

Arizona

“Wild West” Birding

Wed 3rd – Mon 15 May 2017



Arizona highlights (Clockwise from top left): Summer Tanager • Gila Woodpecker • Acorn Woodpecker • Rufous-crowned Sparrow • Curve-billed Thrasher • Mexican Jay. Photos © Cyndy Hutley & Chris Charlesworth/Limosa

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

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Leader – Chris Charlesworth

Tour participants – Roger & Chrissie Cresswell, Graham Hardy, Cyndy Hutley, Alastair & Janice White and David Wimpress.

Day 1, May 3rd – This evening, I greeted the group from the U.K. at the arrivals hall of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. We made the short transfer from the airport back to our hotel and some of us went for dinner, while others disappeared into their rooms to get some rest after a long day of travel.

Day 2, May 4th – Our first day of birding in Arizona was exceptional, with the usual Arizona standard of gorgeous blue skies and warm temperatures throughout. At our hotel, many of the group had assembled and were already ticking off birds, including Great-tailed Grackle, White-winged Dove, American Kestrel and Black-crowned Night Heron, before we had even left the parking lot. Our first official birding stop was at the Gilbert Water Ranch where, at a little grove of Saguaro Cactus, we ticked off some nice species including several Gila Woodpeckers, a Gambel's Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher and tiny Verdins. We carried on along the trails and checked out a number of puddles and ponds where waterfowl included Mallards with young, a pair of male Cinnamon Teal and a female Ruddy Duck, pointed out by David. Waders were about in small numbers with American Avocet, Black-necked Stilts, Least, Western, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitcher noted. Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron and Snowy Egret were all about, though I was surprised to see no Great Egret or Great Blue Heron here. In numbers were Neotropic Cormorants and we saw a few American Coots. Patrolling the skies above the ponds were Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow and a couple of Sand Martins. Formations of White-winged Doves sped by, while we had good views of several diminutive Inca Doves along the trail edge. A few migrant passerines were hiding in the bushes, including White-crowned Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhee, Wilson's Warbler, a hybrid Myrtle X Audubon's Warbler and Western Wood Pewee. We watched the pewee catch and devour a white butterfly of some sort. Also doing a fair amount of flycatching were Anna's and Black-chinned hummingbirds! For our mammal tally we saw the first of many Desert Cottontails today, while for the reptile list we saw a number of Red-eared Sliders basking in the sun.

As we drove towards Globe we paused to look for raptors several times, getting excellent views of Red-tailed Hawks. A tiny and adorable Round-tailed Ground Squirrel won over the group as it peered at us from beside the road. A little group of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers showed briefly in a Palo Verde tree before flying off. After lunch in Globe, we carried on down Hwy 77 and turned towards Aravaipa Canyon. The scenery here with rugged canyons and hillsides studded in giant Saguaros was rather spectacular. I spotted a pair of Harris's Hawks, with one bird sitting on a nest in a cactus. Farther into the canyon we stopped and showed the group a Common Black Hawk sitting on a nest, a rather uncommon species here despite its name. Colourful birds popped out from the greenery of the canyon with a male Northern Cardinal, a lovely Yellow-breasted Chat and a stunning male Vermilion Flycatcher some of the real treats. Western Kingbird and Olive-sided Flycatcher were seen in tall dead trees and a Grey Hawk posed nicely on a bare branch for extended scope views. After checking through dozens of Turkey Vultures today, our scrutiny was finally rewarded with the sighting of a Zone-tailed Hawk sailing above the canyon. Rock Squirrel was added to the list and our first butterflies, American Snout and Red-spotted Purple, were discovered here. On our way out of the canyon, one of the most sought-after species of the tour ran straight in front of our van and disappeared into the desert. It was a Greater Roadrunner, a bird a number of the members of the group had told me they would not leave Arizona without seeing. Pressure off on the first day, phew! The drive into Tucson was quite lovely as we followed the jagged peaks of the Santa Catalina Mountains. We checked into our accommodations and then went for a delicious dinner nearby at the Texas Roadhouse.

Day 3, May 5th – Bright eyed and bushy tailed, everyone gathered for some pre-breakfast birding at 6AM. We made our way to Tucson's Agua Caliente Park where we enjoyed some very nice birds. The morning weather was sunny and a comfortable temperature, although the wind picked up increasingly as we went along. Lucy's Warblers showed well as adults fed begging youngsters in the mesquite trees. Northern Beardless Tyrannulet cooperated nicely as well, foraging at eye level on a couple of occasions. A stunning male Hooded Oriole sat up in a tree in the morning sunshine, while sharp-eyed Cyndy spotted a male Vermilion Flycatcher. We saw several female Vermilions and a couple of youngsters as well this morning. All went quiet in the passerine department when a male Cooper's Hawk sailed overhead. Big and boisterous Brown-crested Flycatchers appeared and allowed us nice views through the scope. A pair of male Western Tanagers exploded with color atop a dead tree as we drooled while looking through the scope. Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Yellow Warbler all appeared, but very briefly, leaving us wanting more. Our first Phainopeplas provided the usual pronunciation problems, while a pair of Cactus Wrens sang from a perch for a lengthy period of time. Along the

edge of a man-made lake, three Spotted Sandpipers poked along, while a female Purple Martin flew overhead. Even before breakfast we felt we'd already seen a full day's worth of birds!

After breakfast we began our ascent of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The scenery was stunning with jagged and bizarre rock formations and sweeping views of Tucson below. Our first stop was at Chihuahua Pines picnic area where we encountered a nice selection of birds, including Grace's and Black-throated Grey Warblers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hutton's Vireo, Spotted Towhee and comical Acorn Woodpeckers. Arizona Sister butterflies were about today at various locations. We next explored the shady confines of Bear Wallow, an excellent place to find warblers and other conifer forest species. We were not disappointed and had fantastic views of several stunning Red-faced Warblers, as well as the uncommon Olive Warbler. American Robins gathered nesting material, while House Wrens sang their bubbly songs from every corner of the little gully. We had a picnic lunch at Bear Wallow then continued on, almost being overwhelmed with excellent birds. Hermit Thrush, Brown Creeper, Pygmy and Red-breasted nuthatches and Mountain Chickadee all appeared, as if on cue. We carried on up towards Mt. Lemmon where we hiked around at close to 9000 feet elevation. Violet-green Swallows appeared from out of nowhere and began buzzing around us. One of them perched on a snag long enough for some of us to get a scope view. Northern Flickers were noted here, along with a male Hairy Woodpecker. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was engaged in an impressive aerial display of diving from a dizzying height and swooping back up again. Male and female Western Bluebirds were a highlight, while it was very impressive to watch Red-tailed Hawks hover in the wind almost at eye level in the stiff wind. A Steller's Jay gave its raucous call from a snag in the distance and I got him in the scope for the group. We then went to the Cookie Cabin in Summerhaven, the ski village atop Mt. Lemmon, to have coffee while American Robins, Yellow-eyed Juncos and other birds kept us occupied. A walk back through the village along a creek produced Warbling Vireo, American Robins, Black-headed Grosbeak and more Acorn Woodpeckers. Up at a feeding station we watched as over a dozen Pine Siskins, several Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lesser Goldfinch and Pygmy Nuthatch came in to the feeders. Cliff Chipmunk also fed on the seeds beneath. Before we left Summerhaven, we enjoyed a lovely Virginia's Warbler, then, feeling very happy with our Santa Catalina experience, we headed back down to Tucson. We had enjoyed the restaurant so much the night before, we returned to the Texas Roadhouse once again for a delicious supper.

