

*Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.*

## Spring Grand Arizona

May 10 - 20, 2005

Leaders: Barry Zimmer & Kevin Zimmer

### Itinerary:

May 10 - afternoon visit to Sonoran Desert Museum, Golf Links Road (28 species)

May 11 - northwest Tucson, Aravaipa Canyon, Sweetwater Wetlands, Madera Canyon, evening owling (83 species; 85 total)

May 12 - Madera Canyon, Amado Sewage Pond, Tumacacori Mission, Nogales Country Club pond, Kino Springs (90 species; 117 total)

May 13 - California Gulch and Ruby Road, Patagonia, Paton's yard (80 species; 133 total)

May 14 - Patagonia Lake State Park, Kino Springs, Paton's yard, Sonoita grasslands, Ramsey Canyon, Ash Canyon (91 species; 149 total)

May 15 - Carr canyon, Miller Canyon (75 species; 166 total)

May 16 - Garden Canyon, Scheelite Canyon, Sierra Vista Sewage Pond, Cochise Community Sewage, evening owling in South Fork (74 species; 171 total)

May 17 - Paradise Road, Cave Creek Canyon, Portal, desert below Portal, evening owling (80 species; 178 total)

May 18 - desert below Portal, upper elevations of Chiricahua Mts including Pinery Canyon and Barfoot Park; afternoon to George Walker house and Paradise Road; evening owling (76 species; 185 total)

May 19 - Scheelite Canyon, Willcox Sewage Pond (69 species; 193 total)

May 20 - departure for home (193 total species)

### Key:

T = all areas in and around Tucson, also Aravaipa Canyon

S = Santa Rita Mountains (Madera Canyon), surrounding grasslands

N = Nogales, Patagonia, Ruby Road

H = Huachuca Mountains, Sonoita grasslands

C = Chiricahua Mountains, Douglas area, Willcox

underlined species represent birds of very uncommon occurrence or species which occur regularly but in such low density as to be easily missed

**bold-faced species** indicate birds of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence

## **Birds:**

**Red-necked Grebe** C---an amazing find at Willcox the last afternoon; represented only the fourth Arizona record ever and a first for this tour

**Least Grebe** T---a bird that we discovered four years ago is still present at Sweetwater; accidental in Arizona

Pied-billed Grebe T,N

Eared Grebe N---one at Patagonia Lake

Double-crested Cormorant N---one at Patagonia Lake

Neotropic Cormorant N---about 20

Great Blue Heron T,N

Great Egret T---oddly two perched in mesquites near Mammoth

Green Heron N

Black-crowned Night-Heron T---spotted by Carl

White-faced Ibis T,N,H---great views of breeding-plumaged birds

Black Vulture N---a total of three around Patagonia

Turkey Vulture seen daily in numbers

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck N---one pair at Kino Springs; uncommon

Gadwall N---late pair in Nogales

Mallard T,N,H,C---including some of the Mexican Duck subspecies

Cinnamon Teal H,C

Northern Shoveler N,H,C

Ruddy Duck T,N,C---wonderful breeding males with bright blue bills

Northern Harrier C---very late

Cooper's Hawk T,N,H

Gray Hawk N---a total of six seen

Common Black-Hawk T---great views of a pair; nice spotting on the second bird by Connie

Harris's Hawk T---local

Swainson's Hawk S,H,C---including two dark morphs

Zone-tailed Hawk T,S,N,H---amazingly we had five individuals; this bird can be missed completely

Red-tailed Hawk seen daily

Golden Eagle N,H---Rey's specialty bird!

American Kestrel T,S,N,H

Peregrine Falcon T,H---our first spotted by Carl

Wild Turkey S---thanks to Carol; the Gould's subspecies

Montezuma Quail thanks to spotting by Dan & Kevin we had two pair, including incredible views of the second pair from about 15 feet; voted the favorite bird of the tour; easily missed

