

Yellowstone: Birds, Bears & Wildlife Species List | June 5 – 11, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Kent Skaggs with guide Mason Flint. Our clients included Cathy, Cynthia & Ben, Deb, Gay, Kathleen, Ramona and Sharon.

Nature enthusiasts from Arizona, Indiana, New Jersey, Oregon and Pennsylvania traveled to Yellowstone National Park to experience the wonder of the world's first national park. From the abundant wildlife to the geothermal features to the grand landscapes, Yellowstone offers a cornucopia of visuals to take in and we did just that by exploring the Lamar Valley, Old Faithful and the Upper Geyser Basin, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and much more on this tour.

BIRDS - 95 species were recorded of which 10 were heard only and three were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 95 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: Birds, Bears, & Wildlife | June 5-11, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds and mammals we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

BIRDS (95):

Family or Species Common Name: Scientific Name

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*— Seen daily within the park but not in large numbers.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*— One was seen on a pond next to Emigrant and a pair was seen at Swan Lake inside the park.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*— A single male was seen in the Lamar Valley.

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*— Two males were seen on a pond at Cherry River Fishing Access, two more on a pond next to Emigrant and a single male on a pond along Slough Creek Campground Road in the park.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*— Seen on a pond at Cherry River Fishing Access, on a pond next to Emigrant and on a pond along Slough Creek Campground Road in the park.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*— Two males were seen at Swan Lake and a single male in the Lamar Valley.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*— Seen at multiple locations.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*— Seen at Swan Lake and Floating Island Lake.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*— Seen on several ponds within the park with the largest numbers at Swan Lake.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*— Eight males and one female were seen together at LeHardy Rapids and a pair were seen along the Soda Butte Creek.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*— Several seen at Swan Lake.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*— Seen on Yellowstone Lake at Sedge Bay and from the Steamboat Point Picnic Area.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*— Seen in the Lamar Valley, along the Firehole River near Old Faithful and on Yellowstone Lake from the Steamboat Point Picnic Area.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*—Seen on a pond south of Gardiner, at Swan Lake and Floating Island Lake.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*— One seen feeding on Aspen leaves along the Slough Creek Trail.

Dusky Grouse *Dendragapus obscurus*— A single bird was seen twice from the Yellowstone Overlook on the Beartooth Highway.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*— A single bird was seen at Swan Lake.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*— Seen daily in Gardiner.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope*— A male was seen along the Slough Creek Trail.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Sora *Porzana carolina*— HO, at the Cherry River Fishing Access ponds.

American Coot *Fulica americana*— Seen at Cherry River Fishing Access ponds, on a pond next to Emigrant, Swan Lake and Floating Island Lake where several young coots were seen with their parents as well.

CRANES: Gruidae

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*— Seen and heard at several places in the park including at Swan Lake.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*— A pair was seen from the boardwalk at Mammoth Hot Springs and at the Mud Volcano geothermal area.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*— Two individuals were seen and heard along the road in the Lamar Valley.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*— Seen or heard most days in the park along streams/rivers.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*— Five were seen at the Cherry River Fishing Access ponds.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*— Four were seen at a rookery along the Yellowstone River near Emigrant and while en route in the park.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*— Seen along the Lamar River near the Osprey nest and while en route.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— A pair were seen on a nest along the Lamar River.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*— An adult was seen with at least one eaglet at a nest on a cliff face along Slough Creek.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*— Two were seen in flight just upon entering the Swan Lake Flats area and two more were seen in flight at Swan Lake.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*— A single bird was seen in the same area as the Golden Eagle nest along Slough Creek.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*— An immature bird was seen in the Lamar Valley.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*— One was seen riding thermals on the first day while en route near I-90 in Bozeman.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*— Seen each day at several locations.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*— A male and female were seen at their nest site along the Slough Creek Trail.

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*— Two were seen at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*— Seen or heard at multiple locations in the park.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*— A pair was seen together perched in a tree in the Lamar Valley.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*— A brief view of a single bird in flight was had in the Lamar Valley.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*— HO, along the Lamar River in the park and just north of Silver Gate.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*— Single birds seen at Cherry River Fishing Access and near Emigrant.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*— Heard at a few locations with one seen along the Slough Creek Trail.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Canada Jay *Perisoreus canadensis*— One seen from US Highway 20 east of Yellowstone Lake, two seen on a trail next to the LeHardy Rapids and one seen along the Beartooth Highway.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*— One seen by the guides from the trail next to the LeHardy Rapids.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*— Seen each day at multiple locations.

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*— One seen near the parking area at Artist Point in the park, with single birds seen near Silver Gate and two locations along the Beartooth Highway.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*— Seen each day at multiple locations.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*— Seen at Glen Lake Rotary Park and the Gibbon Meadows Picnic Area.

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*— Seen at a few locations in the park, Cooke City and heard along the Beartooth Highway.

LARKS: Alaudidae

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*— A few were seen at Beartooth Pass.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*— Seen at Cherry River Fishing Access, Glen Lake Rotary Park, near Emigrant and at the Gibbon Meadows Picnic Area.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*— Seen each day at multiple locations.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*— Seen at multiple locations in the park, in particular under bridges and other nesting structures (like the bathroom at a stop in the Lamar Valley).

