

# **CAMP CHIRICAHUA**

**JULY 6-17, 2008**

**LEADERS:**

**ROB DAY AND DAVE JASPER**

**COUNSELOR: JENNY DUBERSTEIN**

**COMPILED BY: ROB DAY**

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*Each species is a small universe in itself, from its genetic code to its anatomy, behavior, life cycle, and environmental role . . . Each species merits careers of scientific study and celebration by historians and poets.*

EDWARD O WILSON, *The Creation* 2006

*. . . (birders must) take time to sit with their quarry and learn its secrets instead of chalking it up and heading on . . . No other bird of the borderlands is so easy to accompany, for an Elegant Trogon is quiet if a birder is too . . . an unhurried and unharried species . . . practicing deliberacy.*

FREDERICK R GEHLBACH, *Mountain Islands and Desert Seas*, 1981

*. . . he (Ted Parker) will give in to the impulse to make pessimistic, universal proclamations: “No one knows anything about how birds live. We just invent these little formulas and pretend we understand something.” . . . statements (known) as “Tedisms”.*

DON STAP, *A Parrot Without a Name*, 1990

*Rained out! . . . a disaster to impatient young birders with lists of important life birds to see, and leaders with logistics to manage and a schedule to keep. Our stay in the Chiricahuas appeared plagued by incessant and untimely showers, tricky lighting for savoring the subtleties of plumage or its garishness; plans thwarted by inconvenient weather. Even our departure seemed charged with drama as we were forced to “evacuate” Roth’s House after heavy rains the day before brought the creek up, hauling luggage and gear across a precarious I-beam bridge to the vans (wisely parked on the opposite bank each evening), and stewarding the participants downstream for a safer crossing. Disappointments and gaps in our trip list aside, the somewhat unusual and malicious onset of this summer’s monsoon allowed the group more than a list of SE Arizona target species. We were privileged to witness episodes in the lives of borderland species in the context of habitat, interconnectedness, and seasonality; revelations intimated by the smell of desert rain.*

*Intervals between rains are like visions . . . Winged termites erupt from the pine-oak woodland above the Southwest Research Station in the Chiricahuas; the rains goading subterranean workers to emerge and construct minute turrets of soil that soon shimmer with vibrating fertile winged adults. When a shaft of sunlight manages to part the clouds and warm the soil the winged-ones are airborne all at once. In the ravine below, a Painted Redstart tumbles and rolls through the rising termite blizzard; crisp red and white and jet black falling through the ascending motes of silver backlit by the sun. Agave stalks, oak snags and conifer crowns of the ravine are soon crowded with avian denizens of the woodland. Blue-grey Gnatcatchers and Bridled Titmice, Warbling, Hutton’s, and Plumbeous Vireos, Black-headed Grosbeaks, American Robins, a shy Hermit thrush and a*

*Hairy Woodpecker; all join sallying Western Wood-pewees for this rain-spawned glut of airborne fat and protein. Like meticulously prepared specimens in a museum diorama, splendid male Western and Hepatic Tanagers share the crown of a white fir, too sated with winged termites to move. The swarm disperses and the birds vanish into the fabric of habitat, abandoning their fly-catching for more parochial niche-routines. Gila spotted-whiptails lap-up the winged stragglers on the ground that missed the exodus as termite workers seal themselves underground again; before acquisitive ant marauders increase in number. Soon it appears that nothing has changed in the pine-oak woodland.*

