



Field Guides Tour Report

ARIZONA'S SECOND SPRING II 2014

Aug 2, 2014 to Aug 11, 2014
Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson

For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).



The tour van heads toward the source of Arizona's second spring - a towering monsoon thunderstorm.

This tour of one of the most unique areas of the United States is timed to sample the peak diversity of breeding species in the region. Late summer monsoon rains drive this "second spring" that creates such beneficial conditions for hummingbirds, desert dwellers, grassland sparrows, and montane species as well. On our ten-day trip, we sampled all of the area's major habitat types, roving from the lowland Sonoran Desert of Tucson all the way up to high-elevation conifer forests in the Chiricahua Mountains.

We started off with an introduction to desert birding in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains on the west side of Tucson. Gilded Flicker provided a species highlight here, though we stuck around long enough to sample a nice cross-section of desert species. After a nice Mexican dinner, we set up for a dusk watch along the Santa Cruz River in northwest Tucson, and as the rain mostly held off, we were rewarded with a show of a few Lesser Nighthawks and the exodus of tens of thousands of Mexican Free-tailed Bats from under a bridge.

The next day found us sampling the Mexican rarity delights of the Santa Rita Mountains in the form of a Plain-capped Starthroat and a Black-capped Gnatcatcher. After lunch, we stopped to scan for Mississippi Kites in St. David before continuing south to the city of Sierra Vista, spread out beneath the phenomenal Huachuca Mountain skyline. A hike up Miller Canyon led to an adult and two juvenile Mexican Spotted Owls, as well as myriad hummingbirds capped off with a splendid male White-eared Hummingbird at the Beatty's feeders.

After a good night's rest in Sierra Vista, the group drove onto Fort Huachuca and up into Huachuca Canyon. Though access to the canyons is changeable, we had no issues except for a checkpoint staffed by a mother Black Bear and her arboreal cub. After she was satisfied with our documents, mama bear jumped onto a tree trunk and we continued on up-canyon, destined to see striking Sulphur-bellied and Buff-breasted Flycatchers in addition to several Elegant Trogons and a pair of marvelously confiding Montezuma Quail. After an afternoon siesta we checked out a few sites around Sierra Vista including Mary Jo Ballator's feeders at the Ash Canyon B&B, where we saw both a stunning male Lucifer Hummingbird and a bizarre hybrid Lucifer x Costa's (one of Tom's favorites for the trip!). The evening wasn't over, though, and we stuck it out in Miller Canyon for some night birding. In addition to several scorpions and a flyover of the International Space Station, we were able to track down Common Poorwill, Whiskered Screech-Owl, and even Elf Owl for views.

An early start the following day had the group hiking into Hunter Canyon, where we enjoyed a Northern Pygmy-Owl, Virginia's Warbler, and close looks at the star of the day, Rufous-capped Warbler. From there we drove east toward the Chihuahuan Desert, stopping to study shorebirds at Lake Cochise and Willcox on the way. Willcox provided us with great numbers of Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, and Long-billed Curlews in

addition to spinning Wilson's Phalaropes and even a scarce juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper trying to blend in with other peeps. While a welcome boost to the diversity for the trip, Willcox wasn't our day's primary destination, and we continued on into New Mexico before hooking down south around to Portal on the east side of the stunningly beautiful Chiricahua Mountains.

The Southwestern Research Station, up-canyon from Portal in Cave Creek Canyon, was our Chiricahuan home for three nights of the tour. We spent time exploring the high conifer forest for flocks of warblers, nuthatches, and Mexican Chickadees. Afternoons were spent watching hummingbird and seed feeders (and punctuated with welcome siestas in the heat of the day). We headed out into the desert grasslands between Portal and Rodeo, New Mexico to find Bendire's and Crissal Thrashers, Scaled Quail, and a host of grassland sparrows. Night explorations helped us track down several Great Plains Toads, two tiny juvenile Mohave Rattlesnakes, and an incredible little Western Spotted Skunk (a major highlight for Chris).

All too soon it was time to leave the Chiricahuas, but we headed west anyway, stopping in Willcox again to scan the placid waters of Lake Cochise for new migrants (and breeders - this time we found nesting Tropical Kingbirds along the edge of the golf course) before continuing on to the Patagonia area. We arrived in time to see Violet-crowned Hummingbird and Zone-tailed Hawk before retiring to our hotel in Rio Rico for the evening.

