
Subject: Big Horn Sheep Count

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 12 Aug 2011 19:20:47 GMT

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Folks,

This has nothing whatsoever to do with IDL, except that I wasn't doing anything related to IDL while doing it, but I spent the past couple of days in the Rawah Wilderness here in Colorado looking for Big Horn sheep as part of the Division of Wildlife's annual sheep count. (I've been doing it every year for the past 10 or so.)

Normally, we see sheep from a long distance away. In fact, we usually need a spotting scope to separate the males from the females for the count. But this year we ran into a group of six rams who seemed totally unconcerned by our presence. In fact, a couple of the younger rams allowed us to get within 20-30 feet of them without being concerned. I put a picture on my home page that my colleague took with a small digital camera:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

The larger members of this group were HUGE and I'm not sure I would have dared to get within 30 feet of those awesome horns. I can see why these magnificent animals, recently reintroduced into this part of our state, are the mascot of the local University. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Big Horn Sheep Count

Posted by [b_gom](#) on Mon, 15 Aug 2011 17:07:02 GMT

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These sheep are a regular attraction at one of our nearby national parks:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCWg4UaJcGo>

When they live in areas where they know there is no hunting, they are

much more tolerant of people. Outside of the park, you are lucky if you can get close enough to see one with a spotting scope.

At the 5 second mark you can see a particularly lucky tourist who was only ~15 feet away from the duelling rams. Lucky, that is, that one of the rams didn't decide to turn and give him a good bash on the forehead..

On Aug 12, 1:20 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Big Horn Sheep Count
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 15 Aug 2011 17:15:22 GMT
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Brad Gom writes:

- > These sheep are a regular attraction at one of our nearby national
- > parks:
- > <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCWg4UaJcGo>
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- > much more tolerant of people. Outside of the park, you are lucky if
- > you can get close enough to see one with a spotting scope.

Ah, this brought back a lot of memories. I spent my formative years driving tour buses in Glacier National Park and spent a lot of time in the pub in Waterton, ordering two beers at a time, as I remember, so that you always had one for the Queen, if she should show up!

I never saw Big Horn sheep there, but I did see a bear or two running down the middle of the street as I staggered back to the Prince of Wales hotel to sleep it off. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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