Day 4, May 6th – It was another sunny and hot day as we headed over to Sabino Canyon. As we waited for the first tram to take us up into the canyon, we were entertained by the antics of the Round-tailed Ground Squirrels. Alastair pointed out a rather large Desert Spiny Lizard that was basking in the morning sun. The ride up to the top of the canyon was pleasant and was narrated by the driver, who pointed out various trees, landmarks and told us the history of the canyon. As we strolled back down the canyon we saw some nice birds including an immature male Summer Tanager, decked out in yellow and red as he sang from a perch in a large cottonwood. Desert species including Black-throated Sparrow, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Verdin and the like, were seen quite well. High over a large cliff known as the Acropolis Wall, we watched through the scope as a Peregrine Falcon dive-bombed a Prairie Falcon several times! White-throated Swifts also made a brief appearance as did a Cooper's Hawk that swooped past right at eye level, making his way down the middle of the road. A few new butterflies encountered included Empress Leila, Sleepy Orange, Checkered White and Southern Dogface, while we had a nice Black-necked Garter Snake slithering through a tree. I spotted two venomous critters on a dirt bank, a rather impressive Giant Centipede, decked out in black, red and yellow, that was about 8 inches long and a pair of Black Widow spiders, the shiny black female sitting next to her adoring mate, a small, unassuming looking spider with no idea about what his lady had planned for him. We had lunch near the visitor center and a couple of Round-tailed Ground Squirrels mooched scraps off us, one female being very pregnant.

The drive over to the Sonoran Desert Museum took about 45 minutes and once we arrived we explored various parts of this splendid exhibit. A few wild birds were noted, including a young male Costa's Hummingbird, several Cactus Wrens and some very nice Black-tailed Gnatcatchers. We had a little break for ice cream before setting off to look for a Gilded Flicker. The flicker didn't want to give itself up to us, so we had to settle for a flight view as it disappeared into the giant Saguaros. It was very windy at this point in the afternoon so I decided to call it a day and we drove on to Green Valley. We had dinner and then retired for some well-deserved rest.

Day 5, May 7th – We met early for breakfast today, then made our way up into the Santa Rita Mountains and Madera Canyon. With hopes of finding one of the more sought-after species of this canyon, the Elegant Trogon, we set off on a hike up into the mixed pine-oak forest where this species can be found. Though we heard one 'barking' we never did see it today, as was the case with most other birders we met on the trails. A couple of lucky souls proclaimed they had seen the bird, frustratingly. In the process of trogon hunting we did see quite a nice selection of birds nonetheless, including a pair of Painted Redstarts that were building a nest right below us in a bank, seemingly not at all worried about our presence. Other birds we encountered included Plumbeous Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Mexican Jays, a Townsend's Warbler

and Yellow-eyed Juncos. We got back down to the parking lot and found it to be overrun with bikers, making for an interesting combination (birders and bikers). Down at the Kubo Cabin feeders we watched as the birds zipped in and out to feed. There were quite a few hummingbirds, including our first Magnificent Hummingbirds, as well as Broad-billed Hummingbirds and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. Mexican Jays came in to feed and drink along the small creek and hordes of House Finches and Black-headed Grosbeaks fed voraciously on the seeds. A female Hepatic Tanager appeared several times, our first sighting of this species. Western Grey Squirrels and a few Rock Squirrels picked up seeds from the ground beneath the feeders.

We had lunch at the Madera Picnic area, which was quite a popular location with the locals on this fine Sunday. A short walk after lunch provided sightings of Hermit Thrush and a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, as well as a lovely male Hepatic Tanager. We then visited the Santa Rita Lodge feeders, which were abuzz with activity. Hummingbirds were particularly numerous and we had great views of Black-chinned Hummingbirds here. A group of Wild Turkeys were feeding under the feeders and at one point several of the males erupted into a display, puffing all their feathers up and strutting around. Acorn Woodpeckers came and went, while flocks of Lesser Goldfinches jostled for position on thistle feeders. Another group of birders arrived and exclaimed they had seen a trogon up at the Kubo, we piled back into the van and returned to the area that it had been seen. No luck for us, so we turned around and visited Proctor Road, in search of gnatcatchers and we did find a Blue-grey Gnatcatcher. Also here was a singing American Robin. On our way back to Green Valley, Cyndy spotted a Swainson's Hawk soaring.

After dinner, we returned to Madera Canyon, hoping for some nocturnal birds and perhaps even some mammals. We succeeded in both, with fantastic views of an Elf Owl at its nest hole near the Santa Rita Lodge. Later, we enjoyed amazing views of a Whiskered Screech Owl and we had quick but good views of a Western Screech Owl. In the mammal department we saw several 'Coue's' White-tailed Deer alongside the road in the canyon this evening. On our way back to Green Valley, I showed the group several Lesser Nighthawks feeding beneath the streetlights. What a night!

