

Arizona Monsoon Madness: Birding & Nature in a Season of Wonder! | August 10-17, 2026 | Trip Report by Dave Mehlman



With Naturalist Journeys guide Dave Mehlman and participants Cyd, Joan, Maria, Michael, Nancy, Paula, and Ron



Mon., Aug. 10

Arrivals in Tucson | Lake Cochise | Cave Creek Ranch

After a set of pickups at Tucson area hotels and the airport, the entire group met for the first time at the Courtyard by the Tucson airport, introductions were made, and off we went! Our first stop, given the time of day, was at Baggins for an informal sandwich lunch. Appetites temporarily sated, we then headed east, stopping in the town of Willcox for our first birding of the tour at Lake Cochise and the adjacent Twin Lakes Golf Course. This site is generally always rewarding at this time of year and this time was no exception. A large number of American Avocet were present, scattered all over the saline lake. In among them were Baird's and Least Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalarope along with a few Killdeer and Long-billed Dowitcher. Careful scanning turned up a Semipalmated Plover and a Spotted Sandpiper. Finishing our scan of the lake, we moved to the nearby pond by the golf course, which had a bit of shade, and soon admired a Vermilion Flycatcher, a Loggerhead Shrike, and a large flock of Yellow-headed Blackbird. As we watched, a pair of Scaled Quail scampered out onto the greens and we noted an American Coot and a Pied-billed Grebe in the pond itself. Unfortunately, our time was running short, so we headed back into Willcox for some errands, though not before picking up the resident Bendire's Thrasher on a fence bordering the golf course.

After a short stop in Willcox, we continued east, got gas at Road Forks, NM, and then headed south to Portal and the magnificent Chiricahua Mountains. Arriving at our lovely accommodation, Cave Creek Ranch, we settled into our rooms, then convened in the dining room for an introduction to the tour, our first daily checklist, and a wonderful dinner prepared by Jackie. Christina from the Naturalist Journeys staff was also there to help out and join in the lively conversation. After a review of plans for the following day, we headed off for our first night in Cave Creek Canyon.



Tues., Aug. 11

Cave Creek Ranch | South Fork | Southwestern Research Station | Portal

We started the day with a pre-breakfast walk around the grounds of the ranch to see what was out and about. As the Cactus Wren and Inca Dove chorus chimed in to meet the rising sun, we spotted a Cooper's Hawk, a bunch of noisy Mexican Jay, a very scraggly Canyon Towhee, Acorn Woodpecker, Summer Tanager, Turkey Vulture leaving their roost, and a Hooded Oriole. We also began our study of local hummingbirds at the feeders, starting with the numerous Broad-billed Hummingbird. As we watched, we also picked out Black-chinned, Anna's, and Rufous Hummingbirds and a pair of the relatively monstrous Blue-throated Mountain-Gem. After this nice start, we enjoyed one of Ed from Cave Creek Sandwich Company's great breakfasts to fortify ourselves for the morning.

Our appetites sated, we loaded up in the van for a morning of exploring the South Fork of Cave Creek, one of the legendary birding destinations in the United States. We drove up the paved road, turned off onto the gravel road leading into South Fork, and then made a road stop to look for canyon birds. The stop proved to be quite birdy—the group spotted our first Painted Redstart, Bridled Titmice, and Hutton's Vireo for starters. More careful observation yielded two Brown Creeper, a pair of very noisy Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Hepatic Tanager, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's Warbler, and singing Canyon Wren and Plumbeous Vireo. This stop really got us going so we continued to the end of the paved road, parked the van, and then went for a hike further up the canyon on a trail paralleling the mostly dry Cave Creek until we reached a spot known as "The Bathtub." We found several of the species already found (Hutton's and Plumbeous Vireo, Bushtit, Hepatic Tanager) and also added some new ones, such as Yellow-eyed Junco, Western Wood-Pewee, White-throated Swift (gliding high up along the canyon walls), and White-breasted Nuthatch. Reaching the bathtub, we admired the tranquility of the scene and also pondered how the minnows swimming in the water managed to survive, before turning around and heading back to the van.

On the return trip, Dave was in front and spotted a "suspicious" shape perched on a branch. Instantly stopping and asking the group to be quiet, we all looked carefully and, lo and behold, there was a fabulous male Elegant Trogon perched in the trees! As we watched, it slowly moved from perch to perch and periodically called—a classic southeastern Arizona birding moment, a lifer for many, and a major birding target for some in the group. This sighting surely closed out an epic birding morning to start the tour and we

happily walked back to the van, loaded up, and then returned to Cave Creek Ranch for lunch with Ed and a short rest.

