SPRING GRAND ARIZONA MAY 12–22, 2018



Five-striped Sparrow, singing in California Gulch. Bird of the trip! © Jacob Drucker

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SPRING GRAND ARIZONA MAY 12–22, 2018 By Jacob Drucker

Nowhere else in the United States is a better lesson in biogeography than southeast Arizona. Whether appreciating how rainfall and elevation affect the habitat gradients within the "Sky Island" matrix of mountain ranges, the plethora of adaptations that the flora and fauna have evolved to cope with life in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, or the dramatic influence of the Madrean line on species distributions, it is impossible to avoid thinking about the forces that make this region so unique. As all VENT participants know, birds make an excellent avenue for enjoying the beauty and wonder of natural history, and on our Spring Grand Arizona tour, we were remarkably successful at capitalizing on the teachings of the avian world.



Vermilion Flycatchers are a stunning bird, readily encountered in the lowlands around Tucson. This one flew over us at Aravaipa Canyon. © Jacob Drucker

Our journey began on a hot afternoon, as we wandered through the open-air exhibits at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. This was not only a great way to get great looks at rare and elusive creatures in captivity, like Mountain Lion, Ocelot, and Thick-billed Parrot, but also a lovely introduction to the more common Sonoran birds, such as Cactus Wren, Verdin, Pyrrhuloxia, Curve-billed Thrasher, Abert's Towhee, Gambel's Quail, and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. The green space provided by the museum also held a few surprises in the form of a late migrant Cassin's Finch and a Green-tailed Towhee. After visiting the museum, we made a short detour through the parking lot of a Chase Bank in downtown Tucson, where a very urbanized Burrowing Owl amazed us all as it sat perched on a post between the parking lot and a major city road.

The following morning we set off north towards Aravaipa Canyon—a riparian corridor set between rugged, Saguaro-laden hillsides and cliffs. Year-round water here meant a very birdy visit for us, with great looks at Gilded Flicker; Vermilion, Brown-crested, and Ash-throated flycatchers; Inca Dove; Phainopepla; Hooded Oriole; Bronzed Cowbird; and more. The real highlights in the Aravaipa area were raptors. We stumbled on a few Zone-tailed Hawks, including a pair on a nest; Harris's Hawks surveying the landscape from the top of Saguaros; some distant Gray Hawks; a few Red-tailed Hawks of both *calurus* and *fuertesi* subspecies; and the real highlight—fantastic looks at a vocalizing Common Black Hawk guarding a nest in a large cottonwood in the heart of the canyon. We also got more distant looks at this rare and local specialty soaring high above the adjacent mountains.

On our return from Aravaipa we stopped at the Mammoth sewage ponds, where we added Peregrine Falcon, Cinnamon Teal, Western Meadowlark, and Say's Phoebe to our trip list. We also gazed in awe as we watched a fire burn rapidly up the walls of a distant hillside. The afternoon also provided us with time to bird the Sweetwater Wetlands of downtown Tucson, where we padded our waterbird list with Neotropic Cormorant, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, and Common Gallinule, as well as passerines like Tropical Kingbird, Common Yellowthroat, and a migrant Townsend's Warbler. The group got its first looks at Greater Roadrunner nearby. After a siesta break we set off south for our first evening of owling in Madera Canyon, pausing along the way to admire the dramatic desert sunset and some Lesser Nighthawks. As soon as darkness settled in Madera Canyon we began hearing owls, and Barry quickly called in an Elf Owl-the smallest owl in the world and endemic to the deserts of North America (including Mexico)which sat nicely for a minute in the spotlight before departing. We were then able to pull in a very cooperative Whiskered Screech-Owl, which posed extremely well for several minutes, allowing excellent scope views for all. Satisfied with our luck in the oak zone, we descended to the mesquite scrub of Proctor Road, where we heard some Common Poorwills and a Great Horned Owl. One last stop en route back to Tucson netted us our first Collared Peccary.

We wasted no time returning to the same area the next day, as we spent the early morning searching for two special sparrow species with tiny ranges in the U.S: Rufous-winged and Botteri's sparrows. We found several Botteri's in the grasslands below Madera Canyon, and Rufous-winged in a residential neighborhood of Green Valley—not necessarily where one would expect to find one of the most globally range-restricted species on the trip! Making the most of the morning hours, we headed to back to Proctor Road, where we were immediately surprised by a Northern Goshawk quickly flying north into the mountains. Other good birds entertained us here, such as Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, a stunning Ladder-backed Woodpecker teed up on an ocotillo stalk, and Summer Tanager.

Continuing into the Santa Rita's, we set up shop at the famous Santa Rita lodge feeders where we connected with widespread specialists of the Sky Island oak zone like Mexican Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bridled Titmouse. We also got our first taste of hummingbird feeder action, with Broad-billed, Black-chinned, and Rivoli's hummingbirds all showing well. Our feeder-watching efforts were thwarted, however, by an Elegant Trogon calling from the stream below the lodge! We raced down and quickly located the bird, which posed well in the scope for all. It was only the second full day and we had already seen a trogon! We left Madera Canyon on that high note, heading to nearby Florida Canyon where we were treated to phenomenal looks at a pair of Gray Hawks, a pair of Golden Eagles circled the canyon-head, and we caught up with the rare and local Black-capped Gnatcatcher attending a likely nest-site.

