

Southeast Arizona Fall Sky Island Sampler Species List | November 2-9, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide James Petersen with Rick Weiman. Our clients included Our clients included Ralph, Regina, Barbara, Nancy, Robert, Albert, Sue, Robbi, Paul and Marc.

We met up in Tucson and worked our way through two of southeast Arizona's Sky Islands; the Huachuca's and the Chiricahuas. After meeting in Tucson, we drove down to Casa de San Pedro and birded the surrounding area for the first 3 days of the trip. Here we were fortunate to get good looks at a few herds of Pronghorns, Anna's, Broad-billed, Rivoli's and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds as well as Green-tailed Towhee. We also got to witness Whitewater draw both in the morning and for the jaw dropping sunset while over 10,000 Sandhill Cranes piled in, still flying in complete darkness as we were leaving. The trumpeting calls were amazing as each group came in.

Once we left the Huachuca's, we traveled over to the Chiricahuas, where we got to witness the beauty of the hoodoos in the national monument. From here, we traveled over the mountain road, dropping into Portal. In Portal, we explored the eastern side of the mountains, finding native American pictograph's, Blue-throated Mountain Gems and exploring the lower grasslands for Crissal Thrashers and Brewer's Sparrows. From here, we worked our way back to Tucson with stops at Lake Cochise and Canoa Ranch and Desert Meadows Park in Green Valley on the last day. We finished this journey through the Sky Islands with 119 species of birds, 7 species of mammals, 4 species of butterflies, 1 species of lizard and 1 species of Tarantula.

BIRDS: 119 species were recorded of which 2 were heard only, and 2 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 119 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.

[Southeast Arizona Fall Sky Island Sampler | November 2-9, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS: — (7)

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana* — We only observed this species on the first full day of the trip. We had multiple herds while in the Englin Grasslands.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* — A common mammal seen most days of the trip once we entered the Chiricahuas. Very common at Cave Creek Ranch.

Coyote *Canis latrans* — We only observed this species once during the trip, a few walking farther out in the grasslands while below the Chiricahuas.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* — We only observed this raccoon relative once, while driving down from Ramsey Canyon.

Harris's Antelope Squirrel *Ammospermophilus harrisi* — We only observed this species once throughout the trip—with great looks at a few while we were at Dave Jaspers Feeders in Portal.

Rock Squirrel *Otospermophilus variegatus* — We observed this species on the first day while at Ash Canyon

Arizona Gray Squirrel *Sciurus arizonensis* — This all-gray squirrel was observed only while in the Huachuca's.

Reptiles: — (1)

Yarrow's Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus jarrovi* — This dark species of lizard was observed a few times, with the first time being while at Ramsey Canyon. It was sunning itself on a nearby rock.

Butterflies— (4)

Arizona Sister *Adelpha eulalia* — This stunning brown butterfly with white and orange spots was observed both at Ramsey Canyon while in the Huachuca's and while on South Fork in the Chiricahuas

Queen *Danaus gilippus* — These orange monarchs look alike butterflies were only seen on the last day of the trip, while in the Desert Meadows Park in Green Valley.

Variegated Fritillary *Euptoieta claudia* — We observed this orange butterfly in the gardens while at the Chiricahua Desert Museum.

Western Pygmy Blue *Brephidium exilis* — This tiny blue butterfly was observed in large numbers on the rosemary plant while at the Chiricahua Desert Museum.

Red-bordered Satyr *Gyrocheilus patrobas* — This high elevation butterfly was only observed while we were birding Pinery Canyon in the Chiricahuas.

Arachnids: (1)

Texas Brown Tarantula *Aphonopelma hentzi* — We only observed this large spider while in the gardens at the Chiricahua Desert Museum.