

AVIAN JEWELS OF ARIZONA

HUMMINGBIRDS, TROGONS, WARBLERS & MORE

JULY 17-25, 2017

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In the birding world, Southeast Arizona and hummingbirds are nearly synonymous! An incredible fifteen species are possible in late summer in this small corner of the state and many of them can be found nowhere else in the United States. Often a row of feeders are buzzing with so many individuals that it is hard to decide where to look first. For eastern birders accustomed to one species of hummingbird, it can be a mind-boggling experience, and even most western states are home to only two or three varieties. In Southeast Arizona, however, due to a proximity to both the northern end of the Sierra Madre Occidental and the southern end of the Rocky Mountain chain, there is a diversity of hummingbirds unmatched anywhere else in the country.

At least eight hummingbird species found here are regular breeders: Black-chinned, Costa's, Broad-tailed, Anna's, Broad-billed, Violet-crowned, Blue-throated, and Magnificent. Three others occur, mainly as late summer/early fall migrants: Rufous, Allen's (rare), and Calliope. The remaining four—Lucifer, Berylline, White-eared, and Plain-capped Starthroat—occur as post-breeding vagrants from Mexico. Of these four, all but the starthroat typically occur on an annual basis, and late July/early August is the prime time to search for these rarities. Arizona is truly a mecca for first-hand study of hummingbird identification, ecology, range, and other related topics.

In addition to the hummingbirds, there are other rich birding rewards to be found on this tour. We will spend time searching for most of the specialty birds of southeastern Arizona including Elegant Trogon; Whiskered Screech-Owl; Arizona Woodpecker; Gilded Flicker; Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet; Greater Pewee; Buff-breasted, Dusky-capped, and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers; Tropical and Thick-billed kingbirds; Mexican Chickadee; Bridled Titmouse; Olive and Red-faced warblers; Painted Redstart; Rufous-winged, Botteri's and Five-striped sparrows; Yellow-eyed Junco; Varied Bunting; and many more. We will be working our way through the best of Southeast Arizona's birding hotspots, and, although we won't have time to search out all of the regional specialties (like some of the longer Arizona tours can), we invariably find a high proportion of them. North American rarities are a good possibility too, and examples from recent tours include Flame-colored Tanager (2004, 2006-2009), Rufous-capped Warbler (2006), Slate-throated Redstart (2013), Aztec Thrush (2006), Sinaloa Wren (2009), Black-capped Gnatcatcher (2004-2007, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015), Rose-throated Becard (2005), and Short-tailed Hawk (2002-2004, 2009)—all very rare birds.

Other more widespread birds of the Southwest that we have a chance to encounter include Zone-tailed and Gray hawks; Montezuma and Scaled quail; Common Ground-Dove; Greater Roadrunner; Lesser Nighthawk; White-throated Swift; Gila and Ladder-backed woodpeckers; Cordilleran Flycatcher; Vermilion Flycatcher; Ash-throated and Brown-crested flycatchers;

Cassin's and Western kingbirds; Bell's, Plumbeous and Hutton's vireos; Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay; Mexican Jay; Chihuahuan Raven; Juniper Titmouse; Verdin; Pygmy Nuthatch; Cactus, Rock and Canyon wrens; Black-tailed Gnatcatcher; Bendire's and Crissal thrashers; Phainopepla; Lucy's, Black-throated Gray, and Grace's warblers; Western and Hepatic tanagers; Canyon and Abert's towhees; Cassin's, Rufous-crowned, Black-chinned, and Black-throated sparrows; Pyrrhuloxia; Bronzed Cowbird; Hooded and Scott's orioles; and Lesser Goldfinch.

July 17, Day 1: Arrival in Tucson. Participants should plan to arrive in Tucson, Arizona before 3:00 p.m. today and transfer to our hotel where a room will be reserved in your name. We will meet in the hotel lobby at 3:30 p.m. for a quick, get-acquainted session followed by some brief afternoon birding. A visit to the nearby Sweetwater wetlands should provide a nice introduction to many of the common birds of the area. Possibilities here include Gambel's Quail, Gila Woodpecker, the localized Tropical Kingbird, Verdin, Abert's Towhee, and the southwestern race of Song Sparrow. We may go from birding directly to dinner.

