

# Canyonlands



USA



6<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2008



Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup>	Arizona Mountain Inn, Flagstaff	5.30 – 8.20
Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	Rim Trail, Page	5.30 – 7.45
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	Bryce Canyon	5.45 – 8.30
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup>	Corn Creek Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve	5.45 – 9.00 10.15 – 11.15

# US CANYONS – ARIZONA & UTAH

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## Introduction

Having been to California in 2003 and not being able to fit in a look at the Grand Canyon, this trip was dedicated to touring the canyons and other natural sites of Northern Arizona and Southern Utah. The itinerary fell into place quite easily when the map was studied, since a loop could take in some of the most spectacular vistas that can be encountered anywhere. The arrival airport could realistically have been either Phoenix or Las Vegas, but the circuit more naturally lent itself to the latter.



Following our arrival in Las Vegas, and an overnight stay there, we left the next morning to cover the following locations:

**Flagstaff.** Set at a relatively high altitude, this is a good central spot for various differing parks and also Sedona, which is a very picturesque town to the South. Early mornings here were cold (around 40°F);

**Grand Canyon.** It has to be done, and is every bit as spectacular as you have heard. The best direction to approach the National Park is from the East entrance, since the road from here passes many outlooks from the South rim. Within Grand Canyon Village itself, there is a worthwhile walk westwards along the rim. We found it was best to buy an annual pass to the National Parks, since this worked out better value than day passes when also visiting Bryce Canyon, Zion, Arches, and Capitol Reef;

**Page.** This is the town set up in the 1950's to service the building of the Glen Canyon dam. It is thus located only a couple of miles from Lake Powell, which is probably of most interest to water sports enthusiasts. However, there is a good 8 mile circular rim walk around Page, with some nice views of the lake and also one or two birds to be seen. In addition, Antelope Canyon and Horseshoe Bend are well recommended;

**Moab.** Many people visit here for the water based activities on the Colorado River. For ourselves, the two main reasons for the visit were Arches NP, which is only 5 miles to the North, and Monument Valley, which is on route from Page;

**Bryce Canyon.** This is at a higher elevation than expected, which keeps the daytime temperatures down to a respectable level, and the composition of the canyon itself is astounding. Not only does Bryce offer stunning scenery, but the accompanying forest and sage brush land over the highway are good for both birds and mammals.

While a little bit of research into the birding sites of the area was conducted before leaving, the main object of the holiday was to see the sites, and staying 2-3 nights in each of the locations left little time for any other activities. That being said, the geology and interest from the natural wonders of the area are unbelievable, and should be

enjoyed in their own right. Some birds can be seen at some of these locations, but lack of them is by no means a disappointment.

The timing of the trip was intended to fit in with our other holidays, so the fact that we were in the area during the driest month was a useful coincidence. Not only was there no rain during our stay, but even clouds were few and far between. Temperatures varied hugely from one location to another, with highs in Las Vegas being bring up to 109°C (even nights didn't drop out of the 80's), to the much more refreshing 70's - 80's of Flagstaff and Bryce Canyon. Car hire was booked via the internet and using Dollar, which was much cheaper than the counter prices. We treated ourselves to a convertible, which was a good investment given the weather.

## Accommodations

### Arizona Mountain Inn, Flagstaff

There seem to be many chain hotels within the town, but this is a much better location, since the main building (with 2 recommended reasonably priced suites including breakfast) and associated cabins are surrounded by ponderosa pines. This offers some immediate birding on the doorstep, and while the variety of species is limited and generally of commoner types, seeing such characters as Western Bluebirds and Hairy Woodpeckers close up and almost on demand outside of the back door is rewarding.



### Yavapai Lodge, Grand Canyon

Accommodation within Grand Canyon Village is limited, with only 4 lodges to choose from. When we arrived at Yavapai, all rooms were booked, which is probably why most tourists either stay at Tusayan a little further South, or visit for the day. Hence booking ahead in the Summer is advisable, but the reward is to be able to sleep within walking distance of the local California Condor population. Yavapai seems to be the more basic of the choices, but still offers a roomy and clean respite, surrounded by pine woodland with ample potential for a small variety of common species.



### Marriott Courtyard, Page

Page is located 2 miles from the Glen Canyon dam, which is the reason for the existence of Lake Powell, and even for the town of Page itself, since it was founded in the 1950's for the construction of the dam. There are many chain motels in the town, but the Marriott is set aside from habitation for a still reasonable price. It is also next to a golf course, but this didn't seem to hold anything of particular interest. An 8 mile rim trail around the town is worth doing for the spectacular views of the lake.





