

# Yellowstone in the Fall

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 September - 7 October 2017

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American Badger



American Bison



Pronghorns



Bull Moose

Report and images by Peter Dunn



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Tour participants: Peter Dunn (leader), Adam Brubaker & Chris Brown (local guides) together  
With 10 Naturetrek clients

## Introduction

Yellowstone, the world's first national park, covers nearly 9,000 square kilometres of mountains, forests, lakes and grasslands and is one of the United States' foremost wildlife reserves. It is home to both Grizzly Bear and Grey Wolf, plus North American Bison, Moose, Black Bear and an interesting variety of birds. In the 'Fall', as the days shorten and the colours of the landscape change from the greens of summer to a rich autumnal palette of russet, orange and gold, the mammals are busy preparing for the winter ahead and the resident birds are augmented by migrants from further north.

## Day 1

**Sunday 24th September**

In flight to Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Four of the group flew from Heathrow with Peter, whilst the others made their own flight arrangements. We met four in Chicago for the onward leg to Jackson Hole and the last two met us at the Antler Hotel in Jackson. For those who flew into Jackson together, we were met by Adam and Chris and were whisked off to the hotel, where we were quickly shown to our rooms for a well deserved sleep after a long day of travelling

## Day 2

**Monday 25th September**

Jackson Hole and Tetons National Park

Morning came too soon for some but not soon enough for others, whose body clock suggested it was much later. We gathered at 8am to go out for breakfast with all our gear stowed into the vehicles for the day. After a nice typical American breakfast we headed north into the Grand Teton National Park in search of wildlife. Adam and Chris had already done a recce the previous day so were on a mission. There was too much low cloud to see the Tetons so we turn off Highway 191, past Moose Junction and the park visitors centre and drove onto Moose-Wilson road. We came across a pull-out (lay-by) full of vehicles looking down into a marsh so we forced our vehicles in and joined them. There were two reasonably close Moose, one a nice male with a full set of antlers that had attracted all the attention. However what was just as noticeable were the 100 or more American Robins feeding on the berries of the Black Hawthorn trees. With them were Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers and pink-sided Dark-eyed Juncos. We had a short walk on a trail where we added Red-naped Sapsucker, Cedar Waxwing and our first Gray Jay and Clark's Nutcracker.

Returning to the vehicles, we drove further along the road to another gathering of cars; this time it was a female Black Bear with two cubs feeding under some trees. The views were not ideal as she was inside the bushes but we managed to piece together enough views to confirm a female with two cubs. A great start to the day.

We made a short restroom visit to the visitor centre and picked up lunch supplies at Dornan's in Moose, before heading north again on Highway 191. A flock of prancing Pronghorns attracted our attention for 5-10 minutes before setting off again, and this time Adam had some information on a Brown (Grizzly) Bear. Sure enough we arrive at mile marker 19 and there was a females which we saw eating at, what was believed to be, a carcass

before she decided to settle down to sleep. We also saw in this area at least two Golden Eagles, Peregrine and migrating small flocks of Horned (Shore) Larks.

Turning back we found a third Golden Eagle, some American Wigeon and more Pronghorns. We turned onto a dirt track for a short detour which proved beneficial, with a nice flock of Western Bluebirds, a Prairie Falcon and a distant herd of Bison. Whilst examining some badger setts we found some huge footprints of wolf, but the sighting of the day was the American Badger who came out of one of the holes to watch us and also followed us a short way down the hill. We also saw two Coyote at this point.

Eventually it was time to drive back to town, but not before stopping at a small pool where we set about identifying a number of American duck species. We dined that night at Gather and completed our checklists before retiring to bed after a terrific opening day.

## Day 3

## Tuesday 26th September

### Jackson Hole and Grand Tetons

We all gathered in the dark at 6am to travel north and witness the sunrise hitting the Tetons. Initially it looked a cloudless sky but clouds quickly built up before dawn, so we changed our strategy and headed for the Snake River overlook where Ansel Adams had taken a famous picture of the mountains in the early 1900's.

