

South-Eastern Arizona 9th-26th September 2015

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INTRODUCTION

This trip was organised at short notice as we were desperate to get away for a holiday after a stressful year. There are only a limited number of locations which are good for birdwatching in September, which are not too far away (e.g. southern hemisphere) and which could be arranged at short notice and SE Arizona is one of them. The very hot dry summer typical of the southern United States is interrupted by heavy thunderstorms during late July and August, and sometimes into September - this turns the country green and results in a second breeding season for many birds. August is definitely the best time to go, but early September looked as though it would still be OK though some of the summer visitors would be departing or would have departed by then. It is a very good time for hummingbirds with up to 15 species possible, though this figure includes a few real rarities. Various constraints meant that 9th September was the earliest we could go but in retrospect a couple of weeks earlier would have been much better.

The birding landscape in SE Arizona is focussed on the various small mountain ranges (sky islands) and the canyons which penetrate these ranges, which are the home of a number of species which only occur in this small area e.g. Elegant Trogon, Painted Redstart, Arizona Woodpecker, Mexican Jay, Mexican Chickadee and Montezuma's Quail. These ranges are separated by flatlands which are also good for birds, though not such specialised species. There are riparian areas in these flatlands which are excellent birding spots and were full of migrants at the time we were there.

In the event, it turned out that mid-September is a bit of a cut-off point – by that time many summer visitors had left (e.g. flycatchers, warblers) to be replaced by migrants (e.g. different flycatchers and warblers and also sparrows). Hummingbird activity also dropped off considerably by the middle of the month especially in the canyons. Also, the late summer breeders had completely finished breeding so there was very little singing going on – in fact we only heard House Wren, Blue Grosbeak, Curve-billed Thrasher and Rufous-shouldered Sparrow singing. We were hoping to find Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows still singing but that was not to be. It was notable there was no dawn chorus at all and at night it was completely quiet. To find birds we had to rely on visual sightings or on contact calls, each of which needed to be tracked down vigilantly in order to get decent views of the birds. Occasionally we would come across a small flock (just once, a very big flock) and these were very productive. The birds did not seem responsive to taped calls either of their own species or e.g. owls (though in fact you are not allowed to use taped calls in many places). And lastly, some types of birds – e.g. owls and nighthawks – are very hard to find at this time of the year and indeed we did not see any. This also applies to the Elegant Trogon which is very difficult to locate when it is not calling and indeed it is not clear if they were still around or had actually moved away.

Most American birds are not too hard to identify but Flycatchers and Sparrows were a particular problem. Many of the flycatchers can only be confidently distinguished by call but at this time of the year they were not calling at all. Sparrows are basically just pretty hard to identify especially when the flocks mostly consist of juveniles. We had also not done our homework on sparrows as we did not expect the winter sparrows to have arrived – but they were just arriving as we were there.

In short, the birding was quite hard, so we were pleasantly surprised to find that we came away with 56 lifers, which was actually slightly better than I expected. Even so, we did miss some key species and these are documented in the Bird List below, as well as the ones we did see!

On the plus side, we had many places to ourselves and the feeder locations were nice and quiet with only a small number of visitors (or often just us) – apparently everywhere can be very busy in the peak seasons which are Spring and August. The trails and tracks made for delightful walking with the slight frisson of a possible bear round the next corner to liven things up! There was also good scenery, interesting butterflies, plants, mammals and lizards and the chance to experience American food and culture.

Our invaluable guide to the trip was "Finding Birds in SE Arizona" published by the Tucson Audubon Society. The latest edition is May 2015. The book can be bought directly from this website but the shipping charges are quite

expensive. It can also be bought in the UK (e.g. Subbuteo) but the price reflects the high shipping costs and the overall price is similar. This book not only accurately documents all the good birding sites but also has a short entry for each species describing what kind of habitat to search in, some of the best sites, and a table showing the likelihood of seeing the bird in each month. In short, all you could ever need to know.

The other essential planning guide was the De Lorme Road Atlas of Arizona. We used this to plan our itinerary and also for driving when we were there. We hired a SatNav but actually never used it.