After lunch at the Cow Palace restaurant, we headed to the massive cottonwood corridors, or the De Anza Trail in Tubac, where an afternoon walk targeted one of the only known pairs of Rose-throated Becards nesting in the United States. After bypassing some of their decoy nests, we located the pair building their current nest, with the male bringing longer stalks of grass to finish the entrance, and the female bringing softer substrate to line the interior. We got our first looks at Dusky-capped Flycatcher here as well. Swainson's, Zone-tailed, and Gray hawks were all present in the area. We continued to Santa Gertudis Lane, getting great looks at a salmon-pink Coachwhip along



Five-striped Sparrow, singing in California Gulch. Bird of the trip! © Jacob Drucker

the way. Though we were unable to locate the lingering Rufous-backed Robin or Sinaloa Wren here, we were able to enjoy in more detail many birds we had seen previously, and

we found our only Cedar Waxwings of the trip. We ended the day at our hotel in Nogales, the southern flank of which was home to a colony of Cliff Swallows.

Our earliest start of the trip came the next morning, as we departed early for the long, bumpy drive down Ruby Road to California Gulch. The early start was worth it, as we stumbled on Scott's Oriole, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, the Mexican subspecies of Eastern Bluebird, and some nesting Arizona Woodpeckers. After nearly two hours of roadbirding and dodging border patrol trucks, we finally arrived at the top of California Gulch. After a steep descent into the gulch itself, fortune had us quickly connect with a few territorial Five-striped Sparrows—a beautiful and very range-restricted sparrow that is more easily found in California Gulch than anywhere else in the U.S. One pair of sparrows responded particularly well, puffing up his feathers and singing just meters in front of us! Canyon Wren, Bushtit, Costa's Hummingbird, and Coyote were some other highlights within the gulch. Very happy with our looks at what would consequently be voted 'bird of the trip,' we worked our way back to the van and headed back towards civilization. A fantastic steal on our way back was a male Montezuma Quail posing



Montezuma Quail frequently demonstrated their ability to disappear in the leaf litter, in spite of their striking face and breast patterns. This one posed just meters away from the van in Huachuca Canyon. © Jacob Drucker

elegantly on a rock just off the roadside, allowing us to admire his stunning plumage. Our destination for the afternoon was the small town of Patagonia. After lunch we said our goodbyes and thank yous to Barry Zimmer, who left us at the doorstep of the Paton Hummingbird Center. At these productive feeders we found our only Violet-crowned Hummingbird of the trip, as well as our first Anna's Hummingbird. Continuing down

nearby Blue Heaven Lane, we connected with another rare and local species in the U.S., Thick-billed Kingbird.

The following morning, we headed back up to Santa Gertudis Lane in search of the Rufous-backed Robins and Sinaloa Wren. We could not find them, but we did stumble upon another pair of Thick-billed Kingbirds. We continued to find Tropical, Cassin's, and Western kingbirds on the trail, giving us a four-kingbird day! We then made the drive to Patagonia Lake State Park, where we padded our list with wetland species like Piedbilled Grebe and Forster's Tern. After lunch at the Velvet Elvis pizzeria, we made the drive over to Sierra Vista. After a quick siesta we saddled up for our adventure up Miller Canyon, a dramatic drainage on the east flank of the Huachucas. Our first stop in the canyon was at the feeders that Tom Beatty has set up in the back of his property. There we enjoyed more studies of common hummingbird species, and the first Painted Redstart of the trip showed briefly. After enjoying the feeders, we continued to a remarkable treat: a Northern Goshawk nest! From a vantage on a steep hillside, we took turns admiring the adults in incubation from eye level, and we were even lucky enough to watch them switch incubation shifts. This high gave us the necessary impetus to start our evening hike up the Miller Canyon trail en route to the Split Rock, where we hoped to find



Whiskered Screech-Owl, showing just how magical owling can be. © Jacob Drucker

Mexican Spotted Owl. We took our time on the ascent, pausing for specialties like Blackthroated Gray Warbler. After over an hour of hiking, we split up to search for the owl, and in the dim light of the shaded canyon, finally found it perched low in a Douglas fir right off the trail! After helping each other up the steep, rocky slopes, all were treated to amazing looks at this secretive forest denizen. We made it back to the van as it was getting dark, just in time for a chorus of Mexican Whip-poor-wills and Whiskered Screech-Owls, the former of which were seen sitting in the road. Dinner was at Pizzeria Mimosa, one of the best meals of the trip!

The next morning we drove up the steep, scenic switchbacks of Carr Canyon and explored the areas around the Reef Townsite and Ramsey Vista Campgrounds. This was our first taste of the avifauna of higher elevations in pine forest, thus we enjoyed many great birds like Grace's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Greater Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Plumbeous and Hutton's vireos, Yellow-eyed Junco, Band-tailed Pigeon, and the localized Buff-breasted Flycatcher. Scope looks at 'Mountain' Pygmy-Owl were certainly a highlight of the morning. After a Papa's 50's Diner lunch and a visit to Fort Huachuca's Van Demen gate to gain access to the post the following morning, we made a brief visit to the San Pedro House feeders, where we scored excellent looks at Blue Grosbeak and Scaled Quail, and a roosting Western Screech-Owl. After an early dinner at Pizzeria Mimosa, we spent the evening feeder-watching at Ash Canyon B&B, where we were almost immediately greeted by a pair of Montezuma Quail. Though shy, we were able to watch their massive feet kick aside the leaf litter to dig up food. Further patience here produced both male and female Lucifer Hummingbirds, and we were treated to dazzling looks at the male's purple, pink, and blue gorget as he topped off on sugar-water for the evening. Once the sun had set, we went back to Miller Canyon for better looks at Mexican Whip-poor-will, where several responsive birds made passes through the spotlight. We lucked into a Gray Fox here as well.

