

MONTANA: YELLOWSTONE TO GLACIER

Jun 7, 2012 to Jun 17, 2012
Terry McEneaney & John Coons



Does Montana really possess the most spectacular scenery in the lower 48? This photo by tour participant Pat Newman certainly supports that position, but why not take the tour yourself and form your own opinion?

This is one of the greatest scenic wildlife trips in North America. On this trip, everywhere we look are incredible mountains and picturesque valleys coupled with abundant wildlife, including both birds and mammals. Yellowstone National Park is the biggest draw for the visitor and rightfully so, for if not for the geothermal features (geysers, hot springs, fumaroles, mudpots, and frying pans) it would be like most mountain areas of the Rocky Mountain West. But Yellowstone is also special for other reasons and is teeming with wildlife; the Yellowstone experience is one not to be forgotten anytime soon.

Then there is the less well-known Glacier National Park, which is purely magical to the human psyche, with an abundance of snow meltwater, hanging waterfalls, glaciers and snowfields, tall trees and colorful wildflowers, and an accompanying complement of birds and mammals.

But few visitors have experienced the areas in between these two magnificent national parks. We traveled this off-the-beaten path, because we know it personally by having lived and worked in these out-of-the-way places that few visitors (and even Montana residents!) have seen.

It was quite the trip, covering 1850 miles in 9 days. We crossed twelve high-elevation mountain passes, including crossing the Continental Divide on eight separate occasions. Most surprising was the fact that we traveled from the Arctic drainage to the Atlantic drainage to the Pacific drainage all within a four-hour period!

In all, we tallied 184 species of birds and 26 species of mammals. Highlight birds included: Boreal Chickadee, Black Swift, Sage Sparrow, Alder and Gray flycatchers, McCown's and Chestnut-collared longspurs, and Short-eared and Burrowing owls. Our mammal list was equally impressive with Gray Wolves, Grizzlies, Moose, Mountain Goats, and Bighorn Sheep topping the charts for large mammals, while the rare Pygmy Rabbit won the prize by far for the top small mammal.

Our fondest bird memories included two beautifully-clad, breeding-plumaged Harlequin Duck drakes playing and feeding in a pattern by flying upstream, then descending and kayaking the Yellowstone River through a turbulent cascade only to repeat the process. We also watched a Golden Eagle performing an undulating territorial display in Glacier National Park. And we observed two Burrowing Owls sticking their heads out of a badger hole, not to mention incredible views of perched and flying Short-eared Owls at close range. The remarkable parachuting displays of the McCown's Longspur will be etched in our minds. And of course a pale female Merlin, of the Great Plains or Prairie race (*F.c. richardsonii*), carrying a Brewer's Blackbird was yet another highlight.

Our fondest memories of watching mammals, many with newborn young, included close views of adult Gray Wolves on two occasions. We found seven Grizzlies, including a rare sighting of a sow with a cub that ventured onto the plains from the Rocky Mountain Front. We also found what is becoming rare in Montana these days--Moose! We saw two in Yellowstone, eight on the Rocky Mountain Front, and closer-than-expected views of two in Glacier.

The Field Guides 2012 Yellowstone to Glacier tour was a smashing success, much in part due to mother nature, the cooperating weather, and a fun group of adventurous travelers seeking a unique experience. It was a pleasure for John and me to guide you from Yellowstone to Glacier, to the off-the-beaten-path places, and for the wildlife, skylscapes, and landscapes that we fondly symbolize and call Montana (the Big Sky state). Thanks for traveling with Field Guides!

--Terry

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/mnt12LIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) – Found 8 of 9 days, bordering on numerous. [N]

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*) – Found in Paradise Valley and at Red Rock Lakes. One even on a nest in the Centennial Valley. [N]

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) – Seen on days 1 and 9.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*) – Nearly every day. [N]

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*) – Nearly every day. [N]

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – Nearly every day. [N]

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*) – Found 5 of 9 days.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*) – Many stunning views of this magnificent anatid.

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (AMERICAN) (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)

CANVASBACK (*Aythya valisineria*)

REDHEAD (*Aythya americana*)

RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*)

LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*) – One of the most common of the diving ducks.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) – Found in a few places-stunningly close views of colorfully ornate drakes in Yellowstone kayaking and flying, and flying/resting drakes in Glacier.