Scaled Quail S,H,C

Gambel's Quail seen or heard daily

Common Moorhen T---spotted by Dan

American Coot T,N,H,C

Killdeer T,N,H,C

Black-necked Stilt T,C

American Avocet C

Spotted Sandpiper T,S,N,C

Long-billed Curlew C---very uncommon migrant

**Marbled Godwit** C---rare

**Stilt Sandpiper** C---rare spring migrant

Long-billed Dowitcher

Wilson's Phalarope C---gorgeous breeding plumaged birds

**Red-necked Phalarope** C---one in with Wilson's; rare

Ring-billed Gull H---seen only by Rey in the hotel parking lot

Rock Pigeon seen in all urban areas

Eurasian Collared-Dove N,C---a recent arriver in this area

Band-tailed Pigeon H,C---exceptional views in Portal

White-winged Dove seen daily in numbers  
 Mourning Dove seen daily in numbers  
 Inca Dove T,N---only three seen the whole trip  
 Common Ground-Dove N---two seen  
 Greater Roadrunner N,H,C---a total of 13 seen  
 Barn Owl S---nice flight views of a pair  
Flammulated Owl C---unfortunately this very difficult-to-see species was heard only  
 Western Screech-Owl S---fantastic views  
 Whiskered Screech-Owl S,C---ditto; Carl's 600th bird!  
 Great Horned Owl C  
Northern Pygmy-Owl C---great views of two, including walk away scope views of one and another coming out of a nest hole; uncommon  
 Elf Owl S,C---great studies, including two in nest holes  
 Burrowing Owl T---uncommon & localized  
Spotted Owl H---after missing this species on our first visit to Scheelite, we made an early morning return our last day---fortunately Kevin found the pair at the last minute of our second attempt and we all had fantastic views; voted the second favorite bird of the tour  
 Lesser Nighthawk S,N  
 Common Poorwill S---good views  
 Whip-poor-will C---nice flyover; the Mexican subspecies *arizonae*, already split by some authors  
 White-throated Swift T,S,N,H,C  
 Broad-billed Hummingbird S,N,H  
**White-eared Hummingbird** H---fantastic male in Miller Canyon; very rare at this season  
 Violet-crowned Hummingbird P  
 Blue-throated Hummingbird H,C---seemed scarcer than usual  
 Magnificent Hummingbird S,H,C---including a female on a nest  
Berylline x Magnificent (?) hybrid H---an odd but pretty bird that has been in Miller Canyon for some time  
**Lucifer Hummingbird** H---very unexpected was a pair in Ash Canyon with the male not come in in until twenty seconds before our deadline to leave!  
 Black-chinned Hummingbird seen daily  
 Anna's Hummingbird N,H  
Costa's Hummingbird T---five at the desert museum were our only ones  
 Broad-tailed Hummingbird S,N,H,C  
**Rufous Hummingbird** H---rare in spring was an adult male in Ramsey  
 Elegant Trogon S,H---spectacular views in the Huachucas, including a pair bombing the roosting Spotted Owls!!  
 Acorn Woodpecker every day but the first  
 Gila Woodpecker T,S,N  
 Ladder-backed Woodpecker T,S,N,C  
 Hairy Woodpecker H,C  
Arizona Woodpecker S,H,C---several good views of this often difficult to find species  
 Northern Flicker H,C---red-shafted variety  
 Gilded Flicker T---four seen  
 Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet close study  
 Greater Pewee H,C---seven seen  
 Western Wood-Pewee S,N,H,C  
Hammond's Flycatcher C---a late migrant spotted by Brad  
 Cordilleran Flycatcher C---very close views  
 Buff-breasted Flycatcher H---eight of these localized birds seen  
 Black Phoebe N,C  
 Say's Phoebe N,H,C  
 Vermilion Flycatcher N---always spectacular  
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher S,N,H,C  
 Ash-throated Flycatcher T,S,N,H,C

Brown-crested Flycatcher T,S,N,H,C  
 Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher H,C---several nice views of this late arriver  
 Cassin's Kingbird seen daily  
 Western Kingbird T,H,C  
 Loggerhead Shrike H,C---seemed scarcer than usual; one fledged family group near Rodeo  
 Bell's Vireo T,S,N,C---incredibly we found three nests, at least one of those by Sara  
 Plumbeous Vireo S,N,H,C  
 Hutton's Vireo S,H,C  
 Warbling Vireo S,N,H,C  
 Steller's Jay H,C---subspecies *macrolopha*  
 Western Scrub-Jay H,C---subspecies *woodhouseii*  
 Mexican Jay S,N,H,C---subspecies *arizonae*  
 Chihuahuan Raven H,C  
 Common Raven T,S,N,H,C  
 Horned Lark H,C  
 Purple Martin T---two only  
 Violet-green Swallow H,C  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow T,S,N  
 Bank Swallow H---uncommon migrant  
 Cliff Swallow T,N,H  
 Barn Swallow almost daily  
 Mexican Chickadee C---pair at the nest  
 Bridled Titmouse every day but the first  
 Juniper Titmouse C---a lone bird on the Paradise Road  
 Verdin almost daily  
 Bushtit N,H,C  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch H,C---somewhat unusual was one in Carr Canyon  
 White-breasted Nuthatch almost daily  
 Pygmy Nuthatch C---one of the cutest birds of North America  
 Brown Creeper H,C---nest in Carr  
 Cactus Wren almost daily  
 Rock Wren N---like it was on a string!  
 Canyon Wren N,C  
 Bewick's Wren T,S,N,H,C  
 House wren S,H,C  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher C---one on the Paradise Road  
**Black-capped Gnatcatcher** N---fledged family group at Patagonia Lake; casual in United States; perhaps only the third time ever for this tour  
 Black-tailed Gnatcatcher T,N,C  
 Eastern Bluebird N---seen only by a few  
 Hermit Thrush H,C  
 American Robin S,H,C  
 Northern Mockingbird seen daily  
 Bendire's Thrasher C---two pair  
 Curve-billed Thrasher seen daily  
 Crissal Thrasher C---pair near Portal; always skulky and elusive  
 European Starling T,S,N  
 Phainopepla T,S,N,H  
 Olive Warbler H,C---a total of six seen including a pair with a nest near Barfoot Park; Euripide's favorite  
 Virginia's Warbler H---only one seen  
 Lucy's Warbler S,N,C  
 Yellow Warbler T,S,N,C  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler S,H,C  
 Townsend's Warbler S,C  
 Grace's Warbler S,H,C

