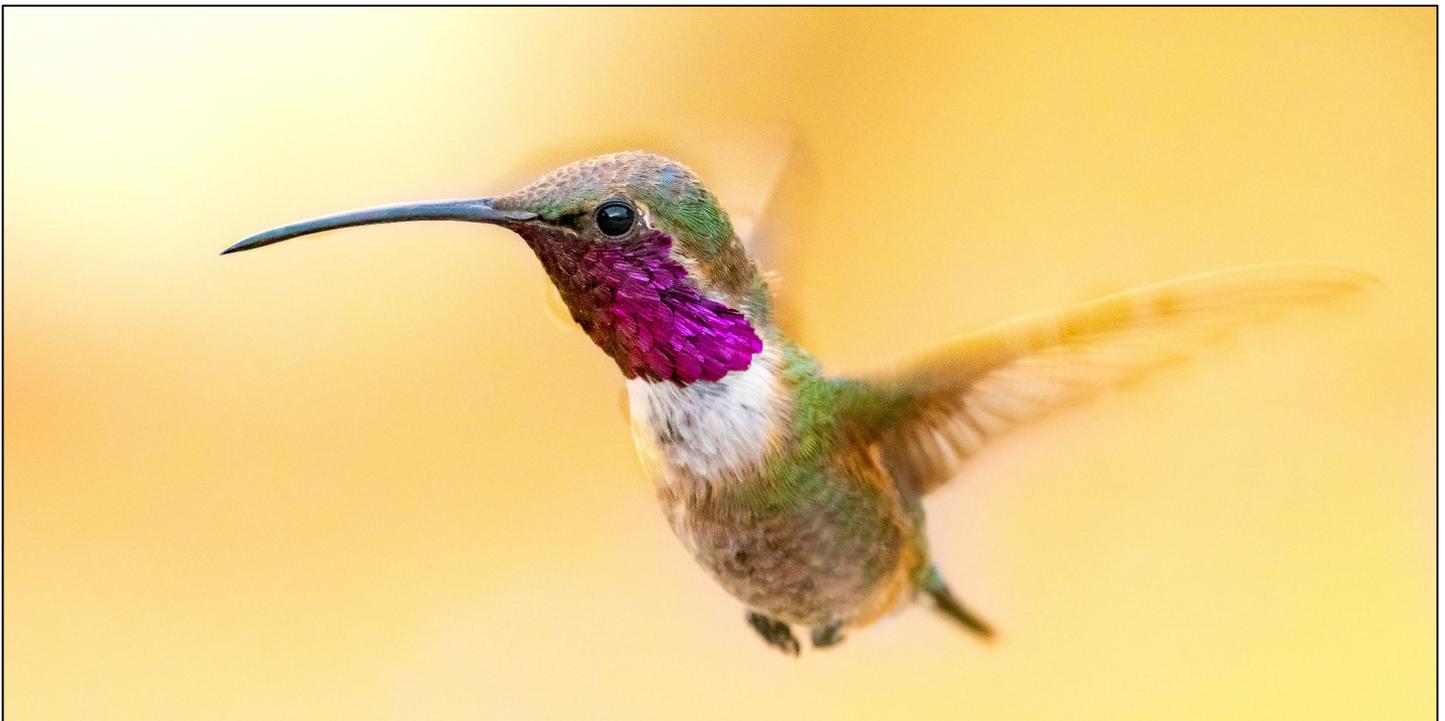




A Tropical Birding set departure tour

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA:
Hopping the Sky Islands

3rd – 12th August 2018



Lucifer Hummingbird – one of a dozen species of hummingbird regularly seen on this tour!

Tour Leader: Phil Chaon

All photos in this report were taken by Phil Chaon/Tropical Birding.

TOUR SUMMARY:

The sun beats down on a silent, bleak landscape. A single tumbleweed rolls by on a dusty breeze. Nothing stirs - sorry, but that is NOT Southeast Arizona! The Arizona we experienced is a land of lush canyons, cool piney peaks, and rolling grasslands, all full of life after the monsoon rains. It is a place where **Cactus Wrens** sing from every mesquite and the only obstacle in the wide-open road is the occasional **Greater Roadrunner**. The Sky Islands that define this region are the doorstep of the tropics, a place where a new biological world reaches into the edges of the US and gives a tantalizing glimpse of what lies to the south. Naturalists of all walks make the pilgrimage here to experience a place with one of the highest diversities of plants, butterflies, reptiles, and mammals anywhere in the US. Desert denizens like **Elf Owls** and **Crissal Thrashers** overlap with Mexican specialties **Violet-crowned Hummingbird**, **Hepatic Tanager**, and the king of the canyons – **Elegant Trogon**. Whether observing the glittering hordes of hummingbirds, studying the avian microcosm of the **Saguaro Cactus**, or searching for rare vagrants that could lurk in the deep sycamore-lined valleys, Southeast Arizona is always an exhilarating and rewarding place to bird.

We began with a journey up Mount Lemmon where we tracked down a fiery-capped **Olive Warbler**, a cryptic **Zone-tailed Hawk** and a crimson-blushing **Red-faced Warbler** at the scenic pine capped summit.

From here we traveled to the famed Madera Canyon where we had an early morning encounter with a rare **Five-striped Sparrow** and Southeast Arizona specialties like **Painted Redstart** and **Arizona Woodpecker**.

In the towering cottonwoods of nearby Tubac we managed to track down a stray nesting bird from south of the border – the silver-and-pink **Rose-throated Becard**.

Our travels into the rugged and remote canyons of California Gulch were rewarded with spectacular views of scarlet, azure and tyrian phenomenon – the **Varied Bunting**. Hanging on after dark we enjoyed a spectacular night sky graced with diminutive **Elf and Western Screech Owls** as well as one of the US's two known pairs of **Buff-collared Nightjar**!

In the hummingbird oasis of the Huachuca Mountains we were swarmed by nearly a dozen species of glittering hummingbird including the spectacular trio of **Lucifer**, **Rivoli's** and **Violet-crowned**! Not only were we treated to an incredible display of hummingbirds but also caught up with an adorable **Buff-breasted Flycatcher**, a pair of fierce and impressive **Northern Goshawks** and another striking Mexican vagrant – **Rufous-capped Warbler**!

At our last major destination, the Chiricahua Mountains, we explored the spectacular canyons of the region from our home base at the unparalleled Cave Creek Ranch! With backyard birds like **Blue-throated Hummingbird**, **Painted Bunting** and **Whiskered Screech Owl** it was hard to venture to explore elsewhere. We were certainly glad we did as our visits to nearby locations yielded treasures like **Scaled Quail**, **Mexican Chickadee**, **Hepatic Tanager** and **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**. Our final afternoon was capped off with an incredible experience with a family of **Elegant Trogons**, including recently-fledged young!

A final drive through the iconic Saguaro National Park brought us face to face with the wolves of the sky – **Harris's Hawks** and our **12th species of hummingbird**, the plum hooded **Costa's Hummingbird**.

It was a truly memorable 10 days in a place that keeps surprising year after year!

