

Southeast Arizona

The Nature Conservancy Legacy Club

August 11- 18, 2012

SPECIES LIST

(List follows the newest AOU order)

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**—4 in the wetland near Elgin, whistling as they flew
- Mexican Duck (Mallard)**—at the Elgin wetland and Willcox’s “Lake Cochise”
- Northern Shoveler**—a few lounging at the Willcox ponds
- Ruddy Duck**—one male and a female, paddling behind the reeds at Willcox golf pond
- Scaled Quail**—a few glimpsed near Whitewater Draw, seen well as they crossed the road
- Gambel’s Quail**—small groups seen almost daily
- Montezuma Quail**—heard only, whistling in Huachuca Canyon, what a tease!
- Pied-billed Grebe**—1 at the Willcox golf pond
- Great Blue Heron**—at the Elgin wetland and flying behind Casa de San Pedro
- Black-crowned Night-Heron**—1 immature flushed at the Willcox golf pond
- White-faced Ibis**—2 distant birds at Whitewater and others flying over the Willcox ponds
- Black Vulture**—a single perched on the cliff above Patagonia’s roadside rest, great scope views for all.
- Turkey Vulture**—throughout
- White-tailed Kite**—3 in the Elgin grasslands, what a thrill to see them at dusk, after a very full day
- Northern Harrier**—1 in the Elgin grasslands
- Cooper’s Hawk**—1 near Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, one very close by as we passed it on the road leaving Tucson
- Gray Hawk**—heard only in several locations in the lowlands. With ample time in two of its favorite haunts, we were surprised not to get “cracking” views.
- Swainson’s Hawk**—fairly common along the roadsides on most days, particularly noticeable near Portal.
- Zone-tailed Hawk**—great views of a young bird near its nest adjacent to the TNC Patagonia Reserve, then a single bird soaring above our vans as we emerged from Miller Canyon
- Red-tailed Hawk**—several throughout
- American Kestrel**—2 en route to Patagonia
- Peregrine Falcon**—a beautiful sighting, atop a telephone pole near Whitewater Draw
- Sora**—heard only at Whitewater Draw
- American Coot**—singles at the Elgin wetland and Willcox golf pond
- Killdeer**—1 at the Elgin wetland; several at the Willcox lake

Black-necked Stilt—quite numerous at the Willcox lake

American Avocet—losing their bright breeding attire, but present at the Willcox lake

Lesser Yellowlegs—one at the Elgin wetland and another at Willcox lake

Long-billed Curlew—impressive big shorebirds at the Willcox lake

Western Sandpiper—a few at the Willcox lake

Least Sandpiper—several at the Willcox lake

Long-billed Dowitcher—at the Willcox lake, probing in the mud

Wilson’s Phalarope—many foraging at the Willcox lake, though our first views were in the pond near Elgin where we had the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks

Black Tern—two flying along the shore of Willcox lake, a great pickup by Peg

Rock Pigeon—in urban areas

Band-tailed Pigeon—several posing and very photogenic at the entrance to Huachuca Canyon and many in the higher Chiricahuas

Eurasian Collared-Dove—throughout the low country, seen daily

White-winged Dove—abundant every day, vocal

Mourning Dove—seen daily

Inca Dove—heard at Patagonia and one seen en route to Ramsey Canyon

Common Ground-Dove—seen best along the San Pedro River; also at the TNC Sonoita-Patagonia preserve

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—several along the San Pedro River; also at Patagonia preserve

Greater Roadrunner—One seen very well at San Xavier del Bac, another as we drove into the Casa de San Pedro, another by Whitewater Draw

Western Screech-Owl—Matt Killeen, TNC Sonoita-Patagonia Preserve Manager, showed us a charming owlet at a day roost at Patagonia preserve, scope views for all

Great Horned Owl—1 at night near Casa de San Pedro; another at a day roost in Whitewater

Lesser Nighthawk—a few in the evening at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

White-throated Swift—in the Chiricahuas at the Monument and in South Fork, also above the town of Bisbee

Broad-billed Hummingbird—seen daily at low elevations Violet-crowned Hummingbird—good looks at the Paton’s and Matt’s feeders