As the sun rose the clouds started to show pinks and orange tinges and then the snow on the mountain started to look warmer. Although the cloud base prevented us from seeing all the tops of the mountains, the sunrise was strong enough to colour all those that were visible and the snow was bathed in warm orange and pink. It only lasted about 10 minutes but it was a sight to behold.

We had already picked up our breakfast sandwiches, which some had eaten whilst travelling and others finished whilst watching the sunrise, then we headed back to the Moose-Wilson road to start our morning exploration for wildlife. As we drove back south on the main highways, a bull Moose with antlers wandered across a roadside field, but it was too dangerous and busy to stop too long.

Having used the restrooms at Moose, we started our exploration. The moose and bears from yesterday had gone, and it seemed most of the birds had moved on because of the cold cloudless night, but as the sun came up more seemed to drop in. Adam explained about trees and vegetation all around us as we walked through woodland and saw Northern Harrier migrating and a nice Red-tailed Hawk sat well for telescope views. There was much evidence of Elk with fresh dropping and bark eaten, but no sign of the owners. One area suddenly became alive with birds as American Robins dropped in and flocks of chickadees and Audubon Warblers moves through the trees. We found White-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper with them and a dainty yellow Wilson's Warbler. Down by the river a Belted Kingfisher rattled away and flocks of Cedar Waxwings passed through. A sharp call as a Sharp-shinned Hawk flew over alerted us to a Least Chipmunk busily waving its tail in alarm from a dead tree trunk.

We continued over the rough road until we reached Teton Village, a large purpose-built ski resort, to use the restrooms and buy coffee before heading back to Jackson for lunch.

The heavy traffic slowed our journey into town but we spotted two Bald Eagles, more Red-tailed Hawks, Cedar Waxwings and some Buff-bellied (American) Pipits.

Lunch was taken at Bubba's Grill after which we had two hours down time to explore Jackson town before reassembling again at 3pm for further exploration during the late afternoon.

After exploring, we regrouped and headed north on Highway 191, turning at Moose Junction and entered the Teton Park Road into the park. Almost immediately we came across our first herd of Rocky Mountain Elk: a fine stag with a harem of cows. However another bird caught our attention as a Common Nighthawk flew back and forth above the sage brush searching for insects. We continued and spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the woods and shore of Jenny Lake. There was a fine assortment of passerines feeding in the trees, mainly Dark-eyed Juncos (of the pink-sided form), Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, two nice Red-breasted Nuthatches and a Brown Creeper. American Red Squirrels chattered and scurried around the trees and a small group of Mule Deer browsed the shrubs. The lake itself was still but devoid of life, and made a nice reflective foreground for the snowy Tetons. Over the far side an Elk stag started to bugle and we eventually found it and his harem moving through the trees.

Time was creeping on and the light was fading so we made our way back towards Moose Junction, stopping to watch a Red Fox hunting alongside the road and two bull Elks eye each other up on a meadow. We ate out packed sandwiches on picnic benches with views of the mountains and the sound of bugling Elk, and saw the sun go down before we headed back to our hotel, where we enjoyed an early night with an early start planned for the next day.

## Day 4

## Wednesday 27th September

### Jackson Hole and Grand Tetons

Another early start for another sunrise from a different vantage point! We headed to the beaver ponds at Schwabacher's Landing on a crisp frosty morning and gathered with a small crowd of photographers to witness a perfect sunrise illuminating Grand Teton. While there we saw two Muskrats but no beaver apart from their lodge and dams. We also saw evidence further down the stream as the mountains turned from fiery pink to white.

