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2009

Grand Teton & Yellowstone National Parks

Much of Grand Teton National Park was ranch land before it became a park. This horse in front of the Teton Range is part of one of the few remaining ranches in the park.





Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

This view of the Lower Yellowstone Falls and the Yellowstone River from Artist Point illustrates well how the point got its name. The yellows in the rock have always looked painted to me.
8/30/2008, Yellowstone National Park

January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28			New Year's Day		
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	Martin Luther King Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Trumpeter Swans on Christain Pond

This pair of Trumpeter Swans routinely nest on Christain Pond. The Trumpeter Swan is the largest native North American bird, if measured in terms of weight and length. They were heavily hunted in the 19th century, and were largely believed extinct by 1900. By 1932, 69 of these birds had been documented in the region around Yellowstone. Although not officially on an endangered species list today, they are still quite rare with something like 1500 birds migrating to or living in the continental US.

8/23/2008, Grand Teton National Park

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Groundhog Day					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	President's Day					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Teton Range over Jenny Lake

The Grand Tetons have been described as having no foothills. There is basically a valley with a few lakes on its edge, and then the mountain range starts straight up from the valley edge.

8/22/2006, Grand Teton National Park

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Savings Starts (+1 hour)						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Saint Patrick's Day			Spring (4:44 am PDT)	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



Merganser in the LeHardy Rapids

This Merganser in the LeHardy Rapids of the Yellowstone River was getting quite a work out. It would swim upstream through what is mostly white water, dive completely under the water to feed, and then emerge a couple hundred feet downstream to start the process of swimming upstream again. It repeated this routine 10 times or so while we were there.

8/29/2008, Yellowstone National Park

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Day			Tax Day			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Castle Geyser

Castle Geyser (in the same geyser basin as Old Faithful) erupts for the better part of a half hour when it goes off. In between eruptions as it is here, it still gives off a good plume of steam, and allows a good view of the tiny terrances around it that its runoff has created over the years.

9/2/2008, Yellowstone National Park

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	Memorial Day					
31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Juvenile Bald Eagle

Juvenile bald eagles look very much like golden eagles. As best as I can tell, however, this is a 2nd year juvenile bald eagle. It was perched near Oxbow Bend, a wildlife-rich area of the park that most visitors know only for its landscape views.

8/24/2008, Grand Teton National Park

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Flag Day 14	15	16	17	18	19	Summer (10:45 pm PDT) 20
Father's Day 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Lower Yellowstone Falls

If one is willing to take Uncle Tom's Trail down into the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone during mid-day, you can be rewarded with a spectacular view of the Lower Yellowstone Falls and a nice rainbow in its mist. The only catch is that this trail consists of 328 steps down, which means climbing back up those 328 steps at an elevation of about 8,000 feet.

8/30/2008, Yellowstone National Park

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					Independence Day
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



White Pelicans

A pair of white pelicans swim across Oxbow Bend at dawn.
8/28/2008, Grand Teton National Park

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24					
30	31	25	26	27	28	29

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Terraces by Grand Prismatic Spring

From the air, Grand Prismatic Spring looks dominantly blue. From the ground, what dominates is the huge set of terraces formed by little rimstone dams created from minerals in the runoff. The hot water near the spring creates red and orange bacteria mats. As the water cools farther from the spring, you get the darker browns seen here.

9/4/2008, Yellowstone National Park

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
	Labor Day	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	Fall (2:18 pm PDT)	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Sandhill Cranes

Once you learn the call of Sandhill Cranes, it's very hard to mistake them for anything else. It was their call that caused me to look away from the Tetons and see them flying past.
8/28/2008, Grand Teton National Park (near Elk Flats Ranch)

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
					1	2
						3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Columbus Day					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						Halloween
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Mount Moran reflected in Oxbow Bend

Personally I remember Oxbow Bend for all the wildlife I saw around it, especially all the birds. However, the dawn light on Mount Moran with its reflection in Oxbow Bend is the classic view most tourists know (at least those who get up early enough to see it).

8/28/2008, Grand Teton National Park

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Savings Ends (-1 hour) 1	2	Election Day 3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Veteran's Day 11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	Thanksgiving Day 26	27	28
29	30				October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Bald Eagle

It was only 4 years ago that I remember even seeing my first bald eagle in the wild. Thus I always consider myself fortunate when I get a decent glimpse of one. I found there was a family of bald eagles living by Oxbow Bend, and this one was cooperative enough to fly right past me.

8/24/2008, Grand Teton National Park

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Winter (9:47 am PST)			Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				New Year's Eve		
27	28	29	30	31		

