

# Southeast Arizona: Sweetheart Birding | Species List February 12 – 16, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guide Bryan Calk and 7 participants: Ann, Gary, Christine, Rich, Israel, Kate, and Miriam

Compiled by: Bryan Calk



(I)=introduced

**Summary:** What better way to spend Valentine's Day weekend than with the beauty and natural bounty of southeast Arizona? During this relaxed-paced tour, we explored Whitewater Draw and the Sulphur Springs Valley, the Huachuca Mountains, the San Pedro River Basin, and more. Highlights included 20,000 Sandhill Cranes, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ferruginous Hawk, Lazuli Bunting, fifteen sparrow species, and much more. The only things that could compete with the birds and scenery were the outstanding meals and accommodations provided by Casa de San Pedro B&B.

Photo: Sandhill Cranes at Whitewater Draw by Bryan Calk

## **BIRDS (88 species recorded):**

### **DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae**

**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*— The flock of about 80 birds grew to around 150 when we returned to Whitewater Draw in the evening

**Ross's Goose** *Anser rossii*— A handful were mixed in with the Snow Geese

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*— Scattered across Whitewater Draw

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*— One small group at Whitewater Draw

**Mexican Duck** *Anas diazi*— Sitting along the San Pedro River behind Casa de San Pedro one morning

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*— Scattered across Whitewater Draw

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*— Mostly hiding near vegetation at Whitewater Draw

### **NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae**

**Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii*— Seen briefly scurrying around the Paton's Center

### **PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae**

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*— Seen when we first arrived at, and while leaving Ramsey Canyon

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (I)— Coming to the feeders at Casa de San Pedro

**Inca Dove** *Columbina inca*— A pair at Ramsey Canyon

**Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina*— Seen on two mornings in the north field of Casa de San Pedro

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*— Many seen throughout the week

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*— Many seen throughout the week

### **CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae**

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus*— Seen on every day of the tour, but most reliably along the entrance road to Casa de San Pedro (affectionately named Rich's Roadrunner)

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae**

**Rivoli's Hummingbird** *Eugenes fulgens*— Coming to a feeder and perched high in an Arizona Sycamore at Ramsey Canyon

**Anna's Hummingbird** *Calypte anna*— A female at Paton's, and a male at Ramsey Canyon

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** *Cyananthus latirostris*— Coming to the feeder by the steps at Paton's

### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*— Milling about at Whitewater Draw

### **CRANES: Gruidae**

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis*— A breathtaking spectacle of roughly 20,000 cranes at Whitewater Draw

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*— One seen moving around Whitewater Draw

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*— Along the waterline at Whitewater Draw

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*— Three together at Whitewater Draw

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*— One glided overhead at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius*— Seen at Whitewater Draw and in the grassland areas around Casa de San Pedro

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*— One buzzed the feeders at Paton's Center

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*— One soaring over the Paton's Center, and one seen while birding the dirt roads in the Sulphur Springs Valley (Elfrida)

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*— Many seen while driving throughout the week, and one stunning dark morph bird at Whitewater Draw

**Ferruginous Hawk** *Buteo regalis*— A beautiful dark morph seen along the dirt roads around Elfrida

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*— Serendipitous encounter as we were leaving Whitewater Draw

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*— First seen at Ramsey Canyon high in the sycamores and sallying for insects, then seen at the feeders of Ash Canyon

**Gila Woodpecker** *Melanerpes uropygialis*— Seen in many places throughout the week

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris*— A pair at Paton's and a male at Ash Canyon

**Arizona Woodpecker** *Dryobates arizonae*— One seen by Rich and Gary at Ramsey Canyon Inn feeders

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*— One at Paton's, and seen a couple times around the Casa

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— A few seen, but notably one seen well at Casa de San Pedro feeding on a freshly caught sparrow

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*— Prairie subspecies seen at Casa de San Pedro

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*— First seen at Whitewater Draw, but also along the San Pedro River at the Hereford Bridge

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*— Seen at Whitewater Draw hanging around the barn

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— Adult male, adult female, and juvenile male all seen at Whitewater Draw

### **VIREOS: Vireonidae**

**Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni*— Singing and giving poor views at Ramsey Canyon

### **SHRIKES: Laniidae**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*— Seen well at Whitewater draw and poorly at Casa de San Pedro

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae**

**Mexican Jay** *Aphelocoma wollweberi*— A flock was working the canyon side at Ramsey Canyon, and several were at the feeders at Ash Canyon

**Chihuahuan Raven** *Corvus cryptoleucus*— A few flew over calling in the Sulphur Springs Valley (Elfrida) and at Casa de San Pedro

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*— Flying over at Paton's Center

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Bridled Titmouse** *Baeolophus wollweberi*— Heard at Paton's, and seen well at Ramsey and Ash Canyons.