The next morning we were joined by two guests who guided us for our visit to Fort Huachuca and Huachuca Canyon: Brian Gibbons, who spearheaded our birding efforts, and post aficionado John Wettack. A spectacular morning of birding landed several specialties, both new and old. Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers were our primary target in the canyon, and we found them easily by following their squeaky calls. Recently back on territories from wintering grounds in Central America, they were wasting no time setting up territories and building nests. We also found nesting Bridled Titmouse, Plumbeous Vireo, and Western Wood-Pewee further up the canyon. The running water in the canyon gave us looks at bathing Hepatic Tanager and Broad-tailed Hummingbird, as well as our only Lincoln's Sparrow of the trip. Excitement also came in the form of two separate Montezuma Quail sightings: a male sitting perfectly camouflaged just a few feet off the road, and excellent, prolonged scope looks at a male countercalling with his mate! The fun didn't stop, as on our way out of the canyon we stopped to scope an Elegant Trogon and roosting Whiskered Screech-Owl within several meters of each other! Leaving the post, John Wettack enlightened us with a tour of the old parade grounds and a bit of the post's history. We left Fort Huachuca satisfied, feeling it was well worth the effort to obtain access passes. The afternoon entailed the long drive to the Chiricahuas, stopping along the way for lunch at the Bisbee Breakfast Club and to study a few ravens en route that turned out to be Chihuahan Ravens. We settled in at the Portal Lodge and spent the evening feeder-watching at Cave Creek Ranch, where we were entertained by oodles of Pine Siskins, some late Cassin's Finches, and our first Blue-throated Hummingbirds. Our first post-dinner owling expedition in the Chiricahuas was ultimately a success, after an



Blue-throated Hummingbird, glistening near the Southwestern Research Station feeders. © Jacob Drucker

hour of scanning the same few pines above the John Hand's campground for a vocalizing Flammulated Owl paid off with scope looks for those who came along.

A crisp early morning outing the next day to the Chihuahan Desert-flavored flats on Stateline Road produced Loggerhead Shrike, 'Lillian's' Meadowlark, Chihuahuan Raven, Northern Mockingbird, and a family group of the range-restricted and local Bendire's Thrasher. We enjoyed prolonged looks at the thrashers running around like miniature roadrunners in an old tractor lot in search of invertebrates under debris. After breakfast we wasted no time in ascending the Chiricahuas to the mixed conifer zone. After topping the Onion Saddle, our first stop was the Pinery Campground. Here we found our first Cordilleran Flycatchers and Pygmy Nuthatches, and we heard another Greater Pewee, but the real highlight was getting spectacular looks at a foraging and singing Red-faced Warbler. We continued downslope to a side-drainage of Pinery Canyon that has been known as a home-range of a single Slate-throated Redstart—a very rare bird in the U.S. We hiked up the side-canyon to a small waterfall, where we set up shop for the redstart. While we waited, we were treated to a pair of nest-building Red-faced Warblers and inyour-face looks at Painted Restart, Yellow-eyed Junco, 'Mexican' Creeper, Hermit Thrush, and Cordilleran Flycatcher. A couple of Mexican Chickadees also put in an appearance, granting us a species accessible only in the U.S. in the Chiricahuas. Finally, after an hour, the Slate-throated Redstart came in, giving prolonged looks bathing, drinking, and sallying for insects around the waterfall-instilling much happiness in the group! We had a picnic lunch at Barfoot Park, situated at about 8,000 feet asl. Here we

found more Mexican Chickadees, a startling Wild Turkey, and had poor looks at Olive Warbler (Masked Pinerunner) for some. We descended back towards Portal for a siesta, encountering Red Crossbill (Type 2) at the lodge feeders. Our evening feeder-watch took place in Dave Jasper's yard this evening, but it was the lizards that stole the show. As we were walking across Dave's driveway, a young Gila Monster crossed in front of us, allowing all an up close and personal experience with this rare, beautiful, and unique reptile. A Clark's Spiny-Lizard then displayed its gorgeous green and blue hews closer to the feeders. The birds in Dave's yard weren't too shabby either, with more Red Crossbills around, Scott's Oriole, Green-tailed Towhee, and Bronzed Cowbird on top of standard-fare Pyrrhuloxia, *superbus* Northern Cardinal, and Pine Siskins. Our evening excursion took us up Paradise Road, where we encountered a group of Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays at dusk and calling Common Poorwills after dark. From here we went back to the John Hand's campground, where those who had not seen the previous night's Flammulated Owl were subjected to its awesomeness.



This Gila Monster in Dave Jasper's driveway in Portal was the biggest surprise of the trip! © Jacob Drucker

Our last full day around Portal and the Chiricahuas started off searching for the uncommon and bizarre Crissal Thrasher around Foothill's Road, which we connected with before too long. We then returned to 'downtown' Portal, strolling the road past the library to Bud and Debb's feeders, which were delightfully birdy. A song suspiciously like a Northern Parula captivated our attention here, but we were never able to get eyes on the songster. After another great Portal Lodge breakfast, we climbed the mountains via Paradise Road and East Turkey Creek Road, allowing us to appreciate the full

gradient from dry Chiricahuan grasslands and scrub around Portal to thorny chaparral above Portal, to pinyon-juniper forest below Paradise, to the pine-oak forest around Paradise, and to mixed conifer forest in Barfoot Park. We found several great birds along the way, such as the uncommon and declining Black-chinned Sparrow, our only Chipping Sparrow of the trip, and more Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays.

Arriving at Barfoot Park a few hours earlier than the previous day, we were greeted by a massive mixed-species flock at the top of the park containing Red-breasted, Whitebreasted, and Pygmy nuthatches; Hairy Woodpecker; Audubon's (Yellow-rumped), Townsend's, and Wilson's warblers; Western Tanagers; Black-headed Grosbeaks; Pine Siskins; Plumbeous and Hutton's vireos; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; American Robin; Hermit Thrush; more Mexican Chickadees; and finally, great looks for all at Masked Pinerunner (Olive Warbler). A tough act to follow, we enjoyed a stroll through Barfoot, appreciating the fairly large, intact chunk of mixed conifer forest that had been spared by the devastating Horseshoe 2 Fire of 2011. The fire did leave a few successional areas below Barfoot, enabling us to find Dusky Flycatcher and Virginia's Warbler in the Gambel Oak thickets there, and providing perches for Olive-sided Flycatchers on their migration stopovers. The open skies provided stunning views to the northeast of the desert flats and other smaller Sky Islands, and also provided opportunities for studying White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows.