Day 6, May 8th – It was a lovely morning today; cool, mostly sunny and fairly calm. We began birding at Florida Wash where we found one of the best birds of the day, a Crissal Thrasher, as it sat atop a Mesquite and sang in the morning sunshine. We also had great looks at some nice sparrows here including Black-throated, Botteri's and Rufous-winged sparrows, the latter two new for the trip list. Swainson's Hawk was seen quite well this morning and I screeched the van to a halt to show the group a nice Loggerhead Shrike on the telephone wire beside the road. Not a bad start to the day. Over in Florida Canyon we hiked up the somewhat rugged trails, thinking just maybe we'd see the rare Rufous-capped Warbler, but luck wasn't on our side. We met a fellow up there who had been 'camped out' in the spot for two hours and had not seen or heard the bird, so we didn't feel too bad about missing it. In the process of searching we did find some other goodies however; Ash-throated Flycatcher, Scott's Oriole, Hooded Oriole and both Summer and Hepatic Tanagers. We watched a male Hepatic Tanager feasting on a giant hawkmoth here. Alastair identified a couple of new butterflies for the trip list; Tiny Checkerspot and Marine Blue, while we all saw a couple of impressive Giant Swallowtails as well.

Back in Madera Canyon we had a picnic lunch then took a stroll through the pine-oak forest, dreaming of the Elegant Trogon once again. I overheard several members of the group say "I think the trogon is just a myth", so now I really have to find them one! Today was not the day however. A few Plumbeous and Hutton's vireos, Painted Redstart, Brown Creeper and Dusky-capped Flycatcher singing in the canyon this afternoon, but not at all easy to see. We headed for the relative ease of watching the feeders at Santa Rita Lodge and this was a good move. Many of the same birds we had seen here the previous day were again present, such as Wild Turkeys, Mexican Jays, Acorn Woodpeckers, Lesser Goldfinch and White-breasted Nuthatch. A lovely male and immature male Scott's Oriole came in to feed on orange halves and our first Rufous-crowned Sparrow of the tour hopped about near a brush pile. At the water feature a Lincoln's Sparrow paused for a drink. Hummingbird feeders were bustling with Black-chinned, Broad-billed, Broad-tailed and Rivoli's Hummingbirds. I heard the squeaky calls of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in a tree nearby and, after a little searching, we located the bird, a female. Quite a few other birds were also jumping about in the same tree including Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers and we soon discovered why. There was a Northern Pygmy Owl nestled away in the branches of the juniper tree! We had fantastic views of this tiny, yet vicious diurnal hunter. By the time we left, quite a crowd of birders had gathered to see the pygmy owl. Beneath the feeders, yet another mammal to add to the trip list, a Hispid Cotton Rat.

Before calling it a day we took a stroll around Proctor Road, again hoping for gnatcatchers with little black caps, but no luck there. Roger spotted another good bird here, a Red-naped Sapsucker. The cool weather seemed to have knocked a few migrants down this afternoon, with good numbers of Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western

Tanagers, Wilson's Warblers and Pacific-slope Flycatchers about. A Cassin's Kingbird was another new addition to the trip list here, while we also saw our third Grey Hawk of the tour.

Day 7, May 9th – Today was the coldest day I have ever experienced in Arizona and I've done 10 tours here now! The temperature hovered between 6 and 15 Celsius and we encountered a bit of everything with sun, clouds, rain and wind. Cyndy excitedly reported she had found a Greater Roadrunner outside our Nogales hotel so everyone headed outside and watched the roadrunner collecting various bits of food from the road. Nice start! We then headed to Rio Rico to see if there were any flooded fields this year and we were in luck as there was a little strip of water along the edge of some fields. In the water were 16 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and several 'Mexican' Mallards. A pair of Swainson's Hawks perched nicely in a cottonwood in the morning sun, while the first of a number of Vermilion Flycatchers for the day, was found along the fence line. Next stop was at Patagonia Lake State Park, which was a very productive location this morning with a good number of resident birds present as well as a healthy number of migrants knocked down by the weather. Most common migrants included Western Tanagers, Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Townsend's Warblers and Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Smaller numbers of Lincoln's Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, MacGillivray's Warbler and various swallows also were tallied. We had an impressive count of Vermilion Flycatchers here, with several family groups about, and also we had Say's Phoebes feeding young. Other nests discovered included a White-winged Dove and a Gila Woodpecker. Bright splashes of colour came in the form of Summer Tanagers and Northern Cardinals and we enjoyed a male Common Yellowthroat that put on a nice performance for us. Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet and Cassin's Kingbird also put in appearances. After hearing a number of Dusky-capped Flycatchers we were happy to finally get a view of a pair of them in the mesquites. A Yellow-breasted Chat appeared in the tree above our head, showing rather nicely, especially for this normally somewhat elusive species. Out on Patagonia Lake were the usual American Coots, with broods of cute little red headed babies, as well as a single Pied-billed Grebe. A group of 25 or so Neotropic Cormorants rested on a sand bar while a single immature Double-crested Cormorant was the first for our trip list. In the mud along the edge of the lake were several White-faced Ibis, as well as a Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper and Killdeer. Green Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron were seen as they flew past. All in all, it was a great visit to Patagonia Lake Park.

Lunch at the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia was lovely as usual and after we finished we took half an hour to explore the artsy little village before heading over to the Paton's Center for Hummingbirds. It was nice to run into fellow BC birder Thor Manson here and he pointed out to us which feeders to keep our eyes on for the local speciality, Violet-crowned Hummingbird. No sooner had he pointed out the feeder than the bird arrived, showing off its lovely violet crown and gleaming white underparts. Other hummers here included Black-chinned, Anna's, Broad-tailed and Broad-billed hummingbirds. Seed feeders attracted the usual hordes of Lesser Goldfinches and House Finches. On the ground were White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Curve-billed Thrasher, Inca Doves and Gambel's Quail. Just as we left the Paton's the rain began, so we drove towards Sonoita Creek Preserve and just birded the road from the car. We didn't see too much, but we did find an Olive-sided Flycatcher and Graham spotted a Black Phoebe. The rains carried on as we birded at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop, though after a short 'rain delay' in the van, we headed back out into the field to find some goodies. Our target species, Thick-billed Kingbird, appeared as if on cue and showed well through the scope. We hoped for a Rock Wren on the cliffs here, but only came up with Canyon Wren instead. The mesquite trees had migrants in them - Western Tanagers, Warbling Vireo and Yellow, Wilson's and Townsend's Warblers. Ash-throated and Brown-crested flycatchers showed themselves here and we finally saw two Black Vultures sitting high up in a giant sycamore, drying off their wings. A couple of Grey Hawks appeared, one sitting in a bush on a hillside, allowing nice scope views. The rain fell even harder as we drove back to Nogales where we had a little break before heading out for dinner at a local Italian establishment called Orencio's.

