

Southeast Arizona: Spring Sky Island Sampler | Species List

May 1 – 10, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guides Jon Atwood and Bryan Calk and participants Sheila, Lou, Joan, Gus, Cameron, Sharell, Rob, Tina, and Taylor



Painted Redstart by Bryan Calk

Compiled by Bryan Calk

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/66730>

Summary: Nine days of birding southeast Arizona took us to three unique sky islands, starting in the Chiricahuas, then to the Huachucas, and finally the Santa Ritas. Highlights were many, with favorites including Tufted Flycatcher, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Restart, and more. Beyond the always exceptional birding of this area, we also enjoyed the local culture and cuisines, history and art at the Amerind Museum, geology at Chiricahua National Monument, thrills of driving mountain roads, and some pretty pleasant weather.

BIRDS (182 species recorded, of which 6 were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— Seen at the Amado water treatment ponds

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*— A few at Willcox ponds and two at Patagonia Lake

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*— Several at the Willcox ponds

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*— At Willcox ponds

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*— A couple at the Willcox ponds

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*— Several together at the Willcox ponds

Mexican Duck *Anas diazi*— Sitting at the Willcox ponds

Redhead *Aythya americana*— One at Canoa Ranch Conservation Park

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*— One at the Amado water treatment ponds

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*— Several at the Willcox ponds and at the Amado water treatment ponds

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambelii*— Seen in several locations throughout the week, including Portal and Patagonia

Montezuma Quail *Cyrtonyx montezumae* (H) — Heard only from Montosa Canyon

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*— Seen in several locations throughout the week, but most visible at the Santa Rita Lodge feeders

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*— A couple at Patagonia Lake and Pena Blanca Lake

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)—Seen in Bisbee, Tucson, and Sierra Vista

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*— Coming to the feeders at Cave Creek Ranch

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (I)— Seen in many locations, but most easily seen in areas around Portal and at Casa de San Pedro

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—Some around Portal, the feeders at Casa de San Pedro, and heard calling along the De Anza Trail

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*— At the birding trail of Patagonia Lake State Park

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*— One at the front area of the Paton Center for Hummingbirds found by Tucson Audubon volunteer

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*— Abundant throughout the week at many locations

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*— Abundant throughout the week at many locations

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*— At the parking lot of Casa de San Pedro and the street lights in Amado

Common Poorwill *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*—Heard from the road in Montsa Canyon and seen very briefly in the road while we were on foot

Mexican Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus arizonae*—Heard from Barfoot Park

SWIFTS: Apodidae

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis*— Seen high overhead at South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon and zipping through the canyons at Chiricahua National Monument

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*— At several hummingbird feeding stations during the week

Blue-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis clemenciae*— Most easily seen at the Southwest Research Station and Cave Creek Ranch

Lucifer Hummingbird *Calothorax lucifer*— One briefly at the Southwest Research Station and more cooperatively at Ash Canyon – both female

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*— At several hummingbird feeding stations during the week

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*— First at Carr Canyon away from feeders, but then seen at Ash Canyon and Paton Center

Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae*—A territorial male at Montosa Canyon and heard buzzing around Canoa Ranch

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus*— At several hummingbird feeding stations during the week and heard flying through the higher elevations away from feeders

Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cyananthus latirostris*— At several hummingbird feeding stations during the week, and nesting along the De Anza trail in Tubac

Violet-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia violiceps*— Paton Center for Hummingbirds

White-eared Hummingbird *Hylocharis leucotis*—Miller Canyon – Beatty's Guest Ranch feeders

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

American Coot *Fulica americana*—A few at Willcox, Patagonia Lake, and Pena Blanca Lake

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*— Several at the Willcox ponds

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*— Several at the Willcox ponds

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*— A couple at the Willcox ponds and an adult with chick at Canoa Ranch

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* – One that circled overhead at Amado water treatment ponds

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*— Several at Willcox ponds

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* – At the Willcox ponds

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*— Several at Willcox ponds

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*— Several at Willcox ponds

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*— One at Willcox ponds and one at Patagonia Lake

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*— A couple at Willcox ponds

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*— A couple at the Willcox ponds

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*— A few at Patagonia Lake

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*— One at Patagonia Lake

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*— One at Patagonia Lake and several at Pena Blanca Lake

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*— A large group together at Willcox ponds

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*— At Patagonia and in Tubac

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*— Many seen throughout the week

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*— Singles at South Fork, Pinery Canyon, and Barfoot Park

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* – At several locations throughout the week

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*— At the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area, the De Anza Trail, and Pena Blanca Lake

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*— Seen while driving through the grasslands and very well at Casa de San Pedro

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*— Seen in several locations, notably over us at Bisbee and at Pena Blanca Lake

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*— Seen in a few locations, often overhead or on telephone poles.