After lunch, we first drove up to the Southwestern Research Station to check out their hummingbird feeders. Unexpectedly, the activity there was pretty slow with only a few Broad-billed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds present. This was likely due to the presence of a very aggressive male mountain-gem (Blue-throated Mountain-Jerk?) that was instantly chasing away any other hummingbird that dared to come near the feeders. As it became apparent that the rarities being reported there recently (White-eared, Berylline) would not show, we got back in the van and headed back to town where we visited the Bob Rodrigues feeders. Here, there was much more activity at and around the feeders. Numerous Black-throated Sparrow were present, along with Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Hooded Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Canyon Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Curve-billed Thrasher, and a large bunch of Gambel's Quail, mostly young of the year. As we watched the show from under the spiffy new shade and rain shelter, Bob came by to say hello. He also took the time to show us an amazing video he had taken of Western Diamondbacks mating, which had occurred right at the site we were sitting at!

At this point, the afternoon was waning and the storm clouds and winds rising, so we headed back to the Ranch with a quick stop at Cathedral Rock Road to try for the Thick-billed Kingbird which nest there. Unfortunately, no kingbirds showed, although there were a few noisy Western Wood-Pewee around to provide some bird sightings. We then got back in the van to get ahead of any possible rain, returned to the Ranch, and then met again for another one of Jackie's wonderful dinners. Tonight, we were joined by Peg Abbott, Cathy Sandell, and James Peterson for a night of lively conversation. We all enjoyed Peg's overview of why the Chiricahuas are so important for biodiversity before doing our daily checklist and discussing plans for the following day.

After dinner, the group, still having enormous energy, gathered with James for a short owling trip. It was quiet out, probably due to the windy evening, but we heard a calling Spotted Owl at the head of South Fork. The evening was closed out by a night-time road cruise down to Stateline Road and back. On our way back, we noticed a group of herpers by the road who had found a snake. We parked the van and jumped out and, with their help, enjoyed superb views of a lovely Western Diamondback along with great photo opportunities.





Wed., Aug. 12

**George Walker House | Barfoot Park | Rustler Park |
Pinery Canyon | Casa de San Pedro**

We had to leave Cave Creek today, much to our regret, so after some informal birding around the ranch, Dave came around with the van, picked up everyone's bags, everyone climbed aboard, and off we went. Our first destination: Paradise! Indeed, Paradise awaited us up a gravel road, where we pulled into the George Walker House, where Jackie and her husband Winston lived, operated a birding B&B, and were hosting us for breakfast. Upon arrival, Winston commenced telling us fascinating stories of the history of Paradise (an old mining town) as we found the coffee and drinks on the back patio and settled in to eat and watch the feeders. Perhaps B&B really means Birds and Breakfast? We were accompanied by James today who was going to help us with birding the high Chiricahuas.

We spent a lovely hour and a half here, enjoying the food, birds, and stories. Some of the highlight birds during our visit included a Juniper Titmouse, which occasionally comes to visit the feeders, an Arizona Woodpecker at very close range, great looks at male and female Rivoli's Hummingbird, and several Black-headed Grosbeak. Fortunate observers, looking in the right place at the right time, saw a female/juvenile Lucifer Hummingbird mixed in with the more common Broad-billed, Black-chinned, Anna's, and Rufous. As we were leaving, a few in the group had a Pine Siskin drop in for a farewell sighting. Piling back in the van, we headed slowly up the road into the Chiricahuas, eventually reaching Onion Saddle and then our first birding destination: Barfoot Park. Although it was overcast and very humid that morning (kind of ironic for the desert!), we walked all around the Park and found many of the high elevation specialties we wanted, including great views of a Mexican Chickadee that was at eye level, many Yellow-eyed Junco and Pygmy Nuthatch, Grace's Warbler, Western Bluebird, some flyover Red Crossbill, Northern House Wren, Band-tailed Pigeon, and, thanks to hard work by James, a single Red-faced Warbler.