Tucson (3rd Aug)

The first realization upon our arrival in Arizona - *Tucson* is hot. Unlike the cool, shady canyons and mountains that make up the bulk of the tour, this low-desert town often reaches 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 C) by midday when most of us arrived. Being somewhat sensible, if undeniably eager, we waited until the late afternoon before heading out to explore locally in the cool evening hours. Destination: *Sweetwater Wetlands* in downtown *Tucson*. This wastewater treatment plant is a magnet for birds in search of freshwater and dense vegetation. In our short stroll around the impoundments we had our first encounters with Southwest specialties like the comical **Gambel's Quail**, ubiquitous **Gila Woodpecker** and that quintessential desert resident – the **Greater Roadrunner**. In stark contrast to these classic arid-land specialists were the **Black-necked Stilts**, **Green Herons**, **White-faced Ibis**, **Sora**, and **Mexican Ducks** taking advantage of this rare permanent water source. The many exposed perches proved productive for a good variety of flycatchers including our only **Tropical Kingbirds** of the tour. After enjoying our first of many vibrant Arizona sunsets we headed to dinner. **Lesser Nighthawks** greeted us in the fading light of evening as we walked through the parking lot to enjoy some steaks, a couple cold drinks and some live country music before preparing for our first morning of Arizona birding.



A **Green Heron** emerges from the reeds.

Mount Lemmon (4th Aug)

Rising formidably to the east of *Tucson*, the impressive *Mount Lemon* is less than an hour from downtown and has the distinction of having a road that allows birders to bird all the way to 9000 feet (2750m) on tallest peak in the *Catalina Mountains*.

Reaching the base of the mountain by first light, we enjoyed a dawn chorus at *Soldier Canyon*. An emerald sliver running between the rocky pink foothills of the range, this small riparian zone was full of activity in the cool of early morning. **Bell's Vireos** warbled from the brush, an exceedingly dapper **Black-throated Sparrow** sang from an *Ocotillo*, and the clear, cascading song of a **Canyon Wren** echoed from every surface. From our stationary position, more birds revealed themselves – a **Northern Cardinal** of the impressively long-crested and shockingly bright Southwestern subspecies was quickly outdone by a nearby **Blue Grosbeak** which was in-turn surpassed by a singing **Varied Bunting**. Brilliant crimson, ultramarine blue, and rich purple – this small passerine packs more of a color punch than almost any bird in North America and was a great early addition to our day!

Continuing up slope, a brief stop to bird a stand of live-oaks revealed a **Scott's Oriole** singing from the tree tops and our first **Phainopeplas** of the trip. Glossy-black with a slick crest, this lone US representative of the *Silky-flycatcher* family shares the groups strong affinity for mistletoe berries. We watched for several minutes a group of these “goth waxwings” searched the surrounding trees for mistletoe before wandering further upslope.

Winding our way to the *summit*, it only took a few miles before we reached the tall, cool, *ponderosa* pine forests that cap this mountain range. We decided to spend the rest of the morning wandering down a small side-road that sloped gently through this high-elevation woodland and were handsomely rewarded for our effort. Barely having exited the vehicle, a series of high-pitched “rubber-ducky” squeaks alerted us to a nearby **Pygmy Nuthatch** feeding on a pine bough barely above eye-level. Lilliputian, hyperactive, and extremely vigilant **Pygmy Nuthatches** often associate closely with flocks of other small birds and this was no exception with an energetic group of **Mountain Chickadee**, “**Mexican**” **Brown Creeper**, **Hutton's Vireo**, and **Yellow-eyed Junco** feeding close by! The area was loaded with Southeast Arizona specialties - a **Greater Pewee** was found calling from a dead limb, a pair of **Hepatic Tanagers** foraged in a low shrub, and a lemon-throated **Grace's Warbler** crept inconspicuously through the pines. We were just getting ready to move on when a loud, jumbled song announced the arrival of one of North Americas most poorly named birds – the **Olive Warbler**. Neatly patterned in gray and white with a flaming orange head, **Olive Warblers** are not true wood warblers but a member of a monotypic family. We enjoyed walk-away views of the “*Fire-capped Peucedramus*” (strongly suggested name change) – the second new family for most of the group in just a few morning hours of birding!

A quick stop along *Incinerator Ridge road* turned out to be red hot as we finally tracked down a pair of **Red-faced Warblers** – our main target remaining for the morning. It was hard to look away from these bold and classy little birds, thankfully at least one of us had the good sense to glance up. We took a brief moment to look away from the warblers and enjoy the **Zone-tailed Hawk** circling lazily overhead. After everyone had their fill of the birds in the area we headed to a small mountain town nearby for some lunch and time at the feeders.

Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous Hummingbirds put on a show at the feeders and we also had our first glimpse of the massive and magnificent **Rivoli's Hummingbird**!

Following our successful morning we left in the early afternoon to make the drive to *Green Valley*. After settling in at our hotel and having some dinner we went for a short evening drive. We were serenaded at dusk by several **Mexican Whip-poor-wills** and a distant **Whiskered Screech Owl**. On our return drive we encountered some reptile enthusiasts moving a **Tiger Rattlesnake** out of harm's way and the impressive, oversized, **Antelope Jackrabbit**.



Blue Grosbeaks are an abundant and widespread bird in Southeast Arizona – no complaints here!

Madera Canyon (5th Aug)

The morning began with a bit of a detour. Instead of heading directly to *Madera Canyon* we opted instead to check out a small nearby canyon in search of one of Southeast Arizona's rarest breeding birds. Within moments of arriving in *Box Canyon* we were treated to an incredibly cooperative **Five-striped Sparrow** (next page) singing its heart out from a nearby *ocotillo*. One of only a half dozen known pairs in the state, this boldly-marked and richly colored sparrow definitely shakes the preconceptions about the family.



Working our way back to *Madera Canyon* while it was still early we made a brief stop to check a particularly birdy patch of grassland along the road. This opening in the dense shrubland was full of displaying **Cassin's Sparrows** – their clear whistles and bright trills sounding all around as they hovered and sang. Several **Botteri's Sparrows** also made use of the habitat, all under the watchful eye of a nearby **Loggerhead Shrike**.

Arriving in the legendary *Madera Canyon* we immediately headed for a trail heading up the streambed in the heart of the canyon. We were immediately met with a small pocket of bird activity concentrated around a small pool of water. Among the many species of birds visiting to bathe and drink were several regional specialties including the charismatic and inquisitive **Bridled Titmouse** and an active and visually striking **Painted Redstart**. Continuing further up the canyon a loud croaking call directly above us revealed an **Elegant Trogon** that had

been sitting motionless above the trail. One of the most wanted birds in Southeast Arizona, this large and exotic bird posed beautifully for us, slowly turning its head in search of insects from a low perch.

With the morning heating up we headed to one of *Madera Canyon's* several feeding stations to enjoy the frenzy from a nice, shady bench. Over the next hour we enjoyed the high-speed, aggressive antics of dozens of **Broad-billed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds**, along with several **Anna's Hummingbirds**. A **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** sat unobtrusively above the feeders, a noisy troop of **Mexican Jays** moved through, and an **Arizona Woodpecker** made a brief appearance at a nearby suet feeder.

