

# Arizona: Monsoon Madness

## Species List | August 17 – 24, 2025

### with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide James Petersen. Our clients included Anne, Michael, Rob, Carol, Jean, Dee and Dana.**

We started the trip by meeting in Tucson and working our way through the major Sky Islands (Chiricahuas, Huachuca's, and Santa Rita's). The highlights in the Chiricahua's were observing Rufous-winged Sparrow and Abert's Towhees and a White-eared Hummingbird at the various feeding stations we visited. Further up in the canyon, we had looks at Elegant Trogon, Mexican Chickadee, Painted Redstart and stunning looks at a very cooperative Red-faced Warbler. From the Chiricahuas, we slowly worked our way over to the Huachuca's, Patagonia and Santa Rita's. Some of the highlights here included getting great looks at Buff-breasted Flycatchers up at Carr Canyon, a Lucifer Hummingbird at Ash Canyon and a nesting Berylline Hummingbird at Ramsey Canyon. In the Santa Rita's, we had the good looks at Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Five-striped Sparrow and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. In addition to the bird species, we had a fantastic list of mammals, butterflies and a Western Diamondback Rattlesnake. Some of the highlights throughout the trip were seeing an Elegant Earless Lizard at Patagonia State Park, 4 species of Butterflies at the dam section of Box Canyon and helping a Box Turtle cross the road while in the Huachuca's.

Even with a drier than average monsoon season with warmer temperatures we had a fantastic Monsoon trip, ending with 159 species of birds, 11 species of mammals, 8 species of reptiles, and 16 species of Butterflies.

**BIRDS: 159** species were recorded of which 8 were heard only, and 2 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 159 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 17-24, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

**Family or Species Common Name Scientific Name — (160)**

**DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: ANATIDAE — (9)**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* — We observed this species only once, where 6+ were observed at the Amado Water Treatment Plant.

**Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera* — We only observed this species in non-breeding plumage and only at the larger water bodies we visited. (Lake Cochise and Patagonia Lake State Park)

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* — We had one large billed, yellowed eyed individual while birding Lake Cochise. The bird was loafing on a sandbar with a bunch of Cinnamon Teal.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* — A few nonbreeding individuals with orange bill linings were observed while birding Lake Cochise.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* — We observed this species only while birding Patagonia Lake State Park and the Amado Water Treatment plant.

**Mexican Duck** *Anas diazi* — A common species on the water bodies we visited.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca* — Our smallest species of waterfowl, we observed a couple nonbreeding individuals while birding Lake Cochise.

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* — A confused bird, we observed this diving duck once on the trip, with one non-breeding, yellow-eyed bird swimming into the reeds while birding Lake Cochise.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* — We only observed these blue-billed, stiff-tailed birds while birding the Amado Water Treatment Plant.

#### **NEW WORLD QUAILS: Odontophoridae — (1)**

**Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii* — A common bird throughout the trip, we both heard and saw these quail at many of the feeding stations we visited.

#### **PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (1)**

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo* — We observed this species in both the Huachuca's and the Santa Rita's. The race here is the re-introduced "Gould's" race which is the largest of the Wild Turkey races. The males can weigh up to 25 lbs.

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae — (1)**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* — We only observed this species while birding Patagonia Lake State Park, where we had two separate individuals far out on the lake.

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (6)**

**Rock Pigeon (I)** *Columba livia* — A common bird in the more urban areas only.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)** *Streptopelia decaocto* — We observed this species in the lower elevations only. These light-colored doves were especially present during the morning birding walks while at the Casa de San Pedro.

**Inca Dove** *Columbina inca* — This small scaly dove was observed both in the Chiricahuas and the Patagonia Sky Islands. Their "no-hope, no-hope" call was heard during the birding mornings as well.

**Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina* — We only observed this tiny species twice, once on the side of the road after a monsoonal storm. The other time was better; with looks at one as it walked underneath a feeder while at the Paton's Hummingbird Center.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* — A common bird seen every day of the trip, most often flying overhead or perched on telephone wires.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* — The other dove that was observed every day, flying overhead or perched on a telephone wire. One was observed on a nest at eye level on the last day while birding the Desert Meadows Park.

#### **CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae — (2)**

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus* — A bird that finds you, we had fantastic luck seeing these large cuckoo multiple times throughout the trip. It's hard to pick the best looks, but our first one was spotted as we drove by it on the way to the Casa de San Pedro.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* — This endangered western race of this species was seen multiple times while in the Patagonia and Santa Rita Sky Islands. We had a really nice experience with this species as we watched on try and devour a green Katydid while in Box Canyon.

#### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (1)**

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* — We observed this species multiple times throughout the trip. Two sightings were memorable with one being one flying right over everyone's heads as Peg was talking about why the Sky Islands are

so rich in diversity. The other time, coming out of the Copper Pig and seeing them illuminated by light as they flew over the buildings, catching insects.

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae — (13)**

**Rivoli's Hummingbird** *Eugenes fulgens* — This large hummingbird with a green throat and deep violet crown was seen multiple times at the three major sky Islands we visited. The best looks we had came while we were at Beatty's Feeders.

**Blue-throated Mountain-gem** *Lampornis clemenciae* — This large "blue-throated" Hummingbird was only seen at the feeding stations while in the Chiricahuas, where it was commonly seen defending the feeders from all other hummingbirds.

**Lucifer Hummingbird** *Calothorax lucifer* — We saw one of this southeast Arizona specialty birds with a deep purple gorget and curved bill only while watching the hummingbirds at Ash Canyon.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri* — A common species seen most days of the trip.

**Anna's Hummingbird** *Calypte anna* — This species with a dark reddish gorget and reddish cap was a common species from the Huachuca's onwards. This species was absent from the Chiricahua's.

**Costa's Hummingbird** *Calypte costae* — This desert loving hummingbird with a brilliant deep purple gorget was only observed on the last day while birding at Desert Meadows Park in Green Valley.

**Calliope Hummingbird** *Selasphorus calliope* — The smallest hummingbird in the United States, we observed this species over the course of three days spanning from the Chiricahuas through the first day in the Huachuca's.

**Rufous Hummingbird** *Selasphorus rufus* — A common hummingbird seen most days of the trip. Most of the observed hummingbirds were immature or female birds with few males.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus* — We observed this species in the higher elevation hummingbird feeders. They were commonly detected but the high-pitched wing whirr that the feathers of a male made when in flight.

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** *Cynanthus latirostris* — This greenish, blueish "flying peacock" was common and observed most days of the trip.

**White-eared Hummingbird** *Hylocharis leucotis* — A rare Mexican stray that shows up in small numbers most year. We observed a brilliant male that came into the George Walker House feeders while eating breakfast.

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird** *Amazilia violiceps* — We observed this brilliant purple crowned hummingbird throughout the trip at three of the feeders we visited. (The southwest Research Station, Beatty's and Paton's). This is the only hummingbird in the United States that you cannot tell male from female.

**Berylline Hummingbird** *Amazilia beryllina* — Another rare Mexican hummingbird. We were lucky enough to get scope views of a female sitting on her nest while at Ramsey Canyon.

### **RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (1)**

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* — We only observed this species twice, once on the first day while at Lake Cochise, and the other while at Patagonia Lake State Park, where we had a large number loafing on the lake.

### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (2)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* — We only observed this black and white wader while at Lake Cochise on the first day.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* — This curved billed wader was only observed while at Lake Cochise.

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (1)**

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* — We observed this species while birding the first day at Lake Cochise, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> while birding the Amado Water Treatment Plant.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (8)**

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* — This long winged brownish "peep" was only observed while at Lake Cochise. This species is identified from other peeps by the wing extension going beyond the tail.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* — This small peep was only observed while at Lake Cochise. This species is told from other similar looking species by its small size and yellow legs.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* — We were able to pick a few of this species out from the other “peeps”. This species is told from others by having black legs and slightly decurved bills.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* — This larger shorebird was only observed while birding at Lake Cochise.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* — This sandpiper was only observed twice throughout the trip, once at Lake Cochise and once while at the Amado Water Treatment Plant.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* — We only observed this species while birding Lake Cochise on the first day.

**Wilson’s Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* — This was an extremely common species we observed while at Lake Cochise. We observed them spinning for food in the deeper parts of the lake.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* — We observed 4 of these phalaropes with dark eye patches mixed in with all the Wilson’s Phalaropes while at Lake Cochise.

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (2)**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* — We only observed this large cormorant while at the Amado Water Treatment Plant. It gave a nice comparison to a nearby Neotropic cormorant, showing a larger beak with the orange extending up to the eye.

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* — We observed this small-billed cormorant species on two different days, once while at Patagonia Lake State Park. We also saw it at the Amado Water Treatment Plant, where we got good looks at its small bill with a white border to the face.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (1)**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* — We only observed this species once, while birding Patagonia Lake State Park. It was seen foraging on the other side of the lake.

### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae — (1)**

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi* — This species was only observed once, a small flyover group while at the Tubac Golf Resort.

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae — (1)**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* — We only observed this species the last two days of the trip, where they were observed soaring overhead with the larger Turkey Vultures.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* — A common species, seen every day of the trip.

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (7)**

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* — This huge raptor was only observed while in Box Canyon, where we had to individuals flying around. Told from other raptors by large size and all dark appearance.

**Cooper’s Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* — We observed this large bird of prey twice during the trip. The first time was one that was flying past us while birding in the morning at Casa de San Pedro. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time was a single bird flying around while at Ramsey Canyon.

**Harris’s Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* — We had fantastic views of this brownish raptor after stopping for gas on the first day. It was perched low in a small tree, letting all get fantastic views.

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus* — We got fantastic views of an adult soaring overhead while coming out from Ramsey Canyon. We also heard this species while at the Patagonia-Sonita Creek and while walking at the Anza trail.

**Swainson’s Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* — A common species, mostly seen while driving between sites, perched on the telephone wires or soaring in the air.

**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* — We had fantastic views of this dark raptor with a black and white tail while it was soaring overhead while coming out from Miller Canyon. We also observed this raptor at both Carr Canyon and the

Patagonia-Sonoita creek preserve.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* — A common species, seen while driving between sites.

### **OWLS: Strigidae — (2)**

**Whiskered Screech-Owl** *Megascops trichopsis* — A heard only species, while looking for night birds while in the Chiricahuas.

**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus* — We came across this species while at the Casa de San Pedro, observing one right as we drove in as a monsoonal storm was bearing down on us. We also overserved this species the next few days when early morning birding at Casa de San Pedro.

### **TROGONS: Trogonidae — (1)**

**Elegant Trogon** *Trogon elegans* — We had brief looks at this southeast Arizona Specialty as we were birding South fork while in the Chiricahuas. We also heard the barking call as well.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (6)**

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* — A common bird that was seen most days of the trip. A way to tell male from female apart in this species is looking at the top of the head. If the black separates the red from the cream white, it's a female, if the red touches the cream white, it's a male.

**Gila Woodpecker** *Melanerpes uropygialis* — A common woodpecker once outside of the Chiricahuas.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris* — We observed this black and white woodpecker while at Bob's feeders in the Chiricahuas. We heard the downward chatter of this species was also heard the last two days of the trip

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus* — We only observed this large woodpecker on the second day of the trip while birding the South Fork Trail.

**Arizona Woodpecker** *Dryobates arizonae* — We observed this brown backed woodpecker only once while birding South Fork while in the Chiricahuas.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* — We only observed this species while in the Chiricahuas (South Fork and Rustler Park) and in the Hucachuas (Carr Canyon). This race we observed here is the "Red-shafted" race.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (1)**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* — This species was only observed a few times, only seen while driving in the lowlands as we were driving between sites while in the Huachuca's.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae — (14)**

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* — This species was one of the few heard only birds, its down slurred whistled call was heard while both on South Fork and at the Patagonia Sonita Creek preserve.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* — We only observed this species once, while birding the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve.

**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris* — Another heard only species, heard while birding South Fork in the Chiricahuas's.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* — We both heard and observed the high-pitched twittering call of this species while both in downtown Tubac and at the Tubac Golf Resort.

**Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans* — This species was observed infrequently throughout the trip, usually at higher elevations than western kingbirds. Told apart from westerns by white malar stripe combined with grayer head and upper breast.

**Thick-billed Kingbird** *Tyrannus crassirostris* — We had fantastic scope looks at this species as it was perched in a dead snag while birding the dame area of Box Canyon.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis* — A common species, seen every day of the trip.

**Greater Pewee** *Contopus pertinax* — We only observed this large, dark Pewee once, while coming down from Pinery Canyon on the western side of the Chiricahuas.



**Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus* — This smaller Pewee was observed while in the lower forested areas of the Chiricahuas. We also saw this species while at Ramsey Canyon and Carr Canyons.

**Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii* — We got fantastic looks at this endangered western subspecies as it was perched out in the open while birding at Casa de San Pedro. We also had this species while birding the dam area of Box Canyon.

**Western Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis* — We had this yellowish flycatcher with a tear drop shaped eye ring while birding the South Fork Trail while in the Chiricahua's. We also observed this species in the dam area of Box Canyon.