We finished our walk about mid-day, so we climbed back in the van and headed to nearby Rustler Park for a picnic lunch and more birding. Although the cloudy weather persisted, we did spot a few birds including Spotted Towhee, Steller's Jay, Red-tailed Hawk, Cassin's Kingbird, Northern Flicker, and a seemingly out-of-place Bullock's Oriole. After lunch and a short walk, we began our trip down the mountain with a stop at Pinery Canyon. Perhaps due to the weather, this usually very productive site was pretty slow, with mostly Yellow-eyed Junco, Spotted Towhee, and a Hairy Woodpecker. At this point, we were well into the afternoon and it was time to head to our next destination. We continued down the mountain, passing through the heaviest rains of the tour, making a stop in Elfrida for gas and then in Bisbee for extra supplies. At last, late in the afternoon, we arrived at our marvelous destination: the legendary (among birders, at least!) Casa de San Pedro. Arriving, we were greeted by Karl and Patrick and shown to our rooms. We had a chance to settle in before enjoying a lovely dinner catered in-house by Danl and Colleen, then did our daily checklist and went over plans for the following day.



Thur., Aug. 13

**Casa de San Pedro | Ramsey Canyon | Miller Canyon
| Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary**

We began our first day in Paradise at Casa de San Pedro with a birding walk on the roads near the Casa due to the wet grass. It proved to be a lovely morning to begin our stay here. One real highlight was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo that flew over and landed in the bare branches of a tree to provide excellent views. There also proved to be large numbers of Lazuli Bunting in the grassy fields, along with Gila Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, and both a Cooper's and Swainson's Hawk. After this energizing start to the day, we returned to the Casa for the first of our incredible breakfasts there. After getting our gear ready, we headed out for the morning.

Our first stop was the famed Ramsey Canyon Preserve, owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy in the canyon of the Huachucas with the same name. Parking the van, we got out and immediately commenced birding. A nice find right at the start was a Violet-crowned Hummingbird nest just outside the preserve entrance, which we were clued into by a photographer. Through the scope, the two adorable chicks could easily be seen; an adult periodically came to feed them. As it turned out, we saw two different Violet-crowned nests during our visit here for a minimum of 6 different individual birds (chicks and adults), indicative of a major expansion of this species into the area. We then paid our entrance fee and began slowly hiking up the old canyon road, periodically getting intel on what other birders were finding. The birding was wonderful this morning, and we found many Wilson's Warbler and Painted Restart, along with a single Hermit Warbler, Bridled Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Bushtit, and Hepatic and Western Tanager. Ramsey Canyon certainly delivered for us today! At the end of our walk, we spent a short while watching the feeders at the adjacent Ramsey Canyon Inn. Here, we picked up Anna's, Black-chinned, Rivoli's, and Broad-billed Hummingbirds. Finally, after much waiting, we had an appearance by a Berylline Hummingbird at the side feeder, a much-anticipated species by all in the group. We then closed out the morning with a nice lunch at Urbano Bistro in Sierra Vista before returning to the Casa for a short break.

After our break, we headed out again for more feeder watching in the area. Our first destination was Beatty's Guest Ranch in Miller Canyon. Upon parking the van, we met the property owner (and some of his hounds) and then walked up to the "feeder bleachers" for some comfortable hummingbird viewing. On the way up, we spotted an Olive-sided Flycatcher perched high in a tree to add to our bird list. Beatty's has outstanding hummingbird viewing, both in terms of the number of birds and species diversity. Studying the traffic, we identified Broad-billed, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned, Anna's, Rivoli's, and Rufous Hummingbirds here, all at very close range. To top it off, a young Painted Restart wandered by to add to the fun.

Eventually it began to rain on us, so we decided to return to the van and search for a drier location. We stopped by the Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary for a short sit by the feeders there. Although the famed Lucifer Hummingbirds did not show for us, we were amazed by the number of Anna's Hummingbirds at this site. Also present were Lesser Goldfinch, Canyon Towhee, Curve-billed Thrasher, and a single Bronzed Cowbird. At this point, our afternoon had ended, so we returned to the Casa to freshen up and then enjoyed a dinner out at Pizzeria Mimosa followed by our daily checklist. On the drive back from the Pizzeria, we slowly drove the last bit of paved road to the Casa, looking for wildlife. Indeed, in the headlights appeared a Couch's Spadefoot, so we stopped and got out to photograph and admire this desert frog, which only appears to breed after heavy summer monsoon rains.