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*— Seen and heard at multiple locations.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*— Seen and heard along the Slough Creek Trail and in Cooke City.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Northern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*— HO, at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*— HO, around the ponds at the Cherry River Fishing Access.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*— An adult was seen feeding a fledgling along the Lamar River and another bird was seen at the Firehole Falls.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*— Seen at multiple locations.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*— One seen at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (XX)

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*— A male was seen at Mammoth Hot Springs, a pair at the Yellowstone Overlook along the Beartooth Highway and a few more at two other locations along the Beartooth Highway.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*— HO, along the Pebble Creek Campground entrance road.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*— Seen each day at multiple locations.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*— A couple were seen in flight at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*— Seen in Bozeman and Gardiner.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*— Several seen along the Beartooth Highway.

FINCHES: Fringillidae

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*— One seen at the Glen Lake Rotary Park.

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii*— One seen along the Lamar River near the Osprey nest and several seen along the Beartooth Highway.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*— Seen at a few locations in the park, near Silver Gate and in Cooke City.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*— Seen at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*— Seen and heard at multiple locations.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*— HO, in the Lamar Valley.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*— Heard along the Lamar River near the Osprey nest, the Pink-sided race was seen along US Highway 20 east of Yellowstone Lake and what appeared to be the Slate-colored race at the Yellowstone Overlook along the Beartooth Highway.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Seen and heard at multiple locations.

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*— Seen and heard in the Lamar Valley.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*— Seen at the Cherry River Fishing Access and in the Lamar Valley.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*— HO, at the Cherry River Fishing Access, Lamar Valley and near Silver Gate.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*— Seen and heard just north of Silver Gate.

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus*— Seen and heard in the Lamar Valley and seen at the Yellowstone Overlook along the Beartooth Highway.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*— Seen at Cherry River Fishing Access, near Emigrant, at a couple of ponds while en route in the park and at Floating Island Lake.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*— HO, in the Lamar Valley.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*— Seen at multiple locations.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*— Seen at multiple locations.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*— Seen at multiple locations in the park.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*— Seen at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*— HO, at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*— Two seen along the Slough Creek Trail.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*— HO, at Cherry River Fishing Access and near Silver Gate.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*— HO, at Glen Lake Rotary Park.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*— Seen, but mostly heard at multiple locations.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) *Setophaga coronata*— Seen at multiple locations.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*— Two seen near Silver Gate.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*— Seen at Glen Lake Rotary Park and multiple locations in the park.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*— Seen at Cherry River Fishing Access and Glen Lake Rotary Park.

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*— A male was heard then seen at the Slough Creek Trailhead parking area.

MAMMALS (17):

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*— Seen most days in the park at multiple locations.

American Bison *Bison bison*— Seen each day in the park at multiple locations, with largest numbers occurring in the Lamar Valley.

Rocky Mountain Goat *Oreamnos americanus*— Seen at three different locations along the NE Entrance Rd (US Highway 212) in the Absaroka Range.

Moose *Alces alces*— Two were seen just north of Silver Gate and another seen in the park along Soda Butte Creek.

Elk *Cervus elaphus*— Seen in Gardiner and at multiple locations in the park, often in meadows on higher slopes.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*— Seen along the Beartooth Highway just east of Cooke City and along the NE Entrance Rd in the park.

Coyote *Canis latrans*— A family of six (two adults and four pups) was seen at their den site in the Lamar Valley and at least two other individuals were seen elsewhere in the park.

Gray Wolf *Canis lupus*— One was seen briefly by Mason on a ridge from the Lamar River Stock Cutoff Trail Parking Area but it reversed direction staying out of sight. A Pronghorn came running down the slope from the area the wolf was seen and continued to look up a draw in the direction of the wolf but it did not reappear.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*— Seen in Cooke City and to the north just outside of town along the highway.

American Badger *Taxidea taxus*— Two were seen together next to a den site in the Lamar Valley.

American Black Bear *Ursus americanus*— A sow with two cubs were seen along the Slough Creek Campground Rd, another sow and two cubs were seen in the Pebble Creek Campground and single bears were seen elsewhere in the park.

Brown (Grizzly) Bear *Ursus arctos*— A sow and two cubs were seen at two separate locations on distant slopes in the Lamar Valley and a young male and an adult male were seen along the road just east of Yellowstone Lake.

American Beaver *Castor canadensis*— One was seen from a walking bridge that crosses the Firehole River near Old Faithful.

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel *Callospermophilus lateralis*— One was seen at Old Faithful/Upper Geyser Basin.

Yellow-bellied Marmot *Marmota flaviventris*— Seen east of Yellowstone Lake on US Highway 16 and also from the Steamboat Point Picnic Area next to the lake.

Uinta Ground Squirrel *Urocitellus armatus*— Seen at multiple locations in the park.

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*— One was seen near Emigrant in the road ditch, which had water and cattails.

Favorite bird/animal and/or experience:

Ben - The overall experience of Yellowstone

Cathy - Harlequin Ducks & Moose

Cynthia - Mountain Bluebird & Harlequin Ducks

Deb - Ruddy Duck

Gay - Ruffed Grouse & Mountain Bluebird

Kathleen - Dusky Grouse

Ramona - Williamson's Sapsucker (male) & the entire Yellowstone experience

Sharon - Dusky Grouse & the vastness of Yellowstone