The long evening of rest was important, as we had an early morning start to make it out to California Gulch before the heat of the day set in. A picnic breakfast at Pena Blanca Lake helped us greet the day, and then it was a curvy trip on dirt roads until we reached the top of "the Gulch." Five-striped Sparrows and Varied Buntings performed exceedingly well, and we made it back to Rio Rico for lunch. Our afternoon birding was cut short by monsoon thunderstorms, but not before we had close views of a splendid soaring Common Black Hawk at Patagonia Lake State Park, the answer to one of Marion's trip wishes.

Early the next morning, we began in Patagonia again, this time finding Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet at the famed Roadside Rest before venturing to Sonoita for a loop through the grasslands of Las Cienegas. Here we found many sparrows, two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, and a spectacular confrontation between a huge adult Golden Eagle and some very bold Swainson's Hawks. A return trip to Pena Blanca Lake netted us a nice group of migrant songbirds including Gray Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Western Tanager. Our post-siesta sights were set on Madera Canyon, but we weren't able to pull out a Greater Pewee before the light left the mountains behind for the day. We picnicked in the canyon, staying after dark to try for Buff-collared Nightjar and other night birds. While we couldn't nail down a Buff-collared, we did hear Common Poorwill and Mexican Whip-poor-will, and we had awesome looks at a beautiful (and rare) Tiger Rattlesnake and two Western Screech-Owls.

On the last day of the tour, we found a few more waterbird species like Cinnamon Teal and Sora by birding the Amado Pond, Sweetwater Wetlands, and Christopher Columbus Park before ending up back at the Tucson Airport mid-day.

We had an awesome time birding (and herping and mammaling and butterflying...) with everyone. For Chris, this was an excellent opportunity to showcase the extreme diversity of special habitats and birds in his backyard, and for Tom, it was exciting to gain experience guiding with Chris and such a delightful group of people. We're both pleased that the weather, the birds, and the Spotted Skunk all conspired to create such a good trip. Thank you all!

--Chris & Tom

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – Two birds were perched next to a water tank at Las Cienegas.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) – We saw one overwintering bird at Christopher Columbus Park on the last day. This was a small bird with a short bill, and was likely a "Lesser" Canada (*B. c. parvipes*).

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) – A continuing female at Christopher Columbus Park in Tucson was a rare sighting for mid-summer.

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*) – One summering bird continued at Sweetwater Wetlands.

MALLARD (NORTHERN) (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*)

MALLARD (MEXICAN) (*Anas platyrhynchos diazi*) – We had close views of a few "good-looking" birds at the Amado Pond and Sweetwater Wetlands. Others at various locations appeared to be Northern Mallards or intergrades.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*)

RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*) – One summering bird continued at the Amado Pond.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

SCALED QUAIL (*Callipepla squamata*) – We had scope views and heard a few calling ("chu-chunk") along the Portal Rd.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL (*Callipepla gambelii*)

MONTEZUMA QUAIL (*Cyrtonyx montezumae*) – We were thrilled to have extended views of these secretive quail in multiple locations, including Huachuca Canyon, South Fork Cave Creek Canyon, and Pinery Canyon. This certainly made up for fleeting glimpses of flushed birds in Miller Canyon early on in the trip. [N]

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – We saw one in Huachuca Canyon and several up high in the Chiricahuas.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – One was calling at Patagonia Lake [*]

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – One at Patagonia Lake; a few in Tucson. This species has started to spread widely in the southwest, though only recently have they become common in the Tucson area.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*)

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – One at Christopher Columbus Park in Tucson on the last day was the only white egret that we saw.

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*) – We had good luck seeing this species west of Tucson and in the Patagonia-Nogales corridor. They are currently range-restricted in Arizona, but seem to be gradually expanding.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – An adult and a juvenile were at Patagonia Lake - easy to imagine for a bird that requires plenty of water to fish, these are scarce in Southeastern Arizona.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – An adult soaring and being dived by Swainson's Hawks was an exciting event at Las Cienegas. The eagle flipped upside down with its legs and talons out in order to ward off the attacks of the hawks.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) – We saw the nesting birds along the San Pedro River in St. David. The second visit provided especially satisfying views.

