



Sunrise Birding, LLC

983 Durham Road, Guilford, Connecticut 06437 USA

Montana, Yellowstone, & the Grand Tetons

Private Tour: August 28 – September 11, 2008

The land in and around Yellowstone National Park is filled with wildlife. From majestic mountain ranges to pristine valleys, the wonders of this region are endless – 300 active geysers, gorgeous blue lakes, cascading waterfalls, and the largest concentration of free-roaming wildlife in the lower 48 states. Grizzlies, wolves, elk, bison, antelope, moose, and 318 species of birds make this area home. Late summer is a perfect time to visit this region. The summer crowds have thinned out, passerines are preparing for migration, vibrant fall oranges, reds, and yellows contrast with dark evergreens, and the wildlife feed vigorously to get ready for the long, cold winter. This tour explores this spectacular region of the American west with opportunities to experience the best of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons.



Itinerary:

Thursday, August 28 - Arrival Bozeman.

After collecting our luggage, we'll transfer to our hotel in Bozeman for the evening. Night in Bozeman.

Friday, August 29 – Bozeman to Yellowstone; Mammoth Terraces

Today we head east from Bozeman toward Livingston and then turn south down the Paradise Valley along the Yellowstone River to the north entrance of Yellowstone National Park. We will stop along the way to look for Golden Eagles and Turkey Vultures soaring between the peaks of the magnificent Absaroka Mountains to the east and the Gallatins to the west. We'll also watch for American Kestrel and Prairie Falcon perched along the roadside. The riparian valley between the two mountain ranges offers good waterfowl viewing and we will keep an eye out for Osprey, Sandhill Crane, Common Loon, Eared, Horned and Red-necked Grebe, Snow Goose, Tundra Swan and possibly Trumpeter Swan. We will enter Yellowstone Park through the famous Roosevelt Arch and head south through Gardiner Canyon to Mammoth Hot Springs. Along the way, we will watch for Horned Lark and Mountain Bluebird in the grasslands and White-throated Swift and Red-tailed Hawk in the canyon. We'll also check the rugged cliffs above for grazing Bighorn Sheep. We'll marvel at the many thermal features of Mammoth and check the area around the visitor center for Red-



naped Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brewer's Blackbird, Townsend's Solitaire, Black-billed Magpie, and the amazing American Elk. We'll check nearby streams for American Dipper and search brushy areas for the beautiful Lazuli Bunting. Night in Gardner, Montana.



Saturday, August 30 - Upper and Lower Falls/Old Faithful

Today, we continue into Yellowstone Park likely having to navigate around herds of Bison along the roads. We will stop at overlooks along the way to see the thundering waters of the Yellowstone River's Upper and Lower Falls. We will watch for Coyote, Northern Harrier, Elk and hopefully see the splendid but elusive Harlequin Duck in the fast-moving waters of LeHardy Rapids. We will drive along the shore of Yellowstone Lake where we will keep a watchful eye for Western Grebe, Greater Scaup, Double-crested Cormorant, Bufflehead, and Eared Grebe. We will travel through Craig Pass and cross the Continental Divide. We will stop at the famous West Thumb Geyser Basin, the smallest, but arguably most scenic of the geyser basins in Yellowstone. Here we will have a chance to see unique thermal features including the colorful Abyss Pool, the Blue Funnel Spring, the Black Pool, and the famous West Thumb Paint Pots. Leaving West Thumb,



we will continue to the Upper Geyser Basin, home to more than 70 major geysers - including Old Faithful. We will explore the boardwalk trails that wind through the geysers, fumaroles, mud pots and colorful hot springs and watch the unfailing eruption of Old Faithful, the world's most famous geyser. Two nights in West Yellowstone.

Sunday, August 31 - Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Today, we'll explore Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Montana. Several large shallow lakes occur here and provide habitat for Franklin's Gulls, Long-billed Curlew, Caspian Tern, White-faced Ibis, and other species. Sandhill Cranes are common - their loud calls rivaling only that of the Trumpeter Swan, signature species of the refuge. Night in West Yellowstone.



