

YELLOWSTONE BIRD & MAMMAL LIST

June 2011, Greg Smith, guide with five participants

BIRDS:

- Red-necked Grebe** – There was a pair at the north end of Henry's Lake – stunning plumage.
- Eared Grebe** – Most common at Broadview Lake – alternate plumage on everyone!
- Western Grebe** – Scattered on most large bodies of water throughout the trip.
- American White Pelican** – On most fresh bodies of water, but the flock was at Red Rocks.
- Double-crested Corm** – An adult and immature gave us great comparisons on Henry's Fork.
- Great Blue Heron** – The best look were the birds reflected in Hayden ponds in early morning.
- Great Egret** – One flying down Henry's Fork seemed out of place.
- Canada Goose** - Everywhere, everywhere, everywhere...
- Trumpeter Swan** – A few pair on Red Rocks Lakes.
- Gadwall** – There always seemed to be a pair in adequately sized waters.
- American Widgeon** – Our first pair were in a pond along the Lamar Valley, then throughout.
- Mallard** – One of the more common ducks on the trip, the drake is absolutely stunning.
- Blue-winged Teal** – Only one in the pond north of Broadview on the prairie.
- Cinnamon Teal** – A male at a pond south of Mammoth gave us the best look of all.
- Northern Shoveler** – Only a couple of males at the same pond north of Broadview.
- Northern Pintail** – One drake at Broadview.
- Green-winged Teal** – One male in the middle of a pond at Slough Creek.
- Canvasback** – A number of pair were seen on the last field day at Red Rock Lake.
- Redhead** – About five pair at Red Rock Lake was the only sighting for the trip.
- Ring-necked Duck** – A male and a female gave us our best looks on a pond west of Henry's Lake.
- Greater Scaup** – One male, and possibly a female at Red Rock Lake.
- Lesser Scaup** – Pairs were scattered in most mountain ponds.
- Bufflehead** – Very rare on this trip, but there were eight young ones at Slough Creek.
- Common Goldeneye** – A flock of about 75 birds in one of Yellowstone Lake's lagoons.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** – Common on Yellowstone waters.
- Common Merganser** – Common on most large streams for the trip.
- Ruddy Duck** – A few individuals at the pond north of Broadview were the only ones for the trip.
- Gray Partridge** – We saw a few of these birds paired up in the prairie north of Billings.
- Ring-necked Pheasant** – Heard while walking Pompey's Pillar in Billings.
- Wild Turkey** – A hen crossed the road as we left the prairie heading to Red Lodge.
- Turkey Vulture** – Not common, but always seen in the air.
- Osprey** – This aerial fish hunter was seen a couple of times on almost every day.
- Bald Eagle** – Two different age class birds on the prairie went along with the adult in Lamar.
- Northern Harrier** – Mostly males were seen and we only saw them over their favored habitat, grassy fields.
- Northern Goshawk** – A single individual flying over the trees just past Oxbow Bend.
- Swainson's Hawk** – A few over the prairie and one at Henry's Fork Lake were all we saw.
- Red-tailed Hawk** – Our most common raptor, with two dark phase.
- Ferruginous Hawk** – One bird at Red Rock Lakes was all we saw.
- Golden Eagle** – A number of single birds were seen flying low over the prairie & along Red Rocks.
- Peregrine Falcon** – One bird carrying a kill, at Inspiration Point in Yellowstone..

