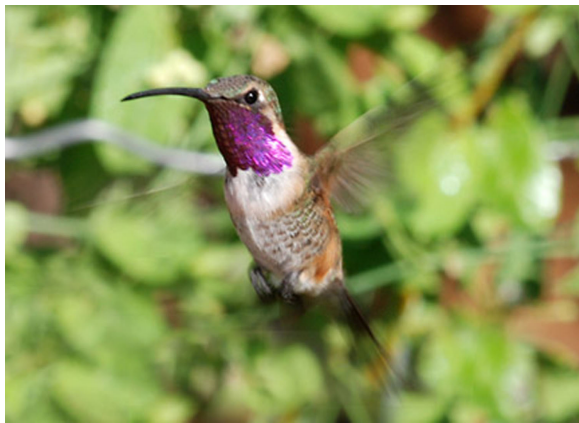




Arizona Monsoon Madness: Species List August 8-14, 2018: Compiled by Bob Behrstock

Guides, Bob Behrstock and Pat Lueders with 12 participants: Sarah, Mark Holly, Tom Betsy, Pat, Susan, Esther, Neil, Bob, Cathy and Mary Jane

Photo: Lucifer Hummingbird, Bob Behrstock



(HO)= Heard Only

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

Note: No "leader only" birds are included

Summary: A great week with some superlative looks at the Mexican specialties that are sought after in Southeast Arizona. Highlights were many. Elegant Trogon families with fledglings were most cooperative, as was the male Rose-throated Becard near Tumacácori. Another highlight was seeing a Gila Monster and a Western

Diamondback Rattlesnake on the first afternoon. Stunning views of male Lucifer and migrant Calliope, added to the excitement of seeing a total of 10 hummingbird species. Fourteen species of flycatchers, including three kingbirds, offered great practice for all to hone their identification skills.

BIRDS (139 Species in 41 families)

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS: Anatidae (5)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* — Four at the Amado water treatment pond; two on a subsequent day

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* — Females and non-breeding males are a tricky separation (at distance) from Cinnamon Teal, but there appeared to be a few Blue-wings at Whitewater Draw

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera* — Several small flocks at Whitewater Draw

Mallard (Mexican Duck) *Anas platyrhynchos* — Flocks at the Amado and Green Valley water treatment plants and Whitewater Draw. Note: The August 2018 updates for the *eBird/Clements Checklist* elevate Mexican Duck to species level.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* — A single bird, two days at the Amado water treatment pond

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (2)

Scaled Quail *Callipepla squamata* — A few ran across the road as we left Montosa Canyon

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambelii* — Seen three days around the Casa de San Pedro

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* — A flock was loafing just outside the TNC Ramsey Canyon Preserve

GREBES: Podicipididae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* — (HO) at Whitewater Draw

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (2)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* — One at the Amado water treatment pond

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — A single bird, two days at the Amado water treatment pond

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* — A flock of 19 at Whitewater Draw

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* — Seen two days, Tumacácori to Rio Rico

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* — Seen throughout the tour

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (7)

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* — One was found at Whitewater Draw

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* — One played hide-and-seek near the feeders at Santa Rita Lodge

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* — One was viewed cross-canyon in Miller Canyon

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* — A single bird was on a power pole at Rio Rico

Gray Hawk *Accipiter plagiatus* — One or two were seen soaring over the Santa Cruz River at Tumacácori and one was on a power pole at Amado

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* — Small numbers noted on four days (soaring or on roadside utility poles) and a roosting flock of about 32 migrants was present at Rio Rico

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* — Small numbers observed daily; common on utility poles

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

Sora *Porzana carolina* — (HO) At least two at Whitewater Draw

American Coot *Fulica americana* — Two seen at the Amado water treatment pond

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* — Small numbers at the Amado and Green Valley Water treatment ponds

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* — Small numbers at the Amado and Green Valley water treatment ponds

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (4)

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* — Perhaps four at the Green Valley water treatment ponds