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (H) — Heard only, hunting the fields at Casa de San Pedro

OWLS: Strigidae

Flammulated Owl *Psilosops flammeolus* (H) — Heard only at Barfoot Park

Whiskered Screech-Owl *Megascops trichopsis*— Seen in Cave Creek Canyon

Western Screech-Owl *Megascops kennicottii*— Seen well in the cottonwood bosque of Casa de San Pedro

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*— A pair hanging out at the Painted Pony

Elf Owl *Micrathene whitneyi* (H) — Heard-only at Montosa Canyon on our last night

Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis*— Nesting at Pinery Canyon

TROGONS: Trogonidae

Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans*— A pair seen separately from each other at Ramsey Canyon with the male upcanyon and the female working a little lower

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*— Abundant throughout the week at mid-upper elevations

Gila Woodpecker *Melanerpes uropygialis*— Common at lower elevations once we made it to Casa de San Pedro

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*— Seen well at the Jasper feeders in Portal, Ash Canyon, and the Paton Center

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*— At Barfoot Park

Arizona Woodpecker *Dryobates arizonae*— Seen well for the first time at the George Walker House, but also encountered in other areas (Carr, Ramsey, Madera, etc)

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*— At Pinery, Carr, and Ramsey Canyons

Gilded Flicker *Colaptes chrysoides* (H) — Heard only from Sentinel Peak trailhead

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*— Seen at the White Rock Campground near Pena Blanca Lake

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* — Seen mostly from the vans while driving through grassland habitats

TITYRAS AND BECARDS: Tityridae

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*— Female tending to nest along De Anza Trail

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*— At Patagonia Lake State Park and Montosa Canyon, and a nesting pair feeding young on the De Anza Trail

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* — One at Rucker Canyon, a continuing rarity

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*— One at the Southwest Research Station

Greater Pewee *Contopus pertinax*— At Barfoot Park and Carr Canyon, including vocalizations and great views

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*— A couple at Barfoot Park and the De Anza Trail among other locations

Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*— Seen very briefly at the Little Bird Trail in Rodeo, NM

Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*— Seen briefly in Portal

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*— Heard and seen briefly along the De Anza Trail in Tubac

Buff-breasted Flycatcher *Empidonax fulvifrons*— One at the Turkey Creek crossing in the Chiricahuas and a couple at Rucker and Carr Canyons

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*— One along the De Anza Trail and a couple at Pena Blanca Lake

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*— One at Pena Blanca Lake

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— Seen in several locations, including Casa de San Pedro, Patagonia, and Pena Blanca Lake

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*— Seen and heard in many locations during the week

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*— One at Canoa Ranch and at Sentinel Peak on our last day

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*— Heard and seen at several locations around Portal and Patagonia mainly

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*— Seen well at the Amerind Museum as well as our lodgings at Painted Pony and Casa de San Pedro among other spots

Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris*— Pair at Cathedral Rock Road in Portal

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*— Seen in several locations including Rodeo, NM and Casa de San Pedro

VIREOS: Vireonidae

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*— Heard more than seen, but good views at Casa de San Pedro and Patagonia Lake State Park (nesting)

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*— Seen at Carr Canyon

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*— Most notably a nesting pair at Ramsey Canyon Preserve

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*— One singing at the De Anza Trail in Tubac

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*— Seen in the grasslands while moving to Casa de San Pedro

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*— Seen in Barfoot Park and Ramsey Canyon Preserve

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*— Seen in Cave Creek Canyon

Mexican Jay *Aphelocoma wollweberi*— Several seen throughout the week at many locations

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus*— Seen from the vans and at Willcox ponds

Common Raven *Corvus corax*— Several seen and heard throughout the week

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Mexican Chickadee *Poecile sclateri*— At Barfoot Park

Bridled Titmouse *Baeolophus wollweberi*— Several seen and heard throughout the week

Juniper Titmouse *Baeolophus ridgwayi*— One coming to the feeders at the George Walker House

PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps*— Seen coming to the feeders in Portal and at Patagonia Lake State Park, as well as nesting at Sentinel Peak

LARKS: Alaudidae

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*— Seen from the van as we entered Rucker Canyon

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— At Willcox ponds and Amado WTP

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*— Coming to drink at Pena Blanca Lake

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*— Amado WTP

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— Many locations, including nesting at the Painted Pony

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*— Amado WTP

BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae

Bushtit *Psaltiriparus minimus*— Several locations, but most easily seen at Carr Canyon and White Rock Picnic Area near Pena Blanca Lake

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*— A couple at Barfoot Park and Carr Canyon

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*— Seen at many locations throughout the week

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*— Barfoot Park in mixed flocks

CREEPERS: Certhiidae

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*—One at Pinery Canyon and a couple at Ramsey Canyon

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*— A couple at Carr Canyon and Ash Canyon

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila melanura* **(H)** — Heard only at Sentinel Peak

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*— One singing at Montosa Canyon

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*— One at Turkey Creek Crossing in the Chiricahuas

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*— At several locations around Portal, Ash Canyon, and Patagonia

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*— Seen well at the Painted Pony as well as a few other places

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* **(I)**— In urban areas of Tucson and Sierra Vista as well as Canoa Ranch

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*— Seen in many locations throughout the week

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*— Seen mostly while driving but also at Willcox ponds, Rodeo, and Casa de San Pedro

