



**Birding Canyon Country:  
Zion, Bryce, Grand Canyon, & Capital Reef National Parks  
May 12 – 22, 2021**

**Guide: Pat Lueders; assisted by Kelly Vandenheuvel & Hugh Simmons  
And 8 participants: Gina, Phil, Lorry, Carol, Elizabeth, Charlie, Dottie, & Nancy  
Compiled by Pat Lueders**

Experiencing the magnificent beauty of these four National Parks, each unique and different in their own splendor, was enhanced by the sighting of 155 bird species and 12 mammals. We covered the state of Utah, exploring its canyons, valleys, lakes, and mountains, leaving with a deep respect for this amazingly scenic area of our country.

(EX)=Seen only on the Salt Lake extension

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

(I)=introduced

**BIRDS (155 species recorded, of which 3 were heard only):**

**DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (13)**

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*—Seen most days in many locations

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*—(EX) Beautiful pair seen in Layton Commons Park

**Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*—(EX) Many males & females seen at Farmington Bay WMA

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*—Seen at Farmington Bay & Koosharem Reservoir

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*—Seen at all water areas including Jackson Flat Reservoir

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*—Great scope views at Jackson Flat & Koosharem Reservoirs

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*—Seen almost daily at all water areas

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*—Spotted & good scope views at Koosharem Reservoir

**Redhead** *Aythya americana*—At Farmington Bay & one lone male at Jackson Flat Reservoir

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*—Good views at Farmington Bay & Jackson Flat

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*—A few sighted at Jackson Flat Reservoir

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*—What fun to have close views of a female with 3 juveniles in the Virgin River in Zion Canyon

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*—A group favorite! A beautiful male in breeding plumage at the Boulder pond & others seen often at all reservoirs

**NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)**

**Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii*—Pair seen crossing the road at Grafton & a pair seen at the Capital Reef Resort

**PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (3)**

**Chukar** *Alectoris chukar* (I)—(EX) What luck! A target species at Antelope Island, we saw two males & a female at close range!

**Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* (I)—(EX) Seen twice, at Farmington Bay & Antelope Island

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*—Spotted at the Gratto stop in Zion National Park

**GREBES: Podicipedidae (5)**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—Seen at all of the reservoir stops

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*—Rarer than Eared in the west, we spotted one at Jackson Flat & a leucistic individual at Bear River MBR

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*—Many individuals in beautiful breeding plumage were seen at all of the reservoirs

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis*—Nice scope looks at four individuals at Jackson Flat Reservoir

**Clark's Grebe** *Aechmophorus clarkii*—(EX) Seen with Western for nice comparisons at Bear River MBR

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (1)—Seen on drives thru local towns

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (1)—Seen almost daily at all locations

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—Seen only a little less frequently than Collared-Doves at most locations

**CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (1)**

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus*—Only seen once, by Elizabeth, behind the building at the Zion Hotel

**NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)**

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*—Spotted by Gina at dinner outside at Kanab

**SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)**

**White-throated Swift** *Aeronautes saxatalis*—Beautiful views from above at Bryce; seen going into the rock crevices to nest

**HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)**

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri*—Most frequently seen hummingbird at all feeders

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus*—Distinctive “wing whines” heard often at many locations & perched individuals at Red Rock Canyon

**RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (3)**

**Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola*—(EX) Heard & then seen within five feet of the auto, at Farmington Bay

**Sora** *Porzana carolina*—(HO) Distinctive vocalization heard in marshy area behind the Capital Reef Resort

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—Many seen often at all reservoirs

**CRANES: Gruidae (1)**

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis*—Spotted & distant scope looks at Koosharem Reservoir on the last day; additional individuals seen at Farmington Bay WMA

**STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*—Seen at Farmington Bay & by the group at Jackson Flat

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*—Thousands at Antelope Island; group views at Jackson Flat

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (3)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*—(EX) Scope views of a few individuals at Antelope Island  
**Snowy Plover** *Charadrius nivosus*—Spotted on the shore & scope views at Jackson Flat Reservoir  
**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*—Seen & heard at all reservoirs

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (10)**

**Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus*—(EX) Individuals spotted on the Antelope Island causeway & in the fields  
**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*—A surprise! This rarer godwit was seen & photographed at Jackson Flat Reservoir for positive identification  
**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himanastica*—(EX) Good numbers spotted with Long-billed Dowitchers at Farmington Bay  
**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—(EX) Seen feeding on the shoreline at Bear River MBS  
**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*—A few at Jackson Flat & many at Farmington Bay  
**Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*—Heard & quick looks at one in the marsh behind Capital Reef Resort  
**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*—Thousands at Antelope Island & one on the shore at Jackson Flat  
**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*—Best looks at a pair at Jackson Flat; others at Farmington Bay  
**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*—(EX) Spotted along the shore at Bear Island MBR  
**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*—(EX) Seen at the Antelope Island causeway & in the fields

