THE BEST OF SOUTHEAST ARIZONA,
HUMMINGBIRDS AND SO MUCH MORE!
August 4 – 11, 2027

She Flew Birding Tours

ITINERARY

Day 1 (August 4, Wednesday)



We will pick you up from Tucson International Airport (TUS) by 2:00 pm or your hotel near the airport if arriving earlier. Just outside of Tucson is an amazing birding hotspot called Sweetwater Wetlands. With over 150 species in early August on the one-mile loop trail, we are sure to see some of our targets. We might even chase a rarity if one is nearby. With the monsoon season starting, we will have two attempts at evening birding in Box Canyon. Here we hope that the Buff-collared Nightjar is still around with other species like Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill and Varied Bunting among others. Our home for the next two nights is in Green Valley, just a short drive south.

Day 2 (August 5, Thursday)



Today we start our birding adventure with a hike/walk in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains. This 3-mile round trip trail will take most of the morning with some spectacular birding targets. 90 species are recorded at this eBird hotspot in August. Zone-tailed Hawk, Whiskered Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Coppery-tailed Trogon (Elegant), Arizona Woodpecker, Greater Pewee, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Mexican Jay, Yellow-eyed Junco, Hepatic Tanager, Black-throated Gray, Grace's and Red-faced Warblers are some of our targets this morning. Taking a break in the shade, the next stop is the Santa Rita Lodge feeders. Great photo opportunities await here as we could see 7-9 hummingbird species. Rivoli's, Black-chinned, Anna's, Calliope, Rufous, Broad-tailed, Broad-billed, and in 2026, a Berylline hybrid had been seen here. Other bird feeders and a water feature bring in a potpourri of other unique species. After a nice cool lunch spot, we head back out for some other diverse habitats. Over the next two days we could visit Florida Wash, Proctor Road, Amado Water Treatment Plant, Anza Trail and Santa Gertrudis Lane depending on what birds are around and trip targets. Tonight is our second attempt at evening birding. Second night in Green Valley.

Day 3 (August 6, Friday)



Leaving the Santa Rita's for the Hauchuca Mountains, we'll explore the less birded Montosa Canyon, home to the Whipple Observatory. We traverse the desert grasslands and scrub on our way up the canyon. Here we target birds like Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Greater Roadrunner, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Crissal Thrasher, Black-throated and Five-striped Sparrow. The Patagonia area offers many new habitat types to explore. Other stops may include Patagonia Lake State Park, Patagonia Roadside Rest, and Harshaw Creek Road Rose-throated Becard in 2026, on the way to the famous Paton's Center. A Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Thick-billed Kingbirds and a Rose-throated Becard were in this stretch of habitat in 2026. After a delightful small café lunch in town, Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary will delight us with their abundant feeder system. Ash Canyon tends to have a rare hummingbird show up in August. Let's hope we get one in 2027. Two nights in Sierra Vista.

Day 4 (August 7, Saturday)



Beatty's Guest Ranch property back gate opens into the Coronado National Forest where we walk a bit in the cooler morning temperatures. This dirt trail has some elevation gain, but our pace will be slow and the rewards great. Miller Canyon is home to many amazing target species like Gray Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Mexican Jay, Bridled Titmouse, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Painted Redstart and Hepatic Tanager. Many rarities have shown up here due to its relative location so close to Mexico. In 2026 we were treated to a stunning male Flame-colored Tanager. Afterwards, shaded bleacher seating is available for hummingbird viewing at Beatty's until lunch. Expect two additional stops in the afternoon including the famous Ramsey Canyon Preserve and the Ramsey Canyon Inn. Both locations have feeders and if we have energy, we might go up a trail for a bit looking for any missed targets. In the neighborhood we will target Botteri's Sparrow and the newly split Chihuahuan Meadowlark. Second night in Sierra Vista.

Day 5 (August 8, Sunday)



As we bid the Hauchuca Mountains adieu, expect lots of stops on the way to the Chiricahua's. Benson STP usually adds a rare or uncommon water bird. The last several years Rick Taylor has had Lucifer Hummingbirds at his feeders in Whitetail Canyon. If present again, that will be our first stop in the mountains as we continue our easterly drive towards Portal. Depending on the timing, we may bird

the Southwest Research Station, private houses that welcome birders at their feeders, several campgrounds, picnic areas and around Portal. If we don't get to them today, we may be able to bird them tomorrow. Two nights in Portal at the famous Portal Peak Lodge.