Blue-throated Hummingbird—seen almost daily, and especially well at Cave Creek Ranch and at the feeders at the Southwestern Research Station

Magnificent Hummingbird—at higher elevations in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Canyon and the Chiricahua Mountains, best looks at Beatty’s feeders

Plain-capped Starthroat—great looks at this rarity at Ash Canyon B&B feeders where it came in several times to feed

Lucifer Hummingbird—several stunning males at Ash Canyon and Bob Behrstock’s feeders

Black-chinned Hummingbird—seen daily throughout the lower elevations

Anna’s Hummingbird—1 at the Paton’s feeders; many more at feeders near Sierra Vista

Costa’s Hummingbird—2 during banding operations at Casa de San Pedro

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—seen most days at feeders and the distinctive wing whistle was heard in Huachuca Canyon and in the Chiricahua Mountains, a few feeding in abundant flowers atop the Chiricahuas

Rufous Hummingbird—common at feeders most days, migrants starting to pour through

Elegant Trogon—5 in Huachuca Canyon, including spectacular interactions among a family of 4; also a fledgling in South Fork. One feeding at our feet was memorable!

Acorn Woodpecker—commonly seen on most days
Gila Woodpecker—common in the lower elevations from the San Pedro River, west
Ladder-backed Woodpecker—1 at Casa de San Pedro
Hairy Woodpecker—near Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas
Arizona Woodpecker—1 seen well in South Fork; others heard in Huachuca & Cave Creek Canyons
Northern Flicker—several in the Chiricahua Mountains
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet—heard only at Patagonia preserve
Western Wood-Pewee—the abundant flycatcher, seen daily away from Tucson
“Western” Flycatcher—1 silent migrant along the San Pedro River, where it could have been either Pacific-slope or Cordilleran flycatcher
Black Phoebe—at Patagonia preserve and along the San Pedro River, and at the first bridge in South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon feeding young
Says Phoebe—Southwestern Research Station, Portal
Vermilion Flycatcher—a striking bird, seen near the San Pedro River and at Patagonia preserve
Dusky-capped Flycatcher—1 heard only in Huachuca Canyon; most have migrated south by now
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher—excellent views in Ramsey and Huachuca Canyon; heard in South Fork
Tropical Kingbird—a very good find at Willcox golf pond, vocalizing and posing in our scopes
Cassin’s Kingbird—seen most days
Thick-billed Kingbird—great looks at this southern Arizona specialty along the road into Patagonia preserve
Western Kingbird—common most days, including about 100 near the Chiricahua Desert Museum, which were likely migrants staging to go south
Loggerhead Shrike—a few along the roadsides en route to Patagonia and the Chiricahuas
Bell’s Vireo—a few still at Patagonia preserve
Plumbeous Vireo—well seen in Huachuca Canyon and in the Chiricahuas
Cassin’s Vireo—1 seen very well from the van as we descended from Rustler Park
Hutton’s Vireo—several in Huachuca Canyon
Warbling Vireo—singles at Ramsey Canyon and Huachuca Canyon
Steller’s Jay—several in the Chiricahuas, including at the Monument and in Rustler Park
Western Scrub Jay—one coming to the feeder at Cave Creek Ranch
Mexican Jay—many in all the canyons
Chihuahuan Raven—common at lower elevations, seen well near Rodeo and Whitewater Draw
Common Raven—a few at higher elevations in the Chiricahuas, seen well from our rock perch at Chiricahua National Monument
Tree Swallow—this migrant was the commonest swallow on our drive through the Sulphur Springs Valley and near the Casa de San Pedro
Violet-green Swallow—a few also near Whitewater
Northern Rough-winged Swallow—a couple approaching Whitewater Draw
Cliff Swallow—a few at the Willcox ponds
Barn Swallow—near Patagonia and at Willcox ponds, seen throughout our journey
Mexican Chickadee—one of the region’s special birds, seen well by both groups in the high Chiricahuas
Bridled Titmouse—fairly common in woodlands most days

Bushtit—a small group in Huachuca Canyon, and in a mixed flock from the Barfoot Lookout trail