NIGHT: Hampton Inn Tucson Airport, Tucson

July 18, Day 2: Madera Canyon. We depart Tucson this morning heading toward the Santa Rita Mountains. We'll make a stop or two along the way in the lower-elevation grasslands and scrub—including some good habitat for Botteri's, Cassin's, and Rufous-winged sparrows; Varied Bunting; Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Bell's Vireo; Blue Grosbeak; and others. Eventually we'll reach the famous Madera Canyon. Feeders hanging outside the Santa Rita Lodge and other canyon lodges often bustle with bird activity; Broad-billed, Black-chinned, and the incredible Magnificent hummingbirds are common breeding species in the canyon, while migrant Rufous, Anna's, and Broad-tailed hummingbirds are likely as well. In addition to hummingbirds, we should find a variety of other species in the vicinity of the feeders. Regular visitors include Acorn Woodpecker, Mexican Jay, Bridled Titmouse, and Black-headed Grosbeak, while Brown-crested and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers nest in the adjacent sycamores and oak-juniper woods. As the day progresses we will explore other parts of Madera Canyon and adjacent habitats. Depending on the day's events, we may bird higher in the canyon, return to the scrub and grasslands, or even strike out after some nearby rarity if one is reported. Some of the many exciting bird possibilities include Elegant Trogon, Arizona Woodpecker, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Painted Redstart, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Hepatic Tanager.

We may have an optional owling excursion this evening to search for both Whiskered and Western screech-owls and possibly Common Poorwill.

NIGHT: Hampton Inn Tucson Airport, Tucson

July 19, Day 3: Madera Canyon to Nogales. This morning we will likely revisit portions of the Santa Rita Mountains. Florida or Montosa canyon would be likely options. Both offer chances for the rare Black-capped Gnatcatcher, a few pairs of which nest in the United States each year. Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Rock and Canyon wrens, Lucy's Warbler, and fabulously plum-colored Varied Buntings might also be found in these areas. A cruise through Green Valley could produce the highly localized Gilded Flicker. After lunch we will work our way southward to the Nogales/ Patagonia area. Riparian habitats in this region harbor the likes of Gray and Zone-tailed hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Thick-billed Kingbird, and Summer Tanager, among others. Two small ponds near our hotel could produce Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, the localized Tropical Kingbird, stunning Vermilion Flycatchers, and Phainopeplas.

NIGHT: Best Western Sonora Inn & Suites, Nogales

July 20, Day 4: California Gulch; Sonoita Grasslands; Drive to Sierra Vista. Early this morning (following a 5 AM breakfast) we will venture west of Nogales through the Pajarito Mountains to remote California Gulch. This is currently the only reliable place to find Five-striped Sparrow in the United States. Mid-summer is prime

time to locate this highly sought species, as their breeding is often timed to coincide with the arrival of the monsoon rains. En route to the gulch, we will carefully scan the roadsides for the early mythical Montezuma Quail. Golden Eagle (uncommon), Greater Roadrunner, Costa's Hummingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Rock and Canyon wrens, Varied Bunting, and Scott's Oriole are among the other possibilities. After lunch in Nogales, we may revisit the Patagonia area if we are missing any of the specialties there. At any rate, by midafternoon, we will be heading eastward through the Sonoita grasslands en route to Sierra Vista. Horned Lark, Eastern Meadowlark (*liliana* subspecies), and Grasshopper Sparrow might be encountered along the way. By late afternoon we will check into our hotel in Sierra Vista. A post dinner search for Common Poorwill may be offered tonight.

NIGHT: Hampton Inn, Sierra Vista

July 21, Day 5: Huachuca Mountains and Canyons. We have two nights in Sierra Vista to do justice to the many potential birding spots in the Huachuca Mountains and canyons. Today offers a number of options, including visiting Fort Huachuca, or Miller, Ramsey or Ash canyons in the Huachuca Mountains. Policies regarding visits to Fort Huachuca are in a state of flux right now, so that may or may not be an option. Huachuca Canyon, located on the post, is currently one of the best spots to find Elegant Trogon. Northern Pygmy-Owl, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Painted Redstart, and Hepatic Tanager are among the possible species. Miller Canyon often has the best hummingbird show on our entire route. Magnificent, Broad-billed, Black-chinned, Anna's and Broad-tailed are expected. The rare White-eared Hummingbird has been sighted here almost annually for the past several years. Migrant Rufous and Calliope are also possible. A steep hike further up the canyon sometimes yields the highly sought Spotted Owl or possibly the incomparable Red-faced Warbler. Nearby Ash Canyon has irregular occurrences of Lucifer Hummingbird and may also yield Scott's Oriole. Whichever option we choose, this is certain to be a birdy day. If we still need either species, we will likely do some evening owling to look for Western and Whiskered screech-owls.