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* — One or two at the Green Valley water treatment ponds

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* — Approximately 200 at the Green Valley water treatment ponds

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* — Small numbers on four days, including Amado and Green Valley water treatment ponds

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* — One, mostly in breeding plumage, at the Amado water treatment pond

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* — One at the Amado water treatment pond

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (6)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* — (1) Seen four days, mostly around towns

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* — (1) Seen four days, mostly around feeders

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* — About four present at the San Pedro House

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* — Seen on three days; best looks at the San Pedro House

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* — Seen every day; common in most habitats and at feeders

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* — Seen daily; common on fences and at feeders

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (2)

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* — One or two on three days, mostly at Casa de San Pedro

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* — Seen two days and heard on two more. Perched birds at the Kino Springs Golf Course and along the Santa Cruz River

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* — Seen four days at the Casa de San Pedro

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* — A couple sightings at the Casa de San Pedro

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (10)

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens* — Seen four days at feeders or during canyon walks

Lucifer Hummingbird *Calothorax lucifer* — Several two days at feeders at private residences

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri* — Common at all feeding stations; noted on five days

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna* — Common at various feeding stations, seen on five days

Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae* — One at Montosa Canyon; several at Bob and Karen's house

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus* — Heard in Miller Canyon; seen by some at a private residence in Hereford

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* — Seen four days; numerous at feeders

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope* — One female seen at feeders in Miller Canyon

Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cynanthus latirostris* — Numerous at various feeding stations; seen on five days

Violet-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia violiceps* — Seen three days, including Paton Hummingbird Center in Patagonia, Miller Canyon, and Huachuca Canyon, where nesting

TROGONS: Trogonidae (1)

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans* — About 10 including adults and young seen in Huachuca Canyon

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (5)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* — Seen five days; numerous in canyons and at feeding stations

Gila Woodpecker *Melanerpes uropygialis* — Common in lower elevations, especially around feeders; seen five days

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris* — Seen five days; at feeders and lower elevations

Arizona Woodpecker *Picoides arizonae* — One was seen at Santa Rita Lodge, a couple more in canyons in the Huachucas.

Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker *Colaptes auratus* — Heard a couple days and finally seen in Carr Canyon

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* — Seen three days, both singles and pairs. Apparently nesting near the Casa de San Pedro

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (14)

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* — (HO) One in Montosa Canyon

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* — Numerous and noisy in all canyons

Cordilleran Flycatcher *Empidonax occidentalis* — Singles in Miller and Ramsey Canyons

Buff-breasted Flycatcher *Empidonax fulvifrons* — One at the Reef Townsite Campground in Carr Canyon

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* — Seen on three days

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* — A family group at the Kino Springs Golf Course

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* — Observed on four days; common around mesquites and open fields

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* — One was seen along the Santa Cruz River at Tumacácori

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* — Seen along the Santa Cruz River and in Miller Canyon

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris* — Nice looks on three days in Madera Canyon and in the Huachucas

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* — Several with the Swainson's Hawks in Rio Rico, also at Amado

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* — Numerous on fences and utility wires; seen three days

Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris* — One that showed well at the Patagonia roadside rest

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* — Seen most days on fences and utility wires. Best looks outside Whitewater Draw

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (1)

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* — A male of this U.S. rarity was seen in tall trees along the Santa Cruz River at Tumacácori

SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* — Singles on two days. Best looks outside Whitewater Draw, one perched on a center pivot irrigation rig

VIREOS: Vireonidae (4)

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* — Frequently heard; seen three days including a nest at the Paton Hummingbird Center

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni* — Noted on three days in the Huachucas; noisy and rather easily seen

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus* — Seen four days in Madera Canyon and canyons in the Huachucas

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* — Noted on two days in the Santa Ritas and the Huachucas

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (4)

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* — Quick looks for some folks in Miller Canyon

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii* — A couple heard only by folks who ventured up Ramsey Canyon

