

# Yellowstone National Park: Wildlife & Birding | Species List

September 17 – 24, 2017 | Photos & List by Guide Woody Wheeler



**With Guides Woody Wheeler & Greg Smith and Participants Craig, Fiona, Hugh, Jane, Julia, Kay, Philip, Richard H., Richard O., Richard S., Ursula, and Vicki**



## **BIRDS**

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* – Seen daily on lakes and rivers.

**Trumpeter Swan** *Cygnus buccinator* – Seen most days, especially well at Flat Creek viewing area near Jackson where family units of adults and cygnets gathered.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera* – Seen twice at Flat Creek viewing area.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana* – Seen most days in calm stretches of rivers and lakes.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* – A daily denizen of rivers and lakes.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca* – Seen on both of our visits to Flat Creek Viewing Area.

**Redhead** *Aythya americana* – Also found on both visits to Flat Creek Viewing Area.

**Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria* – Several lovely specimens seen at close range at Flat Creek.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* – Seen on four days in calm bays and river stretches.

**Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila* – Flotilla of a dozen or so seen off Gull Point, Yellowstone Lake.

**Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* – Up to 20 seen at LeHardy Rapids.

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**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* – Seen off Gull Point on Yellowstone Lake.

**Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* – Seen on five days in flowing fresh water.

**Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica* – Seen primarily near the shores of Yellowstone Lake.

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser* – Seen most days fishing in lake bays and rivers.

**Dusky Grouse** *Dendragapus obscurus* – One female seen on the roadside near the top of Signal Mountain

**Pied-billed Grebe** – *Podilymbus podiceps* – Seen in calm waters at Flat Creek and Colter Bay

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* – Just one seen on first day at Flat Creek Viewing Area

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis* – One in Jackson Lake

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* – Seen on Yellowstone Lake and along the Snake River.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* – Seen along Snake and Yellowstone Rivers.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* – Seen on five days, most memorably catching a fish at Jackson Lake.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* – Nice view of one perched and another soaring above Slough Creek in Yellowstone National Park.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* – Seen on first two days over marsh and grassland areas.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus* – Seen soaring on our second day out at Yellowstone.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* – One soaring on day two over Yellowstone and another hunting amid a mixed flock near Lake Hotel.

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* – Seen almost daily along waterways.

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* – Seen first two days; one perched on fence near Jackson.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* – Seen daily, often alongside the road.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* – Nearly a daily sighting in calm bays and smooth-flowing stretches of river.

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis* – A few were visible by spotting scope in marsh lands below the National Wildlife Art Museum in Jackson.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* – A few found in Bridge Bay Campground in Yellowstone NP.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* – Just a few in Slough Creek, Yellowstone NP.

**California Gull** *Larus californicus* – Common in Yellowstone and Jackson Lakes.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* – Spotted two days in Grand Teton National Park perched on wires or in flight.

**Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* – One surprise sighting at Hayden Valley on snowy morning.

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* – Several seen in Yellowstone Lake off Gull Point.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* – One seen at Flag Ranch, another along Firehole River at Old Faithful Geyser Basin.



Harlequin Ducks in LeHardy Rapids



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**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* – Seen on three days of journey – our only woodpecker!

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* – Found on five days of the journey, including one that flew just overhead at Hayden Valley, Yellowstone.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* – Common from Madison to Old Faithful and surrounding geyser basins.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* – Spotted by Richard O. in a conifer tree top in Pilgrim Creek Valley near Grand Teton National Park.

**Western Wood Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus* – Several catching bugs in mud flats at Flat Creek.

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia* – Most commonly seen in Jackson area.

**Clark's Nutcracker** *Nucifraga Columbiana* – This handsome high-elevation conifer dweller is at home in Yellowstone with its abundance of White-bark Pines.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* – Seen most days of the trip; often in parking lots food begging

**Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina* – One at Bridge Bay Campground and another at Colter Bay, Jackson Lake.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* – Most common swallow of trip; many seen at Flat Creek

**Mountain Chickadee** *Poecile gambeli* – The only chickadee definitively seen and heard on trip. This makes sense, as we were always between 6,000 and 8,000 feet elevation.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta Canadensis* – Heard often on forest walks.

