

BIRD TREKS

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

for Trogons, Hummingbirds, Breeding Birds
& Vagrants from *South of the Border*

Dates Tuesday, 24 July through Saturday, 4 August 2012: 12 days & 11 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 breathtaking beauty and scenery beyond belief.

Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Fort Huachuca, California Gulch, and the San Pedro Riparian Natural Area.

Willcox Lake, an oasis for ducks, grebes, terns, gulls, and shorebirds, including hundreds of spinning Wilson's Phalaropes, *in the middle of the desert!*

And what would an Arizona Tour be without going to a few *sewage ponds*? In recent years we've found **Red Knot, Brown Pelican, Western Gull, Elegant Tern, Least Grebe, Purple Gallinule, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, and Tricolored Heron**, plus lots of shorebirds and waterfowl, all at sewage ponds and associated wetlands. Very nice, for Arizona!

A sampling of **Southwestern Specialties** that we may see includes . . .

White-faced Ibis	Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Buff-breasted Flycatcher
Cinnamon Teal	Black Phoebe
Gray Hawk	Say's Phoebe
Zone-tailed Hawk	Vermilion Flycatcher
Golden Eagle	Tropical Kingbird
Prairie Falcon	Thick-billed Kingbird
Montezuma Quail	Juniper Titmouse
Long-billed Curlew	Mexican Chickadee
Band-tailed Pigeon	Canyon Wren
Greater Roadrunner	Bendire's Thrasher
Barn Owl	Crissal Thrasher
Western Screech-Owl	Lucy's Warbler
Whiskered Screech-Owl	Grace's Warbler
(Mexican) Spotted Owl	Red-faced Warbler



A Barn Owl is unique
and exciting to see.
- - Jim & Deva Burns,
Natural Impacts

[More target species on page 2]

Elf Owl
 Burrowing Owl
 White-eared Hummingbird
 Violet-crowned Hummingbird
 Blue-throated Hummingbird
 Calliope Hummingbird
 Elegant Trogon
 Ladder-backed Woodpecker
 Acorn Woodpecker
 Arizona Woodpecker

Painted Redstart
 Lazuli Bunting
 Varied Bunting
 Botteri's Sparrow
 Cassin's Sparrow
 Rufous-winged Sparrow
 Black-chinned Sparrow
 Five-striped Sparrow
 Hooded Oriole
 Scott's Oriole



Montezuma Quail !

- - David Schutsky

A complete list of the birds found on our previous July tours is available upon request.

Some mammals that we may see are **Pronghorn, Bobcat, Gray Fox, Coyote, Black Bear, Coati, Javelina, and Black-tailed and Antelope Jackrabbits.**

See the **SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER** on the final page of this itinerary!

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SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

24 July - 4 August 2012

Day Agenda

- 1 Plan to arrive in Tucson by about noon. A visit to Green Valley often yields **Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lark Sparrow,** a family of **Gambel's Quail,** and our first **Greater Roadrunner.** The feeders at our lodge should have **Acorn Woodpeckers** and **Bridled Titmice,** plus our first few species of **hummingbirds,** probably **Broad-billed, Black-chinned,** and **Magnificent.** We'll settle into Santa Rita Lodge, then prepare for **Elf Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl,** and **Mexican Whip-poor-will** after dark. A **Ringtail,** a nocturnal mammal related to the Raccoon, may be hunting near the cabins! This is our first of two nights at Santa Rita Lodge or in nearby Green Valley.

