

Yellowstone: Birds, Bears, & Wildlife Species List | June 11 – 17, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Robert Petty with co-guide Chris Harbard. Our clients included Anna, Bruce, Barbara, Will, Elizabeth, Cyndy, Kathy, and Jim.

Yellowstone National Park occupies the volcanic heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the largest intact temperate ecosystems remaining on Earth. Spanning more than two million acres, the park encompasses an extraordinary diversity of landscapes, from sagebrush valleys and expansive grasslands to alpine plateaus, conifer forests, rivers, lakes, and geothermal basins. The interaction of geology, climate, and elevation has created a rich mosaic of habitats that support an impressive array of wildlife.

June is one of the most dynamic times of year in Yellowstone. Winter's grip has loosened, migratory birds have returned, and the park's large mammals are in the midst of their breeding and calving seasons. Bison calves, often called "red dogs," dot the valleys, elk cows seek secluded places to give birth, and predators remain active as they provision dens and young. Across the landscape, life is renewed during the brief but productive northern summer.

During our tour we explored a variety of Yellowstone's iconic habitats and wildlife viewing areas. We spent time in the Lamar Valley and Northern Range, renowned for their abundance of wildlife and sweeping grasslands. We visited the forests, lakes, waterfalls, and geothermal features of the park's interior, including the geyser basins and volcanic plateau that make Yellowstone famous worldwide. Along rivers, wetlands, mountain slopes, and sagebrush flats, we encountered a remarkable diversity of birds, mammals, and other wildlife while experiencing firsthand the ecological richness of America's first national park.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is particularly remarkable because it remains one of the few places in the lower 48 states where the full complement of native large mammals still persists. Bison, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, moose, black bears, grizzly bears, wolves, mountain lions, and other species continue to occupy much of their historic range, making Yellowstone one of North America's premier wildlife destinations.

BIRDS: 107 species were recorded, of which 5 were heard only.

The eBird link below details the 106 bird species observed during our 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 species was observed and how many were recorded.

[Yellowstone Birds, Bears & Wildlife | June 11-17, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS: — (15)

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana* — Seen at many locations including Paradise Valley, Gardiner, Lamar and Hayden Valleys.

American Bison *Bison bison* — Thousands of bison were observed throughout the park with significant herds in Lamar Valley and Hayden Valley.

Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis* — Five seen on cliffs at Calcite Springs, two ewes and three lambs.

Rocky Mountain Goat (I) *Oreamnos americanus* — Seen from Barronette Peak Overlook and from Pebble Creek.

Elk *Cervus elaphus* — Very common in Gardiner and Mammoth areas, cows with calves as well as bulls growing their velvet antlers.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* — Observed in various locations in the Northern Range and Cooke City areas.

Coyote *Canis latrans* — One coyote was seen in the Lamar Valley.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* — One observed with Quinn from Wolf Tracker on the drive through the Northern Range.

American Black Bear *Ursus americanus* — Black bears were commonly seen, both the cinnamon and black morphs, almost every day in the park. They were seen in the Tower Fall area and on the drive to Lamar Valley from Mammoth.

Brown (Grizzly) Bear *Ursus arctos* — We had two observations of Grizzly Bears. The first was a very distant and brief view of a sow with two yearlings in the Lamar Valley. The second, better sighting was a comfortably distant male grizzly in the Hayden Valley.

American Pika *Ochotona princeps* — We saw one pika on a rocky roadside pull-off on the road to Beartooth Pass.

Yellow-bellied Marmot *Marmota flaviventris* — Yellow-bellied Marmots were seen in many locations during our tour throughout the park. They were especially common right below our hotel in Gardiner along the river as well as on the way to Beartooth Pass

Least Chipmunk *Tamias minimus* — Seen in many locations throughout the park including Fountain Paint Pots and Slough Creek.

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* — Commonly seen and heard in the conifer forests in the park.

Uinta Ground Squirrel *Urocitellus armatus* — Apart from bison, this ground squirrel was probably the most frequently seen mammal in the park. They were almost ubiquitous in the sagebrush habitat.

BUTTERFLIES: — (17)

Rocky Mountain Parnassian *Parnassius smintheus* — Seen at Mammoth Hot Springs and also lots at meadow by Beartooth Highway.

Pale Swallowtail *Papilio eurymedon* — Seen at Mammoth Hot Springs.

Western Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio rutulus* — Seen at many places.

Julia Orangetip *Anthocharis julia stella* — Two or three seen at different locations.

Mead's Sulphur *Colias meadii* — The only sulphur identified, at Pebble Creek.

Boisduval's Blue *Icaricia icarioides* — Seen at several locations.

Lupine Blue *Icaricia lupini* — One at Slough Creek.

Arrowhead Blue *Glaucopteryx piasus* — One at Mammoth Hot Springs.

Greenish Blue *Plebejus saepiolus* — Two at Slough Creek.

Callippe Fritillary *Argynnis callippe* — One at Slough Creek.

Green Comma *Polygonia faunus* — One at Pebble Creek.

Mourning Cloak *Nymphalis antiopa* — A couple of sightings.

Common Ringlet *Coenonympha tullia* — Seen at many locations.

Hayden's Ringlet *Coenonympha haydenii* — Endemic to the region, with many at Slough Creek.

Common Alpine *Erebia epipsodea* — Seen at many locations.

Two-banded Checkered Skipper *Pyrgus ruralis* — One seen at Pebble Creek.

Western Arctic Skipper *Carterocephalus skada* — Seen in Cooke City, at the hotel.