**Buff-breasted Flycatcher** *Empidonax fulvifrons* — We observed this buff-breasted southeast Arizona specialty while birding the high elevations of Carr Canyon.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* — We observed this dark colored phoebe with white belly only while birding Lake Cochise on the first day.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* — A surprisingly hard bird to come by, we had several of this species at the Casa de San Pedro. We also had good looks while at the dam area of Box Canyon, Amado Water Treatment Plant and at Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve.

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae — (4)**

**Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii* — We heard the question-and-answer song of this species numerous times throughout the trip. We finally got good looks at this dull vireo species as we were leaving the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve.

**Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni* — We had the best looks at this species while up at the top of Carr Canyon, where a pair of these kinglet-like vireos with thick bills were right above us while in the campgrounds.

**Plumbeous Vireo** *Vireo plumbeus* — This "here I am, where are you" song of this species was heard three days of the trip, mostly in the high elevations in the Chiricahuas and the Huachuca's.

**Western Warbling Vireo** *Vireo swainsoni* — This newly minted species was observed three times throughout the trip; Carr, Box Canyon and the Desert Meadows park.

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae — (1)**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus* — Our best looks at this species came while birding at Casa de San Pedro, where we had an adult perch nearby in a small shrub.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (5)**

**Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri* — We only saw this large dark blue jay while birding Rustler and Barfoot Parks while in the Chiricahuas. One was begging for food while we ate lunch.

**Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma woodhouseii* — This low elevation scrub jay was only observed while birding Bob Rodrigues's Yard in the morning. This species is told from Mexican Jay by the white throat, and a bright blue back, making the gray on its back pop.

**Mexican Jay** *Aphelocoma wollweberi* — We observed this blue jay multiple times throughout the trip, almost always in small groups and up in the mountains. This species is told from the similar Woodhouse's Scrub Jay by the dull back and gray breast.

**Chihuahuan Raven** *Corvus cryptoleucus* — We observed this species a few times while driving between spots. Our best looks of this species came from a bird by Lake Cochise on the first day.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* — A common bird, seen every day of the trip.

#### **PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae — (1)**

**Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps* — This small gray bird with a yellow head and chestnut wing patch was observed off and on throughout the trip, only in the lower elevations.

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae — (2)**

**Mexican Chickadee** *Poecile sclateri* — We had several of this gray breasted southeast Arizona specialties while birding in the higher elevations of the Chiricahuas.

**Bridled Titmouse** *Baeolophus wollweberi* — We had good looks at this black and white Titmouse, mainly as it came into

feeders while in the Chiricahuas. We also observed this species both in Ramsey Canyon and the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (5)**

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* — This brown swallow with a breast band was only seen while birding Lake Cochise on the first day. The bird was mixed in the large swallow flock.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* — We observed this swallow on the first day while birding Lake Cochise. This bird was also only observed the last two days while at Patagonia Lake State Park and the Amado Water Treatment Plant.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* — We this swallow both the first and last days of the trip; at Lake Cochise and then again at the Amado Water Treatment Plant.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* — A common bird, seen most days of the trip.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* — We only observed this species on the last day of the trip, at the Amado Water Treatment Plant. This race we observed here was the “Mexican” Race, with a completely dark throat and dark forehead.

#### **BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae — (1)**

**Bushtit** *Psaltiriparus minimus* — We had fantastic looks at a group of these tiny birds as they quickly moved through the trees. Our first looks were as we were coming down from Carr Canyon. We later had much better look at a small flock at the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve. You can tell male and female apart by eye color—males have dark eyes and females have yellow eyes.

#### **SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptilogonatidae — (1)**

**Phainopepla** *Phainopepla nitens* — We observed these black silky flycatchers while at Cave Creek Ranch. This species is a mistletoe specialist.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae — (3)**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis* — This species was only observed at while birding at the top of Carr Canyon.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis* — A common bird, we came across this species most days of the trip.

**Pygmy Nuthatch** *Sitta pygmaea* — This was one of the few heard only birds. We came across this bird while eating lunch up at Rustler Park.

#### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae — (1)**

**Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana* — We heard this species a few times in the Chiricahuas, but we had our best looks while birding Ramsey Canyon after seeing the Berylline Hummingbird.

#### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae — (1)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* — Another heard only bird, only while birding the South Fork trail.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae — (5)**

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus* — We observed this species while in Box Canyon looking for the Five-striped Sparrow. The wren made a brief appearance before flying all the way across to the other side of the canyon.

**Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus* — Another heard only, we heard the cascading song from the other side of the canyon.

**Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* — A common bird, seen most days.

**Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii* — We heard this species multiple times but we only got quick looks at one while birding Casa de San Pedro.

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* — We heard this species while in the Chiricahuas but got quick glimpses of one while birding the dam area of Box Canyon.

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae — (3)**

**Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre* — A common bird, seen most days of the trip.

**Bendire's Thrasher** *Toxostoma bendirei* — We only observed this shy, straight billed mockingbird once, when driving in to Lake Cochise on the first day of the trip.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* — We only observed this species while in the Huachuca's, and only when driving between spots from the van.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae — (2)**

**Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana* — We only encountered this species while we were eating lunch at Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas. We had both adults and young birds observed.

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius* — We surprisingly observed this species only while birding Carr Canyon.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (1)**

**House Sparrow (I)** *Passer domesticus* — A common species, observed most days in the more urban areas.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (2)**

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus* — A common species, observed every day of the trip.

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria* — We observed this species most days of the trip. We observed both races; the "black-backed or Texas" race and the Green-backed types.

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae — (12)**

**Rufous-winged Sparrow** *Peucaea carpalis* — We had this specialty sparrow while sitting at Bob Rodriguez's feeders in Portal. This species is very range restricted.

**Botteri's Sparrow** *Peucaea botterii* — We had good views of this monsoon breeding sparrow while early morning birding at the Casa de San Pedro.

**Five-striped Sparrow** *Amphispiza quinquestriata* — We had good looks at this southeast Arizona specialty as it sang and sat by the road while In Box Canyon.

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata* — We only observed this handsome black and white sparrow while at Bob Rodriguez's Feeders in Portal.

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* — A common sparrow the first half of the trip, but our best looks came on the first day while we were at Lake Cochise.

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* — We observed a single bird while birding in the morning at Casa de San Pedro.

**Yellow-eyed Junco** *Junco phaeonotus* — We had fantastic looks at these yellow eyed Juncos while in the higher elevations of both the Chiricahuas (Rustler Park) and Huachuca's (Carr Canyon).

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* — We heard and saw this species while birding the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve and the last afternoon while at the Anza trail coming into the pool of water.

**Canyon Towhee** *Melospiza fusca* — A common bird while at the feeders in the Chiricahuas, we also observed this species at the Paton's Center and at Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve.

**Abert's Towhee** *Melospiza aberti* — We observed this black-faced, pale billed Towhee while birding the Casa de San Pedro and Aza Trail. We also observed this species on the final day while in the Desert Meadows Park.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow** *Aimophila ruficeps* — We only observed this species from the dam portion of Box Canyon. The bird flew in, giving all fantastic views.

**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus* — We observed this species while out in the Chiricahua's. Our best views came as we were birding Pinery Canyon before heading over to the Casa de San Pedro.

### **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: ICTERIIDAE — (1)**

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* — We heard this species weird, varied calls while early morning birding at the Casa.



We later got good views of a few Chats as we were birding the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve.

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae — (8)**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* — We observed this species twice throughout the trip. We had good looks at a flock of these bright blackbirds on the first day while at Lake Cochise. We also came across a small flock on the last day while at the Amado Water Treatment Plant.

**Chihuahuan Meadowlark** *Sturnella lilanae* — We heard this species on the first day while at Lake Cochise and got great scope views of one while doing early morning birding at the Casa de San Pedro.

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* — We only observed this Oriole while in the Chiricahuas, both at Cave Creek Ranch and at Bob Rodriguez's feeders.

**Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii* — We observed a young individual of this species while at Lake Cochise foraging by the mudflats! We later saw multiple individuals at the feeders we visited while in the Chiricahuas and Huachuca's (Bob Rodriguez's feeders and Ash Canyon).

**Scott's Oriole** *Icterus parisorum* — We only observed this yellow oriole while in Box Canyon as we were looking for the Five-striped Sparrow.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* — We only observed a few of these species on the first day while at Lake Cochise.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* — We only observed this species during early morning birding at the Casa de San Pedro.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* — Our best looks at this long-tailed blackbird was while birding the lakefront area at Patagonia Lake State Park.

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae — (10)**

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Oreothlypis celata* — We saw this dull species with no field marks a few times over the course of the trip. Once, while in Pinery Canyon and the other time was in the dam portion of Box Canyon.

**Lucy's Warbler** *Leiothlypis luciae* — We had a quick look at this grayish warbler while on the trail at the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve. Our best looks came on the next afternoon, where we watched one as it foraged by a small puddle of water while on the Anza trail.