NOTE: Fort Huachuca will require each person in the group to provide government issued photo identification, typically in the form of a driver's license or passport. A vetting process that may take up to a half hour per person was put in place in 2016 making entry even more difficult. In addition, entry of non-U.S. citizens into the Fort cannot be guaranteed. Citizens of countries outside the United States may not be able to enter the Fort should we choose to bird there (currently non-U.S. residents require a military escort which we will try to arrange). These policies are subject to change without notice.

NIGHT: Hampton Inn, Sierra Vista

July 22, Day 6: Sierra Vista to Chiricahua Mountains. We will likely spend the morning visiting one of the canyons in the Huachucas looking for any species we may have missed. Carr Canyon may be our destination. Buff-breasted flycatchers are more common here than anywhere else in the United States. Greater Pewee is likely, as are a host of warbler species including Virginia's (uncommon this late), Grace's, Black-throated Gray, Red-faced, Olive, and Painted Redstart. Other species we may encounter include Northern Pygmy-Owl (very uncommon), Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bushtit, Olive Warbler, Hepatic and Western tanagers, and Yellow-eyed Junco. By midday we will leave the Huachucas and head for the majestic Chiricahua Mountains. Our route will take us through the Sulphur Springs Valley where such species as Scaled Quail, Swainson's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Chihuahuan Raven, and Bendire's Thrasher might be found. When we arrive in Portal at our lodging for the next two nights, we are again in the midst of some of the best hummingbird watching Arizona has to offer. Time permitting, we may visit some local feeders before dinner, where the increasingly localized Blue-throated Hummingbird can often be found.

NIGHT: Portal Peak Lodge, Portal

July 23-24, Days 7-8: Portal and the Chiricahua Mountains; Return to Tucson. We will have the better part of two days to enjoy this incredible area. Unmatched in either birds or scenery, Cave Creek Canyon will provide a fitting conclusion to our tour. Cave Creek is home to many highly-sought species, including the incomparable

Avian Jewels of Arizona, Page 4

Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Hutton's and Plumbeous vireos, and Painted Redstart. The juniper habitat at mid-elevation hosts Black-chinned (very uncommon & declining here) and Lark sparrows, Rock Wren, Juniper Titmouse, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (just split off from the Western Scrub-Jay complex), and other species. Returning to higher elevations, we will again be in search of Mexican Chickadee; Olive, Grace's, and Red-faced warblers; Greater Pewee; and others. An optional night drive could produce a Common Poorwill, owls, or some interesting mammals or reptiles.

By mid-afternoon on Day 8, we will head toward Tucson, stopping en route at Willcox to check for migrant shorebirds (possibilities include American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, and more). A pond in the middle of the desert is a magnet for migrant birds and there's no telling what rarity might drop in. At tonight's farewell dinner, we will recap a superb week of birding amid Arizona's natural wonders.

NIGHTS: Portal Peak Lodge, Portal (July 23)
Hampton Inn Tucson Airport, Tucson (July 24)

July 25, Day 9: Departure for Home. Tour participants may plan to depart for home at any time today.

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 14 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: Barry Zimmer and Brennan Mulrooney

Barry Zimmer has been birding since the age of eight. His main areas of expertise lie in North and Central America, but his travels have taken him throughout much of the world, including such exotic locales as Japan, Russia, Madagascar, Africa, and New Zealand. Barry is a longtime member of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee, and served on the Texas Bird Records Committee for 12 years. He has co-authored three books: *Birds of the Trans-Pecos*, *A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley*, and *Birds and Birdfinding in the El Paso Area*. Barry has a keen interest in nature photography, having captured over 1,000 species of birds on film. His other interests include sports (a diehard Red Sox fan), cooking, and movies. He received his degree in psychology at the University of Texas in El Paso. Barry resides in El Paso with his wife, Yvonne, and their daughter, Alexandra.