We picnic-lunched at the Southwestern Research Station, where we enjoyed prolonged looks at Blue-throated Hummingbirds attending a feeding station. An afternoon journey to Animas for gas also netted Chihuahuan Raven and nesting Swainson's Hawk. Happyhour feeder-watching occurred in Bob Rodrigues's yard, where we cleaned up Lazuli Bunting and enjoyed more Blue Grosbeaks; Bullock's, Scott's, and Hooded orioles; and more lingering Cassin's Finches. For our final evening owling we left the Portal Lodge on foot, easily finding Western Screech and Elf Owls beyond the library.

Having cleaned up virtually all of our targets, we spent our last morning in the Chiricahuas enjoying the incredible scenery of the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon. Here we soaked up last looks at specialties like Painted Redstart, Bridled Titmouse, and Rivoli's Hummingbird, surrounded by gargantuan lichen-covered spires and impressive caves. Our final hurrah, however, was seeing two male Elegant Trogons perched on a low snag above the creek, allowing prolonged looks for all in the group. There's no better way to end a trip to the Chiricahuas! We departed the largest Sky Island for Tucson, stopping en route at Cochise Lake and Twin Lakes Golf Course in Wilcox, where we added a number of wetland gems, such as Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Horned Lark, and Yellow-headed Blackbird, in addition to more great looks at Scaled Quail. This concluded the birding on our Spring Grand Arizona tour!

We were extremely lucky with regards to just about everything on this trip. The birds cooperated phenomenally, weather was never an issue, and the people were fabulous. I couldn't think of better circumstances to lead my first tour with VENT. Thanks for

choosing VENT and coming birding with me. I hope to see you all soon, in Arizona, elsewhere in the U.S., or beyond.

Photos can be seen at:

https://ebird.org/media/catalog?region=Arizona,%20United%20States%20(US)&searchF ield=user®ionCode=US-AZ&userId=USER108577&q=Jacob%20Drucker

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12 May: Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Chase Bank Parking-lot

13 May: North-Tucson neighborhood, Aravaipa Canyon, Mammoth wastewater treatment ponds, Sweetwater Wetlands, Madera Canyon, Proctor Rd.

14 May: Residential Green Valley (Quail Dr.), Proctor Rd., Santa Rita Lodge, Florida Canyon, De Anza Trail, Santa Gertudis Ln.

15 May: Ruby Rd, California Gulch, Paton Hummingbird Center, Blue Heaven Ln.

16 May: Santa Gertudis Ln., Patagonia Lake State Park, Miller Canyon

17 May: Carr Canyon, San Pedro House, Ash Canyon B&B, Miller Canyon

18 May: Huachuca Canyon, San Pedro House, Portal, John Hand's Campground

19 May: Portal Lodge, Stateline Rd., Piery Canyon, Barfoot Park, Dave Jasper's yard, Paradise Rd., John Hand's Campground.

20 May: Foothills Rd., Portal, Paradise Rd., Barfoot Park, Southwest Research Station, Animas, NM, Bob Rodrigues's yard.

21 May: South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon, Cochise Lake and Twin Lakes Golfcourse

COMMON NAME Waterfowl	SCIENTIFIC NAME Anatidae	NOTES
Cinnamon Teal	Spatula cyanoptera	Mammoth WWTP on first day, Wilcox Lake on last day
Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	Individual at Sweetwater wetlands on first day.
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	A few on Wilcox Lake our final afternoon
American Wigeon	Mareca americana	Plenty on Wilcox Lake, final afternoon.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Sweetwater wetlands, Wilcox Lake. Darker birds likely Mexican
Green-winged Teal	Anas crecca	ssp. Single male in breeding plumage with other docks on Wilcox Lake
Redhead	Aythya americana	1 male and a female on Wilcox Lake
Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis	A few groups on Wilcox Lake

