

ARIZONA'S SECOND SPRING

Jul 28, 2012 to Aug 6, 2012

John Coons



Which way is up? This Least Grebe we saw at Pena Blanca Lake appears to be reflecting on its day. (Photo by tour participant Carey Parks).

While many would consider mid-summer an odd time to visit Arizona because of its reputation for high temperatures, we saw why this time of year is called the second spring. The summer rains had started in early July and the deserts, grasslands, and mountains were verdant. With the rain comes a spike in food production for many forms of wildlife and many of the birds breed for a second time, or in the case of some of the sparrows, their first time of the year. We experienced these rains first-hand on our first afternoon when a downpour curtailed our desert birding near Tucson. However, the rains provided much more good than bad as we managed to dodge storms over the rest of the trip and take advantage of the benefits. It was wonderful to find so many Botteri's Sparrows in song along with Cassin's and Grasshopper sparrows in the grassland, and the greener pastures were certainly responsible for the increased activity of many species such as our Montezuma Quail that we found standing in the road in the Chiricahua Mountains.

Highlights of our ten days of birding were many and included the following: Least Grebes at Pena Blanca Lake; wonderful views of a soaring and diving Short-tailed Hawk; Gray and Zone-tailed hawks; the Greater Roadrunner sunning itself in the morning; the adult and young Spotted Owl; our nightbirding foray with two screech-owl species and Mexican Whip-poor-will; all of those hummingbirds including a male of both Lucifer and White-eared; a fantastic experience with three Elegant Trogons at a nest hole while a pair of Arizona Woodpeckers hammered on a tree nearby; Vermilion Flycatcher and Thick-billed Kingbird; seeing a very local Mexican Chickadee only five feet away; a quite close Olive Warbler, plus Red-faced Warbler and Painted Redstarts; and our experience in getting to and seeing Five-striped Sparrows so well. Spectacular scenery of cliff faces, rock spires, and canyons provided a wonderful backdrop for so many great birds. It was also encouraging to see the recovery in many areas of the mountains after the devastating fires of May and June 2011. This trip was a lot of fun to lead and I look forward to traveling with all of you again one of these days.

--John

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/azs12aLIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – We saw a few of these sharply-marked ducks in the wet field near Rio Rico.

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)

MALLARD (MEXICAN) (*Anas platyrhynchos diazi*)

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*)

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – We saw a handful on the lake at Willcox.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

SCALED QUAIL (*Callipepla squamata*) – Great scope views of one of two birds that sat up in a mesquite right along the road near Sierra Vista.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL (*Callipepla gambelii*)

MONTEZUMA QUAIL (*Cyrtonyx montezumae*) – Great looks at a pair standing in the road in the Chiricahua Mountains. First we saw a beautiful male and after it slipped over the road edge the female walked out and stopped before following. We ended up getting out of the van and seeing them briefly before they took off. Man, were they camouflaged.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LEAST GREBE (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) – At least two individuals were seen at Pena Blanca Lake where these rare Arizona birds have been for a couple of years.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – Our first was at the park in Tucson then we saw a few more at Patagonia Lake.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – These were hanging out with the Neotropic Cormorants at Patagonia Lake.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) – Quite uncommon in Arizona but this is the time of year when they turn up. We saw two individuals at Lakeside Park in Tucson then another at Patagonia Lake.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*) – Surprisingly, our only one flew out of a tree right above us at the Roadside Rest in Patagonia.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) – We had nice looks at a soaring individual near St. David along the San Pedro River.

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) – It was somewhat of a surprise to see one flying low over the desert flats at Whitewater Draw.

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*)

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*) – We saw one fly through the trees and cross the road ahead of us along the

Herb Martyr Road in the Chiricahuas.

GRAY HAWK (*Buteo nitidus*) – We ended up with a few good views but our first in Carr Canyon of the Huachuca Mountains was somewhat of a surprise and gave us great looks at two close soaring birds.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*) – One of the trip highlights was finding this very rare Arizona bird flying over Barfoot Park then watching it for ten minutes as it soared, climbed then dived. There are only a couple of localities where this species has been seen in Arizona this year. This was near the site of a nest from a few years back but only this individual had been seen this year.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*) – We saw a fair number flying about.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*) – Nice looks at a fairly close bird that sailed over then returned as we were trying to see the Northern Pygmy-Owl.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – One was flying along the majestic cliff faces of Cave Creek Canyon.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

SORA (*Porzana carolina*) – Nice looks at an individual walking about in the open at Whitewater Draw.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*)

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*)

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – A few individuals were basking in the heat at the lake in Willcox.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) – Many were present at Willcox with some still in quite bright plumage.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – We saw about six individuals at Willcox.

