

# Arizona

“Wild West” Birding

Tue 30th Apr – Sun 12 May 2019

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Arizona highlights (Clockwise from top left): Rivoli's Hummingbird • Pyrrhuloxia • Blue Grosbeak • White-faced Ibis • Greater Roadrunner • Great Horned Owl. Photos © participants Alex & Irene Barclay

**Report compiled by tour leader:  
Chris Charlesworth**

**Arizona | "Wild West" Birding****Tour Leader:** Chris Charlesworth**With:** Alex & Irene Barclay, Connell Connell, Richard Horton, Jane Nichols, Pip Sharp, Sue Warn.

**Apr 30th** – The group met up with Chris in the arrivals hall at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport and we made the short transfer back to our hotel. After a quick bite and a much-needed cold refreshment we headed off to bed.

**May 1st** – We left Phoenix shortly after 7 AM and headed east towards the fabulous Gilbert Water Ranch. It was a lovely day with brilliant sunshine, blue skies and warm temperatures. Shortly after leaving the parking lot we paused at a stand of Saguaro Cactus where we were entertained by several Gila Woodpeckers entering nest holes and feeding on the flowers of the cactus. A Curve-billed Thrasher ran about on the ground near the parking lot, and close by was our first Abert's Towhee. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were numerous, and we saw one male Anna's Hummingbird eventually as well. Gambel's Quail put on a nice performance and we had very nice views of Mourning Doves. On the ponds we had some waterfowl, including Blue-winged, Cinnamon and Green-winged teal, Mallards, Northern Shoveler and the ubiquitous Canada Goose. American Coots, Neotropic Cormorants and several herons and egrets including Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret and Great Blue Heron were all seen as well. Shorebirds included many Long-billed Dowitchers, with smaller numbers of Killdeer, Least, Western and Spotted Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts and some lovely American Avocets. In the trees and bushes along the trail we had Song Sparrow, a Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Inca Dove and many Great-tailed Grackles, while overhead were Cliff Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. In addition to the 40 some species of birds we tallied here, we saw Red-eared Sliders and Desert Cottontails.

After an hour's drive through some very scenic countryside, we arrived in the town of Globe where we had lunch. The temperatures were a little cooler at slightly higher elevations at Globe. We carried on from Globe down to Aravaipa Canyon. Even though it was hot at this point in the afternoon, the canyon was alive with activity. Unfortunately, we couldn't find a Common Black-Hawk, one of the canyon's specialities, but we were rewarded nonetheless, with sightings of Zone-tailed, Grey, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks. Flycatchers were well represented, with sightings of Say's and Black Phoebe and Olive-sided, Brown-crested and the stunning Vermilion Flycatcher. We saw a female Vermilion Flycatcher sitting on a tiny little ragged nest in a mesquite tree right next to the road. Other goodies encountered in the canyon included an immature male Hooded Oriole, a young male Summer Tanager, a Bell's Vireo, Bewick's and Canyon Wrens and Verdin. On our way out of the canyon, we had a brief look at a Greater Roadrunner doing just what's it's known for, running up the bank at the edge of the road and out of sight. The scenery in Aravaipa Canyon was stunning with towering cliffs, hillsides studded with Saguaro Cactus and large cottonwood trees lining the shores of the creek. Flowers were showing nicely after some recent rains and we enjoyed seeing Saguaro, various forms of cholla cactus and Prickly Pear cactus all in flower. We carried on to Tucson, checked in at our hotel and went out for a nice meal.

**May 2nd** – Our adventures began at Agua Caliente Park. Before we had even left the parking lot, we'd seen a couple of nice birds including a singing Rufous-winged Sparrow and an inquisitive Greater Roadrunner. We meandered through the park, ticking off birds one by one under the morning sunshine. Hooded Oriole, Lucy's Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Broad-billed and Anna's Hummingbirds, Phainopepla, Vermilion, Ash-throated and Brown-crested Flycatchers and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher all appeared. A Belted Kingfisher posed briefly for views in a palm tree next to the pond and was our only kingfisher on the tour. Back in the parking lot before we left, we found a pair of Cactus Wrens, the state bird of Arizona, perched on a Saguaro Cactus flower, the state flower of Arizona!

On our way to the supermarket to pick up lunch, we pulled off on the roadside to take a look at a Harris's Hawk soaring overhead. From Tucson, at about 2000 feet above sea level, we travelled to the top of Mount Lemmon at over 9000 feet. The temperature at the bottom was 28 degrees Celsius and once we reached the top it was about 13 degrees Celsius. It is said that driving from Tucson to the top of Mount Lemmon is the equivalent, as far as habitats go, of traveling from Mexico to Canada. The lower reaches of the road are a spectacle of rock formations and towering Saguaro Cactus. Near the top, stately firs, pines and spruce trees cover the landscape. There were even a few patches of snow near the summit. We took a stroll up Bear Wallow, one of my favourite areas, to look for forest birds on Mount Lemmon. Bear Wallow did not disappoint. We had several excellent looks at one of the showstopping birds here, the Red-faced Warbler. Other warblers along the trail included Orange-crowned, Townsend's and Audubon's Warblers. Mountain Chickadees showed well and we were happy to see them since the Catalina Mountains are the only range in S.E. Arizona where one regularly finds this

species. We also saw Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Hermit Thrush, House Wren and Yellow-eyed Juncos.

We had lunch at Loma Linda Picnic Site, where Steller's Jays, Acorn Woodpecker and Yellow-eyed Junco took turns cleaning up the scraps once we were finished. A male Western Bluebird was a nice catch here as well. At the ski valley we had a look at some hummingbird feeders that were abuzz with Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and a single, somewhat wary, Rivoli's Hummingbird. A Yellow-eyed Junco practically walked underneath Alex's feet! Two Wild Turkeys foraged on one of the grassy ski runs and suddenly I felt guilty for having a turkey sandwich for lunch! At the summit of the mountain we took another stroll, catching a glimpse of a White-tailed Deer trotting down the slope. Overhead, Violet-green Swallows zipped about, while Spotted Towhees lurked in the shrubbery. Pip spotted our first Greater Pewee of the trip, though it disappeared all too quickly. Our first stripy-backed Cliff Chipmunks were seen here, while down in the ski village of Summerhaven, we saw a couple of impressive 'Abert's' Tassel-eared Squirrels. At Summerhaven, American Robins hopped about and Steller's Jays called from the pines. At some feeders at a local real estate agency, we watched Pine Siskins and Black-headed Grosbeaks gobble up the seeds. Another obliging Red-faced Warbler hopped into the bush in front of us and several people noted it was too close for photographs! We enjoyed a refreshment at the Cookie Cabin before beginning the descent of Mount Lemmon. On the way down we made a couple of stops to photograph the spectacular rocky scenery before returning to Tucson. We had another lovely meal out and it seemed everyone was quite tired this evening, so a good rest was in order.

