

Glacier National Park 2013

July 16, 2013: Outside of the park we saw many White-tailed Deer and a Mountain Cottontail. Once we got into the park, we saw no mammals as we drove up to Logan Pass. As we arrived at the pass we saw a few Mountain Goats 100 yards off the road. We hiked up to the Hidden Lake Overlook. You could only go as far as the overlook because the trail was closed due to bear activity. This is a very busy trail, filled with people. There are boardwalks on parts of this trail. We had to hike over quite a bit of snow along the way. We immediately began to see Columbian Ground Squirrels. We would see dozens of them along this trail. We saw more Mt. Goats on the way up. About 1 mile up the trail I saw my 1st of three Long-tailed Weasels. Great looks at all three. One carrying an unidentified prey item back to its den site.

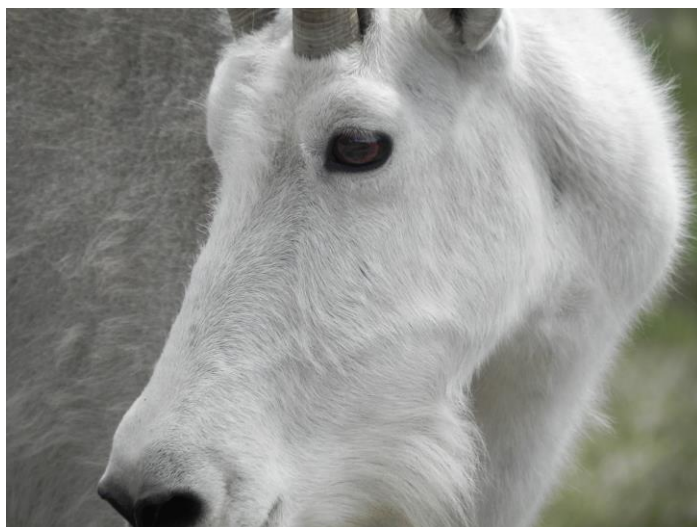


Long-tailed Weasel



Columbian Ground Squirrel

There is a big pile of red rock on the right side of the trail where we found Hoary Marmots. At the top of the trail there were many Mt. Goats that were within a meter of the crowds. At the wooden decks on the top there were many Columbian Ground Squirrels and a few Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels.



Just below the overlook we saw a few more Hoary Marmots.

While we were there a Grizzly Bear appeared at the corner of the lake. This was long distance viewing. It was splashing around in the water. I was told by park personnel that it was trying to catch the spawning Cutthroat Trout.



July 19, 2013: We did the same trail again with a niece that was visiting for the day. For the most part we saw the same stuff as the day before except for the Weasels and Grizzly Bear. This time at the red rock area instead of many Hoary Marmots we saw several American Pikas. We also found a White-tailed Ptarmigan with 3 young chicks. There were also many Bighorn Sheep across the road from the Logan Pass visitor center about 100 yards down the trail. There is an overlook right before you get to the Logan Pass visitor center. There are about 12 parking spaces there. One of the park rangers said that they had recently seen a Wolverine there. We looked and as expected, no Wolverine.





Big Horn Sheep

July 21, 2013: We hiked up to Avalanche Lake looking for Red-tailed Chipmunks. I saw a Red Squirrel at the beginning of the trail. On the way up to the lake it was very quiet. We saw nothing. Right as you get to the lake there is a pile of logs at the edge of the lake. We had not seen the first sign of a chipmunk. My wife reached into her bag and pull out a granola bar. As soon as she opened the wrapper two Red-tailed Chipmunks came running over to her. They had obviously heard that sound before. They were all over the trail around the lake.



Red-tailed Chipmunk

On the way back down the trail there as a big wide opening in the trees on the right where you have a view across the creek. We found a distant Black Bear foraging there. We were able to watch it for quite a while and show it to many hikers as they came by.



Black Bear

After driving out of the park to the east we saw several Mule Deer from the road.

3 days = 14 Mammals

White-tailed Deer

Mule Deer

Mountain Goats

Bighorn Sheep

Grizzly Bear

Black Bear

Long-tailed Weasel

American Pika

Mountain Cottontail

Hoary Marmot

Red Squirrel

Columbian Ground Squirrel

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel

Red-tailed Chipmunks