### Mayor's House, Moab

Moab is the largest town in South-eastern Utah, and hence has a good variety of chain hotels, but it also offers very reasonably priced B&B's such as this. The property is set to the East of town towards the hills. Worthy of note are the excellent (but not too filling) breakfasts, and the lack of any keys to enter the property and rooms (no need for them according to the owners). It has a small garden with pool, and of avian interest the nest of a pair of Black-billed Magpies. I did walk the street looking for birds one afternoon, but in the high heat

only came up with Western Kingbirds, Lesser Goldfinches, and copious American Robins & House Finches.

### Bryce Canyon Lodge

There is one lodge within Bryce Canyon NP, and several less expensive ones just outside. On the face of it, there doesn't seem a great benefit in the former, since a car or shuttle is still required to reach many of the viewpoints and hikes. One of the beauties of the lodge is the proximity to the main road, and more exactly, the open area of sage brush beyond. This has great potential for open meadow and sage specialists.



## SITES VISITED

### Arizona Mountain Inn



The ponderosa pine woods enveloping our lodge for three nights were covered properly over a three hour period early on the second morning of the stay, following a short walk around the grounds the previous morning. Most of the species had been seen then, with only one or two more added. One thing that has to be said about the morning sortie was that it was very cold - daytime temperatures had been in the high 70's, but

this morning began at around 40°F degrees. On the other hand, light was reasonable at around 5am, and full when I started the rounds half an hour later.

The predominant habitat is ponderosa pine woodland, with the occasional clearing for tracks running through. Yesterday's high profile Hairy Woodpeckers were again in attendance, being seen as soon as I left the doorway. Predominant species were probably Western Bluebird, which were in some cases feeding fledged young, and House Finches, often heard singing as well as being seen. Violet-green Swallows had been noticed in good numbers yesterday, but the treat of the morning was discovering that at least one pair of birds was coming to the ground to collect straw for nest building. A nectar feeder outside the neighbouring chalet only had one brief Black-chinned Hummingbird visiting.

A little deeper into the woods were Dark-eyed Juncos, often located by singing males, but a further pair were found to be collecting food for young near to our room. Black-capped Chickadees were common, but diligence paid off when a few Mountain Chickadees were picked out. Only 1 Pygmy Nuthatch was seen on both mornings.

### Other sites in the Flagstaff area



#### Walnut Canyon

This was a habitation site for the Sinagua Indians, who fled the volcanic eruption to colonise the ledges of this canyon. Juniper and pinyon pines abound here. Our visit found only the rim trail open, since a landslide had blocked the descent on the Island Trail. Potential species as seen on the boards include Townshend's Solitaire and Great Horned Owl, but we made do with Steller's Jay and Ash-throated Flycatcher.

#### Sunset Crater/Wupatki National Monument

The loop containing these two sites is well worth doing for the scenic rewards, particularly the volcano crater for the still impressive lava fields and ash covered slopes. However, very little bird life was present at the volcano, apart from overflying Violet-green Swallows. Similarly, the Wupatki relicts only proffered a pair of Rock Wrens.



*Sunset Crater*



*Wupatki National Monument*

#### Flagstaff Arboretum

We landed here too late in the day to do the area justice, but the mix of habitats created for the arboretum make it a site of rich potential. Even a short walk around the immediate vicinity of the reception can add some common species to the list. It is worth

noting that the opening times are 9 - 5, and entry outside of these seems impossible, since there are locked gates and a high fence.



## Sites in Sedona

### Slide Rock State Park

This is ostensibly a family day out type of place, where dad and the kids can have fun in the clear waters of Oak Creek. However, some nice birds can also be seen while watching the fun and frolics, such as Bullock's Oriole, Hairy Woodpecker, and Black Phoebe. The short walk above the creek is worthwhile, and the skies above are adorned with numerous White-throated Swifts.



### Red Rock Crossing

This is a short walk through woodland and alongside a small creek to the base of Cathedral Rock, which in itself is worth the visit. Numerous birds can also be heard singing and calling as the walk progresses, many of which are Lesser Goldfinches, although we also added Phainopepla and Black Phoebe, with White-throated Swifts overhead.

### Oak Creek

South of Sedona, and beyond yet more impressive red rock mesas is this small town, we did a road stop for a vista and walk to Bell Rock. We completed this short walk, and turned up nesting Western Kingbird, a pair of which were mobbing an unidentified hawk, with additional Ash-throated Flycatchers evident. The longer loop walk may be worth doing for more species and superb scenery.



