

Death Valley National Park Sampler | Species List

March 20 – 25, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guide, Greg Smith, and participants Bill, Brenda, Chris, Jim, Lani, Susan, and Terry.

Compiled by Greg Smith

(I)=introduced

BIRDS (31 species recorded, 18 Families):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (4)

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*— A flock of fifteen roosting on a large alluvial fan north of Furnace Creek was an interesting find. But a group of 22 the next day at one of the golf course was equally fine

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*— A solo bird on the middle of the fairway while we were watching the Snow Geese was the only one seen

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*— A group of seven put in an appearance by the pond with all Snow Geese

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*— The Ring-neckeds brought a couple of friends along, two males of this species

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambelii*— A heard only bird, but given the drought, I we were lucky to even hear just one

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)— An unwell homing pigeon was acting pretty sedate on a patch of lawn outside the 19th Hole

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (I)— Pairs were seen all over The Oasis, and a good guess would be that there would be plenty more in a month or so

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*— There should've been lots of these, but we were only able to find three on our first morning bird walk

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*— A flock of five circled the waterfowl pond but didn't land, that was the last we saw of them

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*— One went flying by right after the avocets, never being seen again

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*— Seen on every day of the tour, with first day having a migrating flock roosting in the golf course trees

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)

Pinyon Jay *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*— One of the group was fortunate enough to see three of these eruptive species

Common Raven *Corvus corax*— One of the four species we saw every day of the tour

LARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*— We saw three along Arguereberry Road, and they were skittish at best

WRENS: Troglodytidae (2)

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*— Seen on two different days in very appropriate habitat

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*— Seen on one day and heard on another, both time in Furnace Creek

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (1)— Two individuals flew by the horse corrals on our first Furnace Creek morning

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (1)

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*— Seen on our first day and our last two days, with the Titus Canyon sighting being the best

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptilonotidae (1)

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens*— Both a male and female were seen in different locations within Furnace Creek

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (1)— Unfortunately ubiquitous in Furnace Creek

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (1)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*— A flock of sixteen were found perusing the greens around the 19th hole

FINCHES: Fringillidae (1)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*— Only a few, which was surprising given the numbers on past trips

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (6)

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*— Seen mostly on our transit of Titus Canyon singing from the tops of shrubs

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— A smattering of *Gambellii*, most likely migrants on the move

Harris' Sparrow *Zonotrichia harrisi*— A surprise sighting for this locale for sure. A definite treat

Sagebrush Sparrow *Artemisiospiza nevadensis*— Also seen singing from the tops of shrubs while transiting Titus

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*— Seen in a few locales with the best looks being in the *Salicornia* and *Distichilis* at Salt Creek

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*— A few were seen along the edge of the golf course, mostly migrants on the move

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (2)

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*— A colorful, but lost-looking male was seen at Salt Creek

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*— Seen gathering nesting material near one of the ponds on the golf course

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (1)

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*— The only warbler seen on this trip, and seen on multiple days

Mammals (5 species)

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*— Seen on most mornings of the tour

White-tailed Antelope Squirrel *Ammospermophilus leucurus*— Didn't see a lot of this species, mostly on flat, scrubby areas

Desert Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis*— Only seen on emigrant Gap Road, but the two sightings were close and long-lasting

Donkey *Equus asinus* (I)— Unfortunately we did see these

Coyote *Canis latrans*— A single individual across the road from The Inn wasn't the least bit shy

Reptiles (7 species)

Common Side-blotched Lizard *Uta stansburiana*— The most common lizard of the trip. Seen in most habitats

Zebra-tailed Lizard *Callisaurus draconoides*— We saw this tail-wagging lizard on only one day in the Mesquite Dunes

Desert Horned Lizard *Phrynosoma platyrhinos*— One ran across the road at the onset of our drive thru Titus Canyon

Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard *Uma scoparia*— Seen on a warm afternoon in the Mesquite Dunes

Common Chuckwalla *Sauromalus ater*— We saw a few basking on the road up to Dante's View and in Titus Canyon

Great Basin Fence Lizard *Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*— A few were seen on our drive up along Emigrant Gap Road

Panamint Rattlesnake *Crotalus stephensi*— Seen crossing the trail up at Dante's View