

# Yellowstone in the Fall Species List | September 21 – 28, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



**Guides Hugh Simmons, Emily Renke, and Bryan Calk with guests Brenda, Jane, Mandy, Edward, Cole, Telli, Erica, Donna, Nan, Glenn, and Mary Anne**

There is hardly a bad time to visit the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, but fall is definitely one of the best as birds and mammals are on the move and putting on their lustrous winter finery, and the aspens, cottonwoods, and willows light the mountainsides and riverbanks up in a blaze of yellows and oranges. On this journey, we really hit the jackpot with all of that plus some incredibly pleasant weather and relatively small crowds wherever we visited. Some of our favorites along the way were a pair of Gray Wolves in broad daylight, bull moose and elk, large herds of roaming bison, more than fifteen species of waterfowl including Trumpeter Swans and Harlequin Duck, a pair of Sandhill Cranes, some friendly Canada Jays, Clark's Nutcracker plenty of Bad Eagles and American Dippers. But fresh trout, huckleberry ice cream, and a craft cocktail with new friends at the end of the day were hard to beat, too.

## **Birds (72):**

The eBird link below details the 72 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Yellowstone in the Fall | September 21-28, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

## **Mammals (13):**

**Pronghorn** *Antilocapra americana* – A few seen in the grasslands between Henry's Lake and Island Park

**American Bison** *Bison bison* – Many seen during our time in Yellowstone, including young and wallowing in the dust.

**Moose** *Alces alces* – A couple seen along Moose-Wilson road in Grand Tetons, including a young bull that allowed for great views

**Elk** *Cervus eaphus* Many cows seen along the Madison River in Yellowstone, and some nice bulls seen including one at West Thumb and a few along Moose-Wilson Road

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* – Seen mostly incidentally, including one from across the river from the dining room at Angler's Lodge

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – One seen along Moose-Wilson Road and another in the field at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson while birding in the afternoon

**Gray Wolf** *Canis Lupus* – A couple seen right by Biscuit Basin, both black or black-ish in their color form. Seen very well as they roamed through the grass

**North American River Otter** *Lantra canadensis* – One cruised by at Silver Lake at Harriman State Park, and playing on the banks of the water at the Oxbow Bend Overlook on the way to Jackson

**American Pika** *Ochotona princeps* – Seen scampering in and out of the rocks along a skree slope between Yellowstone and Grand Tetons

**Least Chipmunk** *Tamias minimus* – The only species of chipmunk we saw this trip, with several incidental sightings throughout

**American Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* – Seen and heard on most days of the tour

**Muskrat** *Ondatra zibethicus* – Seen each of the first three days of the tour, including one at our very first restroom stop in Big Sky and at Harriman State Park

**Little Brown Bat** *Myotis lucifugus* – One roosting under an informational kiosk at a boat ramp at Henry's Lake

**American Mink** *Neovison vison* – One seen scampering among some dead limbs on the shore of the Snake River at Harriman State Park

**Reptiles and Amphibians (1):**

**Western Terrestrial Garter Snake** *Thamnophis elegans* – One found along the road around Henry's Lake