

SIX DAYS FROM THE CASA

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A 6-part series, featuring day trips that start from Casa de San Pedro on the San Pedro River near Palominas. Casa de San Pedro is a favorite local bed and breakfast inn, catering to birders, naturalists and those that love exploring our great Southwest. Check them out at: www.bedandbirds.com

DAY ONE. Circumnavigating the Huachuca Mountains: an all day excursion to visit Coronado National Memorial / Scotia and Sunnyside Canyons / Parker Lake / with an option to loop back via the Wineries at Elgin & restaurants at Sonoita, or via the West Gate of Ft. Huachuca & more!

Morning at the Casa de San Pedro is so delightful, it's often hard to rally yourself to go off exploring! Waking up you can hear waters of the courtyard fountain. Stepping outside the courtyard gate provides a view of giant cottonwoods that line the San Pedro River and a remarkable sense of space and quiet as you start your day. Quiet unless you are aware of bird sound – then the calls of Scaled and Gambel's Quail, the sharp ping of a handsome Vermillion Flycatcher, the laugh of a Gila Woodpecker and the hollow reedy call of the White-winged Dove abound.

It's not sounds, but smells that will lure you into the kitchen, and soon you'll find out why hosts Karl Schmitt and Patrick Dome won the prestigious 'Best Breakfast in the Southwest' Award from the Arlington's Inn Traveler in 2004. Sitting in the sunlit breakfast room, with its high ceilings, saguaro-rib shutters, and hand-carved furniture from Mexico is a treat, capturing the atmosphere of a century-old hacienda.

Adventure calls! Today's journey is an extensive loop drive that circumnavigates the high Huachuca Mountains. Be well prepared with water, snacks (or a picnic lunch if you don't want to aim for Sonoita's great cafes...), and make sure your vehicle is in good working order. Parts of the road are still unpaved, and may be dusty and bumpy but are passable.

From the Casa, return to Palominas Road (via Waters) and turn south (left) to Highway 92, where you'll turn west (right). This once remote stretch of road now has houses and businesses, but also affords some spectacular views. You'll be looking at the Huachuca Mountains as you travel – the two highest peaks on the southern end are Miller (9463 ft.) and Carr (9250 ft.). Before Highway 92 makes a strong right hand curve close to the mountains (about 8 miles), you will see a well marked brown sign pointing out your south (left) turn to Coronado National Monument (www.nps.gov/coro).

From the turn it's about a 5 mile drive through picturesque grasslands to this little gem of the National Park Service, created by Henry Truman in 1952 – right on the U.S./Mexico border and well worth a visit. Plans for the Memorial formed earlier, when in 1941, an International Memorial was planned, with land set aside on both sides of the border to encourage friendship and understanding. The remote and rural lands of Sonora here were not selected for a park, but are in view from the Vista Point atop Montezuma Pass – a scenic and extensive watershed of the San Pedro River.

Surrounded by 4750 acres of Oak Woodland habitat, the small Visitor's Center has large murals depicting the 1540 expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado and his party of 350 Spanish soldiers, several priests and over 1000 native allies, servants and slaves. This is a remarkable chapter in our nation's history, and while the expedition failed in its efforts to find the richly imagined Cities of Cibola and all their gold, they put Arizona and much of the southwest on the map and recorded its major rivers and major landscape features. Take time to browse the exhibits, see the film, and select one of the many books on this period of exploration for a later in-depth read. You can even try on Spanish armor and imagine what it felt like to march in it in June and July!

The 'encinal', or oak woodlands, and walnut and sycamore lined creek running through the Memorial provide a good overview of the nature of the foothills region of the Huachuca Mountains. You'll find noisy Mexican Jays and racous Acorn Woodpeckers, flocks of Bridled Titmouse as you explore. A water source, visible from inside the Visitor's Center (open 8am to 5 pm all year, except Thanksgiving and Christmas), often attracts Painted Redstart, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and more. One of the rarest birds to be seen here is Plain-capped Starthroat, a large and showy hummingbird that wanders into the U.S. from Mexico only in the border region. Coatimundi (an all too cute relative of Raccoons and Ring-tailed Cats) populations cycle, and while not as common as they were a decade ago, the Memorial is a good place to see them, as well as Coue's White-tailed Deer (a subspecies of the eastern variety) and Javelina. Occasionally Mountain Lion are sighted. One of the most unusual animals, only emerging for a few weeks a year once summer rains begin, is the limestone-inhabitant Barking Frog. Botany is fascinating here as well, in this meeting group of four major biological provinces; Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts and the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico.