HUMMINGBIRDS

We saw very few hummingbirds in the natural environment and those that we did see were very fast-moving and hard to identify. It was necessary to visit feeders to see them. This was generally a pleasant experience and a nice way to end the day – 4:30pm to 6:00pm being the best time to visit. At this time of the year the vast majority of birds at the feeders were juveniles which are pretty hard to identify until you get to know the jizz. (e.g. Black-chinned continually dips its tail when hovering) So the technique was to wait until a bird with distinctive male plumage turned up and then identify that. This didn't work for Rufous however as we never saw a male – luckily the females are fairly easy. We never saw a full male Broad-tailed either though there were some in partial full plumage.

GENERAL NOTES

We flew BA direct to Phoenix - we could have got a cheaper deal by flying into some other American hub and then on to Phoenix but American airports have such a poor reputation for losing baggage that I did not want to risk that. (In the event, due to baggage conveyor problems at Terminal 5 many of the people on our BA flight arrived without their luggage – we were lucky). We arrived in the early evening (early morning the next day UK time) and took a shuttle bus to our hotel, the Hilton Airport, which was excellent. After a first class breakfast the next morning we took the shuttle bus back to the airport and transferred to the Car Hire shuttle bus which whisked us out to the Car Hire complex, which was staggeringly efficient and simple. We had booked in advance with Alamo and had the choice of 6 different cars – we had booked a “RAV4 or similar” and selected a Jeep Patriot with 4WD. This served us well though it was thirsty on fuel – this was inconvenient when staying a long way from a gas station.

The weather was hot and dry most days with thunder clouds often bubbling up but they never actually rained on us. It was generally cooler in the canyons and much hotter out on the plains. For two days there was continuous rain in the area south of Tucson – we decided to move north and use this time for our Grand Canyon visit - see below. (This weather was due to the remains of a tropical storm from the Pacific and is not apparently that unusual) There had also been heavy rain in the week before we arrived, hence there was flowing water in the creeks.

We spent much of our time on un-surfaced roads and although there had been heavy rains in the recent past, these were all in a reasonable condition. The high clearance of our Jeep Patriot was useful for stream crossings but probably not essential. The 4WD was a useful standby though we never used it in earnest.

ITINERARY AND WHERE WE STAYED

The holiday was designed partly around a stay at Cave Creek Ranch – I had read about this place in a trip report and thought it sounded fantastic, so we started off there. It is right at the Eastern end of the area we would be covering so we worked from there back Westwards. We also spent time in the Tucson area, partially to look at cacti but also to see the birds in this Sonoran Desert habitat. Two/three days were allocated to a visit to the Grand Canyon – for views rather than birds (we have previously been on a “Grouse trip” to Colorado so had seen most of the species which can be found here). There was always a chance of Californian Condor but we did not see it.

Of the places we stayed, Cave Creek Ranch was lovely – there were White-tailed Deer and Acorn Woodpeckers all around the place and the hummingbird feeders (and seed feeders) were very active. The cabin was very well equipped. The main problem was the distance to the nearest fuel (30 miles) and supermarket (60 miles) so we stocked up well at Willcox on the way in. Meals could be obtained at the Portal Store (it looked dusty and closed and had hardly anything on the shelves but the café was fine), the Rodeo Tavern (over the state border in New Mexico) and at the South Western Research Station just up the road – bookable 24 hours in advance and worth it – we had an excellent meal there.

Ramsey Canyon Inn is situated right at the entrance to Ramsey Canyon. It is a B&B with huge beds (and small rooms). They served an excellent breakfast on the dot at 8:00 and during the day a choice of two pies (they were extremely good) was always available. However there was no means of making a hot drink so we used to buy a coffee at the mini-market at the garage down the road and bring it back to drink with our pie! There was a really nice local restaurant, The Mesquite Tree, close by, just along the main highway to the south.

Duquesne House (B&B) in Patagonia was a delight. Beautifully furnished rooms, lovely garden and fantastic breakfast at the weekend though only a minimal (but very nice) breakfast on weekdays.

Other places we stayed were standard USA motels. The smaller independent ones were excellent with very well-equipped rooms (e.g. ironing board!) They all had coffee-makers.

Itinerary

9th Sept Fly London-Phoenix. Overnight Airport Hilton, Phoenix.

10th Sept Pick up hire car, drive to Cave Creek Ranch staying in the Creekside Cabin for 5 nights.