Day 8, May 10th – The Greater Roadrunner made an appearance at our hotel in Nogales again this morning, as did Curve-billed Thrasher and nesting Cliff Swallows. We took a short detour to the Mexican border for photo ops before heading off to Pena Blanca Lake, west of Nogales. Along the way we had a Collared Peccary scoot across the road in front of the van, our first for the trip. The drive to Pena Blanca was very scenic and the sky was crisp and clear after overnight rains. As we neared the lake, a male Bronzed Cowbird sat obligingly in a tree near the van. Birding was very enjoyable at Pena Blanca with nice mixed flocks of sparrows about, including Lark, Rufous-winged, Chipping and Song Sparrows. Violet-green Swallows were abundant as they foraged low over the water and perched on wires and on mesquite trees. Migrants were in the lakeside bushes, with the likes of Olive-sided Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler, Warbling Vireo and Western Tanager fattening up. We had our first Nashville Warbler of the tour, along with Yellow and Lucy's Warblers. Vermilion Flycatchers continued to light up the desert with their magically bright plumage, while other, comparatively drab, flycatchers like Brown-crested, Dusky-capped and Western Wood Pewee also put in appearances. Not much was about out on the lake itself, other than a few Mallards (one of them a 'big-bottomed' girl), a couple of American Coots and along the shore a Spotted Sandpiper.

Another stop at the Patagonia Rest Stop was starkly different than when we had stopped the previous day, when it was cold and rainy. Today the temperature was perfect and the sky was blue. Our best sightings included a lovely Canyon Wren that sang right in front of us. Also, an adult Grey Hawk showed nicely while an immature bird sailed overhead. We had another delicious lunch at my favorite cafe in all of Arizona, the Gathering Grounds, in Patagonia. A Phainopepla greeted us from a tree overhead as we headed in for lunch. Then, we headed off to check the grasslands around Sonoita and found the access road I normally take in was closed due to a fire. I found an alternate route into the grasslands, though the habitat wasn't quite as nice as I would have liked. However, it still produced most of the birds we were after, 'Lilian's' Eastern Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Chihuahuan Raven and a lovely little Grasshopper Sparrow. From the front seat of the van, Janice spotted Pronghorn Antelope out in the grasslands.

Once we arrived in Sierra Vista we checked in to our hotel then made our way to the foothills of the Huachuca Mountains at Ash Canyon B&B. We sat and indulged in some 'lazy man's' birding as hummingbirds, jays, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, finches and more came in to feed. A Wild Turkey sneaked up behind us and let out a loud 'gobble gobble gobble', and I've never seen a group of birders jump faster with fright than I did at that moment. Broad-billed, Anna's, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned and Rivoli's hummingbirds all came in to feed, but the Lucifer Hummingbird made us wait for a long time before he finally made an appearance. After the Lucifer appeared, Cyndy led the cheer as we let out a group 'Texas Yeehaw'. Several mammal species were noted here including a Botta's Pocket Gopher, a Hispid Cotton Rat and the usual Western Grey Squirrels. We enjoyed another great Arizona meal this evening at Applebee's.

Day 9, May 11th – Another picture perfect morning in Arizona, as we headed for Subway to pick up lunch. Upon arrival at the restaurant, a Greater Roadrunner was giving its 'whining dog' call atop a bed and mattress store roof. The girl behind the counter at Subway was very friendly and efficient today and had us on our way in no time. We bumped and bounced our way up the Carr Canyon Road, pausing briefly at the bottom to search for Eastern Bluebird. No bluebird here, but we did see quite a variety of species including Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-throated Grey Warbler, Bridled Titmouse, Bewick's Wren and Hutton's Vireo. After a bumpy ride up, we were happy to get out of the van and do some birding at about 7000 feet elevation around the Reef Townsite Campground. It didn't take us too long to find some of our target species including over a dozen Buff-breasted Flycatchers, a species that, in the USA, breeds only in the Huachuca Mountains. The 'Jose Maria' call of the Greater Pewee was heard incessantly this morning and we enjoyed several good views of them as well. Eastern Bluebirds thankfully appeared at the campground, showing nicely, as did a nice male Arizona Woodpecker. Other species that put on a nice show included several Painted Redstarts, as well as Grace's Warblers, Hermit Thrush, Brown Creeper and American Robin. Cyndy spotted a couple of distant Woodhouse's Scrub Jays on a ridge above the road. We had a nice picnic lunch in the forest before we began our descent and I think we all breathed a sigh of relief when we were finally on flat ground and paved road at the bottom of Carr Canyon Rd.

The latter part of the afternoon was spent in the cool, shady confines of Ramsey Canyon. Being the early afternoon, bird activity was a bit slow, though, we did find some interesting species amongst the oaks and sycamores. Painted Redstarts, Western and Hepatic Tanagers, Mexican Jays and other usual canyon suspects were noted, along with Acorn Woodpeckers and a very noisy Northern Flicker that we eventually got great views of; but the sighting of a Northern Pygmy Owl was surely the highlight here. While there were some nice birds in the canyon, the butterflies were even better, with the likes of Red-spotted Purple, Arizona Sister, Mourning Cloak, Two-tailed Swallowtail and others putting on quite a show. We watched some feeders, where hummingbirds included Broad-tailed, Magnificent, Black-chinned and Broad-billed. Back down in Sierra Vista we went out for dinner and later tried our luck at finding Common Poorwills in lower Miller Canyon. We did find one or two, though they were a bit distant. With the help of my flashlight we could see the red eye shine of one individual as it leapt up into the air several times, presumably to catch bugs, then returned to the same perch. The 'poorwill' calls of about four birds could be heard this evening.

Day 10, May 12th – This morning we returned to Ramsey Canyon. Up at the Bledsoe Loop we were ecstatic to hear and soon after see, a male Elegant Trogon. The bird posed nicely for scope views and photo ops and this was easily one of the top bird moments of the trip. Here, our group split up, with some opting to hang out in Lower Ramsey Canyon to see what they could see, the rest heading up into Upper Ramsey Canyon - a bit of a gruelling hike, with elevation gains of over 1000 feet. It was a lovely hike and we saw quite a few interesting species along the way, though none as exciting as the Tufted Flycatcher, the sole bird that urged us to do this march. The tiny Tufted Flycatcher is a Central and South American species that has only occurred north of the Mexican border a handful of times. I first detected the bird by call and soon thereafter we were enjoying views through the scope. Another couple that were there at the same time as us, spotted the flycatchers' nest, tucked against the trunk of a large, deciduous tree. Our walk back down to Lower Ramsey Canyon was comparatively easy and we all had big smiles on our faces.

