



Naturalist Journeys  
Yellowstone National Park: Birding & Wildlife  
Sept 25 – Oct 2, 2021

## TOUR SPECIES LIST

With guides Hugh Simmons and Bryan Calk, with 10 participants Christina, Raj, Juliana, Sid, Craig, Mark, Larry, Fran, Mariel, and Roy



Common Raven from Roaring Mountain by Bryan Calk

Compiled by: Bryan Calk

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only  
(I)=introduced

Summary: Beautiful weather and dramatic scenery followed us everywhere as we explored the wonders of Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas. Every day had its own exceptional “peak experience,” with some highlights including multiple Grizzlies, a lone Gray Wolf, Grand Prismatic, Old Faithful, and almost 80 bird and 15 mammal species! In addition to Yellowstone National Park, our route included time on the west side of the ecosystem at Red Rock Lakes NWR, Henry’s Lake and Harriman State Park.

### BIRDS (77 species recorded):

#### DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*—Frequently seen in rivers and ponds throughout the trip. A notable observation was a small group of geese feeding in Le Hardy Rapids.

**Trumpeter Swan** *Cygnus buccinator*— A pair seen well at Henry’s Lake, and seen distantly at Swan Lake

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*— A few seen in the Snake River behind Angler’s Lodge and at Henry’s Lake and Harriman State Park

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*— Seen distantly at Henry’s Lake through the scope

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*— A large congregation at Harriman State Park, and a few at Henry’s Lake

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*— Many seen at Henry’s Lake and Harriman State Park

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*— Scattered groups on all types of water throughout the trip

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*— A couple seen distantly through the scope at Henry’s Lake

**Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria*— Males and females seen mixed with a large waterfowl flock at Henry’s Lake

**Redhead** *Aythya americana*— Seen well from the campground access at Henry’s Lake

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*— Seen at most lake access points of Henry’s Lake

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*— A few seen distantly at Henry’s Lake

**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*— Good numbers seen at Henry’s Lake

**Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*— A few mixed in with the Barrow's Goldeneyes at Henry's Lake and Fishing Bridge at Yellowstone Lake

**Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica*— Fair sized groups at Henry's Lake and Yellowstone Lake, some drakes transitioning back into breeding plumage

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*— Seen mostly on the rivers at many locations

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*— A good sized group hanging together at Henry's Lake

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—A few here and there at Henry's Lake

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*—Two seen through the scope at Henry's Lake, giving a good comparison with Eared Grebe

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*—Seen well from the north shore of Henry's Lake

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*— Several groups at various points of Henry's Lake, and a few seen sleeping on Beartooth Lake

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis*— Very hazy and distant views through the scope at Henry's Lake

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

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (I)— Flying through Gardiner and Bozeman

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (I)— A few seen in Gardiner by some of the group

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

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*— Huge numbers seen along the western side of Henry's Lake, and small groups on a few ponds in the park.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae**

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*— One seen at Harriman State Park, and a few seen along the Yellowstone River on the drive back to Bozeman

**California Gull** *Larus californicus*— Several seen along the shores of Henry's Lake

#### **LOONS: Gaviidae**

**Common Loon** *Gavia immer*— A few seen distantly through the scopes at Henry's Lake

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*— Seen perched in snags across the water at Harriman State Park

#### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*— Seen flying over and sitting distantly at Harriman State Park

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

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— Seen well along one of the river crossings just north of Angler's Lodge

#### **IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*— One seen from the campgrounds viewing area of Henry's Lake

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

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*— Seen mostly out the van windows during the drives, but a few were seen soaring around the fields at Angler's Lodge

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— One seen perched at Firehole Falls loop road, flying along the Snake River at Angler's Lodge, and over Silver Lake at Harriman State Park

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

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*— One Juvenile and one adult seen by Bryan, Raj, Sid, and Juliana at Joe Brown Boat Launch north of Gardiner (thanks to a tip from our waitress Piper from Wonderland Café!)

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*— Seen at a couple locations at Henry's Lake

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*— One juvenile seen being mobbed by a group of magpies on the road to Henry's Lake

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*— A few seen throughout the trip, moving up and down the rivers and perched over lakes. Almost all were adults except for a few juveniles seen along the drive to Bozeman

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*— Seen almost every day, mostly from the van during drives

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*— One male seen fishing the Snake River at Angler's Lodge, and one female seen distantly at Joe Brown Boat Launch by Bryan, Raj, Juliana, and Sid

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Red-naped Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*— Perched briefly for some to see at the campground area at Henry's Lake

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*— One at Beartooth Lake up high and against the sun, one at Grand View along the north rim of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*— Two seen on fence posts and a utility pole at the Henry's Lake campground area

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

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— One male seen well cruising past at Rock Creek Vista Overlook of Beartooth Pass, and one seen in the Lamar Valley

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

**Canada Jay** *Perisoreus canadensis*— Two seen exceptionally well at Beartooth Lake, and a few seen each day during our time in Cooke City

**Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri*— Seen while waiting for the pilot car at the construction area by Beartooth Lake, and one seen in the morning outside the Alpine Motel

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia*— Several seen most days of the trip, but a memorable experience was had in the Lamar Valley when they were perching on Bison heads!