Brennan Mulrooney was born and raised in San Diego, California. Growing up, his heart and mind were captured by the ocean. He split his summer days between helping out behind the scenes at southern California's leading aquarium and working on sport fishing vessels off the coast. As a wildlife and fisheries biology major at UC Davis, he developed his fascination with birds and love of birding while taking a required ornithology course. After graduating from UC Davis, Brennan traveled throughout the United States working on widespread ornithological field studies. His work took him from the mountains of northern California to the Salton Sea in southern California, and from Cape May, New Jersey to Key Largo, Florida. After a six-year stay in the Florida Keys, Brennan returned home to San Diego where he currently lives with his wife Brynne, their son Declan, and daughter Saoirse. Participants often comment that Brennan's sharp eyes, sharper wit, and easygoing attitude make it a pleasure to bird with him.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for the tour is **\$2,695** per person in double occupancy from Tucson, Arizona. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 9, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Tucson and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$415**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The initial deposit for this tour is **\$300** per person. If you would like to pay your initial deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay the initial deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard, Visa, or American Express at the time of registration. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at www.ventbird.com) should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

PAYMENTS: Initial tour deposits may be made by MasterCard, Visa, American Express, check, money order, or bank transfer. All other tour payments, including second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc., must be made by check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$150** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$50** per person. If cancellation is made between 120 and 90 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 90 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions. *We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.*

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$150*
Between 120 and 90 days before departure	No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance will be refunded
Fewer than 90 days before departure date	No refund available

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$50 per person.

Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services, where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of any of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to VENT for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by VENT to you unless you otherwise advise VENT in writing.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends Travel Insured International as our preferred insurance provider. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" clause among others. **Contact Travel Insured International (800-243-3174 or www.travelinsured.com) prior to registration for details.** Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than Travel Insured International, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this

Avian Jewels of Arizona, Page 6

departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

BAGGAGE: You should limit your luggage to one medium-sized soft-sided bag and one carry-on bag per person. Please avoid large, hard suitcases if possible, as van space is limited.

CLIMATE: Summer is the “monsoon” season in Southeastern Arizona. Frequent afternoon and evening thundershowers considerably ameliorate the desert heat and bring about a resurgence of intense biological activity. This is the famous “second spring” in Arizona when many birds are in full song and breeding activity is visible at every hand. The tour begins and ends at relatively low elevations in Tucson, but most of the trip is spent in the mountain canyons at medium elevations. Expect daytime temperatures in the high 90s to low 100s in Tucson and in the low to mid 80s in the mountains. We will get an early start as a rule (breakfast will be around 6:00 a.m. most mornings, but will be at 5 AM on our morning in Nogales), and when possible, take a break in the heat of the afternoon. If the monsoon is late in developing, it can be very dry, so skin lotion and lip balm are very useful. We will be spending a lot of time above 5,000 feet in elevation, getting as high as 8,500 feet. If storms hit at these high elevations, it will cool off dramatically and may get down into the 60s or lower.

CLOTHING: The temperate climate of Arizona’s mountains promises warm days and cool nights. Lightweight clothing, hat, and sunscreen are recommended for mid-day, but long-sleeved shirts and possibly even sweaters are appropriate for mountain evenings. Shorts will be okay for some outings, but long pants might be better for some brushy areas. Light hiking boots are highly recommended, and one should be prepared for rain showers with a raincoat or travel umbrella. Informal dress is the rule throughout.

EQUIPMENT: You should pack a pair of binoculars that are in good condition, along with a belt pack or day pack (for carrying books, sunscreen, camera, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

Everyone should bring an alarm clock as certain accommodations on this tour do not have wake-up service. We also recommend a small water bottle for carrying water in the field. A small flashlight or headlamp will be useful for optional night outings. **A government issued photo ID is necessary for admittance into Fort Huachuca.**

CELL PHONE SERVICE & INTERNET: Cell phone service and internet are generally available throughout the tour; however, most cell providers do not have service in the Portal area. As of this time, only Verizon customers have service at this location. Wi-Fi is available in the Portal Peak Lodge. Also please note that cell phones with reception in the Portal area are generally picking up service from a tower in New Mexico and thus will change over to Mountain Daylight Saving Time (Arizona does not go on to Daylight Saving Time).

HEALTH: If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

INSECT PROTECTION: The rains will bring a few mosquitoes and the possibility of chiggers. A small container of any good repellent should suffice. Another effective method is to treat your clothing with permethrin (such as Sawyer's brand) or buy pretreated clothing (such as BuggsAway from Ex Officio).

