sub-alpine fir, Engelmann spruce and blue spruce grow in the shade of dense lodgepole pine stands.

Deciduous trees (those whose leaves drop in the fall) are much less common than conifers: **aspens** and

large **cottonwoods** grow along the trail to Jackson Lake Lodge. In dry meadows, silvery green

sagebrush shrubs thrive, along with grasses and wildflowers such as yellow **arrowleaf balsamroot** and

cream-colored **sulfur buckwheat**. Purple lupines bloom on the floor of conifer forests. Yellow **pond**

lilies cloak the surface of Swan Lake and Heron Pond. **Willow** shrubs form dense thickets over much

of Willow Flats and line the edges of ponds and creeks.



an elk calf



SWAN LAKE - HERON POND

3 mile loop, mostly level. 3 hours

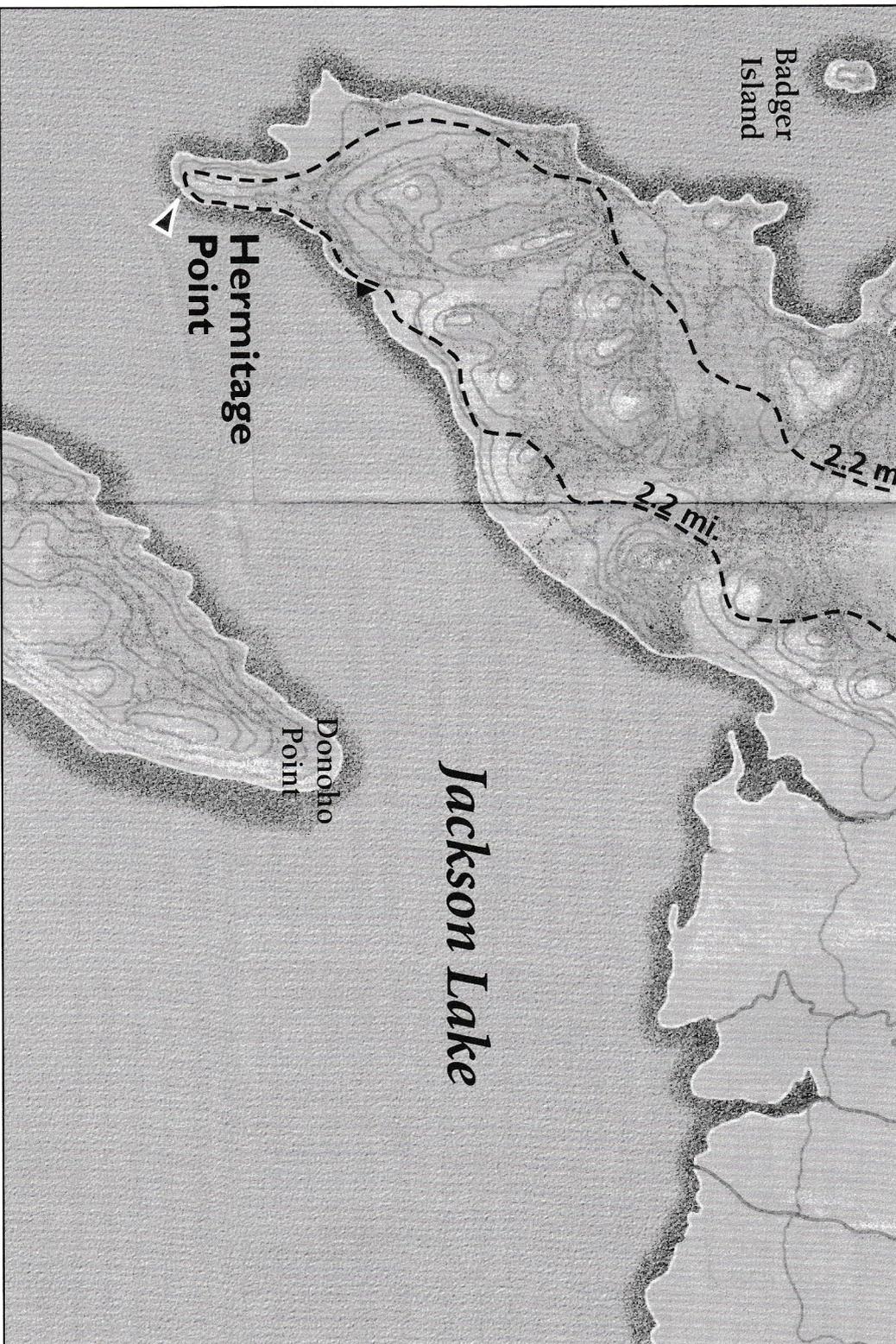
The first part of the trail follows the shore of Colter Bay and Jackson Lake, with superb views of Mount Moran. Then select a hike to either Heron Pond or Swan Lake first. Heron Pond and Swan Lake are nestled in lodgepole pine forests. Look for waterfowl on both lakes. In the evening beaver munch on pond lilies. Moose sometimes browse on willows adjacent to both the lake and the pond.



LAKESHORE TRAIL

2 miles round trip, level. 1-2 hours.

The Lakeshore Trail skirts the edge of Colter Bay and the eastern shore of Jackson Lake north of the Colter Bay Amphitheater. The trail is paved from the marina for the next 1/3 mile northwest. Watch for the sign directing hikers to leave the pavement and follow the Lakeshore Trail as it circles a peninsula bordered by Jackson Lake. The western end of the peninsula affords views of the Teton Range with Jackson Lake in the foreground.



Badger Island

Hermitage Point

Donoho Point

Jackson Lake



JACKSON LAKE LODGE

5 miles one way, mostly level. 3 hours

Follow the trail gently uphill to the Colter Bay Corral, then walk the old road that meanders through a variety of forests including a stand of large cottonwoods and a dense spruce-fir forest. For the last mile, the trail follows the edge of Willow Flats, an extensive freshwater marsh laced with beaver ponds that also provides

habitat for moose, elk and a diverse array of birds.

HERMITAGE POINT

(See map above)

8.8 miles loop, mostly level with short uphill sections. 5-6 hours.

To reach Hermitage Point, first follow the trail to Swan Lake or Heron Pond. South of these ponds, the trail leads to the tip of Hermitage Point and passes

through forests, sagebrush meadows and along the edge of Third Creek. Hermitage Point extends into Jackson Lake, affording stunning views of Mount Moran and other Teton peaks across Jackson Lake.