

# Yellowstone: Birds, Bears & Wildlife Species List | May 29 – June 4, 2025 With Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Hugh Simmons with Wes Larsen. Our clients included:  
Barb, Greg, Ian, Jan, Linda, Lisa, Mitch, and Steve.**

Our exciting trip started in Gardiner, Montana with an excursion into the Park with Jack from Wolf Trackers. We had the incredible experience of finding the Rescue Creek pack within 100 yards of the road on a kill. Over the course of the week we would see a total of nine wolves, three coyotes, 15 black bears and 12 Grizzlies. There were tiny, adorable black bear cubs that had been born this year and larger, year-old cubs. We thrilled at watching a mother grizzly and two cubs frolicking in the snow on a distant hill. We watched as a small herd of Pronghorn turned the tables on a couple of coyotes and chased them. There were Big Horn Sheep with lambs on one cliff face and Rocky Mountain Goats with kids on another. A mother Moose lay partially hidden in a grove of trees with her calf lying nearby, its head barely visible. Bison, Elk and Mule Deer were seen almost daily and a beautiful Red Fox trotted along the road next to our vehicles.

We counted 84 species of birds of which two were heard only and 2 were introduced. There were also 19 mammals of which one was introduced, the Rocky Mountain Goat.

The eBird link below details the 84 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 | May 29 – June 4, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

**Family or Species Common Name: Scientific Name**

**BIRDS (84):**

**DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae**

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*— First spotted Day 1 on the drive to Gardiner.

**Trumpeter Swan** *Cygnus buccinator*— Day 1 Emigrant Ponds, Day 2 Swan Lake.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*— Day 4 Hayden Valley pond

**Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*— Day 1 Emigrant Ponds, multiple locations in the Park

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*— Day 1 Emigrant Ponds, Day 4 Hayden Valley Pond

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*— Day 3 Swan Lake, Day 4 Hayden Valley Pond

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*— Day 1 Emigrant Ponds, multiple locations throughout the week

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*— Day 3 Swan Lake

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*— Day 4 Hayden Valley Pond

**Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria*— Day 3 Swan Lake

**Redhead** *Aythya americana*— Day 3 Twin Lakes

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*— First seen Day 2 from vehicles in ponds along North Entrance Road and Lamar Valley. Then a regular sighting in ponds throughout the Park.

**Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus*— Day 4 five individuals put on a show at Le Hardy Rapids. Then Day 6 two males provided great views and photos at the Foot Bridge near Hitching Post in the Lamar Valley.

**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*— Day 4 Indian Pond

**Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica*— Day 4 Indian Pond

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*— First seen Day 2 from vehicles Soda Butte Creek along North Entrance Road and Lamar Valley. Day 4 Lake Butte and Indian Pond.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*— First seen Day 2 from vehicles in ponds along North Entrance Road and Lamar Valley. Best views on Day 7 at Floating Island Pond as we were exiting the Park.

#### **PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae**

**Dusky Grouse** *Dendragapus obscurus*— Day 2 great looks and photos of two birds in the sage at the start of the Slough Creek Trail. Then Day 6 amazing views of a female and a displaying male on our Slough Creek Trail walk.

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*— Day 6 Yellowstone River in Hayden Valley

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis*— Day 4 Indian Pond

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*— Days 1, 2, 3 Gardiner

#### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae**

**Calliope Hummingbird** *Selasphorus calliope*— Day 2 Slough Creek Trail and then again on Day 6, same location and individual.

#### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—Day 2 from vehicles in ponds along North Entrance Road and Lamar Valley.

#### **CRANES: Gruidae**

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis*— Day 1 Emigrant Ponds. Then Day 2, with colts, at Specimen Ridge pond near Junction Butte.

#### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*— Day 2 in the waters of the Mammoth travertine terraces.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*— Day 3 at Swan Lake

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*— Day 4 on small islands in the Yellowstone River in the Hayden Valley.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— Day 1 Emigrant Ponds

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*— Day 1 four circling near hotel in Gardiner. Multiple sightings over the course of the week.

#### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— Day 1 In two locations roadside Rt89 on the way to Gardiner. Also, Day 3 at Grand Prismatic and on multiple days during the week.

#### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*— Day 2 flying close to nest site on rock face in Shough Creek. Then Day 6 great views of the same individual perched on the cliff face.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*— Day 6 at Slough Creek

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*— Day 1 seen on the Yellowstone River while driving Rt89 to Gardiner. Also, Day 2 at Slough Creek.

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*— Day 6 – flying over the vehicles in the Lamar Valley.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*— Day 1 On Rt89 drive to Gardiner one was being mobbed by three crows and a second was seen flying. Individuals seen nearly daily during the trip.

#### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*— Day 2 perched in conifer in Mammoth where they nest

#### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*— Day 4 at Lake Butte while we were looking for Grizzlies.

#### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Red-naped Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*— Day 6 at Pebble Creek Campground

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*— Day 5 at our picnic stop coming back from Beartooth Pass and Day 6 at Pebble Creek Campground.

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*— Day 3 on the Grand Prismatic overlook trail.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*— Day 6 at the Pebble Creek Campground.

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— Day 1 Two spotted hovering on Stephens Creek Road outside of Gardiner.

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus*— Day 4 at Lake Butte

**Hammond's Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondi*— Day 2 spotted by Ian in Slough Creek. Day 4 at Lake Butte.

**Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri*— Day 6 during walk up Slough Creek trail.

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae**

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*— Day 6 at Pebble Creek Campground and during walk at Slough Creek Trail.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae**

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia*— First seen Day 1 in the parking lot of the hotel in Bozeman. Then seen daily.

**Clark's Nutcracker** *Nucifraga columbiana*— Day 5 flew over the vehicles on Beartooth Highway. We stopped and got views as it bounced around the rocks at the top of a rocky hill.

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*— Day 1 seen in Bozeman and then mobbing a Red-tailed Hawk on drive to Gardiner.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*— Widespread, seen daily

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Mountain Chickadee** *Poecile gambeli*— Seen or heard frequently during the trip. Day 3 at Grand Prismatic, Day 5 Beartooth Highway and at our picnic stop.

#### **LARKS: Alaudidae**

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*— First seen on Day 1 on the Old Yellowstone Trail. Then Day 2 at Mammoth Hot Springs and Day 5 on Beartooth Highway.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— Day 3 Grand Prismatic (Midway Geyser Basin)

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*— Day 3 Nesting in dead snags at Fountain Paint Pot. Day 4 Lake Butte.

**Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina*— Day 2 flying about at Mammoth Hot Springs. Then seen daily.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*— Day 1 Emigrant Ponds.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*— Day 2 flying about at the Lamar Valley Ranger Station while we were scoping for Grizzlies. Then, Day 4, there was a huge flock while we were scoping waterfowls on the Yellowstone River in the Hayden Valley.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*— Heard frequently. Seen on Day 5 during our picnic stop coming back from Beartooth Pass and on Day 6 on the Slough Creek Trail.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*— Heard only on Day 6 on the Slough Creek Trail.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus*— Day 2 Two seen on the rocks on Travertine Road above Gardiner before dinner.

#### **DIPPERS: Cinclidae**

**American Dipper** *Cinclus mexicanus*— Day 5 one was seen under the bridge at our picnic stop. Day 6 we got great looks at two young Dippers feeding in the waters near the footbridge at the Lamar Trail in the Lamar Valley.

#### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*— Seen daily where there was human development. The only day we did not see Starlings was the day of our trip up Beartooth Highway.

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (XX)**

**Mountain Bluebird** *Sialia currucoides*— First seen Day 2 on Travertine Road above Gardiner. Then seen daily in the Park. A highlight was a photographable pair at their nest cavity in a dead snag at Fountain Paint Pot on Day 3.

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*— First seen Day 1 at hotel in Gardiner, then seen daily.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*— Day 1 in Bozeman

#### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae**

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*— Day 5 we had several great sightings on the Beartooth Highway amidst a snowy landscape and falling snow.

#### **FINCHES: Fringillidae**

**Black Rosy-Finch** *Leucosticte atrata*— Day 5 we were very fortunate to find several individuals on the Beartooth Highway.

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*— Day 2 Travertine Road above Gardiner

**Cassin's Finch** *Haemorhous cassinii*— Day 2 a female seen on Slough Creek Trail and then a male on Travertine Road above Gardiner. Then a good look on the Slough Creek Trail on Day 6.