## Grand Canyon



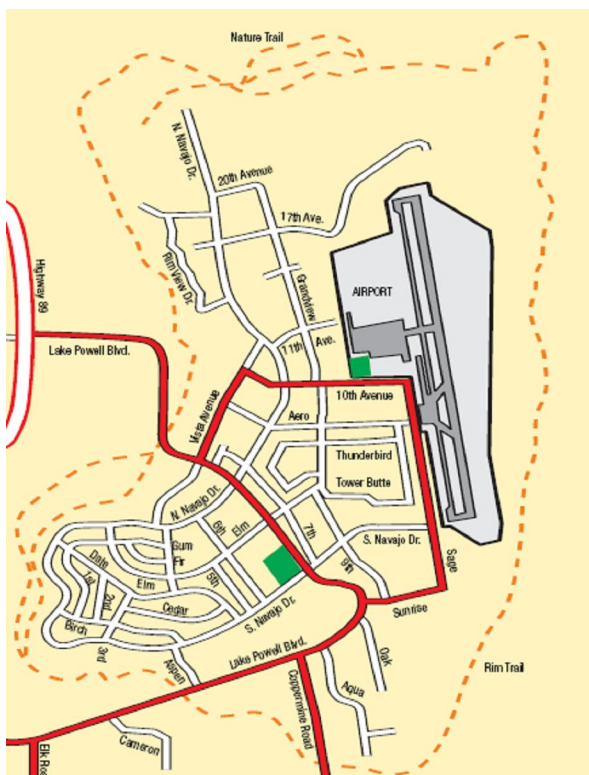
The main purpose of the visit to the Grand Canyon was to mutter in wonder at this geological marvel, which was duly done. However, despite the fact that no specific birding was done here, some nice birds were spotted anyway. The most obvious one is California Condor. These are most reliably seen from Lookout Studio within Grand Canyon village, along with the many chattering tourists who also want a piece of the vulture action. This is the second site to the Big Sur in California to have released captive birds, and they have now bred successfully on 7 occasions.

Also within the confines of the village are many breeding Brewer's Blackbirds, which cannot be missed. A Black-throated Grey Warbler was edging its way along the bushes on the South Rim of the village.

Within the pines, Western Bluebirds and Lesser Goldfinches abound, along with a few singing Dark-eyed Juncos and Black-capped Chickadees.

The viewpoints towards the East Entrance are also worth checking. After a party of Blue-grey Gnatcatchers, 1-2 families of Townshend's Solitaires were chanced upon.

## Rim Trail, Page



Page is set in the desert, and was originally established to service the manufacture of the Glen Canyon Dam nearby. Although it has now grown and adapted into a small town, it is still surrounded by desert, with the odd oasis of a golf course and gardens in interspersed. The Rim Walk is an 8 mile loop which more or less encircles the town, overlooking the lake, desert, and outer



part of the habitation.

I covered a small section at the head of North Navajo Drive, which is also designated as a nature reserve. One of the hopes was to see snakes along here, since they have been reported, but no luck this morning. Birdlife is sparse and of limited variety, the most common being small family parties of Black-throated Sparrows. Most of the obliging individuals were immatures. Rock Wrens are also common along here, again often seen in family groups. And that was about that for the actual walk, although a couple of battling Black-chinned Hummingbirds were near to the car park, along with a few Mourning Doves and Great-tailed Grackles.

Back at the hotel, I decided to have a quick look at the golf course, since they can often offer an oasis to desert birds. Pay dirt was struck with a Greater Roadrunner working the fairways, eventually posing within a few metres in front of me.

### Arches National Park, Moab

This is one of the most stunning and amazingly formed of the regions parks, with not only the arches to see, but many other rock formations in the rich red coloured rock. The Delicate Arch walk was tackled - about a 2 hour uphill hike alongside the aged and child buggies. In addition to the arch, Violet-green Swallows were joined at the trail head by an American Kestrel. The car park of the Devil's Garden, at the apex of the park, held Juniper Titmouse, with Black-tailed Gnatcatcher on the trail, and small numbers of White-throated Swifts overhead.



### Capitol Reef NP



This spot formed a good stopping off point for the Moab to Bryce Canyon journey. The cliffs along the North-eastern edge are as usual picturesque, and a Golden Eagle was spotted from the drive. However, the picnic area shortly after the entrance offers wooded shade and the chance for one or two birds. In addition to the obvious American Robins and Brown-headed Cowbirds, we saw Common Flicker, Western Kingbird and a singing Yellow Warbler while stuffing ourselves with a Subway sandwich.