**American Dipper** *Cinclus mexicanus* – A close look at one in a snow storm in LeHardy Rapids.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula* – Seen on last four days of trip in forested areas.

**Mountain Bluebird** *Sialia currucoides* – Active and common in groups almost daily in Sagebrush Steppe areas.

**Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi* – One spotted by Craig early in the journey, and more seen by Greg and his passengers in the Madison Valley.

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius* – Seen almost daily in just about every habitat type.

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens* – Found in and around geyser basins.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Oreothlypis celata* – Several seen in willows near Jackson visitor center and by Jackson Lake Dam.

**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum* – One of the most unusual sightings of the trip at Bridge Bay Campground, Yellowstone Lake by Greg's crew.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* – Common throughout journey in multiple habitats.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* – A few seen on last three days, primarily in the Jackson area in willow wetland areas

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* – One of most common sparrows of trip, seen almost daily, often on the ground.

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* – Another commonly seen bird, generally foraging on the ground or low in forested areas.



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**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* – Seen well on four days, including quite a few juveniles.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis* – Found on third day in Hayden Valley.

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* – Seen on three days in riparian vegetation areas.

**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus* – Seen on first two days of the trip in the Jackson area.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* – Most seen in cat tail marsh near Jackson.

**Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta* – Beautiful look at one perched on rock while others sang in Slough Creek, Yellowstone NP.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* – Just a few individuals seen in cat tail marsh at Flat Creek Viewing Area near Jackson.

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus* – One of most common species of trip, seen daily.

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus* – Another common species seen and heard daily.

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis* – A few flew over Fountain Paint Pots geyser basin.

## MAMMALS

**Pronghorn** *Antilocapra americana* – Commonly seen in Yellowstone with especially close looks in Lamar Valley

**American Bison** *Bison bison* – Hundreds in Hayden and Lamar Valleys; many sprinkled across landscape throughout Grand Teton and Yellowstone Parks

**Bighorn Sheep** *Ovis canadensis* – Encountered a flock of half-a-dozen close to road near Yellowstone River bridge. We saw several more at entrance to Calcite Canyon trail.

**Moose** *Alces alces* – This was an excellent Moose trip with a total of seven seen, including bulls, cows, and young, and an animated chase scene involving a young bull and a cow

**Elk** *Cervus canadensis* – Dozens seen on trip, many involved in rut. Heard and saw bugling behavior.

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* – Seen on three days, especially well at Oxbow Bend and along Moose/Wilson Road.

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – Had several good coyote sightings, including one that leapt suddenly on to the road near Lake, walked calmly ahead of us in the middle of the road, and then jumped into a snow bank in search of rodents. Another stalked Canada Geese in Hayden Valley.

**Gray Wolf** *Canis Lupus* – A pack of five in varied morphs seen well in Hayden Valley feeding on carcass.



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**North American River Otter** *Lontra canadensis* –

Watched several descend from rocks into spillway below Jackson Lake Dam to search for fish

**American Badger** *Taxidea taxus* – Had a nice long look of one trotting alongside road north of Old Faithful for several minutes.

**American Black Bear** *Ursus americanus* – One foraging in valley above Slough Creek; another harvesting Hawthorne berries in tree on Moose/Wilson Road with cubs nearby



**Mountain Goat** *Oreamnos americanus* – A dozen seen on the slopes of Barronette Peak in the NE part of Yellowstone Park.

**Yellow-bellied Marmot** *Marmota flaviventris* – Fiona alertly spotted one near the Yellowstone River Bridge. Most were already in hibernation by this time of year.

**Least Chipmunk** *Tamias minimus* – Daily sightings of these speedy diminutive chipmunks dashing across roads or trails.

**Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* – Only one seen on third day in Bridge Bay campground.

**Douglas Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus douglasii* – Seen and heard most days in conifer forests.

**Pine Marten** *Martes americana* – One fortuitous sighting on bridge over Huckleberry Creek near Flagg Ranch. It ran across bridge then disappeared into brush on the other side.