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*— Heard several times but finally seen on Day 6 on the Slough Creek Trail.

#### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*— Day 2 a couple were seen on Slough Creek Trail

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis*— Good looks on Day 5 at our creek-side picnic stop. Heard on the Slough Creek Trail on Day 6.

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Its distinctive song was widely heard. Seen on Day 4 at our Sedge Bay breakfast picnic stop near Lake Butte and then Day 6 at Pebble Creek Campground.

**Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus*— Day 2 good looks at a singing bird, perched on sage brush in the Lamar Valley

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*— Day 1 good looks at several males and females at Emigrant Ponds. Also, Day 2 at Specimen Ridge trail entrance and Day 6 Slough Creek.

**Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta*— Great looks Day 1 on the Old Yellowstone Trail. Then Day 2 at the Lamar Ranger's Station.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*— Day 1 good looks at several males and females at Emigrant Ponds. Then seen regularly in appropriate habitat.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*— First seen Day 2 at Mammoth Hot Springs and then Day 3 with Bison at the Upper Geyser Basin (Old Faithful).

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*— Day 1 in hotel parking lot in Gardiner. Widespread, seen daily.

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*— Day 2 heard in Slough Creek and Mammoth. Then seen or heard daily.

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae**

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*—The bird that eluded us for much of the trip was finally seen at Lamar Canyon near Slough Creek on Day 6.

#### **MAMMALS (17):**

**Pronghorn** *Antilocapra Americana*— A single individual was seen on Stephens Creek Road on Day 1. Then seen daily while driving through the Park. One exciting encounter was watching a small herd of Pronghorn chasing two Coyotes on Day 6.

**American Bison** *Bison bison*— Many! every day!

**Bighorn Sheep** *Ovis canadensis*— Day 2 four on a hillside at Junction Butte on the NE Entrance Road. Then Day 6 on the cliffs at Calcite Curve including two very young lambs.

**Rocky Mountain Goat** *Oreamnos americanus*— Several spotted on the cliffs along the NE Entrance Road including a couple of little kids.

**Moose** *Alces alces*— Day 6 a female and a calf were spotted by Wes bedded down at Pebble Creek Campground.

**Elk** *Cervus elaphus*— A few roadside individuals on drive to Gardiner on Day 1. Many in Mammoth. On Day 2 a bull with antlers in velvet was seen in the pre-dawn light lying near the road between Mammoth and Tower Junction. Widespread. Some were even on the lawn of our hotel in Gardiner.

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus*— Day 2 roadside on the North Entrance Road leaving Mammoth. Then seen daily.

**Coyote** *Canis latrans*— Day 2 an individual out in a field at Tower Junction. Then on Day 6, a two being chased by a small herd of Pronghorn.

**Gray Wolf** *Canis lupus*— Day 2 – amazing views of the Rescue Creek pack in Antelope Basin.

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*— Seen along the NE Entrance Road to Cooke City on Days 5 and 6.

**American Black Bear** *Ursus americanus*— Day 2 we first spotted a sow with two cubs on Dunraven Pass Road in the early morning. We saw seven individuals this day and then a total of 15 over the course of the week.

**Brown (Grizzly) Bear** *Ursus arctos*— Day 2 a sow and two cubs frolicking in a snow bank high on a ridge over the Lamar Valley. Day 5 we had amazing views of a large male in a field just east of Cooke City. Over the course of the week we saw 12 in total.

**Yellow-bellied Marmot** *Marmota flaviventris*— Day 2 photographed by Ian in Mammoth. Day 5 one was spotted during our drive on the Beartooth Highway.

**Yellow-pine Chipmunk** *Tamias amoenus*— Day 5 at Vista Point, our Beartooth Highway turn-around point.

**Least Chipmunk** *Tamias minimus*— Day 6 during stop in the Lamar Valley

**American Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*— Seen almost daily including one that joined us for lunch at the Old Faithful Inn.

**Uinta Ground Squirrel** *Urocitellus armatus*— Day 1 one was seen at the back of the Wonderland Café after dinner. Then seen daily throughout the park often making their distracting, bird-like, chirps.