



American West Photo Safaris

amwestphoto.com

BrentRPaull@hotmail.com

1-559-909-5208

Hi to Everyone,

The black bear safaris continue every week. ([LINK](#)) The number of bears we see is consistent, though finding sows with cubs this year has been particularly hard. The birds, butterflies, and wildflower photography has been spectacular, as the attached wallpaper image of the Golden-crowned Kinglet shows. In mid-August I return to Mineral King for the growing sooty grouse chicks, we just leave early to beat the road closures as they rebuild the road. ([LINK](#)) I look forward to that safari.

I have 1 opening in my truck for the Yellowstone Fall Wildlife Safari coming up in 2 months ([LINK](#)), and 2 openings for the Glacier National Park Safari. ([LINK](#)) This is the last time I'm doing the Glacier Safari, just too much driving. I've shot Glacier 17 times, and love the beauty of the park and that area of Montana.

The Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) is sold out for the original dates in early January, so I have added a second winter safari for Jan 30-Feb 5. This safari will also have a free shooting day that follows it. ([LINK](#)) I've had folks signing up early for all my major safaris, so I encourage you to book your safari early if you are inclined to do it. The bobcat safari start in October. ([LINK](#))

Instead of showing off more birds, bears, butterfly, and wildflower images I've shot since the last newsletter, I'm going to edit through the images I have set aside so far this year for my best 20 images of 2025, and pick a dozen and explain them - the tactics and locations. So I hope you enjoy this flashback to the images taken earlier this year. **BRP**

Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Samuel Ullman

[Golden-crowned Kinglet | 2025 Black Bear Wildlife Safari](#)

Click the link above to download the wallpaper in a new window, then right-click and copy it to your computer. You can see all **FREE** Wallpaper here: ([LINK](#)) The wallpaper is sized to 1980 px by 1080 px to easily fit most computer screens.



All the currently scheduled upcoming 2025 Photo Safaris and Workshops are shown on the Safari Page on my website. That is the most accurate location to view these events. Here is a [LINK](#) to that page. Below are links to the individual safaris for the next several months. New safaris are added every few weeks. Upcoming ZOOM Shows are here - [LINK](#).

2025 Safari Schedule

July 21 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari **SOLD OUT**

July 22 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari ([LINK](#))

August 11-12 Sequoia Black Bear and Mineral King Safari ([LINK](#))

August 16 Mineral King Safari ([LINK](#))

August 20 Sequoia Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

September 4 Sequoia Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

September 15-19 Yellowstone Fall Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) **2 Openings**

September 22-26 Glacier Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) **2 Openings**

October 2 Sequoia Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

October 16 Bobcat Safari **SOLD OUT**

October 21-22 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

November 13 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

November 18-19 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

November 25 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

December 4 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

December 10-12 Bosque del Apache Bird Safari ([LINK](#))
December 14-16 Texas Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))
December 21 CA Coast Wildlife ([LINK](#))
December 22-23 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
December 29-30 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

I will be posting the 2026 photo safaris over the next several weeks.

January 5 CA Coast Wildlife ([LINK](#))
January 9-15 Yellowstone Winter Safari **SOLD OUT**
January 16 Utah Raptor Safari ([LINK](#))
January 21 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
January 22 Northern Pygmy Owl Safari ([LINK](#))
January 27 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
January 30-February 5 Yellowstone Winter Safari ([LINK](#))

February 6 Utah Raptor Safari ([LINK](#))
February 9-11 NWR Bird Safaris ([LINK](#))
February 13 Northern Pygmy Owl Safari ([LINK](#))
February 17 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
February 19 So California Bird Safari ([LINK](#))
February 24 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

March 16 Santa Cruz Island Gray Fox Safari ([LINK](#))
March 23 Southern CA Bird Safari ([LINK](#))
March 25 Great Horned Owl Safari ([LINK](#))

April 11 CA Poppies and Wildflowers ([LINK](#))
April 23-29 Arizona-Texas Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

May 4 Morongo Bird Safari ([LINK](#))
May 12-14 San Juan Island Fox Safari ([LINK](#)) **3 Openings**
May 26 to June 2 Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))

2025 Best So Far + Story behind the photo



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Two Golden Eagles | Bobcat Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

For all the dozens of golden eagles I have photographed, this series of shots is the only encounter I've had with a pair of perched birds. Taken on the Old Hernandez backroad I take on the bobcat safaris, this pair of golden eagles must have had a nest nearby. Unlike balds which will build a nest just about anywhere, goldens generally prefer cliffs, though there aren't many cliffs in this area. The farther bird, the larger of the two, is the female as they are bigger than the males.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Scissor-tailed Flycatchers | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Scissor-tailed flycatchers have quickly become one of my favorite birds to photograph on the spring safari to Texas. Beautiful birds with subtle colors and extravagant wings and tail feathers, they don't seem particularly afraid of photographers, nor vehicles. In this image the female is perched and the male is flying, he is easy to identify by the much longer tail feathers. Taken at Chaparral WMA in Texas. They are easy to photograph as they are usually flying above the mesquite trees allowing the camera to quickly focus on them.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Great Gray Owl lift-off | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Spotted early in the morning near Indian Creek, south of Swan Flats in Yellowstone, this great gray owl put on a show for us as we followed it several hundred yards back into the forest to a small meadow. The real key to this image was having the camera already set for low-light, set in bird's eye focus (Nikon Z9), and bracing myself against a dead tree - as I was shooting hand-held. The ability to pan with the bird when it was flying made a huge difference. Another thing to remember, when these owls jump and fly they know where they are going and generally fly in a relatively straight line, even if going around trees. Follow accordingly.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Full Curl Bighorn Ram | Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Taken on the winter Yellowstone Wildlife Safari, this full-curl ram and the others from this group of 4 didn't appear on these cliffs until the third day. There were tracks around the cliffs, but no sheep. But like the many red foxes we photographed in Upper Soda Butte valley, you just have to be looking to find them when they do appear, sounds simple, but it isn't. Taken in the cliffs near the double bathroom in Lamar Valley, these rams have appeared almost every year I have ever come to Yellowstone in the winter. Even with a WYSIWYG viewfinder in the Z9, the viewfinder screen I use shows a small histogram in the bottom right corner that helps me in adjusting the compensation in this much snow.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Nursing Red Fox Kits | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com

