

# BIRD TREKS

## SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

### for Trogons, Hummingbirds, Owls & Northbound Migrants

Dates Friday, 6 May through Sunday, 15 May 2011: 10 days & 9 nights

We'll visit some of the most beautiful canyons in North America: **Madera, Ramsey, Miller, Carr, Garden, Sawmill, Sheelite**, and spectacular **Cave Creek Canyon**, with their breath-taking beauty and scenery beyond belief.

**California Gulch** is one of the very few locations in all of North America where *Five-striped Sparrow* can be found, sometimes side-by-side with a *Varied Bunting*, *Rock Wren*, *Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet*, or *Montezuma Quail*!

**Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Fort Huachuca**, and the **San Pedro Riparian Natural Area**, all with their unique habitats and avian communities.

And we'll return to some of these areas *after dark* to search for a variety of owls and **nightjars**, and other creatures of the Arizona night.

A sampling of Southwestern specialties that we may see include . . .

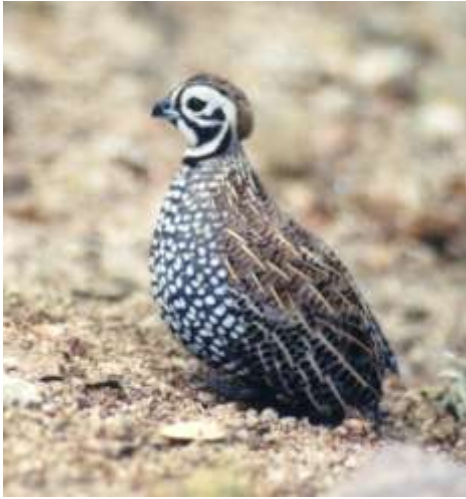


**Elegant Trogon** - - *Tom Amico*  
tour participant

White-faced Ibis  
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Cinnamon Teal  
Gray Hawk  
Zone-tailed Hawk  
Golden Eagle  
Prairie Falcon  
Montezuma Quail  
American Avocet  
Band-tailed Pigeon  
Greater Roadrunner  
Barn Owl  
Western Screech-Owl  
(Mexican) Spotted Owl  
Northern Pygmy-Owl  
Elf Owl

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet  
Buff-breasted Flycatcher  
Black Phoebe  
Say's Phoebe  
Vermilion Flycatcher  
Tropical Kingbird  
Thick-billed Kingbird  
Juniper Titmouse  
Mexican Chickadee  
Canyon Wren  
Bendire's Thrasher  
Crissal Thrasher  
Lucy's Warbler  
Grace's Warbler  
Red-faced Warbler  
Olive Warbler

[More target species on page 2]



Montezuma Quail - - David Schutsky  
co-leader

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Burrowing Owl              | Hermit Warbler         |
| White-eared Hummingbird    | MacGillivray's Warbler |
| Violet-crowned Hummingbird | Lazuli Bunting         |
| Magnificent Hummingbird    | Varied Bunting         |
| Blue-throated Hummingbird  | Rufous-winged Sparrow  |
| Elegant Trogon             | Black-chinned Sparrow  |
| Ladder-backed Woodpecker   | Five-striped Sparrow   |
| Acorn Woodpecker           | Hooded Oriole          |
| Arizona Woodpecker         | Scott's Oriole         |

Rarities that we have observed on previous tours include **White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Tricolored Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Arizona's second record of Western Gull, an immature Purple Gallinule, Plain-capped Starthroat, Yellow Grosbeak, and Elegant Tern - - WOW!!**

A complete list of the birds found on our *previous Arizona tours* is available upon request. You are likely to see 175 or more different bird species. In general it is a bit easier to find a larger variety of **owls, nightjars, and migrants** in May as opposed to July. July has a few more species of **hummingbirds** and a better chance for **Mexican strays**. We'll also look for Pronghorn, Bobcat, Gray Fox, Coyote, Black (Cinnamon) Bear, Coati, Javelina, Kangaroo Rats, and Black-tailed and Antelope Jackrabbits.

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## SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

6-15 May 2011

**Day    Agenda**

- 1 Plan to arrive in Tucson as close to noon as possible. A visit to San Xavier Mission and Green Valley often yields **Burrowing Owl, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lark Sparrow, Gambel's Quail,** and our first **Greater Roadrunner**. We'll settle into Santa Rita Lodge, look for the **Flame-colored Tanager** if it has returned, then prepare for **Elf Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl,** and **Whip-poor-will**. Our first of two nights at the wonderful Santa Rita Lodge.
  
- 2 We have a full day of birding in the varied habitats of Madera Canyon. In the bottomlands there are **Bell's Vireo, Varied Bunting, Lucy's Warbler,** and several interesting **sparrows**. A climb into the oak belt will give us our first chance for **Elegant Trogon, Greater Pewee,** and **Arizona Woodpecker**. **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** will be just arriving: we'll listen for their 'squeaky toy' calls in the Arizona Sycamores. After sunset our spotlight may reveal **Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Bobcat,** and **Kangaroo Rat**. If the **Buff-collared Nightjars** return to the Oro Blanco Mine, we may revise the itinerary a bit to include a chance to see them. A second night at Santa Rita.