**May 3rd** – Another sunny and warm Arizona day greeted us as we started out at Sabino Canyon. The 'old trams' were being replaced by new ones, so we rode up into the canyon on a temporary shuttle. We hopped off the shuttle and walked down a portion of the canyon, enjoying the incredible scenery, the birds, butterflies, lizards and cacti. Birds, though not overly abundant, included some dazzling ones such as Northern Cardinals, Summer Tanager, Broad-billed Hummingbird and Canyon Wren. Also, some not so dazzling birds like Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler and Verdin were also seen. Perhaps the avian star of the walk, was a stunning Black-throated Sparrow that sat right out in the open and sang for several minutes. Lizards included a colourful Greater Earless Lizard, a Tiger Whiptail and Sonoran Spotted Whiptails. Butterflies were numerous, with the most common species being Empress Leila, Marine Blue, Dainty Sulphur and Red-spotted Purple. If all this wasn't enough, the steep walls of the canyon, studded with Saguaro Cactus made for some of the best scenery we encountered on the trip. Around the visitor centre we saw our first Round-tailed Ground Squirrels, small squirrels with large eyes and short, rounded tails.

After we'd consumed our lunches, we drove across to the west side of Tucson where we spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the Sonoran Desert Museum and grounds. Today was hot, so birds were somewhat in hiding as we explored this area. Nonetheless, there were plenty of Cactus Wrens, White-winged Doves, Verdins and Curve-billed Thrashers to see. In the taller trees where water was present, we did find some more interesting things such as Hooded Orioles, Wilson's Warbler, Brown-crested Flycatcher and an immature Cooper's Hawk. The hawk was sitting in a cottonwood at close range to us, where it was devouring its prey. We decided the prey was most likely a White-winged Dove. It was enjoyable to wander about inside the hummingbird aviary, where we had up close and personal looks at Costa's, Anna's and a male Rufous Hummingbird, though we couldn't count any of these on our lists! On our way from the museum to our next destination, Green Valley, we paused at a busy Tucson intersection to look for Burrowing Owls. Though we found their burrow and their favourite perch, the owls must have been hiding out from the heat beneath the ground. We carried on to Green Valley, possibly the retirement capital of S.E. Arizona, which was to be our home base for the next two nights.

**May 4th** – Today was our day to explore the Santa Rita Mountains and the confines of the famous Madera Canyon. We began at the Madera Picnic Area where a walk through the pine-oak forest yielded some nice birds, such as Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Hepatic Tanager and a brief glimpse of our first stunning Painted Whitestart. The highlight, no doubt, was a calling male Elegant Trogon, one of the holy grail birds of any trip to S.E. Arizona. The trogon did not seem to mind being watched and photographed by crowds of people this sunny morning and it was the only member of its species we encountered on the trip.

At Proctor, another section of lower Madera Canyon, we searched for the rare Black-capped Gnatcatcher and, though we didn't find it here, we still saw some very nice stuff. After a bit of a search, we finally had excellent views of a Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, the bird whose name is longer than the bird itself. The first Canyon Towhee of the trip presented itself here at Proctor and we gladly watched birds we had already seen such as Summer and Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole and Wilson's Warbler. We had a picnic lunch at the top parking area of the canyon and then spent much of the afternoon watching the feeders. At Kubo Cabins we were entertained by Mexican Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Acorn Woodpecker, Scott's Oriole,

Rivoli's Hummingbird and more. Our first Western Wood-Pewee paused long enough for scope views. Another Painted Whitestart played hide and seek here, leaving us wanting to see more of this spectacular little warbler.

Next, we sat and watched the feeders at Santa Rita Lodge. Wild Turkeys put on quite a show here, with several males puffed up and displaying to a batch of onlooking females. Acorn Woodpeckers were numerous and provided constant entertainment, but we had to have patience to see the Arizona Woodpecker here, though we did finally have excellent views of it. Groups of noisy Mexican Jays occasionally came in to raid the feeders, while Bridled Titmice came in quietly and grabbed a few seeds before disappearing. Hummingbirds, including Black-chinned, Rivoli's and Broad-billed, sipped nectar from feeders right in front of us. Mammals included many Rock Squirrels and a White-nosed Coati, the latter of which was the first one I had seen on all my trips to Arizona.

We returned to Green Valley for a little siesta before dinner, then we returned to Madera Canyon, in hopes of seeing some nocturnal species. Just before it got dark, we had nice views of our first Rufous-crowned Sparrow hopping about and we saw a Canyon Wren singing from a boulder at sunset. Near Santa Rita Lodge we camped out for a bit, waiting for an Elf Owl to emerge from its hole in a telephone pole. Unfortunately, the owl had not received the news that we were coming and didn't come out. While we waited for the owl, a Mexican Whip-poor-will called in the distance, as did a Whiskered Screech Owl. Before we left the canyon, we did have excellent views of a Whiskered Screech Owl, so it was, in the end, a successful night of owling. On our way back to Green Valley we caught a glimpse of our first Black-tailed Jackrabbit of the tour.

**May 5th** – Our morning began in Green Valley along a lovely road called Paseo del Canto. It was sunny and just the right temperature as we strolled along the street. We ate our breakfast out in the field today and not long after we arrived, we found our target species, a Gilded Flicker. At one point, a pair of Gilded Flickers copulated while atop a Saguaro Cactus. It was a prickly situation indeed. Other typical birds like Costa's Hummingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler and Brown-crested Flycatcher were all observed as well.

Next, we headed to Box Canyon, where there had been reports of a species of sparrow, normally not found north of the Mexican border, the Five-striped Sparrow. We spent quite a bit of time searching for the sparrow, to no avail, but in the process, we found Rock Wrens, Canyon Wrens, Summer Tanagers, Western Wood-Pewee, Cassin's Kingbird and Hooded Oriole. A couple of Harris's Antelope Squirrels found in Box Canyon were the only ones we saw on the entire trip. The flowering Ocotillo was stunning here and at many locations during our visit to Arizona. In addition to the Ocotillo, Prickly Pear Cacti were flowering.

We then visited the lower reaches of Florida Canyon. A walk through the desert scrub here eventually yielded exactly what we had come here for, a Black-capped Gnatcatcher. This, the rarest of the North American gnatcatchers, was a male and was working his way through the canopy, pausing now and then to sing. Also, we had our only looks at Blue-grey Gnatcatcher here as well, making for a good comparison.

After a short pause in Madera Canyon where we had a nice picnic lunch, we began the drive towards Tubac and the Santa Cruz River. It was quite hot as we entered the cottonwood forests along the banks of the river, following the De Anza Trail. Once we were beneath the shade of the big trees, next to the babbling brook, it was pleasantly cool. Despite the time of the day, the birds were very active. Summer Tanagers, Song Sparrows, Lucy's Warblers, Northern Cardinal, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Bewick's Wren were seen in this riparian woodland. As we walked along, I spotted a fledgling Great Horned Owl up high on a branch in the cottonwoods. On our way back, I spotted one of the adult birds, watching out for its youngster(s). The real object of our affection on this particular walk was a Central American species called the Rose-throated Becard. Off and on for several years now, Rose-throated Becards have been found along the Santa Cruz River and this year, apparently, a pair was building a nest there. We followed instructions, looking for a golf course on the right and an orange bucket, then looked to the west and spotted the large, football sized nest, dangling from the branches. I could hear one of the becards calling overhead, so I knew they were there. What appeared to be the female came in with a beak full of nest material, then shortly thereafter Pip spotted the male. The male continued to be seen off and on as he sang from high in the canopy. We returned to the van and, just as we were leaving, a pair of Lark Sparrows appeared on the grass near the van, our first for the trip.

