

June 2026 Newsletter



Hi to Everyone,

The spring photo safaris are finally over, and driving massive miles is over along with them. The summer safaris are all more local (mainly Sequoia NP) with far less driving, and sleeping in my own bed every night.

Some changes are coming in 2027. This will be the last year (2027) I do the regular Yellowstone Wildlife Safaris. In 2028 I'm trimming them down to every other year, just like I've done to the Bosque del Apache NWR safari in New Mexico, the Texas safaris, and the Glacier safari.

In 2027 I'm doing two winter wildlife safaris to Yellowstone, one safari in the spring, and skipping the fall wildlife safari. We had some great encounters on the spring Yellowstone safari that just ended, as you will see in the gallery images. We had fewer grizzly with cub encounters than last year, but more black bear encounters. With Memorial Day coming later in 2027 (last day of May), I expect the spring safari next year to be the best I ever do.

If you have put off doing a Yellowstone safari with me, but want to, 2027 will be the last year where you will have multiple opportunities.

MINERAL KING GROUSE SAFARI

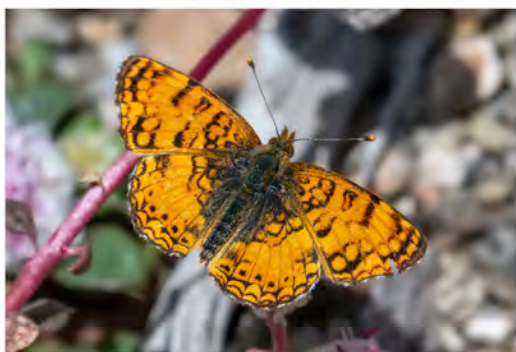
We heard multiple hooting male grouse (trying to attract hens for mating) but none were close enough to find or photograph. They seem to stay on the steepest hillsides in Mineral King. However, we had an amazing butterfly shoot. The Pussy Paws flowers (Cistanthe sp) were blooming and there were many butterflies attracted to them, making them fairly easy to photograph. It was easier to stand and shoot down on them than to put on knee pads and crawl around trying to photograph them - just getting too old for that. We were also able to photograph birds amid the variety of blooming shrubs. The road has actually been paved, and the trip from the sign saying you are entering Sequoia, to nearly Silver City, is an easy drive now - versus the agonizing drive it used to be. Here are some of the images I captured on the safari.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY

Buckeye on Pussy Paws | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari

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BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY

Thistle Crescent | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari

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BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY

Milbert's Tortoiseshell | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari

amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
 Lustrous Copper Butterflies on Pussy Paws | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
 Milbert's Tortoiseshell on Pussy Paws | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
 Buckeye Butterfly on Pussy Paws | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari amwestphoto.com



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Northern Blue on Pussy Paws | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari amwestphoto.com



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Green-tailed Towhee | Mineral King (Sequoia) Safari amwestphoto.com



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Rooster Mountain Quail | Mineral King Safari
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Wrentit | Mineral King Safari
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BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
California Flannelbush | Mineral King Safari amwestphoto.com

YELLOWSTONE SPRING WILDLIFE SAFARI

Just like the last 7 years, the Yellowstone Spring Safari provided us with many awesome encounters, even amid the scattered rain we got over the last couple of days. While we saw fewer grizzlies with cubs, we saw more black bears amid the 65 bear encounters we had. One particular black bear sow and cub provided us with hours of entertainment and images. The cub was just hilarious to watch and photograph. It was a terror to its mother, non-stop activity, and seemed to like to wrestle the sow - repeatedly trying to put her in a headlock.

We had an encounter with a great gray owl that seemed to be in a death match with

a Raven that was unrelentingly trying to harass it. When we encountered them, the owl was on a small snag in the middle of the Pelican Creek drainage marsh, right off the bridge about 50 yards away. It eventually moved closer to the wood walkway that leaves the west parking lot, allowing us better angles.

Our first good encounter upon entering the park was a badger family up Slough Creek. While they are common there, what surprised me was that the mother never moved the sett to a different location - and the number of photographers continued to increase.

