

# Utah: Birding Canyon Country | Species List

## September 18 – 26, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



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### Summary:

Wonderful birding and some of the best scenery in the world during this tour. We visited Zion NP, Grand Canyon NP (North Rim), Bryce Canyon NP, and Capital Reef NP

### DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*— Recorded 2 days – once at Jackson Flat in Kanab and then again on the pond at Rubys Inn at Bryce

**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*— Very interesting sighting for this time of year and location. First seen by Reg flying in a flock of Canada Goose and relocated by the group the following morning in a field nearby

**Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*— A few at the Kanab Water Treatment Ponds

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*— A few at the Water Treatment Ponds

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*— Seen several days, basically everywhere we could find water!

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*—Several on Pine Reservoir during our optional afternoon outing at Bryce

### PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*—Seen on several occasions. A couple from the bus at Zion's, a large flock at the Grand Canyon, and a single near the orchard at Capital Reef

### GREBES: Podicipedidae

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*— A couple were seen on Jackson Flat Reservoir

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*—Seen at the Kanab Water Treatment Plant and a few at Pine Reservoir

**Clark's Grebe** *Aechmophorus clarkii*—Distant looks at 3 at Jackson Flat Reservoir

### PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*—Not common since we were never in cities, but did see a few when leaving Las Vegas

**Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata*—One of the surprises of the trip. Had one perched in a tree while we were watching the Lewis's Woodpeckers. It stayed long enough to allow scope views for most of the group

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*—Recorded this introduced species both days we drove through Kanab

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—Most have migrated out of the area, but saw a few at Jackson Flat

### SWIFTS: Apodidae

**White-throated Swift** *Aeronautes saxatalis*—Had a few fly by at the Grand Canyon & Bryce, then had a large flock cruising around above the cliffs at Capital Reef

### HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri*— One at the restaurant our first night, then better looks later at the feeders at Calf Creek

**Rufous Hummingbird** *Selasphorus rufous*—Same as the above species, but there were several Rufous at the Calf Creek feeders

### RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—Seen at Jackson Flat and a good number on the pond in front of the hotel at Bryce

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*—One was seen in poor light at the Kanab WTP

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

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*—One was observed on the shore at Jackson Flat Reservoir

### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*—A few at Jackson Flat reservoir

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

**California Condor** *Gymnogyps californianus*—Definitely a highlight of the trip. We had 1 adult and one juv soaring above the Big Bend Bus Stop at Zion NP. It was a specktacular view watching it soaring with the beautiful red cliffs behind it.

The following day we had one adult and a juv at Navajo Bridge, but this time perched allowing for scope views

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—Recorded almost everyday of the trip

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—Not very often that you get to look straight down on an osprey, but that is what we had at Navajo Bridge when one flew down the Colorado River under the bridge. Also had one fly by at Pine Reservoir

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

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*— One spotted flying down the ridge in Capital Reef, then 3 more along the road on our last morning while we drove to Salt Lake.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*—One flew past us at Jackson Flat Reservoir

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*— Saw several during the trip

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*— Saw a few during the trip including at Jackson Flat

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Northern Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium gnoma*— One of the biggest surprises of the trip was having a pair of Pygmy Owls start calling above our heads during our picnic at Zion! Scenery in Zion and owls make for a pretty good picnic!

### **Kingfishers: Al**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* – One flew in and landed above the pond at Ruby's providing nice scope views

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Williamson's Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*— Wonderful views as we sat at the picnic tables recuperating from our hike into Bryce Canyon

**Red-naped Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*—Nice views of this species in the orchards at Capital Reef

**Lewis's Woodpecker** *Melanerpes lewis*— One of the birds of the trip. We had no fewer than 5 at "the tree" near Boulder. It was great watching them flying down to get acorns and stashing them in their tree.

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*—Saw two during the trip. First on our walk to Emerald Pools in Zion and the other was at a view point on the scenic hwy near Escalante.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*— Recorded the "Red-shafted" version found in the West many times during the trip.

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

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—Saw several times during the tour

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Western Wood Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus* —A late migrant was observed along the rim at Bryce Canyon

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*—One was flycatching from a dead tree in the swampy end of Jackson Flat

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*— We had one on the roof of one of the old houses at Grafton

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— What a bird! We had several gorgeous males and a few of the drabber females near Grafton

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae**

**Plumbeous Vireo** *Vireo plumbeus*— Heard one calling at Zion but never were able to locate it

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*— One in a nice kettle of birds near the cabins at the North Rim

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

**Pinyon Jay** *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*— Had large flocks fly by us several times beginning with while we were loading the luggage in Springdale

**Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri*— Common at Bryce and the Grand Canyon

**Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*— Both days in Zion NP

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia*— Not common in Southern Utah, but as soon as we drove north toward SLC we had several along the road

**Clark's Nutcracker** *Nucifraga columbiana*— We had the beautiful corvid both of our days at Bryce Canyon

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*— Abundant and recorded everyday

