

Southeastern Arizona Specialties July 22- 31, 2022

Itinerary

Day 1: July 22

Tucson

Arrive on afternoon/evening flights and transfer to our Tucson hotel. For those of us not arriving on late night flights, we will meet for dinner and an orientation at 6 PM in the hotel lobby.

Night in Tucson

Day 2: July 23

Saguaro National Park to Madera Canyon

We rise early this morning to explore the desert scrub at Saguaro National Park. Target birds here include Gilded Flicker, Greater Roadrunner, Costa's Hummingbird, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Verdin and more. As temperatures begin to soar in the park, we'll have an early lunch before spending the rest of the afternoon and evening birding in the excellent Madera Canyon. Botteri's & Cassin's Sparrows await us in the lower part of the canyon, while Arizona & Acorn Woodpeckers, Elegant Trogon, and Dusky-capped and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers are just a few of the birds we will look for in the woodlands higher up. Watching the feeders at the Santa Rita Lodge should turn up Rivoli's, Broad-billed, Black-chinned, and Rufous Hummingbirds, and with luck, there may be a rare Plain-capped Starthroat around. After dark we'll look and listen for Western & Whiskered Screech-Owls, Elf Owl, Common Poorwill, & Mexican Whippoorwill. *Night in Green Valley*

Day 3: July 24

Madera & Florida Canyons; California Gulch

Our morning will be spent further exploring canyons in the Santa Rita Mountains. We will probably head back into Madera, but will also have time to check out Florida, Montosa and Chino Canyons. Florida Canyon has been excellent the last few years for Black-capped Gnatcatcher and Rufous-capped Warblers, while Montosa & Chino Canyons still hold small numbers of Five-striped Sparrow. After lunch, we head south and check in to our hotel in Green Valley. An evening outing to the remote California Gulch will give us another chance at Five-striped Sparrow and we'll stay out after dark with the hope of finding Buff-collared Nightjar. *Night in Green Valley*

Day 4: July 25

Patagonia to Sierra Vista

Today we head west to Sierra Vista and the Huachuca Mountains. There are excellent birding opportunities on the way, and the Patagonia area offers much. We should find Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Mexican Duck, and more at Patagonia Lake State Park. A brief visit at the famous Patagonia Rest Stop will see us compare Thick-billed and Cassin's Kingbirds, and an afternoon stop at the Tucson Audubon's Paton Hummingbird House should turn up Violet-crowned Hummingbird, plus Bronzed Cowbird and Inca Dove. *Night in Sierra Vista*

Day 5: July 26

Ramsey, Miller, & Ash Canyons

This morning we'll hike up Ramsey Canyon, a must visit for any birding trip in Southeast Arizona. Over the past few years Flame-colored Tanagers & Tufted Flycatchers, two species commonly found in Central American highlands, have been reliable and have even nested here. If we've not yet seen Elegant Trogon, we'll have another great chance today. Northern Pygmy-Owls are active during the day and can often be heard in the canyon. Even Northern Goshawk is possible here! Beatty's Guest Ranch in Miller Canyon hosts another hummingbird feeding station and holds the record for most hummingbirds seen in one day (14), and has been one of the best spots through the years for White-eared