We then headed into the national park and called in at Jackson Lake Lodge for breakfast, after which we headed quickly to some wooded meadows on Dump Road after reports there had been a Great Grey Owl seen about an hour earlier. Unfortunately it did not show, although a party of thirsty Red Crossbills were watched at almost point blank range. We then headed to '2 Oceans' where there was a report of Grizzly Bears feeding in another meadow. This time both had gone to sleep out of view, so we headed down to the lake for a short walk on the trails. On the lake were Lesser Scaup and Double-crested Cormorants, and a Little Brown Bat was moved from the track. Returning to the meadow, one of the Grizzly Bears was now out feeding and we had plenty of time to watch at a safe distance.

We called into the diner at Jackson Lake Lodge again for lunch, where a Moose seen out in the meadow from the terrace.

The afternoon was spent at Signal Mountain, where there was a magnificent view of 'Jackson Hole' and Adam gave us a plotted history of the area. Chris and Berta found some Dusky Grouse which showed well, and along the roadside Morning Cloak (Camberwell Beauty) butterflies floated around the verges.

We went to Signal Mountain Lodge for dinner, but not before calling at the owl site again. Although there had not been any more sightings since the initial one, we did add Cassin's Finch and had good sightings of White-breasted Nuthatch here. We travelled home in the dark after a long fruitful final day in the Tetons National Park and retired to bed ready for our transfer to West Yellowstone in the morning.

## Day 5

Thursday 28th September

### Journey from Tetons to Yellowstone

Today was changeover day to West Yellowstone and we were packed and ready to leave at 8am. We called in to pick up our breakfast-to-go from the Creekside deli. We travelled through Teton and headed north to Yellowstone, stopping for a brief view of a Moose in willows at Blacktail Pond, and also went to see some historic barns on Mormon Road. On the J D Rockefeller parkway an area of burnt forest was visited, where Adam explained the ecology of a fire and its after-effects.

Continuing on, we entered Yellowstone National Park from the south and had a comfort stop at Flag Ranch. After crossing the Lewis River and falls we stopped to view Isa Lake and reached Old Faithful by lunchtime. At the Old Faithful Inn (a fantastic historical wooden structure) we had a nice light dinner before taking our places in the viewing area for the famous geyser. With Ravens and an American Goldfinch to pass the time, Adam also explained the physiology of a geyser and in particular this one. Then close to the predicted time it erupted in a shower of water and steam which lasted for about three minutes and looked great against the blue sky.

We left the site looking at many smaller geysers and fumaroles across the caldera, and then came across a close herd of Bison. We watched as two bulls paid more than passing attention to females, but there was no sparring today, although plenty of rolling in the dust. A small group of Elk also attracted our attention near to the Madison River, where a Belted Kingfisher flew past. Before leaving we found a Coyote which initially looked injured but we watched it devour some food.

After checking in and settling in to our rooms in West Yellowstone, we met at 6.30pm to catch up with our checklists before walking down to Bullwinkle's Eatery for a nice dinner.

## Day 6

Friday 29th September

### West Yellowstone, Old Faithful & geysers

We had breakfast at the hotel before gathering at 8am for a visit back into the active geyser area of Yellowstone. Entering the park, we drove towards Madison Junction with the Madison River to our side and made various stops along the way to enjoy Elk, Bison and a lone Trumpeter Swan. Adam then took us on a tour of the active thermal and geyser areas. We made visits to Firehole Canyon Falls, Fountain Paint Pots where the deposits changed colour according to the temperature at which the bacteria could survive. There were mud pools and two geysers were erupting; Clepsydra and then Jet as we left.

We headed to Old Faithful for lunch and as we arrived we saw that both Castle and Grand were erupting, the latter being bigger than Old Faithful so we stopped and made our way towards them. Unfortunately Grand was just finishing but Castle was in full flow and was considered by some to be more impressive than Old Faithful, with lots of noise, steam and water going on for some time. In fact as we watched this one, Old Faithful erupted in the background enabling a good photographic opportunity. After a brief visit to Grand we headed for the diner for a 'quick' lunch - this meant we had to eat quick in order to be ready for the next Old Faithful eruption as it was very busy.

