

June 2025 Newsletter

Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



Hi to Everyone,

The 2025 Yellowstone Spring Safari was epic. We had 64 bear encounters, 19 being grizzlies, and we encountered a number of critters we don't see often - such as a long-tailed weasel and the always desired great gray owl. The owl was especially nice as we had looked for one nearly every day, before finding one near Indian Creek in nearly the exact same place I photographed my first great gray in 1987.

We had several red fox encounters, a badger sett with mom and one cub, and a closer than average gray wolf encounter (4 other wolves were at long distance). What we didn't see were any newborn calf elk or moose, at least outside the town of Gardiner. It wasn't until the last full day on the safari that we had an encounter with a pair of newborn pronghorn fawns with their mother. One location I love to shoot is Le Hardy Rapids on the Yellowstone River for harlequin ducks but for several runs through Hayden Valley there was a bison carcass caught in the rapids so the park service closed the area in case bears discovered it.

We had encounters with grizzlies everywhere we went. Swan Flats had a sow and

two cubs, farther south were two more grizzly sows with cubs. We encountered a grizzly digging for gophers in Hayden Valley, and a sow with two cubs near the Supper Cauldron area, a sow with three large juveniles near Canyon, and two recently kicked loose juveniles around Lake Butte Overlook that someone had identified as Snow's cubs, a well known grizzly that I photographed as a cub years ago. While we had some good black bear encounters, it seemed the majority were active in the late afternoon which coincided with tourist activity. One encounter that we didn't have was with any black bear cubs in trees this year.

The golden eagle nest up Slough Creek was active in the cliffs, but the adult we saw didn't give us any good looks. The nearby osprey nest in Lamar Canyon was also active, but after shooting the amazing osprey nest east of Moran Junction, shooting osprey at 100+ yards just wasn't fun. The coyote den that was pretty easy to shoot last year near the western edge of Lamar Canyon had moved up the hill to a point where standing on the roof of the vehicle seemed the only answer - so we passed on that.

The long-tailed weasel we encountered near the bridge at Elk Antler Creek in Hayden Valley was my first in Yellowstone that I could positively identify. Both long-tailed and short-tailed weasels are found in the park, and both turn white in winter (ermine) so identifying them is tougher. This weasel gave us about 15 minutes of looks before vanishing into a squirrel hole. I'm going to put an image in the Gallery of both a long-tailed and a short-tailed (in summer coats) side-by-side so you can see the difference.

Overall, this safari probably ranks as one of the top three spring trips in my 40+ years of chasing in the park. I shot just over 69,000 total images, which I will probably edit down to a final count of about 2500 - with the grizzly bears and the great gray owl being my personal favorites. The bird-eye focus with a custom sized grid in the Z9 really locked on and held the focus even in very low light, and at higher ISO settings than I normally would use. We had one great take-off with a long flight right past us as the owl moved to a different hunting position, and only the very closest images (at about 20 feet) lost focus.

I hope you enjoy the images I'm putting in the gallery. This safari in 2026 will run from Tuesday, May 26 for 8 days until June 2 ([LINK](#)). And one final note: I would like to thank my buddy Jed Packer and his wife, Kristen, and her family for inviting us to Memorial Day Breakfast this year in Lewiston, UT as we were traveling from Salt Lake City to Gardiner, MT. Everyone (Don, Kristin, Randy, David, and me) were so grateful for their hospitality and kindness. While I knew Jed's side of the family this was the first time I had met Kristen's side, and was impressed by all of them. I also want to thank both Jed and Bryan Sutton for participating in the safari and helping out. These are two of my oldest friends - and great wildlife spotters - and it is always great to have them along whenever they can make the trip. **BRP**

Luck is a tag given by the mediocre to account for the accomplishments of genius. Robert A. Heinlein

[Image Collage from YNP Spring 2025 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

June 13-14 Sequoia Black Bear and Mineral King Safari ([LINK](#))

June 24-25 Sequoia Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

July 10 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari ([LINK](#))

July 15 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari ([LINK](#))

July 22 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari **SOLD OUT**

July 28-31 Colorado Wildflowers and Landscapes Safari

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 7-10 Autumn in the San Juan Mountains (CO) ([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 ([LINK](#))
January 16 Utah Raptor Safari ([LINK](#))
January 21 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
January 22 Northern Pygmy Owl Safari ([LINK](#))
January 27-28 Bobcat 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](#))
May 26 to June 2 Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))

2025 Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



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Sow Grizzly and Yearling | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Sow Grizzly leaping over water | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Two Juvenile Grizzlies | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Sow Grizzly with Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Grizzly cubs in the Spring Rain | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari

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Rain falls on a Grizzly juvenile | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari
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Grizzly Sow | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari
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Great Gray Owl | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari
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Great Gray Owl | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Great Gray Owl in-flight | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



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Great Gray Owl | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Great Gray Owl | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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



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

While the tail is not completely shown, this long-tailed weasel has a very long tail, nearly as long as its body length. It also has more white markings on its face than the short-tailed weasel. The short-tailed weasel has a tail about half its body length, and overall it is smaller than the long-tailed weasel.



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



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



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Long-tailed Weasel | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



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Red Fox hunting | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Red Fox - shedding winter fur | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Red Fox | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



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Red Fox | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Red Fox with a Vole | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



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A pair of Common Mergansers | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Wilson's Snipe | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Killdeer | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Harlequin Duck drake | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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A pair of Lesser Scaups | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Mom Badger playing with Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Mom Badger on her back | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Badger Mom playing with Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Black Wolf | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Two Gray Wolves and Bison | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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

One last section of grizzly cub images. These two grizzly juveniles had, days before, been kicked loose by their mother - which from my understanding was the well-known grizzly "Snow", blonde daughter of "Raspberry". I have shot those two grizzlies many times over the years, and they inhabit an area around the north shore of Yellowstone Lake. I think its interesting that you can photograph generations of bears over the years. While Raspberry looks like any other grizzly, Snow is easily identified by her very blonde coat. That is the link that allows for generational identification beyond just location. Below is a photo from September 2015 of Snow as a juvenile cub, and below that, from 2018 Snow and mom grizzly - Raspberry.



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2yr old Grizzly Cub - Yellowstone Fall Wildlife Safari



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Snow and mom Raspberry | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Wrestling Grizzly Siblings | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Grizzly log walking | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Grizzly siblings wrestling | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Grizzly siblings wrestling | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Grizzly siblings wrestling | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Last Call Notes:

All my PDF books can be purchased from my website on this page - [LINK](#). The books are \$10/each, with the latest completed book on Raptors and Owls from the Wildlife

Safaris. The next book will be mammoth - Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safaris.

While the Wild Horse Safari didn't work out after the Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari, it will be a free safari following the Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Safari for those who attend that safari.

I still have the Nikon FTZ II Adapter available for \$150. If you shoot Nikon and move to a Z body then you need the adapter to be able to mount your old F-mount lenses to the new Z-mount body.

I'm looking forward to the black bear safaris up in Sequoia National Park ([LINK](#)). While it is hot in the San Joaquin Valley, it is decidedly cool at 6500 feet in the Sequoia forests. I hope to see some of you on those safaris that run all summer long.

The next extended safaris are the Yellowstone Fall Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) and the Glacier Safari ([LINK](#)) both with 2 openings. These are back-to-back safaris, so you can do both and receive a 20% discount. I hope you will check them out. Lastly, the longer safaris all sell out eventually. So, if you have thought about attending, please sign up as early as you can to guarantee participation.

Kind Regards,



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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.