**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – With only one delayed flight and some initial concern about the disposition of one participant’s luggage, everyone arrives in Tucson. This is a first visit to the Southwest for many of this years participants; the desert heat and Sonoran Desert plants showcased in the airport parking lots xeriscaping just outside the terminal hint of novelty and discoveries to follow. The Sweetwater water reclamation wetlands are our destination for PM birding, followed by a group dinner at a Tucson restaurant, then introductions and Camp orientation back at our hotel.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – Today is a travel day. We depart for an early visit to the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum following breakfast at our hotel. Birding the Upland division of the Sonoran desert and a primer on desert plants begins as soon as the vans are parked. A visit to the hummingbird aviary as a group follows, allowing us to get acquainted with female/immature plumages, characteristic wing-whirs, and aggression vocalizations for future reference in the field. The participants are invited to roam the museum in small groups as their interests dictate. The vans are quickly packed upon returning to the hotel for our departure to the Chirichuas. We stop in Wilcox for lunch, “expedition” shopping, and safari-birding from the vans at the Wilcox golf course and water reclamation ponds. We arrive in Portal (after seeing Burrowing Owls spectacularly well along San Simon road), set up camp at Roth’s house, and dine at the Portal store.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – We begin today exploring the desert scrub and arid grassland habitats of the San Simon valley between Portal and Rodeo New Mexico. Barn owls, Greater Roadrunners, Swainson’s Hawks and American Kestrels, Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Kingbirds and Lillian’s Meadowlarks fill our morning in lowlands atypically cool due to cloud-cover. The Chirichuas wear a helmet of clouds; a grey ceiling obscuring crests and ridges. After birding Big Thicket and Dave Jasper’s feeders, we return to Roth’s house for a hearty buffet lunch. For the afternoon, we stroll through Portal, sorting through all three *Myiarchus* flycatchers, studying a family of Acorn Woodpeckers, and Bullock’s and Hooded orioles, Summer Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia and Blue Grosbeak, and male and female Phainopeplas at leisure in the scope. Night birding in Portal allows us Elf and Western Screech Owls, and a pink-morph western diamond-back rattlesnake crossing Portal road.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – With great anticipation, we explore South Fork Cave Creek this cool and cloudy morning; birding the road for Sulfur-bellied Flycatchers, Blue-throated Hummingbird, and mixed-species flocks of mid-elevation birds. Our first Painted Redstart delights with animated and determined foraging; flashing wing and tail patches while hanging upside-down on the bark of an Arizona madrone. An endemic Apache fox squirrel allows close study. Shortly upstream on South Fork trail, we encounter our first Elegant Trogon. After bushwhacking upstream for a glimpse of the adult male through a window in the riparian vegetation, he alights above us in plain view as we work our way back to the main trail for fine looks by all and photographs. Upstream are more mixed-species flocks, Cordilleran and Sulfur-bellied Flycatchers, Brown Creeper and Arizona Woodpecker, a fine pair of Hepatic tanagers, and our first Sonoran mountain kingsnake. On our return hike down canyon another male Elegant Trogon pops into view; calling in the open on the branch of an Apache pine, dwarfed by

the red rock of South Fork canyon as a background; a scene reminiscent of a Robert Bateman painting. While still another male barks up-canyon, a third male rockets in, and then both are gone. Just shy of the trailhead, our first Elegant Trogon male alights in plain view once more, softly calling for his mate. Very close (and positively exuding trogon serenity), he permits one of the longest studies of this species I remember. After lunch we bird the dirt road above the Southwest Research Station leading to Herb Martyr picnic area and are treated to a very cooperative mixed-species flock and a wonderful study of buff-breasted Flycatcher. Returning down-canyon, thunderheads tower above Silver Peak and in the San Simon valley beyond; we drive through a downpour to Roth's house for dinner. Night-birding in a gentle rain; an adult Spotted Owl looms above us like a forest spirit of myth with baleful dark eyes and potent talons, its ponderous departure incongruous in its silence. It rains all night.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – In the morning the mountains are missing. The spires of Cathedral and Silver Peaks are obscured by a low ceiling of heavy clouds. We are rained-out at Paradise road after a scramble through damp desert scrub for a brief look at Black-chinned Sparrow and a plague of crimson velvet mites covering the now sodden desert floor. It pours the rest of the morning. In the afternoon we return to Rodeo New Mexico for Bendire's Thrasher, and up canyon towards the Southwest Research Station where we encounter our first Northern Pygmy-owl. After dinner a waxing quarter moon peeks from behind the remnants of today's rains and mighty Jupiter (its moons Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto visible in binoculars) an unexpectedly bright celestial beacon. Searching desert roads for Poorwills unsuccessfully, we are treated instead to a mass movement of amphibians; green, great plains, and red-spotted toads (all very carefully studied in-hand) crossing the desert road in response to the rains. A road-side pool is alive with a cacophony of calling Couch's and Mexican Spadefoot toads. As we study a Couch's spadefoot in-hand, it whimpers and bleats piteously with pallid bloated belly writhing and stick-limbs flailing like some extraterrestrial infant distressed by contacting an irksome and unfamiliar atmosphere; we return it quickly to the nighttime desert and retreat for home.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – We begin today birding the Rustler park/Paradise junction where Turkey Creek crosses the road. The drainage is a tongue of stream-side vegetation where highland conifers merge with mid-elevation pine-oak woodland, and is our best hope for highland bird species. We are soon rewarded with a lone Mexican Chickadee. The road above the junction proves an excellent vantage point as a rain-induced eruptive nuptial flight of winged adult termites rises from the road-bed and ravine below. This allows us a fine transect of the bird community of Madrean pine-oak woodland, as a multitude of species adopt facultative feeding strategies; sallying from exposed perches to exploit this ephemeral resource. Scope views and glimpses of novel bird behavior from our commanding platform occupy our time here. A black bear ambles over the mountain-side across the valley from us. Down the mountain again past the Research Station, we strain to glimpse our only Zone-tailed Hawk of the tour against a background of swelling thunderheads and are favored with a study of a green rat-snake crossing the road; a secretive and seldom-seen reptile of the Borderlands. It rains all afternoon.

