April 12-17, 2024
Southeast Arizona Birding

Cost
6 Reservations Available
Price $3,100 Double occupancy / $3,800 Single occupancy
Covers guiding fee, hotels, park/reserve entrance fee, rental car, packed lunches (except on Mt. Lemon), and breakfast. Dinners and lunch on Mt. Lemon will be self-pay.

Event overview

Day 1  Arrive in Tucson

Day 2  Tubac/Patagonia
In the morning, we will quickly head out for our first day of birding. This will be a whirlwind trip packed full of as much birding as possible. We will head south to Tubac to bird in a riparian habitat that is great for desert species and has been the site of several rare bird sightings over the years including Rose-throated Becard, Rufous-backed Robin and Sinaloa Wren. Specialty breeding birds, such as Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet have been found here as well. We will break for lunch in Tubac and head to our next location in Patagonia. We will stop at the famous Patton’s Yard with its great feeder set up that attract lots of birds including Violet-crowned Hummingbirds. From there we will head to Mt. Lemon Grasslands to look for the newly split Chihuahuan Meadowlark as well as other grassland birds. After a full day of birding, we will head back to Tucson for dinner.

Day 3  Mt. Lemon/Tucson
We will head north of town towards Mt. Lemon, which will be a great place to get high in elevation to experience some of our most sought after targets. Not only do we have a chance to see migrating species here but we will also see birds like Olive Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Plumbeous Vireo, Steller’s Jay, Virginia’s Warbler and possibly finches like Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak and lots more. Broad-tailed Hummingbird should be easy to see at this elevation as well. We will do lunch on the mountain this day at one of the restaurants available and from there head to some of the parks at the base of Mt. Lemon for some desert scrub birding.

Day 4  Madera Canyon/ Gilded Flicker
This canyon is easily accessible and has some spots nearby where rare birds have shown up over the years. We will also be doing some nighttime birding for owls and nightjars, if we get to town early enough the night before we can head up to Madera that night, if not we will make sure we are up there on the last night. We can get Common Poorwill as well as Whiskered-screech Owl, and the adorable Elf Owl. Hiking Madera Canyon is a great way to experience the change in elevations and therefore the different habitats of this region. At Madera, we also have a chance at seeing the Elegant Trogon as well as Arizona Woodpecker and amazing looks at several other species of bird that visit around the feeders. We will also do some shorter hikes this day. After we are done at Madera we will head to the other side of town to catch up with Gilded Flickers – Gilded Flickers specialize in the Saguaro Cactus that call this place home and we will have to head into Saguaro National park to see these birds.

Day 5  Sierra Vista
Sierra Vista holds several of my favorite spots to go birding in southern Arizona and we will do our best to hit as many of these spots as possible. We will head into Ramsey Canyon (be prepared for a decent hike here). The birding at this location can be wonderful but on hot days the hike can be quite strenuous but packed with great birds such as Greater Pewee. We may also have a chance to see an Elegant Trogon here. We will also check out several locations around town that are on private property/houses with feeders that are amazing opportunities for photographing many species including hummingbirds. We could see up to ten species of hummingbird while in this region including Lucifer Hummingbird.