Following the next eruption and a look around the visitors centre, we left the Old Faithful area and headed for the Grand Prismatic Spring. We took the half mile trail to the viewpoint where we could appreciate the stunning shape and colours of the pool from a high vantage point.

Our final thermal visit was a drive along the Firehole Lake road where we saw various pools, White Cone Geyser erupting and mud pots.

We then took the road back to West Yellowstone, slowing down to see more Elk and Bison as we left the park, and returned to our hotel to freshen up for dinner, which was taken at The Three Bears.

## Day 7

**Saturday 30th September**

### Yellowstone Canyon area and Hayden Valley

We had an early breakfast and were on the road into the park by 7.15am. The aim was to spend much of the day in the Hayden Valley area in search of wolves. We passed both Elk and Bison on the road to Madison Junction and, after a brief comfort stop, headed towards Yellowstone Grand Canyon and Hayden Valley. The day started bright but cloud soon built up as a change in the weather was promised. We paused on our journey to watch a Coyote hunting and an adult Bald Eagle flew past us. Our first call in Hayden Valley was at a high point known as Grizzly Overlook, where others were also scanning. We started to check the expansive valley with Elk and Bison visible, when some excited Chinese tourists rolled up and said there were three wolves to the south. We quickly got into the vehicles and headed for another viewpoint where we found a single Coyote which started to howl and then two others replied. Although this was a great sighting and watching their behaviour was exciting, they were not wolves.

We decided to move back down the road as we had seen plenty of waterfowl and a Killdeer as we drove past. The Killdeer was very obliging and we identified Trumpeter Swan, Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup and Cinnamon Teal. As we were watching these, suddenly the sound of howling wolves drifted over the valley and excitedly we scanned the tree line. A famous wolf-watcher Rick McIntyre turned up and he travelled up to the next lay-by higher up the hill, so we followed. And they were, a magnificent black Wolf and some grey ones. We were ecstatic and the telescopes were well used as we watched them howling. Eventually, after 15 minutes they started to walk up the hill and behind the wood out of sight. We counted eight animals and Rick confirmed they were part of the Wapiti Lake Pack. The lay-bys had filled with Wolf-watchers so we decided to check some other areas out in the valley.

After another hour of checking we headed towards the Canyon and visited Artists Point, which gave us magnificent views of the lower falls of the Yellowstone River into the Canyon. Many photographs later we

decide to beat the rush and headed for Canyon Village for lunch and visited the Centre, where we watched a short video.

Following lunch we visited the viewpoint for the upper falls where two American Red Squirrels were chasing each other over territory, and then we headed back into Hayden Valley to check again for wolves, but no other sightings. We continued to the far side of the valley and visited Lehardy Rapids where we had great views of a female Harlequin Duck fishing in the torrents and a family of American Dipper close to the shore.

Our final visit was back through Hayden Valley and past Canyon Village to Roaring Mountain. This was a huge mountainside of fumaroles and ash and a thought-provoking sight. A bonus here was a pair of Sandhill Cranes with a partially grown chick.

The plan was to return to the hotel early as the rain had set in as forecast by 3.30pm, but we were caught up in another Bison jam on the road from Madison to West Yellowstone where a herd of Bison had decided to occupy the road on their slow migration west along the Madison River valley. It took almost an hour to get through this so it was a quick turnaround for dinner at The Three Bears again, after which we completed our checklists after another brilliant day in Yellowstone.