[Day 3 begins on page 3]

- 3 Our first stop is at Arivaca Cienega for **Vermilion Flycatcher, Common Ground-Dove, and Gray Hawk**. We'll search for **Montezuma Quail, Five-striped Sparrow, and Varied Bunting** in the wilds of California Gulch. Patagonia Lake State Park is reliable for **Neotropic Cormorant, Sora**, perhaps a **Western or Clark's Grebe**, and hopefully nesting **Black-capped Gnatcatchers**. We'll do some late day birding along Sonoita Creek and spend a relaxing hour in Marion Paton's backyard amidst **Violet-crowned, Broad-billed**, and many other **hummingbirds**. Overnight at the Stagestop Hotel in the Old West town of Patagonia. There's a nice pool if you care for a swim before dinner.
- 4 We'll begin our day at Kino Springs for **Tropical and Cassin's Kingbirds**, while the noisy **Thick-billed Kingbirds** and **Gray Hawk** are likely at the famous Patagonia Rest Stop. In past years the Rest Stop has also given us a male **Yellow Grosbeak** and a **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** on its nest! There will be plenty of time to explore Sonoita Creek Sanctuary for **Gila Woodpecker, Lucy's Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet**. And more time in Marion's backyard is always welcome, perhaps for **Lesser Goldfinch, Zone-tailed Hawk**, and another **hummingbird** or two. After looking for **Western Screech-Owl and Barn Owl**, we'll settle down for a second night in Patagonia.
- 5 Our first stop may be Sycamore Canyon, assuming that the **Rufous-capped Warblers** are still in residence. Or perhaps they will have already shown themselves in Florida Canyon. The rest of the day will be spent at Ramsey and Miller Canyons looking for **Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Coati**. A careful watch of the feeders should produce **Magnificent, Blue-throated, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds**, with a chance for rarities such as **White-eared and Berylline**. After dinner we'll visit the San Pedro House and look for **Green Kingfisher, Bendire's Thrasher, Abert's Towhee**, and the late day **Lesser Nighthawks** and **Great Horned Owl** along the San Pedro River. Overnight in Sierra Vista.



- 6 At Fort Huachuca we'll visit Sawmill and Sheelite Canyons for **Buff-breasted Flycatcher, (Mexican) Spotted Owl, and Northern Pygmy-Owl**. Garden Canyon has some reliable **Elegant Trogons** and offers excellent habitat for many additional highland species. Nighttime owling in this area may yield **Whiskered and Western Screech-Owls**, or we may choose to search for **Common Poorwill and Gila Monster** in the flatlands. A second night in Sierra Vista.

**BOBCAT--WOW!!!** -- Paul Kunstek, tour participant

[Day 7 begins on page 4]

- 7 We have a third full day in the Huachuca Mountains. This will allow ample time for a hike up the Miller Canyon Trail in search of **Spotted Owl**, **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**, and a *nice variety of warblers* that may include a **Tropical Parula**. Later in the day we'll drive to the higher elevations of Carr Canyon and spend time in Comfort Spring. Here we may find **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, **Hepatic Tanager**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, and **Buff-breasted Flycatcher**. Our final night in Sierra Vista.
- 8 An early morning visit to the San Pedro River is likely to produce **Canyon Towhee**, **Scott's Oriole**, and **Vermilion Flycatcher**. **Sora** is reliable at the local sewage ponds, where a locally rare **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found several years ago. We'll watch for **Horned Lark**, **Swainson's Hawk**, and a herd of **Pronghorn** on the road to Rodeo, where we'll look for **Barn Owl**, **Scaled Quail**, **Greater Roadrunner**, and **Lark Sparrow**. There is sometimes a **Lucifer Hummingbird** at a local feeder. Overnight in Portal, at the mouth of Cave Creek Canyon, where we'll watch and listen for **Elf Owl** and **Collared Peccary**.
- 9 Our goal in the morning is **Bendire's** and **Crissal Thrashers** in the lowlands, then a walk along South Fork Trail for **Elegant Trogon**, **Virginia's Warbler**, and **Painted Redstart**. At the 8000-foot level there will be **Steller's Jay**, **Mexican Chickadee**, **Red-faced Warbler**, and **Olive Warbler**. We could even be lucky enough to find the **Short-tailed Hawks** that are nesting in this area in recent years. After dark we'll try for the elusive **Flammulated Owl** in our spotlight. A second night in Portal.
- 10 Paradise Road is excellent for **Black-chinned Sparrow**, **Western Scrub-Jay**, and **Juniper Titmouse**. Then it will be time to load the van and head to Willcox for **shorebirds** and **waterfowl**. Our final stop is Tucson for our afternoon flights home, the end of ten days of adventure in glorious **Southeast Arizona!**

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Scoping and scanning **Willcox Twin Lakes**, an absolute magnet for aquatic birds.

[Important details on page 5]

**Leader** This trip will be led by **Bob Schutsky**. Bob is intimately familiar with all of the target birds and where to look for them. He will have you in the right place at the right time for the best birding opportunities and a worry-free tour.

**Price** \$2595 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$495.

**Includes** Expert guide service, lodging for all nine nights, **ALL meals**, entrance fees, and all ground transportation within Arizona (and a tiny bit of New Mexico). **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader(s).

Does not include the cost of airfare to and from Tucson, Arizona. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, help you obtain the best airfare. Also not included are the cost of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.



A juvenile **Spotted Owl**.  
-- David Schutsky,  
co-leader

**Extra Services** We offer the services of our exclusive Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 25 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail her directly at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free phone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel. There may be a fee for these services.

**Deposit** A \$600 deposit assures your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable 6 March 2011. Southeast Arizona is a popular and spectacular birding destination. Send your deposit **SOON** to insure your reservation and to obtain the best possible airfare. There is great demand for the lodges at this time of year, so your **EARLY RESERVATION** is greatly appreciated.

**Refund & Cancellation Policy** With written notice more than 60 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$75 service fee. With 30 to 60 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once a tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact Access America at **1-800-284-8300** and mention **BIRD TREKS (ACCAM # F021096)**. You can apply by phone or via the Internet at **www.accessamerica.com**.

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