With midday approaching we made our way back towards the hotel for a break from the heat and to regroup. On our way we took a side-trip to briefly check the local water treatment plant. Even in the baking afternoon sun shorebirds were abundant and we enjoyed close views of **Wilson's Phalaropes**, **Baird's**, and **Least Sandpiper**, and a **Short-billed Dowitcher**.

Well rested and ready for some more birding we left to visit the nearby *De Anza trail in Tubac* in search of another long-staying rarity. This lush riparian strip flanks the banks of the river is a magnet for birds, an important raptor migration corridor and most recently – home to two pairs of **Rose-throated Becards**. Following a broad trail through dense mesquite and tall cottonwoods towards the river we took time to appreciate the many **Black Phoebes**, **Vermilion Flycatchers**, multiple species of **kingbirds**, **Western**, and **Summer Tanagers** that we encountered. A few diminutive **Common Ground-Doves** flushed off of the path, with one perching long enough for us to get a good view. We finally reached the area where the **Rose-throated Becards** had been nesting but it appeared that the young had finally fledged. After some serious searching we finally tracked down a spectacular gray and pink male **Rose-throated Becard** perched high in the trees above us, young birds begging somewhere in the distance. With another great lifer for all, and new family for the trip under our belts we headed south to *Nogales* for the night.

California Gulch (6th Aug)

Today we set out to visit the most remote area of the tour – a small canyon immediately adjacent to the Mexican border called *California Gulch*. The road to *California Gulch* is a long gravel track that winds its way through lush riparian corridors, grassy hillsides, abandoned gold mines and rocky canyons. We began our drive early in order to maximize our time on this road where it is difficult to avoid frequent birding stops.

Our first stop was at the *Pena Blanca Lake* area to see if any birds were visiting this isolated patch of permanent water. In addition to the water-loving **Vermilion Flycatchers** and **Black Phoebes** we also encountered a surprise **Neotropical Cormorant** swimming in a reedy corner and a **Purple Martin** skimming low over the water. The area also hosted a very obliging group of **Cooper's Hawks** with an adult and juvenile pair perching at eye-level along the roadside for extended views.

An adjacent riparian patch had us slamming on the brakes to stop for crippling views of the spectacular **Varied Bunting** ([next page](#)). Much more cooperative than our first encounter, this brilliant little bird was certainly a crowd favorite on this tour and it would be hard to ask for better views of this often skulky "mixed-berry" bunting.

Winding up into the grassy hills we made some stops to check out an obliging **Gopher Snake**, a **Rufous-winged Sparrow** and several **Greater Roadrunners** along the way before descending to *Sycamore Canyon*. This isolated patch of tall cottonwoods and sycamores was full of bird song and activity with groups of **Warbling Vireos**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Summer Tanager** and other typical riparian species putting in appearances. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** of the endangered southwestern population called from deep in the willows but we were quickly distracted by a small raptor flying low overhead.



*The aptly named **Varied Bunting** has an almost indescribable color-palette that changes with light and angle of the bird.*

Checking a massive nearby cottonwood we quickly refound the culprit – a **Gray Hawk**! Not only did we have great views of the **Gray Hawk** but we got to watch as it brought food to a fluffy white chick, still in the nest! What a great way to see one of North America’s handsomest raptors.

With so many great distractions we arrived at the turn off to *California Gulch* mid-morning and immediately set off down the narrow bumpy track. Keeping our eyes peeled we managed to spot a tiny pair of gnatcatchers near the car. Jumping out to try and identify them (three species are possible in the area) we confirmed them as **Black-tailed Gnatcatchers** – a nice desert scrub bird that had eluded us thus far. Our presence on this remote road attracted the attention of a passing Border Patrol helicopter that made several low circles around us to investigate. Right at this time a large raptor flew by and my screams of “**BLACK HAWK**” were perhaps a little confusing as I was pointing in the opposite direction of the helicopter. Several of us managed to get on the juvenile **Common Black-hawk** before it disappeared in the large riparian swath below us. We decided to head in that direction to see if we could catch up with the bird. While the hawk eluded us, we did run into the diminutive and plain **Northern Beardless Tyrannulet**, a tiny flycatcher with a big name. Nearby we also noticed another pair of gnatcatchers. Closer investigation revealed that these were the much rarer and more localized **Black-capped**

Gnatcatcher, one of our main targets for the morning! Satisfied with what we had found and with the day growing warm, we birded our way back to town for a late lunch and an afternoon break.

Normally we would spend the afternoon birding closer to *Nogales* but another tantalizing rarity took us off course and back to *California Gulch* for some night birding. After making the drive back to the canyon, we arrived at a small confluence at dusk. Soon **Common Poorwills** and **Elf Owl** started calling from the rocky hills and tall mesquite scrub. A **Western Screech-Owl** called distantly, and an unfamiliar call came from a nearby slope just as we had hoped – **Buff-collared Nightjar**. One of only two known pairs in the US the nightjar called a few more times before making a short flight over us and disappearing into the night. Satisfied with our “Buffjar” experience we turned to the other night birds, managing fantastic looks a **Western Screech Owl** and **Great Horned Owl** before returning to *Nogales* to get some much-needed rest.

Patagonia and Huachucas (7th Aug)

Today we made the three-hour trip from *Nogales* to *Sierra Vista*, our base in the *Huachuca Mountains*. With so many places to bird in the area though, we had several major stops planned along the way. We began the day at *Patagonia Lake State Park*. The lake itself held a smattering of ducks, **Great Egret**, an **American White Pelican**, **Double-crested and Neotropical Cormorants**. The nearby woodlands held a wide variety of flycatchers, vireos, and other songbirds including a **Bullock’s Oriole** and an *Empidonax* flycatcher that refused to call, leaving it as a “**Western**” (**Pacific-slope/ Cordilleran**) **Flycatcher**. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were seemingly everywhere and we managed to catch up with a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** after striking out during our previous encounter. A group of vultures sunning themselves on the lakeside included a **Black Vulture** (*uncommon in the area*) and several dark-headed juvenile **Turkey Vultures**.

Continuing on to the famous *Paton’s Hummingbird Center* we made a brief stop at the *Patagonia Rest Area*, a well-known vagrant trap that currently held several **Thick-billed Kingbirds**. These large and impressive *tyrannids* were actively catching and gobbling down cicadas and made for an entertaining diversion.

Arriving a short-time later at *Paton’s* the hummingbird feeders were buzzing with activity. Among the dozens of **Black-chinned and Broad-billed Hummingbirds** we quickly found our main target – **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** ([next page](#)). Snowy white below with a bright orange bill and an elegant purple cap, this large hummingbird barely makes it into the US and is always near the top of the list for Arizona targets. With the Violet-crowned making frequent visits we took some time to enjoy the show, practice some photography, and enjoy the other birds visiting the yard. Tiny **Inca Doves** crept through the grass, a **Curve-billed Thrasher** dug through the brush on the ends of the yard and a **Bell’s Vireo** attended to a well camouflaged nest.