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) – One male was coursing over the grasslands at Empire Ranch/ Las Cienegas.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*) – One flew across in front of the van as we drove up the east side of the Chiricahuas. Sharp-shinned Hawks are rare breeders in Southeastern Arizona, so this was certainly noteworthy.

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*)

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*) – We had scope views of a perched tawny juvenile and also saw a flyby adult near a nesting area in the Chiricahuas. [N]

COMMON BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) – This bird was a highlight of the tour - one adult soared low with an Osprey and vultures over the shore of Patagonia Lake as we drove in. A quick jump-out notice from Chris resulted in close, quality views in flight.

HARRIS'S HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – We viewed one at a nesting site in suburban Sierra Vista.

GRAY HAWK (*Buteo plagiatus*) – These were in several different riparian areas during the tour; we often heard their mournful whistles before we saw them.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*)

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*) – One immature was perched and calling along Sonoita Creek in Patagonia; we also saw one very distant bird near Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas and had a few interstate glimpses south of Green Valley.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

SORA (*Porzana carolina*) – One whinnied at the Keyhole Pond at Sweetwater Wetlands. [*]

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*)

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*) [N]

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Willcox

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) – Willcox

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SEMPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – A few were running around the mud at Lake Cochise, Willcox.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) [N]

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*)

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*) – One "Western" Willet was at Willcox during our first stop there on 5 Aug.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) – Willcox

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius americanus*) – 40 were at Willcox on 5 Aug; when we returned on 8 Aug, there were none.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*) – Willcox, including 25 on 5 Aug.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) – Willcox

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*) – We had good studies of a juvenile at Willcox, and were able to compare this bird directly with Western Sandpipers, noting its shorter, stubbier bill and overall duller upperparts plumage.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*) – Willcox

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) – Several adults with bright orange underparts and blackish upperparts were at Willcox.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – Hundreds of these shorebirds were spinning and feeding at Willcox on both of our visits.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*) – One immature was walking around the edge of Lake Cochise in Willcox on both of our visits.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*) [I]

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*)

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*) [N]

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*)

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*) [N]

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*)

GREATER ROADRUNNER (*Geococcyx californianus*)

Strigidae (Owls)

WESTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops kennicottii*) – These dark-billed gray screech-owls tend to prefer lower elevation riparian areas than Whiskered Screech-Owls, though they look quite similar. We found two in Florida Canyon on the last night of the tour.

WHISKERED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops trichopsis*) – We had brilliant views of one of these montane screech-owls in Miller Canyon. Listening to its rapid Morse code-esque calls while the International Space Station streaked overhead was an exciting experience.

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*)

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium gnoma*) – We first saw one of these in Hunter Canyon in the Huachucas. Later, one was being harassed by Pygmy Nuthatches in the Chiricahuas.

ELF OWL (*Micrathene whitneyi*) – We were lucky to hear these in a few spots - one cooperated long enough for us to get a light on it and enjoy its tiny size in Miller Canyon.

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*) – A family group was standing around outside a burrow in urban Tucson, near the airport. [N]

SPOTTED OWL (*Strix occidentalis*) – We hiked up Miller Canyon specifically to search for this bird. We found an adult and two fluffy juveniles perched in creekside trees. These are "Mexican" Spotted Owls, a different subspecies from the birds in coastal California and the Pacific Northwest. [N]

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

LESSER NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)

COMMON POORWILL (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*)

MEXICAN WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Antrostomus arizonae arizonae*) – We heard one of these at Proctor Rd. while listening for Buff-collared Nightjars at the end of the tour. [*]

Apodidae (Swifts)

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (*Eugenes fulgens*)

PLAIN-CAPPED STARTHROAT (*Heliomaster constantii*) – We visited with one of the Starthroats-in-residence at the Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon. Typically the rarest regularly occurring hummingbird in Arizona, Starthroats have staged a bit of an incursion in 2014. It was entertaining to watch a Black-chinned Hummingbird dethrone the much larger Starthroat from a sugar water feeder.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Lampornis clemenciae*) – These very large hummingbirds entertained us in the Chiricahuas, especially at the feeders of the Southwestern Research Station. [N]

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD (*Calothorax lucifer*) – Males dazzled at Ash Canyon B&B and in Portal. Even in fading evening light, we were able to fully appreciate the "light-bearing" implications of the name "Lucifer".