After lunch we began the journey towards Portal and the Chiricahua Mountains, stopping along the way at San Pedro House. I hoped we might find a Common Ground Dove here, a species still missing from our list. There were quite a few birds around the house in the large cottonwood trees and at feeders. Blue Grosbeaks were seen well here and we had brief views of a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, locally fairly rare. We were directed to the location of a roosting Western Screech Owl in a cottonwood and the bird, half hidden in the trees, played hide and seek with us as we searched for the best possible gap in the leaves to view the bird through. Later, we bumped into a birder from Texas who pointed out a Common Ground Dove! I thanked him and asked if he would like a Western Screech Owl in return. He said yes, of course, so off we went to show him the owl. As luck would have it, the bird had moved and I couldn't spot it anywhere, so feeling a bit embarrassed I explained that it had just been there. Soon thereafter we noticed the owl had repositioned itself and was now showing better than ever as it sat at the entrance to a cavity in the trunk. We carried on through the dusty border city of Douglas, making our way eventually across the New Mexico border where, for just a brief moment, David's wristwatch was finally on the correct hour! We swung back into Arizona and before we knew it we were at Portal. I showed the group a nest of Great Horned Owls and they watched the fluffy chick peering out of its nest as I checked us into the lodge. After dinner we took a little stroll down the main street and had very good views of an Elf Owl.

Day 11, May 13th – Pre-breakfast we made our way out towards the New Mexico border at State Line Road, where it didn't take us too long to find our target species, Bendire's Thrasher. A pair of them, first perched on a post on the New Mexico side of the border, later flew west into Arizona, so it was a tick on both state lists! Also in this area this morning, were our first Scaled Quails. With time to spare before breakfast we tried our luck with two more species: Black-chinned Sparrow and Juniper Titmouse, both found in the juniper habitats around Paradise. We heard a Black-chinned Sparrow but, despite our efforts, it just wouldn't show itself. Luckily, all was not lost, since we had fantastic views of a pair of Juniper Titmouse this morning. We headed back to Portal and had a delicious breakfast.

Eight happy birders with full bellies jumped back into the van and we began our ascent of the Chiricahua Mountains. We tried again for Black-chinned Sparrow with no luck, so we carried on to the upper elevations at around 7000 feet. The view of the desert below and the mountains in the distance was breathtaking. We stopped at Rustler Park to use the bathrooms and Alastair spotted a couple of Mexican Chickadees here. This excellent sighting saved us quite a bit of time searching for this species later. Our next stop was in Pinery Canyon where we had lunch in the shade of, you guessed it, the pine trees. After we ate, I put the scope on another new species for our trip list, a Cordilleran Flycatcher. There were several of them singing in the canyon. We searched for a previously reported Slate-throated Redstart and had no luck finding it, but we did see quite a few other birds in the process; Yellow-eyed Junco, Painted Redstart, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Hermit Thrush to name a few. Back down to Portal we headed, via the very scenic Cave Creek Canyon. Once in Portal we strolled along the main street towards some feeders and it didn't take us too long to find another of our target species, North America's largest hummingbird, the Blue-throated Hummingbird. A swarm of bees had us retreating from this location rather quickly, so we headed for another popular feeding station not far from town. The Rodriguez feeders were quite busy this afternoon. At orange halves were stunning and colourful birds like Bullock's Orioles, alongside Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers and Pyrrhuloxias. Somewhat drabber feeder visitors included Canyon Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow and - best of all - a Crissal Thrasher! Hummingbirds of several species were busy at the feeders as well. We headed back to Portal, had dinner and enjoyed the funky sounds from a local musician on the outdoor stage.

Day 12, May 14th – Before breakfast we headed out one last time to try for the rather elusive Black-chinned Sparrow. Unfortunately, we didn't find one this morning, though of course, there were plenty of other birds to be seen. We had breakfast at Portal and then began the drive back towards Phoenix. The first hour or so of the journey took us through a rather remote portion of western New Mexico. We entered back into Arizona and soon thereafter stopped at Willcox. No birding tour would be complete without at least one visit to some good old-fashioned sewage ponds, so we spent about an hour scanning through the birds at the Willcox lagoons. New birds tallied for the trip list included waterfowl such as American Wigeon, Gadwall and Lesser Scaup. A flock of about 40 Wilson's Phalaropes was fantastic to find and even better once we discovered there were two Red-necked Phalaropes mixed in with them. As we left the area, I spotted a female Lark Bunting on the grass next to the road, our one and only member of this species spotted on the entire tour. We paused for lunch at Benson, then carried on through Tucson to the Santa Cruz flats. Following up on a tip from a friend of mine, I was on the hunt for one last bird to add to our trip list, a Burrowing Owl. We got to the spot and sure enough there were two Burrowing Owls posing for us in the afternoon sun. This was a fantastic bird to end the trip on and we drove on into Phoenix, where I said goodbye to the group at Sky Harbor Airport.

Systematic List of Species Recorded
(195 bird species)

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*
Over a dozen found at flooded fields in Rio Rico.
- Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
One female type at Willcox Sewage Ponds.
- American Wigeon** *Anas americana*
Two at Willcox Sewage Ponds.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Found at Gilbert Water Ranch, Agua Caliente Park, Pena Blanca Lake and in Sabino Canyon.
- Mexican Duck** *Anas diazi*
Noted at Rio Rico in flooded fields, Patagonia Lake, and at the sewage works at Willcox.
- Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*
Two at Gilbert Water Ranch.
- Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
Two at Willcox Sewage Ponds.
- Lesser Scaup** *Anas affinis*
Male at Willcox Sewage Ponds.
- Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Singles at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Willcox Sewage Pond.
- Scaled Quail** *Callipepla squamata*
Two seen well along State Line Road on Arizona / New Mexico border, near Portal.
- Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii*
Common in desert habitats and seen throughout tour.
- Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*
Fairly common in canyons, especially where feeders present.
- Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*
Our only sighting was at Patagonia Lake State Park.
- Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
Two at Gilbert Water Ranch.
- White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*
Several noted at Patagonia Lake State Park and at Willcox Sewage Ponds.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Sightings from Gilbert Water Ranch and Patagonia Lake.
- Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*
Seen at Gilbert Water Ranch in Phoenix and at Patagonia Lake State Park.
- Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*
Two at Patagonia Lake State Park.
- Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*
Seen at Gilbert Water Ranch near Phoenix.
- Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
Found at Patagonia Lake State Park and at Gilbert Water Ranch.
- Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*
One immature bird at Patagonia Lake State Park.
- Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*
Common throughout tour.
- Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*
Noted at the Patagonia Roadside Rest as well as at Pena Blanca Lake.
- Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*
Noted at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson, Sabino Canyon and at Ramsey Canyon.
- Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus*
Adult on nest in Aravaipa Canyon.
- Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*
Two seen well in Aravaipa Canyon, including bird on nest in Saguaro Cactus.
- Grey Hawk** *Asturina nitida*
Our first was a bird perched in dead trees at Aravaipa Canyon, with others at Madera Canyon and at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area.
- Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*
Seen between Green Valley and Madera Canyon, as well as along Rio Rico Dr. Also at the San Pedro River near Sierra Vista, along State Line Road near Portal and at the Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

One sighting, and thankfully a great sighting, at Aravaipa Canyon.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Common buteo throughout tour.

