

Yellowstone in the Fall | Species List

September 20 – 28, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guides Jeff Wirth and Bryan Calk and 6 participants: Elna, Kathleen, David, Sandra, Jan, and Ginny



Photo: American Dipper by Bryan Calk

Compiled by: Bryan Calk

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only
(I)=introduced
<https://ebird.org/tripreport/93305>

Summary:

Beautiful weather and dramatic scenery followed us everywhere as we explored the wonders of Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks and surrounding areas. Every day had too many highlights to choose, with some notable ones including multiple black bears, moose, pronghorn, Grand Prismatic, Old Faithful, and around 90 bird species!

BIRDS (93 species recorded):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*— Seen a few places during the trip, often from the vans. Several at Henry's Lake

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*— Good numbers at Red Rock Lakes, where we even got to see one in the same scope view as a pronghorn!

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*— A couple in the Madison River in YNP

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*— Relatively small numbers at Henry's Lake and Red Rock Lakes NWR

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*— Several hundred at Upper Red Rocks Lake

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*— Several thousand at Upper Red Rocks Lake, and a few at Henry's Lake

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*— Seen throughout the tour on many bodies of water

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*— A couple in the masses of other ducks at Red Rocks

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*— One at Henry's Lake

Redhead *Aythya americana*— Singles around Red Rocks Lake and Henry's Lake

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*— A few hundred at Henry's Lake

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*— A dozen or so at Henry's and Red Rock Lakes
Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*— About seven female-type birds at LeHardy Rapids at YNP
Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*— Good numbers at Henry's and Red Rock Lakes
Goldeneye sp. *Bucephala sp.*— Flew past us at Henry's Lake but did not land in sight. Too distant to ID
Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* — A pair in the Sawmill Pond of Grand Tetons
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*— Common along the Snake River and LeHardy Rapids among other places during the trip
Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*— Good numbers staging at Henry's and Red Rock Lakes

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*— A couple at Artist's Point in YNP and one at Muire Ranch

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*— A few at both Henry's and Red Rock Lakes
Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*— One confirmed at Henry's Lake, possibly more
Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*— A few at Henry's Lake
Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*— At Henry's and Red Rock Lakes there were a couple
Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*— Two at Henry's Lake

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)— Seen in town in Bozeman
Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (I)— One at Missouri Headwaters SP on the last day
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*— One at Red Rock Lakes as we drove in

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

American Coot *Fulica americana*— Hundreds at Henry's and thousands on Red Rock Lakes

CRANES: Gruidae

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*— A few flew past at Angler's Lodge and a couple were sitting in a field at Henry's Lake

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*— A few at Henry's Lake in the mud

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*—
Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*—
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*— One on the Snake River at Angler's Lodge, and another from the boat on our float trip in Grand Tetons

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*— Several around Angler's Lodge and Henry's Lake
California Gull *Larus californicus*— Coming in to feed on the freshly released trout in Henry's Lake
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*— One flying past Angler's Lodge and a couple at Henry's Lake

LOONS: Gaviidae

Common Loon *Gavia immer*— A couple at Henry's Lake, one still with a good amount of breeding plumage still on

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*— Small numbers at Angler's Lodge and Henry's and Red Rock Lakes

PELICANS: Pelecanidae

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*— A couple at Angler's Lodge and more at Henry's and Red Rock Lakes

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*— Singles around Henry's and Red Rock Lakes and one at Missouri Headwaters SP

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*— One floating over Sawmill Pond and a few at Missouri Headwaters SP

OSPREE: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— Best views over Angler's Lodge, but in several other areas as well especially around Henry's and Red Rock Lakes

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*— Seen by some at Missouri Headwaters SP

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*— Seen by a few on our long drive to the Sacagawea Inn while we were stopped for construction traffic

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*— One at Angler's Lodge that caught a Vesper Sparrow right in front of us and another at Red Rock Lakes

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*— One seen from the Mural room just before lunch at Jackson Lake Lodge

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*— One gave a fantastic fly-by view at Missouri Headwaters SP

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*— A few seen mostly while driving, notable at Henry's Lake and Missouri Headwaters

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*— Seen a few places, including Angler's Lodge and Missouri Headwaters SP

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*— Good views of one at Henry's Lake and another at Sawmill Pond in Grand Tetons

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*— A couple at Missouri Headwaters SP

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*— A couple at the Murie Ranch/Sawmill Pond area

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*— Several around Henry's Lake and a few at Missouri Headwaters SP

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*— One late bird lingering at Missouri Headwaters SP

VIREOS: Vireonidae

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*— One late bird at Red Rock Lakes NWR in the mixed flock at our lunch spot