Nearing **Sierra Vista** we stopped at the nearby **San Rafael Grasslands**. An important wintering site for a huge number of sparrows and raptors this beautiful valley at the headwaters of the **Santa Cruz River** is also an important breeding area for isolated Southwestern population of **Grasshopper Sparrow** and the “**Lillian’s**” **Eastern Meadowlark** – a potential split. We quickly found both targets, including a **Grasshopper Sparrow** actively feeding nestlings, and after taking some time to appreciate the spectacular scenery, finished our drive to *Sierra Vista* where we would stay for the next two nights.

After settling in at our hotel, we headed back out for a quick evening birding session. Excited to continue the impressive hummingbird show we had been enjoying we visited the nearby *Ash Canyon B&B*. This was the most active feeding station we had encountered yet and with feeders arranged practically at our feet the viewing was spectacular. Among the regular visitors we had been enjoying over the last several days there were also several **Rivoli's Hummingbirds** and even more exciting, nearly a half dozen **Lucifer Hummingbirds**! Rare and in some years absent from Southeast Arizona, this is the best site for this spectacular member of the sheartail group. The name Lucifer is a reference to the Latin name which translates to "light-bringing" and it was easy to see why – the bright purple gorget of this species seems to catch light from every angle and simply glows, even in the waning evening light. A personal favorite, this incredible bird was followed by a surprisingly good meal at a local German restaurant and a good night's sleep.



*This juvenile **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** takes a moment to rest and stretch its wings, Arizona's many feeding stations allow prolonged looks at otherwise difficult and often fleeting species.*

The Huachuca Mountains (8th Aug)

The *Huachuca Mountains* are home to many famous birding canyons that offer access to a variety of habitats and across a range of elevations. We visited a few of these diverse canyons starting with the relatively under-birded *Hunter Canyon*. Lying near the top of a short, gently-sloping trail *Hunter Canyon* had recently been host to a pair of **Rufous-crowned Warblers**, another very rare, semi-annual visitor from Mexico. We began the slow stroll up the trail first thing, arriving in the main canyon area in the relative cool of early morning. The area for the *Rufous-crowned Warblers* was fairly small so we took some time to just sit and wait and see what we could find. Almost immediately we heard a pair of *Rufous-crowned Warblers* singing on the opposite slope of the canyon but they soon fell silent. As we waited for them to move lower into the canyon we heard a good deal of bird activity behind us. Turning around we found the source of the commotion – a large group of birds mobbing a **“Mountain” Northern Pygmy-Owl**. This tiny owl, considered a separate species by some sources, sat patiently, enduring a barrage of harassment from **Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jays**, **Warbling Vireos**, **Rufous-crowned Sparrows**, **White-breasted Nuthatches** and even an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**! The bird stuck it out though and eventually the mobbing group dissipated, allowing the owl to enjoy some peace and quiet. Happy with our excellent consolation prize, we decided to leave the *Rufous-capped Warblers* for another day and head to the cool heights of *Carr Canyon*.



Tiny but fierce, “Mountain” Northern Pygmy-Owls regularly take on prey nearly equal in size!

After cruising up to a comfortable 7000ft (2135m), we stopped at the *Reef Townsite* campground in search of some high elevation specialties. While things were warm and quiet lower down, the bird activity continued strong into midday here with active flocks working the open pine forest around us. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** visited a small stream to drink, making up for a lack of color with some exceptionally intricate and bold patterning – this bird shows off the potential wow factor of gray-scale birds! The same stream also produced bathing **Steller's Jays** and **Western Tanagers**, as well as a pair of the disjunct Mexican population of **Eastern Bluebirds**! These “**Azure**” **Eastern Bluebirds** are more closely related to individuals in the Guatemalan highlands than those in the Eastern US, another reminder that we are birding on the edges of a quintessentially Central American habitat. A few meters away a **Hermit Thrush** was busily feeding nestlings – taking advantage of the abundant post-monsoon food of Arizona's “second spring”. Sorting through the abundance of **Yellow-eyed Juncos**, **Pygmy Nuthatches**, **Grace's Warblers**, and **Lesser Goldfinches** took some work but we finally came across our main target sitting inconspicuously in a small pine. Richly colored and easily identifiable, the undeniably cute **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** bucks the stereotypes of the *Empidonax* genus. With our main target in the bag, we made our way back to the van. A pair of heavy-bodied **Band-tailed Pigeons** made a loud, clumsy exit from a nearby tree on our way out. We made a decidedly more elegant egress and returned to *Sierra Vista*.

After yesterday's spectacular experience we could not resist returning to the *Ash Canyon B&B* for another round with the **Lucifer Hummingbirds** and some more great photographic opportunities. We ended another relaxing and satisfying evening at the feeders with plenty of photos to sort and some unbeatable looks at some of the region's top birds! If that wasn't enough we concluded the evening with a surprise fly-over **Peregrine Falcon** on our way back to the car.

We had barely pulled into the parking area of the famous Miller Canyon when the first major surprise of the day came screaming into view. A pair of **Northern Goshawks** flew right over us calling loudly before quickly disappearing up the canyon in the direction of some loudly begging fledglings. We would encounter these birds several more times throughout the morning as they hunted up and down the canyon trying to satiate their nearly full grown youngsters. According to the local land owners, the main prey of this goshawk pair has been Montezuma Quail – a bird we would be keeping a close eye out for.

Miller Canyon and Whitewater Draw (9th Aug)

Encouraged by this good omen we set out up the canyon in search of some of our remaining targets in the region. Slowly walking up the gently sloping canyon trail we were treated to an acrobatic troupe of **White-rumped Swifts** wheeling above along the red rocks, their hoarse calls bouncing off the steep walls. Closer by a small group of birds foraged along the streamside vegetation, summer residents like **Plumbeous Vireo** and **Cordilleran Flycatcher** were joined by early migrants like **Wilson's Warbler** and **Swainson's Thrush**. We were quickly distracted from the flock by the nearby “rubber ducky” squeaking of a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**. We were all delighted by the prolonged views these boisterous and boldly marked *tyrannids* gave us. Another Arizona specialty and another bird bucking the “drab and dull” stereotype flycatchers so often receive.

We had made it a fair way up the canyon but still hadn't found our main target and the morning was quickly slipping away. Heading back down the canyon we searched carefully in the dense streamside vegetation to no avail. As is so often the case, we were almost back to the parking lot when we heard the staccato chatter from a nearby vine tangle. Finally, after two days of looking we had caught up with a **Rufous-capped Warbler**!

Widespread in Mexico and Central America, these brightly colored denizens of canyon undergrowth are less than annual in the United States! Satisfied with our hard earned reward we exited the trail and headed to the hummingbird feeders at *Beatty's Guest Ranch* for some more relaxed birding. Migration had really picked up the past two days and swarms of hummingbirds dominated the area with large numbers of **Anna's and Rufous** augmenting the hungry hordes of local-residents. A single **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** added some extra variety but the real surprise came in the form of a male **Allen's Hummingbird**. A scarce and difficult to detect migrant, this brazen little traveler hovered in front of us, fanning its tail and showing off the diagnostically thin outer tail feathers before zipping off. Ready to make the drive east to *Portal*, we left the feeders behind and headed down the hill. In the short walk to the car we picked up **Virginia's Warbler** and a stunningly colorful **Indigo Bunting**!