**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday,
September 1, 2 & 3 - Grand
Teton National Park**

Leaving West Yellowstone this morning, we head south to Grand Teton National Park for two days in one of the top five US National Parks for bird watching. This magnificent park encompasses a range of habitats from alpine meadows to sagebrush flats, to lodge pole pine forests to mountain streams. These varied habitats are home to a variety of species and we will be on the look out for Olive-sided and Cordilleran



Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Red-naped Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker, MacGillivray's Warbler, Western Tanager, Lincoln's, Brewer's and Savannah Sparrows, Tree and Violet-green Swallows, American White Pelican, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Goshawk, and the elusive Great Gray Owl. Three nights in Jackson, Wyoming.

Thursday & Friday, September 4 & 5 - Central Yellowstone

Today, we head north into the heart of Yellowstone where we will spend two days exploring the landscape and discovering the wildlife of the central region of the park. We will visit Sylvan Pass and the truly magnificent Yellowstone Lake, perhaps the most productive birding location in the park where White Pelican, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Western and Clark's Grebes, Greater Scaup, Bald Eagle, Osprey are all possible. We'll check several ponds in the area including one with deep enough water to attract Canvasback and other diving ducks. We will explore varied habitats from meadows dotted with sagebrush and aspen woodlands, through lodge pole pine up to spruce-fir forests. Here we hope to find Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Steller's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch and other birds in the lush, beautiful forest. Two nights in Yellowstone National Park.



Saturday, September 6 - Lamar Valley

Today, we will head east to the remote and beautiful Lamar Valley, the central area of the recent reintroduction efforts of the Gray Wolf. Our base for the next three nights will be in Cooke City, Montana a small town at the north-east entrance to Yellowstone. The Lamar Valley yields a breathtaking wide-open landscape scattered with ponds and large boulders. It is home to herds of Elk, Bison, Mule Deer, and Pronghorn as well as several packs of wolves, and is a prime location to view wildlife and witness the dynamics of predator/prey relationships. From a safe distance, we'll watch for Grizzly and Black Bear activity and

look for Ravens, Coyote, Fox, and Black-billed Magpie as they vie for carcass remains. We'll check the Lamar Creek for Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and other waterfowl. And we'll keep an eye to the sky for raptors including Golden Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk. 3 nights at Cooke City.

**Sunday, September 7 -
Beartooth Pass**

Today, we will drive the scenic Beartooth Pass enjoying stunning views of the Beartooth and Absaroka Mountain ranges. We'll search the mountain and alpine habitats for American Pipit, Horned Lark, Northern Goshawk, Yellow-bellied Marmot, and look for area specialties including Black- and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, Peregrine Falcon, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, and Pine Siskin. We'll also look for Clark's Nutcrackers and hopefully see Rocky Mountain Goats. Night at Cooke City.



Monday, September 8 - Tower/Dunraven Pass

We'll go all the way to the northern end of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River and stop to see the spectacular Tower Falls. We'll also travel through Dunraven Pass and enjoy spectacular vistas while watching for Trumpeter Swans, Cinnamon Teal, Elk, and American Bison. We'll explore the Hayden Valley searching for Grizzlies and roaming packs of wolves and visit the famous Norris Geyser Basin. In late afternoon, we'll pass through the Lamar Valley on our way back to Cooke City. Night at Cooke City.



Tuesday, September 9 - Upper Yellowstone and North Entrance area

Today we make our way back to Bozeman with time in northern reaches of Yellowstone and stopping at a few spots on the way. Night in Bozeman.

Wednesday, September 10 - Depart Bozeman.

Today we depart Bozeman arriving in the UK on September 11.

Leaders: Gina Nichol and Steve Bird



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TOUR PRICE: \$ 4,095.00 (US) per person from Bozeman, Montana, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 8 passengers

Deposit: \$500.00 per person
Single Supplement: \$595.00



Maximum Group Size: 12 plus leader(s)

Included in tour price: All accommodations and meals upon arrival in Bozeman; transportation by air conditioned van beginning and ending in Bozeman, professional guide services, all entrance fees to National and State Parks, and services of the leaders. The cost is based on a minimum of 8 participants, with fewer a surcharge will apply.

Not included: The cost does not include transportation to or from your home to Bozeman, insurance, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone charges, and beverages.

Final payment is due by April 28, 2008.

Cancellations and Refunds: Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$200 per person will be made only if Sunrise Birding, LLC is notified in writing of intent to cancel on or before April 28, 2008. No refunds will be made after April 28, 2008. All cancellations must be made in writing. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.



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