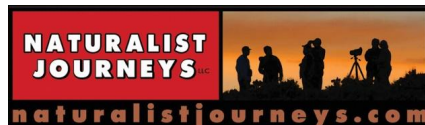


Yellowstone in the Fall

Species List | September 26 - October 2, 2026

with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Bryan Calk with Hugh Simmons, and participants Cliff, Carol, Donna, Mike, Terri, Selden, Karen, and Chuck

From the lakes and rivers of Island Park to Yellowstone's geyser basins and the peaks of the Tetons, this trip gave us an incredible mix of wildlife, birds, geology, and scenery. Early highlights included two Moose standing in the Henry's Fork on our first full morning, Pronghorn in the sagebrush, waterfowl around Henry's Lake, and the surprise of a juvenile Sabine's Gull. Clark's Nutcrackers became familiar companions in the higher country, while Mountain Bluebirds added flashes of color along the way. Yellowstone brought us close to massive Bison, Harlequin Ducks and an American Dipper along rushing LeHardys Rapids, and some of the park's most remarkable geothermal landscapes. We explored the otherworldly Porcelain Basin at Norris, watched the mudpots and fumaroles at Fountain Paint Pot, and learned how volcanism, glaciers, rivers, and hydrothermal activity have shaped the landscape around us.

Old Faithful gave us a spectacular eruption, while the Grand Prismatic overlook revealed the enormous spring in brilliant blues, yellows, and oranges through drifting steam. Lunch at Jackson Lake Lodge gave us a front-row view of the Tetons across Jackson Lake. American Pikas scrambled through a rocky slope as they prepared for winter, another bull Moose in rut trotted across the open country in Grand Teton, and Canada Jays glided through the forest along the Snake River. We enjoyed Harlequin Ducks in fast water, close Bison along the roadside, and endless views of fall-colored valleys and mountains. Just as lovely was the camaraderie of a wonderful group with plenty of laughter and unforgettable experiences among friends.

BIRDS (86):

During the trip, 86 species were recorded of which three were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 86 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 | Sept 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (11):

American Pika *Ochotona princeps* – A couple scurrying through a rocky scree slope while traveling south through Yellowstone; we watched them moving among the rocks and discussed their late-season haystacks and preparations for winter.

Yellow-pine / Least Chipmunk *Neotamias amoenus* / *Neotamias minimus* – Chipmunks were seen several times, including along the trail to the Grand Prismatic overlook. Both Yellow-pine and Least Chipmunks occur in the areas we visited, but they cannot be reliably separated by appearance in the field. We very likely encountered both species during the tour, but left individual sightings unidentified.

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* – Heard frequently in the conifer forests and seen several times. One of our best looks came at Fountain Paint Pot, where an individual perched in a tree and worked at a conifer cone, pulling it apart to reach the seeds.

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus* – One swimming across Henry's Lake and working through the floating vegetation. Another in the river behind Angler's Lodge.

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana* – Several groups in the open sagebrush country near Island Park on our first day, with more walking through the sagebrush at Antelope Flats in Grand Teton National Park.

American Bison *Bison bison* – Seen repeatedly throughout Yellowstone, including animals resting, pawing, and wallowing; close encounters along the road and during a classic bison jam; and a large bull grazing beside the Madison River on our final morning in the park.

Elk *Cervus canadensis* – First heard bugling in the distance at Angler's Lodge and Harriman State Park; a large bull was later seen grazing near Yellowstone Lake, and five Elk moving through the misty Madison River Valley made for one of our most scenic morning encounters.

Moose *Alces alces* – One of the major mammals of the trip. A cow and younger bull stood in the Henry's Fork on our first full morning and were still there when we returned later that afternoon. In Grand Teton National Park, a bull in rut trotted across an open area at fairly close range.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* – Our first group sighting came at Harriman State Park, where several does and young animals stood close beside the road, giving us great views of their enormous ears.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* – Seen bounding away from us along Antelope Flats Road in Grand Teton National Park during our early-morning sunrise drive.