*Finding this handsome **Rufous-capped Warbler** was well worth the effort – certainly one of the highlights of the trip!*

With a fairly long drive ahead of us we decided to break things up about half way by stopping at the *Whitewater Draw Wildlife Management Area*. A small depression in the middle of a desert valley, *Whitewater Draw* is an oasis for wetland birds and proved to be our best wetland birding of the trip! Circling the impoundments, birds were everywhere. Hordes of swallows skimmed over the surface while **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** and **Sora** made brief appearances out of the dense reed beds. The muddy outskirts of the ponds were great for migrating

shorebirds with large numbers of **Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs**, **Wilson's Phalarope** and **Killdeer** being joined by a smattering of **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Marbled Godwit**, and **Baird's Sandpiper**. Our biggest surprise came just as we were pulling out of the parking-lot. A **Crissal Thrasher** hopped off a nearby bush and sprinted across the ground! The open country, dotted with saltbush provided the perfect landscape for us to watch as this skulky and largely terrestrial *mimid* scurried like a miniature roadrunner from shrub to shrub.

After a brief stop to pick up some groceries we arrived in the early evening at *Cave Creek Ranch* – our base for the next few nights. After settling in and heading out for some dinner we were treated to several ghostly **Barn Owls** watching from roadside fenceposts on our drive back. A fantastic way to end the day.



Smartly patterned with an oversized personality, **Bridled Titmouse** is a welcome addition to any feeder.

Cave Creek Canyon (10th Aug)

From the hot, dry desert below to the chilly *Chiricahua White Pine forest* dotting the peaks, *Cave Creek Canyon* and the *Chiricahua Mountains* traverse a huge swath of the habitats in Southeast Arizona. We birded a small section of this in the morning between the mouth of the canyon and the *Southwest Research Station* a few miles up. In a small campground near the entrance we ran into our first band of birds – an active mix of **Bridled Titmice** (above), **Plumbeous Vireo**, **Painted Redstart**, and **Arizona Woodpecker** among others.

Taking time to appreciate some of the specialties we had become familiar with over the past week we slowly crept our way up the canyon, eventually arriving at the *Southwest Research Station*. **Lark Sparrows** fed on the lawn and **Black Phoebes** and **Cassin's Kingbirds** hunted along the edges. The feeders were dominated by large hummingbird with star appearances by **Rivoli's** and the previously unseen **Blue-throated Hummingbirds!** The overall gray tones of this massive hummingbird served well to accentuate the startling patch of sky blue that occasionally flashed from its throat. During a short stroll nearby we overheard the insistent and focused calls of a mobbing group of small birds. Hoping they might point us to a roosting owl, we tracked down a darting party of **Black-throated Gray Warblers**, **White-breasted Nuthatches** and **Hutton's Vireos**. The owl was nowhere to be seen though, instead a **Black-tailed Rattlesnake** curled high in the tree was the object of their fury.

Our main targets for the afternoon were out in the low-desert and so we wisely chose to take a midday break to enjoy the *Cave Creek Ranch* grounds in the heat of the day. While some of us napped, others lounged on the shady porch, taking in the constant parade of hungry and thirsty visitors. Among the usual mix of birds we had surprise visits by **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (well east of his normal range) and **Painted Bunting** (our 4th species of *Passerina* bunting on this trip – a complete US sweep!).



With the sun dipping a little lower we set off a few miles down the road, just over the *New Mexico border* for some late afternoon birding. On the way we had to make a brief stop to change a flat tire. While the tire was quickly, some might say expertly, repaired, a small group of **Scaled Quail** (above) stopped by to check us out.



Nearby a **Cactus Wren** worked on a nest and we got our daily dose of **Greater Roadrunner** as well. Shortly we were back on the road and on our way to our main target – **Bendire’s Thrasher**. We made quick work of this task, rapidly finding several **Bendire’s Thrashers** singing from the tops of the nearby *creosote* bush. With all our main targets taken care of we headed back for an early dinner, followed by some early owling.

Heading out just after sunset it didn’t take long before we heard several **Whiskered Screech Owls** calling back and forth across the canyon to each other. A few more minutes of searching and we were just a few meters from the nearest of these, the whole branch trembling as it called out to its’ rival.

Cave Creek Canyon (10th Aug)

On our last full day of birding we decided to split up. While part of the group enjoyed a leisurely breakfast at *Cave Creek Ranch* the rest of us headed out on the road to *Paradise* (note this is only a geographic description and only coincidentally a very nice place to visit). Following the small dirt road through the shrubby hills we were washed in warm early morning

sun and dawn chorus. Spectacular views of **Hooded Orioles**, **Pyrrhuloxia**, **Black-throated Sparrows** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** started the day off well. Taking some time to enjoy some now familiar residents we soon encountered a small mixed group of birds that included some new surprises – a pair of dull but spunky **Juniper Titmice** and an early migrant **Townsend’s Warbler!**

Eager to reconvene with the rest of our group, we swung into *Cave Creek Ranch* where folks were just finishing up breakfast with the *hummingbirds* and headed up to the high reaches of the *Chiricahuas*.

At nearly 8000ft (2440m) in elevation, *Rustler Park* was refreshingly cool despite our late morning arrival. The open pine forest had a mix of familiar birds from our visits to *Mount Lemmon* and *Carr Canyon* earlier on with a few new pick-ups. A family of **Western Bluebirds** called softly from the edge of a meadow and a mixed flock chattered busily above us. In the mixture of familiar calls we picked out something new – our main target for the area, **Mexican Chickadee**! Several of these smartly-dressed smoky little birds fed nearby in the company of **Pygmy Nuthatches** and **Olive Warblers**. With their entire US range restricted to two small mountain ranges, we were extremely happy to catch up with this Chiricahua specialty.

Having cleaned up well in the morning we took a well-deserved midday rest before heading to the *Southfork Trail* for our final afternoon. Traversing the wide, sycamore lined floor of the *Cave Creek Canyon* we heard a distant clattering of loose rocks. Scanning the opposite side of the canyon we saw a large **American Black Bear** ambling along at a comfortable distance. Unconcerned with our presence we watched this impressive mammal browsing on manzanita berries for a short time before continuing over the ridge. We passed further up the canyon, visiting with **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers**, **Painted Redstarts**, and **Hepatic Tanagers** along the way. On our return we heard the quiet calls of a nearby **Elegant Trogon** (page before)! Following the sound we found an adult male feeding a recently fledged, silver-dappled juvenile bird. It was an incredibly special moment having an intimate encounter with Southeast Arizona's most iconic bird and savoring the knowledge that a new generation was well cared for.

Saguaro NP and Departure (11th Aug)

This morning we had to make the drive back from *Portal* to *Tucson* for our afternoon departure but not without a little more birding. We decided our time would best be spent exploring the iconic *Saguaro National Park* just east of downtown *Tucson*. Only minutes away from the city center this park holds most of the desert specialties we were missing along with some incredible scenery.