- 2 We have a full morning of birding in the varied habitats of Madera Canyon. In the bottomlands there are **Cassin's, Botteri's,** and **Rufous-winged Sparrows, Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak,** and **Lucy's Warbler.** A climb into the oak belt will give us our first chance for **Elegant Trogon, Greater Pewee,** and **Arizona Woodpecker.** In addition to the more common species, rarities such as **Plain-capped Starthroat** and **Flame-colored Tanager** may visit the habitats and feeders near the lodge. Recently we found two **AZTEC THRUSHES,** an extremely rare Mexican endemic. After lunch we'll begin our adventure to California Gulch. Along the way we may find **Vermilion Flycatcher, Montezuma Quail,** and **Gray Hawk.** In the Gulch we'll search for **Five-striped Sparrow, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet,** and **Varied Bunting.** After a late day picnic, our spotlight may reveal **Buff-collared Nightjar,** which we've found several times in recent years. Our ride home may yield **Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Bobcat,** or **Kangaroo Rat.** A second night at Santa Rita.

[Day 3 begins on page 3]

- 3 We'll head south by way of Rio Rico almost to the Mexican border at Nogales, then visit Kino Springs to look for **Tropical Kingbird** and **Vermilion Flycatcher**. Patagonia Lake often has both **Neotropic** and **Double-crested Cormorants** for a nice comparison, and perhaps a family of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** as in recent years. We'll do some late day birding along Sonoita Creek and spend a relaxing hour in a bird-rich backyard amidst **Violet-crowned**, **Black-chinned**, and **Rufous Hummingbirds**. Overnight at the Stagestop Hotel in the old west town of Patagonia.
- 4 We'll begin our day at the famous Patagonia Rest Stop where **Rose-throated Becard** is possible and **Thick-billed Kingbird** is likely. In past years the Rest Stop has also given us several **Violet-crowned Hummingbirds ON NESTS**, and a male **Yellow Grosbeak**! There will be plenty of time to explore Sonoita Creek Sanctuary for the rare **Green Kingfisher**, plus nesting **Gray** and **Zone-tailed Hawks**, **Gila Woodpecker**, and **Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet**. And more time with backyard feeder watching is always welcome, perhaps for **Calliope Hummingbird** or **Painted Bunting**. After looking for **Western Screech-Owl** and **Barn Owl** and maybe a **Vinegaroon**, we'll settle down for a second night in Patagonia.
- 5 Our first stop may be Sycamore Canyon or French Joe Canyon to look for the **Rufous-capped Warblers**, if they have returned to breed. Other good birds are also possible. Much of the remainder of the day will be spent at Ramsey and Miller Canyons looking for **Golden Eagle**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, and **Coati**. A careful watch of the feeders should produce **Magnificent**, **Blue-throated**, and **White-eared Hummingbirds**, and perhaps as many as *TEN species of hummingbirds*, as on recent tours. We have seen **Berylline Hummingbird** in this area for seven of the past nine years, and **Plain-capped Starthroat** is rare, but possible. After dinner we can search for **Bendire's Thrasher**, **Vermilion Flycatcher**, **Abert's Towhee**, and **Lesser Nighthawk** at the San Pedro House. Our first of three nights in Sierra Vista.
- 6 At Fort Huachuca we'll visit Sawmill and Sheelite Canyons to look for **Red-faced Warbler**, **Buff-breasted Flycatcher**, **(Mexican) Spotted Owl**, and **Northern (Mountain) Pygmy-Owl**. Garden Canyon has some reliable **Elegant Trogons** (we ate lunch with them recently), and Miller Canyon offers excellent habitat for additional highland species and soaring raptors. The hummingbird extravaganza at Miller Canyon can be phenomenal, with lots of time to study these little gems. Nighttime owling will hopefully produce **Whiskered** and **Western Screech-Owls** and possibly **Mexican Whip-poor-will** and **Common Poorwill**. A second night in Sierra Vista.
- 7 Our morning will take us to Carr Canyon Road and Comfort Spring for highland species that could include **Greater Pewee**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Buff-breasted Flycatcher**, and **Northern (Mountain) Pygmy-Owl**. We'll have the afternoon to look for any species that may have eluded us, such as **Lucifer Hummingbird** or **Flame-colored Tanager**. We may spend more time at Ramsey Canyon or visit an entirely new location in the Huachucas. Our third night in Sierra Vista.