American Kestrel –	Not common, but the males we saw were stunning.
Sora –	We only heard this rail, but we heard it at least once at Red Rocks Lake
American Coot –	Seen mostly at Riverfront Park in Billings.
Sandhill Crane –	Scattered throughout the trip, but the best sighting was a pair with two colts.
Killdeer –	Our best looks were of birds on gravel roads adjacent to water.
American Avocet –	A gorgeous pair at the pond north of Broadview were stunning.
Spotted Sandpiper –	Every stream seemed to have a vociferous pair.
Upland Sandpiper –	Not nearly as many as last year, but we did see one north of Billings.
Long-billed Curlew –	A pair in the prairie acted as if they had young very close by.
Wilson’s Snipe –	Hard to see this year, but we heard them winnowing at Pompey’s Pillar.
Wilson’s Phalarope –	Not as many as expected, but a number of the prairie ponds were dry.
Black Tern –	A single bird working with the Franklin’s Gulls at Red Rock Lakes.
Franklin’s Gull –	Full alternate plumaged adults were feeding over Red Rock Lake.
Ring-billed Gull –	Casual sightings over larger bodies of water.
California Gull –	A few birds at Harriman State Park in Idaho were mixed in with Ring-billed Gulls.
Caspian Tern –	Only seen in Idaho, huge compared to the other Laridae.
Rock Pigeon –	Silos = Rock Pigeon, we had lots of silos in the prairie.
Mourning Dove –	Usually seen flashing across our windshield as we drove Montana’s back roads.
Eurasian-collared Dove –	They are coming... and now they are here.
Burrowing Owl –	One individual was a mile south of black-tailed prairie dog town.
Common Nighthawk –	Our only bird was seen on our Snake River rafting trip.
Vaux’s Swift –	Mixed in with a small flock of White-throated Swifts at Calcite Springs.
White-throated Swift –	Common at Calcite Springs, where it nests in the basalt columns.
Broad-tailed Hummingbird –	A male visited the feeders at Dornan’s.
Belted Kingfisher –	Seen at Harriman State Park or in other parts of that valley.
Red-naped Sapsucker –	A few were seen, mostly in areas with aspens or cottonwoods.
Williamson’s Sapsucker –	A gorgeous male at Slough Creek was a treat.
Downy Woodpecker –	Pompey’s Pillar had a number of these little guys.
Hairy Woodpecker –	Our best look was on the road from Billings to Red Lodge.
N. Three-toed Woodpecker –	One flew over the road at Dunraven Pass, Yellowstone.
Northern Flicker –	The most common woodpecker of the trip. Seen everyday just about.
Olive-sided Flycatcher –	Finally got to see an individual on Grassy Lake Road.
W. Wood-Pewee –	Our first was an uncooperative bird at the Red Lodge rest area.
Alder Flycatcher –	One seen briefly at the Red Lodge rest area.
Willow Flycatcher –	An individual at the roadside rest just north of Red Lodge was our only one.
Least Flycatcher –	Great looks at a calling bird at Pompey’s.
Hammond’s Flycatcher –	In the forest at the lunch stop, right beyond Red Lodge.
Cordilleran Flycatcher –	The only definitive bird was calling at Red Rock Lake campground.
Say’s Phoebe –	Seen at Pictograph State Park.
Black Phoebe –	One flew by the car in Harriman State Park.
Cassin’s Kingbird –	Seen on the prairie by a farm house late in the afternoon.
Western Kingbird –	Mostly on the prairie, and second only to the Eastern in visibility.
Eastern Kingbird –	Everywhere on the prairie, and sporadic through the rest of the trip.
Loggerhead Shrike –	We had 2-3 individuals out on the Prairie.
Warbling Vireo –	Quite common with best looks at Pompey’s Pillar.
Red-eyed Vireo –	A nice male calling continuously at Pompey’s Pillar.
Gray Jay –	Very cooperative birds at Pacific Creek in the Tetons.
Pinyon Jay –	Heard at a bluff top housing development on Billings.
Clark’s Nutcracker –	One brief appearance at the Beartooth Vista Point.
Black-billed Magpie –	Everywhere and nonetheless stunning!
American Crow –	Uncommon, seen mostly around the larger prairie farm residences.

Common Raven –	Everywhere foraging on anything.
Horned Lark –	Birds were taking flight as we drove on the prairie roads north of Billings.
Tree Swallow –	One of the swallows at Pompey’s Pillar, common throughout.
Violet-green Swallow –	One of the swallows at Pompey’s Pillar, and mountain areas.
N. Rough-winged Swallow -	One of the swallows at Pompey’s Pillar, and riparian areas.
Bank Swallow -	One of the swallows at Pompey’s Pillar.
Cliff Swallow -	One of the swallows at Pompey’s Pillar.
Barn Swallow –	One of the swallows at Pompey’s Pillar, agricultural lands throughout.
Black-capped Chickadee –	Around the hotel in Billings.
Mountain Chickadee –	Seen at Angler’s Lodge in Idaho.
Red-breasted Nuthatch –	Heard at the Jenny Lake overlook.
White-breasted Nuthatch –	We heard two birds on the trip, but were never able to catch a glimpse.
House Wren –	If we saw a wren, it was this little guy.
Marsh Wren –	Heard but not seen at Riverfront Park in Billings.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet –	Our best look was at West Thumb geyser basin.
Mountain Bluebird –	These <i>Azure-breasted Prairie Hoverers</i> were scatted throughout our trip.
Townsend’s Solitaire –	Very good looks at an individual flycatching at Pompey’s Pillar.
Swainson’s Thrush –	Seen at West Thumb geyser basin.
American Robin –	Our most common thrush and right up there for being commonly good looking.
Gray Catbird –	Very good looks at Riverfront Park on the Yellowstone River.
N. Mockingbird –	In and around Billing’s neighborhoods.
European Starling –	What can I say, everywhere.
American Pipit –	At 11,000 feet on the Beartooth Pass actively foraging and defending turf.
Cedar Waxwing –	Nice looks at birds perched over the Yellowstone River in Billings.
Yellow Warbler –	Singing and flying anywhere there were willows or cottonwoods.
Yellow-rumped Warbler –	In the forests around Lake and Colter Bay.
American Redstart –	A gorgeous male at Pompey’s Pillar.
N. Waterthrush –	Seen in the marshy area along the Yellowstone Pompey’s Pillar
MacGillivray’s Warbler –	Seen well at the Jenny Lake overlook.
Common Yellowthroat –	Seen and heard calling at Pompey’s Pillar.
Wilson’s Warbler –	Uncommon at best, with our best views at Pompey’s Pillar.
Yellow-breasted Chat –	Nice to have North America’s largest warbler sit in the open @ Pictograph.
Western Tanager –	We never got tired of looking at these explosions of color.
Green-tailed Towhee –	Pilgrim Creek Road had a very cooperative male.
Spotted Towhee –	Seen at Pompey’s Pillar singing on territory.
Chipping Sparrow –	Ubiquitous for the sparrow clan.
Brewer’s Sparrow –	Sporadic sightings in the appropriate sagebrush habitat.
Vesper Sparrow –	Common up on the prairie.
Lark Sparrow –	A few individuals up on the prairie.
Lark Bunting –	Scattered sightings of males only up on the prairie.
Savannah Sparrow –	Where the habitat was just grass, we would sight a few of these individuals.
Song Sparrow –	We had these birds show up in streamside willow thickets along the Yellowstone.
White-crowned Sparrow –	Our first was also our highest, in the snow on Beartooth.
Dark-eyed Junco –	Easily found in the right habitat – mix scrub adjacent to forest.
McCowan’s Longspur –	A male was perched briefly on a fence north of Billings.
Chestnut-collared Longspur –	Random birds sighted on fence and displaying in the prairie.
Black-headed Grosbeak –	At Pompey’s Pillar along the Yellowstone.
Lazuli Bunting –	A gorgeous male sitting atop a tree at Pictograph State Park.
Red-winged Blackbird –	A small nesting colony at the Riverfront Park in Billings.
W. Meadowlark –	These birds would scurry off the sides of the prairie roads as we drove by.
Yellow-headed Blackbird –	Best looks were at the Broadview ponds.
Brewer’s Blackbird –	We find these birds wandering aimlessly in the sagebrush flats.