The road is paved for about a mile west of the Visitor's Center and then your adventure begins. Winding, mountain switchbacks on a dirt and gravel road now lead you to the top of Montezuma Pass at 6575 ft. This road is not suitable for vehicles over 24 ft. due to steep grades and tight switchbacks. It's a great place, however, to learn your Southwestern shrubs – Silk tassel, Mountain Mahogany, and a variety of oaks (Mexican Blue, Emory and Arizona White, and Silverleaf to name a few) join Palmer Agave, yucca and sotol as classic rocky hillside vegetation – giving way to Mexican Pinyon Pine and Alligator Juniper as you climb in elevation. Ask the park rangers about rare Lesser Long-nosed bats, which migrate north from Mexico to feed on – and in turn pollinate – the robust stalks of agave. Biologists set up lawn chairs here, and at other locations in the Huachucas to watch their feeding behavior – sometimes with night-vision goggles! If this sounds boring, there may be over 3000 feeding "hits" on an agave in a single night!

Our route will continue on to Parker Lake and beyond, but first – stop at the Pass – a geologist's delight! From the pass you can see rugged limestone layers that record shallow seas of 270 million years ago. The seas persisted for perhaps a million years – you can see evidence of the ebb and flow in tightly banded gray colored rock on the north side of the pass. About 170 million years ago immense volcanoes erupted here – look for fine-grained ash flows that came up through the limestone as well. These volcanoes were many times larger than Mt. St. Helen's; calderas formed as huge amounts of rock was ejected, causing collapse and leaving a chaotic jumble of ash, pumice and giant blocks of limestone. A miniature version of this can be seen in the purplish Cretaceous-age conglomerate rock just above the parking lot. About 65 million years ago, processes that built much of the Rocky Mountains to the north also gave rise to the Huachucas as we know them today. The Huachucas are laced with high angle thrust faults, in some places underlain by domes of molten material that rose but did not erupt – harder layers remain today as

the highest peaks. Another intense period of stretching occurred later, in the Basin and Range period 10-15 million years ago. Valleys dropped down as mountain blocks rose; from this point on water and other erosive forces carved the peaks canyons we see today.

There is an ample parking lot, with shade shelter, picnic facilities and a half-mile viewpoint trail up Coronado Peak (well worth it!) on your left. From the ramada at the summit, one can see the divide between the extensive drainage of the San Pedro River (to the south and east) and the San Rafael Valley (to the west) — signs in the parking lot also point out the major features. Here, you'll be standing on southernmost point of the Huachuca Mountains. All can marvel at the cataclysmic volcanic events that led to this spectacular scenery.

To the north of the parking lot, keen hikers can hook up with the Huachuca Crest Trail and climb to the ridge and the pines and Aspen of Miller Peak (5.3 miles, one way, intensive – almost 3000 ft. – elevation gain). Devoted followers of the 790 miles of the Arizona Trail will find the final section here, leading to historic border monument 102 – the Yaqui Ridge Trail. Ask at the Visitor's Center for maps and trail information.

From Montezuma Pass, we descend from the pass following Forest Road 61, taking the right hand fork at the junction (approx. 5.4 mi. from the pass), which is Forest Road 48.

Birders will want to take a detour to Scotia and Sunnyside Canyons – the turn (FR 228) is signed about 3.1 miles past the junction of FR 61/48. Here permanent water and tall sycamore trees attract a number of species such as Elegant Trogon, and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. Tall Chihuahua Pines attract the tiny Buff-breasted Flycatcher, and the higher reaches afford Zone-tailed Hawk, possible Goshawk, a variety of small owls, Stricklands and Acorn Woodpeckers, Hepatic Tanager and more. Rick Taylor, author of *A Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona*, calls the Sunnyside/Scotia complex in the southwest corner of the Huachuca's "one of the least birded and most deserving sites in Southeastern Arizona". If you like to bird away from the crowds, in a place where rarities are likely to turn up, this is a spot for you. After turning right towards the mountains on FR 228, follow to a T-intersection 2.6 miles, where you'll turn left for Scotia (park after about ¼ mile) to walk and bird, and/or right for Sunnyside Canyon on FR 204. On 204, for Sunnyside, go a short way (0.3 mi) and turn left. Park here, walk and bird through this lovely sycamore streamside habitat. If you've made the effort to get into here, you may as well do both drainages! To return to our loop, go back to FR 48.

