

Birding Canyon Country | Species List

May 7 – 15, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guide Dave Mehlman and participants: Bill, Christine, Jim, Joan, and Sheila

Compiled by Dave Mehlman

(H) = Heard only

(G) = Found by guide only

(I) = Introduced

eBird trip report: [Naturalist Journeys Utah Parks & Birding, May 2023 - eBird Trip Report](#)

BIRDS (105 species recorded, of which 1 was heard only and 4 were seen by the guide only):

LOONS: Gaviidae (1)

Common Loon *Gavia immer*—Adult breeding plumaged bird in Jackson Flat Reservoir (second year in a row!)

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (11)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*—Found on 3 days at Jackson Flat Reservoir, both visits to Ruby's Inn ponds, and Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*—A pair, apparently escaped, was nesting at Tonaquint Park

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—A pair seen at the Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*—One drake seen swimming at the Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—Seen at 3 sites: Jackson Flat Reservoir, Boulder Mountain Lodge pond, and Koosharem Reservoir

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*—A female was hiding in the back at Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—Seen on 4 days at Tonaquint Park, both visits to Ruby's Inn ponds, and Koosharem Reservoir

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*—Small flock in the lake behind Ruby's Inn, Bryce Canyon City

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*—A pair seen in the Virgin River in Zion NP

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*—One male seen in the lake behind Ruby's Inn, Bryce Canyon City, on both visits

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*—Several at Jackson Flat Reservoir and a few pairs at Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambelii*—A pair seen running along the edge of a field at Grafton

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (2)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—One bird, seemingly quite out of place, at Farview Point, Bryce Canyon NP

Dusky Grouse *Dendragapus obscurus*—A hen very well seen walking on the road at Farview Point, Bryce Canyon NP

GREBES: Podicipedidae (3)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—Found on 3 days at Springdale Pond, Jackson Flat Reservoir, and Boulder Mountain Lodge Pond

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*—Seen at Jackson Flat Reservoir and on the 2 visits to Ruby's Inn ponds

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*—One bird, presumably a Western, in Jackson Flat Reservoir

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (2)

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—(1) Regularly seen on the tour when in or passing through towns

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Seen or heard at Tonaquint Park, Confluence Park, the Vermilion Cliffs condor viewing site, and Calf Creek Recreation Area

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis*—Regularly encountered at all parks visited and on 6 days, usually flying extremely rapidly and sometimes very high up

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*—Regularly encountered during the tour at lower elevations, such as around St. George, Zion, Red Canyon Visitor Center, and Capitol Reef

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus*—Very well seen at Jacob Lake Inn, AZ, where it was bathing in the fountain and in Bryce Canyon

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Found on 4 days at Springdale Pond, Jackson Flat Reservoir, the 2 visits to Ruby's Inn ponds, and Boulder Mountain Lodge Pond

CRANES: Gruidae (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*—One seen while driving from Torrey to St. George on the last day near Otter Creek Reservoir

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—A group of 3 on the shore of Jackson Flat Reservoir

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—A few seen flying across the highway from the van near Otter Creek Lake on the drive from Torrey back to St. George

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (1)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—Found on 3 days at Tonaquint Park, Springdale Pond, Jackson Flat Reservoir, and Koosharem Reservoir

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—Two seen at Jackson Flat Reservoir

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (1)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—Seen twice, first flying by Big Bend in Zion and another on the shore of the Ruby's Inn Pond on the second visit

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—A flock seen in the hayfields near Kanab

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus*—one seen flying over the canyon at Zion by Joan and Sheila; another, a juvenile, seen sitting on the bridge pylon at Navajo Bridge

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Seen on every day of the tour at almost all sites visited

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (2)

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*—One flew over the group when we were visiting the historic town of Grafton

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Found at 2 sites visited (Confluence Park, Escalante River Trailhead) and on 2 more days while driving

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megasceryle alcyon*—Only found at the Springdale Pond

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (2)

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*—Found on 2 of the days at Bryce Canyon and again at Calf Creek Recreation Area

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—Seen once at Bryce Canyon and again at the Capitol Reef Visitor Center

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—Excellent views of two birds, first at Yovimpa Point, Bryce Canyon, and the second in Capitol Reef at Capitol Gorge

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*—One seen while driving into the East entrance to Grand Canyon, South Rim

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (7)

Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*—Only seen once at the Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*—An Empid, presumably this species, was seen in the willows on the Fremont Trail at Capitol Reef

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—Seen on the first 2 days of the tour at Tonaquint Park (where apparently nesting under the viewing platform), Springdale Pond, and the Lower Emerald Pool Trail at Zion

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*—Seen at Tonaquint Park and Grafton on the first day and then on 2 days at Bryce Canyon

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—Several seen in the fields at Grafton