**MacGillivray's Warbler** *Geothlypis tolmiei* — We only observed this yellowish warbler with a broken eye arcs and grayish head while at Bob Rodriguez's feeders in the Chiricahuas.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* — This small warbler was only heard on the first day while birding Lake Cochise.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* — A fairly common bird throughout the trip. Our best views came while birding the Anza trail in Tubac where we had a fall plumaged bird coming into the little puddle.

**Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae* — We got fantastic views of this bird in the high elevations of both the Chiricahua's and the Huachuca's. Our best looks came of while birding Carr Canyon, where we had 3 individuals foraging right above us.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens* — Another warbler species that was only observed in the higher elevations of the Chiricahua's and Huachuca's. We also had our best looks at several of this species while in the camping area of Carr Canyon.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* — We observed this species sporadically throughout the trip. We had good looks at this species towards the end of our time at Lake Cochise on the first day and the last afternoon where one came into the puddle while on the Anza trail

**Red-faced Warbler** *Cardellina rubrifrons* — We had nice looks at this "embarrassed-faced warbler" as he foraged on the side of the cliff while in Pinery Canyon. Stunning bird!

**Painted Redstart** *Myioborus pictus* — We came across this black species with a red belly only twice on the trip, with our best looks coming while at the top of Carr Canyon.

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae — (9)**

**Hepatic Tanager** *Piranga flava* — We observed this high-altitude tanager twice on the trip, one young bird came briefly into the feeders while at Cave Creek Ranch. We also observed this species up high while at Carr Canyon.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* — This low elevation tanager with an oversized bill was observed multiple times throughout the trip. Our best looks at this species came while at the Patagonia-Sonita Creek Preserve.

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* — A surprisingly hard bird to find, we only observed one individual while sitting for hummingbirds at the Southwest Research Station.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* — A common bird at most of the feeding stations we visited.

**Pyrrhuloxia** *Cardinalis sinuatus* — This yellow billed “desert Cardinal” was only observed coming into Bob Rodriguez’s feeders while in Portal.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus* — We observed this black headed, orange breasted grosbeak at most of the feeding stations we visited.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* — A common bird seen most days of the trip. We had nice views of the ultra-blue males while morning birding at Casa de San Pedro.

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena* — A common bird, seen most days of the trip. We had large numbers of this species while birding at Casa de San Pedro early in the morning.

**Varied Bunting** *Passerina versicolor* — We only observed this species twice, both times were of the plainer colored females. The first time was while at Ash Canyon, where we had a female come into the water feature. The second time was a female that came into the puddle while on the Anza Trail.

#### **MAMMALS: (11)**

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* — This species was seen most days of the trip in most of the Sky Islands we visited. The race that lives here is the “Coues” White-tailed deer.

**Collared Peccary** *Pecari tajacu* — We observed these only in the Chiricahuas on the first and second days. We got good looks as they were seen both times on the sides of the road.

**Striped Skunk** *Mephitis mephitis* — We observed this black and white skunk as it ran away from us while night birding at Cave Creek Ranch.

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* — We only heard the howling of this mammal a few times, both while at Bob Rodriguez’s feeders and while at the Casa San Pedro.

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* — A few saw this racoon relative eating at the Cave Creek Ranch feeders. We also observed a single male wandering down the road while driving the western side of the Chiricahuas above Pinery Canyon.

**Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus audubonii* — We only observed this desert dwelling cottontail while in the lower elevations of the Chiricahuas.

**Cliff Chipmunk** *Tamias dorsalis* — We observed this striped chipmunk while at both Cave Creek Ranch and Ramsey Canyon.

**Rock Squirrel** *Otospermophilus variegatus* — This large squirrel was seen both the first and last days of the trip.

**Arizona Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus arizonensis* — This large gray squirrel was seen only in the Huachuca’s with good looks while at Ramsey Canyon.

**Mexican (Apache) Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus nayaritensis* — This large red squirrel is only found in the Chiricahuas in the United States. We got good looks while hiking the South Fork Trail.

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* — We only observed this mammal walking in front of the van while heading out to look for nightbirds at Cave Creek Ranch.

#### **REPTILES: (8)**

**Ornate Box Turtle** *Terrapene ornata* — We observed a small turtle trying to cross the road while driving from the Chiricahuas to the Casa de San Pedro.

**Yarrow’s Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus jarrovi* — A large scaly lizard that we observed in the higher elevations while in the Chiricahuas and the Huachuca’s.

**Desert Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus magister* — A large scaly lizard that we only observed on our last day while at the Desert Meadows Park.