LUCIFER X COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD (HYBRID) (*Calothorax lucifer* x *Calypte costae*) – One male, presumably of this hybrid combination, attended the feeders at Ash Canyon B&B.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus alexandri*) – This was the common hummingbird at most sites during the tour.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte anna*)

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte costae*)

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus platycercus*) – We found these mostly at higher elevations such as above Onion Saddle in the Chiricahuas, where they were often the dominant hummingbird species. The males' wing trill was a near-constant sound in montane conifer forest.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*) – We ran into many female/immature-type Rufous/Allen's-type Hummingbirds, but we also had good numbers of lovely rusty-backed adult male Rufous Hummingbirds, including several at feeders.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus calliope*) – A female attending feeders in Portal put on a real show for us, chipping and showing us her short tail and diagnostic loreal mark.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cynanthus latirostris*)

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia violiceps*) – At least one of these bold hummers fed in Paton's Yard in Patagonia.

WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD (*Hylocharis leucotis*) – We had point-blank views of a gorgeous male at Beatty's feeders in Miller Canyon.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

ELEGANT TROGON (*Trogon elegans*) – After a while of following the yelping sounds of calling birds in Huachuca Canyon, we eventually had good views of a family group and then tracked down a male calling next to a nest cavity in a grand streamside sycamore. [N]

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

ACORN WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) [N]

GILA WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes uropygialis*)

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides scalaris*)

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*) – Easterners astutely noted the dark backs of the western Hairies we saw on the tour.

ARIZONA WOODPECKER (*Picoides arizonae*) – Though we had a few good looks, a calling bird well above Onion Saddle in the Chiricahuas was a bit above its typical elevational zone here. The 2011 Horseshoe 2 fire might have had something to do with this bird's presence so high.

NORTHERN FLICKER (RED-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus cafer*)

GILDED FLICKER (*Colaptes chrysoides*) – This was a highlight of our jaunt out to the west side of the Tucson Mountains on the first evening of the tour.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – One zipped over Lake Cochise in Willcox, creating havoc for the hundreds of shorebirds present.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANULET (*Camptostoma imberbe*) – We had scope views of this small, snub-billed flycatcher at the famous Patagonia Roadside Rest.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*) [N]

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*) – The birds at Pena Blanca Lake could have been either local breeders or migrants.

GRAY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax wrightii*) – One tail-dipped for us near the van at Pena Blanca Lake.

PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax difficilis*) – Though visually this appears inseparable from Cordilleran Flycatcher, we were able to hear and record the slurred position note calls of this western form of "Western" Flycatcher in the mesquite bosque at Patagonia Lake.

CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax occidentalis*) – A few breeders were on territories at East Turkey Creek and Rustler Park in the Chiricahuas.

BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax fulvifrons*) – One gamely offered up scope views in Huachuca Canyon. Hooray - an Empidonax that we can easily identify visually!

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*) [N]

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) – These squeaky toy tropical flycatchers were especially evident in Huachuca, Miller, Madera, and Cave Creek Canyons.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – We had good views of a nesting family (including several food deliveries by the adults) in Willcox. We saw a few others on the last day of the tour at Sweetwater Wetlands and Christopher Columbus Park in Tucson. [N]

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) – These loud, boisterous tyrants had laid claim to a roadside sycamore in Portal and were raising young during our visit. This is a very rare nesting species in the Portal area. [N]

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Vireonidae (Vireos)

BELL'S VIREO (*Vireo bellii*) [N]

PLUMBEOUS VIREO (*Vireo plumbeus*)

HUTTON'S VIREO (*Vireo huttoni*)

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*)

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

STELLER'S JAY (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) – These were the long-crested interior form with white facial markings.

WESTERN SCRUB-JAY (*Aphelocoma californica*)

MEXICAN JAY (*Aphelocoma wollweberi*)

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN (*Corvus cryptoleucus*) – We saw these in lowland desert grassland areas, including around Rodeo, NM and Las Cienegas near Sonoita. The difficulty in separating these from Common Ravens meant that we left a lot of the drive-by ravens unidentified. [N]

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

Alaudidae (Larks)

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*) – We only found these in the grasslands of Las Cienegas near Sonoita.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*) – Martins nest in woodpecker holes in Giant Saguaro cactus in the Sonoran Desert; we were able to see a female visiting a nest during our first evening west of the Tucson Mountains. [N]

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) [N]

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) [N]

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

MEXICAN CHICKADEE (*Poecile sclateri*) – Though high elevation conifer habitat was greatly reduced in the Chiricahuas by the Horseshoe 2 fire in 2011, we were still able to find a good smattering of chickadees from the East Turkey Creek road crossing all the way up to Rustler Park.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus wollweberi*)

JUNIPER TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*) – One of these plain Parids came in for seed at a feeder in Portal.