Parker Canyon Lake is a SMALL scenic deep water lake surrounded by open pine forests – a great place for a picnic, and in winter a super spot for finding Bald Eagle and a variety of ducks. The turnoff is well marked on the left where FR 48 meets State Route (SR) 83, which is now paved much of the way from the lake down to Elgin and Sonoita. A much sought-after bird, the handsome Montezuma Quail, may be found around the lake, in areas of dense grass on the oak grassland hillsides. Eastern Bluebird nests in the area. After all this open country, the restrooms here may also be a welcome sight!

Continue down SR 83 to a junction (11.5 mi.) near Canelo. Here you'll have to make a decision. The shortest way home, after enjoying Parker Lake, is to turn right on FR 287 at this junction to travel through the west Gate of Ft. Huachuca, 5.5 miles further on. This is a particularly scenic route after the summer rains begin and wildflowers and lush grass abound. It also keeps you close to the mountains, with lovely views of the northern end of the range. If you want to keep birding, this may be your best bet, as you should have time to explore the lush riparian area of Huachuca Canyon, though you'll need a map of the base to get in there. It's fairly easy once you learn how to navigate the traffic circle in this scenic, historic part of the base, which was established at the

mouth of Huachuca Canyon. For reference from a well signed building: from the intersection of Hungerford and Grierson Avenues at the Fort Huachuca Museum, head southwest 0.6 mile on Grierson, then turn left 0.1 mile on Hines Road to the canyon entrance.

Note – to enter the base you must have picture identification and either your vehicle registration or rental car agreement. If the lure of exploring calls you on, continue left on SR 83 towards Sonoita. Rolling grasslands dotted with huge oaks with wide-spread crowns will remind you of the California wine country – a landscape unexpected in Arizona. Indeed, near Elgin you'll find three Arizona wineries where you can enjoy an afternoon tasting! You may wish to browse the web for more information on Callaghan Vineyards (you'll pass their Buena Suerte vineyard a few miles east of Elgin), the Village of Elgin Winery (www.elginwineries.com / 520-455-9309) – right in cool, shaded picturesque Elgin (look for roosting Great Horned Owl and colorful Hooded Oriole in tall trees by the winery!), or proceed on towards Sonoita and take in Sonoita Vineyards, Ltd., established first of the three, in 1983. Several varieties of wine grapes do well here – Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Sangiovese.

There are also some unique nature opportunities in the Elgin area – a grassland preserve of the National Audubon Society, and a unique wetland preserve of the Nature Conservancy. As they need more time (and pre-visit notification) than you have today, we'll describe these in a later issue of "Six Days from the Casa".

All of this wine tasting and exploring is surely a good lead into a super dinner at one of Sonoita's great cafes – we recommend either Café Sonoita (520-455-5278) or the Sonoita Wine Country Café (520-455-5282). Both restaurants are only open Wednesday – Saturday. The Café Sonoita is well known for cuisine – its creative menu is printed on a blackboard; the restaurant is small, intimate with an eclectic Southwestern flair. The Wine Country Café is open, with large windows and great views, saltillo tile and colorful artwork. If neither of these is open, from Elgin you can get back to HWY. 82 to the east, not going all the way in to Sonoita. Driving either route, watch for herds of Pronghorn in the open grassland. Travel east on scenic 82, with views of the Mustang Mountains on your right, and Whetstone Mountains to your left. You'll then intersect HWY 90, and can take the bypass around the main business district to reach HWY. 92. If you're still hungry for dinner, try the Outside Inn (520-378-4645), on HWY. 92, just past Yaqui, as you head south!

All this, and you can look forward to a return to Casa de San Pedro. With luck, Patrick will have made some pecan pie!

GREAT READS & ROUTE COMPANIONS

Coronado National Memorial. Rose Houk. 1999. Southwest Parks and Monuments Press.

Roadside History of Arizona. Marshall Trimble. Mountain Press Pub. Co. 1986.

Arizona, A Cavalcade of History. Marshall Trimble. 2003. Rio Nuevo Pub., Tucson.

Islands in the Desert, a History of the Uplands of the Southeastern Arizona. John P. Wilson. 1995. Univ. of New Mexico Press.

Hiker's Map of the Huachuca Mountains. Leonard Taylor. Agave Guides. 2002.

Best Trails in and Around Kartchner Caverns State Park. Kelly Tighe. Best Trails Publishing, Bisbee.

Hiking Arizona's Geology Ivo Lucchitta. 2001. Mountaineer Books.