## Day 8

Sunday 1st October

### Yellowstone Canyon area, Yellowstone Lake and Hayden Valley

An earlier start today to catch the sunrise. After breakfast in the hotel we headed out to the park at 6.45am and passed herds of Bison and Elk in the half light, before turning left at Madison and heading for The Canyon and Hayden Valley again. We stopped at Elk Park to watch the sun rise over the steamy thermal fields and then went on to Hayden Valley. We stopped at a layby where some wolf-watchers were staring at the site where we had seen wolf yesterday and they said they had just seen one, but it was in a dip for us. We decided to get higher and drove to a high vantage point. Watching the sage brush in front of the wood a dog appeared. At first it looked too warm around the ears as it was walking away, but then it sat down and faced us. It was a Grey Wolf and it began to howl. For the next 10 minutes we watched this animal, which Adam thought might be a yearling, as it made its way slowly up the hillside and out of view. Another great sighting.

We made various checks along the valley but couldn't find any more, but the sharp frost this morning had caused some bird movement as a late Osprey passed south and a flock of Mountain Bluebirds passed through, with American Robins appearing again. Following a comfort and coffee stop, we headed to the Yellowstone Lake as someone had reported two Grizzly Bears. We checked all the usual places but could not find them, however the views from the hillside of the huge lake were magnificent. Dropping back down, we went for a short walk on the Pelican Lake trail before lunch but this appeared quiet with snoozing Bison in the meadow and an entertaining Chipmunk.

We had lunch at the Yellowstone Lake Hotel, after which we checked the lake where at least five Great Northern Divers (Common Loons) sat offshore and a juvenile Bald Eagle flew over as we took a group photograph. The rest of the afternoon was spent visiting the opposite side of the Lower Falls to get a different perspective of the mud volcano and sulphur pots before we made our way back to the hotel. We were again delayed by a Bison-jam and snow falling, and got back around 5.30 pm

We headed out to the Madison Crossing Lounge at 6.30pm for dinner, and completed our checklists back at the hotel. Tomorrow is our changeover day to Cook City, so we were to have a later start.

## Day 9

**Monday 2nd October**

### Travelled from West Yellowstone to Cooke City

We took to the road again today as we transferred from West Yellowstone to Cooke City. We left at 8am and entered the park through the west gate and towards Madison. The mist and steam was rising from the warm river as there had been a sharp frost that night, and we stopped to admire and photograph a splendid buck Elk attending his herd and occasionally bugling.

Turning left at Madison, we stopped at Gibbon falls and then, as we approached Canyon Village, had a message that the Wapiti Lake Wolf pack had been showing, all twenty of them, so we hightailed it down Hayden Valley until we met the wolf-watchers. Unfortunately the pack had left to the north, so while we were there we had a nice walk along a track to view a 'wolf trail' in hopes they would appear, but unfortunately not.

We retraced our route back to Canyon Village and headed over the Dunraven Pass to a height of 8860 feet, taking photographs on the way. We made a quick stop at Tower to admire the geology and collect some drinks at Tower Junction services before we turned down Lamar Valley Road into the Lamar Valley, where we stopped to eat our packed lunches at a picnic site.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in the Lamar Valley admiring the vast herds of Bison and some Pronghorns down by the Lamar River, and also watching several herds run down the hill and cross the road. We stopped again at the confluence of the Lamar River and the Soda Butte Creek and had a short walk to stretch our legs. Here we watched a Golden Eagle high on the ridge which kept dropping its prey, and also found five Bighorn Sheep on a distant crag.

As we drove towards Cooke City we made a final stop at Baronette Peak and over the course of 30 minutes found around 12 Mountain Goats high on the crags, which also attracted the attention of passing motorists.

We checked in at our comfortable hotel at 4pm and then regrouped at 6pm for dinner at the Prospector, and followed this by completing our checklist. We retired early with the promise of an early start in the morning.

## Day 10

**Tuesday 3rd October**

### Lamar Valley area

We all met in the fresh snow at 5.20am and drove up the road to Silver Gate, where we had breakfast at The Log Cabin Café at 5.30am. We were on the road into Lamar Valley by dawn. We stopped at various places scanning the hillsides for wolves and bears, and stopped to examine some fresh grizzly footprints in the snow but couldn't find the owner. Bison had wandered back up the hillside, some looking pretty frosty on their back after a cold night.