**Clark's Nutcracker** *Nucifraga columbiana*— Seen every day once we made it to Cooke City

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*— Present in Bozeman in good numbers, and one notable observation along the drive from Fishing Bridge to the Grizzlies

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*— Several seen every day. One especially charismatic individual was croaking out puffs of steam in the cold morning air at Roaring Mountain

**TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Mountain Chickadee** *Poecile gambeli*— Seen well at Beartooth Lake, Slough Creek, and a few other locations throughout the week

**LARKS: Alaudidae**

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*— Small numbers of cooperative birds were hanging out around the parking area of Beartooth Pass

**KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa*—Several seen exceptionally well at Slough Creek

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*— A few at Slough Creek and one at Artist's Point

**NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*— Very cooperative birds delighted the photographers of the group at Beartooth Lake

**CREEPERS: Certhiidae**

**Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana*— Only gave brief views, but seen at Beartooth Lake and Slough Creek

**WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*—One gave fleeting views in the cattails at Harriman State Park

**DIPPERS: Cinclidae**

**American Dipper** *Cinclus mexicanus*—Craig and Mark briefly saw one below the bridge at Grand Prismatic, and we all enjoyed a family group playing in the river at Le Hardy Rapids

**STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)—Seen in town in Bozeman and Gardiner, and a few seen hanging out in the Lamar Valley

**THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**Mountain Bluebird** *Sialia currucoides*— One seen extraordinarily well on the drive around Henry's Lake that posed for photos. One at Angler's Lodge, and a few seen in the Lamar Valley and on drives

**Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi*— Seen well at Slough Creek and as fly-overs or distantly at a few other locations. Seen exceptionally well by Juliana, Raj, Sid, and Bryan at the Golden Eagle pull-off

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*— Seen most days, mostly moving in groups

**WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*— One seen at Angler's Lodge and one at Henry's Lake by some, and a large congregation seen by Juliana, Raj, Sid, and Bryan at Joe Brown Boat Launch

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (I)— Seen by some in Bozeman and Gardiner

### PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*— Sought out and found by Mariel at Henry's Lake, and several seen exceptionally well in the travertine terraces of Mammoth

### FINCHES: Fringillidae

**Black Rosy-Finch** *Leucosticte atrata*— Flock seen in flight very poorly from Rock Creek Vista overlook... never circled back or landed for better views

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*— Extraordinary views of a flock of all ages and sexes feeding on spruce cones at Rock Creek Overlook from just feet away

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*— Seen well mixed in with the Red Crossbills, and also up high or as fly-overs at a couple other locations

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*— One fly-over in the Lamar Valley while waiting on the wolves that were a no-show

### NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*— Two seen foraging in the brush from the van when pulling out of the over-crowded Yellowstone picnic area

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis*— Many Pink-sided Juncos at Beartooth Lake, and a few brief sightings elsewhere

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—A couple seen at Henry's Lake, Beartooth Lake (juvenile posing for photos), and in Cooke City

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*— Seen at the first overlook of Henry's Lake

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii*— Seen briefly by a few on the Red Rocks Lake road when stopped along the small stream

### NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Some seen mixed in with the Brewer's Blackbirds in Gardiner, and seen on the drive from Bozeman to Island Park

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*—Seen almost daily, mostly in parking lots

### NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*— Seen at Angler's Lodge and Harriman State Park

## **Mammals (15 species)**

**Pronghorn** *Antilocapra Americana*— Seen nearly daily. Large numbers seen on the drive from Bozeman to Island Park on day 1

**American Bison** *Bison bison*— Seen daily inside the park boundaries and the Cooke City area

**Bighorn Sheep** *Ovis canadensis*— Seen at the end of our last full day out in Gardiner Canyon

**Rocky Mountain Goat** *Oreamnos americanus (I)*— Seen distantly through the scope on the Lamar Valley day

**Moose** *Alces alces*— A few seen along the road between Cooke City and the Lamar Valley

**Elk** *Cervus elaphus*— Seen many times, but most conspicuously in Mammoth and surrounding areas

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus*— Seen almost daily, including some very curious individuals on the road just outside Cooke City

**Gray Wolf** *Canis lupus*— One lone wolf seen hunting for small mammals in a meadow on the drive from Old Faithful to Mammoth

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*— One seen crossing the road ahead of the front van on the way out to the Lamar Valley early in the morning

**Brown (Grizzly) Bear** *Ursus arctos*— One seen across the Lamar Valley in a standoff with some Bison, and fantastic views of two foraging together right by Yellowstone Lake

**American Pika** *Ochotona princeps*— Many sneaking through the scree above tree line just below Beartooth Pass

**Yellow-pine Chipmunk** *Tamias amoenus*—Seen well at Slough Creek

**Uinta Chipmunk** *Tamias umbrinus*—One gave itself away about 10 feet up a conifer at Beartooth Lake. Notably larger than Least

**Least Chipmunk** *Tamias minimus*— Many scampering about in several locations, running with their tail sticking straight up

**American Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*— Heard more often than seen, but great views were had in a few locations on multiple days

### Reptiles (1 species)

**Wandering (Western Terrestrial) Gartersnake** *Thamnophis elegans*— Seen crossing the trail and in-hand at Harriman State Park