A Note About Chiggers: This tour visits areas where chiggers are known to occur. Chiggers are tiny parasitic mites found in most warm weather areas of the southern United States and the world's tropics. They are especially numerous in grassy areas, where, in the immature stage, they attach themselves to other animals or humans who make contact with the grass as they pass by. Chiggers do not suck blood and the majority of the world's species do not carry disease. They do feed on bodily fluids, however, through a process in which a digestive enzyme is produced by the chigger which essentially liquefies the skin around the area where the chigger is attached. The chigger is not usually attached to the skin for more than a few hours before it either falls off or is knocked off. Our bodies respond by producing a hardened area as a defense against the chigger's digestive enzyme. Though the chigger may be long gone, it is the presence of the hardened area, and the body's natural process of reabsorbing it that typically causes intense itching, often lasting for a week or more. Chiggers like to attach themselves to areas of thin skin, like around the ankles, beltline, undergarment lines, knees, and elbows.

Chiggers can be avoided by following these procedures:

- Avoid walking, or standing in particular, in areas dominated by grass. These areas are where one is most likely to encounter chiggers.
- Tuck your pants into your socks to avoid direct skin-to-grass contact. Chiggers can find their way through clothing, but this is a standard and effective prevention technique commonly employed by many.
- Apply a cream-style insect repellent, such as "Cutters" to your body from the waist down BEFORE putting on your clothing.
- Spray your pants and socks with a spray repellent such as "Cutters" or "Off." Repellents with high concentrations of DEET (70-100%) are most effective. You do not need to apply these to your skin, only to clothing. (Be careful as DEET will damage plastics and lens coatings). Repel Permanone is an odorless aerosol insecticide that offers perhaps the best defense against chiggers. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online. It should only be applied to clothes and allowed to dry before you dress. Never apply Permanone directly to the skin. Permethrin is known to be a highly toxic chemical to insects. It is the active ingredient in Permanone, but is present in a small amount (0.5%).
- Powdered sulfur applied to waist, bottoms of pants, sock and boots is also effective at repelling chiggers. However, be warned that clothes will retain the sulfur odor for several washings.
- Shower at the end of each day in the field. Use a washcloth to vigorously rub your legs, feet, and ankles.

By following these methods, you should be able to avoid all chigger bites, as well as tick bites. If, however, you are bitten by chiggers anyway, you can reduce or eliminate the symptoms by applying benzocaine or hydrocortisone creams, calamine lotion, After Bite, or any number of anti-itch products.

SUGGESTED READING: A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

BIRD FIELD GUIDES:

Howell, Steve N.G. *Hummingbirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*. New York: Natural World/Academic Press, 2002. The best single guide to North American hummingbirds.

Kaufman, Kenn. *Advanced Birding*. Peterson Field Guide Series. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999.

Kaufman, Kenn. *Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. The best available *photographic* field guide to the birds of North America.

Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Guide to Western Birds*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

National Geographic. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Fifth Edition. Washington D.C.: The National Geographic Society, 2006.

Williamson, Sheri L. *A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America*. Peterson Field Guide Series. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2002. Another excellent resource for hummer ID.

OTHER BIRDING:

Blake, Clark (editor). *Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona*. Tucson: Tucson Audubon Society, 2007. This is an excellent resource for status and distribution of birds in Southeast Arizona as well as where to find them.

Ehrlich, Paul R. Et al. *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988.

Mlodinow, Steven G. and Michael O'Brien. *America's 100 Most Wanted Birds*. Helena, Montana: Falcon, 1996.

Peterson, Roger T. and James Fisher. *Wild America: The Record of a 30,000 Mile Journey*. Mariner Books, 1997 (*originally published in 1975*). See especially the chapter "Chiricahuas: Islands in the Sky."

Zimmer, Kevin J. *Birding in the American West: A Handbook*. Ithaca: Comstock/Cornell University Press, 2000. Teaches you how to sort out the tough species identification comparisons.

OTHER NATURAL HISTORY:

Bowers, Bowers, and Kaufman. *Mammals of North America*. Kaufman Focus Guides. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

Brock, Jim P. and Kenn Kaufman. *Field Guide to Butterflies of North America*. Houghton Mifflin Co, 2006.

Epple, Anne Orth and Lewis E. Epple. *A Field Guide to the Plants of Arizona*. Helena, Montana: Falcon, 1997 (reprint ed.).

Kricher, John C. and Gordon Morrison. *A Field Guide to the Ecology of Western Forests* (Peterson Field Guides). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993.

Olin, George. *House in the Sun: A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*. Tucson: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 2000 (2nd ed.).

Petrides, George A. and Olivia. *Western Trees*. Second Edition. Peterson Field Guide Series. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

Stebbins, Robert C. *Western Reptiles and Amphibians*. (Peterson Field Guides). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003 (3rd reprint ed.).

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

RESPONSIBILITY: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on September 28, 2016, and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.

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