In Upper Soda Butte Valley we had a few minutes with a couple of red fox kits that were hunkered down in a den behind some logs, at least until the rains came. We made several other attempts to photograph them but the rain seemed to follow us there.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Mom Badger at sett | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Mom and Cub Badger at sett | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Mom and Cub Badger at sett | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Red Fox kit | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Red Fox kit | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Red Fox kit | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Red Fox | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Great Gray Owl fighting Raven | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Black Bear Sow and Cub playing | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Black Bear Cub with a rear-naked choke hold on it's Mother | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Black Bear Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Black Bear Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Black Bear Sow and Cub playing | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Black Bear Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Black Bear Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

In the black bear cub pictures, above, the unique angle of looking down on the cub standing in the pine tree branches was possible because we were standing in the parking lot at Tower, which is about 50-60 feet above the trees growing along the creek to the east side of the parking lot. Great angle on the cub.

We did shoot several grizzlies in the areas we usually see them, one east of Lake Butte Overlook, several in Hayden Valley, and one in Upper Soda Butte Valley. The images were okay, but without cubs they weren't as much fun.

At Le Hardy Rapids on the Yellowstone River we had a very close encounter the drake harlequin ducks. Normally, they are about twice as far away as the ones we found one morning, so that was fun. We had more encounters with moose than normal - so it's nice to see the moose in Yellowstone again. After the massive fires of 1988, moose became scarce in the park, but over the decades they have increased in numbers to where no they are common once again.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Grizzly | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Grizzly Bear | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Grizzly | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Grizzly Bear | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Grizzly Bear | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Drake Harlequin duck | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Bull Moose in Velvet | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Besides the harlequin ducks, we had good encounters with other songbirds, osprey, though our hunt for dusky grouse was unsuccessful. There were goldeneyes, mergansers, and a very active warbling vireo that we were able to photograph between cloud bursts of rain. As is usual now, we got in a few hours with the wild horses in Utah's West Desert on the way back. Late afternoon light made the horse images really pop. Overall, it was a typical spring Yellowstone Safari.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Warbling Vireo | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Great Gray Owl | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Osprey arriving back at the nest | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Fighting Stallions | Utah Wild Horse Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Mud baths | Utah Wild Horse Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Horses demonstrating | Utah Wild Horse Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Wild Stallion | Utah Wild Horse Safari amwestphoto.com

There are people whom one loves immediately and forever. Even to know they are alive in the world with one is quite enough.
Nancy Spain

[Black Bear Cub | Yellowstone Spring 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.



© Brent R. Paull Black Bear Cub | Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari www.amwestphoto.com

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](#).

2026 Safari Schedule

June 14 Peregrine Falcons ([LINK](#))
June 16 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))
June 18 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))
June 23 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#)) **SOLD OUT**
June 25 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

July 7 Mineral King - Sooty Grouse ([LINK](#))
July 8 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))
July 14 Mineral King - Sooty Grouse ([LINK](#))
July 15 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))
July 21 Mineral King - Sooty Grouse ([LINK](#))
July 22-23 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

August 4-5 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))
August 19 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))
August 26 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))
August 31-Sept 1 Utah Wild Horses ([LINK](#))

September 21-26 Yellowstone Fall Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))
September 28-Oct 2 San Juan Mountains (CO) Safari ([LINK](#))

October 13-14 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
October 20 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
October 27-30 Southern Utah Fall Safari ([LINK](#))

November 10-11 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
November 12 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

December 3 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
December 8-9 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
December 15-17 Bosque del Apache NWR Bird Safari ([LINK](#))
December 29 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

2027 Safari Schedule

January 4 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
January 6-7 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
January 14-21 Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))
January 22 Utah Wild Horses ([LINK](#))

February 3 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
February 9-10 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))
February 14-20 Yellowstone Winter Safari ([LINK](#))
February 21 Utah Wild Horses ([LINK](#))
February 25 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

April 13-14 Eastern Sierras Spring Safari ([LINK](#))
April 26-29 Southern Utah Spring Safari ([LINK](#))

May 5-7 San Juan Island (WA) Foxes ([LINK](#))
May 18-20 Magee Marsh (OH) Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

June 1-7 Yellowstone Spring Safari ([LINK](#))
June 8 Utah Wild Horses ([LINK](#))

Last Call Notes:

These safaris are more than just the main target animal or bird. For example, the black bear safaris cover bears, birds, butterflies, flowers, and landscapes. One thing that is fun for me, personally, is finding these secondary subjects. Sequoia National Park is the best location for this. I've told clients thousands of times that we will stop to shoot anything that looks good, is unique, or a subject that you have wanted to photograph. It is an adventure to find and photograph anything we encounter, no matter the location.

I hope you enjoyed the images in this newsletter, and I look forward to shooting with you in the future.

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.