Southern Arizona Nature Almanac. Roseann Beggy Hanson and Jonathan Hanson. 1996. Univ. of Tucson Press.

SHOPPING TIPS!

The small bookstore at Coronado National Memorial holds many interesting titles from Nature to History. Run in conjunction with the non-profit Western National Parks Association, your monies support conservation and our parks. You can even shop online in the Bookstore Section of the website www.nps.gov/coro.

And, what could be better than to take home a bottle of Arizona wine from one of the wineries, let it age, and savor it over your trip photos and dinner with friends!

DAY TWO: SUMMER AND FALL – Discover the Splendor of the Huachuca Mountains!

The Huachuca Mountains frame the western side of the city of Sierra Vista, rising impressively to 9466 feet on Miller Peak, high above San Pedro River Valley. High enough to create their own weather, the Huachuca's draw moisture out of our monsoon storms, often making for dramatic summer and early fall afternoons. Their character changes with each passing storm, and few of us fail to appreciate the ever changing show of light on their rugged flanks. During September and October you can look up to see the color of Aspen, Box Elder, Canyon Maple and other deciduous trees. But did you know you could find cool refuge there – only a short drive away?

People from far and wide venture to Sierra Vista and surrounding communities to visit the Huachuca Mountains. They visit our lush forests and canyons in particular, to look for birds, butterflies, and interesting mammals such as coatimundi and javelina. This is one of the most diverse areas in the country to witness nature's bounty and it wins national acclaim. Just this year, in July of 2005, the American Birding Association held their annual meeting in Tucson, with several field trips to sites in the Huachuca's. The North American Butterfly Association met here in Sierra Vista late July at the Windemere Hotel – with experts from around the world enjoying field trips and local experts. You've likely noticed cars turning up Ramsey Canyon to the Nature Conservancy's famous preserve, or maybe you've seen birder's standing in line at Fort Huachuca's main gate to apply for permits to visit Garden and Huachuca Canyons. This article gives you a hint of what brings people HERE, and gives you tips for starting to learn more while in the mountains as well.

The Huachuca's are one of two-dozen SKY ISLAND mountain ranges that dot the landscape of Southeast Arizona and Southwest New Mexico. Another 15 or more similar

ranges occur across the border in Sonora and Chihuahua Mexico, making a total of 40 or more ranges that rise like islands in a desert grassland sea. These mountain ranges form ecological stepping-stones between the Rocky Mountains to the north, and the vast Sierra Madre Occidental to the south. You can image that they function as the Caribbean Islands do, bridging the gap between North and South America in a desert, rather than a true ocean setting. Many of our plants and non-flying animals atop these cool, shaded mountain 'islands' are reluctant or unable to cross their surrounding deserts and grasslands. Biologists refer to our region as the Madrean Archipelago – evocative of the ocean analogy.

The name Madrean hints at the strong influence of Mexico's Sierra Madres on the makeup of our plant and animal communities. Many species reach the northern most part of their range here, and people come to the Huachuca's and other mountain islands of Arizona and New Mexico hoping to see them. They also come to witness the sheer numbers of species – for we have many species of the Rockies, the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, the Great Basin and Great Plains – all mixing here. In a day it's not unusual for naturalists to log sightings of over 120 bird species, 85 butterfly species, over a dozen lizard species, and for those in the know – hundreds of plants! It's like a giant jigsaw puzzle, and in our 'Madrean Archipelago', it all comes together!

What are these special species? A total list is far beyond the reach of this article, but just the names you may find intriguing. For instance, have you ever seen a Barking Frog? Did you know that large green, Thick-billed Parrots that fed on pine seeds used to, and may once again, roam our forests? Birders look for a variety of species, several that are wide ranging strays from the tropics. But about twenty-five species (see our TOP TWENTY FIVE SIDE BAR) hold a very close affinity to the SKY ISLANDS, and many of these are found in the Huachuca's. Lizard and snake enthusiasts look for the beautiful Mountain Kingsnake, the Yarrow's Spiny Lizard and more.

Our forests, found at higher elevation, hold a marvelous number of trees – particularly evident when you look at the varieties of pine and oak. Long-needled Apache Pines join ancient Arizona Cypress in our mid-elevation moist canyons. Our Ponderosa Pines, often called Arizona Pine, show closer relationship to pines of Durango, Mexico than to the Rockies. The tight small-coned Chihuahua Pine was a favorite of the Thick-billed Parrot. And the fat-rich seeds of Southwestern White Pine are a bonus to birds and squirrels that find them. Our evergreen oaks, often growing to immense size, are of several species: Arizona White, Emory, Blue, Silverleaf, Netleaf and more. Most have affinity to Mexico, while the higher elevation Gambel's Oak turns color in fall and sheds its leaves in time with its northern cousins.