Day 6 (August 9, Monday)



Cave Creek Canyon is one of those must visit locations. Here we will take a hike up the canyon in search of our missing targets. This trail has yielded some absolute gems in past years with too many species to list here. Hopefully at least one gem is around for our 2027 trip. We travers the Chiricahua's clockwise going up and over the pass and experience almost every layer on the biome map below. We should get to Rustler Park or Barefoot Park with the Tufted Flycatcher in 2026, go over Onion Saddle, and down into the Pinery Canyon rustic campground, Mexican Spotted Owl in 2025. Mexican Chickadee and Yellow-eyed Junco are must see targets today. It might be possible to do some evening birding for Whiskered Screech-Owl and other goodies. Second night in Portal.

Day 7 (August 10, Tuesday)

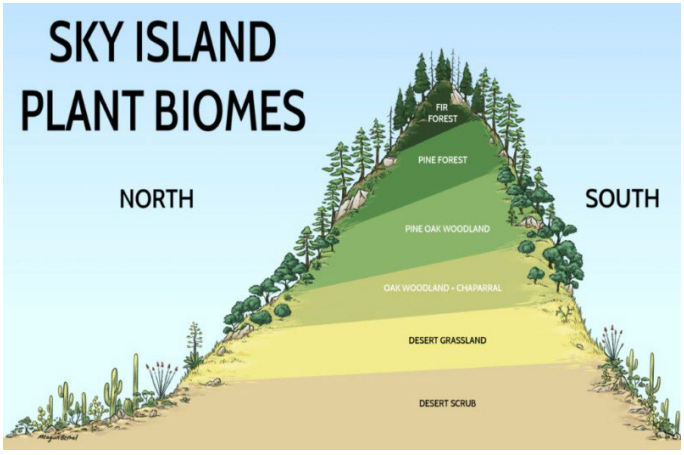


As we look at the species list, today we evaluate where we need to go birding. We will defiantly stop at Cochise Lake and Golf Course in Wilcox. Here shorebirds, grebes, ducks, and a possible Bendire's Thrasher could be added to the list. Checking every Turkey Vulture should reward us by seeing a Zone-tailed Hawk sometime during the trip pictured here. A Saguaro National Park visit could be possible in Tucson before dinner. Celebrations during our final dinner together tonight. Overnight in Tucson.

Day 8 (August 11, Wednesday)

Our final day together starts early going up Mt. Lemmon on the northeast side of Tucson. This birding gem starts with desert scrub and traverses all the biome areas up to the fir forest. Twelve species of warblers have been recorded here. Target species include Painted Redstart, plus Grace's, Red-faced, Hermit and Townsend's Warblers. This will be a great way to end The Best of Southeast Arizona trip. The tour ends at the airport, Tucson International, by noon with your flights scheduled for 1:30pm or later.





General Information

Sky Islands - Southeast Arizona's 'Sky Islands' are famous for its many hummingbird species and other range restricted Mexican species. These isolated mountain ranges rise from the surrounding desert and create unique ecosystems with high biodiversity. Sonoran Desert, oak woodlands, semidesert grasslands, oak-pine woodlands, Ponderosa Pine Forest, and mixed conifer forests make up the diverse ecosystems and support a wide array of plant and animal life. This region acts as mini corridors connecting the temperate Rocky Mountains with the subtropical Sierra Madre of Mexico.

WEATHER AND CLOTHING – The weather in southeast Arizona is usually hot and dry with a temperature range between 70-100 degrees. Special efforts will be made to have our hiking in the cooler morning temperatures, watch birds from covered areas or shade, provide air conditioning, and supply cool drinks throughout the day. Monsoon season might start with rain in the afternoon which usually ends as quickly as it started. Additional weather information can be found here. Your field



clothing should be well ventilated and protect you from the sun. Regular light weight hikers or athletic shoes should serve you well. Hummingbirds of Southeast Arizona Tour have an easy relaxed pace with plenty of time to see many of the species. Please keep in mind that this isn't a photography tour, but we will make time for a few shots. Your safety and comfort are important, and every effort will be made. Plan on having a great time!

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY – The cooler mornings may include exploring some trails that are uneven and rise in elevation. Expect about 1-3 miles of hiking/walking each day. Our speed will be slow as we watch and listen to birds. If uneven trails are of concern, a walking stick may help. When not on a trail, most of the time we will be on quiet roadsides not far from the vehicle. Afternoons are at bird feeders looking for hummingbirds and other goodies that show up. With the desert scrub around 4,000 feet and the pine forest reaching 9,000, we traverse a wide range of elevation in our vehicle. We generally start earlier in the day to beat the heat and finish in time to cool off for a relaxing dinner. Our pace is generally slow with time for photos.