New World Quail Odontophoridae Scaled Quail Callipepla squamata First seen at San Pedro house feeders, also east of Chiricahuas and Wilcox golf course Gambel's Quail Callipepla gambelii Plentiful in desert lowlands and foothills. First an individual male spotted on Ruby Rd., also Ash Canyon Montezuma Quail Cyrtonyx montezumae B&B, and Huachuca Canyon Phasianidae Pheasants, Grouse and Allies Wild Turkey Meleagris gallopavo Various feeders, also Chiricahuas Grebes Podicipedidae A couple on Patagonia Lake Pied-billed Grebe Podilymbus podiceps Eared Grebe Podiceps nigricollis Individual on Wilcox Lake Columbidae **Pigeons and Doves** Columba livia Urban areas Rock Pigeon (I) Brief looks first in Carr Canyon, also in lower Chiricahuas Band-tailed Pigeon Patagioenas fasciata Eurasian Collared-Dove Streptopelia decaocto Suburban areas (I)Inca Dove Columbina inca Aravaipa, Patagonia and Portal areas Common Ground-Dove Columbina passerina De Anza trail and Santa Gertudis Lanes, San Pedro House Zenaida asiatica Abundant White-winged Dove Zenaida macroura Abundant Mourning Dove Cuculidae Cuckoos Greater Roadrunner Geococcyx californianus Frequently encountered in lowland areas. Nightjars Caprimulgidae Santa Rita foothills, Paradise Rd. Lesser Nighthawk Chordeiles acutipennis Phalaenoptilus nuttallii Proctor Rd., Paradise Rd. Common Poorwill Mexican Whip-poor-will Antrostomus arizonae Miller Canyon, Chiricahuas Apodidae Swifts Seen almost daily, best looks above Carr Canyon Aeronautes saxatalis White-throated Swift Trochilidae Hummingbirds Rivoli's Hummingbird Eugenes fulgens Feeders and Forests in Santa Ritas, Patagonia, Huachucas, and Chiricahuas Feeders and forests around Portal and Chiricahuas Blue-throated Lampornis clemenciae Hummingbird Stunning looks at male and female at Ash Canyon B&B Calothorax lucifer Lucifer Hummingbird Archilochus alexandri Seen most days Black-chinned Hummingbird Anna's Hummingbird Calypte anna Paton feeders and Ash Canyon B&B Araviapa canyon, Green Valley, California Gulch Costa's Hummingbird Calypte costae Higher elevations in Huachucas and Chiricahuas, great looks at Broad-tailed Selasphorus platycercus one bathing male in Huachuca Canyon Hummingbird Delightfully common, seen at most locations. Broad-billed Cynanthus latirostris Hummingbird Violet-crowned Amazilia violiceps One lethargic individual at Paton Center Hummingbird Rails, Gallinules and Rallidae Coots Common Gallinule Gallinula galeata Sweetwater wetlands Sweetwater wetlands, Patgagonia Lake, Wilcox lake Fulica americana American Coot Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae Wilcox lake Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus Recurvirostra americana Wilcox lake American Avocet **Plovers and Lapwings** Charadriidae Killdeer Charadrius vociferus California Gulch, Wilcox Lake, incl big baby! Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae Actitis macularius Patagonia Lake, Wilcox Lake Spotted Sandpiper

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers	Laridae	
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri	One sitting on partially submerged logs on Patagonia Lake
Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae	
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	Sweetwater wetlands, Patagonia lake
Herons, Egrets and Bitterns	Ardeidae	
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	Patagonia
Green Heron	Butorides virescens	Sweetwater wetlands
Black-crowned Night- Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	Wilcox golf course
Ibises and Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae	
White-faced Ibis	Plegadis chihi	Sweetwater wetlands, Wilcox Lake
New World Vultures	Cathartidae	
Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	Tubac and Nogales areas
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	Common daily
Hawks, Eagles and Kites	Accipitridae	
Cooper's Hawk	Accipiter cooperii	A few brief looks at flybies
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	Surprise flyover on Proctor rd seen by some, incredible looks at birds on nest for all in Miller Canyon.
Common Black Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus	Close and distant looks of soaring and nesting birds in Aravaipa Canyon
Harris's Hawk	Parabuteo unicinctus	Regularly spotted in deserts around Tucson, Green Valley, and Aravaipa Canyon
Gray Hawk	Buteo plagiatus	Pleasantly common in riparian areas and washes around Santa Ritas, Santa Cruz River, and Huachuas
Swainson's Hawk	Buteo swainsoni	Grasslands around Patagonia and east of Chiricahuas
Zone-tailed Hawk	Buteo albonotatus	Great first looks in and around Aravaipa canyon, several other flyovers throught trip
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	Nearly daily looks at Calurus and Fuertesi ssp.
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Surprise pair circling over ert head of Florida canyon.
Owls	Strigidae	
Flammulated Owl	Psiloscops flammeolus	Great scope views of a cooperative and vocal individual at the John Hands campground, Chiricahuas.
Western Screech-Owl Whiskered Screech-Owl	Megascops kennicottii Megascops trichopsis	Excellent looks at a bird in day roost at San Pedro House, and several calling around Portal Library. Santa Rita Lodge, Miller Canyon, day roost in Huachuca
Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus	Canyon, Chiricahuas. Heard distantly while owling on Proctor Rd.
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Glaucidium gnoma	Very vocal individual eventually scoped above switchbacks in
(Mountain Pygmy-Owl)	(Glaucidium gnoma gnoma)	Carr Canyon.
Elf Owl	Micrathene whitneyi	Superb looks near Santa Rita Lodge and behind the Portal
		Library
Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia	Chase parking lot in downtown Tucson?!?!
Spotted Owl	Strix occidentalis	Roosting 1.5 miles up Miller canyon. Well worth the hike!
Trogons	Trogonidae	
Elegant Trogon	Trogon elegans	Santa Rita Lodge, Huachuca Canyon, South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon
Woodpeckers	Picidae	
Acorn Woodpecker	Melanerpes formicivorus	Al areas with oak/pine
Gila Woodpecker	Melanerpes uropygialis	Common in lowland areas and feeders.
Ladder-backed	Picoides scalaris	First seen on Proctor rd., readily found in other lowland areas
Woodpecker	Dissidar .: 11	Carr Capyon Chinicabuca
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus Biacidas arizonas	Carr Canyon, Chicicahuas
Arizona Woodpecker Northern Flicker	Picoides arizonae Colaptes auratus	First found around nest on Ruby Rd., others seen/heard in Huachucas and Chiricauas Huachucas and Chiricahuas
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Gilded Flicker	Colaptes chrysoides	Scope looks and flyovers in Aravaipa canyon, also flyovers in Green Valley
Falcons and Caracaras	Falconidae	
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	A few roadside individuals
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Hunting over Mammoth WWTP
Tyrant Flycatchers	Tyrannidae	
Northern Beardless- Tyrannulet	Camptostoma imberbe	Proctor Rd., Florida Canyon, Patagonia, Portal
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	Sitting on snags in burned area near barfoot park
Greater Pewee	Contopus pertinax	Good looks in Carr Canyon, heard well in Pinery Canyon
Western Wood-Pewee	Contopus sordidulus	Abundant in montane woodland
Hammond's Flycatcher	Empidonax hammondii	Single bird observed in Reef Townsite Campground, Carr Canyon
Dusky Flycatcher	Empidonax oberholseri	A brief looks at birds in thickets surrounding burn sites near Barfoot Park.
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Empidonax difficilis	Migrants in lowland woodlands
Cordilleran Flycatcher	Empidonax occidentalis	Common in montane woodland
Buff-breasted Flycatcher	Empidonax fulvifrons	Delightfully common in Carr Canyon, especially Reef Townsite Campground
Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	Several around houses in foothill areas of Huachas and Chiricahuas
Say's Phoebe	Sayornis saya	Hotel in Nogales, George Walker House, Portal, various fenceposts
Vermilion Flycatcher	Pyrocephalus rubinus	Readily encountered in lowland areas
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Myiarchus tuberculifer	Easily heard, often seen in shaded woodlands of highlands and lowlands
Ash-throated Flycatcher Brown-crested	Myiarchus cinerascens Myiarchus tyrannulus	Several seen and heard, most often in low, dry, open forests of Paradise Rd., Aravaipa canyon, and edges fo canyons Most common Myiarchus flycatcher in lowland thickets and forest
Flycatcher		
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Myiodynastes luteiventris	Stellar views in Huachuca Canyon
Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	Sweetwater wetlands, Santa Gertudis Lane
Cassin's Kingbird	Tyrannus vociferans	Encountered almost daily
Thick-billed Kingbird	Tyrannus crassirostris	Cooperative birds on Blue Heaven Rd., Patagonia, and Santa Gertudis Lane, Tubac
Western Kingbird	Tyrannus verticalis	Encountered almost daily
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus	Santa Rita Foothills, Chihuahuan desert grasslands east of Portal, Wilcox area
Vireos	Vireonidae	B
Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii	Pervasively heard throughout lowland thickets.
Hutton's Vireo Plumbeous Vireo	Vireo huttoni Vireo plumbeus	Regularly encountered in oak/pine woodlands of Santa Ritas, Huachucas, and Chiricahuas Regularly encountered in oak/pine woodlands of Santa Ritas,
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus	Huachucas, and Chiricahuas Several individuals seen, Huachuca Canvon and Portal
Crows, Jays and	Corvidae	
Magpies	Convinue	
Steller's Jay	Cyanocitta stelleri	Higher elevations in Huachucas and Chiricahuas
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	Aphelocoma woodhouseii	Paradise Rd.
Mexican Jay	Aphelocoma wollweberi	Common around mountains
Chihuahuan Raven	Corvus cryptoleucus	Grasslands east of Portal
Common Raven	Corvus corax	Seen daily
Larks	Alaudidae	
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris	A few around Wilcox lake
Swallows	Hirundinidae	
Purple Martin	Progne subis	Desert museum, sweetwater
Violet-green Swallow	Tachycineta thalassina	Montane areas of Huachucas and Chiricahuas
v totet-green Swallow	zaenyemena manassina	montane areas of reachables and orinioaridas