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*—Seen or heard at Confluence Park, Grafton, Lower Emerald Pool Trail in Zion, east entrance of Zion, and at Mossy Cave in Bryce Canyon

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Regularly encountered at many sites throughout the tour, particularly at lower elevations; particularly numerous at Capitol Reef Resort

VIREOS: Vireonidae (3)

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*—One found at Tonaquint Park

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*—Seen or heard at Tonaquint Park, along the east entrance road to Zion, and in the Fruita picnic area at Capitol Reef

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*—One singing away loudly during lunch at Temple of Sinawava, Zion

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (5)

Pinyon Jay *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*—Seen by some in the group on two days in and near Capitol Reef

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*—Seen one day at Bryce Canyon, but several times on that day, mostly at Fairyland Point

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—Found on 4 days of the tour, some days from the van; first sighting was in Zion at Temple of Sinawava and last sighting was at Calf Creek Falls Recreation area

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*—Seen from the van while driving to Boulder and seen again at Capitol Reef Resort

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—Found on every day of the tour at almost all sites; a regularly encountered presence in the mountains and valleys of southwest Utah

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*—Found at Bryce Canyon while at Rainbow/Yovimpa Point

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Found at Springdale Pond and Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*—Regularly encountered at almost all sites at higher elevations in the mountains

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Seen on both visits to the Ruby's Inn pond, Boulder Mountain Lodge pond, and Koosharem Reservoir

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Seen on 2 days at Tonaquint Park and at Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*—Found at Jacob Lake Inn and on all 3 days at Bryce Canyon

CREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*—Seen on our visit to Fairyland Point, Bryce Canyon

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*—Seen on the 2 days in Zion, first on the Lower Emerald Pool hike and then again several times on the following day on the east entrance road

WRENS: Troglodytidae (3)

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*—Found at Confluence Park and at Moran Point, Grand Canyon

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—(H) Heard singing at Temple of Sinawava, Zion

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Several singing and well observed at Confluence Park

STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*— (I) Noted mostly when driving through the towns of Escalante and Torrey

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus*—One seen briefly when perched in a juniper at Jackson Flat Reservoir

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—(G) One seen by Dave at the gas station at St. George Airport, literally the last bird of the tour!

THRUSHES: Turdidae (3)

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*—Found on 3 days of the tour in Zion on the east entrance road, Jacob Lake Inn, and in Bryce Canyon

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*—Seen on 2 days at Bryce Canyon, sometimes right around the Lodge

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Seen on the first day at Tonaquint Park and Springdale Pond and then again on many days in Bryce Canyon and in or near Capitol Reef

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—Seen on both mornings at Capitol Reef Resort

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—(1) Recorded on 7 days of the tour at many sites, usually at or near human habitation

FINCHES: Fringillidae (4)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Seen or heard various times near St. George, in Zion, and in and near Capitol Reef

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii*—A few seen briefly at Bryce Canyon, but a very lovely male was seen at super close range at Boulder Mountain Lodge where it fed on dandelion seeds on the lawn

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—Large flock seen eating dandelion seeds on the lawn at Boulder Mountain Lodge; Dave saw a few more at Capitol Reef Resort doing the same thing

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—Reported on 5 days of the tour at various sites, mostly lower elevation, from St. George to Capitol Reef; interestingly, one came into the water feature at Jacob Lake Inn, a bit higher elevation than expected

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (7)

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—Seen at Grafton, on 2 days in Zion, in Grand Canyon at Desert View, and at Capitol Reef Resort

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*—(G) One seen by Dave at Grafton

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—Seen on 3 days at Jacob Lake Inn and while at Bryce Canyon; all were of the locally-breeding Gray-headed race

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Seen by the group at Confluence Park and by Dave only at Calf Creek Recreation Area and Capitol Reef Resort

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—Found on 2 days of the tour at Tonaquint Park, Springdale Pond, and the Fremont River Trail of Capitol Reef

Abert's Towhee *Melospiza aberti*—More of a Mojave Desert species, we found this towhee at Tonaquint Park and Confluence Park near St. George on the first day

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—Seen or heard on both days in Zion, at Calf Creek Recreation Area, and on both mornings at Capitol Reef Resort

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—A favorite of the trip for many, we had a great view of one performing its display flight right over our heads at the Escalante River; another was singing loudly at the Fremont River Trail, Capitol Reef, but never did show itself

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (7)

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—Well seen on both visits to Ruby's Inn pond

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*—Heard at Boulder Mountain Lodge pond and seen at Capitol Reef Resort

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*—Found at numerous sites throughout the tour, these were quite noticeable at many spots, such as in and near Capitol Reef