After a short stop for gas in Rio Rico, we carried on to Patagonia, where we checked in at our motel and enjoyed dinner in the local saloon.

**May 6th** – At 6 AM most of us met up for a pre-breakfast visit to the famous Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop. Here, sometime in the 1970s, a Mexican species new to the North American list was found at this location. Subsequent visits by other birders to locate the bird ended up with the discovery of several other rare species.

The phenomenon became known as the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect. We didn't find anything rare here this morning, other than uncommonly cold temperatures. It took a while for the insects to come out once the sun reached the treetops. Most of us were shivering and reaching for sweaters this morning. The birding was, in the end, worth the trouble. We saw our target species this morning, Thick-billed Kingbirds, though they remained hidden until we were nearly ready to give up. A Black Vulture sat on a rock in the sunshine across the valley, no doubt, enjoying the warmth of the sunrise. Canyon and Rock Wrens sang from the rocky hillsides nearby while White-throated Swifts zipped overhead. Down in the streamside riparian growth we found Western Tanagers, Bell's Vireo, both Dusky-capped and Brown-crested flycatchers, Yellow Warblers and more. By this point our appetites were telling us it was time to head back to Patagonia and have breakfast.

Eating at the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia is always a treat and breakfast today was no exception. After breakfast we headed for Patagonia Lake State Park, stopping on the way in a grassland area where we had great looks at a Botteri's Sparrow. Paying the entrance fee and driving down the hill towards the lake, a rather large Bull Snake (Gopher Snake) appeared at the edge of the road. Some of us hopped out for a better look. Some stayed in the van. The Bull Snake, though it superficially looks like a rattlesnake, is not venomous and lacks rattles on the end of its tail. We were able to snap some photos of the snake as it slithered off the road and back into the desert. Walking the birding trails at Patagonia Lake produced close to 50 species this morning. We had fantastic views of Yellow-breasted Chats as they chased one another around through the trees. Lincoln's and Song Sparrows hopped about at the edge of the muddy shore, while the usual Bell's Vireos, Lucy's Warblers, Yellow Warblers and Summer Tanagers frequented the deciduous trees. We had a great view of a male Common Yellowthroat as he sang from a tree next to the marsh. American Coots dabbled about, along with a pair of Mexican Ducks and their gang of ducklings. A male Ruddy Duck was a nice addition to the day list as were a dozen or so Neotropic Cormorants. At least five Spotted Sandpipers bobbed away as they foraged along the shoreline. Green Heron was new for the trip list, as this was the only expected species of heron we had missed early on in the trip at the Gilbert Water Ranch. Great Blue Heron and Great Egret were also present. Benches were situated here and there along the trail system and each bench had a bird name on it. At the Common Yellowthroat bench, we did in fact see a Common Yellowthroat. At the woodpecker bench we found Ladder-backed Woodpeckers. The Kinglet bench, however, produced no kinglets. High overhead, an Osprey sailed by; our only one for the tour. A couple of White-tailed Deer were noticed this morning, as they quietly fed in the woods. Of note, one of the deer had a strange white pattern on its face!

Back in Patagonia, we had lunch and then we spent the afternoon at the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds. It was very pleasant watching the birds here and the hummingbirds performed nicely with star appearances by the local celebrity, the Violet-crowned Hummingbirds. Other species present included Anna's, Black-chinned, Rivoli's and Broad-billed Hummingbirds. Yellow-breasted Chats came in to feed on orange halves, providing exceptional looks at this normally elusive species. Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lesser Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Curve-billed Thrasher, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker - the list went on. Of particular interest, we saw an adult White-throated Sparrow lurking in the brush pile, our only one for the tour, though we did see it again the following morning. White-crowned Sparrows were rather numerous and one or two lucky observers caught a glimpse of a male Indigo Bunting that came in briefly to feed. Dinner at the Wild Horse Saloon was very enjoyable this evening. Richard and Sue had the good fortune to see several Lesser Nighthawks catching insects beneath the streetlights this evening.

**May 7th** – The early morning contingency met at 6:30 and we headed back over to the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds, this time, hoping to catch a glimpse of an American Goldfinch and the Indigo Bunting. We succeeded in seeing the American Goldfinch, a lovely male, throughout the course of our stay this morning. The Indigo Bunting had other plans and decided not to make an appearance this morning. As a consolation prize, we enjoyed watching a couple of Cedar Waxwings in the front garden. While we were not surprised to find Abert's and Canyon Towhees here at the Paton's, I was not expecting a Green-tailed Towhee to appear as it did and forage about with the White-crowned Sparrows. Several Arizona Grey Squirrels pillaged the feeders this morning. Also, in the mammal department, we saw a Collared Peccary in Patagonia this morning. We got back to our hotel and suddenly noticed that Trevor, the given name of our plastic step stool, was missing. Somebody who was on 'Trevor duty' had left him back at the Paton's. I went back to retrieve Trev and found him looking rather lonely in the parking lot.

Back at the Gathering Grounds for breakfast, we also ordered our lunches and took them with us out into the field. We, rather reluctantly, left Patagonia this morning and headed east to the Sonoita Grasslands. We spent several hours in the grasslands, which were beautiful this morning, under blue skies and light winds. Connell spotted our first Pronghorn Antelope as we entered the grassland habitat at Las Cienegas. 'Lilian's' Eastern Meadowlarks were seen and I explained that this unique race may perhaps get split and acquire full species status one day. Sparrows were common in the grasslands with the most abundant being Lark Sparrows. Mixed

in with the Lark Sparrows were several Lark Buntings, another nice surprise. A single Brewer's Sparrow appeared just long enough for scope views and, after some searching, we had excellent looks at Grasshopper Sparrows. Horned Larks strutted about on the ground and Loggerhead Shrike was a first for the tour. Our first definite Chihuahuan Ravens were noted today. Swainson's Hawks showed off their features nicely as they soared against the blue sky. The sprinkling of wildflowers out in the grasslands was very nice.

Our next stop was at the Appleton-Whittell Audubon Research Ranch near the town of Elgin. We drove through much of the same grassland habitat to get to the ranch, but it really is gorgeous country out there. Botteri's Sparrows seemed to be everywhere, jumping up out of the grass and pumping their tails as they flew short distances. A Loggerhead Shrike was seen quite well as were more Eastern Meadowlarks. Once we got to the ranch we were greeted by a friendly young man, one of the researchers staying here. He explained they were doing some work there during our visit and that the Scaled Quail, the birds we had come to see, could be hiding due to the increased activity. The wind was also relentless. We had lunch inside a barn, where I thought we might be sheltered from the wind. I was wrong. The barn was like a wind tunnel and the wind actually blew the lettuce right off Irene's fork! We were, in the end, fortunate enough to see Scaled Quail. I flushed one up from some long grass next to the parking lot and we saw two more quite nicely as well. Thanking the researchers for their hospitality, we carried on our way to Sierra Vista.