On a map, island ranges in the Madrean Archipelago line up in a northwest/southeast direction, often running parallel to each other with broad valleys between. Hikers know that each range carries a distinct personality crafted from the types of rock contained, and the mosaic of plant communities that drape the mountain's rocky forms. The Huachuca's display a spectacular geologic history, with eras of both compression (mountain building), volcanism (some that reached the surface, some that did not - volcano "want to

be's"). The latest chapter of the story, in the last 15 million years or so, is one of extension, mountains pulling apart, valleys dropping down, and creation of our pattern of basin and range. Ivo Lucchitta, in his book "Hiking Arizona's Geology", offers a detailed look in his chapter on the Huachuca's Miller Peak. Visitor's Centers at Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon and the National Park Service's Coronado National Memorial have several books on our local geology. If you are at Ramsey Canyon, try a walk with Alexander "Sandy" Kunzer's geologic trail guide (available at the Visitor's Center) in hand.

For a variety of reasons Huachuca's are one of the richest in biodiversity of all the mountain island ranges. They are located in the center of the archipelago, so can draw from plants and animals of six surrounding bioregions. In addition to mixing species of the Rockies and Sierra Madres in their lush pine, oak and fir forests, they mix species of two deserts (Sonoran to the west and Chihuahuan to the east) and two higher grassland areas (Great Basin to the west and Great Plains to the east) in lower elevation habitats surrounding them.

The Huachuca's are complex in topography, so there are many microhabitats from cool shaded canyons to open sunlit hillsides. Fire has played a role in creating a mix of habitats, yet large areas of old-growth trees remain. Plant ecologists have described close to 1000 species at various elevations of the range – a respectable number in comparison to the much larger Chiricahua Range with its 1250 species. A few plants occur only here – in cool and shaded microhabitats in lush mountain canyons.

A great way to find out more about the area is to join a free public walk at The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon. Walks depart the Visitor's Center at 9 am, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays (May-October). Call 520-378-2785 for further information, or visit the Nature Conservancy's website section on [Ramsey Canyon](#). Look for the binocular sign on Highway 92 south of Fry Boulevard, which marks the turn towards the mountains.

Another local resource for learning is the Carr House Visitor's Center, which is staffed on weekends, April – October, by the volunteer group Friends of the Huachuca Mountains. Fascinating educational programs are currently offered every other Sunday at 1:30 pm. Those coming up for 2005 include: Sept. 4 (All you ever wanted to know about Gourds), Sept. 18 (Dr. Ware, Director of the Amerind Foundation, speaking on "Tales of Native Peoples") and Oct. 9 (Geology by Dr. John Gilbert). In addition to these lectures, you can drop in between 9 and 4 on Saturdays and Sundays (April – Oct) to see exhibits of our local natural resources, including animal skulls, a minerals collection from our local mines, a discovery room for children with a bat cave and a sand table for making animal tracks, birds displays, and more. They also offer bird walks every third Saturday through September at 7am.

Public agencies managing lands of the Huachuca Mountains have information on the area, where to hike, picnic and explore. You can contact the U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest at 520-378-0311, or drop by their office on Highway 92 for

maps and information. Coronado National Memorial of the National Park Service has a great selection of natural history books and information and offers guided walks on occasion. They have many of our local trees identified in a short interpretive walk outside the Visitor's Center, and the drive up to Coronado Pass will introduce you to many of our local oaks and pines. Note their carefully prepared notebooks detailing our local flora and fauna in the little reading nook by the large picture window.

The drive up Carr Canyon, accessed from Highway 92 south of Fry Boulevard, is one of the most spectacular drives on public lands in the West – right out our backdoor. After the first mile, it becomes a dirt road, and is windy, bumpy and steep, but with care, cars with high clearance can make it. It's a perfect outing for those with four-wheel drive. In a little over 8 miles you will drive through a series of plant communities that you would experience if you traveled from Mexico to Canada! On a hot day, it is always still cool atop Carr Canyon. Parking at one of the trailheads, or in the campground (fee area), you can amble along the road, or on a great interpretive trail to the old "Silver Reef" mine site and be surrounded by a mix of huge pines and Douglas Fir. Birders will be thrilled to find Buff-breasted Flycatcher and Greater Pewee quite common here; often a Northern (Apache race – one of our "Madrean" specialties) may buzz through the campground or scream overhead. There are Olive Warblers and Red-faced Warblers and busy, noisy flocks of Pygmy Nuthatch. The orange and yellow Western Tanager seems like something out of the tropics, but is actually at its southernmost range for breeding here in the Huachuca's.