Common Grackle –	Common and everywhere around Billings.
Brown-headed Cowbird –	Prairie = cattle = Cowbirds
Bullock’s Oriole –	A female at an old homestead out on the prairie
Baltimore Oriole –	A blazing bright male at the Red Lodge rest area.
Cassin’s Finch –	Best looks at the feeders in Cooke City.
House Finch –	Common, but sporadic throughout the trip.
Red Crossbill –	Outstanding looks at the feeders in Indian springs.
Pine Siskin –	Especially common, feeding on dandelion in Red Rocks.
American Goldfinch –	A few individuals seen at the roadside rest on the way to Red Lodge.
House Sparrow –	Usually seen around eateries in the small towns we visited.

TOTAL = 153

MAMMALS

Snowshoe Hare –	We saw our first snowshoe at the Mammoth geyser basin.
White-tailed Jackrabbit –	Crossed the road as we drove by the railroad tracks in Billings.
Desert Cottontail –	We saw these rabbits along the Yellowstone River and in the Prairie.
Mountain Cottontail –	Yellowstone had lots of these little guys, not uncommon.
Beaver –	One swimming on the Snake just below the dam.
Meadow Vole –	We saw lots of grass tunnels, but only a couple of individuals @ Red Rock.
American Muskrat –	A single individual swimming to an island at Slough Creek was all we saw.
Eastern Gray Squirrel –	This exotic was seen at Riverfront Park.
Eastern Fox Squirrel –	We saw only one and that was at Riverfront Park Park.
Red Squirrel –	We saw a number of these, which are very similar to the West’s chickaree.
Uinta Ground Squirrel –	All over the national parks, aka “bear burritos”.
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel –	The easiest to see was at Inspiration Point.
Richardson’s Ground Squirrel –	All over the prairie.
Black-tailed Prairie Dog –	The dog town in south and west of Molt had hundreds.
Yellow-bellied Marmot –	These guys kept popping their heads up on high altitude rocks.
Yellow Pine Chipmunk –	The bigger of the two species, not as common.
Least Chipmunk –	Very common in Yellowstone.
Red Fox –	We saw at one individual shedding its winter coat at the Wildlife Gallery.
Coyote –	We saw lone individual a number of times.
Gray Wolf –	A solo black individual was laying on the ground close to the road beyond Pelican Bay.
American Marten –	Bounding across the road in front of Pam was the only look.
Badger –	We saw two working the squirrels along the Lamar Valley.
Black Bear –	A few, but we really enjoyed the boar and sow getting ready to breed.
Grizzly Bear –	A young animal with a collar went swimming in a pond next to us was stunning.
Pronghorn –	Single individuals were first seen in the prairie north of Billings, with lots through the trip.
Bison –	Everywhere in Yellowstone a smattering in the Tetons.
Mountain Goat –	A female with kids was on Baronette Mountain near Cooke City.
Bighorn Sheep –	The ewes with young @ Calcite were right across the canyon from us.
Moose -	The best was a cow/calf pair just inside Yellowstone’s NE entrance.
Mule Deer -	Everywhere.
White-tailed Deer –	A few doe in the riparian along the Yellowstone were the first we saw.
Elk –	In herds scattered throughout both parks.

Total = 32