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*) – There was at least one on the sandbar at Willcox.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) – Only one was seen at Willcox.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*) – Only a couple of these were present at Willcox.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*) – There were pretty good numbers of Baird's Sandpipers at Willcox. This is usually the most common peep at this time of year.

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*) – We saw a handful with about 3-4 in pretty good breeding plumage.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – There were at least a thousand individuals at Willcox spinning in both directions.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*) – Regular, but not common, there were two all black individuals enjoying the sun at Willcox.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata*) – We had a few but the first were in Portal. These birds move out of the higher mountains as summer progresses.



One of the more colorful flycatchers in North America, this Vermilion Flycatcher is one of a few seen during the trip. (Photo by tour participant Carey Parks).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*) [I]

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*)

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*)

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*)

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*)

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*) – After hearing a few we chased one down near the Roadside Rest and got a scope view. This is always a great species to see well.

GREATER ROADRUNNER (*Geococcyx californianus*) – We sure didn't get many but we had a fine view of one, then two birds perched up in the morning sun on a roadside hill near Benson. This is one of the iconic birds of the Southwest.

Strigidae (Owls)

FLAMMULATED OWL (*Otus flammeolus*) – A few of us heard one give a couple of hoots as we got out of the van for one of our nightbirding excursions. As is typical this time of year we could not get it to come in. It was surprising that it was even calling. [*]

WESTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops kennicottii*) – With Rose Ann's help we had great views of a calling bird near Portal. There seemed to be three individuals in this location so a nest from the spring was probably successful.

WHISKERED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops trichopsis*) – Another great nightbird sighting was this southeast Arizona specialty higher in the mountains.

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*) – Nice looks at two on a day roost.

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium gnoma*) – During the day we managed to toot one in to the top of a group of tall pines and could not for the life of us spot it there as it called every few minutes. It was in the dense needled top and we could not get it to budge again. [*]

SPOTTED OWL (*Strix occidentalis*) – Finding the young owl in Miller Canyon was a great experience but on our way down the trail we were trying to see a Black-headed Grosbeak when one of the adults flew in and landed nearby. It assessed the situation before flying back into the denser trees of the canyon bottom. Always a great bird. Yip! Yip! Yip!

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

LESSER NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) – We saw about five individuals on our first evening of the trip as they hunted over the Santa Cruz River while the bats poured out.

COMMON POORWILL (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) – This took some effort. After only hearing distant birds we were planning to leave when one called closer. A few of us decided for another go and we ended up seeing it perched on a fence post.

MEXICAN WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Caprimulgus arizonae arizonae*) – With Rose Ann Rowlett's help we spotted a calling bird perched on a limb of a pine in the Chiricahua Mountains. This bird has recently been split and is now even more sought after in southern Arizona.

Apodidae (Swifts)

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (*Eugenes fulgens*) – The colors of the adult males is stunning. We saw several individuals.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Lampornis clemenciae*) – Great views of several of these large hummingbirds.

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD (*Calothorax lucifer*) – This was a real treat. Rose Ann Rowlett and Richard Webster had one show up at their feeder while we were visiting Portal and they welcomed us to their home. We were able to get multiple views of it just before dusk one evening. This is usually a rare but regular species in southeast Arizona but there had been no sightings this year to this point.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus alexandri*) – This was the most numerous hummingbird we encountered.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte anna*) – There were a few visiting the Beatty's feeders.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus platycercus*) – This mountain species gave us our best views in the Chiricahuas.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*) – There were several female types around but we did see a couple of

stunning males. These are migrants on their way south from the northern reaches of the Western US.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cynanthus latirostris*) – Also quite common, these were especially numerous in the Patagonia area.

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia violiceps*) – It was somewhat of a surprise to see one at the high elevation feeders at the Beatty's then we saw at least two individuals at the Paton's feeders in Patagonia.

WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD (*Hylocharis leucotis*) – Great looks at a male at the Beatty's feeders. This is a quite rare species in Arizona that is typically found in the mountains of Mexico. I learned a few days later that it was no longer visiting the feeders there.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

ELEGANT TROGON (*Trogon elegans*) – One of the great birds of southeast Arizona we saw a male, female and a juvenile at a nest hole in the Huachuca Mountains. Initially we saw the young bird carrying food enter the cavity in a sycamore, presumably to feed young. It remained in the hole for 15 minutes before the male came in carrying the same large moth or beetle. Always a treat to see.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

ACORN WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)

GILA WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes uropygialis*)

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*) – Carey saw a male in Pinery Canyon during our pygmy-owl search.

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides scalaris*)

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*)

ARIZONA WOODPECKER (*Picoides arizonae*) – We enjoyed several good views including two birds really working on a tree while we were waiting at the trogon nest. Another specialty of southeast Arizona.