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Canada Jay *Perisoreus canadensis*— A few at Murie Ranch in Grand Tetons where we were studying bear sign along the trail

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*— One at Red Rock Lakes and a couple at Sawmill Pond in Grand Tetons

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*— Good numbers around Henry's and Red Rock Lakes and scattered sightings elsewhere throughout the week

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*— A few seen in YNP at LeHardy Rapids among other spots, and a couple at Sawmill Pond area of Grand Tetons

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*— Seen at many locations throughout the week, especially around people

Common Raven *Corvus corax*— Seen at many locations throughout the week, especially around people

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*— Common throughout the week just about anywhere with trees, great looks of them at Red Rock Lakes

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*— Good looks at Red Rock Lakes, also at a couple other spots. Often heard but not always seen

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— A few seen gliding over from time to time, first at Grand Prismatic, but also at Grand Tetons

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*— Mostly heard but seen well by David and Sandra at Norris Geyser Basin and at Red Rock Lakes NWR

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*— Great looks in the Jackson Lake Lodge parking lot after lunch, also at Murie Ranch in Grand Tetons

CREEPERS: Certhiidae

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*— A couple at Murie Ranch in Grand Tetons

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*— One calling from the cattails at Sawmill Pond in Grand Tetons

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*— One at Red Rock Lakes picnic area and one at Missouri Headwaters SP

DIPPERS: Cinclidae

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*— Several foraging in the rocky river at LeHardy Rapids in YNP

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (1)— One on the wire at Angler's Lodge, also around the Three Forks area

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*— One at Red Rocks by our picnic area

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*— Many in the open areas around Henry's and Red Rock Lakes as well as a few other locations

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*— Showed well for us at Missouri Headwaters SP

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*— Abundant throughout the week, but most notably at Sawmill Pond where hundreds were gorging themselves in preparation for migration

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*— A good number around Henry's and Red Rock Lakes and many in with the robins at Sawmill Pond

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)— Present in decent numbers in Bozeman

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*— Several working the shoreline of Henry's Lake and a couple at Missouri Headwaters SP

FINCHES: Fringillidae

Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus* — A small group joined us at Murie Ranch while looking for bears

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii*—A flock landed for a while in a dead tree along the Sawmill Pond trail allowing for great scope views

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*— Great views at the Jackson Lake Lodge parking lot and a few flew around distantly at Sawmill Pond

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*— Seen in a few areas during the tour including Henry's and Red Rock Lakes and Murie Ranch

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*— A few at Henry's Lake and Missouri Headwaters

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*— Few and far between, never really offering great views

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Best views around Red Rock Lakes but also at several other locations

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*— One that quickly became Sharp-shinned Hawk food and another that tucked into the grass without allowing for good views

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*— One at Angler's Lodge and one at Sawmill Pond heard, good views at Missouri Headwaters SP

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*— A few in the mixed sparrow flocks at Missouri Headwaters SP

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*— A couple at Missouri Headwaters

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*— A few at Missouri Headwaters

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*— One seen briefly from the van in YNP near Yellowstone Lake

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*— Seen in a few places, like West Yellowstone right in town

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*— Many seen throughout the week, often near water foraging for flying insects

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*— A couple sneaky birds near Angler's Lodge and the picnic area of Red Rock Lakes

Mammals (10 species)

Pronghorn *Antilocapra Americana*— A few seen in the grasslands near Henry's Lake, others seen much closer in Grand Tetons NP north of Jackson

American Bison *Bison bison*— Seen abundantly in YNP, some crossing the road right in front of our vans

Moose *Alces alces*— Great views of moose in Grand Tetons NP and a mother and calf retreated into the woods along the river just north of Angler's Lodge on day 2

Elk *Cervus elaphus*— Brief views as a couple crossed the road near Madison in YNP, others head in Grand Tetons

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*— Good views in the Henry's Lake area

Coyote *Canis latrans*— Exceptional views of one spotted by Sandra in YNP, another near Henry's Lake

North American River Otter *Lontra canadensis*— A few playing in the Snake River by the Grand Tetons visitor center as we headed in to look for bears

American Black Bear *Ursus americanus*— Great views of a couple of these in the Grand Tetons Sawmill Pond area feeding on hawthorn berries

Least Chipmunk *Tamias minimus*— confusion species is Yellow Pine which we have yet to confirm for this trip – chipmunks seen in many places throughout the trip, with a few confirmed to be Least

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*— Seen in many places especially around buildings in YNP and one feeding on a mushroom at Murie Ranch

Reptiles and Amphibians (1 species)

Terrestrial Garter Snake *Thamnophis elegans* – A couple seen crossing the road on the way back from Red Rock Lake