I have had many opportunities to photograph nursing red fox kits, but never multi-colored ones and never this close. Taken on my May trip to San Juan Island, there were about 6-7 kits in this double densite. The kits nursed from two different mothers (one with a torn ear, the other with normal ears) and there were a number of young-adult foxes helping the mom's with their kits. It was hard to keep track of all the adults and their roles around the densite. Moving to get better angles on the constantly moving foxes was important, not having a tripod certainly helped.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
2.5 yr old Grizzly Cubs | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

These two grizzly cubs in Yellowstone have a very well known mother - Snow. I photographed her as a coy (cub-of-the-year), as a 2 year old, as a 3 year old, and then a number of times in recent years. These two cubs, just kicked loose by Snow a week or two before, were traveling together and would probably stay together when they den this winter. We spotted them happily playing in a snowfield about 1000 yards away and up on a mountain. As we watched them they quickly moved down the mountain and into the forest, before popping back in the open about 350 yards away, and up on a ridge overlooking a draw. They seemed forlorn and sad now, moving slowly. There was a growing group of tourists down on the road where we were shooting through a screen of small pines. The pair of young grizzlies moved up on this rocky overlook and paused, one cub looking at us and the other cub still scanning the areas below for mom - Snow, traveling with a boar from what I heard.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Drake Redhead Duck | Kern NWR Safari amwestphoto.com

This drake redhead duck, slowly coasting through a pond at Kern NWR west of Delano, was photographed in March right at the beginning of courting season. This has been the most difficult duck for me to photograph over the past 40 years - and this is my best non-flying shot. Perfect sunrise light and nice reflections led to this image. I used my rifle rest on my window opening to get a solid rest in order to shoot at f8 (the all-around best f-stop to shoot at for any wildlife portraiture, though not always possible) to get this shot.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Bobcat (Tomcat) digging out Cottontail Rabbit | Bobcat Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Many times I've mentioned that behavior and interaction are two key elements (but not the only ones) in capturing a valuable wildlife image. I've photographed thousands of bobcats, but this was my first encounter with a bobcat that caught (dug out) a rabbit on a hunt. It just goes to show that if you keep after it, you will photograph everything possible eventually. We saw the cat resting in the shade of an oak tree in Pinnacles NP. As we moved to photograph him, he began hunting right past us, eventually digging this rabbit out of the hole you see right behind the bobcat. It is the cycle of life for these animals, and without it they don't exist.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Long-tailed Weasel | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

We stumbled upon this long-tailed weasel in the middle of Hayden Valley. We were shooting something else when a member of the group saw this weasel and pointed it out to everyone. That is the essence of going on a photography safari - where everyone helps everyone else out, either by spotting animals and pointing them out, or by suggesting a simple fix to framing or exposure problems. I don't need selfish clients, and I have had a few that have regularly done that, that no longer are allowed on my safaris. This weasel image was a straight shot into some backlighting but the rough looking bridge stones kept it looking good. A long-tailed weasel has more white on its face, and a much longer tail than its cousin the short-tailed weasel - still, not easy to tell them apart.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Bison Cow/Calf enduring the Wind | Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

I've got plenty of snow-covered bison images, snow-falling bison images, bison swimming rivers in the winter, and bison charging through fields of snow - but this howling wind was something I hadn't seen before. This image was taken a few hundred yards from Soda Butte, in Yellowstone, and the wind was blowing a solid 40+mph, so hard that the bison just sat down and huddled in the snow. They kept their eyes closed, shielded from the blowing snow that was coming off surrounding ridges and snow fields. It was a difficult shot because I kept losing focus due to the airborne snow particles. Sometimes quantity leads to quality, and that is what happened here.

Last Call Notes:

Don't let the heat of summer get you down, the wildlife and birds have to live in it as well. They have adapted and you need to adapt. Shoot near the coast, go up in the mountains, get out early - all tactics that lead to photography success in the warmer summer months.

Kind Regards,

Brent Russell Paull
1-559-909-5208
brentrpaul@hotmai.com
www.amwestphoto.com

Please forward this e-mail to your photographer friends, maybe we can make a connection that otherwise would never happen. The world of photography is vast and only getting bigger. Also, I can sometimes change safari dates to accommodate folks, so if you would like to do a custom date, or see if I can switch a date, just let me know.