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*— One heard and briefly seen at Carr Canyon
American Robin *Turdus migratorius*— At a couple locations around Portal and at Ramsey Canyon

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptilogonatidae

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens*— Common around Patagonia and seen well in Montosa Canyon and the De Anza Trail

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)— Seen daily at various locations

FINCHES: Fringillidae

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*— Seen daily at various locations

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*— At Barfoot Park, the Jasper feeders in Portal, Ash Canyon, and the Santa Rita Lodge feeders

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*— Seen daily at various locations

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae

Botteri's Sparrow *Peucaea botterii*— One cooperative bird in the grasslands below Madera Canyon

Five-striped Sparrow *Amphispizopsis quinquestriata* – Montosa Canyon pair

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*— Seen well in Rodeo at the Little Bird Trail and at the Jasper feeders

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*— One at the Jasper feeders in Portal

Yellow-eyed Junco *Junco phaeonotus*— Seen well at Barfoot/Rustler Parks and at Rucker Canyon

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Coming to the feeders at Ash Canyon and a couple at Canoa Ranch

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* – A couple at the Willcox ponds

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*— Common in the lower elevation riparian areas once we reached Casa de San Pedro

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*— One at the Jasper feeders in Portal

Canyon Towhee *Melospiza fuscata*— Seen well in the Portal area and at Ash Canyon

Abert's Towhee *Melospiza aberti*— Best seen at Casa de San Pedro and at the De Anza Trail

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*— One at the visitor center to Chiricahua National Monument and one in Montosa Canyon

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*— Seen at several mid-high elevation locations throughout the week

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*— Heard and seen along the river at Casa de San Pedro and in Patagonia

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*— Seen well at Painted Pony and the Jasper feeders in Portal

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*— Seen well at various feeding areas around Portal

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum*— Exceptional views at the George Walker House and Ash Canyon as well as a few other locations

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*— A few at Willcox ponds, Ash Canyon, and Patagonia Lake

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*—One at the Jasper feeders in Portal, and a couple at the Santa Rita Lodge Feeders in Madera Canyon
Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*— Several seen at multiple locations
Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*— Seen first at the Willcox ponds, but also at Patagonia Lake State Park and Canoa Ranch

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*— One at South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon
Lucy's Warbler *Leiothlypis luciae*— Seen in several low-elevation locations during the tour
Virginia's Warbler *Leiothlypis virginiae*— One at Carr Canyon
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*— Singing at Patagonia Lake State Park, seen briefly, and the De Anza Trail in Tubac
Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*— Common in the cottonwoods along the river at Casa de San Pedro and along the trail at Patagonia Lake State Park among other locations
Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—A couple at South Fork, Pinery Canyon, and Barfoot Park
Grace's Warbler *Setophaga graciae*—Seen well at Barfoot Park, Rucker Canyon, and especially at Carr Canyon
Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*— Most conspicuous at Chiricahua National Monument near our picnic lunch spot
Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*— Seen at South Fork, Barfoot Park, and Carr Canyon
Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis*—One at Carr Canyon
Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*— One at the Little Bird Trail in Rode and at Cave Creek Ranch
Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons*— One at Pinery Canyon
Painted Redstart *Myioborus pictus*—At South Fork, Carr Canyon, and Ramsey Canyon where they were building a nest

CARDINAL-GROSBEAKS: Cardinalidae

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*— Seen in several locations, but perhaps most easily seen at the Santa Rita Lodge feeders in Madera Canyon
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*— At Casa de San Pedro, Patagonia/Paton's, and at Montosa Canyon
Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*— Abundant in the Portal area but also seen in Ash and Ramsey Canyons among others
Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*— Common throughout the week
Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus*—A couple around the feeders in Portal and at Casa de San Pedro
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*— One adult male at Bud and Deb's feeders in Portal
Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*— Exceptionally abundant this week at all locations
Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* – Visiting the feeders at Casa de San Pedro and at the brush piles of Paton Center for Hummingbirds
Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*— Seen well in Portal at the feeders and at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*— Hanging out near the Lazuli in the brush pile at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds

Mammals (11 species)

Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*— Seen in the grasslands around Sonoita, AZ

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*— Common throughout the week
Coyote *Canis latrans*— Seen by some at Painted Pony
White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*—One seen crossing the road in Patagonia
Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*—Seen commonly throughout the week
Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus*—Seen in several locations, including the Willcox ponds
Harris's Antelope Squirrel *Ammospermophilus harrisi*— Seen coming to the Jasper feeders in Portal
Rock Squirrel *Otospermophilus variegatus*— Common at feeders and in habitat
Arizona Gray Squirrel *Sciurus arizonensis*—Best seen in Patagonia at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds and Ash Canyon
Cliff Chipmunk *Tamias dorsalis* – Around the feeding area of Cave Creek Ranch
Mexican (Apache, Chiricahua) Fox Squirrel *Sciurus nayaritensis* – Seen at Turkey Creek and Barfoot Parks

Reptiles

Clark's Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus jarrovi* — Seen at multiple locations during the week, including one rescued from inside the Amado Territory Inn
Mojave Rattlesnake *Crotalus scutulatus* – Seen crossing the dirt road to Painted Pony