

Southeast Arizona Sky Island Sampler | Species Report May 2 – 11, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Pat Lueders with clients Pam, Patricia, Steven & Karen,
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Our Naturalist Journeys tour was a comprehensive trip through the “Sky Island” mountain chains of Southeast Arizona to find as many bird and mammal species as possible while marveling at the beautiful scenery of the desert and the mountains.

Our tour began in Tucson, traveling east thru the unique geology of the area to the Chiricahuas, stopping at the famous ponds near Willcox for migrant shorebirds and waders. Our three days at Cave Creek Lodge provided us with access to the low desert as well as high mountain canyons of the area for birding, beautiful scenery, and delicious meals.

We visited the Chiricahua National Monument on our drive to the Huachuca Mountains, staying at Casa de San Pedro for three days to bird the many famous canyons including Carr Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, Miller Canyon, and Ash Canyon.

As we traveled to the Santa Rita Mountains, we stopped to bird at the famous Paton Center and Patagonia Lake State Park. Staying in the art center of Tubac, we visited Madera Canyon, the De Anza Trail, and Montosa and Box Canyons. We returned to Tucson at the end of this extremely successful tour having seen 170 species of birds and 14 species of mammals.

The eBird Trip Report link below lists all of our sightings including the locations and numbers of species seen.

[Southeast Arizona Sky Island Sampler | May 2-11, 2023 | eBird Trip Report](#)

The following is a list of additional mammals that we were lucky to see on this trip.

MAMMALS (14)

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*—Spotted on our drive to Patagonia State Park in the grasslands near Sonoita

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*—Seen along the road on the drive to the Chiricahua National Monument

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Smaller Cocur’s deer species, common in Southeast Arizona, seen almost daily at all locations

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*—Individuals & families seen at Cave Creek feeders

Coyote *Canis latrans*—Seen only once near Portal

MAMMALS (continued)

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*—Came to the feeders at Cave Creek Ranch

Striped Skunk *Mephitis mephitis*—Seen twice in the Cave Creek Ranch feeder area

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*—Seen daily during drives

Rock Squirrel *Otospermophilus variegatus*—Seen often in the various rocky canyons

Cliff Chipmunk *Tamias dorsalis*—These cute rodents were seen in the Chiricahuas

Arizona Gray Squirrel *Sciurus arizonensis*—Seen on visits to wooded areas

Mexican Fox Squirrel *Sciurus nayaritensis*—Seen only once, in the Rustler Canton area

Lesser Long-nosed Bat *leptonycteris yerbabuena*—Seen exiting from the bat box at Casa de San Pedro

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor*—Seen around Cave Creek Ran