After a session of shooting the rapids in the torrential Yellowstone River, two male Harlequin Ducks take a break and contemplate another run. (Photo by guide Terry McEneaney)

BUFFLEHEAD (*Bucephala albeola*)

COMMON GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*) – A small flock found in Yellowstone.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) – Found mainly in the Yellowstone area.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*)

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

RING-NECKED PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*) [I]

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – Some drive-by looks. [I]

Gaviidae (Loons)

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*) – Found one at Warm Springs.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*)

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) [N]

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) [N]

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) [N]

CLARK'S GREBE (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) [N]

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*) [N]

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*) – Found close to a dozen on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – Seen nearly every day. One seen at Floating Island Lake in Yellowstone.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) [N]

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) [N]

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*) – Only one individual seen on day 5.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*) – Wonderful views of this darling buteo. [N]

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – Seen every day. [N]

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*) – Found days 4 and 5. Wonderful close views on day 5 north of Dillon, plus a nest with two nestlings. [N]

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – Different views of this bird, mostly flying.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) [N]

MERLIN (PRAIRIE) (*Falco columbarius richardsonii*) – A female or jenny Merlin of the pale Great Plains or Prairie race *richardsonii* seen carrying a Brewer's Blackbird with the Rocky Mountain Front rampart and calving clouds in the background--stunning in several respects. Not an easy bird to find in Montana this time of year.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)



A prairie fencepost makes an excellent perch for a Wilson's Snipe between performances of its winnowing display flight. (Photo by tour participant Pat Newman)

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*) – Heard one calling from a marsh on the Rocky Mountain Front.

SORA (*Porzana carolina*) – Heard several and for some in the group nice close looks at this colorful but elusive railid.

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*) – Quite common.

Gruidae (Cranes)

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*) – Seen often and in many places, including young or colts.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Wonderful looks of this black and white shorebird with bubblegum-colored legs, while feeding and in flight on the East Front of the Rockies.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) – Set a record for the sheer number of avocets seen on this Y-G tour. Several hundred individuals seen, probably due to the drought on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*) – Found every day.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – Found one individual at a pothole in the Mission Valley.

WILLET (WESTERN) (*Tringa semipalmata inornata*)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) – Found only one individual while traveling the East Front of the Rockies.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius americanus*) – Many great looks at this large shorebird with a downcurved bill, including wonderful looks at recently hatched precocial young. [N]

MARbled GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*) – Super looks at this large shorebird, up close and personal, including precocial young. [N]

WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*)

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – Virtually saw thousands, particularly on the East Front of the Rockies. Record numbers were most likely due to the drought-stricken area.



Wilson's Phalaropes, like this lovely female, are a common sight at the myriad of small sloughs along the eastern front of the Rockies. (Photo by guide Terry McEneaney)

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*) – Observed thousands. [N]

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*) [N]

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Nice close looks at this large tern with huge red-orange bill.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*) – Nice looks at this small exquisite long-tailed tern.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*) [I]

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*) – Many observed.

Strigidae (Owls)

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*) – Wonderful looks at an adult with two fledged offspring in the Mission Valley, and one nestling in Yellowstone. [N]

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*) – Great looks at this small long-legged owl. Two adults total.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*) – Amazing close looks at two adults (a lighter male and a darker more rusty female) perched and in flight. Quite a show with snowy mountains in the background.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*) – Saw and heard over a dozen individuals in three locations.

Apodidae (Swifts)

BLACK SWIFT (*Cypseloides niger*) – Saw two individuals in Glacier NP flying high with rushing water and waterfalls everywhere.

VAUX'S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*) – Saw over two dozen individuals, some quite close.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) – Wonderful close looks at this black and white-colored swift.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*) – Found at four of nine days, some very close views.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (*Stellula calliope*) – Great looks of this bird up close at feeders and showing off its gorget in the wild.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes lewis*) – Sensational views of this fly-catching woodpecker that from a distance looks like only a blackbird. But in the right light the colors are green, red, and pink feather iridescence are mind-boggling.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*) – Super looks at this colorful sapsucker.