We checked in at our hotel then reassembled for a visit to the edge of the Huachuca Mountains at Ash Canyon. Feeders are strung up all over the garden of Mary Jo at the Ash Canyon B & B. We parked ourselves in front of the hummingbird feeders and tallied a few species; Broad-billed, Black-chinned, Anna's. Then, a female hummingbird with buffy underparts and a long, curved bill appeared. It was the bird we'd come here to see, a Lucifer Hummingbird. This Mexican hummingbird species is only found at a few spots in the USA and Ash Canyon is one of them. A lucky few of the group also got a quick view of the male Lucifer Hummingbird as well. Orioles put on a spectacular show here today, with loads of Scott's and some Bullock's Orioles coming in to feed on jam. Ladder-backed, Gila and Acorn Woodpeckers joined in on the feast, as did Bridled Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Lesser Goldfinches, House Finches, Mexican Jays, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Pyrrhuloxia, White-winged Doves and much more. At one point, a Wild Turkey even crashed on to the scene. We returned to Sierra Vista and had dinner, during which time we discussed what a stellar day we had had.

**May 8th** – We picked up lunch this morning and headed for the Huachuca Mountains. The road up to the top of Carr Canyon is an interesting one. It is gravel and bumpy and has some hairpin turns, but the scenery is amazing and once you get to the top, the birding is sensational. We arrived at Reef Townsite Campground and as soon as we got out of the van, we started spotting new birds. Buff-breasted Flycatchers, one of the signature birds of the upper reaches of the Huachuca Mountains, were seen almost immediately and, by the end of our visit, we must have seen close to ten of them. Warblers, including Townsend's, Virginia's, Hermit, Audubon's, Black-throated Grey, Grace's and Wilson's Warblers, as well as Painted Whitestarts, entertained us throughout our stay. Other woodland birds like Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-eyed Junco, Hutton's Vireo and Greater Pewee were also nice to see. Bumping our way back down the mountain, we had a stop to take pictures of the scenery and Pip happened to spot a Peregrine Falcon. Our first Hammond's Flycatcher was noted here. Down at the bottom of the canyon we had lunch at the Carr Canyon Picnic Site. Not many birds were found here, though the usual clean-up crew of Mexican Jays came in as we were leaving. An open area a short distance away, again produced the goods today. We watched a pair of 'Mexican' or 'Azure' Eastern Bluebirds forage amongst the oaks. Several White-tailed Deer also fed on the irrigated lawn here.

Our next destination was San Pedro House, where feeders and a grove of tall cottonwoods attract some nice birds. Upon arrival, I headed over to check out one particularly large cottonwood tree where I knew of a Western Screech Owl that lived in a 'heart-shaped' cavity. Sure enough, the owl was sleeping away at the entrance to its roost. A male American Kestrel was also hanging out in the same tree, providing us with the best look we got of this attractive species of falcon on this tour. We enjoyed a lovely walk along the San Pedro River this afternoon, and the clouds kept the temperatures quite bearable. At this point it was beginning to get harder to add new species at every stop. We didn't add any on our walk along the river, but we had excellent birding, nonetheless. A Zone-tailed Hawk sailed overhead several times. Grey Hawks called in the distance. Richard spotted a Great Blue Heron sitting on a nest high in a cottonwood tree. There were good numbers of Western and Summer Tanagers, as well as Bullock's Oriole, Western Wood-Pewee, Lucy's and Virginia's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Abert's Towhee, Bewick's Wren and Brown-crested, Ash-throated and Dusky-capped flycatchers. The list goes on and on. We walked around a pond where Mexican Ducks were preening on logs around the edges, while a pair of Spotted Sandpipers slept away the afternoon nearby. A large Bullfrog was seen here, as well as the usual Red-eared Sliders that are found at most wetlands in this part of the world.

Back at the visitor centre, some of us had wandered inside to do some retail therapy when Alex happened to photograph a male Blue Grosbeak at the feeders outside. Unfortunately, by the time the rest of us arrived, the grosbeak had flown off. We waited around for a while, hoping he might return, but he didn't. We enjoyed watching Common Ground Doves, White-crowned Sparrows, Curve-billed Thrashers and the like anyway.

We had dinner back in Sierra Vista and then some of us went out to look for night birds in Miller Canyon. Though we heard Common Poorwill in the distance, unfortunately we didn't see any tonight. We saw quite a few White-tailed Deer and we enjoyed the stunning vistas of the Milky Way.

**May 9th** – After checking out of our accommodations, we left Sierra Vista and returned to Miller Canyon and the Beatty's Guest Ranch. We hiked up the canyon about a mile or so and searched, in vain, for a Spotted Owl. Owl or no owl, we saw some nice birds this morning, including a Painted Whitestart, our first and only Cordilleran Flycatcher of the tour, Hepatic Tanagers, Dusky-capped Flycatchers and more. At the hummingbird feeders, Tom Beatty Jr. gave us a running commentary on some of the hummingbirds. There were plenty of Black-chinned, Broad-billed, Broad-tailed and Anna's Hummingbirds and some rather magnificent Rivoli's Hummingbirds feasting at the feeders. Richard, Sue and Jane saw our first Blue-throated Mountaingem of the tour. Tom's pack of 'coon hounds' had treed a squirrel earlier and the hounds were noisily trying to fend off any remaining threat the pesky mammal might throw their way.

We visited Sierra Vista one last time, to have lunch before beginning our journey towards Portal. We picked up food and took it back to San Pedro House where we enjoyed a picnic while a Western Screech-Owl watched us from its perch, up in the tall cottonwood. Otherwise, the feeders were quiet, with no sign of yesterday's Blue Grosbeak. As we continued traveling east, we passed through the mining town of Bisbee, with its old-fashioned town centre and deep pit copper mines all around. Scattered here and there was derelict mining machinery. We got fuel in Douglas then drove on until we found ourselves on State Line Road. The east side of the road is in New Mexico and to the west is Arizona. We briefly found ourselves on the New Mexican side, where we tallied some very nice birds in a short time. There was an adult Great Horned Owl sitting atop a hay bail in an old barn. A Cactus Wren harassed an American Kestrel that had landed on a yucca stem. Showing nicely were a pair of Bendire's Thrashers, with nearby Curve-billed Thrashers for comparison. Also, on the New Mexico side of the border, were Loggerhead Shrike, Gambel's Quail and Swainson's Hawk.

We arrived in Portal around 4 PM and checked into our accommodations. Clouds were gathering and the temperature was on the cool side. We decided to head over to a set of feeders in a private garden on the edge of town. A sign reading 'Crissal' greeted us at the top of the driveway. At this particular set of feeders, Crissal Thrasher was being seen somewhat regularly. We settled in to watch the feeders and were immediately surprised at the diversity of the birds coming in to feed. There was quite a covey of Gambel's Quail running the show on the ground, with a group of tiny, stripy chicks being delinquent as ever. Black-throated Sparrows were another star attraction here, as several often fed very close to where the people sit and watch, and they did today. Northern Cardinals, Pyrrhuloxias, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lesser Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, Canyon Towhee and several gorgeous Lazuli Buntings also joined in on the feast. At a jam feeder, Bullock's Orioles slurped down the sugary substance while White-crowned Sparrows scurried about on the ground beneath the seed feeders. A Curve-billed Thrasher appeared several times, with each appearance evoking a stir amongst the observers, who were keen to see the 'fabled' Crissal Thrasher. Suddenly, I spotted a movement in the shadows beneath the mesquite trees. The bird was dark and had an exceptionally long and decurved bill. It was the Crissal Thrasher. I announced the bird's presence and suddenly everyone was stirring, jostling to get a good look at the elusive thrasher. Though most of us saw the bird, the thrasher remained in the understory for most of the several seconds it was in view, leaving us wanting more!