**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – We are granted a clear morning for a hike from Herb Martyr trailhead to Ash Springs and back. Moving across a slope of oak woodland beginning to reawaken from the iron grip of the Southwestern drought now that the rains have come, the transition from oaks to towering riparian conifers reverberates like a gong as we enter the Ash Springs drainage. Wynn Falls and the pinnacles that frame it loom beyond the closed canopy of giants above. Here we see our first Red-faced Warblers amid cooperative mixed-species flocks, where Grace's Warblers of the conifers mingle with Black-throated Grey Warblers of the oaks. By the time we leave the trail head and return to the Southwest Research Station for a last visit to the hummingbird feeders, the sky turns to lead and thunder growls; the high peaks of the Chiricahuas blur and vanish once again behind dark curtains of rain. The rain stops in the late afternoon. We are invited to visit the feeders at the house of Terry and Larry Gates;

hosts for the Camp for many years at Cave Creek Ranch. It proves our best opportunity to study hummingbirds so far; we have excellent looks at Broad-billed, Blue-throated and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds, and our first splendid and feisty male Rufous Hummingbird. A massive storm-cell from the south blackens the sky from the San Simon desert to the headwaters of Cave Creek Canyon. It is raining torrents when we reach Roth's house for dinner. At dusk the creek separating Roth's house from Portal rises and rampages with forest flotsam and the ominous clatter of cobbles and boulders rolled by the flood. As darkness settles in the canyon, the roar of the flood, and the scent of wet earth and the ions of swift-moving, sediment-laden water sliding over bedrock rekindle past memories of whitewater epics from when I was a younger man. It rains all night.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – Today is a travel day as we “escape” Cave Creek and drive to the San Pedro River and the Huachucas. Rolling past Douglas, with birding stops at Whitewater Draw and Bisbee and lunch in Sierra Vista, we reach the San Pedro River Inn. It is a place of big skies, the play of shadows on the land, and marching thunderheads looming beyond distant mountains, their bases hidden by the curvature of the Earth.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – It is a bright morning of dazzling blue sky as we explore the desert scrub and riparian woodland of the San Pedro River from San Pedro House. We have excellent scope studies of singing Cassin's Sparrows and a stunning male Varied Bunting in the desert scrub. The floral display of desert mallow, silver nightshade, sacred datura, and the trumpet blossoms of three species of desert gourd grace our hike to the rivers gallery forest, where Vermillion Flycatchers, Summer Tanagers, and Yellow-breasted Chats are savored in the scope. Crisply pigmented desert grassland whiptails scuttle for food and territory on damp earth, a handsome male Common Ground-dove, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo briefly, and a singing Botteri's Sparrow in the scope are added before we return to the San Pedro River Inn for lunch. Afternoon is hummingbird feeders at the Ash Canyon Bed and Breakfast, and our best looks at Anna's Hummingbirds, astounding scope views of Broad-billed, Violet-crowned, and Rufous Hummingbirds, and cooperative and stunning male and female Lucifer's Hummingbirds. Dark skies menace above the Huachucas; thunder and the approach of hard rain tell us it is time to return to the Inn.