Common Yellowthroat T,N  
 Wilson's Warbler T,S,N,H,C  
 Red-faced Warbler H,C---voted the third favorite bird of the tour  
 Painted Redstart S,H,C---always spectacular  
 Yellow-breasted Chat T,N---heard only  
 Hepatic Tanager S,N,H,C  
 Summer Tanager T,N,C  
 Western Tanager almost daily  
**Flame-colored Tanager** S---wonderful pair in Madera provided many great views; casual in this country  
 Spotted Towhee H,C  
 Canyon Towhee N,H,C  
 Abert's Towhee T,N  
Botteri's Sparrow S,N---never to be expected on a spring trip; subspecies *arizonae*  
Cassin's Sparrow C---ditto  
 Rufous-winged Sparrow S---very good views of this localized species  
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow N,H,C---subspecies *eremoeca*  
Five-striped Sparrow N---two in California Gulch; extremely localized  
 Lark Sparrow N,C  
 Black-throated Sparrow S,N,H,C---the handsomest sparrow?  
Grasshopper Sparrow H---unsurpassed study near Sonoita; uncommon breeder; subspecies *ammolegus*  
 Song Sparrow T,N---subspecies *saltonis*  
 White-crowned Sparrow N---a few remnant migrants of the black-lored variety  
 Yellow-eyed Junco H,C  
 Northern Cardinal seen daily; the longer crested, brighter red Arizona subspecies  
 Pyrrhuloxia T,H,C---only a few seen  
 Black-headed Grosbeak seen daily  
 Blue Grosbeak N,C---just arriving  
 Lazuli Bunting N,C---all females  
 Red-winged Blackbird T,N,H  
 Eastern Meadowlark H,C---the southwestern race *lilianae*, a possible future split  
 Great-tailed Grackle everywhere but the Chiricahuas  
 Bronzed Cowbird T,S,N,H  
 Brown-headed Cowbird seen daily  
 Hooded Oriole T,S,N,H,C  
 Bullock's Oriole N,C  
 Scott's Oriole N,H,C  
 House Finch seen daily  
 Pine Siskin S,N,C---late migrants  
 Lesser Goldfinch almost daily  
 House Sparrow seen daily

total species - 193

### **Leader only birds:**

Swainson's Thrush  
 Lincoln's Sparrow

### **Mammals:**

Rock Squirrel  
 Apache (Mexican) Fox Squirrel  
 Arizona Gray Squirrel  
 Round-tailed Ground Squirrel

Harris's Antelope Squirrel  
Cliff Chipmunk  
Desert Cottontail  
Eastern Cottontail  
Black-tailed Jackrabbit  
Antelope Jackrabbit  
Coyote  
White-nosed Coatiundi  
Collared Peccary (Javelina)  
White-tailed Deer  
Mule Deer  
Pronghorn  
bat species---at least two different sizes including a very large one

total species - 18

### **Reptiles & Amphibians:**

Checkered Whiptail  
Desert Grassland Whiptail  
Crevice Spiny Lizard  
Clark's Spiny Lizard  
Yarrow's (Mountain) Spiny Lizard  
Lesser Earless Lizard  
Zebra-tailed Lizard  
Round-tailed Horned Lizard  
Sonoran Whipsnake  
Coachwhip  
Gopher Snake  
Black-tailed Rattlesnake  
Banded Rock Rattlesnake---seen only by Dan & I  
Western Patch-nosed Snake  
Red-eared Slider

total species - 15

### **Butterflies:**

Mourning Cloak  
Black Swallowtail  
Two-tailed Swallowtail  
Pipevine Swallowtail  
California Sister  
Queen  
Monarch  
Gulf Fritillary  
Red-spotted Admiral  
Empress Leilia  
Checkered White  
Orange Sulphur  
Dainty Sulphur  
Mexican Yellow  
Painted Lady  
Marine Blue  
Reakirt's Blue  
Acmon Blue

Texan Crescent  
Nabakov's Satyr  
Bordered Patch  
checkerspot species (possibly fulvia)

total species - 23

**Significant others:**

Tarantula Hawk (Wasp)  
Robert & Connie's 25th anniversary  
Euripides---defender of the outer galaxy!  
giant Lady Bug (Macula)  
cow drool---Kevin's favorite sighting!

**Insignificant others:**

minute men---ugh!