**Elegant Earless Lizard** *Holbrooki elegans* — We observed this species twice, with fantastic looks at this orange throated lizard while at Patagonia Lake State Park.

**Sonoran Spotted Whiptail** *Aspidoscelis sonorae* — We observed this small striped lizard on days 2,4, and 7. This species is made up of all females.

**Western Diamondback Rattlesnake** *Crotalus atrox* — We observed one of this species slithering across the road just as we finished arriving in Portal from Tucson.

**Chiricahua Leopard Frog** *Lithobates chiricahuensis* — We only observed these frogs in a small pond at the top of Ramsey Canyon.

**American Bullfrog** *Lithobates catesbeianus* — We observed this species twice. We had a few adults booming in the small pond at the Casa de San Pedro. We also observed 6 large Bullfrogs while birding the last afternoon on the Anza trail.

**Woodhouse's Toad** *Anaxyrus woodhousii* — We had a few large individuals of this species while at Casa de San Pedro.

#### **COMMON BUTTERFLIES & INVERTEBRATES OF NOTE: (16)**

**Tiny Checkerspot** *Dymasia dymas* — A tiny orange butterfly that we observed while birding the South Fork Trail. We also observed this species on the last full day while birding Box Canyon.

**Variegated Fritillary** *Euptoieta claudia* — This orange butterfly was observed sporadically throughout the trip.

**Queen** *Danaus gilippus* — This Monarch look alike was observed multiple times. We had our best looks of this species while at both the Southwest Research Station and while at the Anza Trail in Tubac.

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus* — We only observed this species once, while birding the Southwest Research Station.

**Pipevine Swallowtail** *Battus philenor* — This was a common butterfly the last couple days of the trip, mostly seen fluttering overhead while we walked different areas.

**Two-tailed Swallowtail** *Papilio multicaudata* — This large yellow butterfly was seen multiple times throughout the trip.

**Cloudless Sulfur** *Phoebastria sennae* — We observed this all-yellow butterfly with no markings only while in the Huachuca's portion of the trip.

**Arizona Sister** *Adelpha eulalia* — This bold brown butterfly with a white stripe and orange dots was only seen flying low up the trail only while at Ramsey Canyon.

**Bordered Patch** *Chlosyne lacinia* — While stopped on the way down from Carr Canyon, we had this small black and white butterfly with some red on the wings perched on a small shrub.

**Acacia Skipper** *Cogia hippalus* — This small skipper was only seen on the last day, while it was coming into a mud puddle while at the dam portion of Box Canyon.

**Southern Dogface** *Zerene cesonia* — This largish yellow butterfly with two white dots on the wings was only seen while coming to the mud puddle while at the dam portion of Box Canyon.

**Marine Blue** *Leptotes marina* — We saw this small blue butterfly in Box Canyon, where it was the most common butterfly there. We had 15+ of them while at the mud puddle at the dam portion of Box Canyon.

**American Snout** *Libytheana carinenta* — A migratory butterfly where some years we get a lot and some years there are none. We had one individual while at the mud puddle by the dam in Box Canyon.

**Black Witch Moth** *Ascalapha odorata* — We only saw one of these large moths, while looking for nightbirds at Cave Creek Ranch.

**White-lined Sphinx Moth** *Hyles lineata* — A common moth seen during the day, they were mostly seen hovering around flowers at some of the feeding stations we visited.

**Tucson Bronze Tarentula** *Aphonopelma vorhiesi* — We were lucky enough to come across one of these large desert wanderers, while we were returning from night birding in the Canyon.

#### **Common Plants of Note:**

**Silverleaf Oak** *Quercus hypoleucoides* — A high elevation oak observed while birding all three of the major sky Islands. Told from similar species by the narrow leaf with white/silver undersides. This species is a spring deciduous species.

**Netleaf Oak** *Quercus rugosa* — We only observed this species in the Chiricahuas and the Huachuca's. This species was identified by the oval like dry leaves. This species is also unique due to it putting its acorns on a stem or peduncle.

**Arizona White Oak** *Quercus arizonica* — One of the most common Oaks we observed, we saw them on all three of the Sky Islands we visited.

**Emery Oak** *Quercus emoryi* — A low elevation oak, we observed this species in the Chiricahuas and Huachuca's only. This species was identified from the Arizona White Oak by the dark or black colored bark.

**Gambel's Oak** *Quercus gambelii* — A high elevation Oak, we observed this species in both the Chiricahua's and the Huachuca's only. Identified by the lobbed leaves, unlike the other oaks this species is a fall deciduous species.