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – The hike up Miller canyon is steep, rocky, and mildly relentless. Mixed-species flocks, our only look at Steller's Jay during the tour, another striking Sonoran mountain kingsnake and a second look at Northern Pygmy-owl (mobbed by Hepatic Tanagers, Plumbeous Vireos, and Dusky-capped Flycatchers), and a pair of Painted Redstarts attending their active nest provide us welcome opportunities to linger as we ascend the canyon. Our best look at Red-faced Warblers; radiant in the green and gold of the forest understory of big-tooth maples and Arizona madrones on our descent to visit the hummingbird feeders at Beatty's orchards. Arguably the best hummingbird viewing of the tour, we add spectacular male Magnificent Hummingbirds, fine studies of male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, and exceptionally cooperative White-eared Hummingbirds; an immature male, adult female, and stunning adult male. The behavior of the latter is the most aggressive I have seen of this species. Perhaps they are emboldened by the prospect of imminent rain that is gradually blotting-out ridges and reefs of the mountain wall of the Huachucas above us. As the first fat drops of rain pelt the leaves of sycamores, manzanita and oak, we board the vans for lunch back at the San Pedro River Inn. Our final afternoon is spent at Ramsey Canyon, once the epicenter of hummingbird viewing and study in SE Arizona (Sheri Williamson did much of her work on *Hummingbirds of North America* here). Our last excellent look at Sulfur-bellied Flycatcher and a spectacular dogfight between a pair of Golden Eagles and Peregrine Falcons above the canyon complete our visit. We return to the Inn for dinner as another monsoon cloudburst lets loose above us.

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – Today is a travel day punctuated with an eclectic mix of birding stops as we return to Tucson: Varied Buntings and nice scope views of Thick-billed Kingbirds in the thorn-scrub/riparian forest ecotone at Patagonia roadside rest, a very brief and unsatisfying look at Black-capped Gnatcatcher in the thorn-scrub at Patagonia Lake, a stunning portrait-view of Grey Hawk in the scope at Kino Springs (the regal bird is ultimately ousted by kingbirds, one grasping the hawks back as it flees for a wild ride), and challenging looks at furtive Rufous-winged Sparrows in a unique desert scrub community atop a brick-red substrate of desert pavement exceptionally rich in cactus diversity. The triumph of the day was scope views for all of a singing male Flame-colored Tanager in the sycamores at Madera Canyon. All too soon we are negotiating rush-hour traffic on Valencia road for on-time check-in at our Tucson hotel, our final group dinner, and packing to return home.

**July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – The tour finished, participants depart Tucson for home.

### **BIRDLIST**

#### **Ducks (*Anatidae*)**

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

#### **Pheasants and allies (*Phasianidae*)**

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) A group of hens and two toms at Ash Canyon.

#### **New World Quail (*Odontophoridae*)**

Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*)

Gambel's Quail (*Callipepla gambelii*)

#### **Pelicans (*Pelicanidae*)**

American White Pelican (*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*) A lone bird at Wilcox pond.

#### **Cormorants (*Phalacrocoracidae*)**

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

#### **Hérons and Egrets (*Ardeidae*)**

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

#### **Ibises, Spoonbills (*Threskiornithidae*)**

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

#### **New World Vultures (*Cathartidae*)**

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

### **Hawks and Eagles (*Accipitidae*)**

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) At the San Pedro River Inn.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Grey Hawk (*Asturina nitidia*) Studied in the scope at Kino Springs, eventually being mobbed by Kingbirds; one of which rode the poor raptors back until it vanished from view.

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) In aerial combat with Peregrine Falcons high above Ramsey Canyon.