If you'd like a sampling of this wonderful mix of pines and other conifers in the Huachuca's, but don't want to venture quite so far, you can walk up the first part of Sawmill Canyon, accessed from Upper Garden Canyon on Fort Huachuca. From the Upper Picnic Area (stop at the main gate for your permit and a map) you'll see a great mix of trees along the flowing stream (this 3.5 mile stretch of stream being one of the true gems of our SKY ISLANDS). One of the most artistic is the white-barked twisted trunk of the Arizona Sycamore. Soon you'll see the long needles in bundles of tall Apache Pines along the moist river bottom, the shorter needles and small cones of Chihuahua Pines on the surrounding hillsides, and finally the medium length needles of Ponderosa Pines that surround the cabin at a circular parking area. Park here, cross a small cable, and walk the road a half-mile or so up Sawmill Canyon. Smell the sweet pine air, and watch for Gould's Wild Turkey, Arizona Gray Squirrels, and Coue's White-tailed Deer.

And if you want a sampling at its finest, and are fit for hiking, by all means try to arrange a car shuttle, and do the hike from Carr Canyon over to Ramsey Canyon to spend time among our finest groves of huge old conifers on the north facing slope dropping into Upper Ramsey Canyon. If you can't arrange a shuttle, you'll just expend additional energy and hike up from Ramsey Canyon (note that the preserve is open only from 8-5 so plan your hike times accordingly). One of the real joys of this canyon, and Miller Canyon as well, is the number of Arizona Cypress trees. These beautiful straight tall trees have been here once widespread (before the time of glaciers) and now cling to cool climates offered in our shaded canyons – botanists consider them relics of the past.

With all this close at hand – its time to get out and explore!

Signature Birds of the Sky Islands

**** signature birds, limited in range in the U.S. to the Sky Islands, and the Sierra Madres of Mexico

** wider range than signature birds in US and/or Mexico, but may be habitat indicator species in the US Sky Islands. Basically not as unique, and less of a “brand” but still special to our area.

+ Texas breeds in the Texas’ Sky Islands as well

note” this list eliminates regional specialties with wider ranges that extend to South Texas or California on the border – tropical species at the north of their range, but lacking close affinity to the Madrean Sky Islands.

THE TOP TWENTY

1. Montezuma Quail ** (+TX)
2. Thick-billed Parrot **** RARE
3. Whiskered Screech Owl****
4. Buff-collared Nightjar****
5. Northern Goshawk, *Apache subspecies* ****
6. Eared (Quetzal) Trogon**** RARE
7. Elegant Trogon****
8. Blue-throated Hummingbird **** (+TX)
9. Magnificent Hummingbird****
10. Violet-crowned Hummingbird****
11. White-eared Hummingbird **** RARE
12. Arizona Woodpecker ****
13. Mexican Jay **** (+rim and TX)
14. Bridled Titmouse **** (+rim and TX)
15. Mexican Chickadee ****

16. Red-faced Warbler ***** (+rim)

17. Painted Redstart***** (+rim)

18. Olive Warbler ***** (+rim)

19. Five-striped Sparrow*****

20. Yellow-eyed Junco *****

The RUNNER – UPS (wider distribution or broader habitat affinity in Mexico, some species extend into Central America)

1. Broad-billed Hummingbird

2. Lucifer Hummingbird RARE

3. Berylline Hummingbird RARE

4. Greater Pewee

5. Buff-breasted Flycatcher

6. Dusky-capped Flycatcher

7. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher

8. Thick-billed Kingbird

9. Eastern Bluebird, *subspecies fulva*

10. Black-capped Gnatcatcher

11. House Wren, *Brown-throated subspecies*

12. Botteri's Sparrow

13. Rufous-winged sparrow

14. Varied Bunting

15. Mallard, *Mexican Duck subspecies* (aquatic, riparian)

Mexico only:

Extirpated Imperial Woodpecker (former Madrean endemic)

Sinaloa Martin

Pine Flycatcher

Red Warbler

Yellow Grosbeak