Near to the bridge over the Yellowstone River we came across a group of wolf-watchers and that was what they were doing. They had found the Junction Butte pack and eight animals were playing in the early morning sun on



a hillside, nearer than any others we had seen. There were six black Wolves and two greys, and we watched them as they exhibited all sorts of behaviour from submissive to play fighting. Eventually they settled down to sleep so we continued on our quest for other animals. These came in the form of some close Pronghorns to photograph, then a group of Bighorn Sheep (all females). We made various other stops checking for animals and birds and then called into the Tower Junction service station for coffee.

We retraced our steps back through Lamar Valley, stopping again to watch the Wolves which were just stirring and we saw them all leave the area and walk into the forest. More checking and more Bison and Pronghorns, and then a short hike uphill to Trout Lake, finding White-tailed Deer en route. At the top we admired the scenery and four Barrow's Goldeneye feeding on the pond. An Osprey flew over paying attention to the pool which held Cut-throat Trout, and we briefly saw a Mountain Goat on the cliffs above before it walked out of view. Ripples in the water attracted our attention to a friendly Muskrat chewing reeds near the bank, and as we descended Clark's Nutcrackers accompanied us.

We returned to Cooke City for lunch at the Prospector and then had two hours down time before heading out again at 3.30pm

We travelled the road through Lamar Valley, again in search of bears. Initially there were none to be seen but we had good views of Pronghorns and very close Bighorn Sheep. We visited the Tower Falls before turning back the do the Lamar Valley again. This time Adam came up trumps, firstly with a very brief view of an adult Grizzly Bear with two cubs walking down a hill, and then a male Grizzly Bear in the valley meadow which we watched for 15 minutes. What a fantastic day: three species of dog, a bear and fourteen species of mammals. To cap it all there was a fabulous moonrise over the mountains as we returned to Cooke City for dinner, again at the Prospector, before retiring to bed

## Day 11

Wednesday 4th October

### Lamar Valley area and Mammoth

A quick breakfast at the hotel and then on the road by 7.30am. Shortly after leaving Cooke City we happened across a couple with cameras on the side of the road and they told us it was a Moose. There, standing about 100 metres away, was a magnificent bull Moose with a fine set of antlers. Having taken our photographs and the Moose walking up the valley we continued into Lamar Valley, checking out all the favourite places for wolves and bears but none this morning. There were still plenty of Bison and some Pronghorns in the valley but we were looking for bears, so we headed for the road around Tower/Roosevelt area, locally called bear ally. A surprise find here was a smart Great Horned Owl sitting in the sun next to the road for all to see. Still looking for bears, we went on a hike uphill above Floating Island Lake where Steller's Jay and Chipping Sparrows appeared and some had brief views of Pika in a loose rocky area, but still no bear.

We drove into Mammoth for lunch and then spent some time looking at the hot springs and visiting the Visitors Centre, where Adam gave us a short history of the park.

With rain threatening we continued our search by driving up to the Silvergate of Yellowstone to look at the rock formations, and we also had better views of Pika. We went to the viewpoint at Hell Roaring but a heavy shower

caused us to abandon and we drove to Calcite Springs, overlooking a canyon where three fine male Bighorn Sheep paraded with full horns.

Light was fading so we started the return trip along Lamar Valley back to Cooke City, stopping at various viewpoints to check for bears and although none again, we had great views of Coyote.

We ate at the Log Cabins cafe at Silver Gate and later completed our checklist in the hotel before we retired to bed.

## Day 12

Thursday 5th October

### Cooke City to Bozeman via Mammoth and Gardiner

Our last visit to Yellowstone started with breakfast in Cooke City and then we travelled along the Lamar valley towards Tower. Bison were moving in the valley and a Coyote was seen again in the Sage brush. We stopped at Crystal Creek where Adam spoke about the reintroduction of Wolves before a coffee break at Tower Services. We checked the Petrified Tree and Undine Falls before travelling through Mammoth up onto Swan Lake Flats.