Mexican Jay *Aphelocoma wollweberi* — Numerous throughout the canyons; encountered five days

Common Raven *Corvus corax* — Found on five days; foothills and upper canyons

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* — A couple hundred migrants over a pool at Whitewater Draw

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* — A few at the Amado water treatment pond

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — Seen daily over ponds and around habitations.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* — Noted on four days; colonies on the Santa Cruz River bridges

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi* — Seen four days; small flocks in the canyons

PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae (1)

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps* — Seen at Patagonia

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* — Seen five days at feeders and in the canyons

CREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* — One or two (here represented by the Mexican race *albescens*) were found in Huachuca Canyon

WRENS: Troglodytidae (4)

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* — Encountered four days (two seen); nice looks at Montosa Canyon

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* — A couple were seen in Miller Canyon

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* — The State Bird; found on two days at Box Canyon and Casa de San Pedro

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* — Seen one day and heard another. Good looks in Patagonia

GNATCATCHER'S: Polioptilidae (1)

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila melanura* — Two were seen at close range on the first afternoon in Montosa Canyon

THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* — Numerous in Carr Canyon

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* — Seen four days; a yard bird at Casa de San Pedro

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* — Small numbers most days; often on utility wires

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptilonotidae (1)

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens* — Seen three days; good looks at the Patagonia roadside rest

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (6)

Lucy's Warbler *Oreothlypis luciae* — One seen well on First Ave. in Patagonia

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* — (HO) on two days

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* — Seen two days at Patagonia and Casa de San Pedro

Grace's Warbler *Setophaga graciae* — Several seen in Carr Canyon

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* — Small numbers in Huachuca Canyon

Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons* — One was observed by part of the group in Miller Canyon

Painted Redstart *Myioborus pictus* — One of everyone's favorites; seen well in the Santa Ritas and the Huachucas

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (15)

Rufous-winged Sparrow *Peucaea carpalis* — Seen well at Proctor Road

Botteri's Sparrow *Peucaea botterii* — Close looks outside Casa de San Pedro

Cassin's Sparrow *Peucaea cassinii* — One seen well near the Casa de San Pedro

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* — One at Bob's friends' house in Hereford

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* — Seen at Madera Canyon

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* — This pretty sparrow was seen well near the Casa de San Pedro

Five-striped Sparrow *Amphispiza quinquestriata* — Excellent views of at least two of these rarities in Box Canyon

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* — Found on three days around the Huachucas; common at Casa de San Pedro on early morning walks.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* — Small flocks near Whitewater Draw and (flying) at Casa de San Pedro

Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotus* — Seen well in Carr Canyon

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* — (HO) two days

Canyon Towhee *Melospiza fusca* — Readily seen on four days; on feeders and open land including rocky slopes

Abert's Towhee *Melospiza aberti* — Seen at the Paton Hummingbird Center around feeders

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps* — Seen well in Miller Canyon

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* — Seen two days in the Huachucas

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* — Seen two days and heard two more. Good looks at Tumacácori

CARDINALS AND GROSBEAKS: Cardinalidae (9)

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* — Seen three days in the Huachucas

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* — Two days; early in the tour in riparian areas

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* — Found four days in canyons and in mesquites where certainly migrants

Northern Cardinal (ssp. *superbus*) *Cardinalis cardinalis* — Seen two days, nice looks in Montosa Canyon

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus* — Nice looks at a male near Casa de San Pedro

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* — Seen several days in canyons--wild and at feeders

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* — Seen daily; noisy and common in open areas

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* — A few along the Santa Cruz River and around Casa de San Pedro; numerous at impoundment edges at Whitewater Draw

Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor* — Seen four days, mainly early in the tour

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES: Icteridae (6)

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* — A few at Whitewater Draw

Eastern (Lilian's) Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* — Seen around Casa de San Pedro

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* — One female at Whitewater Draw

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* — Seen four days, mostly earlier in the tour

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* — Found on two days; one seemed to be following a Bell's Vireo

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* — Males at Montosa Canyon and Proctor Road

FINCHES: Fringillidae (2)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus* — Seen four days on feeders and in the wild

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* — Numerous daily; throughout at all altitudes

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* — (l) Seen daily on feeders and in the wild

MAMMALS (9)

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus v. couesi* — Numerous in the various canyons. These deer represent the smaller Coues sub-species.