Arriving by 9 am among the towering saguaros we set off through the park, stopping almost immediately to admire a **Harris's Hawk** (next page) sitting on a telephone pole just inside the park entrance. These striking black and bay raptors hunt cooperatively, working in groups to take down larger prey in the harsh desert landscape. At this time though there was just a single individual relaxing. From here we began to scan the surrounding cacti for **Gilded Flickers**. The many excavated cavities were being busily attended to by the desert subspecies of **Purple Martins** which utilize the holes made by **Gila Woodpeckers** for nesting. After more searching we finally encountered a pair of **Gilded Flickers** calling from a nearby perch – success!

We continued winding our way through the park, encountering a **Regal Horned Lizard** and an endangered **Desert Tortoise** along the way. However, as we neared the end of the park road we were yet to encounter our last target for the region. Stopping by the visitor's center to check an active watering hole immediately adjacent we almost immediately came across our last target – a male **Costa's Hummingbird**! In the mid-morning sun we enjoyed great views as it splashed in the shallow pool, water droplets spraying off its long, velvet-purple gorget. We were ecstatic to nab our *12th and final species of hummingbird for the tour*.

With time running short we headed to the airport, but not before fitting in one more bird. Pulling into a shopping plaza just outside the airport we saw a pair of bright yellow eyes staring back at us. A **Burrowing Owl** had made its home right in the center of downtown *Tucson* and was oblivious to our presence or the hustle and bustle surrounding it. With one more excellent bird for the trip we ended on a high note and went our separate ways.



Harris's Hawk is an uncommon desert resident and a master of cooperative hunting.

BIRDS**Anatidae (Ducks, Geese,
and Waterfowl)**

1	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i> - Single bird at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
2	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i> - Several individuals at both Patagonia Lake (8/7) and Whitewater Draw (8/9)
3	Mexican Duck	<i>Anas diazi</i> - Present at all open water sites in small numbers.
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> - Single bird noted with Mexican Ducks at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3)

**Odontophoridae (New
World Quail)**

5	Scaled Quail	<i>Callipepla squamata</i> - Several pairs seen in the low desert near Rodeo, NM (8/9, 8/10)
6	Gambel's Quail	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i> - Common in low desert habitat
7	Montezuma Quail	<i>Cyrtonyx montezumae</i> - Heard singing in Cave Creek Canyon (8/10)

**Phasianidae (Pheasants,
Grouse, and Allies)**

8	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> - By voice in Madera Canyon (8/5), seen in Cave Creek Canyon (8/10)
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Podicipedidae (Grebes)

9	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> - Present at all sites with open water.
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**Phalacrocoracidae
(Cormorants and Shags)**

10	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i> - Single individuals seen at Pena Blanca Lake (8/6) And Patagonia Lake (8/7)
11	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auratus</i> - A Pair at Patagonia Lake (8/7)

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

12	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> - Single individual at Patagonia Lake (8/7)
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Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

13	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i> - Present at De Anza Trail in Tubac (8/5) and Patagonia Lake (8/7)
14	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i> – Single at Patagonia Lake (8/7)
15	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i> – 2 or 3 at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3)

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

16	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i> – Single individual at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3), large flock of 40+ at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
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Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

17	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i> – Single individual at Patagonia Lake SP (8/7)
18	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i> – Abundant in all habitats, all days

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

19	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> – Common but sporadic across many habitats.
20	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> – An adult pair seen, with juveniles heard begging the distance in Miller Canyon (8/9).
21	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i> – Subadult bird seen in flight near the confluence of California Gulch and Warsaw Canyon (8/6)
22	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i> – Single bird perched on side of highway near Saguaro NP (8/12)
23	Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i> – Multiple birds seen in the vicinity of De Anza Trail (8/5), Sycamore Canyon (8/6) and Patagonia Lake (8/7) including an active nest near entrance to Sycamore.
24	Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> – Common in open desert grassland, particularly the road between Douglas and Portal (8/9).
25	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i> – single bird circling overhead near Rose Lake on Mt.

Lemmon (8/4).

26	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> – Widespread and common.
Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)		
27	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i> – several heard and seen at both Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3) and Whitewater Draw (8/9)
28	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i> – Present at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
29	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i> – Present at all sites with open water.
Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)		
30	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> – Small flock at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3) and single at Green Valley WTP (8/5)
Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)		
31	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i> – Several at Green Valley WTP (8/5) and upwards of 25 at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)		
32	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i> - One at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
33	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i> – Singles at both Green Valley WTP (8/5) and Whitewater Draw (8/9)
34	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i> – 6 at Green Valley WTP (8/5)
35	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> – 2 at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
36	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i> – a bird calling repeatedly at Green Valley WTP (8/5)
37	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i> – Flock of 50+ at Green Valley WTP (8/5), smaller numbers at Patagonia Lake (8/7) and Whitewater Draw.
38	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i> – 1 at Green Valley WTP (8/5) and 4 at Whitewater Draw (8/9)

39	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i> – 1 at Whitewater Draw (8/9) among the many yellowlegs.
40	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i> – Good numbers at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
41	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i> – Whitewater Draw (8/9)
Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)		
42	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> – Common and widespread
43	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i> – scattered individuals at high elevation sites – Mt. Lemmon (8/4), Carr Canyon (8/8), Rustler Park (8/11).
44	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> – Common in areas of human development
45	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i> – small numbers in Patton Hummingbird Center (8/7) and vicinity of Rodeo (8/10)
46	Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerine</i> – 1 at both De Anza Trail (8/5) and Whitewater Draw (8/9).
47	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i> - abundant in a variety of habitats at low elevations.
48	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i> – abundant in most habitats at most elevations.
Cuculidae (Cuckoos)		
49	Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i> – seen daily in lower elevation scrub and desert.
50	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i> – several individuals present at most large riparian areas including De Anza Trail (8/5), Sycamore Canyon (8/6), Patagonia Lake and Pattons (8/7).
Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)		
51	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i> – several along Portal Rd. (8/9)
Strigidae (Owls)		
52	Western Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops kennicottii</i> – Heard and seen well in California Gulch (8/6)
53	Whiskered Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops trichopsis</i> – Heard at Madera Canyon (8/5), California Gulch (8/6), and Cave Creek Canyon (8/9, 8/10). Seen well

at Cave Creek.

54	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i> – Seen at California Gulch (8/6) and in Portal (8/9)
55	Northern Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i> – Seen in Hunter Canyon (8/8)
56	Elf Owl	<i>Micrathene whitneyi</i> - Heard in both California Gulch (8/6) and Portal area (8/10)
57	Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i> – seen in Tucson near airport (8/12)

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

58	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i> – Several seen flying near Tucson (8/3) and in vicinity Rodeo NM (8/12)
60	Common Poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i> – Several heard in both California Gulch (8/6) and Portal area (8/10)
61	Buff-collared Nightjar	<i>Antrostomus ridgwayi</i> – Single individual heard well and seen briefly in California Gulch (8/6)
62	Mexican Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus arizonae</i> – several calling at dusk in Madera Canyon (8/4)

Apodidae (Swifts)

63	White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i> – a few small groups flying over in Sycamore Canyon (8/6), Miller Canyon (8/9) and Cave Creek Canyon (8/11)
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Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

64	Rivoli's Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i> – Uncommon at most hummingbird feeding areas, more common at Ash Canyon (8/7, 8/8) and Southwest Research Station (8/10)
65	Blue-throated Hummingbird	<i>Lampornis clemenciae</i> – Uncommon at Portal area feeders (8/9-11)
66	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i> – Abundant
67	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i> – Usually several individuals present at most feeding stations, especially those in the Huachucas.