<http://www.cavecreekranch.com/index.html>

11th – 14th September – around Cave Creek, birding South Fork, North Fork, Rustler Park, Paradise Road, Portal, Stateline Road, Willow Tank, Cave Creek Ranch feeders, Foothills Road Feeders

15th – 18th Sept Drive to Ramsey Canyon, then staying at the Ramsey Canyon Inn for 4 nights.

<http://www.ramseycanyoninn.com/> Birded around Ramsey Canyon, Brown Canyon, Ash Canyon feeders, San Pedro river area, also non-birding visits to Bisbee and Tombstone.

19th- 20th Sept – at Patagonia, Dusquesne House B&B. <http://www.theduquesnehouse.com/> Birded “the Patons Place”, Patagonia Lake State Park, Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, Coronado National Monument, San Rafael Grasslands

21st – 23rd Sept – at the Grand Canyon and Sedona

24th – 26th Sept – Tucson area. Stayed at the Days Inn, Cortaro, just off the I-10 – convenient for the desert locations. Birded at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Saguaro National Park

27th Sept Birded Catalina State park then drove to Phoenix for the flight home.

BIRDING SITES

Most of these locations are covered in detail in “Finding Birds in SE Arizona” so detailed directions are not given here.

THE CAVE CREEK CANYON AREA AND THE CHIRICAHUAS

Cave Creek Ranch – the area around our cabins and the various bird feeders were full of birds and also hosted White-tailed Deer and a resident Skunk. Perhaps the best bird here was Blue-throated Hummingbird – a monster which announced its arrival with a loud screech. Other hummingbirds here were Black-chinned (huge numbers) and Broad-Tailed with just a few visits by Broad-billed, Rufous and Anna’s. The seed feeders hosted many Lesser Goldfinches and there were also plenty of Black-headed Grosbeaks. There were occasional visits from stunning Northern Cardinals. The small pool just by our cabin hosted quite a few Chiricahua Leopard Frogs and the large Sycamore (for English readers, this looks just like a London Plane) was home to 5 raucous Acorn Woodpeckers.

Cave Creek Canyon – South Fork On our first morning we approached South Fork with anticipation – it is supposed to be a premier birding spot. The road is closed (floods have washed it out) so you park and bird along the road to the end of the road (about 1.3 miles) then you can carry on walking on a trail up the canyon if you wish. It was very quiet at first but we managed to find Painted Redstart, Arizona Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse and Mexican Jay fairly easily. We were often distracted by the beautiful and freshly emerged butterflies drinking from the stream as it flowed over the road. As the weather heated up we started to walk back down and found two groups of birders coming up – I think we were out too early – the birds in the canyons are not early risers! We eventually came across

a very large flock which seemed virtually stationary but the contents changed – with a little help from two American birders we identified several vireos and warblers.

We had intended to bird the campsites in this area but they were all closed for the wet season due to the danger of flash floods. (We had thought of walking past the barriers but they were very substantial and clearly said “No Access”)

Cave Creek Canyon – North Fork and South Western Research Station (SWRS). On two occasions in the early morning we came across a male Montezuma Quail crossing the “main” road (FR42) and heading down towards the creek just before the turning for the North Fork and SWRS. It was actually heading into a private plot. The second time there was a female with him. The habitat on the right side of the road (N) looked just right for them – grasslands with occasional bushes and trees. Otherwise North Fork was not terribly interesting – though we did find Yellow Eyed Juncos at the SWRS and near Herb Martyr campground which seemed very low for them. We also saw our only Red-naped Sapsucker at the SWRS.

FR42 near the visitor centre You are not supposed to park on the road so care is required but this area was quite birdy on both sides of the road. There is parking at the visitor centre. One early morning we came across newly arrived small flocks of Chipping Sparrows by the side of the road.

Rustler Park, Barfoot Park and other high areas The road up to the top was a bit rough in places but fine for our high-clearance Jeep Patriot. These high areas are necessary to visit for a number of key species – Mexican Chickadee (only in the Chiricahuas), Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-faced and Olive Warblers, Yellow-eyed Junco and a number of others. We spent a good few hours up here and failed to find the Pigeon or any Warblers. A small professionally-guided birdwatching group doing the same thing also failed with these species and we concluded that they had left the area. The Chickadee only gave us brief views at the Rustler Park car park on the second visit. (Beware – they do not have a very chickadee-like call). We did find Yellow-eyed Juncos (everywhere), Pygmy Nuthatches, Hermit Thrush, Steller’s Jay, Hairy Woodpecker and Lincoln’s Sparrow. We also found Cordilleran Flycatchers though we wondered if they were on migration rather than the resident birds as they were not there on our second visit. In short, the high areas, though covered in flowers and with beautiful views, were moving rapidly into winter and the summer birds were no longer there.

