

Birding by the Season

Spring Birding

March - May

Summer and Spring bring out the best in the sky islands region of southeastern Arizona. Wildflowers in an astounding variety of shapes and colors attract equally diverse pollinators – hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, even bats. Participants will stroll along the San Pedro River and hike the canyons of the neighboring Huachuca Mountains in search of up to 13 species of hummingbirds, 100+ species of butterflies and dozens of species of wildflowers.

118 species are seen in the area during the spring months in Southeast Arizona, including the following species:

Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Gray Hawk, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, White-winged Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Elf Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Buff-collared Nightjar, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Berylline Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Eared Trogon, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Greater Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Western Scrub-Jay, Mexican Jay, Pinyon Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Bell's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Olive Warbler, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Scott's Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Summer Birding

June-July

Summer and Fall Migration (June - early October) Birding in SE Arizona is very productive as many species come just this far North from Mexico and Central America to set up housekeeping, have their broods of chicks and then linger to enjoy our Monsoon Rains (our "late" Springtime when everything finally turns green and blooms!). The Monsoon Rains herald the return of many

other birds that went farther north for the summer, and by August we experience the best of the annual migrations: many hummingbirds return to our feeders, bringing their young, and lingering for the abundant habitat created by the Monsoon Rains. We consider the Summer/Monsoon Rain birding to be the best of the year. Colorful birds from tanagers, buntings, chats, warblers and an abundance of those tiny jewels: hummingbirds, swarm our feeders. Wandering around the area from the San Pedro River to the Huachuca Canyons is easy, and the birding is terrific. Join us in our annual flight of fantasy!

108 species are seen in the area during the Summer months in Southeast Arizona, including the following species:

Hummingbirds In the Area from mid July through early October:

- Black Chin*
- Anna's*
- Broad-billed*
- Rufous*
- Lucifer
- Broad-tailed*
- Costa's
- Blue Throated
- Magnificent*
- Plain Capped Starthroat
- White-eared
- Berylline
- Violet-crowned*
- Calliope*

*These species may be spotted right here in our yard at our many feeders - others are more likely in the nearby Canyons: Ramsey, Miller, Ash. But we occasionally do get visiting Magnificents and Berylline, and even a stray Plain Capped Starthroat on record.

Eared Grebe, American Bittern, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Red-breasted Merganser, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Montezuma Quail, Scaled Quail, Gambel's Quail, Common Moorhen, Sandhill Crane, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Gray Flycatcher, Western Scrub-Jay, Mexican Jay, Pinyon Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Western Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), Green-tailed Towhee, Baird's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lesser Goldfinch and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Elegant Trogon, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Willow Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Sulfur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Rose-throated Becard, Plain Titmouse, Bell's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Olive Warbler, Summer Tanager, Hepatic Tanager, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Varied Bunting, Painted Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Botteri's Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Yellow-eyed Junco, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Scott's Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch.

Fall Birding

August-October

Our Spring really occurs in August when the Summer monsoon rains bring green to the valley and water to the San Pedro River (in abundance!). Our “spring flowers” with all the butterflies are available in August (temperatures in the mid-80s during the day and dipping into the low 60s at night – who knew you could come to Arizona and even survive in August!!

124 species are seen in the area during the Fall months in Southeast Arizona, including the following species:

The Fall Migration starts EARLY (Late July through early November). We should list a separate Season called hummingbirds for late July through early October as that is when the southbound migration brings all those adults with their chicks to the area to enjoy the benefits of our Monsoon Rains: Lush Green habitat that blooms, along with ample moisture for the birds and their dietary needs. If you want to see the most hummingbirds come in the peak of the season in mid-August to September.

Hummingbirds In the Area:

- Black Chin*
- Anna’s*
- Broad-billed*
- Rufous*
- Lucifer
- Broad-tailed*
- Costa's
- Blue Throated
- Magnificent*
- Plain Capped Starthroat
- White-eared
- Berylline
- Violet-crowned*
- Calliope*

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Winter Birding

November-February

77 species are seen in the area during the Winter months in Southeast Arizona, including the following species:

Eared Grebe, American Bittern, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross’s Goose, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Red-breasted Merganser, Swainson’s Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Montezuma Quail, Scaled Quail, Gambel’s Quail, Common Moorhen, Sandhill Crane, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruddy Ground-Dove,

Costa's Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Gray Flycatcher, Western Scrub-Jay, Mexican Jay, Pinyon Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Western Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), Green-tailed Towhee, Baird's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lesser Goldfinch and Lawrence's Goldfinch.