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*)

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*)

AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (*Picoides dorsalis*) – Heard one individual drilling in Glacier NP.



Thank goodness for digital cameras. With all the spectacular mountain scenery on this trip, the film costs would be prohibitive! (Photo by guide Terry McEneaney)

NORTHERN FLICKER (RED-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus cafer*)

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*) – Heard one individual from afar.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*)

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*)

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*) – Found three or more singing individuals on the Rocky Mountain Front.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*)

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*)

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax hammondi*)

GRAY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax wrightii*) – Wonderful views of this darling gray-colored empid in Southwest Montana.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*) – Saw at least two individuals-- one in sw Montana one on Rocky Mountain Front.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – Saw dozens of individuals, with an out of place individual on the Camas Road in Glacier NP.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – Super looks at a cooperative individual, this bird is becoming hard to find in the summer in Montana.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

CASSIN'S VIREO (*Vireo cassinii*) – Great looks at two individuals in Glacier NP.

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*)

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*) – Super looks in Glacier NP.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

GRAY JAY (*Perisoreus canadensis*) – Found at three locations- one location in YNP of the much lighter (P.c. capitalis) and two locations in GNP of the darker race (P.C. bicolor). [N]

STELLER'S JAY (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) – Found in several locations--all of the C.S. annectens race.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (*Pica hudsonia*)

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (*Nucifraga columbiana*)

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

Alaudidae (Larks)

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*)

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*)

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*)

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE (*Poecile gambeli*)

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE (*Poecile rufescens*)

BOREAL CHICKADEE (*Poecile hudsonicus*) – Scored big time on the chickadees, particularly of this species in Glacier NP. This is a difficult to find bird in Montana no matter how you shake it.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*)

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*)

PYGMY NUTHATCH (*Sitta pygmaea*) – Wonderful looks at this diminutive nuthatch on the last day of travel.

Certhiidae (Treecreepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*)

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

PACIFIC WREN (*Troglodytes pacificus*)

MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*)

Cinclidae (Dippers)

AMERICAN DIPPER (*Cinclus mexicanus*) – A wonderful bird where one could spend hours watching it in its rushing water environment.

Regulidae (Kinglets)

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*) – Several in Glacier NP.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*)

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

WESTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia mexicana*) – Two individuals while traveling the East Front of the Rockies.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia currucoides*) – Nearly every day. Not as many as in other years--drought in several areas.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*)

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*)

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*)

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*)

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*)

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*) – Stunning views of this remarkably colorfully large thrush or turdid. But its ethereal song is something not to be missed.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*)

SAGE THRASHER (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) – Found mainly in southwest Montana.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) [I]

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*) – One heard on a ridge on east side of Glacier NP.

Bombycillidae (Waxwings)

CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Calcariidae (Longspurs and Snow Buntings)

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (*Calcarius ornatus*) – Found in sw Montana nd Riocky Mountain Front.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) – Stunning parachute displays of this species.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*)

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – Found on west side of Glacier NP.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis celata*) – Found on west side of Glacier NP.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) – Found on west side of Glacier NP.



A ray of sunshine on a cloudy day (or even a sunny one!) -- a male Western Tanager. (Photo by tour participant Pat Newman)

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*)

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Found on west side of Glacier NP.

YELLOW WARBLER (*Setophaga petechia*)

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S) (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Setophaga townsendi*) – Found on both sides of the Continental Divide in Glacier NP.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*) – Found on day 2 in Yellowstone.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*)

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE (*Pipilo chlorurus*) – Found on day 2 while watching wolves in Yellowstone.

SPOTTED TOWHEE (*Pipilo maculatus*)

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*)

BREWER'S SPARROW (BREWERI) (*Spizella breweri breweri*)

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

SAGE SPARROW (INTERIOR) (*Amphispiza belli nevadensis*) – Super looks at two perhaps three individuals in southwest Montana.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

FOX SPARROW (SLATE-COLORED) (*Passerella iliaca schistacea*) – Great looks at this 'slate-colored' race on day 4 en route to the Centennial Valley.