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Mountain Chickadee** *Poecile gambeli*— We had several times at the Grand Canyon and again at Bryce

**Juniper Titmouse** *Baeolophus ridgewayi*— Got during our picnic at Zions

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— One (at least) at the Kanab Sewer Ponds

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*— A small flock at the Kanab Sewer Ponds

**Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina*— Most have migrated by this time, but had a brief view along hwy 12 between Bryce and Torrey

#### **Long-tailed Tits: Aegithalidae**

**Bushtit** *Psaltriparus minimus*— Heard at Zions just before lunch and got very brief views, but a couple of days later at a view point on hwy 12 had a small group in a juniper tree just on the side of the parking lot and had amazing views

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*— Seen on several occasions, but had great looks a few different times in the orchard at Capital Reef

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*— We recorded this species at Zion, Grand Canyon, and had a very cooperative one in the picnic area at Bryce

**Pygmy Nuthatch** *Sitta pygmaea*— First seen at the north rim of GC, then several times at Bryce Canyon

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus*— Nice views of this western species on the rocks (of course!) near the parking lot at Navajo Bridge

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*— One on the side of the road just before Grafton. It actually was associating with the following species

**Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii*— 2 seen just before Grafton in the brush along the road

#### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*— Not as common as on most trips in the US, but we saw them on several days around towns

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae**

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*— Reg saw this species near the lodge at Capital Reef, then later that evening was heard calling by myself and part of the group

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana*— Common and recorded everywhere but Capital Reef

**Mountain Bluebird** *Sialia currucoides*— Surprisingly few were seen during the tour, but we did get great looks along the road during our outing from Ruby's to Pine Lake

**Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi*— Had one our first morning on the Emerald Pools hike and we saw a few other times during the trip

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*— Only recorded 2 days, once at Zions and also had a large flock near Pine Reservoir

### **WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*—One loner was perched admiring the scenery at Point Imperial at the North Rim

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*— Lots around Springdale and Kanab

### **FINCHES: Fringillidae**

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*— Only recorded once during the tour at Jackson Flat in Kanab

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*—Encountered a flock near Pine Reservoir

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*— Mostly saw this species around the town of Springdale the first 2 days of the tour

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*— Had one perched in the oak above the road at Calf Creek

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*—Several small migrating groups were observed – all juveniles and winter plumage birds

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis*— Several were seen at the Grand Canyon and Bryce

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Just starting to move into the lower areas for the winter – we saw them at Grafton and in orchard area at Capital Reef

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*— Recorded several along the river trail and the brushy edges of the picnic area at Capital Reef

**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus*— Some of us had brief views at Grafton and during our picnic at Bryce, but the best views were definitely at Capital Reef where we had one coming out onto the grass in the picnic area

**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus*— Only recorded one day during the trip but it was common that day. We had several around the picnic area and during our walk at Calf Creek

### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*— One winter plumage bird was seen in the reeds near the pond at Rubys

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*— Only recorded at Jackson Flat Reservoir (but didn't we see them at Ruby's as well? Maybe forgot to put on the list?)

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*— Several hanging out near the pond and around the parking lot at Rubys

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*— A few scraggly-looking grackles were in the parking lot at Jackson Flat

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Leiothlypis celata*— We saw this species along the river at Capital Reef

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*—Fairly common and recorded most days. Fun for everybody who is used to seeing the Eastern Myrtles version to see so many of the Audubons found in the west

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*— This migrant was hanging out in the willows along the river in Capital Reef

## **CARDINAL, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae**

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*—We had a few during our day at Zions NP

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena*— We encountered a small flock at Grafton and then we had one single bird at Capital Reef near the end of the tour

## **MAMMALS**

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus*— Seen almost daily

**Bighorn Sheep** *Ovis canadensis*— Saw a few along the road near the tunnels in Zion NP, but unfortunately there was no where to park in the area so our views were brief

**Coyote** *Canis latrans*— 3 hunting in the field on the road to the Grand Canyon. Not sure what they were hunting but it must be productive since they were in this same field the week before our tour as well

**Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus audubonii*— A couple people saw one near the cabins at the North Rim

**Utah Prairie Dog** *Cynomys parvidens*— Fun to watch the colony at Bryce Canyon

**Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel** *Callospermophilus lateralis*—One was searching for food among the cars in the parking area at Bryce

**Rock Squirrel** *Otospermophilus variegatus*—Common and seen almost everyday

**Least Chipmunk** *Neotamias minimus*— Common and seen almost everyday

## **REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS/SPIDERS/INSECTS**

**Great Basin Collared Lizard** *Crotaphytus bicinctores*— Seen on our hike at Zion NP

**Western Desert Tarantula** *Aphonopelma chalcodes*— This is the best time of year to see these guys but we were still lucky to have one in the trail on our hike to Emerald Pools