### **Falcons (*Falconidae*)**

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

### **Rails, Coots, and Gallinules (*Rallidae*)**

Sora (*Pozana Carolina*) Heard at Sweetwater Wetlands.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

American Coot (*Fulica americana*)

### **Plovers (*Charadriidae*)**

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*)

### **Avocets and Stilts (*Recurvirostridae*)**

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

### **Sandpipers and allies (*Scolopacidae*)**

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Willet (*Tringa samipalmata*)

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

### **Doves and Pigeons (*Columbidae*)**

Rock Pigeon (I) (*Columba livia*)

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I) (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*)

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

### **Cuckoos (*Cuculidae*)**

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californicus*)

### **Barn Owls (*Tytonidae*)**

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

### **Typical Owls (*Strigidae*)**

Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*)

Whiskered Screech-Owl (*Megascops trichopsis*)

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

Northern Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*) Seen twice; Chiricahuas and Huachucas.

Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) Spectacular looks perched on fence posts along the San Simon road.

Spotted Owl (*Srtix occidentalis*) Stunning close views of a vocal adult looming just above us along South Fork road.

### **Nightjars and allies (*Caprimulgidae*)**

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)

Common Poowill (*Phalaenoptilus nutalli*) Difficult; eventually seen at the San Pedro River Inn.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous*) Heard only.

### **Swifts (*Apodidae*)**

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

### **Hummingbirds (*Trochillidae*)**

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyanthus latirostris*) This bird has expanded its range considerably since I began birding in SE Arizona over 25 years ago. Once restricted as a common specialty hummingbird only in the Santa Rita Mountains in Madera Canyon, it is now regularly seen in virtually all of the SE Arizona “sky islands”.

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*) Three individuals; an immature male, adult female, and a splendid and very cooperative adult male allowing long studies and photography at the upper feeders at Beatty’s in Miller canyon. The group had wonderful looks at the bird’s purple and green iridescence that can be difficult to observe on this species.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia violiceps*)

Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis clemenciae*)

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) Truly magnificent in good light, as always.

Lucifer Hummingbird (*Calothorax lucifer*) A splendidly cooperative pair allowing excellent studies at Ash Canyon.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

Anna’s Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

Costa’s Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*)

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)



### **Trogon (Trogonidae)**

Elegant Trogon (*Trogon elegans*) We encountered a total of four individual males on our morning in South Fork; our last exceptionally calm and cooperative allowing the shutterbugs in our group unprecedented opportunities for photography as it called softly and persistently for its mate. We had ample opportunity to pour over every nuance of pigment and iridescence so diagnostic of this remarkable species.

### **Woodpeckers (Picidae)**

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)

Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*)

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*)

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides vilosis*)

Arizona Woodpecker (*Picoides arizonae*)

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

Guilded Flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*)

### **Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)**

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)

Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*)

Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*) Nice studies of a responsive bird above the SW Research Station along Herb Martyr road.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) Wow! Many splendid views in the scope along the San Pedro.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

Sulfur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) We enjoyed exceptional studies of this splendid species.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) Splendid scope studies at Patagonia Roadside Rest.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

### **Shrikes (Laniidae)**

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

### **Vireos and allies (Vireonidae)**

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*)

Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*)

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)

### **Crows and Jays (Corvidae)**

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

Mexican Jay (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*)  
Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*)  
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

**Larks (*Alaudidae*)**

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)

**Swallows (*Hirundinidae*)**

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) A few individuals in the saguaros at ASDM.  
Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)  
Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)  
Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrronota*)  
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

**Chickadees and Titmice (*Paridae*)**

Mexican Chickadee (*Poecile sclateri*)  
Bridled Titmouse (*Baeolophus wollweberi*)  
Juniper Titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*)

**Verdin (*Remizidae*)**

Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*)

**Bushtit (*Aegithalidae*)**

Bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*)

**Nuthatches (*Sittidae*)**

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)

**Creepers (*Certhiidae*)**

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)

**Wrens (*Troglodytidae*)**

Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*)  
Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*)  
Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)  
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

**Gnatcatchers (*Sylviidae*)**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)  
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*)  
Black-capped Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila nigriceps*) A very brief look at Patagonia Lake.

