

Christmas Bird Tour with Wezil Walraven
4 Day Trip with professional bird guide, Wezil Walraven

Day 1

Dec.28 Friday-White Water Draw

We will meet at the back gate of the Casa de San Pedro at 7:00 AM for an hour of birding the San Pedro River. After breakfast at Casa at 8:00 am we head to Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area and the Sulphur Springs Valley.

We will view hundreds of Sandhill Cranes, some from as far away as Eastern Siberia. Along with Cranes, we will get views of various Duck Species, Snow Geese, along with Sparrows, Sandpipers and Shorebirds and Vermilion Flycatcher and more.

We will have a picnic style lunch at Whitewater Draw before heading out to the Sulphur Springs Valley to view the many overwintering hawk races. There are up to five races of Red Tailed Hawks that reside in the area for the winter. Another Hawk we may encounter is the Ferruginous Hawk. We should also see up to 4 species of Falcon. This time of year is a great opportunity to learn Sparrow species. Some examples include: Vesper, Grasshopper, White Crowned, Lincoln's, Song, Savannah. We may also witness 3 species of Thrasher and Towhee.

We will return to Casa de San Pedro by 4:00 pm.

Day 2

Dec. 29 Saturday-Ramsey Canyon & BLM San Pedro House & San Pedro Conservation Area

We will meet at the back gate of the Casa de San Pedro at 7:00 AM for an hour of birding the San Pedro River. After breakfast at Casa at 8:30 am we head to Ramsey.

We will hike up Ramsey Canyon in search of Montane Forest species such as Acorn Woodpecker, Painted Redstart, Bridled Titmice, Townsend's Warbler, Mexican Jay, and if the trees are bearing fruit we could find even more. We will also search for Gould's Turkey and lower in elevation we will see Gambel's and Scaled Quail and Greater Roadrunner.

We will leave Ramsey and go to the EOP (Sierra Vista Water Treatment Plant) in search of possible Yellow headed Blackbird, possible Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, some Water Fowl more sparrows too. Chihuahuan Ravens should also be viewed there.

From there we head to the San Pedro Conservation Area and the San Pedro House for a picnic style lunch and more birding. We should view Western Screech Owl, Vermilion Flycatcher, Gila, Ladderback Woodpecker, Say's and Black Phoebe, Towhee species and more sparrows. We can also take a look inside the San Pedro House Bookstore for quick shopping.

If we have time will do a little birding around the Casa de San Pedro. If not, we will squeeze it in another day. We will return to Casa by 4:00pm.

Day 3

Dec.30 Sunday-San Raphael Valley (West side of the Huachuca Mountains)

We will meet at the back gate of the Casa de San Pedro at 7:00 AM for an hour of birding the San Pedro River. After breakfast at Casa at 8:30 am we head to the San Raphael Valley.

We will depart for the San Raphael Valley along the Southern border of Arizona & Mexico in search of Grassland Sparrows, along with the overwintering Hawks, Kites and more. We will visit the site of where the 1939 movie Oklahoma was filmed. We will bird by van along the road heading towards Patagonia. We will have a picnic-style lunch in town at the park. We will make a stop at the famous Hummingbird Haven, formerly the Patton's Place owned by VENT and Tucson Audubon.

There we will have possible Violet Crowned, Anna's, Black Chinned Hummingbirds. Then, if time allows, we will head west to Patagonia Lake. There we may find Bald Eagles, Duck Species, and possibly an overwintering Elegant Trogon. We will be back at Casa de San Pedro by 5:00pm.

Day 4

Dec. 31 Sunday-Ft. Huachuca *to get onto the Ft. You must have driver's license and passport-this will ensure we all get in

We will meet at the back gate of the Casa de San Pedro at 7:00 AM for an hour of birding the San Pedro River. After breakfast at Casa at 8:30 am we head to Huachuca Canyon.

Ft. Huachuca is known for its diverse habitat. At Huachuca Canyon we have a good chance of seeing: Canyon, Rock, House, Bewick's Wrens, Red Naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers, Golden Eagle, Hermit Thrush, Arizona Woodpecker, Hutton's Vireo, and many more. We will also go to Garden Canyon for any birds we may have missed. We will have a picnic style lunch mid day. We will return to the Casa de San Pedro by 3:00pm.

The cost is \$175.00/per day. If you book all four days, take \$50.00 for the total tour charge and \$50.00 off the total room charge for \$100.00 in total savings!

A small surcharge may apply for less than 4 people on a tour.

Cash or check accepted.

(You may charge the tour at Casa de San Pedro on a credit card , however, a 3.5% surcharge will be added.)

Optional dinner available on:

December 28 Menu TBD \$25-

December 29 Menu TBD \$25-

December 31: Traditional Prime rib dinner \$45-
(tax and tip not included)