



Yellowstone National Park – Fall 2018 | Species List September 25 – October 2, 2018 | Compiled by Woody Wheeler

BIRDS (55 SPECIES)

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: ANATIDAE (13)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* – Seen every day in rivers and lakes



Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator* – Also seen daily, sometimes with young. 45 seen in Red Rock Lakes

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* – Seen on two days in small lakes and bays

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* – Seen in eclipse plumage on half of our days

Gadwall *Anas strepera* – Seen most often in Jackson and on the Idaho leg of journey

American Wigeon *Anas americana* – One of the most numerous birds of trip, seen daily, sometimes by the

thousands

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* – Seen almost daily in wetlands

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* – A few in Jackson and in protected areas in Yellowstone

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria* – Only seen on one day, in Red Rock Lakes NWR

Redhead *Aythya americana* – One at Jackson Visitor Center, then big numbers of them in Indian Pond at Yellowstone NP and in Red Rock Lakes NWR

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* – A few at Indian Pond, Yellowstone NP; and at Red Rock Lakes NWR

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* – Numerous in Yellowstone Rivers, including at LeHardy Rapids, and on the Henry's Fork River in Idaho

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* – Twice recorded at Jackson Visitor Center and at Red Rock Lakes NWR

LOONS: Gaviidae (1)

Common Loon *Gavia immer* – Two on last day of the trip in Lewis Lake, YNP

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* – A few individuals at Jackson Visitor Center, Red Rock Lakes NWR at Sparrow Ponds, and at Silver Lake, Harriman State Park, Idaho

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auratus* – A surprise small flock in winter plumage at Sparrow Ponds, Red Rock Lakes NWR

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CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* – Seen on five days in rivers and on larger lakes

PELICANS: Pelicanidae (1)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* – A memorable sighting of 20-plus birds on Silver Lake in Idaho's Harriman State Park. The group was herding fish in the shallows, then harvesting them with rhythmic bill dipping.



NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* – A kettle rising in a thermal during southbound vertical migration in Idaho near Henry's Lake

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetis* – A few still around prior to migrating south. Best look was at Harriman State Park in Idaho, where we came within 50 yards of one eating a fish in a snag.



HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (6)

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* – Beautiful view of two adults soaring together in Red Rock Lakes NWR

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* – Seen on three days over open fields and marshes; most seen at Harriman State Park near restored ranch area along Henry's Fork River.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* – One flew just a few feet in front of us as we birded the shore of Upper Red Rock Lake. What a pleasant surprise!

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* – Seen daily near water. One perched across from Angler's Lodge on the Henry Fork River

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* – One in flight on day two of trip near Yellowstone Lake

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* – A daily sighting in a wide variety of morphs

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica Americana* – Seen on four days, including thousands on Red Rock Lakes

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous* – Just one in Hayden Valley, YNP

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae(3)

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* – Just a few at Jackson Visitor Center and Silver Lake, ID

California Gull *Larus californicus* – A handful at Jackson Lake Visitor Center and on Yellowstone Lake

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* – One fishing the Henry's Fork River at Angler's Lodge

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (1)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* – In towns and cities including Jackson and West Yellowstone

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosi* – A beautiful, memorable, lengthy and close-up look at one near Bridge Bay Campground near Yellowstone Lake on our way to Lake Lodge. Thrilling!



KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megasceryle alcyon* – Seen on five days along rivers and lake shores

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)

Merlin *Falco columbarius* – One in flight just as we were leaving Artist's Point, YNP

JAYS, CROWS AND ALLIES: Corvidae (4)

Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* – Now called Canada Jay, we had several on day three, YNP



Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia* – Seen primarily around Jackson and on Idaho leg of trip

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga Columbiana* – Seen and heard daily in YNP; fantastic view of perching and caching behavior at Kepler Cascades near Old Faithful

Common Raven *Corvus corax* – The ubiquitous corvid of the trip, seen and heard daily

NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS: Sittidae (1)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta Canadensis* – Surprisingly elusive on this tour, we finally saw four in mixed forest near Lewis Lake, YNP

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae (2)

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* – Many seen along fence lines near Henry's Lake; others seen on Idaho leg of the journey and near Jackson



American Robin *Turdus migratorius* – First seen in West Yellowstone, then again in Jackson

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – Seen most days except in mountainous environs

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae (1)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* – A few in the barren flats of Midway Geyser Basin

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* – Flitting through trees and calling at Upper Red Rock Lake, Montana

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (2)

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* – Seen on three days in coniferous forests

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* – Just one recorded at Harriman State Park, Idaho

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* – At bookends of trip: in Jackson Visitor Center wetlands and in Midway Geyser Basin

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* – Only one seen flying over grasslands in Red Rock Lakes NWR

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* – Almost a daily visitor, often in small flocks foraging near shops, parking lots and geyser basins

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* – Only seen on two days, at Jackson and Old Faithful

FINCHES: Fringillidae (3)

Red Crossbill *Laxia curvirostra* – Several flocks heard in conifer tree tops at Whiskey Jack picnic area and on Firehole Canyon loop road

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* – Seen and hear on four days near the end of our trip in coniferous forests

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* – Seen and heard near Angler's Lodge, Island Park, Idaho

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – A small flock on ground at Jackson Airport

MAMMALS (9)

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana* – Two at Nature Conservancy's Flat Creek Ranch in Idaho, then a distant group near Lower Red Rock Lake NWR

American Bison *Bison bison* – Seen all days but one and in great numbers in Yellowstone NP

Rocky Mountain Elk *Cervus canadensis nelsoni* – Heard and seen often in rut behavior: especially at Yellowstone Lake Lodge and at Hayden Valley.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* – Seen on three days with best view of mother and fawn near Dunraven Pass, YNP

Coyote *Canis latrans* – Watched one at length stalking and pouncing on prey, Hayden Valley, YNP, saw another one near road

American Black Bear *Ursus americanus* – Four were harvesting White-bark Pine Cones near Dunraven Pass, YNP. The cubs were high in the trees while a parent patrolled underneath.

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel *Callospermophilus lateralis* – One found not hibernating yet in Hayden Valley, YNP

Least Chipmunk *Tamias minimus* – Seen almost daily darting across roadsides or foraging in forests and meadows

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* – Also very commonly seen and heard on trip – especially around our Lake Lodge Cabins where they often scampered on our roof tops.



AMPHIBIANS (1)

Western Chorus Frog

Pseudacris triseria – Seen, heard and touched at Harriman State Park, Idaho

OTHER TAXA and INVERTEBRATES (2)

Pallid Grasshopper *Trimerotropis pallidipennis* – Found on dry hillsides at Lake Butte, YNP

White-lined Sphinx Moth *Hyles lineata* – One tried to hitch a ride on back bumper of van at Canyon. Trish released it to the wild.

Photos taken by Woody Wheeler