TRAVEL – Try to bring one suitcase and a small day pack. This will give everyone enough room to be comfortable on the trip. We will be traveling in an SUV or van with the luggage stacked in the back during the day. Your small bag should have your birding gear, snacks, water bottle, and rain jacket for easy access. I will have my spotting scope, Swarovski 80mm, for the group's use. We will have a rotation, so everyone has equal time in all seats including the front and rear. All our lodging and transportation are non-smoking. I will provide a medium-sized cooler for group use. Our arrival and departure airport is from Tucson International Airport (TUS). Arrivals should be scheduled on or before August 1 by 2:00pm. Departures for after August 8 at 1:30pm. Let me know your travel itinerary when confirmed.



FOOD – All of your meals and non-alcoholic drinks are covered from dinner on day one to breakfast on day eight. Feel free to purchase your own alcoholic beverage, appetizers, or desserts. We will have quicker lunches like Subway, Wendy's, and cafes with vegetarian options. The dinners will be at nicer restaurants where vegetarian and vegan meals should be available. An effort will be made to keep everyone happy and well fed throughout the trip.

BIRD CHECKLISTS – I will be creating eBird checklists at all significant birding spots as well as an eBird Trip Report. These checklists will include all species seen throughout each day. Feel free to attach photos, audio or video taken throughout our trip. If anyone wants a paper checklist, just let me know.

FEES – The total cost at double occupancy is



Here is a list of species and totals encountered in 2025 & 2026.

SPECIES	Aug 1-8, 2026	Aug 9-16, 2025
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	11	
Wood Duck	1	1
Blue-winged Teal		21
Cinnamon Teal		41
Northern Shoveler		1
American Wigeon		1
Mallard	2	30
Mexican Duck	37	101
Ring-necked Duck		2
Ruddy Duck	12	3
Scaled Quail	2	
Gambel's Quail	22	16
Montezuma Quail	2	1
Wild Turkey	26	31
Rock Pigeon	7	64
Band-tailed Pigeon	10	4
Eurasian Collared-Dove	13	4
Inca Dove	9	9
Common Ground Dove	13	
White-winged Dove	80	81
Mourning Dove	50	70
Greater Roadrunner	5	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	5
Lesser Nighthawk	3	18

SPECIES	Aug 1-8, 2026	Aug 9-16, 2025
Wilson's Phalarope	66	214
Red-necked Phalarope		19
Spotted Sandpiper		6
Solitary Sandpiper		6
Lesser Yellowlegs		7
Greater Yellowlegs		11
Stilt Sandpiper		2
Baird's Sandpiper	14	38
Least Sandpiper	69	123
Pectoral Sandpiper		2
Western Sandpiper	3	22
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	1	
Least Grebe		1
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1
Neotropic Cormorant	2	1
White-faced Ibis	19	14
Black-crowned Night Heron	7	
Snowy Egret	3	
Green Heron	1	1
Great Egret	1	1
Great Blue Heron	4	1
Black Vulture	24	10
Turkey Vulture	80	36

Common Poorwill		4
Buff-collared Nightjar		1
White-throated Swift	18	
Rivoli's Hummingbird	21	13
Blue-throated Mountain-gem	6	8
Lucifer Hummingbird	1	2
Black-chinned Hummingbird	64	9
Anna's Hummingbird	33	9
Costa's Hummingbird	4	5
Calliope Hummingbird	1	4
Rufous Hummingbird	5	80
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	10	12
Broad-billed Hummingbird	106	96
White-eared Hummingbird	1	1
Violet-crowned Hummingbird	7	3
Berylline Hummingbird	2	1
Sora		1
Common Gallinule	1	
American Coot	10	16
Black-necked Stilt	18	217
American Avocet	55	428
Killdeer	13	119
Long-billed Dowitcher	7	4
Rose-throated Becard		2
No Beardless-Tyrannulet	3	3
Tufted Flycatcher	1	
Olive-sided Flycatcher		1
Greater Pewee	3	1
Western Wood-Pewee	23	18
Eastern Wood-Pewee		1
Hammond's Flycatcher		1
Western Flycatcher	6	5
Black Phoebe	3	3
Say's Phoebe	2	1
Vermilion Flycatcher	17	4
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	3	14
Ash-throated Flycatcher	3	1
Brown-crested Flycatcher	11	3
Sulhur-bellied Flycatcher	6	4
Tropical Kingbird	5	3
Cassin's Kingbird	15	16
Thick-billed Kingbird	2	6
Western Kingbird	25	12
Bell's Vireo	23	12
Hutton's Vireo	15	11

