

# Arizona Monsoon Madness

## Species List | August 25 – September 1, 2024

### with Naturalist Journeys



**Guide Bryan Calk with guests Gary, Connie, Philip, Deb, Anne, Frank, and Susan.**

During our week exploring southeast Arizona, we visited a few of the regions iconic sky islands and from the Chiricahuas to the Santa Ritas, took time to visit some historical sites and eat some delicious foods, and best of all made some new friends along the way. This tour was timed perfectly for the peak of hummingbird migration, so our total numbers of hummingbirds seen was definitely off the charts, it seems like everywhere we stayed and visited the feeders were constantly buzzing. We also had spectacular experiences with some of the areas tougher to find species like five species of owls including Spotted, Red-faced Warblers, Buff-breasted Flycatchers, and even local rarities like Rose-throated Becard and Five-striped Sparrow. The other wildlife didn't disappoint either with Gray Fox, Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes, and many beautiful butterflies and other insects. The monsoons are a magical time to visit the desert!

#### **Birds (154 species):**

The eBird link below details the 154 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Arizona Monsoon Madness | August 25 – September 1, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

#### **Mammals (9 species):**

**White-tailed Deer (Coue's)** *Odocoileus virginianus* – Seen almost every day of the tour, including some very tame ones living at Cave Creek Ranch

**Striped Skunk** *Mephitis mephitis* – An inquisitive and bold individual (or two) made the rounds under the bird feeders at Cave Creek Ranch

**Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus audubonii* – Seen periodically and incidentally throughout the week, including a few under some feeding areas

**Cliff Chipmunk** *Tamias dorsalis* – Seen well in the Chiricahua mountains, more common at the upper elevations

**Harris's Antelope Squirrel** *Ammospermophilus harrisi* – Seen under Jasper's feeders in Portal

**Rock Squirrel** *Otospermophilus variegatus* – Seen several times during the tour, most often taking advantage of bird feeders

**Arizona Gray Squirrel** Seen very well at Ash Canyon and other locations, mostly in the Huachuca Mountains

**Mexican (Apache, Chiricahua) Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus nayaritensis* – Several seen well while out birding in the Chiricahuas, including along the road and at Barfoot Park

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* – A couple seen scampering away from the headlights as we returned to Cave Creek Ranch after owling, another that did the same as we came back to the resort at Tubac after dinner.

**Reptiles and Amphibians (7 species):**

**Ornate Tree Lizard** *Urosaurus ornatus* – Seen along the hike at Ramsey Canyon

**Sonoran Spotted Whiptail** *Aspidoscelis sonorae* – A few seen during the second half of the trip, including in Miller Canyon

**Western Diamondback Rattlesnake** *Crotalus atrox* – Two seen and ushered off the roads around Portal, one a very young one

**Mexican Spadefoot** *Spea multiplicata* – Seen in the road at Peg's house after dinner, coming out thanks to recent rains

**Chiricahua Leopard Frog** *Rana chiricahuensis* – Seen in ponds created for their conservation at Miller and Ramsey Canyons

**Elegant Earless Lizard** *Helbrookia elegans* – One seen in Patagonia

**Black-necked Garter Snake** *Thamnophis cyrtopsis* – One found in Box Canyon