We returned to Portal and had a lovely dinner at the café before taking a stroll along the main - and almost only - street, in search of night birds. Almost immediately we had a tiny Elf Owl in the soft beam of the light. This is North America's smallest owl species and it is also a migratory species that mostly eats insects. We saw one Elf Owl and heard several more this evening. Farther down the street, I heard the soft, low-pitched, ping pong ball song of a Western Screech Owl. After a short search, the owl was in the beam of the light, calling on the branch of a conifer. We left the lights on the owls for just a few shorts seconds so as not to cause them too much disturbance.

**May 10th** – At 6:30 AM we gathered for some birding in the metropolis of Portal. Seeing as there are only about ten buildings in town, it was quite easy to survey what was about. Several gardens have feeders and urge the public to watch. Donation boxes, which I added to, were situated at most of these feeder areas so folks could donate a little to help to pay for the costs of feeding the birds. As we passed by the post office, we paused to look at a Northern Beardless Tyrannulet that was hanging out near its nest. A couple of ladies pointed out the

nest to us high in the trees. We found the nest of a pair of Great Horned Owls in a big sycamore tree. The nest was on a snapped off branch hanging over the road. Two fluffy little Great Horned Owl chicks peered out at us from the top of the snag. Not far down the road we located one of the adults. We sat at one feeder station for a while and we were rewarded with views of a male Blue-throated Mountaingem, the largest of the regularly occurring North American hummingbirds. Also, at their feeders were Western Tanagers, Summer Tanager, Inca Dove, Lazuli Bunting, House Finches and several tiny Cliff Chipmunks. In the trees overhead, flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons departed, with several hanging around long enough for everyone to get good views through the scope. We tallied just under 50 species on our walk this morning.

After a delicious breakfast at the café we grabbed our sacked lunches and began the drive up into the Chiricahua Mountains. The van screeched to a stop when Irene pointed out something at the edge of the road. 'Gila Monster', I yelled, and we were quickly out of the bus. This was a 'Banded' Gila Monster, showing a specific pattern and colours were more pink than yellow. The venomous lizard was quickly out of sight, but the sighting was documented as several of us got photographs. Our first official stop was at the cemetery at Paradise. We did quite well to get several good views of Juniper Titmouse here and we were also rewarded with a Townsend's Solitaire. Other birds we saw included Scott's Oriole, Bewick's Wren and a Black-throated Grey Warbler. Carrying on higher up the road, we crossed small creeks several times and once we'd nearly reached the top of the road, the scenery was incredible. My friend Gavin, a fellow Canadian that was leading a group as well, had his van parked on the side of the road. I rolled down my window and listened outside and I heard the 'double toot' of a 'Mountain' Northern Pygmy Owl. 'Ok, out we get', I said, and we had lovely views of the tiny owl. Thanks Gavin! We stopped at Rustler Park and after using the facilities, we went for a walk in a conifer forest where I hoped we might find Mexican Chickadees. A Hairy Woodpecker appeared, our first for the tour and some inquisitive Steller's Jays showed up on the scene. A Northern Flicker, of the red-shafted variety, appeared and was finally on our trip list. I could hear the high pitched, buzzy calls of a Mexican Chickadee high in the trees above and soon thereafter, we had them in our binoculars. They were foraging in amongst the needles of the fir trees, alongside a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Pygmy Nuthatches, as well as White-breasted Nuthatches were noted today, giving us the local trifecta of nuthatches. Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, House Wren and Yellow-eyed Junco were also noted. The flowers here were brilliant with many paintbrushes and lupines stealing the show. Connell suggested we stop and photograph a gorgeous cactus that was growing straight up out of the rocks. I later discovered the name of this red flowering cactus was the Arizona Claretcup.

At Barfoot Park we made one last ditch attempt to find a bird that had been eluding us since the beginning of the tour, the Olive Warbler. We walked down into a nice thick patch of pine and fir and then, I heard it. The soft, 'pew' call of an Olive Warbler. The call was coming from high in the trees, a place that Olive Warblers know well, and after quite an extensive search, we finally spotted two of them foraging in a pine. We toddled down the bumpy road, watching White-tailed Deer scamper left and right as we descended. Sharp-eyed Connell yelled out 'Stop! Quail.' I stopped and there it was. A Montezuma Quail, one of the most elusive and sought-after quail species in North America. A male was sitting out in the open at the edge of the woods near the road. Soon thereafter it was off, followed by at least two more. Fantastic!

We enjoyed the scenery as we drove through Cave Creek Canyon back to Portal. Folks had asked to return to the 'Crissal Thrasher' feeders we had been at the afternoon before, so we returned. We spent about an hour and a half watching the feeders, which again, produced nicely. A Rufous-winged Sparrow hopped out and picked up seeds from beneath the feeders, providing us with one of just a few looks we had of this species on the trip. A male Blue Grosbeak sang for quite a while in a cottonwood tree, allowing everyone else to see the bird, which up until this point, had been seen by just one member on the tour. 'Crissal Thrasher', I yelled out once again and this time the bird came right out in the open for 10 or 15 seconds and fed on seeds. The cameras clicked at the rate of the paparazzi photographing an A list celebrity. We had done well at this set of feeders indeed. We returned to our lodge and had our final dinner together as a group.

**May 11th** – We met at 6 AM on this, our final morning in Arizona. We headed back out towards Paradise, in search of a couple more species that had thus far eluded us. The first, a Grey Flycatcher, showed up right on schedule, but the second, the Black-chinned Sparrow had other plans. We tried several locations for the sparrow with no luck, though we did enjoy the antics of male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds chasing one another amongst the Ocotillos. We also had nice views of Scott's Orioles up here today. Eventually I heard a Black-chinned Sparrow singing up a hillside. We searched and searched and eventually we saw one, sitting in mesquite tree long enough for almost everyone to get scope views of. Feeling as though we had accomplished our mission, we returned to Portal and had breakfast. Those that hadn't come on the early morning portion of the birding said that the Great Horned Owls were showing again nicely around their nest.

After breakfast we reluctantly left Portal and began the 4½ hour drive back to Phoenix. The drive took us through western New Mexico for about half an hour before we reached Interstate 10 and turned west, back into Arizona. We had enough time today to make a couple of birding stops along the way. The first stop was at the famous Willcox Water Treatment Plant. Here, we added nine new species to the trip list. These included Stilt Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, White-faced Ibis, Eared Grebe, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Ring-billed Gull, Yellow-headed Blackbird and finally a Tropical Kingbird. There were also plenty of American Avocets around, as well as a few Black-necked Stilts and a single Great Egret. Green-winged, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shoveler and Mexican Duck were here. Horned Larks were noted, along with Eastern Meadowlarks, in the grassy areas around the lake. Pip saw a couple of Scaled Quail.