Adam had received some information and here we saw a female Grizzly Bear and her two cubs digging up and feeding on roots – an exciting encounter. Swan Lake itself held two Trumpeter Swans and an assortment of ducks and grebes. Our next stop was Sheepeater Cliffs, a good example of columnar basalt and named after a First Nation tribe.

On the way back down to Mammoth we stopped again at Silver Gate and saw Pika, and then toured around the Upper Terrace of the springs viewing over Canary Spring, and we also had our first sighting of Townsend's Solitaire feeding on juniper berries.

We lunched in Mammoth and sadly started to make our way out of the park towards Bozeman, but not before stopping at Rescue Creek to see Bighorn Sheep, to take photographs of the Roosevelt Arch in Gardiner, and more sheep near to Gardiner Airport.

The journey to Bozeman (and our hotel in Belgrade) was quick and uneventful, although we saw plenty of Red-tailed Hawks and recorded groups of White-tailed Deer in the fields.

We gathered to complete our final checklist and, on behalf of the group, Dave thanked Adam and Chris for all their hard work, expertise and safe driving, in the customary way. We dined at the Mint Cafe and Bar in Belgrade and before retiring said goodbye to Hugh and Liz who were staying over and continuing their visit as part of their long term plans for living in Canada.

## Day 13

Friday 6th October

### Flights from Bozeman to Chicago and on to London

After breakfast we were taken to the airport to check in for our flights back to the UK. We said our goodbyes to Adam and Chris who had ably looked after us for the past 13 days and we all left, having made new friends and seen some of the more dramatic scenery and wildlife in the United States.

The flight from Bozeman to Chicago was uneventful and we said goodbye to the four who had flown from and to London on British Airways, whilst the remaining members of the group flew back to London on a United flight

## Day 14

Saturday 7th October

### Arrival in London

The flight made good time, arriving into Heathrow some 15 minutes early. We said our goodbyes at the baggage carousel and went our separate ways armed with memories of one of the Earth's most exciting places for scenery and wildlife.

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Sunrise on the Teton Mountains

## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	September/October											
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinators</i>				1	1	10	15				2	
3	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>					1	2						
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	3					5	2					
5	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	25	✓				2						
6	American Wigeon	<i>Mareca Americana</i>	✓	4	5		2	✓	5				✓	
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>											3	
9	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	4	2					2				3	
10	Redhead	<i>Aythya Americana</i>	6						150					
11	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	25		2				5					
12	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>			3			40	150				✓	
13	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>						1						
14	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	1	1		✓								
15	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			1			✓	✓		1			
16	Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	2		5			✓	✓		5			
17	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	1			5		15	✓					
18	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	6								1	1		
19	Dusky Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>			3									
20	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>												15
21	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>							5					
22	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	1		1								1	
23	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	5		3			1	1				10	
24	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>			1	2	1	1						
25	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>			15				6					
26	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	2	2										
27	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							1		1			
28	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	3							3	1			
29	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1	1	1			1		1		1		

	Common name	Scientific name	September/October											
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
30	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1		1		1							
31	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	1	1		1					1			
32	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>		2	1			5	2	2		2		
33	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	25	10	3	3	1	2	2	2		2	✓	3
34	American Coot	<i>Fulica Americana</i>	✓	✓	✓			1	✓		✓	5	✓	
35	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>						1						
36	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		1	3				5					
37	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>											✓	
38	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>										1		
39	Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>		1										
40	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	H			1	1		1				1	
41	Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	1											
42	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>			1							H		
43	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>				1				1				
44	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	3	1				2					1	
45	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	6	2		1								
46	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1											
47	Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	1											
48	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrines</i>	1											
49	Grey Jay	<i>Perisoreus Canadensis</i>	6	3	5	2			6	✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	1								1	2		
51	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	3	5	2	H				2	6	✓	✓	
52	Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	4	1	4			✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	2	2	1		20					✓	
54	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	8	6	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	3	40										
56	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	4	2	1		1		1			H		
57	Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	5	3	3	2			3	✓	2		3	
58	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	35											
59	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	10	2										
60	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>			1									
61	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	2	2			1		1				1	