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (5)**

**Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan*—Seen at Farmington Bay & scope views at Jackson Flat  
**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*—Group seen together at Jackson Flat Reservoir  
**California Gull** *Larus californicus*—Hugh numbers at Farmington Bay & small group at Jackson Flat  
**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*—Seen at Farmington Bay & by Gina at Jackson Flat  
**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*—(EX) Watched at length hovering & feeding at Farmington Bay WMA

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—(EX) Seen with Double-crested for comparison at Farmington Bay  
**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*—At Farmington Bay & Jackson Flat Reservoir

### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—Seen on the last day near a lake while driving to Salt Lake City

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (5)**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*—Seen by the group at Grafton & on the Virgin River in Zion NP  
**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*—Seen at Farmington Bay & spotted flying at Jackson Flat  
**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*—(EX) Seen wading at Farmington Bay WMA  
**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*—(EX) In breeding plumage at Farmington Bay WMA  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*—(EX) Wading during the day in the open in the marsh at Farmington Bay

### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)**

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*—Utah is the primary breeding ground of this species & thousands were seen at Farmington Bay, Antelope Island, & Bear Island; a few were seen well at Jackson Flat

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)**

**California Condor** *Gymnogyps californianus*—Most of the group saw a soaring individual while in the canyon at Zion

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—Seen daily at all locations

#### **OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—Great looks at a low soaring individual at Jackson Flat Reservoir

#### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (4)**

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*—(EX) Seen at Farmington WMA, Antelope Island, & Bear island

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*—Scope looks at a perched individual during visit to Grafton

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*—Close looks at a soaring individual in Salt Lake City near the airport

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*—Most frequently seen hawk during the tour

#### **OWLS: Strigidae (2)**

**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*—(EX) Adult & two juveniles perched in Cottonwood tree at Antelope Island's Garr Ranch

**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia*—(EX) Seen from the road at known nesting spot on Antelope Island

#### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (3)**

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*—Seen at the Grotto at Zion NP

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*—Seen by Gina at Bryce NP

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*—Pair seen interacting at Zion NP

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—Seen at Bear Island & on the drive to Salt Lake City

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (8)**

**Hammond's Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondii*—Seen & heard in the willows at Jackson Flat Reservoir

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondii*—Good looks & photos to ID this flycatcher at Capital Reef

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*—Pair spotted in the Fremont River at Capital Reef

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*—Seen fly catching across the Fremont River on hike in slot canyon at Capital Reef

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—Distant scope views of a male while visiting Grafton

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens*—Seen & heard best at Grafton, also seen at Calf Creek

**Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans*—Pair nest building in slot canyon at Capital Reef

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*—Seen almost daily at most locations

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (2)**

**Plumbeous Vireo** *Vireo plumbeus*—Heard & then seen well along Fremont River at Capital Reef

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*—Heard & good looks at Grafton & Calf Creek

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*—(EX) Seen perched on a shelter at Antelope Island

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (7)**

**Pinyon Jay** *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*—We heard & then saw a pair during our walk at Zion NP

**Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri*—Seen often on walks on the rim at Bryce NP

**Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—Pair came to host's feeders on visit to Calf Creek

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia*—Seen often when driving; pair nesting behind Capital Reef Resort

**Clark's Nutcracker** *Nucifraga columbiana*—Three seen at Grand Canyon North Rim & pair at Bryce NP

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Seen often at many locations

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*—Seen daily at all locations; close views at Bryce NP

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)**

**Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapillus*—Seen along the rim at Bryce & at Calf Creek

### **LARKS: Alaudidae (1)**

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*—(EX) Many seen & heard on Antelope Island

### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Seen often, best at Grafton near the cemetery

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—Many seen feeding over Jackson Flat Reservoir

**Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina*—Such fun to look down on these beautiful swallows from above from the rim of Bryce

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*—Nice looks at one of these swallows with other swallow species perched on a utility wire at Jackson Flat

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—Seen flying often over open fields

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Seen best collecting mud for nests on shore of Jackson Flat

### **KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—(EX) Seen with a mixed warbler flock at Garr Ranch, Antelope Island

### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (3)**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*—(HO) Distinctive vocalization heard at Garr Ranch, Antelope Island

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—Best seen during walk on the rim at Bryce NP

**Pygmy Nuthatch** *Sitta pygmaea*—Small flock seen & heard during walk on the rim at Bryce

### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (1)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*—Nesting pair seen on walk behind Capital Reef Resort

### **WRENS: Troglodytidae (4)**

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus*—(EX) Spotted on the rocks at Antelope Island

**Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus*—(HO) Heard often but not seen on our slot canyon hike at Capital Reef

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—Best looks during walk at Zion NP

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*—(EX) Heard often & then good looks at Farmington Bay WMA

### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)—Seen almost daily at many locations

