



Southeast Arizona Hummingbirds and More Spectacular Birding

Day 1: Arrival Flights and Birding in Tucson at Agua Caliente Park

After arriving in Tucson by midday, we will have time to make a trip up to Agua Caliente Park on the northeast side of the metro area. This park is a little jewel in the desert; it features a pond with surrounding cattail marsh, open woodlands, brushy tracts and thorn scrub desert. Consequently, species of many different habitats may be found in a relatively small area. Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Vermilion Flycatcher are found in the open areas of the park, while Bell's Vireo, Pyrrhuloxia and Phainopepla prefer the brushy scrub. In the surrounding desert, Gambel's Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher and Verdin work the mesquite and acacia.

Overnight in Tucson.

Day 2: Catalina Mountains and Mt. Lemmon

The Catalina Mountains rise over 7,500 feet above the city of Tucson, and traveling the 25-mile road to the top at Mount Lemmon will take us from the Sonoran Desert to the Canadian life zone, the equivalent of a 2,500 mile journey to the north. We will begin our day at Molino Basin, where the foothills chaparral hosts Scott's Oriole, Canyon Towhee, Bridled Titmouse and Anna's Hummingbird. A little higher up, at Bear and Rose Canyons, we will look for Yellow-eyed Junco, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-faced Warbler and Painted Redstart. At the top of Mount Lemmon we may find Mountain Chickadee, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and with a little luck, the elusive Olive Warbler.

Overnight in Tucson.



Day 3: Florida Wash and Madera Canyon

We will begin the day at Florida Wash, where we will be looking for Crissal Thrasher, Varied Bunting, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Pyrrhuloxia, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow and Botteri's Sparrow. The colors and patterns on these birds should really stand out in the morning light.

Next, we continue the short distance to Madera Canyon, for birds of the transition zone and oak-pine forests. At the parking lot at the entrance to the canyon, we'll walk a trail that may produce Summer Tanager, Say's Phoebe, Zone-tailed Hawk and Bell's Vireo. Higher up we will stop at a couple of lodges that have hummingbird feeders. Possible hummingbird species include Blue-throated, Rivoli's (formerly Magnificent Hummingbird) and Broad-billed. The seed feeders at the lodges attract Bridled Titmouse and Mexican Jay. At the end of the road is the Vault Mine Trail, from which we will look for higher altitude specialties like Hepatic Tanager, Grace's Warbler and Elegant Trogon.

Overnight in Nogales

Day 4: Patagonia Area

We will start early at Patagonia Lake State Park, a good place to find waterfowl and a possible site for Black-capped Gnatcatcher. When we have finished at the lake, we will stop at the famous Patagonia Roadside Rest Stop to have a look around for any of the

many interesting species that are sometimes seen here. Rose-throated Becard and Thick-billed Kingbird are two of the species birders sometimes find here.

Next stop will be the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. White-winged Dove, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Canyon Wren, Cassin's Kingbird, Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler, Pyrrhuloxia, Varied Bunting, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Gray Hawk, Vermilion Flycatcher, Gambel's Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Bridled Titmouse, Summer Tanager, Abert's Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak and Varied Bunting all nest in this area. Bronzed Cowbird and Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet are possible here as well.

At the legendary Hummingbird Haven in Patagonia, we'll join other birders watching the daily hummingbird show, starring the Violet-crowned Hummingbird, as well as Broad-billed Hummingbird and Rivoli's Hummingbird. This should be a great photo opportunity. After finishing here, we'll take the scenic drive around the north end of the Huachuca Mountains and drop down into Sierra Vista.

Overnight in Sierra Vista.



Day 5: Sierra Vista Area—Various Canyon Hummingbird Feeders, San Pedro River Valley and More

Where we go today will vary depending on the presence of desirable species in the vicinity. A likely start is a walk up Scheelite Canyon to see the Spotted Owls that have lived here for years.

There are several places with hummingbird feeders in the various canyons, and we may try to visit each of them. Ash Canyon in particular is worth a visit, as Lucifer Hummingbird is regular here.

In addition to hummingbirds, the upper elevations of the canyons are home to Cordilleran Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Pygmy Nuthatch, Olive Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill and Buff-breasted Flycatcher.

In the San Pedro River Valley, we will look for Gambel's Quail, Scaled Quail, Common Ground-Dove, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Chihuahuan Raven, Verdin, Curve-billed Thrasher, Phainopepla, Bell's Vireo, Pyrrhuloxia, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Abert's Towhee. As we bird during the day, we will take our time to allow for good views and photos.

Overnight in Sierra Vista.



Day 6: Chiricahua Mountains

Today we will visit the legendary Chiricahuas, where Cochise and Geronimo had strongholds in the late 1800's. In addition to interesting history and fantastic scenery, this area has great birds, too! The desert floor around the town of Portal is possibly the best place in Arizona to see the elusive Crissal Thrasher. Nearby rocky slopes provide

an opportunity for Black-chinned Sparrow. The lower forest elevations around Cave Creek are home to Painted Redstart, Arizona Woodpecker, Blue-throated Hummingbird And, with a little luck, Whiskered Screech-Owl. A bit higher up the mountains we will look for Greater Pewee, Grace's Warbler, Yellow-eyed Junco and Hepatic Tanager. At the highest accessible points in the mountains we will find Red-faced Warbler, Olive Warbler and the much-sought-after Mexican Chickadee. This is the only place in North America to see this bird.

As we travel through the mountains, we will keep our eyes open for Montezuma Quail. Elf Owls sometimes nest in the town of Portal.

Overnight in Willcox

Day 7: Willcox Playa and Sulphur Springs Valley in Morning; Departure after 2 PM

This morning we will spend a few hours exploring the playa and lakes near Willcox, where we should find a wide variety of ducks and grebes, as well as White-faced Ibis and Great Blue Heron. The Sulphur Springs Valley is a major wintering site for North American sparrows, and for our April trips many of these will still be present; we may see Cassin's, Chipping, Lark, Savannah, Song, Lincoln's and White crowned Sparrows, and Lark Buntings should be present, too. The valley is also a great place to see Loggerhead Shrike, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Chihuahuan Raven and both meadowlarks.

When we have finished our birding in the area we will return to Tucson for flights home.