Remizidae (Penduline-Tits)

VERDIN (*Auriparus flaviceps*)

Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)

BUSHTIT (INTERIOR) (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*)

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*)

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*)

PYGMY NUTHATCH (*Sitta pygmaea*) – A raucous flock of Pygmy Nuthatches helped Chris spot a disgruntled Northern Pygmy-Owl up high in the Chiricahuas. The commotion from the nuthatches also attracted a Red Crossbill that posed for scope views. Thanks, nuthatches!

Certhiidae (Treetreepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*)

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

CANYON WREN (*Catherpes mexicanus*)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

BEWICK'S WREN (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

CACTUS WREN (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) [N]

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila caerulea*)

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila melanura*)

BLACK-CAPPED GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila nigriceps*) – With some excellent fortune, we heard and then saw one of these rare gnatcatchers just above the parking lot in Lower Florida Canyon. The grinding whine calls, long bill, and strongly graduated white undertail pattern helped us to separate this from nearby Black-tailed and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*)

WESTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia mexicana*)

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*)

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*)

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)

BENDIRE'S THRASHER (*Toxostoma bendirei*) – A pair was bringing in food to young in Rodeo, NM; we also saw them in Arizona along Stateline Rd. [N]

CRISSAL THRASHER (*Toxostoma crissale*) – We heard a few of these secretive sickle-billed thrashers, and eventually had scope views of two individuals east of the Chiricahuas.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*)

Sturnidae (Starlings)

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – This species was absent from our checklists until the 7th day of the tour! [I]

Ptilonotidae (Silky-flycatchers)

PHAINOPEPLA (*Phainopepla nitens*)

Peucedramidae (Olive Warbler)

OLIVE WARBLER (*Peucedramus taeniatus*)

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis celata*)

LUCY'S WARBLER (*Oreothlypis luciae*)

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (*Oreothlypis virginiae*)

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) – We found at least two migrants at Pena Blanca Lake; they decided to bounce around high up in some oaks in an uncharacteristic method of skulking.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*)

YELLOW WARBLER (*Setophaga petechia*)

GRACE'S WARBLER (*Setophaga graciae*)

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Setophaga townsendi*)

HERMIT WARBLER (*Setophaga occidentalis*) – These were fairly common as migrants in the higher reaches of the Chiricahuas.

RUFIOUS-CAPPED WARBLER (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) – The group saw two birds in Hunter Canyon in the Huachucas, including one that apparently tried to climb into Chris's pocket, given his photos. This is a very rare bird in the United States and a highlight for most of the group.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*) – Two at Pena Blanca Lake were marginally early.

RED-FACED WARBLER (*Cardellina rubrifrons*)

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*)

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*)

Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)

SPOTTED TOWHEE (*Pipilo maculatus*)

RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (*Aimophila ruficeps*)

CANYON TOWHEE (*Melospiza fusca*) [N]

ABERT'S TOWHEE (*Melospiza aberti*)

RUFIOUS-WINGED SPARROW (*Peucaea carpalis*)

BOTTERI'S SPARROW (*Peucaea botterii*) – These were chipping and singing their electric, bouncing ball songs everywhere in the grasslands.

CASSIN'S SPARROW (*Peucaea cassinii*) – These were less conspicuous than the Botteri's Sparrows, but we still heard and saw several, especially along Stateline Rd. near Rodeo, NM.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*)

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW (*Spizella atrogularis*) – This was a highlight of the hike into Hunter Canyon (in addition to the Rufous-capped Warblers and Northern Pygmy-Owl).