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*)

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (MOUNTAIN) (*Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*)

DARK-EYED JUNCO (OREGON) (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*) – Found mainly in Glacier NP.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (PINK-SIDED) (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*) – Found mainly on days 1, 3, and 4, and mainly in Yellowstone.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*) – An amazing colorful Montana bird.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*) – The color of the gem lapis lazuli--what a great name for describing the color of a bunting.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) – Super looks at this black, white, and gold icterid on the East Front of the Rockies.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

WESTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella neglecta*)

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) – Some of the greatest densities and closest looks ever of this species in Montana on day 1.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*) – Misnamed, should be called the "Brown-headed Bisonbird"--maybe we should petition the AOU.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

CASSIN'S FINCH (*Carpodacus cassinii*)

HOUSE FINCH (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (AMERICAN) (*Loxia leucoptera leucoptera*)

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*)

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*)

EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

MAMMALS

- PYGMY RABBIT** (*Sylvilagus idahoensis*) – A super look at two of these remarkably cute yet small adult lagomorphs in southwest Montana.
- NUTTALL'S (MOUNTAIN) COTTONTAIL** (*Sylvilagus nuttalli*) – Seen on days 1, 3, and 4.
- WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT** (*Lepus townsendi*) – Seen on day 2 in the dark and in the headlights.
- LEAST CHIPMUNK** (*Tamias minimus*) – Seen 6 of 9 days.
- YELLOW-PINE CHIPMUNK** (*Tamias amoenus*) – Found on days 1, 2, and 8.
- YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT** (*Marmota flaviventris*) – Seen on days 2,3, and 7.
- COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Spermophilus columbianus*) – Found on 7 of 9 days of travel.
- WYOMING GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Spermophilus elegans*) – Found on days 4 and 5 while in southwest Montana.
- UINTA GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Spermophilus armatus*) – Found on days 1, 2, and 4. The primary ground-squirrel of Yellowstone NP.
- BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG** (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) – Found three colonies on day 5.
- FOX SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus niger*) – Found in Missoula.
- RED SQUIRREL** (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) – Saw the reddish morph in Yellowstone, and the grayer-reddish form in Glacier NP.
- BEAVER** (*Castor canadensis*) – One individual was seen on day 1.
- MUSKRAT** (*Ondatra zibethica*)
- RED FOX** (*Vulpes vulpes*) – Watched one outside of YNP on the porch of someone's house. It was definitely wild, but apparently being fed, because it was very unusual behavior for a Red Fox.
- GRAY WOLF** (*Canis lupus*) – Saw 2 individuals one day and 3 individuals on another day--all in Yellowstone NP with very good close views.
- BLACK BEAR** (*Ursus americanus*) – Got to see two individuals, both in Yellowstone NP.
- BROWN (INCL. GRIZZLY) BEAR** (*Ursus arctos*) – Found several individuals in Yellowstone NP, including sows with cubs. But our greatest find and experience was a large sow with a lone cub on the East Front of the Rockies. This doesn't happen that often.
- ELK** (*Cervus canadensis*) – Dozens.
- MULE DEER** (*Odocoileus hemionus*) – Hundreds.
- WHITE-TAILED DEER** (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
- MOOSE** (*Alces alces*) – We struck it rich--these ungulates (cloven-hoofed mammals) are becoming uncommon to rare in Montana--depending on the predator pressure and area. We saw one in Yellowstone, eight on the East Front of the Rockies (including cows and newborn calves) and two in Glacier (on both East and West sides). Both nearly ran into our vehicle.
- PRONGHORN** (*Antilocapra americana*)
- AMERICAN BISON** (*Bison bison*) – In excess of 1,500 individuals, all in Yellowstone NP.
- MOUNTAIN GOAT** (*Oreamnos americanus*)
- BIGHORN SHEEP** (*Ovis canadensis*) – Found on days 2,3,7 6 in both Yellowstone and Glacier. Total at least 14 animals.



The term "sure-footed" must surely have been coined to describe the Mountain Goat; its delicate hooves allow it to step on the tiniest of ledges and scale impossibly steep cliff faces. (Photo by guide Terry McEneaney)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 184 bird taxa and 26 mammal taxa