

May 2026 Newsletter



Hi to Everyone,

The newsletter covers the Morongo Valley Bird Safari at the beginning of May, and the San Juan Island Fox Safari that just ended last week. So there are galleries from both safaris - I hope you enjoy the images.

Morongo Valley

As always, this is a great songbird safari. I know many of you have done this safari with me over the 16 years I've been doing it - but it really has two parts. The area we shoot is divided up into two main locations adjacent to each other. First, Big Morongo Park. There are walkways that lead through the different environments of the park, like the Marsh trail. Also, there are feeders set up at the lower visitor's center about 1/4 mile past the parking lot. Second, adjacent to Big Morongo is a city park called Covington. You can easily walk between the two locations. Covington is more flycatcher territory, with open fields and grasslands bordered by cottonwoods. It is at Covington where I've taken my best vermilion flycatcher images, but there are other flycatchers, like western bluebirds, kingbirds, phoebes, and others. Between the two locations you can keep very busy.

This year we encountered many hooded orioles, vermilion flycatchers, and a great horned owl nest with very active fledglings, as well as a cooperative young male bobcat. While I've seen the big male tomcat before, this was the first time I've seen one of his offspring. We also encountered a red coachwhip snake, my first at this location. Here are some of the images.



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Young Male Bobcat - Morongo Bird Safari

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Male Hooded Oriole | Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Male Vermilion Flycatcher | Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Male Hooded Oriole - Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Male Costa's Hummingbird - Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Great Horned Owl fledgling | Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Great Horned Owl | Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Male Summer Tanager - Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Red Coachwhip - Morongo Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Male Black-headed Grosbeak | Morongo Bird Safari | amwestphoto.com



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Western Flycatcher in Honey Mesquite | Morongo Bird Safari

San Juan Island Foxes

We had some difficult weather on the SJI fox safari. While the first day was pretty normal, the second day was extremely windy with some rain. It was so windy that when the little foxes came out to look around, they immediately retreated back into their protective bushes that shielded the den from the wind. The high wind blocked their ability to hear danger, or smell danger - and with the bald eagles always around somewhere - danger is always seconds away. When that happened we went to other locations to photograph adult foxes out hunting, and sometimes sleeping.

On the final morning we waited patiently and were rewarded by the kits coming out to play for an extended period of time. The vixen is red, and her adult daughter from last year's den, also red, was helping her hunt. While I never saw the male, who is black and limps with one bad rear leg, half of the kits were black, the other half red - so clearly he was still the alpha male. At another location where we had a densite, the male was red and the female was black. Since we never saw kits I would think they were born later, so still inside the den. The red vixen was easy to identify with her torn left ear, as shown in the image below. She has been the vixen of this den for many years now.

We stopped at an alpaca ranch on our way back from lunch in Roche Harbor, and had to snap a few images. I have friends in Santa Paula (CA) who I've shot with and held hummingbird safaris at their avocado orchard - that have alpacas, but this was my first time shooting them. Kind of cool, though they do spit.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Vixen Red Fox enduring the Wind | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Red Fox Vixen nursing her Kits | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



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Vixen playing with Kit | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



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Jumping Red Fox Kit | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



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Black Red Fox Kit in Horsetail | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



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Black Red Fox Kits playing | San Juan Island Fox Safari
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Black Red Fox kit playing | San Juan Island Fox Safari
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Red Fox Kit | San Juan Island Fox Safari
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Black Red Fox Kits playing | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



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Bald Eagle fly-by | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



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Alpaca | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com



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Barn Swallow | San Juan Island Fox Safari amwestphoto.com

The moment you feel you have to prove your worth to someone is the moment to absolutely and utterly walk away. Alysia Harris

Red Fox Vixen and Kits | San Juan Island Fox 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 Vixen Red Fox nursing and cleaning Kits | San Juan Island Fox 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

May 20 Mineral King - Sooty Grouse ([LINK](#))

May 26 to June 2 Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) **1 Openings 50%off**

June 3 Utah Wild Horses ([LINK](#))

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 21 Mineral King - Sooty Grouse ([LINK](#))

July 22-23 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

August 4-5 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 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 18-19 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:

In 2027 the San Juan Island Fox Safari ([LINK](#)) will go on May 5-7. Also, I will be doing the Magee Marsh Bird Safari in Ohio from May 18-20 (I don't have the page ready yet). I had one last minute cancel for the spring Yellowstone Safari ([LINK](#)) - that goes off in a few days. It is 50% if you can fill that last second opening - for a man (room split). You can meet me there or ride up with me. Call me for more info.

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.