Javelina *Pecari tajacu* — Two adults and a youngster crossed the road in front of the lead van at Kino Springs

Coyote *Canis latrans* — One seen at the Swainson's Hawk field in Rio Rico

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii* — A number seen early in the trip, mostly around mesquites

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* — A few seen in the canyons later in the trip

Antelope Jackrabbit *Lepus alleni* — One glimpsed during the drive to Box Canyon

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus* — One seen as it ran across the road during the drive to Box Canyon

Rock Squirrel *Otospermophilus variegatus* — Seen at several sites including Santa Rita Lodge

Arizona Gray Squirrel *Sciurus arizonensis* — Seen in several canyons

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (10)

Bullfrog (1) *Lithobates catesbeianus* — Heard at Casa de San Pedro and Firefly Restaurant

Woodhouse's Toad *Anaxyrus woodhousii* — One at the Casa de San Pedro

Gila Monster *Heloderma suspectum* — A fortuitous sighting along the road as we dropped out of Montosa Canyon the first afternoon

Desert Grassland Whiptail *Aspidoscelis uniparens* — Seen at several locations

Ornate Tree Lizard *Urosaurus ornatus* — Seen near hummingbird feeders in Ramsey Canyon

Clark's Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus clarkii* — Seen on Bob and Karen's porch

Yarrow's Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus jarrovi* — Found in Ramsey and Miller canyons

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake *Crotalus atrox* — One seen just below Montosa canyon

Black-tailed Rattlesnake *Crotalus molossus* — One seen on the road up Carr Canyon

Ornate Box Turtle *Terrapene ornata ornata* — One at roadside just outside Casa de San Pedro

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES (4)

Flame Skimmer — Seen over water at various locations

Mexican Amberwing — One or two of these tiny, orange dragonflies were perched on shrubs at the Amado water treatment pond

Variiegated Meadowhawk — One was 'scoped at Whitewater Draw

American Rubyspot — One was seen on the pond at the Paton Hummingbird Center

BUTTERFLIES (15)

Pipevine Swallowtail — Seen throughout the trip

Two-tailed Swallowtail — The State Butterfly; seen in Huachuca Canyon

Cloudless Sulphur — Numerous throughout the trip

Tailed Orange — Seen at the Paton Hummingbird Center

Southern Dogface — One at the Paton Hummingbird Center

Spring (Echo) Azure — Seen in Huachuca Canyon

Fatal Metalmark — Paton Hummingbird Center garden in Patagonia

American Snout — Seen at several sites

Bordered Patch — Seen in Patagonia

Tiny Checkerspot — A few at the Patagonia roadside rest

Texan Crescent — Seen in Patagonia

Empress Leilia — One seen feeding on sap with wasps at Montosa Canyon

Arizona Sister — Seen in Huachuca Canyon

Monarch — A couple in Bob and Karen's yard

Queen — Several found at the Paton Hummingbird Center

OTHER CRITTERS OF NOTE

Green Fig Beetle — A cluster on a mesquite at the Amado water treatment pond

Tarantula Hawk Wasp (*Pepsis* sp.) — A couple different species seen including several individuals in Montosa Canyon

Ant flight, presumably **Harvester Ants** (*Pogonomyrmex* sp.) — A world class spectacle whose numbers dwarfed any bat cave emergence, shearwater migration, or movement of mammals on the Serengeti; we drove for about five miles through a dense, uninterrupted emergence of winged ants as they left their colony burrows on their nuptial flights.