Northern Rough-winged Swallow Bank Swallow Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow **Chickadees and Tits** Mexican Chickadee Bridled Titmouse **Penduline-Tits** Verdin **Long-tailed Tits** Bushtit

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch White-breasted Nuthatch Pygmy Nuthatch **Creepers** Brown Creeper **Wrens** Rock Wren Canyon Wren House Wren

Bewick's Wren Cactus Wren

Gnatcatchers Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Black-tailed Gnatcatcher Black-capped Gnatcatcher Kinglets Ruby-crowned Kinglet Thrushes and Allies Eastern Bluebird Swainson's Thrush Hermit Thrush American Robin Mockingbirds and Thrashers Curve-billed Thrasher Bendire's Thrasher Crissal Thrasher Northern Mockingbird Starlings European Starling (I) Waxwings Cedar Waxwing Silky-flycatchers Phainopepla **Olive Warbler** Olive Warbler

Stelgidopteryx serripennis Riparia riparia Petrochelidon pyrrhonota Hirundo rustica **Paridae** Poecile sclateri Baeolophus wollweberi **Remizidae** Auriparus flaviceps **Aegithalidae** Psaltriparus minimus

Sittidae

Sitta canadensis Sitta carolinensis Sitta pygmaea Certhiidae Certhia americana Troglodytidae Salpinctes obsoletus Catherpes mexicanus Troglodytes aedon Thryomanes bewickii

Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus **Polioptilidae** Polioptila caerulea Polioptila melanura Polioptila nigriceps

Regulidae Regulus calendula Turdidae Sialia sialis

Catharus ustulatus Catharus guttatus Turdus migratorius Mimidae

Toxostoma curvirostre Toxostoma bendirei Toxostoma crissale Mimus polyglottos Sturnidae Sturnus vulgaris Bombycillaced Bombycilla cedrorum Ptiliogonatidae Phainopepla nitens Peucedramus taeniatus Sweetwater, Patagonia Lake, Wilcox Lake

Wilcox Lake Mostly around Nogales, where nesting on side of hotel! Widespread

Mixed conifer forest in Chiricahuas, i.e. Barfoot Park Widespread in oak forests of Sky Islands

Common in mesquite thickets of lowlands

Fairly common in arid thickets of California Gulch and various canyons

Barfoot Park Widespread Mixed conifer forest in Chiricahuas

Carr Canyon, upper Chiricahuas

Ruby Rd.