We carried on westward along I-10 to the city of Benson, where we had lunch and then headed to their local sewage works. Rumour had it there were Canvasback there and we found two females; in addition, we found a male Ring-necked Duck. We arrived in Phoenix at Sky Harbor Airport with plenty of time for folks to make their flight. At this point of the trip, when the goodbyes are being said, it always feels a bit rushed. As the group disappeared into the airport, I reminisced on just how great a tour this had been. The group gelled together nicely and enjoyed some fantastic places with amazing scenery and great birding. In addition to the birds, the mammals, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians also dazzled. It had been an all-around great trip, and this was echoed by all.

### **Bird Species List** (200 species seen + 2 heard only)

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Several noted at the Gilbert Water Ranch in Phoenix.

**Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch in Phoenix and at the Willcox Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*

Noted at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Willcox WTP.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch and at the Willcox WTP.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Found at Willcox WTP.

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*

Noted at Willcox WTP.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Noted at several locations including Gilbert Water Ranch, Agua Caliente Park in Tucson and at Sabino Canyon, Tucson.

**Mexican Duck** *Anas diazi*

Found along San Pedro River, east of Sierra Vista, as well as at Patagonia Lake State Pk and at Willcox WTP.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Willcox WTP.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

Found at Benson WTP.

**Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria*

Two female types at the Benson WTP.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Tallied at Gilbert Water Ranch, Patagonia Lake State Park and at Willcox WTP.

**Scaled Quail** *Callipepla squamata*

Found at Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch near Elgin, and again at Willcox WTP.

**Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii*

Fairly common throughout tour, with first sightings at our first stop on the tour, at Gilbert Water Ranch. Seen later at several feeding stations as well.

**Montezuma Quail** *Cyrtonyx montezumae*

At least two along roadside in Chiricahua Mountains, near Cave Creek Canyon.

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*

Fairly common in wooded canyons including Madera Canyon, Ash Canyon and more.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nycticorax*

Found only at Willcox WTP.

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*

Willcox WTP.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*

Found at Patagonia Lake State Park.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch, Agua Caliente Park, Patagonia Lake State Park, the San Pedro River near San Pedro House.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Seen at Gilbert Water Ranch in Phoenix and at Willcox WTP.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch.

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Several at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Patagonia Lake State Park.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*

Common throughout.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*

Found only in areas around Patagonia.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

One flew overhead at Patagonia Lake State Park.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*

Fairly common in canyons and suburban areas.

**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Only a few seen, at beginning of tour, along Hwy 60, east of Phoenix, but west of Globe, and at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson.

**Grey Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus*

Small buteo seen fairly often at locations including, but not restricted to, Aravaipa Canyon, the De Anza Trail in Tubac, the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop, the Paton's area, and at the San Pedro River, E. of Sierra Vista.

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*

Seen several times, first of all overhead at the De Anza Trail in Tubac. Later seen at the Sonoita Grasslands at Las Cienegas, and in areas around Portal.

**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus*

First sighting was at Aravaipa Canyon, with later sightings at the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds and at the San Pedro River, E. of Sierra Vista.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*

Common and seen daily throughout tour.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch near Phoenix and at the Willcox WTP.

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch, Patagonia Lake State Park and at Willcox.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*

At Gilbert Water Ranch near Phoenix and at Willcox WTP.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Willcox.

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*

Two at Willcox WTP.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*

Noted at Gilbert Water Ranch.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Numerous at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Willcox WTP.

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*

Numerous at Willcox WTP.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch, Patagonia Lake State Park, the San Pedro River and at Willcox WTP.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*

One at the Willcox WTP.

**Feral Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Common in towns and cities throughout.

**Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata*

Several large flocks of several dozen seen in the Portal area.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common in towns and cities.

**Inca Dove** *Columbina inca*

Fairly common, especially at feeding stations. Seen at Ash Canyon B & B, San Pedro House, the Paton's Center for hummingbirds and many other locations.

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina*

Found at the Gilbert Water Ranch, the De Anza Trail in Tubac and at San Pedro House.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*

Common throughout.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*

Common throughout.

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus*

Seen five times on tour, with most memorable sightings at Aravaipa Canyon, Agua Caliente Park in Tucson and at Florida Wash near Madera Canyon.

**Western Screech Owl** *Megascops kennicottii*

Seen twice during daytime visits, roosting in hole in large cottonwood tree near gift shop at San Pedro House.

**Whiskered Screech Owl** *Megascops trichopsis*

Excellent view in lower Madera Canyon, and heard elsewhere.

**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*

Large fledgling and adult found roosting along Santa Cruz River along De Anza Trail near Tubac. Also, adult in old barn in New Mexico, along Stateline Road and at least two in nest with adult nearby in Portal.

**Northern (Mountain) Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium gnoma*

One seen well in Chiricahua Mountains, near turnoff to Rustler Park.

**Elf Owl** *Micrathene whitneyi*

Heard but not seen in Madera Canyon. Seen well, however in Portal.

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Seen by only a couple of observers along the main street in Patagonia one evening.

**Common Poorwill** *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* (H)

Heard at Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains.

**Mexican Whip-poor-will** *Anstrostomus arizonae* (H)

Heard at Madera Canyon.

**White-throated Swift** *Aeronautes saxatalis*

Found where large cliffs present such as at Aravaipa Canyon, Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop, Carr Canyon.

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** *Cynanthus latirostris*

One of the more common hummingbirds at feeding stations throughout the tour.

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird** *Amazilia violiceps*

One or two at feeders at the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia.

**Blue-throated Mountain-gem** *Lampornis clemenciae*

Seen twice in town of Portal.

**Rivoli's Hummingbird** *Eugenes fulgens*

Noted at most canyon feeding stations such as Madera, Miller, Ash and Cave Creek Canyons. Also found at feeders at the Iron Door Restaurant at Summerhaven, the ski village atop Mount Lemmon.

**Lucifer Sheartail** *Calathorax lucifer*

Male and female seen at Ash Canyon B & B near Sierra Vista.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri*

Common at feeding stations throughout.

**Anna's Hummingbird** *Calypte anna*

Fairly common at feeding stations throughout.

**Costa's Hummingbird** *Calypte costae*

Seen well at Box Canyon, east of Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus*

Found at feeders at Mt. Lemmon, as well as at Madera Canyon and Miller Canyon, amongst other locations.

**Elegant Trogon** *Trogon elegans*

Male seen very well in lower reaches of Madera Canyon.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*

One seen on tour at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson.

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Common throughout in canyons especially.

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Leucontopicus villosus*

One at Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mountains.

**Arizona Woodpecker** *Leuconotopicus arizonae*

Our first views were at the feeders at Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon, and later we had brief views in the Huachuca Mountains at Miller Canyon and at the Reef Townsite Campground at Carr Canyon.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris*

Fairly common throughout, especially around feeding stations such as those at Ash Canyon B&B in Sierra Vista and at the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*

One near Rustler Park in Chiricahua Mountains. Of 'Red-shafted' race.

**Gilded Flicker** *Colaptes chrysoides*

Two along El Paseo Del Canto, a street in suburban Green Valley.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*

Noted several times, first in Aravaipa Canyon. Later seen at San Pedro House in Sierra Vista, and later in the Portal area as well.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Seen on Mount Lemmon and again later at Carr Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains.