Fri., Aug. 14

**Casa de San Pedro | Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary |
Miller Canyon | San Pedro House | Ramsey Canyon**

Today began like yesterday: with a walk toward the San Pedro River from the Casa. Unfortunately, it had rained the evening before so the trail and grass were really wet and muddy and the mosquitoes were out. However, we braved the conditions to check out the flowing San Pedro, before deciding it would be more feasible to stick to the roads and trails. However, on our way back to the road, we spotted a Checkered Gartered Snake in the grass to add to our herp list. We also found an Ornate Box Turtle crossing the road and went over to admire its lovely carapace and made sure it made it across safely.

As usual around the Casa, the birds did not disappoint. Several juvenile Swainson's Hawk were quite amusing, sitting in the trees, looking somewhat wet and bedraggled and disappointed in having to feed themselves. The complement of Lazuli Bunting were still present, as were Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Yellow Warbler, Cactus Wren, Northern Mockingbird, and a small number of Gambel's Quail. We then made up for our wet feet with another one of the Casa's fabulous breakfasts. We then got in the van and headed out for a morning of birding. Our first stop was back to Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary for another try for Lucifer Hummingbird. This time, we had more time and space, so we took seats around the garden and waited. Alas, the Lucifers again never showed for us, though we continued to see a lot of Anna's Hummingbird, plus Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Curve-billed Thrasher, Mexican Jay, and a flyover Red-tailed Hawk. Perhaps

most interesting was an active Fulvous Pocket Gopher grabbing bird seed from its burrow—this species is seldom seen due to its underground habits. We next went back to Beatty's Guest Ranch to hike up Miller Canyon in search of the reported Flame-colored Tanager. Again, we struck out on this quest, but had the unusual experience (in Dave's opinion) of seeing the creek in Miller Canyon flowing after all the rains. During the hike, we mostly had Lesser Goldfinch, along with a Wilson's Warbler, Northern Flicker, and a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. With the morning pretty much done, we returned to the van and went back to the Casa for a restful sandwich lunch buffet.

After a short rest break, we headed back out for more birding, this time to San Pedro House on the San Pedro River, north of the Casa. The House is the visitor center for the San Pedro National Conservation Area and has feeders and an extensive trail system. We walked on the trails to the river and back. Interestingly, the trails were loaded with Sonoran Spotted Whiptail which constantly ran away from us. Bird-wise, we found many Blue Grosbeak, Abert's Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, singing Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and an elusive MacGillivray's Warbler. When we returned to the visitor center from our walk, we had an unusual sighting of a young Cooper's Hawk being harassed by American Kestrel and a group of Common Raven—it just could not get any respect! We also had great photo opportunities of the Clark's Spiny Lizard that were to be found on the building walls and fences. Our day not quite over, we then headed back to Ramsey Canyon to try to see the Berylline Hummingbird again. Arriving at the Inn, we parked the van and watched the feeder traffic. Indeed, the Berylline appeared again for us, allowing for more viewing time, along with Rivoli's, Black-chinned, Anna's, Rufous, and Broad-bills. All the time, a huge herd of Wild Turkey picked at seeds under the feeders, ignoring us completely. We then returned to the Casa for a final catered dinner from Danl and Colleen and our daily checklist.



Sat., Aug. 15

**Casa de San Pedro | Las Cienegas NCA | Paton
Center | Patagonia Lake State Park | Tubac**

Sadly, today was the last morning of our stay at Casa de San Pedro, so we had all our things organized and then enjoyed a final, lovely breakfast from Karl, Patrick, and the Casa crew. We then set off on the last leg of our adventure, heading north, then west, then southwest, then finally back north again. At a stop to buy gas and ice, Dave noticed the tire warning light on and, upon closer inspection, discovered a screw in one of the front tires. Therefore, our plans for the day went right out the window and we promptly spent a bit of time at the Big O Tires in Sierra Vista. Fortunately, the staff there were amazingly friendly and helpful and, in less than an hour, the flat was fixed and we were on our way again!

Winding our way between the Huachuca and Whetstone Mountains, we crossed into the lovely grasslands near the town of Sonoita and stopped at the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Typically, grassland birds come into full breeding season with the summer rains and they were no exception here. Under clear



skies and with beautiful views of the Santa Rita Mountains to the west, the Cassin's Sparrow were singing away in the grasslands, a few actually perching enough to be visible with the scope. Also present here were a few Lark Sparrow and Lark Bunting, Chihuahuan Meadowlark, Scaled Quail, Northern Mockingbird, and Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks. After ticking off these grassland species, onward we went to the Paton Center for Hummingbirds in the town of Patagonia. We found parking outside the Center, which was full of birders and weekend visitors, and headed immediately to the back feeding station. We promptly spotted a Violet-crowned Hummingbird, along with the more numerous Broad-billed.