**New Mexico Locust** *Robinia Neomexicana* — A common species along the roads, a small thorny shrub with green leaves. In the spring, this species has bright pink flowers.

**Big Tooth Maple** *Acer grandidentatum* — A typical maple leaf, we only overserved this species while birding Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca's.

**Chiricahua Pine** *Pinus leiophylla* — A "madrean" or Mexican species. This pine had medium needles and was observed in the higher elevations in the Huachuca's and Chiricahuas.

**Pondarosa Pine** *Pinus ponderosa* — A species that comes down from the Rockies, this large-needled pine with reddish bark was a common sight in the higher elevations of both the Chiricahuas and the Huachuca's. The bark of this species smells like Vanilla or butterscotch here.

**Apache Pine** *Pinus engelmannii* — The other "Madrean" pine, this species was told apart from similar Pondarosa Pines by its long needles combined with its dark colored bark lacking the reddish tones. We observed this species both in the Chiricahuas and the Huachuca's.

**Southwestern White Pine** *Pinus strobiformis* — This large pine was only observed while in the Huachuca's. Best identified by the lighter colored bark combined with its 5-needle bunches.

**Two-needled Pinyon** *Pinus edulis* — We only observed this species while at Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca's.

**Alligator Juniper** *Juniperus deppeana* — The most common juniper of the trip. Best identified from other juniper species by the square, alligator like bark pattern of this tree.

**Arizona Cypress** *Hesperocyparis Arizona* — We only observed this species in both the Chiricahuas and the Huachuca's.

**Douglas Fir** *Pseudotsuga menziesii* — A high elevation species, the cones had those tails coming from them. This was a favored tree for Mexican Chickadee. This species is also not a "real" fir, real firs cones fall apart, and the needles are flat when compared to other firs.

**Freemont Cottonwood** *Populus fremontii* — A common low elevation tree lining most riparian corridors we visited. We had one spectacular specimen as we were birding the Sonita creek preserve in Patagonia.

**Arizona Sycamore** *Platanus wrightii* — This large, white-barked tree was common in the riparian zones at elevation in the sky Islands we visited. It's the softest wood in the forest and hence a favored trees for both nesting woodpeckers and Trogons.

**Wilcox Barberry** *Berberis wilcoxii* — This native barberry was only observed while birding Ramsey Canyon. In the fall this shrub should fruit, giving another food source to migrating birds.

**Netleaf Hackberry** *Celtis reticulata* — We came across this massive, towering tree while birding the Sonoita Creek Preserve in Patagonia. We identified them due to the protrusions coming from the bark.

**Fishhook Barrel Cactus** *Ferocactus wislizeni* — This species of barrel cactus was observed in the lower elevations of Box Canyon in the last 2 days. Many of them were flowering and had this gorgeous red flower.

**Velvet-pod Mimosa** *Mimosa dysocarpa* — This small leafed green shrub with dark pink flowers were only observed on the last day while in Box Canyon.

**Finger-leafed Gourd** *Cucurbita digitata* — This small creeping plant with triangle like leaves was observed on the last day while in Box Canyon. Some of the plants had their small watermelon like gourds that this plant sprouts.

**Palmer's Amaranth** *Amaranthus palmeri* — We observed this species on the last day while birding Box Canyon.

**Arizona Poppy** *Kallstroemia grandiflora* — The lower elevations of the Huachuca's had a fantastic showing of these orange flowers that were mostly seen along the roadside as we traveled between spots.

**White Prickly Poppy** *Argemone albiflora* — These white flowers were a common sight along the roadsides throughout the trip.

**Locations:**

**Day 1:** Lake Cochise-San Simone

**Day 2:** Cave Creek Ranch- South Fork- Southwest Research Station- South Cathedral Rock Road- Stewart Campground

**Day 3:** Bob Rodrigues Feeders- The George Walker House- Pinery Canyon- Barfoot Park- Rustler Park- Forest Road 42- Casa de San Pedro

**Day 4:** Casa de San Pedro- Beatty's (Miller Canyon)-Ash Canyon

**Day 5:** Casa de San Pedro- Carr Canyon- Ramsey Canyon

**Day 6:** Sonita Creek Preserve- Paton's Hummingbird Center- Patagonia Lake State Park

**Day 7:** Box Canyon- Santa Rita Lodge Feeders (Madera Canyon)- Amado Water Treatment Plant- Tubac Anza Trail

**Day 8:** Desert Meadows Park