

Bird TREKS

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

for Trogons, Hummingbirds, Owls & Northbound Migrants

Dates Saturday, 6 May through Monday, 15 May 2017: 10 days & 9 nights

We'll visit Some of the most beautiful canyons in North America: **Madera, Ramsey, Miller, Huachuca, Garden, Sawmill, Sheelite**, and spectacular **Cave Creek Canyon**, with their abundance of birds, 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
Scaled 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, plus Days 1-2, are on page 2]



Montezuma Quail, David Schutsky, co-leader

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

Hermit Warbler
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Lazuli Bunting
 Varied Bunting
 Rufous-winged Sparrow
 Black-chinned Sparrow
 Five-striped Sparrow
 Hooded Oriole
 Scott's Oriole

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

A complete list of the birds found on our *previous May Arizona tours* is available on our web site: <http://www.birdtreks.com/birds-previously-seen/AZSEMAY.pdf>

You are likely to see 165 to 180 different species of birds. In general it is a bit easier to find a larger variety of **owls, nightjars, and migrants** in May as opposed to July. We'll also look for Pronghorn, Bobcat, Gray Fox, Coyote, Black (Cinnamon) Bear, Coati, Javelina, Kangaroo Rats, and Black-tailed and Antelope Jackrabbits.

Click here for a map of the tour route:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1_NtLhBYeedod1m9l4PbsX-0Xzmk

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SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

6 - 15 May 2017

Day Agenda

- 1 Plan to arrive in Tucson as close to noon as possible. A visit to Green Valley often yields **Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lark Sparrow, Gambel's Quail**, and our first **Greater Roadrunner**. We'll settle into the Green Valley Inn, then prepare for **Elf Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl**, and **Mexican Whip-poor-will** after dinner. Our first of two nights in Green Valley.
- 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 from its wintering grounds. Our most likely afternoon destination is California Gulch to search for the rare and local **Five-striped Sparrow** and hopefully **Buff-collared Nightjar** at the Oro Blanco Mine. On the trip home our spotlight may reveal **Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Bobcat**, or **Kangaroo Rat**. A second night in Green Valley.

[Day 3 begins on page 3]

- 3 Our first stop is Arivaca Cienega for **Vermilion Flycatcher**, **Common Ground-Dove**, and **Gray Hawk**. We'll search for **Montezuma Quail** and other exciting finds along the wilds of Ruby Road. Patagonia Lake State Park is reliable for **Neotropic Cormorant**, **Sora**, perhaps a **Western** or **Clark's Grebe**, and possibly nesting **Black-capped Gnatcatchers**. We'll do some late day birding along Sonoita Creek and spend a relaxing hour in Paton's backyard in Patagonia amidst **Violet-crowned**, **Broad-billed**, and several other **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 to look for **Thick-billed Kingbird**, **Gray Hawk**, and **Canyon Wren**. In past years the Rest Stop has also given us a male **Yellow Grosbeak** and a female **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 Paton's backyard is always welcome, perhaps for **Lesser Goldfinch**, **Zone-tailed Hawk**, **Lazuli Bunting**, 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 **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.



BOBCAT - - beautiful!!! - - Paul Kunstek, tour participant

6 At Fort Huachuca we'll visit Huachuca Canyon to look for **Elegant Trogon**, **Red-faced Warbler**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, **SINALOA WREN**, **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**, and **Northern Pygmy-Owl**. Garden Canyon has somewhat reliable **Buff-breasted Flycatchers**, 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.

[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 some migrants such as **Hermit** and **Townsend's**. Later in the day we'll search some of the higher elevations for **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, **Hepatic Tanager**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Olive Warbler**, and **Prairie Falcon**. 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** may be seen at the local sewage ponds, where we may also observe **Cinnamon Teal**. 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 may be **Steller's Jay**, **Mexican Chickadee**, **Red-faced Warbler**, and **Olive Warbler**. We could even be lucky enough to find one of the **Short-tailed Hawks** that has been 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.

[Final details are 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 \$2975 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$535. We will take a maximum of seven participants. On rare occasion we may extend the maximum to ten participants.

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 32 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her at Bailey Travel/Travel Time toll-free at **1-800-224-5399**, direct at **717-855-2128**, or e-mail her at **lori@trvltime.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 will be a small fee for these services.

Deposit A \$700 deposit assures your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable 6 March 2017. 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 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** and mention **BIRD TREKS, ACCAM # F021096**. You can readily apply via the Internet by using this link: **www.allianztravelinsurance.com**, or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.