White-breasted Nuthatch—seen nearly every day, including at feeders

Pygmy Nuthatch—many in the mixed flock near Rustler Park

Brown Creeper—several in the Chiricahuas

Cactus Wren—1 near Rodeo and the Chiricahua Desert Museum, also calling where we looked for Crissal Thrasher our final evening

Rock Wren—posing well for us at the Patagonia roadside rest

Canyon Wren—glimpsed at the Patagonia roadside rest; heard in other canyons, and great views at the South Fork trailhead for the group that went hiking

Bewick's Wren—rather common in the canyons, seen most days

House Wren—1 fledgling of the brown-throated race seen well near Rustler Park

Marsh Wren—heard only, calling from cattail thickets at Whitewater Draw, another calling at Willcox

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—South Fork trail

Hermit Thrush—calling as we hiked up South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon

American Robin—1 or 2 in Huachuca Canyon; a few in the Chiricahuas

Northern Mockingbird—1 near the Chiricahua Desert Museum; another en route to Tucson, several regular on the road into Casa de San Pedro

Curve-billed Thrasher—the common thrasher seen daily and heard *whit-whit-ing*

Crissal Thrasher—one in mesquite shrubs on the road below Narca's house

European Starling—2 on our drive to Whitewater

Phainopepla—a few around Patagonia preserve, one of the first birds we stopped to scope

Orange-crowned Warbler—a single in the mixed flock in Huachuca Canyon

Lucy's Warbler—one bird coaxed out of the shrubs along the road to Whitewater, another heard on the road leaving TNC's Sonoita-Patagonia Preserve

Nashville Warbler—a wave of this migrant in Huachuca Canyon

MacGillivray's Warbler—one skulker spotted by Peg in Huachuca Canyon

Common Yellowthroat—along the San Pedro River and at Whitewater Draw

Yellow Warbler—along the San Pedro River

Grace's Warbler—several in the high Chiricahuas and in South Fork

Black-throated Gray Warbler—about 5 in Huachuca Canyon, with others in the Chiricahuas

Townsend's Warbler—several in a mixed flock on the Barfoot Lookout trail

Hermit Warbler—one near Rustler Park, one on the Barfoot Lookout trail

Wilson's Warbler—3 in Huachuca Canyon and another in South Fork

Red-faced Warbler—one along the South Fork trail in the Chiricahuas

Painted Redstart—the most commonly seen warbler this trip, in Ramsey and Huachuca Canyons and in the Chiricahuas

Yellow-breasted Chat—several at Patagonia preserve, but only one emerged from hiding; also at the San Pedro River

Spotted Towhee—in Huachuca Canyon, heard on the Trans Mountain road crossing the Chiricahuas

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—1 in Huachuca Canyon; 1 seen beautifully from Narca's van as we descended the Chiricahuas from Rustler Park

Canyon Towhee—a few almost daily, mainly at feeders

Abert's Towhee—3 at Patagonia preserve and others along the San Pedro River

Botteri's Sparrow—heard near Elgin; scoped at the Hereford bridge near Casa de San Pedro, heard often

Cassin's Sparrow—seen best in grasslands near Elgin, also on our stop ahead of Whitewater Draw

Chipping Sparrow—flocks near Rustler Park

Lark Sparrow—near Casa de San Pedro and Portal

Black-throated Sparrow—in the desert near Rodeo; also en route to Whitewater Draw

Lark Bunting—a small flock in Granite Gap north of Rodeo, as we drove back to Tucson, another in our scope approaching Whitewater Draw

Grasshopper Sparrow—seen briefly and heard in the Elgin grasslands

Song Sparrow—along the San Pedro River and at Casa de San Pedro

Yellow-eyed Junco—a southern Arizona specialty, in the high Chiricahua Mountains

Hepatic Tanager—1 female-plumaged bird in Huachuca Canyon

Summer Tanager—a scant handful, along the San Pedro River and at Patagonia preserve

Western Tanager—a beautiful male in Huachuca Canyon; also in the Chiricahuas

Northern Cardinal—at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Patagonia, and Cave Creek Ranch

Pyrrhuloxia—seen best on the drive to Whitewater Draw, let me ask, “how many passed this on the spelling test?”