Portal to Paradise to the junction with the FR42 - a very quiet road with a better surface than the FR42. There were several stream crossings which repaid investigation (Hepatic Tanagers) and some open areas worth scanning. The George Walker house at Paradise has feeders but they were quiet when we were there – wrong time of day. It can apparently be a very good place for migrants such as Orioles and also Juniper Titmouse. The area where this road meets the FR42 (near where the water runs over the FR42) is supposed to be good for Mexican Chickadee but not for us.

The area around the entrance to the Coronado National Forest and the entrance to Cave Creek Ranch This is a short stretch of road with riparian habitat and thick scrub on one side and grassy hillside with juniper and agaves on the other. There is also a track heading through a gate on the N side and up into the hills. First thing in the morning this area provided us with two Mexican Chickadees in junipers (not supposed to be this low), a family flock of Montezuma’s Quail, our only Black-chinned Sparrows, singing Curve-billed Thrashers, coveys of Gambel’s Quail and migrating Western Tanagers.

Chiricahua National Monument This site was very scenic but not particularly good for birds. We did, however, have good views of a Black Bear here as it deliberated whether to cross the road and then decided not to but to amble back up the rocky slope.

The road from Portal towards New Mexico and Stateline Road Early in the morning this area was hopping with birds. Flocks of Gambel’s Quail were common and we also saw a flock of Scaled Quail with one bird sitting on top of a fence post. (This was the same morning as the flock of Montezuma’s Quail – we saw all three species within half an hour) Stateline Road was bordered on both sides by degraded cattle grazing habitat with small scrubby bushes but it appeared to be a magnet for the migrants passing N to S along it. There were uncountable numbers of Western Kingbirds, huge flocks of Lark Buntings, a flock of about 100 Phainopepla (the only time we saw this bird), sparrows everywhere, most of which went unidentified though Brewer’s and Black-throated were definite. Also juvenile

Ferruginous Hawks, Loggerhead Shrikes, and best of all, a Bendire's Thrasher feeding in the road showing all its ID features very clearly. Slightly more curious were two Great Blue Herons flying down the valley.

Willow Tank Accessed along a turning at the end of Stateline Road this bunded water tank looks a bit scruffy and unwelcoming though there is a birder's blind on top of the bank. Our first bird here was a Solitary Sandpiper in a puddle on the road! There were also Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper in a wet area next to the tank which made up our total wader list for the trip as we did not go to any other wetlands. We had really good views of a Roadrunner on the far bund and spectacular views of a Vermilion Flycatcher in the morning sunshine. There were also many doves and sparrows coming in for a drink.

Foothills Road/Crissal Way/Big Thicket/Jasper/Rodriguez feeders These are all the same place! Very limited parking but we were the only people there on the two occasions we went. A friendly welcoming small gate takes you round to the back of the yard where the feeders are. These were good feeders for seed eaters – the only place we had a good view of Pyrrhuloxia – and on one occasion the feeders were invaded by a covey of Gambel's quail. We hoped to find Crissal Thrasher here but no luck – though there were Curve-billed Thrashers present. The hummingbird feeders were not very busy but did attract a male Magnificent Hummingbird.

THE HUACHUCA MOUNTAINS AND THE SAN PEDRO RIVER

Ramsey Canyon We were disappointed with Ramsey Canyon. We went into the Canyon Preserve (only 100 yards from the Ramsey Canyon Inn) on a Thursday morning, after it had been closed as usual on Tuesday and Wednesday, and it was very busy. There was a guided walk going on and lots of birders rushing up the canyon to the top to see a pair of Tufted Flycatchers. There did not seem to be many birds about but we did see a juvenile Bullock's Oriole and a Greater Pewee – we would not have picked up this latter bird if we hadn't been eavesdropping on the guided walk! There were a few small warbler/tit parties but nothing much else. The main part of the canyon is very short with apparently not very good habitat – very soon you have to go up the steep Hamburg Trail – we did this, and then Peter carried on to try and find the Tufted Flycatcher but he was not successful. The "famous" feeders at Ramsey Canyon were extremely quiet – sometimes just one bird, often none at all. Over 4 days we did manage to see Broad-billed, Magnificent and Anna's but that was all. I asked in the reception area why this was and just received blank stares. (Later we found that at around this time (18th September) the Beatty's hummingbird feeders in Miller Canyon closed for the season as the birds had all gone)