	Common name	Scientific name	September/October											
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
62	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	1											
63	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta Canadensis</i>	H	2	2		H		6	✓	1	H		
64	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>		1	1								1	
65	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia Americana</i>		2	H									
66	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	50	✓		2					40	60	✓	
67	Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	50		5				20					
68	Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>											1	
69	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	100	60	10	5			10	H	3	6	✓	
70	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>						4	1					
71	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		2										✓
72	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	15	3	2	10								
73	Cassin's Finch	<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>	1		3									
74	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		H	8									
75	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>		1		1								
76	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>	30	✓	✓						✓	H	H	
77	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	1											
78	Audubon's Warbler	<i>Setophaga auduboni</i>	25	✓	10	3				✓			3	
79	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>		1										
80	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	1											
81	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	6			4		1						
82	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	2			2		10		✓				
83	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	✓	✓				4	✓					
84	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	1				1							
85	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	6			2								
86	Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided)	<i>Junco hyemalis mearnsi</i>	✓	✓				1	3	✓	1		✓	
87	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerine</i>		8								5	1	
88	Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	3											
89	Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>											1	

## Mammals

1	American Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	H	✓	✓			2	2	✓	2	✓		
2	Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>		1	3	H	1	✓	1	3	3	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	September/October											
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Common Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>			2						1		1	
4	American Pika	<i>Ochotona princeps</i>										3	1	
5	Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>			1									
6	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	2			1		5		1	3	1	1	
7	Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>						8	1		8			
8	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1							1			
9	American Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	3											
10	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	1		1						4		3	
11	American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	1											
12	Moose	<i>Alces americanus</i>	2	1	1	1						1		
13	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>				2					15	8	✓	
14	White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>									3		20	
15	Rocky Mountain Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus nelsoni</i>			15	20	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		30										
17	Pronghorn	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	35	25	30	✓				1	✓	✓	✓	
18	American Bison	<i>Bison bison</i>	50		260	450	200	✓	✓	800	✓	✓	✓	
19	Mountain Goat	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>								12	1			
20	Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis Canadensis</i>								5	5	13	✓	

### Other Taxa (C = caterpillar)

Green Comma, *Polygonia faunus*

Tiger Moth (C). (woolly bear)

Spur-throated Grasshopper sp. *Cyrtacanthacridinae* sp.

Cutthroat Trout, *Oncorhynchus clarkia*

Mourning Cloak, *Nymphalis antiopa*

Spotted Tussock moth (C), *Lophocampa maculata*

Jumping Spider sp. *Platycryptus* sp.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell, *Nymphalis milberti*

Caddis fly sp.

Brown Trout, *Salmo trutta*

### Notable Plants

Black Hawthorn

Whitebark Pine

Harebell

Heart Leaf Arnica

Douglas Fir

Quaking Aspen

Sage Brush

Rocky Mountain Maple

Lodge pole Pine

Mountain Ash

Rabbit Brush

Fireweed



Narrow-leaf Cottonwood  
Wild Strawberry  
Engelmann Spruce  
Water Lilly  
Common Juniper  
Musk Thistle  
Bull Thistle  
Dandelion  
Bitterbrush

Limber Pine  
Gooseberry  
Lupine  
Cattails  
Rocky Mountain Juniper  
Elk Thistle  
Pearly Everlasting  
Yarrow

Wild Raspberry  
Subalpine Fir  
Arrowleaf Balsom Root  
Horsetail  
Prickly Pear Cactus  
Wild Rose  
Sticky Geranium  
Wyoming Big Sagebrush



American Robin



American Red Squirrel