**Northern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe*

Seen well in lower reaches of Madera Canyon / Proctor Road area. Also seen well in Portal where there was a nest in a large tree not far from the post office.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis niger*

Found at Aravaipa Canyon as well as at Patagonia Lake State Park.

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*

Found at Aravaipa Canyon, San Pedro House, Miller Canyon and at Willcox.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi*

First sighting was at Aravaipa Canyon. Also seen along lower reaches of Carr Canyon Rd, and at the Rodriguez property in Portal.

**Greater Pewee** *Contopus pertinax*

Seen briefly atop Mount Lemmon. Seen later by all at Reef Townsite Campground in the Chiricahuas.

**Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus*

Seen at Madera Canyon, Box Canyon, San Pedro River at San Pedro House, Miller Canyon and in Portal.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondii*

Seen fairly often, a migrant, noted at locations including Reef Townsite Campground in the Chiricahua Mountains and at Miller Canyon in the Huachucas.

**Grey Flycatcher** *Empidonax wrightii*

One seen at the Paradise Cemetery.

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** *Empidonax occidentalis*

Seen well in Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains.

**Buff-breasted Flycatcher** *Empidonax fulvifrons*

Several seen at Reef Townsite Campground at Carr Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus obscurus*

Fairly common in open areas and near water. We laid eyes on this stunning species more days than not on this tour. Perhaps the best location to see them is at Patagonia Lk State Park.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*

One at golf course next to the Willcox WTP.

**Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans*

Fairly common in open areas, especially around water.

**Thick-billed Kingbird** *Tyrannus crassirostris*

A couple were seen at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*

Common and seen most days.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Fairly common and found at a variety of locations including Ash Canyon B & B, Madera Canyon, the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop and Miller Canyon to name a few spots.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Fairly common in open habitats throughout.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Fairly common in riparian areas such as Aravaipa Canyon, Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon and more.

**Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

Pair tending to nest along Santa Cruz River / and the De Anza Trail in Tubac.

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*

Found at Las Cienegas in Sonoita Grasslands, as well as at the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch near Elgin. Found in grasslands near Portal and at the Willcox WTP.

**Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii*

Fairly common, especially through first half of trip. Found at Aravaipa Canyon, Madera Canyon, Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon, etc.

**Plumbeous Vireo** *Vireo plumbeus*

Found in Catalina Mountains at Bear Wallow. Also found at Reef Townsite Campground in Huachuca Mountains, near top of Carr Canyon.

**Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni*

Seen at Miller Canyon and in Carr Canyon at Reef Townsite Campground in the Huachuca Mountains. Also noted at Portal.

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*

Fairly common as a migrant in most canyons and riparian areas.

**Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Found at higher elevations on Mt. Lemmon and at upper elevations near Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas.

**Mexican Jay** *Aphelocoma wollweberi*

Fairly common, especially in canyons such as Madera Canyon, Miller Canyon and Ash Canyon.

**Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*

Seen briefly from van as we ascended Mt. Lemmon in the Catalina Mountains.

**Common (Northern) Raven** *Corvus corax*

Common throughout tour.

**Chihuahuan Raven** *Corvus cryptoleucus*

Found at the Appleton-Whittell Audubon Research Ranch near Elgin, as well as at the LasCienegas area on the Sonoita Grasslands. Also found in open country near Portal.

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Seen at Paton's Center for Hummingbirds and in the town of Portal.

**Phainopepla** *Phainopepla nitens*

Quite common and seen most days. Noted at Aravaipa Canyon, Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon, Green Valley, Madera Canyon, De Anza Trail, Patagonia Lake State Park and Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop.

**Bridled Titmouse** *Baeolophus wollweberi*

Usually seen in wooded canyons in small groups. Found in Madera Canyon, Ash Canyon, and in Portal.

**Juniper Titmouse** *Baeolophus ridgwayi*

Just a couple seen on the tour, in the juniper woodlands around Paradise Cemetery.

**Mountain Chickadee** *Poecile gambeli*

Seen at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

**Mexican Chickadee** *Poecile sclateri*

Two or three at Rustler Park in the high Chiricahua Mountains, near Portal.

**Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps*

Common throughout much of tour in desert habitats.

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Several at Willcox WTP.

**Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina*

Found at Mt. Lemmon at several locations, and in Portal in the 'town' itself, and overhead at the feeders at Bob Rodriguez's place.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Seen usually where water present such as at Gilbert Water Ranch, Aravaipa Canyon, the De Anza Trail, Patagonia Lake State Park and the San Pedro River at San Pedro House, as well as in Portal.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Fairly common throughout.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Several found at Gilbert Water Ranch near Phoenix. Also seen near San Pedro River, east of Sierra Vista.

**Bushtit** *Psaltriparus minimus*

Found at Ash Canyon B & B and in the Huachuca Mountains at Reef Townsite Camp-Ground in Carr Canyon.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*

Found in Carr Canyon at the Reef Townsite Campground. Also found in the Chiricahuas at Rustler Park.

**Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

The state bird of Arizona, we saw them at a number of desert locations including Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon and at Box Canyon.

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus*

Several at Box Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains.

**Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus*

Seen in Aravaipa Canyon and at Sabino Canyon.

- Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii*  
Fairly common throughout much of tour.
- House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*  
Found at Mt. Lemmon as well as at Madera Canyon, Miller Canyon and in the Chiricahua Mountains, at Rustler Park and at Barfoot Park.
- Blue-grey Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea*  
Good look at one in lower Florida Canyon, which is the next canyon to the east of Madera Canyon.
- Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila melanura*  
Good views at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson, at the Sonoran Desert Museum and at Sabino Canyon.
- Black-capped Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila nigriceps*  
One male seen well near parking area at lower Florida Canyon.
- Pygmy Nuthatch** *Sitta pygmaea*  
Found in pine forests of Mt. Lemmon and Rustler Park / Barfoot Park in the Chiricahua Mountains.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*  
Found at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains and at Rustler Pk, in the Chiricahuas.
- White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*  
Common throughout in wooded areas.
- Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana*  
Found at Reef Townsite Campground in Upper Carr Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains. Also found up at Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mountains.
- Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*  
Seen regularly in suburban areas.
- Bendire's Thrasher** *Toxostoma bendirei*  
Pair seen on New Mexico side of intersection at corner of State Line Road and Gin Road near Portal.
- Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre*  
Common throughout tour.
- Crissal Thrasher** *Toxostoma crissale*  
One came in to feeders of Bob Rodriguez in Portal.
- Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Common throughout.
- Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*  
Male and female at open area along lower Carr Canyon Road, south of Sierra Vista. These birds were of the endangered 'azure' race.
- Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana*  
Several seen in burned areas atop Mount Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains.
- Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi*  
One seen on tour, at the cemetery at Paradise.
- Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*  
Seen at higher elevations on three occasions; Mt. Lemmon at Bear Wallow, Carr Canyon at the Reef Townsite Campground and at Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mountains.
- American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*  
Found in the upper elevation forests of Santa Catalina Mountains, Huachuca Mountains and the Chiricahuas.
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
Common in urban and suburban areas throughout.
- Olive Warbler** *Peucedramus taeniatus*  
Heard at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon and seen, after a bit of effort, in the Chiricahuas at Barfoot Park.
- House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*  
Common throughout.
- Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*  
Seen by single observer in Portal.
- Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*  
Common throughout.
- American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*  
One male at feeders at the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia.
- Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*  
Fairly common this year, especially feeding stations.
- Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys*  
Several mixed in with flock of sparrows out in grasslands at Las Cienegas.
- Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*  
Found where water present; Gilbert Water Ranch, Patagonia Lake State Park, the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds, San Pedro River near San Pedro House.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii*

One hopping about on mud at edge of Patagonia Lake at the state park.