Ash Canyon feeders In contrast, Ash Canyon feeders were a delight – the location is not inside a canyon but on the approach to one, which seems to make a difference. The feeders (which are numbered) are arranged around a flowery garden with a large central tree, and the seed feeders are all in a separate area together. There were still plenty of hummingbirds here and some of them were even feeding on real flowers! There were plenty of Anna's, just one Calliope (which we would never have picked up without some help), plenty of Black-chinned and a few Broad-tailed and Rufous. However the star performer was the pristine male Lucifer which came to a small feeder which mimicked a flower right in front of us. Mary Jo Ballator, whose property this is, is a delightful elderly lady with a pet parrot and she knows her birds well.

Brown Canyon This canyon is accessed from a road off the entrance road to Ramsey Canyon. It is a very grassy flowery area and there is a large pond by the old ranch. I think this can be a very birdy spot but it was a bit busy with weekend cyclists and joggers when we were there – we should have gone before breakfast. (Sierra Vista is quite a big place and is close by)

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation area The main access point is at the San Pedro House – we did the loop walk here and picked up a number of new birds, many on migration. The small bushes in the open areas were attracting flycatchers such as Dusky-capped, Vermilion and Cassin's Kingbird – we also saw Olive-sided here. Gila Woodpeckers were common, there were plenty of sparrows and Blue Grosbeaks around the riverbed, and we also managed to winkle out our first Lazuli Bunting and a Green-tailed Towhee. We had very good views of a Gray Hawk. There were Summer Tanagers near the shop.

We also accessed the river at Charleston Bridge, where we had a good birdy walk down the stream bed. At Fairbank we failed to find the river but found some good birds in the car park!

Tombstone/Bisbee – included here as they are definitely worth a visit though not for birds (though Tombstone was the only place we saw Grackles!)

Coronado National Monument We drove through here on our way westwards and it was notable for a sighting of a Mountain Lion bounding across the road.

THE PATAGONIA AREA

Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve We were the only visitors and with some dedicated following-up of every squeak and cheep managed to locate Yellow-breasted Chat and Lucy's Warbler together with a good range of migrant warblers and flycatchers. We probably saw the Thick-billed Kingbird in the distance but by the time we had retrieved the telescope from the car it had gone.

Patagonia State Park We parked at the "Birders' Trailhead" and had the place to ourselves. The initial 200 yards along the track were surprisingly birdy – it is only ordinary looking scrub but we found our first Verdin and Rufous-winged Sparrow here. Once through the gate and into riparian woodlands we found warblers (our only Yellow Warbler) and flycatchers and managed to accidentally flush 4 different Sora from the wet edges of the lake. Our walk was truncated by the appearance of a very large bull. We then sat on a seat overlooking the lake across a patch where the scrub had been cut. We saw quite a good variety of birds here including several duck species, several swallows and martins and a Green Heron; an Osprey flew over our heads clutching a large fish.

The Paton's Hummingbird Feeders We went here in the evening and in the early morning - the latter is not so good as the sun is in your eyes. We easily saw the Violet-crowned Hummingbird, though it frequented a feeder near the fence that nothing else went to. Other hummers here were mostly Broad-billed.

San Rafael Grasslands We drove through here on our way to Patagonia. A very different habitat to anywhere else we went, it was the only place we saw Meadowlarks. There were loads of, mostly unidentified, sparrows.

WESTERN TUCSON AREA

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum The first time we went it was pouring with rain so we aborted the visit (and our entrance fee!) and headed north to the Grand Canyon. A few days later we tried again – a good move as most things are outdoors. It is well designed for sunny weather with plenty of opportunities for shade. It is partly a zoo – but the animals are in great enclosures with lots of rocks and trees, and caves to hide in though you could see them in the caves through one way glass. The cacti were great and there were lots of other interesting features. We went to a lecture on Gila Monsters and Rattlesnakes which was excellent (and cool!) and we did plenty of birdwatching. There were loads of Gila Woodpeckers, Curve-billed Thrashers, Cactus Wrens and Rufous-winged Sparrows but not the hoped-for Gilded Flicker or Costa's Hummingbird (the latter had left, the first was a mystery). We spent almost all day there.