### Bryce Canyon

Good numbers of sightseers meander around the various trails of Bryce Canyon, but it is worth joining in and wandering both the Rim Trail and also the hikes descending into the formations of the spectacular canyon. In addition, one or two species of birds are found: my own targets of Clark's Nutcracker (pair along the Queen's Garden Trail), and

Mountain Bluebird (female along the Rim Trail) were both ticked off during one walk. Violet-green Swallows are always overhead, with 3 White-throated Swifts putting in a noisy appearance. At the Sunset Point picnic site, a couple of White-breasted Nuthatches came more or less to the tables, with a Dark-eyed Junco a little more reticent.



### Early morning walk

First aim of the morning was the tourist orientated sunrise watch from Inspiration Point - not such a bad idea since it shows up the hoodoos of the canyon in a positive light. After passing a couple of Mule Deer in the half light, I was surprised that there were so few people around - one or two huddled at the lookout posts in the cold morning air.

After gasping at the spectacle that is sunrise (admittedly it was a reasonable effect), the rim between Sunrise and Sunset Points was covered. The main habitat of interest is the bristlecone pine woodland which backs on to the rim path. The White-breasted Nuthatches of yesterday didn't put in an appearance, but one of the mysteries solved - a distant singing bird suspected as Townshend's Solitaire was probably backed up by a much closer singing bird on the rim, which then continued to feed on the path. Western Bluebirds were again evident, as were a couple of Dark-eyed Juncos. A distant singing sparrow was eventually tracked down to perch near to the Bryce Canyon Lodge - a dapper Green-tailed Towhee. A much more difficult songster was Grace's Warbler, flitting from bristlecone pine to pine, but occasionally showing well enough between trees for identification. A small group of Brown-headed Cowbirds was possibly a family party, often to be found squabbling in the undergrowth. Only other species of note were 2 separate calling Western Tanagers.

Before returning for breakfast, a brief sortie to the sage brush on the opposite side of the main road had to be done. It quickly became evident that more time should have been spent here, since the potential of the area seemed huge. After a singing Western Meadowlark, the first of a few Sage Thrashers was found near to the road. While watching this, a grouse of some description erupted from near to me, but couldn't be relocated. A sparrow on the other side of the road seemed to have potential but disappeared before it could be screened properly.



### Corn Creek

Escaping the city life of Las Vegas for some reasonable desert birding is quite straight forward, since Corn Creek is less than half an hours drive from downtown on the State Road 75. Set 3.8 miles along a dusty but very well maintained gravel track, the reserve

is consist of a fairly small green oasis in the desert, holding some standing water in the form of bullfrog infested pools, and a mixture of trees. There is even a toilet and small visitor centre, although the latter showed no signs of being open during my visit. There are also interpretive boards and leaflets to be had, along with a guest book to sign.



At first I had the impression that the reserve was much larger than it actually was, but it turned out to be relatively small, so I completed at least 3-4 loops of the trails. Ash-throated Flycatchers seemed to be everywhere, being quite common and noisy. A group of Phainopeplas also kept reappearing and alighting at the top of bare branches. The active and constantly calling Lucy's Warblers were more difficult to get good views of - they were seen regularly enough, but played around in the leafed trees. At least 2 Yellow-breasted Chats were a lot easier, since they frequently sang from the topmost lookout branches. A Loggerhead Shrike with mouth watering insect was a bit of a surprise. There were probably fewer species than I had expected in this hyped up spot, which may have been down to season, but it is probably one of the better and higher potential locations in the Las Vegas area.

*Directions to Corn Creek: From Las Vegas, drive north on Highway 95 for about 30 minutes. Pass the turnoff to Mt. Charleston (a left turn to Kyle Canyon) and pass the turnoff to the Las Vegas Paiute Indian Reservation (the highway goes under an overpass). About 6 miles past the Paiute Reservation overpass, at about mile marker 101.5, the turnoff to Corn Creek is marked by a small refuge sign, a Corn Creek Road sign, and a well-graded, gravel road heading east across the desert. The turnoff used to be marked by an "artistic" collection of about 40 mailboxes, but now there are just a few "modern" cluster mailboxes. Corn Creek, located at Refuge Headquarters, is 3.8 miles from the highway.*

## Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

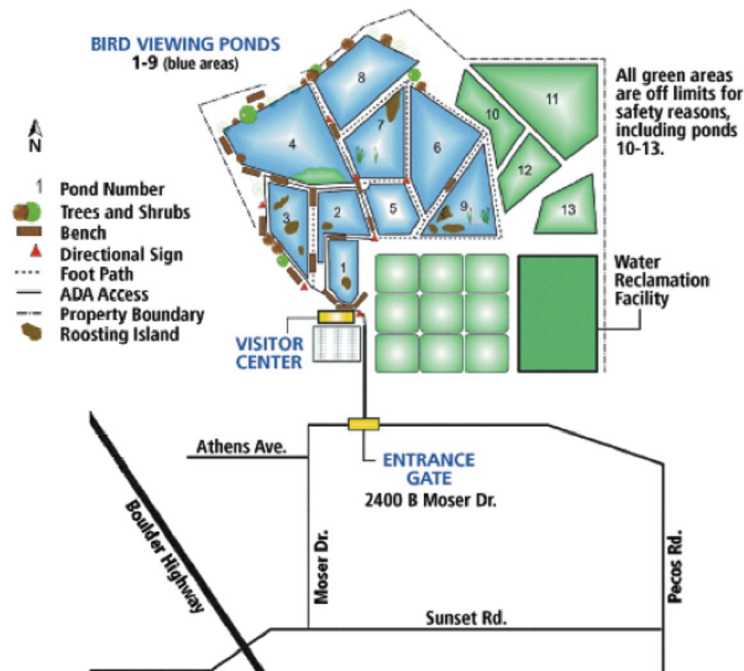


More time should have been spent here, since there is more in potential than just the lagoons, and even these kept turning up more species as the time, and temperature,

moved on and up. The location from Las Vegas is ideal - just across the 75 from the centre of town, and the directions make the site easy to visit. After using the intercom at the main gate for entry, the visitor parking and centre were well signposted, passing the out of bounds working lagoons on the way. No fee is required, just signing in and out is all that is requested. A map of the birding area is provided along with a bird list.

Most of the birding is on the lagoons, of which there are nine, but a perimeter walk can also be done, looking in particular for Crissal Thrashers, which are listed as common in the mesquite to the other side of the boundary fence. Time constraints meant that I had to cover this quickly, and none were seen. The lagoons are well worthy of attention, with #9 offering extra interest since reeds have been planted, and are the host to a colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. The small islands were also the only place to hold a few American Avocets, alongside the more common and widespread Black-necked Stilts. The only lagoon which was mainly dry was #3, due to maintenance, but the small pool remaining was the best place for White-faced Ibis.

Throughout, Black-necked Grebes were very common, being present on nearly every lagoon. Wildfowl were present in small numbers - mainly Redheads and Ruddy Duck were joined by the odd Cinnamon & Blue-winged Teal, and even singles of Pintail and what looked like female Bufflehead. 2 separate Green Herons were inadvertently disturbed from the edges, and 2 Killdeer seemed to be performing distraction displays.



*Directions to Henderson from downtown Las Vegas, drive south on Highway 93 for 12 miles to Sunset Road. Exit the highway, turn left onto Sunset, and drive east for 1.8 miles (across Boulder Highway) to Mosier Street. Turn left onto Mosier and drive north to a T-intersection. Turn right (east) at the T-intersection; drive east for about 50 yards, and turn left (north) to the wastewater treatment plant main gate (Table 1, Site 897).*

*For security reasons, the gate is always closed and locked, but birders can get into the Bird Viewing Preserve when it is open. Pull up to the sign and keypad (looks like a pay phone) on the left side of the road by the gate. The sign provides instructions for calling the Bird Preserve. When the Visitor Center staff answers, tell them your name and that you want to go birding, and they will open the gate. Inside the gate, drive straight ahead to the end of the road and the parking area adjacent to the Visitor Center (Site 450). All visitors must sign-in before entering the Bird Viewing Preserve.*

## SPECIES SEEN

**Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - 1 & immature

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*

1 in vegetable field at Tropic near Bryce Canyon

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Good numbers with families at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - ~6

**Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - ~16

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - 1

**Redhead** *Aythya americana*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - ~30

**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*

This species supposed to be further North during the breeding season, but odd pairs can breed as far South as California. This bird at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve looked like a female, although eclipse male or, less likely, juvenile couldn't be ruled out

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

1 Bryce to Zion; Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - ~20

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

The lagoons at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve seemed to be teeming with these. All had at least a couple of birds on them, with some holding well into double figures. ~50 were present throughout the whole of the preserve



**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*

Very common at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (~75 birds). The main concentration was on the pool that was remaining on lagoon #3, with 45 individuals feeding together

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*

2 separate birds flew from the lagoon edges at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*

4 feeding in the marsh that is Lower Lake Mary

**Western Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

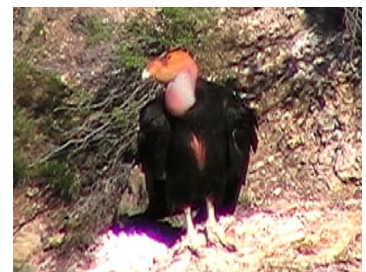
1 feeding in the vegetation of Lower Lake Mary