California Gulch, Carr Canyon, Cave Creek Canyon Brown-throated ssp widespread in highlands. A few typical forms found in lowland thickets Widespread First seen at desert museum, widespread in desert lowlands

Paradise Rd. Desert Museum, Green Valley Florida Canyon

Barfoot Park

Ruby Rd. Santa Gertudis lane, Huachuca Canyon Widespread Fairly common in highlands

Common in lowlands, even in neighborhoods. Feederbird. Cooperative family group on Stateline Rd. Seen in AZ and NM! A few responsive birds around Foothills Rd. E of Portal Widespread around urban/suburban lowlands

Common in urban areas

Low flyover at Santa Gertudis Ln

Delightfully common

Brief looks at Carr Canyon, finally seen by all at Barfoot Park

Old World Sparrows	Passeridae	
House Sparrow (I)	Passer domesticus	Urban areas
Siskins, Crossbills and	Fringillidae	
Allies		
House Finch	Haemorhous mexicanus	Widespread
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	Great looks for some at Portal lodge feeders. Also heard at Dave Jasper's feeders in Portal. Likely Type 2, based on recordings
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus	Common, portal feeders. Heard in Carr Canyon
Lesser Goldfinch	Spinus psaltria	Widespread, mostly eastern ssp, though lots of integrades.

New World Sparrows

New World Sparrows	Passerellidae	
Green-tailed Towhee	Pipilo chlorurus	Desert Museum, various Portal feeders
Spotted Towhee	Pipilo maculatus	Widespread in Oak zone and above
Rufous-crowned	Aimophila ruficeps	Ruby Rd., Huachuca canyon, Paradise Rd.
Sparrow		
Canyon Towhee	Melozone fusca	Widespread in lowland-foothill scrub, particularly around Portal
Abert's Towhee	Melozone aberti	Desert lowland thickets, incl Desert Museum, De Anza Trail, Green Valley
Rufous-winged Sparrow	Peucaea carpalis	Suburban Green Valley
Botteri's Sparrow	Peucaea botterii	Grasslands below Madera Canyon
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	E Turkey Creek Rd., Chiricahuas
Black-chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis	Paradise Rd
Lark Sparrow	Chondestes grammacus	Fairly common, incl at feeders
Five-striped Sparrow	Amphispiza quinquestriata	Several in California Gulch. Voted bird of the trip!
Black-throated Sparrow	Amphispiza bilineata	Common in desert lowlands
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Readily encountered in wetter lowlands, i.e. Sweetwater wetlands, De Anza trail, Sta Gertudis In, Patagonia.
Lincoln's Sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	Single bird seen foraging along muddy track in Huachuca Canyon
White-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys	Several at various feeders. All dark-lored birds from the Rocky mtn population
Yellow-eyed Junco	Junco phaeonotus	First seen in Carr Canyon, common in Chiricahua highlands
Yellow-breasted Chat	Icteriidae	
Yellow-breasted Chat	Icteria virens	Best views at Santa Gertudis lane
Troupials and Allies	Icteridae	
Yellow-headed	Xanthocephalus	Female at Wilcox lake
Blackbird	xanthocephalus	
Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnella magna	Pale "Lillian's" race of southwest encountered in grasslands east of Patagonia, and east of Portal
Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	Pair on soccer field adjacent to Mammoth WWTP
Hooded Oriole	Icterus cucullatus	Common around vegetated foothills/lowlands, feederbird
Bullock's Oriole	Icterus bullockii	Feeders around Portal
Scott's Oriole	Icterus parisorum	Ruby Rd., Ash Canyon B&B, Portal feeders, Chiricahuas
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	Sweetwater wetlands, Mammoth WWTP, San Pedro House
Bronzed Cowbird	Molothrus aeneus	Suburban Tucson, Aravaipa Canyon, Dave Jasper's feeders in Portal
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	Widespread
Great-tailed Grackle	Quiscalus mexicanus	King of urbanity!
New World Warblers	Parulidae	
Lucy's Warbler	Oreothlypis luciae	Delightfully common in lowland thickets
Virginia's Warbler	Oreothlypis virginiae	Single individual seen singing at distance below Barfoot Park
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	Sweetwater wetlands, Patagonia Lake
Yellow Warbler	Setophaga petechia	Widespread in areas with cottonwoods

Setophaga coronata	Audubon's warbler readily encountered in higher elevations
Setophaga graciae	Great looks at Reef Campground in Carr Canyon, heard throughout upper Chiricahuas
Setophaga nigrescens	First looks in Miller Canyon, frequently heard and occasionally seen throughout trip
Setophaga townsendi	Affiliating with mixed flocks in Carr Canyon and the upper Chiricahuas
Cardellina pusilla	Several throughout trip
Cardellina rubrifrons	Stunning looks at Pinery campground and in "waterfall" side canyon in Chiricahuas
Myioborus pictus	First scared away at Miller Canyon feeders, then fairly common in canyons and upper elevation habitats
	Setophaga graciae Setophaga nigrescens Setophaga townsendi Cardellina pusilla Cardellina rubrifrons

Cardinalidae

Hepatic Tanager
Summer Tanager
Western Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Pyrrhuloxia
Black-headed Grosbeak

Cardinals and Allies

Blue Grosbeak Lazuli Bunting Piranga flava Piranga rubra Piranga ludoviciana Cardinalis cardinalis Cardinalis sinuatus Pheucticus melanocephalus Passerina caerulea Passerina amoena Seen in all pine-oak habitat in higher De Anza Trail, Santa Gertudis, Miller Canyon Delightfully common Common feederbird. Local subspecies "superbus" Common around lowland mesquite thickets Quite common San Pedro House, Portal, Wilcox golf course

Aravaipa Canyon, Dave Jasper's feeders, Portal feeders

MAMMALS

Opossums Virginia Opossum Squirrels, Prairie Dogs & Marmots Harris's Antelope-Squirrel Arizona Gray Squirrel Mexican Fox Squirrel Cliff Chipmunk Spotted Ground-Squirrel Round-tailed Ground-Squirrel Rock Squirrel