NORTHERN FLICKER (RED-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus cafer*)

GILDED FLICKER (*Colaptes chrysoides*) – After getting rained out our first afternoon we returned to the saguaros the next morning and found two birds. This species is essentially endemic to the Sonoran Desert.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANULET (*Camptostoma imberbe*) – Great views of this small flycatcher near Patagonia. We ended up seeing another in Montosa Canyon on our last morning.

GREATER PEWEE (*Contopus pertinax*) – A distantly calling bird led us on a chase at Carr Canyon before we ended up seeing it in the campground during our pit stop break. We later found another silent individual in the Chiricahua Mountains.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*)

CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax occidentalis*) – Nice views of a close bird in Miller Canyon.

BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax fulvifrons*) – This very local area specialty gave us a good scope study in Carr Canyon.

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*)

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – Good views of a male and female on our first morning near Tucson.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) – These were especially active and visible in the riparian areas of the Huachuca Mountains.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Another quite local species in the state, we found two birds at Sweetwater Wetlands on our first afternoon as we dodged rain.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) – Nice scope views of a calling bird along the road at Patagonia. This species seems to have become more difficult to find in recent years.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Vireonidae (Vireos)

BELL'S VIREO (*Vireo bellii*)

PLUMBEOUS VIREO (*Vireo plumbeus*) – There were more heard than seen but the mixed-flocks we came across in the mountains offered a few good views.

HUTTON'S VIREO (*Vireo huttoni*)

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*)

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

STELLER'S JAY (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) – Our only ones were at the highest elevations we visited in the Chiricahua Mountains.

WESTERN SCRUB-JAY (*Aphelocoma californica*) – Several nice looks at the upper end of Carr Canyon.

MEXICAN JAY (*Aphelocoma wollweberi*) – Quite common once we saw them.

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN (*Corvus cryptoleucus*)

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*) – A few were flying about the saguaros on our first morning and we saw a male and female enter a hole on one of these tall cacti.

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*) – A few appeared over the Portal Peak Lodge one afternoon.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

MEXICAN CHICKADEE (*Poecile sclateri*) – The Chiricahua Mountains are the only place this species regularly occurs in Arizona. We saw a few of them very well with one individual feeding in the pine needles just five feet away.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus wollweberi*) – A quite fancy little species. We saw them a few times.

JUNIPER TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*) – Our first was at Rose Ann and Richard's feeder then we had repeated looks at the feeders at the George Walker House.

Remizidae (Penduline-Tits)

VERDIN (*Auriparus flaviceps*) – We saw a few in the desert early on during the trip.

Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)

BUSHTIT (INTERIOR) (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*) – We counted 19 or 20 in one flock moving through the junipers next to us.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*) – We had several good views during our quest for mountain birds in the Chiricahuas.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*)

PYGMY NUTHATCH (*Sitta pygmaea*) – These tiny nuthatches showed well in the long-leaf pines in the Chiricahuas.

Certhiidae (Treecreepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*) – These were especially vocal this year.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)



This singing Five-striped Sparrow performed very well for us in California Gulch. (Photo by tour participant Carey Parks)

CACTUS WREN (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*)

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) – Great looks along Ruby Road of a couple of these.

CANYON WREN (*Catherpes mexicanus*) – A quite common voice in several places we ended up with a few nice looks at this songster.

BEWICK'S WREN (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila caerulea*)

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila melanura*) – Close views of another desert specialist on our first morning.

BLACK-CAPPED GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila nigriceps*) – One was heard once in Montosa Canyon on our last morning but it came from the densely vegetated bottom of the wash. [*]

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*)

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*)

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*)

BENDIRE'S THRASHER (*Toxostoma bendirei*) – We scoped one sitting atop a yucca stalk near State Line Road. A toughie at this time of year since they breed in March and April.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)

CRISSAL THRASHER (*Toxostoma crissale*) – Always tough in the summer months we ended up with three encounters in the Chiricahua area but could not get one to perch long enough for a scope view. We had them flying about a couple of times and I think Jeff got on it twice.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) [I]

Ptilonotidae (Silky-flycatchers)

PHAINOPEPLA (*Phainopepla nitens*) – These unusual birds became more conspicuous when we got to the Patagonia area.

Peucedramidae (Olive Warbler)

OLIVE WARBLER (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) – We had close views of a young male in the higher reaches of the Chiricahua Mountains. This species has been split from the wood warblers and is now the sole member of its family.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

LUCY'S WARBLER (*Oreothlypis luciae*) – We had a couple of views of this small warbler with the short tail.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*)

YELLOW WARBLER (*Setophaga petechia*)

GRACE'S WARBLER (*Setophaga graciae*) – Nice looks at a couple or three in the Chiricahuas.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (*Setophaga nigrescens*) – These were plentiful this year, especially in the Chiricahua Mountains where every flock had two or three.