[Day 8 begins on page 4]

- 8 An early morning visit to the San Pedro River may yield **Abert's Towhee**, **Scott's Oriole**, **Botteri's Sparrow**, and **Great Horned Owl**. We'll watch for **Horned Lark** 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 often a **Lucifer Hummingbird** at a local feeder and a nice assortment of species at Dave Jasper's feeding station. Overnight in Portal, at the mouth of Cave Creek Canyon.
- 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**. Higher in the mountains there are **Mexican Chickadee**, **Steller's Jay**, and **Olive Warbler**. Several years ago we found an exceedingly rare **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in a roost hole at Rustler Park. **Short-tailed Hawk** has been seen here for several consecutive years; we recently had wonderful looks at a light-phase adult. After dark we'll try for **Elf Owl**, **Common Poorwill**, **Javelina**, and **Tarantula** in our spotlight. We've had the good fortune to see **Flammulated Owl** and **Montezuma Quail** in this area on several occasions. A second night in Portal.
- 10 Paradise Road is a good spot for **Black-chinned Sparrow**, **Western Scrub-Jay**, and **Juniper Titmouse**. We'll walk South Fork Trail, check some local feeders, then drive to Willcox for shorebirds, waterfowl, herons, ibis, and cormorants. **Long-billed Curlew**, **White-faced Ibis**, **Cinnamon Teal**, and **Eared Grebe** are likely. On several occasions we've found a nice flock of 50+ **Black Terns**. We'll return to Tucson to spend the night.
- 11 We'll spend the entire day on Mount Lemmon, beginning in Sonoran desert habitat and working our way 25 miles up into the Canadian life zone. Desert species may include **Verdin**, **White-tailed Gnatcatcher**, and **Cactus Wren**, while the higher altitudes may yield a few new warblers (**RED-faced!**) that we may have missed, plus **Mountain Chickadee**, **Pygmy Nuthatch**, and **Townsend's Solitaire**. After our dinner we'll return to Tucson for our final night of the tour.
- 12 We'll spend the morning visiting several Tucson wetlands and sewage ponds, including the Sweetwater Wetlands Area. Common species include **American Coot** and **Common Moorhen**, and with any luck we may find a **Sora**, **Peregrine Falcon**, or **Harris's Hawk**, and even a rarity like **Least Grebe** or the **Purple Gallinule** that we found there several years ago. There should be some nice additions to our duck and shorebird lists. We'll return to Tucson Airport by noon for anyone that is homeward bound, then begin our **Post-Tour Extension** for more great Southeast Arizona birding. Please see the separate itinerary for the extension.



See the **Special Discount Offer** on the next page!

We should see **Elegant Trogons** in several locations. It is a truly stunning and often very cooperative bird.

-- Tom Amico, tour participant

[Important details on page 5]

To see a **map of the tour route**, click on:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117812928873209532533.00045ffa3c771ca2ef723&z=9>

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Leader This trip will be led by **Bob Schutsky** who has led more than a dozen tours to Southeastern Arizona. Bob will have you in the right place at the right time for the best birding opportunities and an action-packed, worry-free tour. This is **Bob's favorite destination in all of North America!**

Price \$2845 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$515.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER! Combine this 12-day tour with the super Southeast Arizona birding extension and save \$150. Contact Bird Treks for complete details.

Includes Expert guide service, lodging for eleven nights, **ALL meals**, entrance fees, US Forest Service permits, and all ground transportation within Arizona. **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 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.

Deposit A \$700 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable 60 days before the tour begins. Arizona is a popular and spectacular birding destination. Send your deposit soon to insure your reservation on the tour and to obtain the best possible airfare.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her directly at Bailey Travel, **1-800-224-5399** or **717-854-6555**, or e-mail her at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There may be a service fee.

Refund and 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 30-60 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 the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.

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