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Found at feeders at the Paton's Center as well as at San Pedro House, and at feeders in Portal.

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollaris*

One at feeders at the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds.

**Yellow-eyed Junco** *Junco phaeonotus*

Found in most wooded canyons and in mountain habitats.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum*

One or two at Sonoita Grasslands at Las Cienegas.

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*

One at Ash Canyon B & B.

**Black-chinned Sparrow** *Spizella atrogularis*

One or possibly two along lower reaches of Paradise Road, near Portal.

**Brewer's Sparrow** *Spizella breweri*

Small numbers in with mixed sparrow flocks at Las Cienegas in Sonoita Grasslands.

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus*

First encounter was near where we parked to visit the De Anza Trail in Tubac. Later, seen in with mixed sparrows at Las Cienegas on the Sonoita Grasslands and at San Pedro House.

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata*

Found at several locations including Sabino Canyon, Box Canyon, Las Cienegas at Sonoita Grasslands, but best views came from Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

**Rufous-winged Sparrow** *Peucaea carpalis*

Found at Agua Caliente Park, the Sonoran Desert Museum, Paseo del Canto in Green Valley and at feeders at Bob Rodriguez's yard in Portal.

**Botteri's Sparrow** *Peucaea botterii*

Found along road near entrance to Patagonia Lake State Park. Also found at the Sonoita Grasslands at Las Cienegas and at the Audubon's Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch near Elgin.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow** *Aimophila ruficeps*

Good views at dusk near lower Madera Canyon at Proctor Road.

**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus*

One at feeders at Paton's Center for Hummingbirds.

**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus*

Found at Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mtns, as well as at Ash Canyon B & B, Carr Canyon, Miller Canyon and at the Paradise Cemetery near Portal.

**Canyon Towhee** *Melospiza fusca*

Fairly common throughout, especially in dry, rocky habitats.

**Abert's Towhee** *Melospiza abertii*

Fairly common throughout, especially in riparian areas.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*

Noted at Patagonia Lake State Park, the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds and along the San Pedro River, east of Sierra Vista.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

One at Willcox WTP.

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*

Found at the Sonoita Grasslands at Las Cienegas and in grassland areas near Portal. Birds seen on this tour were of the 'Lilian's' race.

**Scott's Oriole** *Icterus parisorum*

Found at feeders at the Kubo Cabins at Madera Canyon, as well as at Ash Canyon B&B, feeders in Portal and at the Paradise Cemetery.

**Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii*

Noted at Ash Canyon B&B, San Pedro River, east of Sierra Vista and at feeders at Bob's house in Portal.

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus*

Fairly common and seen on the majority of days.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Found where water present; Gilbert Water Ranch, Agua Caliente Park, Patagonia Lake State Park, the San Pedro River at San Pedro House and at Willcox WTP.

**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus*

Found in residential Green Valley along Paseo del Canto. Also noted near Portal along Paradise Road.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*

Common parasitic species, seen regularly throughout tour.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Common, especially in urban and suburban areas throughout.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Leiothlypis celata*

Noted at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon.

**Lucy's Warbler** *Leiothlypis luciae*

Fairly common in desert areas, including Aravaipa Canyon, Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon and more.

**Virginia's Warbler** *Leiothlypis virginiae*

Found in the Huachuca Mountains at Reef Townsite Campground.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch, Patagonia Lake State Park and at the San Pedro River.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga aestiva*

Fairly common and seen in riparian areas throughout.

**Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler** *Setophaga auduboni*

Found at Mt. Lemmon at Bear Wallow as well as at Reef Townsite Campground in the Huachuca Mountains and at Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mountains.

**Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae*

Nice looks at this species at Reef Townsite Campground in the Huachuca Mountains.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens*

Found at Reef Townsite Campground in the Huachuca Mountains and at the Paradise Cemetery near Portal.

**Townsend's Warbler** *Setophaga townsendi*

Several sightings including birds at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon, Sabino Canyon, Madera Canyon, Carr Canyon's Reef Townsite Campground, Miller Canyon and in Bob Rodriguez' yard in Portal.

**Hermit Warbler** *Setophaga occidentalis*

Nice views at Reef Townsite Campground in the Huachuca Mountains.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*

Migrant. Seen fairly often.

**Red-faced Warbler** *Cardellina rubrifrons*

Seen exceptionally well at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon.

**Painted Whitestart** *Myioborus pictus*

Found at Madera Canyon, as well as at the Reef Townsite Campground and Miller Canyon.

**Hepatic Tanager** *Piranga hepatica*

Found at Madera Canyon, and in the Huachuca Mountains at Carr Canyon's Reef Townsite Campground and at Miller Canyon.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*

Fairly common, especially in wooded canyons.

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*

Fairly common migrant throughout tour.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Common throughout.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Fairly common throughout.

**Pyrrhuloxia** *Cardinalis sinuatus*

Found at Agua Caliente Park, Box Canyon, Ash Canyon B&B and in Portal at the feeders of Bob Rodriguez.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*

Found at feeders at San Pedro House, and later on at Rodriguez property in Portal.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*

One or two quick glimpses at feeders at the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds.

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena*

Several at feeders at Bob Rodriguez's place in Portal.

**Mammals**

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*  
Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus*  
Arizona Grey Squirrel *Sciurus arizonensis*  
Abert's (Tassel-eared) Squirrel *Sciurus aberti*  
Cliff Chipmunk *Tamias dorsalis*  
Harris's Antelope Squirrel *Ammospermophilus harrisi*  
Rock Squirrel *Spermophilus variegatus*  
Round-tailed Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus tereticaudus*  
White-nosed Coatiundi *Nasua narica*  
White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*  
Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*  
Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*  
Botta's Pocket Gopher *Thomomys bottae*

**Reptiles & Amphibians**

Lowland Leopard Frog *Lithobates yavapaiensis*  
American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeiana*  
Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta*  
Sonora Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura macrolpha*  
Ornate Tree Lizard *Urosaurus ornatus*  
Zebra-tailed Lizard *Callisaurus draconoides*  
Greater Earless Lizard *Cophosaurus texanus*  
Sonoran Spotted Whiptail *Aspidoscelis sonorae*  
Tiger Whiptail *Aspidoscelis tigris*  
Gila Monster *Heloderma suspectum*  
Gopher Snake (Bull Snake) *Pituophis catenifer*

**Butterflies**

Western Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio rutulus*  
Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes*  
Checkered White *Pontia protodice*  
Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole*  
Marine Blue *Leptotes marina*  
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*  
Common Buckeye *Junonia coenia*  
Red-spotted Purple *Limenitis arthemis*  
Arizona Sister *Adelpha bredowii*  
Empress Leila *Asterocampa leilia*  
American Snout *Libytheana carinenta*  
Monarch *Danaus plexippus*  
Mournful Duskywing *Erynnis tristis*