Day 6  Depart

Target species
Cinnamon Teal - Spatula cyanoptera
Mallard - Anas platyrhynchos
Redhead - Aythya americana
Ring-necked Duck - Aythya collaris
Gambel’s Quail - Callipepla gambelii
Wild Turkey - Meleagris gallopavo
Pied-billed Grebe - Podilymbus podiceps
Eurasian Collared-Dove - Streptopelia decaocto
Inca Dove - Columbina inca
Common Ground Dove - Columbina passerina
Ruddy Ground Dove - Columbina talpacoti
White-winged Dove - Zenaida asiatica
Mourning Dove - Zenaida macroura
Greater Roadrunner - Geococcyx californianus
Target species
Lesser Nighthawk - Chordeiles acutipennis
Mexican Whip-poor-will - Antrostomus arizonae
Rivoli's Hummingbird - Eugenes fulgens
 Lucifer Hummingbird - Calliopterus lucifer
Black-chinned Hummingbird - Archilochus alexandri
Anna's Hummingbird - Calypte anna
Costa's Hummingbird - Calypte costae
Calliope Hummingbird - Selasphorus calliope
 Rufous Hummingbird - Selasphorus rufus
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - Selasphorus platycercus
Broad-billed Hummingbird - Cynanthus latirostris
White-eared Hummingbird - Basilinna leucotis
 Violet-crowned Hummingbird - Leucolia violiceps
American Coot - Fulica americana
Killdeer - Charadrius vociferus
Spotted Sandpiper - Actitis macularius
Black Vulture - Coragyps atratus
Turkey Vulture - Cathartes aura
Northern Harrier - Circus hudsonius
Cooper's Hawk - Accipiter cooperii
Gray Hawk - Buteo plagiatus
 Swainson's Hawk - Buteo swainsoni
Zone-tailed Hawk - Buteo albonotatus
Red-tailed Hawk - Buteo jamaicensis
Whiskered Screech-Owl - Megascops trichopsis
Elf Owl - Micrathene whitneyi
Elegant Trogon - Trogon elegans
Williamson's Sapsucker - Sphyrapicus thyroideus
Red-naped Sapsucker - Sphyrapicus nuchalis
Acorn Woodpecker - Melanerpes formicivorus
Gila Woodpecker - Melanerpes uropygialis
Ladder-backed Woodpecker - Dryobates scalaris
Arizona Woodpecker - Dryobates arizonae
Northern Flicker - Colaptes auratus
Gilded Flicker - Colaptes chrysoides
Rose-throated Becard - Pachyramphus aglaiae
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet - Camptostoma imberbe
Hammond's Flycatcher - Empidonax hammondii
Gray Flycatcher - Empidonax wrightii
Dusky Flycatcher - Empidonax oberholseri
Pacific-slope Flycatcher - Empidonax difficilis
Cordilleran Flycatcher - Empidonax occidentalis
Buff-breasted Flycatcher - Empidonax fulvifrons
Black Phoebe - Sayornis nigricans
Vermilion Flycatcher - Pyrocephalus rubinus
Dusky-capped Flycatcher - Myiarchus tuberculifer
Ash-throated Flycatcher - Myiarchus cinerascens
 Nutting's Flycatcher - Myiarchus notatus
Brown-crowned Flycatcher - Myiarchus tyrannulus
Cassin's Kingbird - Tyrannus vociferans
Bell's Vireo - Vireo bellii
Gray Vireo - Vireo vicinior
Plumbeous Vireo - Vireo plumbeus
Loggerhead Shrike - Lanius ludovicianus
Steller's Jay - Cyanocitta stelleri
Mexican Jay - Aaphesia mexicana
Common Raven - Corvus corax
Bridled Titmouse - Baeolophus wollweberi
Verdin - Auriparus flaviceps
Northern Rough-winged Swallow - Stelgidopteryx serripennis
Violet-green Swallow - Tachycineta thalassina
Barn Swallow - Hirundo rustica

Cliff Swallow - Petrochelidon pyrrhonota
Bushtit - Psaltriparus minimus
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Cortylopus calidula
White-breasted Nuthatch - Sitta carolinensis
Pygmy Nuthatch - Sitta pygmaea
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - Polioptila caerulea
House Wren - Troglodytes aedon
Bewick's Wren - Thryomanes bewickii
Cactus Wren - Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus
European Starling - Sturnus vulgaris
Curve-billed Thrasher - Toxostoma curvirostre
Northern Mockingbird - Mimus polyglottos
Hermits Thrush - Catharus guttatus
American Robin - Turdus migratorius
Phainopepla - Phainopepla nitens
House Sparrow - Passer domesticus
House Finch - Haemorhous mexicanus
Pine Siskin - Spinus pinus
Lesser Goldfinch - Spinus psaltria
Rufous-winged Sparrow - Peucaea carpalis
Chipping Sparrow - Spizella passerina
Brewer's Sparrow - Spizella breweri
Black-throated Sparrow - Amphispiza bilineata
Lark Bunting - Calamospiza melanocephala
Yellow-eyed Junco - Junco phaeonotus
White-crowned Sparrow - Zonotrichia leucophrys
Song Sparrow - Melospiza melodia
Canyon Towhee - Melozone fusca
Abert's Towhee - Melozone aberti
Rufous-crowned Sparrow - Alimophila ruficeps
Green-tailed Towhee - Pipilo chlorurus
Spotted Towhee - Pipilo macularus
Hooded Oriole - Icterus cucullatus
Bullock's Oriole - Icterus bullockii
Scott's Oriole - Icterus parisorum
Red-winged Blackbird - Agelaius phoeniceus
Brazed Cowbird - Molothrus aeneus
Brown-headed Cowbird - Molothrus ater
Breuer's Blackbird - Euphagus cyanocephalus
Great-tailed Grackle - Quiscalus mexicanus
Orange-crowned Warbler - Leiothlypis celata
Lucy's Warbler - Leiothlypis luciae
Nashville Warbler - Leiothlypis ruficapilla
Virginia's Warbler - Leiothlypis virginiae
Common Yellowthroat - Geothlypis trichas
Yellow Warbler - Setophaga petechia
Yellow-rumped Warbler - Setophaga coronata
Grace's Warbler - Setophaga graciae
Wilson's Warbler - Cardellina pusilla
Red-faced Warbler - Cardellina rubrifrons
Painted Redstart - Myioborus pictus
Hepatic Tanager - Piranga flava
Summer Tanager - Piranga rubra
Northern Cardinal - Cardinalis cardinalis
Pyrrhuloxia - Cardinalis sinuatus
Black-headed Grosbeak - Pheucticus melanocephalus

For additional questions, please contact your guide
Jeremy at birding@toledozoo.org or 419-385-5721 ext. 3096