



Galveston Ornithological Society

Arizona Trip Itinerary

In Tucson, we visit the incomparable Arizona Desert Museum, with wild aviaries (and much more!), Saguaro National Park, and a museum of mounted specimens that's simply amazing. But the birding further south is stupendous!

Day two takes us high atop Mt. Lemmon, with interesting species at each increase in elevation. This is the south end of the Hudson Zone, or the birds typically of the Rocky Mountains.

With Nogales as our home base now, day three will take us downhill west of the city, to Sycamore Canyon, and later, Mustang Trail and Buenos Aires NWR. The only really hot day on the trip, it will be about like a mild summer day in Texas. There is exquisite scenery, though, and birds we won't see on the rest of the trip.

Day four takes us around Patagonia, with several excellent areas for new species. The Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Reserve boasts a great supply of woodland songbirds, and excellent hiking trails. The hummingbird feeders at the Paton's house are almost beyond belief, with over a dozen species sometimes sighted.

Day five and six takes off from Ft. Huachuca, and explores some of the beautiful wooded canyons on the east side of the Huachuca Mountains. Ramsey, Carr, Garden and Miller Canyon are the top destinations, and we'll spend two days exploring them.

The afternoon of the sixth day we'll cross the lowland to the east and ascend the towering Chiricahuas to Rustler Park. Here, we'll look for rare, high-mountain species, before descending the east side for the night.

The seventh day, we'll explore the Portal/Paradise area, including lovely Cave Creek Canyon. Several feeders around make finding many birds easy, and early morning birding on the desert is excellent as well. In the afternoon, we'll again head to the high country, and will then descend the west slope and head for a hotel in Tucson, for a flight the next morning.