### **PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae**

**Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps*— Seen by few at Casa de San Pedro by the back feeders

### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Corthylio calendula*— Flitting about the willows and oaks in Ramsey Canyon and coming to the feeders at Ash Canyon

### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*— First seen at Paton's Center, but also several other places

### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*— Seen in the cattails at Whitewater Draw

**Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii*— First encountered along the San Pedro River at the Hereford Bridge, and then a very accommodating individual was seen at the Ash Canyon feeders

**Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*— Sitting on top of a pole and singing in the Elfrida area, then seen at Ash Canyon

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae**

**Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre*— Seen at many locations during the week

**Bendire's Thrasher** *Toxostoma bendirei*— One bird found while exploring the Elfrida dirt roads

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*— Mostly seen around Casa de San Pedro

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (I)— Coming to the feeders at Casa de San Pedro

### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae**

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*— One was working the water's edge at Whitewater Draw

### **FINCHES: Fringillidae**

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*— Several were seen throughout the week

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*— Coming to the feeders and water at Ash Canyon

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*— Many throughout the week, often in large and noisy groups like at Ash Canyon

**Lawrence's Goldfinch** *Spinus lawrencei*— One flock including male and female birds in the mesquites in front of Casa de San Pedro

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*— Feeding on the ground at Ash Canyon

**Clay-colored Sparrow** *Spizella pallida*— One seen mixed in with Brewer's Sparrows at Casa de San Pedro

**Brewer's Sparrow** *Spizella breweri*— First seen around Whitewater Draw, but gave better looks at Casa de San Pedro

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata*— A couple in the field at Whitewater Draw and one in the brush by the maintenance building at Casa de San Pedro

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus*— One seen briefly at Casa de San Pedro

**Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys*— One seen along the dirt road just outside of Whitewater Draw, and another seen the last morning at Casa de San Pedro

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis*— A pair were coming to the stream at Ramsey Canyon

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Seen in abundance throughout the week

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis*— One seen at Paton's, and another at Casa de San Pedro

**Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus*— A were encountered in the Sulphur Springs Valley area, but seen much better at Casa de San Pedro

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*— in the field on the north side of Casa de San Pedro

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*— Heard singing and seen at most areas with water

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii*— Singles seen at Whitewater Draw, the Hereford Bridge, and Casa de San Pedro

**Canyon Towhee** *Melospiza fusca*— Seen well near the maintenance building at Casa de San Pedro

**Abert's Towhee** *Melospiza aberti*— Eventually gave us good views along the river at the Hereford Bridge

**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus*— One at Casa de San Pedro and one at the Hereford Bridge

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*— A flock of hundreds of females were working the cattails and in murmurations at Whitewater Draw

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*— Singing and seen at Casa de San Pedro

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*— A single male bird at Whitewater Draw

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*— A flock was seen from the van in the agricultural areas of Elfrida

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Leiothlypis celata*— One coming to the feeders at Ash Canyon

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*— Seen foraging out in short grass at Whitewater Draw giving exceptional views

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*— Seen in many locations throughout the week, but notably abundant at the Ash Canyon feeders in all kinds of plumages

**Townsend's Warbler** *Setophaga townsendi*— One seen high in a sycamore at Ramsey Canyon

#### **CARDINAL-GROSBEAKS: Cardinalidae**

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*— Seen at many locations throughout the week

**Pyrrhuloxia** *Cardinalis sinuatus*— After working hard the first couple of days, they eventually were very accommodating at Casa de San Pedro and Ash Canyon

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena*— Seen well at the Paton's Center

#### **Mammals (2 species)**

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*— One in the field at Casa de San Pedro, and several up in Ramsey Canyon

**Arizona Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus arizonensis*— First at Paton's, but also at Ramsey and Ash Canyons