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*

4 en route to Flagstaff from Las Vegas; Flagstaff area (~6 at Walnut Canyon, possibly frequenting nesting sites); 6 circling at Canyon Creek (South of Sedona); small numbers (~15) gliding below Lookout Studio at Grand Canyon Village (1 seen from the tour helicopter); 3 over Glen Canyon dam early evening; 2 Monument Valley; 2 over Arches NP; some Moab to Bryce Canyon; 8 Bryce Canyon; 3 Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

**California Condor** *Gymnogyps californianus*

These are becoming a success story, with reintroduced birds now being easily seen from Lookout Studio in Grand Canyon Village. They seem to prefer this spot, and were observed basking on ledges and trees as well as in the air. At least 4 were in the air at one time over the South Rim at Grand Canyon Village



**Red-tailed Hawk***Buteo jamaicensis*

1 in arid country of north-western Arizona; 1 at Horseshoe Bend near Lake Powell; a very light bird, possibly Arizona subspecies juvenile, over car at Page; 1 Corn Creek

**Golden Eagle***Aquila chrysaetos*

1 Capitol Reef NP; 1 from Boulder Mountain

**American Kestrel***Falco sparverius*

Female around Delicate Arch, Arches NP; pair gliding in circles over Corn Creek

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - ~10

**American Coot***Fulica americana*

1 Bryce Canyon; Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - ~50

**Black-necked Stilt***Himantopus mexicanus*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - 6

**American Avocet***Recurvirostra americana*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - 5

**Killdeer***Charadrius vociferus*

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - 2

**Band-tailed Pigeon***Patagioenas fasciata*

Pair at Arizona Mountain Inn

**Eurasian Collared Dove***Streptopelia decaocto*

This introduced species has predictably expanded enormously in much of the region, being particularly common in Moab

**Mourning Dove***Zenaida macroura*

3 over roads on Las Vegas to Flagstaff journey; 2 over loop road West of Wupatki NP, Flagstaff; 2 at Sedona; Quite common Corn Creek and Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

**White-winged Dove***Zenaida asiatica*

2 Moab; Some Corn Creek

**Greater Roadrunner***Geococcyx californianus*

Always a pleasure to see, only 1 was found, on the golf course at Marriott Courtyard, Page. It was a surprise that more weren't seen when the amount of suitable habitat encountered is considered

**White-throated Swift***Aeronautes saxatalis*

These are a dapper and noisy swift, which makes them not only easy to locate, but also to identify: 1 flew over Sunset Crater; common over Slide Rock SP, with lesser numbers

over Sedona; common along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon; few at Grand Canyon Village; small numbers in Arches NP; 3 Bryce Canyon; small numbers Zion

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri*

2 at Flagstaff Arboretum; 1 briefly on feeder at Arizona Mountain Inn; male perched at close quarters on rim walk at Page; 2 at start of Rim Trail, Page; 1 Bryce Canyon; 2 Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

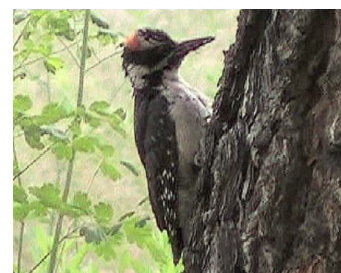


**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus*

2 separate males feeding below Lookout Studio at Grand Canyon Village

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Picoides villosus*

These were a common site at Arizona Mountain Inn, where at least 4 were present in the vicinity of the lodge. 2 also at Slide Rock SP



**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*

2 at Flagstaff Arboretum; 2 Capitol Reef picnic area

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*

1 at Slide Rock SP; 1 at Red Rock Crossing

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*

2 Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*

2 pairs at Oak Creek (South of Sedona) - 1 with nest, the other mating; 4 in a group at Moab; 2 Capitol Reef NP



**Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Pair at Walnut Canyon; at least 4 at Oak Creek; ~20 Corn Creek

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*

1 Corn Creek

**Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri*

1 flew across road near Lake Mary; 1 at Walnut Canyon; 1 at Sunset Crater visitor centre; 2 at Slide Rock SP

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia*

1-2 Moab, with nest in grounds of Mayor's House. This species is very similar to the Eurasian Magpie, but seems to have a longer tail



**Clark's Nutcracker***Nucifraga columbiana*

2 Bryce Canyon

**American Crow***Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Sporadic individuals on journey from Las Vegas to Flagstaff, and regularly seen around Flagstaff area; 6+ at Arizona Mountain Inn; sporadic on the journey from Flagstaff to Grand Canyon