Kangaroo Rat Merriam's Kangaroo Rat Ord's Kangaroo Rat Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat

Pocket Gophers Botta's Pocket Gopher

Didelphidae

Didelphus virginiana Sciuridae

Ammospermophilus harrisii

Sciurus arizonensis Sciurus nayaritensis Tamias dorsalis Spermophilus spilosoma Spermophilus tereticaudus

Spermophilus variegatus

Heteromyidae Dipodomys merriami

Dipodomys ordii Dipodomys spectabilis

Geomyidae Thomomys bottae

Rats & Mice

North American Deermouse Arizona Cotton Rat Hispid Cotton Rat Yellow-nosed Cotton Rat White-throated Woodrat Common Muskrat

Rabbits & Hares

Eastern Cottontail Desert Cottontail Antelope Jackrabbit Black-tailed Jackrabbit **Plain-nosed Bats** Bat spp. Cats Mountain Lion (Puma) Bobcat Dogs Coyote Gray Fox Bears American Black Bear Weasels American Badger Skunks Common Hog-nosed Skunk Western Spotted Skunk Hooded Skunk Striped Skunk Raccoons Ringtail White-nosed Coati Northern Raccoon Peccaries Collared Peccary Deer White-tailed Deer Mule Deer Pronghorn Pronghorn

Muridae

Peromyscus maniculatus

Sigmodon arizonae Sigmodon hispidus Sigmodon ochrognathus Neotoma albigula Ondatra zibethicus

Leporidae

Sylvilagus floridanus Sylvilagus audubonii Lepus alleni Lepus californicus Vespertilionidae

Felidae Puma concolor Lynx rufus Canidae Canis latrans Urocyon cinereoargenteus Ursidae Ursus americanus Mustelidae Taxidea taxus Mephitidae Conepatus leuconotus Spilogale gracilis Mephitis marcroura Mephitis mephitis Procyonidae Bassariscus astutus Nasua narica

Procyon lotor Tayassuidae Pecari tajacu Cervidae Odocoileus virginianus Odocoileus hemionus Antilocapridae

Antilocapra americana

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES Toads & Frogs

Anurans

Couch's Spadefoot Mexican Spadefoot Plains Spadefoot Green Toad Sonoran Green Toad Woodhouse's Toad Great Plains Toad Sonoran Desert Toad Red-spotted Toad Canyon Treefrog Arizona Treefrog Bullfrog (I) Chiricahua Leopard Frog Turtles Red-eared Slider Sonora Mud Turtle Spiny Softshell Lizards Sonoran Spiny-tailed Iguana (I) Lesser Earless Lizard Elegant Earless Lizard Greater Earless Lizard Zebra-tailed Lizard Long-nosed Leopard Lizard Desert Spiny Lizard Clark's Spiny Lizard Yarrow's Spiny Lizard Southwestern Fence Lizard Plateau Lizard Striped Plateau Lizard Slevin's Bunchgrass Lizard Ornate Tree Lizard Common Side-blotched Lizard Greater Short-horned Lizard Round-tailed Horned Lizard Regal Horned Llizard Texas Horned Lizard

Scaphiopus couchii Spea multiplicata Spea bombifrons Bufo debilis Bufo retiformis Bufo woodhousei Bufo cognatus Bufo alvarius Bufo punctatus Hyla arenicolor Hyla wrightorum Rana catesbeiana Rana chiricahuensis Testudines Trachemys scripta Kinosternon sonoriense Apalone spinifera Lacertilia Ctenosaura macrolopha Holbrookia maculata Holbrookia elegans Cophosaurus texanus Callisaurus draconoides Gambelia wislizenii wislizenii Sceloporus magister Sceloporus clarkii Sceloporus yarrovii Sceloporus cowlesi Sceloporus tristichus Sceloporus virgatus Sceloporus slevini Urosaurus ornatus Uta stansburiana Phrynosoma hernandesi Phrynosoma modestum Phrynosoma solare Phrynosoma cornutum

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

Great Plains Skink Desert Grassland Whiptail Sonoran Spotted Whiptail Canyon Spotted Whiptail Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail Tiger Whiptail Arizona Striped Whiptail Gila Spotted Whiptail Madrean Alligator Lizard Gila Monster

Snakes

Ringneck Snake Coachwhip Sonoran Whipsnake Eastern Patch-nosed Snake Western Patch-nosed Snake Brown Vine Snake Gopher Snake (Bullsnake) Common Kingsnake Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake Long-nosed Snake Checkered Garter Snake Mexican Garter Snake Black-necked Garter Snake Ground Snake Night Snake Sonoran Coral Snake Western Lyresnake Twin-spotted Rattlesnake Black-tailed Rattlesnake Tiger Rattlesnake Rock Rattlesnake Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake Western Diamondback Rattlesnake Mojave Rattlesnake

Eumeces obsoletus Cnemidophorus uniparens

Cnemidophorus sonorae

Cnemidophorus burti Cnemidophorus exsanguis

Aspidoscelis tigris Aspidoscelis arizonae Aspidoscelis flagellicauda Gerrhonotus kingii

Heloderma suspectum

Serpentes

Diadophis punctatus Masticophis flagellum Masticophis bilineatus Salvadora grahamiae

Salvadora hexalepis

Oxbelis aeneus Pituophis melanoleucus

Lampropeltis getulus Lampropeltis pyromelana

Rhinocheilus lecontei Thamnophis marcianus Thamnophis eques Thamnophis cyrtopsis

Sonora semiannulata Hypsiglena torquata Micruroides euryxanthus Trimorphodon biscutatus Crotalus pricei Crotalus molossus Crotalus molossus Crotalus tigris Crotalus tigris Crotalus lepidus Crotalus willardi Crotalus atrox

Crotalus scutulatus