American Coot *Fulica americana*

Up to 15 cots were at Patagonia Lake State Park, where adults were feeding little red-headed youngsters. Also seen at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Pena Blanca Lake.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Seen at Gilbert Water Ranch and at the Willcox Sewage Ponds.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*

Found at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*

Seen at Gilbert Water Ranch, Patagonia Lake State Park and Willcox Sewage Pond.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

A couple were seen at the Gilbert Water Ranch.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

Fittingly, just one, solitary bird, at Gilbert Water Ranch.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

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

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

One at Gilbert Water Ranch.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Small numbers at Gilbert Water Ranch and at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Up to 40 seen at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two mixed in with Wilson's Phalarope at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

One subadult at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Common throughout.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Columba fasciata*

Several noted in Portal.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common throughout.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Fairly common throughout, especially where feeders present such as at the Paton feeders in Patagonia.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

Just one seen on tour, at San Pedro House, east of Sierra Vista.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

Common throughout.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Common throughout.

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus*

Several sightings, including one from the van in Aravaipa Canyon. Later, several excellent sightings, including a bird right outside our hotel in Nogales.

Western Screech Owl *Megascops kennicottii*

Seen in lower Madera Canyon and seen roosting in large cottonwood at San Pedro House near Sierra Vista.

Whiskered Screech Owl *Otus trichopsis*

Excellent views in Madera Canyon, and later heard at other locations.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*

Nesting in Portal, right outside our lodge, with at least two babies in the nest.

Mountain (Northern) Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium gnoma*

One seen very well at Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon, and another seen later on at the Bledsoe Loop at Ramsey Canyon.

Elf Owl *Micrathene whitneyi*

We saw one at its nest hole at Madera Canyon and later we saw another near the post office in Portal.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

Two seen at the Santa Cruz Flats on our final day of the tour.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Two or more were hunting around street lights in Green Valley.

Common Poorwill *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*

We saw one poorwill in Miller Canyon.

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

Heard in Madera Canyon.

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatilis*

Fairly common throughout and seen in Carr Canyon, Madera Canyon, Sabino Canyon, etc.

Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cynanthus latirostris*

Perhaps most common hummingbird species throughout tour.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia violiceps*

One of the rarest hummingbirds in the USA, just one seen at Paton's feeders in Patagonia.

Blue-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis clemenciae*

Largest hummingbird in the U.S.A., seen at feeders in Portal.

Rivoli's (Magnificent) Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*

Fairly common at feeding stations in Madera Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, and various other locales.

Lucifer Sheartail *Calothorax lucifer*

One male at feeders at Ash Canyon B & B.

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*

Common at feeding stations throughout.

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*

Common throughout.

Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae*

Female type bird at the Sonoran Desert Museum.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus*

Fairly common at feeding stations in all the canyons.

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans*

Seen well along Bledsoe Loop Trail at Ramsey Canyon. Heard in Madera Canyon.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Common in oak and pine woodlands throughout.

Gila Woodpecker *Melanerpes uropygialis*

Common and seen almost daily, with the exception of the Portal area.

Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

One at Proctor Road section of Madera Canyon.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris*

Fairly common throughout, with first sighting in Aravaipa Canyon.

Arizona Woodpecker *Picoides arizonae*

Seen well at the Reef Townsite Campground in Carr Canyon and in Ramsey Canyon.

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus*

One male seen well at top of Mt. Lemmon and later another noted at Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*

Good sightings at the top of Mt. Lemmon and later we saw another well at Ramsey Canyon.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Noted along Aravaipa Canyon Road and at Sabino Canyon. Later, we had one at Ash Canyon B&B.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*

One at Sabino Canyon at the Acropolis Wall.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One at Sabino Canyon, where it was chasing a Prairie Falcon in the vicinity of the Acropolis Wall.

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*

Found at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson, at Patagonia Lake State Park and the Patagonia Roadside Rest.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

Noted at locations near water including Aravaipa Canyon, Patagonia Lake State Park and Pena Blanca Lake.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*

Seen at the Gilbert Water Ranch in Phoenix, as well as at Aravaipa Canyon, Patagonia Lake State Park and along State Line Road in the Portal area.

Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

Extremely rare north of the Mexican border, with only a handful of US records. Several of us hiked into upper Ramsey Canyon where a Tufted Flycatcher had built itself a nest.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*

Seen fairly regularly, at locations such as Aravaipa Canyon, Madera Canyon, the Paton's feeders, Pena Blanca Lake and in the Chiricahua Mtns near Paradise.

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax*

Heard calling in the mountains a few times, but seen well at Reef Townsite Campground in Carr Canyon.

Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*

Common and seen throughout tour.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi*

Heard often, but only seen at Reef Townsite Campground in the Huachuca Mtns.

American Grey Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*

One in lower Carr Canyon and another in juniper habitat at the Paradise Cemetery near Portal.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*

Fairly common in lower elevation canyons, such as Madera Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, as well as at other lowland locations such as Patagonia Lake State Park and Pena Blanca Lake.

Cordilleran Flycatcher *Empidonax occidentalis*

Two seen in Pinery Canyon, in the Huachuca Mountains.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher *Empidonax fulvifrons*

Good numbers in upper Carr Canyon, where we saw close to a dozen at Reef Townsite Campground.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

Stunning species, quite common in SE Arizona and seen regularly during the tour.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*

Fairly common throughout in open areas.

Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris*

Two were seen at the usual location, the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*

We saw these at Florida Canyon, as well as at Patagonia Lake State Park, plus State Line Road near Portal, and at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Smallest of the *Myiarchus* flycatchers found in the USA. Fairly common in canyons and in riparian areas.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Medium sized myiarchus. Fairly common in open desert areas throughout.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

The biggest *Myiarchus* in the region, this species was found in most wooded canyons throughout the tour.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

One seen along road to Florida Canyon, with later sightings in the Portal area.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*

Common in desert scrub habitats, especially near water. Found at Aravaipa Canyon as well as at Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon, and a number of other sites.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*

Heard singing in nearly every wooded canyon, such as Madera Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, Carr Canyon, etc.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*

First views were at Chiricahua Pines Picnic Site in the Santa Catalinas and we later saw them in most oak forest canyons such as Madera Canyon, Carr Canyon and Ramsey Canyon.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Fairly common migrant, seen most days.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Fairly good views atop Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mtns.

Mexican Jay *Aphelocoma wollweberi*

Common in canyons such as Madera, Carr and Ramsey. Usually present where feeders are found.

Woodhouse's Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*

Quite a few seen in the juniper / pinyon habitat around Paradise in the Portal region.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Common throughout.

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus*

Seen in the Sonoita Grasslands along Swanson Road, in the Portal area and at Willcox.

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens*

Common throughout in desert habitats, with especially nice views in the town of Patagonia.

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi*

Fairly common in canyons, especially where feeders present.

Juniper Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi*

Just a couple seen near end of tour in the juniper habitat around Paradise.

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*

One seen nicely at Bear Wallow on Mount Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mtns.

Mexican Chickadee *Poecile sclateri*

One and maybe two at the parking area for Rustler Park, in the Chiricahuas.

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps*

Common at the Desert Museum near Tucson, the lower Madera Canyon and at Gilbert Water Ranch.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

One or two along Swanson Road in the Sonoita Grasslands and a number at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

Seen at beginning of tour at Gilbert Water Ranch and at end of tour at Willcox Sewage Ponds.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*

Found at a number of locations including Mt. Lemmon, Patagonia Lake State Park, Pena Blanca Lake and overhead at Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

Purple Martin *Progne subis*

A couple were noted at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Sightings from Aravaipa Canyon, as well as the Gilbert Water Ranch and Patagonia Lake State Park.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common throughout, especially where water present.

American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Fairly common, and there was a colony of 20 or more nesting on our Nogales hotel.

American Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*

First at Ash Canyon B & B, later in Carr Canyon and Ramsey Canyon.

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

This rather large wren was first found at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson and later seen in numbers at Sonoran Desert Museum as well as several other locations. The state bird of Arizona.

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*

Seen well at Sabino Canyon and at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop.

Bewick's Wren *Thyromanes bewickii*

Fairly common in riparian habitats.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Common in mountain and canyon habitats throughout.

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*

Found at Madera Canyon and later on in Ramsey Canyon.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila melanura*

Superb views at Aravaipa Canyon, Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon and the Sonoran Desert Museum. First sighting, though, was of a small group in the desert along the Superstition Freeway, east of Phoenix.

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*

Several seen at or near top of Mt. Lemmon, with numbers at Bear Wallow and at Summerhaven.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*

A pair was at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon and another pair was observed on the hike at Ramsey Canyon.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

Common throughout, especially at feeders.

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*

Found on Mt. Lemmon at Bear Wallow, as well as at Carr Canyon and in Ramsey Canyon.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

Fairly common, especially in the Phoenix area. Otherwise we had scattered sightings of mockingbirds, often along roadsides on fence posts or telephone wires.

Bendire's Thrasher *Toxostoma bendirei*

Two seen in the desert along State Line Road near Portal.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*

Common throughout in desert areas.

Crissal Thrasher *Toxostoma crissale*

One singing from atop mesquite at Florida Wash and another visited the Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common throughout.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*

Pair of 'Azure' race Eastern Bluebirds noted at Reef Townsite Campground at Carr Canyon.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*

Two seen well atop Mt. Lemmon.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*

Seen regularly in Madera, Carr and Ramsey canyons, but first sighting was at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

We found robins whenever we ventured into the forested higher elevations at spots like Mt. Lemmon, Carr Canyon, Madera Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, and Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas.

- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Common in urban and rural areas throughout.
- Olive Warbler** *Peucedramus taeniatus*
Male and female seen well at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon.
- House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*
Common throughout at low elevations and especially where feeders present.
- Lesser Goldfinch** *Carduelis psaltria*
Common throughout, especially at feeders.
- Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*
Up to a dozen at feeders in Summerhaven on Mt. Lemmon.
- Lucy's Warbler** *Leiothlypis luciae*
Common in desert habitats and seen at a variety of locations including Aravaipa Canyon, Sabino Canyon, Agua Caliente Park and right in Portal, amongst others.
- Nashville Warbler** *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*
One sighting at Pena Blanca Lake.
- Virginia's Warbler** *Leiothlypis virginiae*
Nice views of single bird in Summerhaven at Mt. Lemmon, and later briefly appeared at Ash Canyon B&B.
- MacGillivray's Warbler** *Geothlypis tolmiei*
One seen at Patagonia Lake State Park.
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*
Excellent views at Patagonia Lake State Park as a male sang from the edge of the marsh.
- American Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga aestiva*
Common in lowland areas with deciduous vegetation including Gilbert Water Ranch, Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon, Sonoran Desert Museum, Patagonia Lake State Park, Pena Blanca Lake etc.
- Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler** *Setophaga auduboni*
Fairly common throughout with notable sightings at Gilbert Water Ranch, Mt. Lemmon, Agua Caliente Park, Sabino Canyon and in Portal.
- Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae*
Uncommon but seen on all visits into the mountains; Mt. Lemmon, Madera Canyon, Carr Canyon, Ramsey Canyon and Pinery Canyon.
- Black-throated Grey Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens*
Found at Chiricahua Pines Picnic Site on Mt. Lemmon, as well as at Madera Canyon, Patagonia Lake State Park, Ramsey Canyon and around Portal.
- Townsend's Warbler** *Setophaga townsendi*
Found at Madera Canyon and at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop.
- Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*
Common migrant throughout.
- Red-faced Warbler** *Cardellina rubifrons*
Excellent sightings at Bear Wallow on Mt. Lemmon and later seen by some on the hike at Ramsey Canyon.
- Painted Whitestart** *Myioborus pictus*
Fairly common and present in all mountain canyons; Madera, Carr, Ramsey, etc.
- Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*
One seen very well at Aravaipa Canyon, and later on we had another at Patagonia Lake State Park.
- Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*
'Lilian's' race seen at Sonoita Grasslands along Swanson Road, and later at Willcox Sewage Ponds.
- Scott's Oriole** *Icterus parisorum*
Up to three were observed at Florida Canyon. Later we had exceptional views as they came in to jam feeders at Ash Canyon B&B. Also seen out in the desert between Portal and Paradise.
- Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii*
Nice views at Rodriguez feeders in Portal.
- Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus*
Stunning birds, seen first of all in Aravaipa Canyon and later at Agua Caliente Park. Noted at several other locations throughout, including Rodriguez feeders in Portal.
- Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*
Seen at Gilbert Water Ranch, Agua Caliente Park, Patagonia Lake State Park and Pena Blanca Lake.
- Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus*
One male along Ruby Road, west of Nogales.
- Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*
Common throughout.
- Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*
Common throughout.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys*