**Northern Raven***Corvus corax*

1 over Sunset Crater; 1 at Flagstaff Arboretum; 1 at Arizona Mountain Inn; 1 over Slide Rock SP; quite common over the South Rim of the Grand Canyon; ~6 at Grand Canyon Village; common around Lake Powell area; common Moab; common Moab to Bryce Canyon; 4 Bryce Canyon

**Phainopepla***Phainopepla nitens*

1 at Red Rock Crossing; 2 at Oak Creek: Corn Creek - ~15

**Black-capped Chickadee***Poecile atricapillus*

Parent feeding young in nest box at Flagstaff Arboretum; at least 10 at Arizona Mountain Inn, some with food for young; 2 Bryce Canyon

**Mountain Chickadee***Poecile gambeli*

3+ at Arizona Mountain Inn

**Juniper Titmouse***Baeolophus ridgwayi*

1 Arches NP

**Verdin***Auriparus flaviceps*

~6 Corn Creek

**Shorelark***Eremophila alpestris*

1 along rim trail at Page; 5 Corn Creek

**Violet-green Swallow***Tachycineta thalassina*

Quite common in the Flagstaff area (pair gathering nesting material from the ground at Arizona Mountain Inn); very common along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon; some over Horseshoe Bend near Lake Powell; quite common near Lake Powell; small numbers around Delicate Arch, Arches NP; small numbers Capitol Reef NP; common Zion and Bryce Canyons

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers Bryce Canyon village

**Rock Wren***Salpinctes obsoletus*

Pair amongst the Wupatki National Monument ruins; common along rim trail, Page, with some feeding fledged immatures (~12)

**Canyon Wren***Catherpes mexicanus*

1 singing at Slide Rock SP

**Blue-grey Gnatcatcher***Polioptila caerulea*

~4 at one of the Grand Canyon South Rim scenic stops

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher***Polioptila melanura*

1 Arches NP



**Pygmy Nuthatch**

*Sitta pygmaea*

1 feeding on the ground at Arizona Mountain Inn; 1 the following morning at Arizona Mountain Inn; 2 Bryce Canyon

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

*Sitta carolinensis*

1 at Arizona Mountain Inn; 2 Bryce Canyon picnic area



**Northern Mockingbird**

*Mimus polyglottos*

1 at Oak Creek; 4 Corn Creek

**Sage Thrasher**

*Oreoscoptes montanus*

3 Bryce Canyon, on sage brush area to the opposite side of the main highway to the village

**Common Starling**

*Sturnus vulgaris*

1 Page; 2 Moab; Corn Creek - ~50

**Western Bluebird**

*Sialia mexicana*

2 at Flagstaff Arboretum; very common at Arizona Mountain Inn (at least 5 pairs, some feeding fledglings); 2 at Grand Canyon Village; 4 Bryce Canyon; 2 Zion



**Mountain Bluebird**

*Sialia currucoides*

Pair and separate female Bryce Canyon

**Townsend's Solitaire**

*Myadestes townsendi*

1-2 pairs feeding young next to the hordes of tourists at Grand View on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon; 1 Bryce Canyon



**American Robin**

*Turdus migratorius*

Pair at Flagstaff Arboretum; 1 at Slide Rock SP; 2 in Grand Canyon Village; at least 6 at Moab; common in Moab (~8); ~6 Capitol Reef NP picnic area; ~6 Bryce Canyon

**House Sparrow**

*Passer domesticus*

2 at Flagstaff Arboretum; common at Sedona; common Page and Moab

**House Finch**

*Carpodacus mexicanus*

1 singing in front of Arizona Mountain Inn reception; pair at Arizona Mountain Inn; female with food at Walnut Canyon; 4 at Flagstaff Arboretum; very common from Flagstaff to Sedona area; ~10 around Page; ~10 Moab; 3 Corn Creek



**Pine Siskin**

*Carduelis pinus*

1 Bryce Canyon

**Lesser Goldfinch**

*Carduelis psaltria*

Drab male singing at Arizona Mountain Inn; 2 others singing at Arizona Mountain Inn; common in Sedona area; 2 at Grand Canyon Village; 2 Moab on feeder

**Lucy's Warbler**

*Vermivora luciae*

Very obvious at Corn Creek where there were ~6. 2 were singing males, and 3 were an active group of 3 juveniles chasing each other continuously