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Only seen on 3 days at Jackson Flat Reservoir (where they appeared to be nesting in the willows in the water), Boulder Mountain Lodge pond, and Capitol Reef Resort

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—This much-reviled nest parasite was seen once on the east entrance road to Zion, very easily in Capitol Reef at the picnic area, and at Koosharem Reservoir

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*—A blackbird species generally found at higher elevations in the breeding season, these were detected at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center, on both visits to the Ruby's Inn Pond, and at Koosharem Reservoir

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Only found at 4 areas visited on 3 days; seen at Tonaquint Park, Springdale Pond, Jackson Flat Reservoir, and Cameron Trading Post

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (8)

Lucy's Warbler *Leiothlypis luciae*—Seen twice on our first day at Tonaquint and Grafton

Virginia's Warbler *Leiothlypis virginiae*—Seen or heard on both days in Zion

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—One skulker found at Calf Creek Falls, but numerous individuals were in the cattails at Boulder Mountain Lodge pond

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—Regularly encountered throughout the tour in almost all sites with tall cottonwood canopies

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—Easily the most frequently seen and abundant warbler of the tour, these were found on almost all days at most sites visited; most were of the western, Audubon's form, though a few of the eastern or Myrtle form were found

Grace's Warbler *Setophaga graciae*—Found at Zion along the east entrance road, at Jacob Lake Inn, and by some in the group on one day at Bryce

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*—Seen by Dave on the Lower Emerald Pool hike in Zion and by the group the following day along the east entrance road to Bryce

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—One seen by Joan at Capitol Reef by the picnic area

CARDINAL, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (4)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—Seen at Grafton and Springdale Pond on the first day and at the Capitol Reef picnic area on the last full day of the tour

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*—Encountered on 7 days of the tour at many sites from St. George to Capitol Reef

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—Seen at Springdale Pond, in Zion, along the Escalante River, at Calf Creek Falls Recreation Area, and on all days in or near Capitol Reef

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*—(G) One seen briefly by Dave at one of the stops on the east entrance road to Zion

MAMMALS (11 species recorded):

Elk *Cervus canadensis*—Seen while driving on the South Rim, Grand Canyon

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*—Seen on 4 days at several sites, sometimes while driving, most notably when a large group were seen bedded down in the orchard by the Capitol Reef Campground

Black-tailed Jackrabbit, *Lepus californicus*—(G) Seen by Dave at Capitol Reef Resort

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*—Seen at Tonaquint Park on the first day

Utah Prairie Dog *Cynomys parvidens*—Easily seen on all 3 days at Bryce Canyon

Yellow-bellied Marmot *Marmota flaviventris*—Seen on 2 days at Capitol Reef

White-tailed Antelope Squirrel *Ammospermophilus leucurus*—Seen at Tonaquint Park

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel *Callospermophilus lateralis*—Found one day at Bryce Canyon

Rock Squirrel *Otospermophilus variegatus*—A common and widespread species, though only recorded on 3 days

Uinta Chipmunk *Neotamias umbrinus*—Seen on all days in Bryce Canyon NP

Hopi Chipmunk *Neotamias rufus*—Several at Calf Creek Falls

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (2 species recorded):

Plateau Fence Lizard *Sceloporus tristichus*—Identified in Zion

Canyon Tree Frog *Dryophytes arenicolor*—Several seen in the pools along the Lower Emerald Pool trail

LOCATIONS AND NOTES:

Day 1: Sunday, May 7, 2023: St. George (Tonaquint Park, Confluence Park), Grafton, Springdale

Day 2: Monday, May 8, 2023: Springdale, Zion National Park (Lower Emerald Pool trail, Riverside Trail, Big Bend, Visitor Center)

Day 3: Tuesday, May 9, 2023: Springdale, Zion East Entrance, Checkerboard Mesa, Jackson Flat Reservoir, Kanab, Jacob Lake Inn, Vermilion Cliffs, Navajo Bridge, Page, AZ

Day 4: Wednesday, May 10, 2023: Page, Grand Canyon National Park (South Rim, East entrance to Visitor Center)

Day 5: Thursday, May 11, 2023: Page; Kanab; Red Canyon Visitor Center, Dixie National Forest; Ruby's Inn ponds; Bryce Canyon Lodge

Day 6: Friday, May 12, 2023: Bryce Canyon National Park

Day 7: Saturday, May 13, 2023: Ruby's Inn ponds; Mossy Cave Trail (Bryce Canyon NP)); Escalante; Escalante River trailhead; Calf Creek Recreation Area; Boulder Mountain Lodge pond; Boulder Mountain; Capitol Reef Resort, Torrey

Day 8: Sunday, May 14, 2023: Capitol Reef Resort, Capitol Reef National Park

Day 9: Monday, May 15, 2023: Capitol Reef Resort, drive to St. George