

Proposed Southeastern Arizona Birding Itinerary
(subject to change as conditions warrant)

March 21 – March 26, 2019

Thursday, March 21

2:30 p.m. – Meet in Tucson Airport at Baggage Claim, or pick up as prearranged.

Later afternoon – Holy Trinity Monastery in St. David

A beautiful and peaceful 132-acre site along the San Pedro River with artesian springs and a small monastery and garden. In 2011, we saw Lark Sparrow, Phainopepla, Gila Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, Greater Roadrunner, Bewick's Wren, and Northern Mockingbird. Gray Hawk is a distinct possibility.

Dinner and Accommodations in Bisbee

Copper Queen Hotel, 520-432-2216, www.copperqueen.com

Arizona's oldest continually running hotel – since 1902

Friday, March 22

Morning – San Pedro House and San Pedro River

This cottonwood & willow-lined waterways harbors a rich collection of nesting birds and also provides a corridor for migrating birds to travel north from Mexico. We'll look for Gray and Zone-tailed Hawks, Vermilion Flycatcher, and wintering warblers. In 2011, we spotted Pyrrhuloxia, Black-throated Sparrow, Vermilion Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebe, Ladder-backed woodpecker, and Green-tailed Towhee.

Later morning - Mary Jo's and Ash Canyon

On the eastern flank of the Huachuca Mts., Mary Jo's backyard seed-feeding stations attract an astonishing number of birds including Anna's, Costa's, Broad-billed, and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Hepatic Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskins, and Lesser Goldfinches. In 2011, we also observed Spotted Towhee, Mexican Jay, Scott's Oriole, Arizona Woodpecker, and Bushtit.

Afternoon - Ramsey Canyon

One of America's best-known sites for hummingbirds with 14 species recorded, the high canyon walls and perennial stream create a cooler environment that supports an amazing array of birds. In 2011, in addition to numerous hummingbirds, we found Arizona and Acorn woodpeckers, Painted Redstart, and numerous northern warblers in migration.

Dinner and Accommodations in Bisbee

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Saturday, March 23

Morning – Sonoita Grasslands

A rolling savanna of native grasses dotted with oak and mesquite blankets one thousand square miles of the basin between Sierra Vista and Patagonia. Pronghorn still roam the open range here. Flocks of Lark Buntings and Chestnut-collared Longspurs may be encountered, as well as both Western and “Lilian’s” Eastern Meadowlark. Often a Chihuahuan Raven can be seen in-route. If we’re very lucky, we will glimpse the resident but reclusive Montezuma Quail.

Late Morning and Afternoon –Patagonia

The variegated habitats surrounding the small town of Patagonia include shallow canyons of semi-deciduous woodland, cottonwood gallery forest, ocotillo-studded hillsides, desert scrub and rocky slopes. The diversity of bird life here is exceptional. A visit to the Paton Center offers our best chance to view the stunning Violet-crowned Hummingbird. A number of wintering sparrows and resident Abert’s Towhee, as well as early-arriving flycatchers, vireos and warblers can be found here and in the adjoining Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. We may be fortunate enough to discover a Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet.

Dinner in Green Valley/Accommodations at Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon.
520-625-8746 www.santaritalodge.com

Sunday, March 24

Morning - Box Canyon, Florida Canyon & Wash

We’ll look here for the range-restricted Rufous-winged Sparrow, Rock, Canyon, and Cactus Wrens, Golden Eagle, White-throated Swift, and Canyon Towhee. Also on the docket are wintering flycatchers, the first Bell’s Vireos of the season, and perhaps “regular” rarities such as the Rufous-backed Robin, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, and Rufous-capped Warbler.

Afternoon - Madera Canyon

This beautiful canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains features a sycamore-lined creek and oak-covered hillsides. We’ll search out the specialty birds of the area, such as Arizona Woodpecker and – if the fates align – wintering Elegant Trogon. The Santa Rita Lodge has extensive feeding stations, which make viewing the birds a simple and wondrous experience.

After dark - Owling in Madera Canyon

In 2011, we got very good looks at an Elf Owl and heard Whiskered Screech-owl and Northern Pygmy-owls.

Dinner in Green Valley/Accommodations at Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon.
520-625-8746 www.santaritalodge.com

Monday, March 25

Morning - Saguaro Nat. Monument

Located in a vast expanse of saguaro and cholla cacti, palo verde and mesquite trees, and a variety of flowering shrubs situated in the verdant Sonoran desert, we'll look for Harris's Hawk, Gilded Flicker, Curve-billed Thrasher, Verdin and Phainopepla.

Late Morning and Afternoon – Catalina Highway to Mt. Lemon

On a journey up the so-called Catalina "Highway" (really a two-lane road), we'll traverse several life zones in the Coronado National Forest, as we go from 3,500 to almost 10,000 feet in elevation at Mount Lemmon. We'll stop to look for birds like Lesser Goldfinch, Yellow-eyed Junco, Crissal Thrasher, and Scott's Oriole in picnic areas and along established trails.

Dinner and Accommodations in Tucson at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel.

Breakfast included. Shuttle service available from the hotel to the airport, or we can take people to the airport in the morning - we have our rental vans until noon on Tuesday.

Trip concludes that evening.

Tuesday, March 27 – Flights home or whatever each participant chooses to do.

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Cost includes all accommodations, transportation in Arizona, and guide.

Cost does not include flight transportation to and from Tucson, and meals.

Arizona Birding Guide: John Yerger, Adventure Birding Company

(www.adventurebirding.com)

Organizers: John Bates and Mary Burns (see www.manitowish.com)

For more birding information, contact John and Mary directly at 715-476-2828.

For registration information, contact the North Lakeland Discovery Center at 715-543-2085.