Saguaro National Park West The visitor centre was interesting and the car park was good for lizards. We explored around here and at the Desert Discovery Nature Trail just down the road - the same birds as at the Desert Museum plus Antelope Squirrels, Desert Cottontails and Jackrabbits. We also walked up the wash which leads from the Kings Canyon car park – it seemed to be part of the official path. Here we had our best view of Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. We drove parts of the Bajada Loop Drive (some parts were shut due to road washouts) but did not see a lot apart from American Kestrels and Gila Woodpeckers. Lovely sunsets with saguaro cacti in the foreground.

Catalina State Park We spent the morning here before driving to Phoenix to catch the plane. It was Saturday so the place was pretty busy but the Birdwatching Trail was quiet. This trail entails crossing the creek which had running water so waterproof boots were an advantage. It was lovely habitat – mature mesquite bosque I think – and was good for flycatchers, towhees, warblers – all sorts.

BIRD LIST

In the notes below, the **key species which we did NOT see** are **highlighted in red**.

Species in **bold** were lifers.

Species in *italics* were seen **only in the Grand Canyon area**

| Name | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Black-bellied Whistling-Duck | Patagonia State Park |
| Mallard | Patagonia State Park, San Pedro |
| Scaled Quail | By the Portal - New Mexico road |
| Gambel's Quail | Common - even in the backyard of a burger bar in Black Canyon City! |
| Montezuma Quail | Seen twice near the turning for the SWRS and also by the Coronado Forest entrance at Cave Creek Canyon |
| Wild Turkey | We did NOT see these - they were all around us and often at Ash Canyon feeders but somehow we missed them |
| Great Blue Heron | Two birds flew down the valley at Stateline Road |
| Green Heron | Patagonia State Park |
| Turkey Vulture | Very common - there were also many juvenile birds with black heads doing their best to look like Black Vultures. |
| Osprey | One few over us at Patagonia State Park |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Seen in the Cave Creek area but the following bird was much more often seen |
| Cooper's Hawk | Seen a number of times especially in the Cave Creek area |
| Harris's Hawk | A brief fly through at the Foothills Road feeders was all we saw of this species |
| Gray Hawk | Seen well several times in the San Pedro area |
| Swainson's Hawk | Seen several times on poles in the open areas near Portal |
| <i>Zone-tailed Hawk</i> | Only seen at the Grand Canyon |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Common in the higher areas in the Chiricahuas |
| Ferruginous Hawk | Juvenile birds were frequent on Stateline Road. Also seen in other open areas. |
| American Kestrel | Common in open areas |
| <i>Peregrine Falcon</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon |
| Sora | 4 seen at Patagonia State Park |
| American Coot | At San Pedro on the lake and at Patagonia State Park |
| Killdeer | A noisy party at Willow Tank |
| Spotted Sandpiper | One bird at Willow Tank |
| Solitary Sandpiper | One bird at Willow Tank |
| Band-tailed Pigeon | NOT seen despite looking hard |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove | Widespread in towns |
| White-winged Dove | Common at the Foothills Road feeders; also seen elsewhere |
| Mourning Dove | Common |
| Inca Dove | Quite common in semi-urban settings e.g. Portal Store |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | A juvenile being fed by a parent in the garden at Dusquesne House in Patagonia |
| Greater Roadrunner | Several distant sightings of birds in the road then excellent views at Willow Tank |