Black-headed Grosbeak—at Patagonia and in the Chiricahuas

Blue Grosbeak—beautiful looks at Patagonia, Casa de San Pedro, and other low elevation spots

Lazuli Bunting—best seen bathing at the San Pedro River

Indigo Bunting—1 at the TNC Sonoita-Patagonia Preserve

Eastern (Lilian's) Meadowlark—along the road in the Elgin grasslands

Yellow-headed Blackbird—numerous at Whitewater Draw

Great-tailed Grackle—fairly common in towns

Bronzed Cowbird—a single bird as we returned from the San Pedro River walk

Brown-headed Cowbird—a few at the Paton's feeders

Bullock's Oriole—a migrant or two in lowlands, approaching Whitewater Draw

House Finch—fairly common at feeders

Pine Siskin—a few foraging in seeding plants at Rustler Park

Lesser Goldfinch—seen daily at feeders and in the canyons

House Sparrow—in urban areas and at some feeders

MAMMALS

Desert Cottontail—a few at low elevations

Cliff Chipmunk—also in the Chiricahuas and Huachucas

Rock Squirrel—a few in the Chiricahuas and Huachucas

Arizona Gray Squirrel—at Patagonia preserve and Ramsey Canyon

Coyote—singing at Casa de San Pedro, before the storm, another from the desert home we visited our final evening

American Black Bear—one gave us an exciting welcome to Cave Creek Ranch

Striped Skunk—one visiting the feeders at Cave Creek Ranch

Bobcat—one in lower Huachuca Canyon, we saw it due the alert behavior of a deer!

Javelina or Collared Peccary—several in the Portal area and tracks along the San Pedro River

White-tailed Deer (Coue's race)—several, including in the Huachuca and Chiricahua

Mountains

Mule Deer—one near Kartchner Caverns

Pronghorn—a small herd along the road to Fort Huachuca's main gate

REPTILES

Clark's Spiny Lizard—the big tree-loving lizard, first at Ramsey Canyon

Yarrow's Spiny Lizard—in Huachuca Canyon and the Chiricahuas

Striped Plateau Lizard—Herb Martyr Road in the Chiricahuas

Sonoran Spotted Whiptail—in Huachuca Canyon

Desert Grassland Whiptail—several in lowland areas

AMPHIBIANS

Woodhouse's Toad—at Casa de San Pedro

Chiricahua Leopard Frog—a threatened species, seen best at Ramsey Canyon

BUTTERFLIES

Pipevine Swallowtail—common

Two-tailed Swallowtail—mostly in canyons and near the San Pedro River

Checkered White—at Casa de San Pedro

Cloudless Sulphur—large, beautiful sulphur at the Patagonia Butterfly Garden, among other places

Mexican Yellow—a somewhat larger, pale yellow sulphur in Huachuca Canyon

Tailed Orange—summer form of this small, bright orange sulphur, in Huachuca Canyon

Marine Blue—at Casa de San Pedro

Reakirt's Blue—at Casa de San Pedro

Ares Metalmark—1 in the damp-road party in Ramsey Canyon

American Snout—one at Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve

Gulf Fritillary—at Patagonia Butterfly Garden and in Bob Behrstock's yard

Variegated Fritillary—first at Patagonia Butterfly Garden

American Lady—in Huachuca Canyon

Painted Lady—at Casa de San Pedro

Tropical Buckeye—one in South Fork

Red-spotted Purple (Red-spotted Admiral)—a few in riparian areas, including Huachuca Canyon

Viceroy—one at Casa de San Pedro during hummingbird banding

Arizona Sister—among the oaks at Huachuca Canyon and in the Chiricahuas

Nabokov's Satyr—a few in Huachuca Canyon

Monarch—a few, first at Casa de San Pedro

Queen—fairly common relative of the Monarch

Golden Banded Skipper—in Miller Canyon

Orange Skipperling—one at the Patagonia Butterfly Garden

Bronze Roadside Skipper—one in Huachuca Canyon