

# Arizona Monsoon Madness Species List | August 10-17, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Bryan Calk with guests Ellen, Val, Heather, Sami, Barbara, and Will**

Our week together in southeast Arizona was rich with both birds and experiences, a blend of discovery, learning, and camaraderie. From the moment we arrived in Portal, the group dynamic was warm and lively, enhanced by guest speakers, presentations like Elissa's, and appearances from Naturalist Journeys guides who joined us in the field. Hummingbirds stole the spotlight throughout the week, from Rivoli's Hummingbird glowing in the light to the brilliant Blue-throated Mountain Gem and the rare Berylline, capped off by Violet-crowned Hummingbirds at the famous Paton's Center. Alongside these highlights were encounters with specialty birds like Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Grace's Warbler, and the range-restricted Five-striped Sparrow. Special sightings of Southwest Willow Flycatcher and the iconic Varied Bunting reminded us of the conservation stakes and beauty of birding in this region. Madera Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, Rustler Park, and Cave Creek each revealed their grandeur and unique habitats, teaching us about elevation, range limits, and the subtle differences between species and subspecies.

But the week was more than a bird list, it was about sharing it together. The hospitality at Casa de San Pedro made us feel like we were stepping into our own home. We admired Yellow-eyed Juncos scratching in the leaf litter, Yellow-breasted Chats belting their eccentric songs, and even a pair of Spotted Owls tucked quietly into a canyon roost. The breakfast while watching birds at George Walker House and our time exploring Tubac, the artistry of regional crafts, and the beauty of Arizona sycamores added local flavor and cultural context to the natural history. Photography was a steady companion, helping us capture details and cement new lessons about vocalizations, identification, and behavior. Whether studying field marks in the moment, learning about regional variations, or simply soaking in the monsoon clouds rolling across the sky, we were immersed in Arizona's landscapes and biodiversity. In the end, it was a week of being outside, making connections, and growing as birders. It was an experience made memorable as much by the people we shared it with as by the remarkable birds themselves.

## **BIRDS (156):**

During the trip, 156 species were recorded of which eight were heard only and four were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 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 10-17, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

#### **MAMMALS (10):**

**Black Bear** (*Ursus americanus*) – Seen from the Cave Creek Ranch dining area during lunch, visiting the bird feeding station; known seasonal visitor, appeared skittish due to deterrence efforts by the owners.

**Gray Fox** (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) – Seen while pulling back into Cave Creek Ranch after dinner at Peg's.

**Coyote** (*Canis latrans*) – Seen while leaving the Tubac Golf Resort in the morning.

**Pronghorn** (*Antilocapra americana*) – A small herd seen just outside of Sonoita in the grasslands

**Harris's Antelope Squirrel** (*Ammospermophilus harrisi*) – Observed at Jasper's feeders.

**Apache Fox Squirrel** (*Sciurus nayaritensis chiricahuae*) – Seen in South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon and at the Southwestern Research Station.

**Arizona Gray Squirrel** (*Sciurus arizonensis*) – Seen at Ramsey Canyon Preserve, Miller Canyon, and Madera Canyon.

**Rock Squirrel** (*Otospermophilus variegatus*) – Seen daily in many locations throughout the trip.

**Coues White-tailed Deer** (*Odocoileus virginianus couesi*) – Multiple sightings up and down Cave Creek Canyon and at the ranch, also seen in the Huachuca Mountains, Box Canyon, and Madera Canyon.

**Desert Cottontail** (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) – Seen in many locations across the tour.

**Mexican Long-tongued Bat** (*Choeronycteris mexicana*) – Several individuals observed feeding at a hummingbird feeder after sunset at Cave Creek Ranch.

**Bat sp.** – Several individuals observed flying during the day in places such as South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon, with additional emergence activity noted at various sites in the evenings. Also a pair roosted under the eaves at Casa de San Pedro.

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (7):**

**Gila Monster** (*Heloderma suspectum*) – Observed on the road into Portal on the first day.

**Sonoran Spotted Whiptail** (*Aspidoscelis sonorae*) – Seen in multiple locations, including the Southwestern Research Station and Rodriguez feeders. This is a parthenogenetic species, meaning all individuals are female and reproduce without males.

**Madrean Whiptail** (*Aspidoscelis uniparens*) – Observed at Ramsey Canyon Preserve. Another parthenogenetic species, it is one of the most widespread all-female lizards in the Southwest.

**Clark's Spiny Lizard** (*Sceloporus clarkii*) – Observed at the Southwestern Research Station.

**Yarrow's Spiny Lizard** (*Sceloporus jarrovi*) – Seen in Carr Canyon on rocks and on the wall of the bathroom, with one individual showing vivid shiny blue to bluish-green coloration.

**Woodhouse's Toad** (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*) – Seen in the courtyard at Casa de San Pedro.

**Chiricahua Leopard Frog** (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*) – Observed at Ramsey Canyon Preserve.

**BUTTERFLIES (11):**

**Pipevine Swallowtail** (*Battus philenor*) – Seen in many locations across the tour, including Box Canyon, often abundant and widespread.

**Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail** (*Papilio multicaudata*) – Observed in Carr Canyon.

**Cloudless Sulphur** (*Phoebis sennae*) – Seen at Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary, visiting flowers.

**Variegated Fritillary** (*Euptoieta claudia*) – Observed at the Southwestern Research Station and again at Box Canyon.

**Sleepy Orange** (*Abaeis nicippe*) – Seen at Casa de San Pedro.

**Nabokov's Satyr** (*Cyllopsis pyracmon*) – Observed at Ramsey Canyon Preserve.

**Queen** (*Danaus gilippus*) – Seen at Patagonia Lake State Park, Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary, Box Canyon, and other locations, with particularly large numbers in Box Canyon.

**Fatal Metalmark** (*Calephelis nemesis*) – Observed at Patagonia Lake State Park.

**Ceraunus Blue** (*Hemiargus ceraunus*) – Observed at Box Canyon.

**American Snout** (*Libytheana carinenta*) – Observed at Box Canyon.

**Tiny Checkerspot** (*Dymasia dymas*) – Observed at Patagonia Lake State Park, on blooming Arizona Poppy along the trail.