Osprey		1
Cooper's Hawk	3	3
Mississippi Kite	1	3
Gray Hawk	9	6
Zone-tailed Hawk	7	2
Short-tailed Hawk	1	
Swainson's Hawk	5	2
Red-tailed Hawk	15	12
Whiskered Screech-Owl	1	1
Northern Pygmy-Owl		4
Spotted Owl		1
Coppery-tailed Trogon	1	3
Green Kingfisher	1	
Acorn Woodpecker	68	69
Gila Woodpecker	15	14
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	11	11
Hairy Woodpecker	3	1
Arizona Woodpecker	7	2
Northern Ficker (Yellow-shafted)	11	8
Gilden Flicker		2
American Kestrel	1	3
Peregrine Falcon	1	

Rock Wren	7	7
Canyon Wren	10	5
No House Wren	5	3
Marsh Wren		1
Bewick's Wren	22	11
Cactus Wren	9	8
European Starling	10	
Curve-billed Thrasher	19	16
Bendire's Thrasher	1	3
Crissal Thrasher	6	1
Northern Mockingbird	7	4
Eastern Bluebird	2	
Westen Bluebird	2	
American Robin	11	2
Phainopepla	11	5
Olive Warbler		1
House Sparrow	36	9
House Finch	70	69
Red Crossbill	6	
Pine Siskin	5	
Lesser Goldfinch	183	117
Rufous-winged Sparrow	4	8

Cassin's Vireo		1
Plumbeous Vireo	16	6
Western Warbling Vireo	2	2
Loggerhead Shrike	6	7
Steller's Jay	13	9
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	5	1
Mexican Jay	43	64
Common Raven	18	13
Mountain Chickadee	5	13
Mexican Chickadee	7	6
Bridled Titmouse	46	29
Verdin	37	47
Horned Lark		2
Bank Swallow		11
Tree Swallow	12	88
Violet-green Swallow		10
Purple Martin	3	9
No Rough-winged Swallow	3	27
Barn Swallow	17	119
Cliff Swallow	22	7
Bushtit	18	
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	22
Pygmy Nuthatch	33	5
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	1
Brown Creeper	11	5
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6	1
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	1	5
Common Yellowthroat	8	4
No Yellow Warbler	7	8
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	1
Grace's Warbler	5	6
Black-throated Gray Warbler	10	2
Townsend's Warbler	1	
Wilson's Warbler		2
Hermit Warbler	2	
Red-faced Warbler	1	4
Painted Redstart	17	14
Hepatic Tanager	10	10
Summer Tanager	9	8
Western Tanager	17	14
Flame-colored Tanager	1	
Northern Cardinal	26	12
Pyrrhuloxia	11	7
Black-headed Grosbeak	36	26
Blue Grosbeak	18	41

Botteri's Sparrow	3	5
Cassin's Sparrow	5	1
Chipping Sparrow	2	1
Black-chinned Sparrow		1
Five-striped Sparrow	3	1
Black-throated Sparrow	52	44
Lark Sparrow	23	19
Lark Bunting	13	
Yellow-eyed Junco	40	7
Song Sparrow	10	3
Canyon Towhee	25	18
Abert's Towhee	7	10
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	9	4
Spotted Towhee	26	11
Yellow-breasted Chat	16	3
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2	34
Chichuahuan Meadowlark	6	
Hooded Oriole	10	11
Bullock's Oriole	1	3
Scott's Oriole	2	9
Red-winged Blackbird	6	9
Bronzed Cowbird	2	
Brown-headed Cowbird	35	2
Great-tailed Grackle	27	22
Orange-crowned Warbler		4
Lucy's Warbler		4
Virginia's Warbler	1	3

Lazuli Bunting	11	10
Varied Bunting	12	12

(Pictures – Blue-throated Mountain-gem male, Stay Safe in the Heat, Sky Island map, Thick-billed Kingbird, Rivoli's Hummingbird male, Rufous Hummingbird, Coppery-tailed Trogon female, Red-faced Warbler, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Zone-tailed Hawk, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Varied Bunting, Lucifer Hummingbird male, Acorn Woodpecker, White-eared Hummingbird female, Berylline Hummingbird male, Bridled Titmouse, and Sky Island Plant Biomes)