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*)

FIVE-STRIPED SPARROW (*Amphispiza quinquestrata*) – This was the highlight of our hike down into California Gulch. Several birds performed admirably, singing and perching up on ocotillo.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (*Amphispiza bilineata*)

LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) – Arriving migrant flocks at several lowland locations, including the Rodeo, NM area and the Sonoita Grasslands.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*) [N]

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*)

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO (*Junco phaeonotus*)

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (*Piranga flava*)

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*)

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*) – We saw only a few lowland migrants, including a good look at female at Pena Blanca Lake.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) [N]

PYRRHULOXIA (*Cardinalis sinuatus*)

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*) [N]

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*)

VARIED BUNTING (*Passerina versicolor*) – Several of these monsoon breeders showed very well, including stunning males at Kino Springs and California Gulch. [N]

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*) – A female-type bird attended feeders in Portal.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (LILIAN'S) (*Sturnella magna lilianae*) – This is the common breeding meadowlark of lowland grasslands in Southeastern Arizona. [N]

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

BRONZED COWBIRD (*Molothrus aeneus*)

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*)

HOODED ORIOLE (*Icterus cucullatus*) [N]

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*)

SCOTT'S ORIOLE (*Icterus parisorum*)

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

HOUSE FINCH (*Haemorhous mexicanus*)

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*) – At least one bird stopped to investigate a flock of Pygmy Nuthatches that were mobbing a Northern Pygmy-Owl above Onion Saddle in the Chiricahuas. Recordings of flight calls were inconclusive as to the "type" of this crossbill, but it did not appear to be typical of the large-billed Type 6 Sierra Madre form.

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*) – A few of these were scattered up high in the Chiricahuas. We had nice views of one feeding in a roadside thistle above Onion Saddle.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Spinus psaltria*) – This species was easily the most ubiquitous species of the tour, found from low desert all the way up to high mountain peaks.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) [H]

MAMMALS

BRAZILIAN FREE-TAILED BAT (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) – The first evening of the tour allowed us to witness the exodus of these bats from under the Ina Rd. bridge over the Santa Cruz River in Tucson.

EASTERN COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

DESERT COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT (*Lepus californicus*)

ANTELOPE JACKRABBIT (*Lepus alleni*) – One was in the desert lowlands alongside the road in to Madera Canyon.

CLIFF CHIPMUNK (*Tamias dorsalis*)

HARRIS'S ANTELOPE SQUIRREL (*Ammospermophilus harrisi*)

ROCK SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus variegatus*)

ROUND-TAILED GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus tereticaudus*)

MEXICAN FOX SQUIRREL (*Sciurus nayaritensis*)

ARIZONA GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus arizonensis*)

ARIZONA COTTON RAT (*Sigmodon arizonae*)

GRAY FOX (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) – One ran across the road in Portal on two different occasions.

COYOTE (*Canis latrans*)

BLACK BEAR (*Ursus americanus*) – A cinnamon adult with at least one cub stared down the tour van along the road in Huachuca Canyon before jumping into a tree.

WESTERN SPOTTED SKUNK (*Spilogale gracilis*) – One was a source of much joy at the Southwestern Research Station. This small, beautiful skunk was Chris's lifer, and is a species that is generally very tough to see. It wandered around searching for food within feet of us as we looked on giddily.

STRIPED SKUNK (*Mephitis mephitis*)

WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – These were "Coue's" White-tailed Deer, a very small, gray form.

Herps

MOHAVE RATTLESNAKE (*Crotalus scutulatus*) – Two tiny juveniles were on the roads east of Portal during a night drive.

TIGER RATTLESNAKE (*Crotalus tigris*) – A lovely 2.5-3' individual was in the middle of the road near Madera Canyon. This snake might have the most toxic venom of any of the rattlesnakes, but we did not endeavor to confirm this.

RED-SPOTTED TOAD (*Anaxyrus punctatus*)

GREAT PLAINS TOAD (*Anaxyrus cognatus*)

SONORAN DESERT TOAD (*Incilius alvarius*)

CHIRICAHUA LEOPARD FROG (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*) – "Ramsay Canyon Leopard Frog" - in the pond at Beatty's Guest Ranch in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts.

STRIPED PLATEAU LIZARD (*Sceloporus virgatus*)

CLARK'S SPINY LIZARD (*Sceloporus clarkii*)

SONORAN SPOTTED WHIPTAIL (*Aspidoscelis sonora*)

DESERT GRASSLAND WHIPTAIL (*Aspidoscelis uniparens*)

MADREAN ALLIGATOR LIZARD (*Elgaria kingii*) – On a rock wall at the Southwestern Research Station

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 214 bird taxa and 18 mammal taxa