68	Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i> - Lone male seen at Saguaro NP (8/12)
69	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i> – Common at high elevations especially Mt. Lemmon (8/4) and Carr Canyon (8/8). A few scattered individuals elsewhere.
70	Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i> – small numbers of migrating females/young males throughout tour.
71	Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus alleni</i> – male seen well in Miller Canyon (8/9)
72	Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus calliope</i> – single individuals at Rose Lake (8/4) and Patton Hummingbird Center (8/7)
73	Lucifer Hummingbird	<i>Calothorax lucifer</i> – Upwards of 6 (!!) individuals at the Ash Canyon feeders (8/7, 8/8).
74	Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i> – Abundant at low elevation and foothills.
75	Violet-crowned Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i> – Several at the Patton Hummingbird Center (8/7) and one at Miller Canyon (8/9).

Trogonidae (Trogons)

76	Elegant Trogon	<i>Trogon elegans</i> – Adult male perched over trail calling in Madera Canyon (8/5). Male feeding fledging Cave Creek Canyon (8/11)
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Picidae (Woodpeckers)

77	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i> – Common and widespread.
78	Gila Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i> – Fairly common at low elevations – especially De Anza Trail (8/5) and Patagonia area (8/7).
79	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i> – Common anywhere with trees at low elevations
80	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i> – Uncommon at higher elevations, Carr Canyon (8/8) and Rustler Park (8/11)
81	Arizona Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arizonae</i> – A few in canyons at mid-elevation, Madera Canyon (8/5) and Cave Creek Canyon (8/9-11)
82	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i> – Fairly common in high elevation pine forest

83	Gilded Flicker	<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i> – A few in low desert with saguaro, especially Saguaro NP (8/12)
Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)		
84	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i> – A few scattered individuals in desert grasslands, particularly around San Rafael (8/7)
85	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> – Single individual flew over around dusk at Ash Canyon (8/8)
Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)		
86	Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i> – Uncommon and inconspicuous, one or two noted at both the De Anza Trail (8/4) and California Gulch (8/6).
87	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i> – One at Hunter Canyon (8/8) and one at Rustler Park (8/11)
88	Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i> – One at Rose Lake (8/4)
89	Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i> – Common in mid to high elevation wooded habitats.
90	Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i> – One at Whitewater Draw (8/9) and one at Willow Tanks near Rodeo, NM (8/10)
91	Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i> – single migrant noted at Patagonia Rest Area (8/7)
92	Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i> – two calling birds at Miller Canyon (8/9), several “Western” (Cordilleran/ Pacific-slope) Flycatchers seen at various migrant areas.
93	Buff-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax fulvifrons</i> – 1-2 birds seen at Carr Canyon (8/8)
94	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i> – fairly common, especially in canyons near water
95	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i> – A few scattered in arid grasslands near Madera Canyon (8/5) and San Rafael (8/7)
96	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> – fairly common near water, particularly at Pena Blanca

		Lake (8/6) and Patagonia Lake (8/7).
97	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i> – a few scattered individuals in mid-elevation canyon habitats – Madera Canyon (8/5) and Cave Creek (8/9-11)
98	Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i> – Uncommon in low desert scrub areas – Willow Tanks (8/10) and Paradise Rd. (8/11)
99	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i> – Vocal and aggressive pair at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3) and at California Gulch (8/6)
100	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes luteiventris</i> – Common and vocal in canyons near sycamores, especially Miller (8/9) and Cave Creek (8/9-11) Canyons
101	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i> – A pair was noted at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3) and at Patagonia Lake (8/7)
102	Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i> – Fairly common and widespread.
103	Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i> – 3 individuals along the De Anza Trail (8/5) and a pair at the Patagonia Rest Area (8/7)
104	Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i> – Common and conspicuous in open habitats at low elevation.
Tityridae (Tityras and Becards)		
105	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i> – A male at a former nest site along the De Anza Trail (8/5), begging heard nearby.
Laniidae (Shrikes)		
105	Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> – Uncommon in open shrub/grassland habitats at low elevation.
Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)		
106	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i> – uncommon in riparian habitats at lower elevations, especially

		Lower portions of Mt.Lemmon (8/4), De Anza Trail (8/4), Madera Canyon (8/5), and Patagonia Lake (8/7)
107	Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i> – fairly common in mixed pine-oak woodland
108	Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i> – small numbers in Madera (8/5), Miller (8/9) and Cave Creek Canyons (8/10)
109	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i> – a few around larger riparian zones. Particularly around Patagonia Lake (8/7)
Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)		
110	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i> – Common at higher elevations – Mt.Lemmon (8/4), Carr Canyon (8/8), Rustler Park (8/11)
111	Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i> – A few in scrubby foothills and desert brushland below Hunter Canyon (8/8), and by Portal (8/10)
112	Mexican Jay	<i>Aphelocoma wollweberi</i> – Large, noisy flocks in most canyons and mid-elevation forests visited
113	Chihuahuan Raven	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i> – A few in desert lowlands in Green Valley (8/5) and near Saguaro NP (8/12)
114	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i> – Common and widespread
Hirundinidae (Swallows)		
115	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> – A few at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3) and around 10 at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
116	Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i> – One seen at Pena Blanca Lake (8/6), dozens nesting in Saguaro cactus at Saguaro NP (8/12)
117	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> – a few at Whitewater Draw (8/9)
118	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i> – a few were seen at Patagonia Lake (8/7) and a flock was noted in Miller Canyon (8/9)
119	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i> – 2 were seen among other swallows at Whitewater Draw (8/9)

120	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> – fairly common near water
121	Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i> – a large colony of the dark-fronted “Mexican” Cliff Swallows were nesting at the Best Western in Nogales (8/5-7). Several of the migrant pale fronted Cliff Swallows were at Whitewater Draw
Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)		
122	Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i> – common flock species at high elevations Rose Lake (8/4) Carr Canyon (8/8)
123	Mexican Chickadee	<i>Poecile sclateri</i> – Several at Rustler Park (8/11)
124	Bridled Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus wollweberi</i> – fairly common in mid-elevation forests/canyons especially Madera (8/5) and Cave Creek Canyons (8/9-11).
125	Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i> – a pair seen on the Paradise Rd. (8/11)
Remizidae (Penduline-Tits)		
126	Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i> – common in desert scrub
Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)		
127	Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i> – a few large flocks around Ash Canyon (8/7) and Portal (8/10)
Sittidae (Nuthatches)		
128	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i> – One heard at Rustler Park (8/11)
129	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i> – Common anywhere with large trees
130	Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i> – fairly common at high elevations especially Mt. Lemmon (8/4) And Rustler Park (8/11)
Certhiidae (Treecreepers)		
131	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i> – fairly common in pine and mixed oak woodlands, particularly in mixed flocks.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