To get away from the crowds, our group then hiked the short loop trail through the preserve. This trail leads through the woods and has several small blinds along the creek bed, which contains a small amount of water from the Patagonia Sewage Treatment Plant. This walk proved fruitful and we found Song Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Abert's Towhee, a Phainopepla, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeak, and Northern Cardinal. At one of the blinds, we noticed some activity in the water so we sat and watched as numerous birds came to bathe. These included Western and Summer Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, and Lesser Goldfinch coming and going. As we watched, a Gray Hawk called nearby, as did a Black Phoebe. This lovely morning was capped off by a Black Vulture flying overhead as we returned to the van to head to lunch.

On our way to lunch in town, Dave drove through Patagonia and soon spotted a juvenile Mississippi Kite perched high in a tree. Stopping the van, we all got out and took a good look through the scope and many got some great photos. Our next stop was the Gathering Grounds Café where we had delicious sandwiches (and some got ice cream!). Getting back in the van, we continued southwest and stopped at Patagonia Lake State Park. Entering the park, we first stopped at the visitor center by the lake. However, an enormous crowd was here, at the "beach," and generally in and around the water, though we did see an American Coot, Great Blue Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, Pied-billed Grebe, and a Mexican Duck. We then went to the birding trail, which was almost empty, much to our delight. As we walked the trail, we saw or heard another Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell's Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, more coots, Mallard, and a Western Flycatcher. We also found a large Desert Blonde Tarantula hanging out in the grass and many butterflies, including Queen and Marine Blue. Alas, initial iNaturalist identifications of the tarantula as the famed "Johnny Cash Tarantula" were erroneous, as that species is only found in the Central Valley of California.

At this point, we were beginning to run a bit late, so we returned to the van and headed for Tubac. Arriving there, we checked into our rooms at the Tubac Golf Resort and then headed over to the eclectic Elvira's Restaurant nearby for dinner. We did our checklist at the table while waiting for our food and everyone

enjoyed a great meal accompanied by a live guitarist with an incredibly wide repertoire. We then returned to the resort for a nice rest after a long and productive day.



Sun., Aug. 16

**Tubac Golf Resort | Amado | Montosa Canyon |
Madera Canyon | Desert Meadows Park**

Today, we were joined by Vernie from the Naturalist Journeys staff to add an extra pair of expert eyes to our group. We started the day with a short walk around the grounds of the resort. Given the amount of green landscaping around, in addition to the golf greens and ponds themselves, there are quite a few birds around. We had great looks at Tropical Kingbird, along with a Cassin's Kingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, Great-tailed Grackle, Lesser Goldfinch, and many Mourning, White-winged, and Eurasian Collared-Doves. We then returned to the van and headed to Tubac to grab coffee and pastries at the Tubac Deli, before beginning our day in the field. Heading north, we made a quick stop at the Amado Wastewater Treatment Plant to pick up a pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck with a brood of fledglings and some Ruddy Duck before heading up into the Santa Ritas to Montosa Canyon, one of Vernie and Dave's favorite birding sites. Our first stop was productive right at the start, with birding along an old road producing multiple Varied Bunting, Verdin, Bell's Vireo, Cactus, Canyon, and Rock Wren, and the primary target at this spot: a singing Five-striped Sparrow. We also encountered a few entomologists who had dumped some water in a dry creek bed to attract butterflies and began to spot many species, including several Empress Leilia.

We stopped again a bit further up the road for a short hike to a sweat lodge, maintained by the local indigenous community, and had superb views of a Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, along with Western Warbling Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Northern Yellow Warbler, a calling Crissal Thrasher, and another Rock Wren. A final stop at Vernie's secret spot along the road produced a Rufous-crowned Sparrow after a bit of effort. At this point, we had to continue on our day, so we got in the van and headed back down the road. We stopped at the wet area that was made by the butterfly people and enjoyed a veritable butterfly feast, with Vernie and one of the butterflyers calling out around 15 different species. Continuing, we made a quick stop in Sahuarita to pick up sandwiches for a picnic lunch at Jersey Mike's. Loaded up with food, we then headed up to the legendary Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains.