**American Yellow Warbler**

*Dendroica petechia*

1 Monticello, Utah; 1 singing Capitol Reef NP picnic area

**Black-throated Grey Warbler**

*Dendroica nigrescens*

1 along the cliff edge in Grand Canyon Village

**Grace's Warbler**

*Dendroica graciae*

1 singing Bryce Canyon

**Yellow-breasted Chat**

*Icteria virens*

Corn Creek - 2 singing males

**Hooded Oriole**

*Icterus cucullatus*

1 female near park in Moab

**Bullock's Oriole**

*Icterus bullockii*

2 males and a female at Slide Rock SP; 1 male Capitol Reef NP picnic area

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

*Molothrus ater*

1 at Red Rock Crossing; 1 at the East entrance of the Grand Canyon; 1 Arches NP; 4 Capitol Reef NP picnic area; 4 Bryce Canyon; Corn Creek – 2



**Red-winged Blackbird**

*Agelaius phoeniceus*

Pair at Flagstaff Arboretum; Corn Creek - 1

**Brewer's Blackbird**

*Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Pair at Flagstaff Arboretum; at least 4 pairs feeding young below and around the rim path in Grand Canyon Village



**Great-tailed Grackle**

*Quiscalus mexicanus*

2 females at Slide Rock SP; pair at Grand Canyon Village; ~10 at Car Park for rim trail, Page; Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - 10

**Western Meadowlark**

*Sturnella neglecta*

2 singing Bryce Canyon

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

Corn Creek - 1 flew from small pond on arrival; Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve - 3 were flying into what sounded like a large colony on lagoon #9

**Dark-eyed Junco**

*Junco hyemalis*

2 at Sunset Crater; 2,4 at Arizona Mountain Inn, including pair with food for young; 1 singing in the grounds of Yavapai Lodge, Grand Canyon Village; 1,2 Bryce Canyon



**Chipping Sparrow**

*Spizella passerina*

Quite common (~10) at Flagstaff Arboretum; 1 singing at Sunset Crater

**Black-throated Sparrow**

*Amphispiza bilineata*

Pair and a separate singing male at Wupatki National Monument; 3 at Horseshoe Bend near Lake Powell; ~12 along Rim Trail, Page; 1 Arches NP

**Green-tailed Towhee**

*Pipilo chlorurus*

1 singing Bryce Canyon



**Black-headed Grosbeak**

*Pheucticus melanocephalus*

4+ at feeder next to Slide Rock SP entrance

**TOTAL SPECIES = 87**

**MAMMALS SEEN**

**Coyote**

*Canis latrans*

Up to 5 individuals were seen at Corn Creek. The first 3 were in the large paddock which is attached to the buildings at the preserve, and included one well grown cub. Another was in the brush next to the preserve, with the 5<sup>th</sup> spotted in the brush on the way back along the track to the main highway

**Mule Deer**

*Odocoileus hemionus*

These were commonly seen around Bryce Canyon, most often within the pine woodlands. 2 were seen on the first day, but they were much easier to locate in the early morning, since at least 12 were found on the morning sortie on the second day, with one group comprising 5 individuals



**Pronghorn**

*Antilocapra Americana*

This species has had a hard time of it in recent times, but careful management has rendered it relatively easy to see around Bryce Canyon, where we saw singles on both days of our visit. A small group within what looked like a large enclosure next to the main highway on approach to Bryce Canyon were most likely captive

**Utah Prairie Dog**

*Cynomys parvidens*

Of the various Prairie Dog species, this is one of the least common and most restricted in range. Again, careful local management at Bryce Canyon has rendered the species quite easy to see, especially when the burrows are located. 3 were watched from the main road within Bryce Canyon National Park

**Abert's Squirrel**

*Sciurus aberti*

A Ponderosa Pine specialist, these are easy to see in the Flagstaff area, with ~5 individuals feeding on the ground even next to our B&B at the Arizona Mountain Inn



**Golden-mantled Ground-Squirrel**

*Spermophilus lateralis*

These can initially be confused with Chipmunks. 1 was at the Arboretum at Flagstaff, and they were very common and confiding at Bryce Canyon

**Rock Squirrel**

*Spermophilus variegates*

At least 4 were in Grand Canyon village, most easily seen along the main path next to the South Rim



**Cliff Chipmunk**

*Tamias dorsalis*

There are a few different chipmunks which can be found within the Grand Canyon area, but this is the only one found on the South Rim, which helps to sort out the identity confusion enormously. Small numbers were seen along the pathway next to the South Rim in Grand Canyon village

**Black-tailed Jackrabbit**

*Lepus californicus*

1 along the Rim Trail, Page, and 2 around the buildings of Corn Creek



**Audubon's (Desert) Cottontail**

*Sylvilagus audubonii*

Very common around Page, and 2 at Corn Creek