

## **Southeast Arizona with the Montclair Bird Club August 11–18, 2017**

It is in August that the sky island mountain ranges of southeast Arizona reach their peak in bird populations and diversity. All the summering specialties are present with their offspring, the monsoon-season breeders are conspicuous and singing, migrants from the forests of the northwest are arriving, and post-breeding wandering brings regular rarities—and invariably some surprises—north from Mexico. Even without an incursion of Aztec thrushes, tufted flycatchers, or crescent-chested warblers, there is a lot to see in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties in this “second spring,” and our lists will swell as we visit each of the major ranges south and east of Tucson. We will also make a day trip to the shores of the Sea of Cortez, three hours to the southwest, where tropical seabirds mingle with shorebirds arriving from their Siberian breeding grounds.

The August weather is warm in the desert, and it will be downright hot in Puerto Peñasco, but our daily routine will find us spending much of our time up among the cooler mountain peaks and canyons. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts, hats, and sunscreen are necessities. Our pace will be slow, but there will be a couple of short steep walks; participants can sit out any activity that might seem too strenuous.

Our day on the Sonoran beach is likewise optional. Those planning to participate must bring a passport with an expiration date beyond March 1, 2019.

This field trip is open to a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 9 participants. The non-refundable registration fee is meant to cover the volunteer field trip leader’s expenses, vehicle rental, and fuel; participants book and pay for their own air travel, hotels, and meals. The registration fee may range from approximately \$350–\$650 depending on number of people.

**Saturday, August 11:** Arrivals in Tucson. Afternoon birding in and near Tucson (“target species” including Gambel’s quail, neotropical cormorant, Costa’s hummingbird, Gila woodpecker, tropical kingbird, verdin, rufous-winged sparrow, lesser goldfinch). Night in Hampton Inn Tucson Airport.

**Sunday, August 12:** Mount Lemmon Highway. Introduction to montane birding (“target species” including Rivoli’s hummingbird, Arizona woodpecker, mountain chickadee, pygmy nuthatch, canyon towhee, yellow-eyed junco, painted redstart). Night in Best Western Plaza Inn, Willcox.

**Monday, August 13:** Chiricahua Mountains. Arizona specialties (“target species” including Montezuma quail, blue-throated hummingbird, white-throated swift, whiskered screech-owl, acorn woodpecker, sulphur-bellied flycatcher, Mexican chickadee, red-faced warbler). Night in Best Western Plaza Inn, Willcox.

**Tuesday, August 14:** Huachuca Mountains. Arizona specialties (“target species” including Swainson’s hawk, lucifer hummingbird, white-eared hummingbird, elegant trogon, dusky-capped flycatcher, Steller’s jay, Sinaloa wren, Cassin’s sparrow, Botteri’s sparrow, rufous-capped warbler). Night in Hampton Inn Tucson Airport.

**Wednesday, August 15:** Madera Canyon. Arizona specialties (“target species” including zone-tailed hawk, broad-billed hummingbird, bridled titmouse, black-capped gnatcatcher, canyon wren, rufous-crowned warbler, hermit warbler, varied bunting). Night in Hampton Inn Tucson Airport.

**Thursday, August 16:** Patagonia and California Gulch. Arizona specialties (“target species” including gray hawk, violet-crowned hummingbird, thick-billed kingbird, Mexican jay, Abert’s towhee, five-striped sparrow, painted bunting, hooded oriole). Night in Hampton Inn Tucson Airport.

**Friday, August 17:** Puerto Peñasco. Sea of Cortez specialties (“target species” including blue-footed booby, brown booby, magnificent frigatebird, snowy plover, surfbird, black turnstone, black-vented shearwater, yellow-footed gull, Heermann’s gull, elegant tern, crested caracara, Lucy’s warbler, large-billed sparrow). Night in Hampton Inn Tucson Airport.

**Saturday, August 18:** Departures from Tucson.