We first drove to the end of the paved road and enjoyed our picnic lunch under the oaks. We then went to the Santa Rita Lodge for some quality time at their excellent feeders. Right when we got out of the van, Vernie noticed a raptor soaring overhead with the Turkey Vulture. Analysis of photos and later consultation



with experts suggest that it was a Gray Hawk, at a bit higher elevation than normal. The combination of hummingbird, seed, and peanut butter really pulled the birds in and our session produced superb views of Arizona Woodpecker, Hooded Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bridled Titmouse, another Berylline Hummingbird, and a brief sighting of the putative Berylline/Broad-billed Hummingbird hybrid which was being reported. All the while, the Mexican Jay came and went, stuffing themselves on the bounty. As mid-afternoon approached, we returned to the van and headed back down the mountain. A few stops in the desert scrub for sparrows did not, unfortunately, produce anything unique.

Therefore, we made our final stop of the day at the Desert Meadows Park in Green Valley. Though pretty hot, this lovely park attracts many birds. The undoubted highlight here was a beautifully seen Rufous-winged Sparrow which perched nicely for the photographers (and viewers!). Also present were Verdin, Gambel's Quail, Abert's Towhee, Ladder-backed and Gila Woodpecker, and Broad-billed Hummingbird. Finishing here, we went back to the resort, bade farewell to Vernie, freshened up, and then walked over to the resort restaurant for happy hour, conversation, and our farewell dinner. The dinner ended on a high note with a special birthday cake for Nancy and Joan, who had birthdays during the tour. We then returned to our rooms to organize and enjoy the final night of the tour.

Mon., Aug. 17 Santa Gertrudis Lane | Tubac | Departures from Tucson

For our final morning of the tour, Dave offered to take anyone interested out for a bit more birding before breakfast along the Santa Cruz River. Only Nancy took him up on this offer, so they headed first to the Santa Gertrudis Lane access point. Parking by the highway, we slowly walked toward the river, only to discover that recent floods and some cars had left the road near the river a mud pit. However, we were able to navigate the mud and get close to the river and also walk a bit of the nearby trail system. It was a lovely morning, but mostly old friends were out and about such as Bell's Vireo, Bewick's Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, Abert's Towhee, and Northern Yellow Warbler. We then went to the bridge over the river in Tubac which provides great viewing of the river from above. Here, we watched Lazuli Bunting, Wilson's Warbler, Abert's Towhee, and Song Sparrow coming and going along the river. Dave also spotted a pair of Cliff Swallow flying in the distance, a new species for the list. Basically, a lovely morning along the river with few new birds.

We then returned to the resort and met the rest of the group for breakfast in the restaurant. After eating, we returned to our rooms to do final organizing and then we packed the van one last time and headed for Tucson. Arriving at the airport, we all got our gear, said our good-byes, and then headed off for our next adventures with great memories of an epic monsoon madness tour.

Photo Credits: Group Photo (Vernie Aikins), Broad-billed Hummingbird (Joan Franklin, JF), Curve-billed Thrasher (JF), Vermilion Flycatcher (JF), Greater Roadrunner (JF), Blue-throated Mountain-gem (JF), Canyon Towhee (JF), Bridled Titmouse (JF), Ladder-backed Woodpecker (JF), Mixed Hummingbirds (JF), Hooded Oriole (JF), Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (JF), Bumblebee (JF), Gambel's Quail (Michael Simon), Arizona Gray Squirrel (JF), Summer Tanager (JF), Trumpet Creeper (JF), Painted Redstart (JF), Acorn Woodpecker (JF), Broad-tailed Hummingbird (JF), Swainson's Hawk (JF), Western Flycatcher (JF), Bullock's Oriole (JF), White-breasted Nuthatch (JF), Gambel's Quail (JF), Western Diamondback (JF), Ornate Box Turtle (JF), Fulvous Pocket Gopher (JF), Barrel Cactus (JF), Berylline Hummingbird (JF), Queen (JF), Northern Cardinal (JF), Black-chinned Hummingbird (JF), Violet-crowned Hummingbird (JF), Blue Grosbeak (JF), San Pedro River (Paula Van Alstine, PA), Steller's Jay (JF), Gila Woodpecker (JF), Western Bluebird (JF), Pipevine Swallowtail (JF), Pyrrhuloxia (JF), Blue-throated Mountain-gem (JF), Arizona Woodpecker (JF), Bronzed Cowbird (JF), Black-throated Sparrow (JF), Mexican Jay (JF), Lucifer (front) and Black-chinned (rear) Hummingbirds (JF)