| Owl species | NO OWLS were seen or heard at all. It was not even clear if Elf Owls were still in the area. |
| Nighthawks/Nightjars/Poorwills | NO NIGHTHAWKS/NIGHTJARS were seen or heard at all though we didn't actually try very hard |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>White-throated Swift</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon |
| Broad-billed Hummingbird | Common at most feeders. Least common at Cave Creek Ranch |
| Violet-crowned Hummingbird | Only seen at the Paton's feeders in Patagonia |
| Blue-throated Hummingbird | Only seen at Cave Creek Ranch |
| Magnificent Hummingbird | Seen sparsely at Cave Creek Ranch, Foothills Road and Ramsey Canyon |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | Very common at Cave Creek Ranch. Also common at other feeders. |
| Anna's Hummingbird | Became more common as we headed west. Plenty at Ash Canyon. |
| Calliope Hummingbird | Only one immature bird seen at Ash Canyon |
| Broad-tailed Hummingbird | Common at most feeders. |
| Rufous Hummingbird | Small numbers at most feeders |
| Lucifer Hummingbird | Only seen at Ash Canyon feeders |
| Elegant Trogon | NOT SEEN - nobody could tell us how to see one or whether they were still around |
| Belted Kingfisher | San Pedro on the lake and at Patagonia State Park |
| Acorn Woodpecker | Very conspicuous at Cave Creek but also seen elsewhere |
| Gila Woodpecker | Very common in the Saguaro cactus areas but also at San Pedro |
| Red-naped Sapsucker | Seen at the SWRS and once elsewhere |
| Ladder-backed Woodpecker | Common in dry areas and at Ash Canyon feeders |
| Hairy Woodpecker | Easily seen in the high-elevation pine areas of the Chiricahuas |
| Arizona Woodpecker | Easily seen at South Fork in Cave Creek Canyon, also Ramsey Canyon |
| Northern Flicker | Mostly seen in the high-elevation pine areas of the Chiricahuas |
| Gilded Flicker | NOT SEEN despite looking hard and asking around! |
| Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet | NOT SEEN |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | Good views of one at San Pedro |
| Greater Pewee | Seen once at Ramsey Canyon |
| Western Wood-Pewee | Seen in the Cave Creek area |
| Willow Flycatcher | We decided that most of the small greenish flycatchers in riparian areas were this species |
| Cordilleran Flycatcher | A small group of these at Rustler Park |
| Black Phoebe | Seen several time near water |
| Say's Phoebe | Only seen around Patagonia and near Tucson |
| Vermilion Flycatcher | Seen several times - Willow Tank, San Pedro etc. Juveniles look very different! |
| Dusky-capped Flycatcher | We saw this species on a number of occasions mostly at the San Pedro river |
| Cassin's Kingbird | Several sightings - San Pedro, Ash Canyon, Patagonia-Sonoita |
| Thick-billed Kingbird | Perhaps a distant sighting at Patagonia-Sonoita |
| Western Kingbird | Abundant on migration along Stateline Road. Small groups seen elsewhere. |
| Loggerhead Shrike | Not uncommon in open areas |
| Plumbeous Vireo | Two sightings, both in Cave Creek Canyon, the first in a large flock |
| Cassin's Vireo | One sighting in a large flock in Cave Creek Canyon |
| Hutton's Vireo | In the same flock as the above at Cave Creek Canyon but also at Ramsey Canyon and at Ash Canyon feeders |
| Steller's Jay | Only seen in the high-elevation pine areas of the Chiricahuas and the Grand Canyon |
| <i>Western Scrub-Jay</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon |
| Mexican Jay | Groups were common in the canyons. They have a very squeaky "small bird" call - not jay-like. |
| Common Raven | All the large black corvids which we saw appeared to be this species |
| Tree Swallow | Seen once - a small flock at Patagonia State Park |
| Violet-green Swallow | Seen several times in wet areas |