One female seen on golf course at Willcox Sewage Pond.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*

Uncommon in wetland areas of Gilbert Water Ranch near Phoenix, Patagonia Lake State Park, Pena Blanca Lake and at the Paton's feeders.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*

One seen at feeders in Madera Canyon and another later watched foraging along edge of wetland at Patagonia Lake State Park.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

First seen at Gilbert Water Ranch. Seen also at feeding stations at Paton's Hummingbird Center, and at San Pedro House.

Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotus*

Fairly regular at higher elevations on Mt. Lemmon, in Madera Canyon, and in Carr Canyon.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*

One in Sonoita Grasslands, on fence line along Swanson Road.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*

Fairly common migrant, seen at Agua Caliente Park, at the Paton's feeders and at Pena Blanca Lake.

Black-chinned Sparrow *Spizella atrogularis* (H)

Heard at the Paradise Cemetery, but remained unseen.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*

Up to 20 at Pena Blanca Lake. Ten or so at Agua Caliente Park in Tucson, and one or two at Ash Canyon B&B and at San Pedro House near Sierra Vista.

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*

Found at Sabino Canyon, as well as at Florida Wash. Best views were at Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

Rufous-winged Sparrow *Aimophila carpalis*

Excellent views at Florida Wash, in the shadows of the Santa Rita Mtns. Also seen at Patagonia Lake State Park and at Pena Blanca Lake.

Botteri's Sparrow *Aimophila botterii*

Up to three seen in grassland habitat between Florida Wash and Madera Canyon.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*

Uncommon in arid, rocky habitats, with birds seen at feeders at Madera Canyon, as well as at Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop, Ash Canyon B & B and in the Portal area.

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus*

Rather fleeting glimpse at Gilbert Water Ranch.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

Found at Mt. Lemmon, Carr Canyon, Ash Canyon B & B, Ramsey Canyon and in the Chiricahua Mountains.

Canyon Towhee *Pipilo fuscus*

Fairly common in arid, canyon areas. Seen at Pena Blanca Lake, Rodriguez feeders in Portal, Carr Canyon and at Ash Canyon B&B.

Abert's Towhee *Pipilo aberti*

Riparian counterpart of the Canyon Towhee, found at Gilbert Water Ranch, Agua Caliente Park and at the Paton's feeders in Patagonia.

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*

Seen in mountain habitats at Madera Canyon, Carr Canyon, Pinery and Ramsey Canyon.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Lower elevation counterpart to Hepatic, seen at Aravaipa Canyon, Madera Canyon, Pena Blanca Lake, Patagonia Lake State Park, Paton's Center for Hummingbirds, Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop, San Pedro House and in Portal.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

Fairly common migrant throughout.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Seen on three occasions, with female type found by group at Santa Rita Lodge, as well as a male at feeders at San Pedro House near Sierra Vista and another male at Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Common throughout tour, especially at feeders.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Common in pine/oak forests of canyons. Also common where feeders present.

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus*

First views were at Florida Wash where a bird sang from the mesquite trees, allowing scope views. We later had them at Patagonia Lake State Park, San Pedro House feeders and at Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

Seen at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop, San Pedro House and Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina versicolor*

Single birds seen a number of times on trip, including birds at Agua Caliente Park, Florida Canyon, Patagonia Lake State Park, Pena Blanca Lake, Ash Canyon B&B and at Rodriguez feeders in Portal.

Mammals

Rock Squirrel *Spermophilus variegatus*

Round-tailed Ground-Squirrel *Spermophilus tereticaudus*

Cliff Chipmunk *Neotamias dorsalis*

Arizona Grey Squirrel *Sciurus arizonensis*

Harris's Antelope Squirrel *Ammospermophilus harrisi*

Hispid Cotton Rat *Sigmodon hispidus*

Botta's Pocket Gopher *Thomomys bottae*

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus*

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*

Coyote *Canis latrans*

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*

Reptiles and Amphibians

American Bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana*

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta*

Desert Tortoise *Gopherus agassizii*

Ornate Tree Lizard *Urosaurus ornatus*

Yarrow's Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus jarrovi*

Sonoran Spotted Whiptail *Aspidoscelis sonorae*

Black-necked Garter Snake *Thamnophis cyrtopsis*

Butterflies

Two-tailed Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudata*

Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor*

Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cresphontes*

Checkered White *Pontia protodice*

Western White *Pontia occidentalis*

Southern Dogface *Colias cesonia*

Sleepy Orange *Eurema nicippe*

Tailed Orange *Eurema proterpia*

Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole*

Mexican Yellow *Eurema mexicana*

Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae*

Lyside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside*

Great Purple Hairstreak *Atlides halesus*

Marine Blue *Leptotes marina*

Reakirt's Blue *Hemiargus isola*

Arizona Metalmark *Calephelis arizonensis*

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*

Variiegated Fritillary *Euptoieta claudia*

Texan Crescent *Phyciodes texana*

Bordered Patch *Chlosyne lacinia*

Black Checkerspot *Thessalia cyneas*

Tiny Checkerspot *Dymasia dymas*

Elada Checkerspot *Texola elada*

Satyr Comma *Polygonia satyrus*

Mourning Cloak *Nymphalis antiopa*

Common Buckeye *Junonia coenia*

Red-spotted Purple *Limenitis arthemis*

Arizona Sister *Adelpha bredowii*

Empress Leila *Asterocampa leilia*

American Snout *Libytheana carinenta*

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

Nabokov's Satyr *Cylopsis pyracmon*

Funereal Duskywing *Erynnis funeralis*

Mournful Duskywing *Erynnis tristis*

Sheep Skipper *Atrytonopsis edwardsii*