**Thrushes and allies (*Turdidae*)**

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)  
Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)  
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

### **Mockingbirds and Thrashers (*Mimidae*)**

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)  
Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*)  
Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)  
Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*)

### **Starlings (*Sturnidae*)**

European Starling (I) (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

### **Sliky-Flycatchers (*Ptilonotidae*)**

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)

### **New World warblers (*Parulidae*)**

Lucy's warbler (*Vermivora luciae*)  
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)  
Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigriscens*)  
Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*)  
Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)  
Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*) Exceptionally colorful adults enjoyed by all on our Miller Canyon hike. Our first brief look on our hike above Herb Martyr in the Chiricahuas.  
Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*) A pleasure to observe as it showcased its animated foraging antics in the Chiricahuas and Huachucas. We had the opportunity to study a nesting pair on our Miller Canyon hike.)  
Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

### **Tanagers (*Thraupidae*)**

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*)  
Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)  
Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)  
Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) Spectacular scope views of a singing male were enjoyed by all in Madera Canyon.

### **Buntings, Sparrows, and allies (*Emberizidae*)**

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)  
Canyon Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*)  
Abert's Towhee (*Pipilo aberti*)  
Rufous-winged Sparrow (*Aimophila carpalis*) Tough, but seen by some in the scope in the desert scrub below Madera Canyon.)  
Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassini*) Exceptionally abundant, permitting long scope studies along the San Pedro River.  
Botteri's Sparrow (*Aimophila botteri*) Seen wonderfully in the scope at the San Pedro River.  
Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*)  
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)  
Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*)  
Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)  
Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)  
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)  
Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonatus*)

### **Saltators, Cardinals, and Buntings (*Cardinalidae*)**

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*)

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)

Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*) Seen stunningly well foraging in the desert scrub at the San Pedro River, and again at Patagonia Roadside Rest our last day afield.

### **Blackbirds and allies (*Icteridae*)**

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quisicalus mexicanus*)

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*)

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*)

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)

### **Finches (*Fringillidae*)**

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)

### **OldWorld Sparrows (*Passeridae*)**

House Sparrow (I) (*Passer domesticus*)

### **AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES AND MAMMALS**

Couch's Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus couchii*)

Mexican Spadefoot (*Spea multiplicata*)

Green Toad (*Bufo debilis*)

Red-spotted Toad (*Bufo punctatus*)

Great Plains Toad (*Bufo cognatus*)

Sonora Desert Toad (*Bufo alvarius*)

Chiricahua Leopard Frog (*Rana chiricahaensis*)

American Bullfrog (I) (*Rana catesbeiana*)

Ornate Box Turtle (*Terapene ornata*)

Pond Slider (I) (*Tachemys scripta*)

Zebra-tailed Lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*)

Ornate Tree Lizard (*Urosaurus ornatus*)

Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*)

Striped Plateau Lizard (*Sceloporus virgatus*)

Southwestern Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus cowlesi*)

Desert Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus magister*)

Clark's spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus clarkii*)

Yarrow's Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus yarrovii*)

Gila Spotted Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis flagellicauda*)  
Sonoran Spotted Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis sonora*)  
Desert Grassland Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis uniparens*)  
Tiger Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris*)  
Madrean Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria kingii*)  
Gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer*)  
Green Ratsnake (*Senticolis triaspis*)  
Coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum*)  
Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis pyromelana*)  
Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*)  
Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus*)  
Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)  
Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*)  
Mexican (Apache) Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus nayaitensis*)  
Arizona Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus arizonensis*)  
Rock Squirrel (*Spermophilus variegatus*)  
Round-tailed Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus*)  
Cliff Chipmunk (*Tamias dorsalis*)  
Bat sp.  
Coyote (*Canis latrans*)  
Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)  
Collared Peccary (*Peccari tajacau*)  
White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

The taxonomy followed in the trip list is derived from Sibley (2003) for birds. The taxonomy of reptiles and amphibians is derived from the classic *Western Reptiles and Amphibians* by Stebbins (2003) and the excellent *Amphibians and Reptiles in Arizona* by Brennan and Holycross (2006). The mammal list is from *Mammals of North America* by Kays and Wilson (2002).