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| Bank Swallow | Seen several times in wet areas |
| Barn Swallow | Seen often in wet areas |
| <i>Mountain Chickadee</i> | Only in the Grand Canyon |
| Mexican Chickadee | At Rustler Park and also by the entrance to Cave Creek Ranch |
| Bridled Titmouse | Very common especially in the pine-oak-sycamore forest. A leading component of feeding flocks |
| <i>Juniper Titmouse</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon |
| Verdin | This common bird almost eluded us - eventually seen at Patagonia State Park and in the Tucson area |
| Bushtit | This common bird DID elude us - we did not see it! |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Common in feeding flocks |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | Noisy flocks at Rustler Park and at the Grand Canyon |
| Brown Creeper | Only seen in the high-elevation pine areas of the Chiricahuas |
| Cactus Wren | A huge wren - in the cactus areas near Tucson and also on a dry hillside near Cave Creek ranch |
| Rock Wren | Several seen in the canyons |
| Canyon Wren | Several seen in the canyons |
| Bewick's Wren | Seen at Cave Creek and Patagonia |
| House Wren | Fairly common, and singing occasionally |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Only seen once in Cave Creek |
| Black-tailed Gnatcatcher | Seen at the Desert Museum and Kings Canyon wash |
| <i>Western Bluebird</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon |
| <i>Mountain Bluebird</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon |
| <i>Townsend's Solitaire</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon |
| Hermit Thrush | Seen several times in high-elevation pine areas |
| American Robin | Seen once, fleetingly, at Cave Creek |
| Bendire's Thrasher | Seen once on Stateline Road |
| Curve-billed Thrasher | Common; the call was like Eurasian Quail and the song like a Thrush |
| Crissal Thrasher | NOT seen - apparently very difficult when not calling or singing |
| European Starling | Small flocks seen on a couple of occasions |
| Phainopepla | Only seen once - a large flock or about 100 birds, mostly juveniles, on Stateline Road |
| Nashville Warbler | Seen only once in a large flock at Cave Creek Canyon |
| Lucy's Warbler | We eventually managed to find this bird in the mesquite scrub by the railway embankment at Patagonia-Sonoita |
| Yellow Warbler | One bird seen at Patagonia State Park |
| <i>Yellow-rumped Warbler</i> | One bird seen at the Grand Canyon |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler | Quite a common member of small flocks - a very smart bird |
| Townsend's Warbler | Quite a common member of small flocks - another very smart bird |
| Hermit Warbler | Quite a common member of small flocks - and another! |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | Seen once at San Pedro |
| Wilson's Warbler | A common member of flocks and also solitary |
| Red-faced Warbler | NOT seen - already departed on migration |
| Painted Redstart | A very smart bird - seen most easily at Cave Creek but also elsewhere |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | Seen with difficulty at Patagonia-Sonoita |
| Hepatic Tanager | Only two birds seen at a stream crossing on the Portal/Paradise road |
| Summer Tanager | Seen at San Pedro and elsewhere |
| Western Tanager | Seen several times in odd places - obviously on migration |
| Green-tailed Towhee | Only one good sighting - at San Pedro |
| Canyon Towhee | Common |
| Abert's Towhee | Seen at San Pedro and Catalina State Park |

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| Rufous-winged Sparrow | Singing in the Cactus areas and the Patagonia-Sonoita car park |
| Cassin's Sparrow | This species was no longer singing so was virtually impossible to identify |
| Botteri's Sparrow | This species was no longer singing so was virtually impossible to identify |
| Rufous-crowned Sparrow | Seen once but I can't remember where! |
| Five-striped Sparrow | We did not attempt to look for this |
| Chipping Sparrow | Small flocks seen on several occasions |
| Brewer's Sparrow | Seen several times in open areas |
| Black-chinned Sparrow | The same birds seen twice - very furtive and dark - on the track up into the hills from just by the Coronado Forest entrance at Cave Creek Canyon |
| Lark Sparrow | Seen on the Stateline Road and elsewhere |
| Black-throated Sparrow | Quite common in scrubby open areas e.g. Stateline Road and the cactus areas |
| Lark Bunting | Large flocks at Stateline Road |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Seen several times e.g. at Rustler Park |
| Yellow-eyed Junco | Abundant at high elevations (and sometimes lower e.g. SWRS) |
| Northern Cardinal | Such a large red bird can hide very well! Most obvious at feeders but also seen at Patagonia State Park. |
| Pyrrhuloxia | Seen at the Foothills Road feeders and at the Catalina State Park |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | Common at feeders though none of the birds were in full male plumage |
| Blue Grosbeak | Quite common at some feeders (Foothills Road) and in riparian areas. It was sometimes singing - a very sweet melody like a shortened Willow Warbler |
| Lazuli Bunting | San Pedro and Patagonia-Sonoita. |
| Eastern Meadowlark (Lilian's) | Only at the San Rafael Grasslands. Very large white outer tail patches. |
| <i>Brewer's Blackbird</i> | Only at the Grand Canyon car park |
| Great-tailed Grackle | Tombstone and Tucson |
| Bullock's Oriole | Juveniles seen at Ash Canyon feeders, San Pedro and Ramsey Canyon |
| House Finch | Abundant at feeders |
| Lesser Goldfinch | Common at feeders and also elsewhere |
| House Sparrow | At a few urban locations |