132	Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i> – One heard in the lower parts of Mt. Lemmon (8/4)
133	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i> – Commonly heard anywhere with cliffs or large amounts of exposed rock.
134	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i> – a few present in most riparian woodland
135	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i> – common at Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3) and Whitewater Draw (8/9)
136	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> -
137	Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i> – Common in low desert and desert scrub

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

138	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i> – Not uncommon in riparian scrub
139	Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila melanura</i> – A few pairs in desert scrub near Box Canyon (8/5), California Gulch (8/6) and Paradise Rd (8/11)
140	Black-capped Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila nigriceps</i> – a pair in the lower section of California Gulch (8/6)

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

141	Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i> – a pair seen at Carr Canyon (8/8)
142	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i> – A small family group seen in high elevation pine forest near Rustler Park (8/11)
143	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i> – single individuals seen at Rustler Park and Miller Canyon
144	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i> – small numbers at high elevation including a pair feeding nestlings at Carr Canyon
145	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i> – abundant at high elevation

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

146	Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i> – fairly common in low elevation scrub
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147	Bendire's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i> – two birds seen in the vicinity of Rodeo, NM (8/10)
148	Crissal Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma crissale</i> – One individual in desert scrub near Whitewater Draw (8/9)
149	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i> – widespread in lower elevations and near human development
Sturnidae (Starlings)		
150	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> – widespread in towns and cities
Ptiliognatidae (Silky-flycatchers)		
151	Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i> – abundant is low to mid elevations particularly near oaks with mistletoe
Peucedramidae (Olive Warbler)		
152	Olive Warbler	<i>Peucedramus taeniatus</i> – a few seen at Rose Lake (8/4) and one at Carr Canyon (8/8)
Parulidae (New World Warblers)		
153	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i> – One bird seen briefly at Rose Lake (8/4)
154	Lucy's Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis luciae</i> – Common along De Anza Trail (8/5), a few in California Gulch (8/6) and Portal (8/10)
155	Virginia's Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis virginiae</i> – Pair seen in Miller Canyon (8/9)
156	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> – fairly common in wetlands, especially Sweetwater (8/3) and Whitewater Draw (8/9)
157	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i> – widespread in riparian woodlands
158	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i> – One singing at Rustler Park
159	Grace's Warbler	<i>Setophaga graciae</i> – scattered individuals in pine woodlands - Rose Lake (8/4), Carr Canyon (8/8), Rustler Park (8/11)
160	Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i> – one seen drinking from a stream at Carr Canyon

		(8/8), a few with a small flock in Cave Creek Canyon (8/10)
161	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i> – odd migrant with a mixed group in desert scrub along Paradise Rd. (8/11)
162	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i> – A few scattered migrants at Miller Canyon (8/9), and Cave Creek (8/10)
163	Red-faced Warbler	<i>Cardellina rubrifrons</i> – a pair on Mt.Lemmon (8/4) and at Cave Creek (8/11)
164	Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i> – one individual heard singing briefly at Hunter Canyon (8/8). One seen well at Miller Canyon (8/9)
165	Painted Redstart	<i>Myioborus pictus</i> – Uncommon in wooded canyons at mid elevations

Passerelidae (New World Sparrows)

166	Rufous-winged Sparrow	<i>Peucaea carpalis</i> – A few widespread individuals in desert scrub near Sweetwater Wetlands (8/3), De Anza Trail (8/5) and California Gulch (8/6)
167	Botteri's Sparrow	<i>Peucaea botterii</i> – a few in desert grassland between Madera and Box Canyons (8/5)
168	Cassin's Sparrow	<i>Peucaea cassinii</i> – fairly common in desert grassland
169	Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> – an adult seen bringing food to a nest in San Rafael Grasslands (8/7)
170	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerine</i> – one seen at Rose Lake (8/4) and Rustler Park (8/11)
171	Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i> – common in low elevation desert scrub
172	Five-striped Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza quinquestriata</i> – two heard and seen well in Box Canyon (8/5)
173	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i> – uncommon in grassy oak-woodland at mid elevation, particularly Cave Creek Canyon (8/10)
174	Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i> – one male outside Madera Canyon (8/5)
175	Yellow-eyed Junco	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i> – Common at mid to high elevations, especially Rose

		Lake (8/4), Carr Canyon (8/8) and Rustler Park (8/11)
176	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> – One seen at Rustler Park (8/11)
177	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i> – uncommon, mostly in riparian woodland, all individuals were of the pale, lightly-marked SW race.
178	Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i> – fairly common in canyon woodland – Madera Canyon (8/5) and Miller Canyon (8/9) abundant
179	Abert's Towhee	<i>Melospiza aberti</i> – common in desert scrub
180	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i> – uncommon in rocky, grassy foothills. Lower elevations of Madera (8/5), Miller (8/9) and Cave Creek (8/9-11) Cyns
181	Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i> – Common at mid to upper elevations



MAMMALS

	Leporidae (Rabbits and allies)	
1	Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>
2	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>
3	Antelope Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus alleni</i>
	Sciuridae (Squirrels and Chipmunks)	
4	Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>
5	Cliff Chipmunk	<i>Tamias dorsalis</i>
6	Rock Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus variegatus</i>
7	Arizona Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus arizonensi</i>
8	Mexican Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus nayaritensis</i>
	Heteromyidae (Kangaroo Rats and Pocketmice)	
9	Merriam's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami</i>
	Canidae (Foxes, dogs, and wolves)	
10	Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargentatus</i>
11	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
	Ursidae (Bears)	
12	American Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
	Procyonidae (Raccoons, Coatimundi and Ringtail)	
13	Northern Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
14	White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>
	Mephitidae (Skunks)	
15	Hooded Skunk	<i>Mephitis macroura</i>
16	Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
	Phyllostomatidae (Leaf-nosed Bats)	

17	Long-nosed Bat sp.	<i>Leptonycteris sp.</i>
Vespertilionidae (Evening Bats)		
18	Cave Myotis	<i>Myotis vellum</i>
Cervidae (Deer, Elk and Moose)		
19	"Coue's" White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus couesi</i>
20	Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Emydidae (Box and Water Turtles)		
1	Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>
Testudinidae (Land Tortoises)		
2	Sonoran Desert Tortoise	<i>Gopherus morafkai</i>
Colubridae (Colubrids)		
3	Gophersnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>
4	Black-necked Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis cyrtopsis</i>
Crotalidae (Rattlesnakes and New World Vipers)		
5	Western Diamond-back Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus atrox</i>
6	Black-tailed Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus molossus</i>
7	Tiger Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus tigris</i>
Phrynosomatidae (Horned Lizards, Earless Lizards and allies)		
8	Zebra-tailed Lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>
9	Lesser Earless Lizard	<i>Holbrookia maculata</i>
10	Regal Horned Lizard	<i>Anota solare</i>
11	Clark's Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus clarkii</i>

12	Yarrow's Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus jarrovii</i>
Teiidae (whiptails and tegus)		
13	Arizona Striped Whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis arizonae</i>
14	Tiger Whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>
Ranidae (True Frogs)		
15	American Bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeiana</i>
16	Chiricahua Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates chiricahuaensis</i>
17	Red-spotted Toad	<i>Anaxyrus punctatus</i>