RED-FACED WARBLER (*Cardellina rubrifrons*) – We enjoyed great lengthy looks of this area specialty as it fed in the pine boughs.

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*) – Another southwestern specialty, we saw them mostly in riverine situations.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*) – After chasing around a few we had a nice look at a perched calling individual near Patagonia. This is certainly an odd warbler.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

SPOTTED TOWHEE (*Pipilo maculatus*)

RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (*Aimophila ruficeps*) – Our first was a scope view in the Chiricahuas but we had more of them near Patagonia and in California Gulch.

CANYON TOWHEE (*Melospiza fusca*)

ABERT'S TOWHEE (*Melospiza aberti*) – We were stymied by the rain on our first afternoon but had one or two that

visited the Paton's feeders at Patagonia.

RUFOUS-WINGED SPARROW (*Peucaea carpalis*) – This Sonoran Desert specialty was quite vocal with good views early on in the desert near Tucson and again near Nogales.

BOTTERI'S SPARROW (*Peucaea botterii*) – Another special sparrow that we had close views of in the scope as it sang. These become more common when the summer rains hit.

CASSIN'S SPARROW (*Peucaea cassinii*) – This is a species we rarely see on our May trips when they are feeding in the grasslands and not singing. Once the rains hit in July and August their song can be heard in many places. We had a nice view in the grasslands as we left the Chiricahua Mountains.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*)

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW (*Spizella atrogularis*) – A quite local species in this part of Arizona we had nice looks at a singing bird near Portal. This is a species that is more widespread in northern Arizona and Utah, the Great Basin Desert.

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*)

FIVE-STRIPED SPARROW (*Amphispiza quinquestrata*) – Another of the trip highlights was our expedition into California Gulch, the only accessible place this bird occurs in North America. After having to take the long way because of a road washout we started down the slope and found one then a few more further into the canyon. A great bird in a remote area.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (*Amphispiza bilineata*)

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – This is another grassland sparrow that becomes much more conspicuous with the onset of the monsoonal rains.

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*)

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO (*Junco phaeonotus*) – Many of these were seen with young in tow in the higher elevations of the Chiricahuas.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (*Piranga flava*) – We ended up seeing females, young blotched males and finally an adult male. In Garden Canyon we had a female acting suspiciously and we spotted a nest in an oak limb overhanging the road.

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*)

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*) – We saw these regularly but not a lot of them.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

PYRRHULOXIA (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) – Good views in the desert outside of Tucson.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*)

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*) – The big numbers of these migrants had not yet arrived but we saw a male at the feeders at the George Walker House. There have been a good number of these calling outside my kitchen window in Flagstaff today.

VARIED BUNTING (*Passerina versicolor*) – We were first elated then a bit disappointed to keep seeing the same mostly brown immature male singing at the Roadside Rest near Patagonia. The next day we had wonderful looks at a few adult males in various shades of blues and purples.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (LILIAN'S) (*Sturnella magna lilianae*)

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

BRONZED COWBIRD (*Molothrus aeneus*) – The male we watched on the lawn at Patagonia was in full wing-quivering display as it followed around a female.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*)

HOODED ORIOLE (*Icterus cucullatus*) – We finally hooked up with a male near California Gulch after seeing a female on our first morning. Adult male orioles are hard to come by at this time of year.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*)

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

HOUSE FINCH (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*) [*]

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Spinus psaltria*)

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) [I]

MAMMALS

BRAZILIAN FREE-TAILED BAT (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) – We watched 10,000+ come out from under the bridge over the Santa Cruz River at dusk. This was an amazing site as they swirled under the bridge before heading out like a column of smoke.

EASTERN COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

DESERT COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT (*Lepus californicus*)

CLIFF CHIPMUNK (*Tamias dorsalis*)

ROCK SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus variegatus*) – We saw a lot of these.

ROUND-TAILED GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus tereticaudus*) – These were the small prairie dog-like mammals we saw near the cemetery.

NAYARIT FOX SQUIRREL (*Sciurus nayaritensis*) – Only found in the Chiricahuas in North America we saw one of these large orangish squirrels along the road there.

ARIZONA GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus arizonensis*)

ARIZONA COTTON RAT (*Sigmodon arizonae*) – This was the rodent with the short tail that several of us saw at Sweetwater Wetlands.

GRAY FOX (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) – A couple of us saw one run across the road in Montosa Canyon.

COYOTE (*Canis latrans*) [*]

COLLARED PECCARY (*Tayassu tajacu*) – Ruth saw a couple in the desert near Arivaca.

MULE DEER (*Odocoileus hemionus*) – We saw three along State Line Road.

WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Fairly common in the mountains throughout the trip.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 182 bird taxa and 15 mammal taxa