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)**

**Sage Thrasher** *Oreoscoptes montanus*—(EX) A few seen well at Antelope Island

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*—Best seen on trip to Grafton

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (5)**

**Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana*—Males & females coming to water in the field in Grafton

**Mountain Bluebird** *Sialia currucoides*—Male & female perched on dead tree for great looks on rim at Bryce

**Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi*—Perched out in the open at the top of a tree on our walk at Red Canton

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*—(EX) Seen on the ground at Garr Ranch, Antelope Island

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*—Seen daily at most locations

### **WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*—Good scope looks on our visit to Grafton

### **SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliogonatidae (1)**

**Phainopepla** *Phainopepla nitens*—Seen in good numbers during visit to Grafton

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (I)—Seen daily at all locations

### **WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae (1)**

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*—(EX) A surprise sighting! Seen feeding along the shore at Bear Island

### **FINCHES: Fringillidae (5)**

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Seen at Calf Creek feeders with Cassin's Finches for nice comparisons

**Cassin's Finch** *Haemorhous cassinii*—Seen with House Finch at Calf Creek feeders

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*—Seen often at many locations including Calf Creek feeders

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*—Seen often; best seen at Bryce rim perched on dead trees

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*—Seen & heard best at Bryce & Boulder pond

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (11)**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*—We tracked down this vocalization at Bryce for confirmation

**Brewer's Sparrow** *Spizella breweri*—Seen at Farmington Bay & behind the Capital Reef Resort

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus*—This striking sparrow was seen well at many locations

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis*—Seen often at many locations

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Best seen on the ground at Calf Creek feeders

**Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus*—(EX) Spotted perched during the drive at Farmington Bay

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*—(EX) Seen well on drive at Bear Island MBR

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*—Heard vocalizing often; seen well at Calf Creek

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii*—(EX) Seen perched at Farmington Bay WMA



**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus*—Good looks on the ground at the Calf Creek feeders  
**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus*—Seen first at Grafton; vocalization tracked down at Calf Creek

#### YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*—Heard vocalizing, then great open looks at the Calf Creek crossing

#### NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (6)

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—Great looks at a number of individuals at the Boulder pond

**Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta*—Perched up singing behind the Capital Reef Resort

**Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii*—Best looks at individuals & nests at Fruita orchard in Capital Reef

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Seen often at many locations

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*—Males & females seen around Boulder pond & Capital Reef

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Pair seen & heard at Jackson Flat Reservoir

#### NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (7)

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Oreothlypis celata*—(EX) Found with a mixed feeding flock at Garr Ranch, Antelope Island

**MacGillivray's Warbler** *Geothlypis tolmiei*—Seen twice; once by Pat at Grand Canyon, once by Carol at Capital Reef

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—(EX) Heard often & seen at Farmington Bay WMA

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—Seen & heard often; best looks in willows at Jackson Flat

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*—Seen well on walk at Bryce Canyon

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens*—Tracked down after vocalizing at the Grand Canyon & at Calf Creek

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*—Best looks in willows along the Calf Creek

#### CARDINAL, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (3)

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*—Scope looks at this beautiful species at Grafton

**Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—Seen first at Grafton & later at many locations

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena*—Seen in the puddle at Grafton; pairs & juveniles at Calf Creek feeders

#### **Mammals (12 species)**

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus*—Black tip on tail, seen often at many locations

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*—Seen often at most wooded locations

**Pronghorn** *Antilocapra Americana*—Spotted in the grass fields on drive from Salt Lake City to Zion

**Coyote** *Canis latrans*—Pair spotted at Antelope Island & on drive from Grand Canyon

**Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus audubonii*—Seen on visit to Grafton & Zion

**Utah Prairie Dog** *Cynomys parvidens*—A few individuals in prairie dog village at entrance to Bryce NP

**Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel** *Callospermophilus lateralis*—Target species on Bristlecone Loop hike at Rainbow Point, one individual found alongside the trail

**Rock Squirrel** *Otospermophilus variegatus*—Seen on hike at Zion & Grand Canyon

**Kaibab Squirrel** *Sciurus aberti kaibabensis*—Quick looks at one on drive at Grand Canyon North Rim

**Unita Chipmunk** *Neotamias umbrinus*—Colorful chipmunk seen often at Bryce NP

**Least Chipmunk** *Neotamias minimus*—Seen at Red Rock & Bryce

**Bison** *Bison bison*—Large herd seen on drive from Capital Reef to Salt Lake City

#### Reptiles (4 species)

**Desert Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus magister*—Colorful! Seen on hike at Capital Reef

**Gopher Snake** *Pituophis catenifer*—Found by Gina & Kelly on rim of the Grand Canyon

**Western Rattlesnake** *Crotalus oreganus*—Seen awhile driving along the road at Zion

**Collared Lizard** *Crotaphytus collaris*—Seen along the rim of the Grand Canyon