

**ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO ARIZONA & NEW MEXICO**  
*Snow Geese & Cranes – Photographic Tour*

**19 January - 01 February 2013**



**Leader: Richard Coomber**

**ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO ARIZONA & NEW MEXICO**  
*Snow Geese & Cranes – Photographic Tour*  
**19 January - 01 February 2013**

**A Personal Diary**

**Saturday, 19 January**

On a very cold and snowy morning the 2013 Ornitholidays party to Arizona and New Mexico met up at Heathrow not knowing if and when we were going to escape the snow and ice that had swept in from the West yesterday. The television reports of the situation at Terminal 5 for yesterday and overnight were grim, with many flights cancelled and people sleeping 'rough' in the terminal. At least it was forecast well in advance, so some of the party made alternative travel arrangements and came up to London earlier than anticipated to beat the weather.

British Airways came in for a lot of flack in the media, but the only way we were affected was by the longer than usual check-in, a short delay before leaving the gate because of late arriving passengers from connecting flights, and then another delay as we waited our turn for the aircraft to be de-iced prior to take-off. We eventually left 1 hr 40 minutes late and three minutes later we had climbed through the thick blanket of cloud and into the sparkling blue above, heading north-west over the British Isles. The first, and last, land we saw before beginning our Atlantic crossing was the south-west of Scotland.

Our great circle route clipped southern Greenland, which alas was beneath the clouds. On over Arctic Canada with snow at least south to Iowa and Nebraska. Texas was bathed in sunshine, where we transferred onto an American Airlines flight to El Paso at Dallas/Fort Worth. Out in the west Texas town of El Paso our luggage and the minibus were collected, but during a bit of a city tour, we failed to find Rosa's Cantina before reaching the comfort of our hotel. For some it was an early night and for others the chance to relax and chat.

**Sunday, 20 January**

Fine and sunny after a chilly start. 62°F

On leaving the hotel we had no trouble finding our way onto I-10 and north to Las Cruces, passing the dry course of the not so Rio Grande, alongside which runs the huge fence was intended to stop illegal Mexican immigrants from entering the USA. We stopped en route for freshly made rolls at a Subway just off the interstate.

At Las Cruces we took a side road north to the small town of Hatch, passing acres and acres of pecan orchards. Perhaps the biggest surprise was seeing flocks of Western Meadowlarks feeding amongst the rows of trees and sometimes even perching in the trees themselves, which seemed unusual for a bird one normally associates with wide open spaces, but this is mid-winter and that might explain things. Also amongst the pecans were large numbers of American Crows in places and when we made a photo-stop at one orchard Lesley found a Ladder-backed Woodpecker, which was a good find – more like a needle in a haystack in such a place? In addition to crows we also saw ravens. The first pair were Chihuahuan Ravens and further on we found another pair amongst some 25 Common Ravens – a useful comparison. Dave and Jon managed to photograph the first Red-tailed Hawk; a number of others were seen at regular intervals during the journey as well as an adult Cooper's Hawk, several Northern Harriers and American Kestrels. Flying south were our first Sandhill Cranes, just two against the clear blue sky.

At Hatch another photostop was outside a store that specialised in chillies – the strings of red pods making good abstract subjects. Another quiet road took us south-west to Deming, but it was rather poor birdwise. At Deming we rejoined I-10, which for mile after mile ran close to a busy railway track. Southbound freights had up to five powerful diesels



hauling in excess of one hundred flatbed trucks, each carried with two large containers, one on top of the other, and in one instance we were doing 60 mph to keep level with the locos in order that the photographers could get pictures in motion.



After a while we turned south for a few miles before heading west once more. Highlights were scope views of a Prairie Falcon perched on a utility pole and later stunning views of an American Badger looking for food in broad daylight. The haze created a series of receding planes as we looked towards the hills and mountains strung across the distant horizon.

A slight detour, into ranching country south of Animas, produced some 20 White-tailed Deer grazing in a stubble field and a little further on excellent views of a Ferruginous Hawk first on a pole and then on some irrigation

pipng, but sadly no photos as the sun was more or less setting. Fearing a missed turning we asked for directions from some genuine cowboys. Yes, we had missed a turning in Animas, but we had seen the Ferruginous Hawk, so it wasn't all a waste of time.

Heading west into the afterglow, a blaze of reds and orange in the clouds above the mountains, demanded one final photostop, before it was heads down for Portal, our destination. We arrived at the lodge later than anticipated, a situation exacerbated by the fact that during the winter months Arizona changes to Mountain Standard Time, from the Pacific Standard Time used during the rest of the year. It was literally a case of dropping the bags in our rooms and going straight to dinner. After the meal it wasn't long before people were heading for bed.

### **Monday, 21 January**

Another fine and sunny day. 60°C

First light found us aboard the minibus and heading for Dave Jasper's backyard a mile or two away. As he put out today's ration of seeds birds came in from all directions to a variety of feeding stations. Soon the area was crowded with White-crowned Sparrows feeding from the ground and one of the bird-tables, whilst the nyjer seed cylinder was smothered in Pine Siskins. Colour came in the form of Red Cardinals, these south-western males are particularly bright and in the early morning sun they seemed to glow from within. Unusually they were outnumbered by their desert cousins, Pyrrhuloxias. Three species of towhee came in – Canyon, Spotted and Green-tailed. Other birds associated with this part of the world that arrived in small numbers were Black-throated Sparrow, Cactus Wren, Gambel's Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher and the sought-after Crissal Thrasher. After some of us went off to look for other species outside the property John had the



briefest of views of a Collared Peccary or Javelina as the locals call this wild pig. The view was so brief he only managed one image, for it was so close that the sound of his shutter spooked it! Pam and Lorna added Blue-gray Gnatcatcher to the list and out along the road we encountered a feeding flock of sparrows that were mainly Brewer's and a handful of larger Vesper Sparrows, a species we saw well on the drive back for breakfast just before 09:30. During the meal a female Phainopepla came and perched on the wires outside; her mate being seen as we loaded up to spend the morning in Cave Creek.



Cave Creek Ranch welcomes birders to view its feeders, and there the lighting was better than the rather harsh side-ways lighting we had encountered just after sunrise. Again there were masses of Pine Siskins joined here by Lesser Goldfinches, the green-backed males looking especially smart. Acorn Woodpeckers came and went for a pastime, as did Ladder-backed too! On the ground were a few White-crowned Sparrows, but nothing like the numbers that were at Dave Jasper's, which was probably an advantage for we were able to see three forms of Dark-eyed Junco – Oregon, Pink-sided and Red-backed. Bridled Titmice came and went frequently, a species looking

quite similar to our Crested Tit. Blue-throated Hummingbirds came to their feeder, but we were not aware of the Magnificent that might also have been seen. There were photo-opportunities aplenty for us all, even of Collared Peccaries when a gang arrived with one small piglet to snuffle up spilled seed and grain. A walk down to the creek gave us Yellow-rumped Warblers in the white-barked sycamores, but the highlight was a female Williamson's Sapsucker systematically working its way along a branch of a juniper overhanging the track. Also seen during our visit were Mexican Jay, Curve-billed Thrasher and Hermit Thrush.

With lunch calling we returned briefly to the lodge to collect our pre-ordered meals before heading along to the South Fork Picnic Area, where we were welcomed by a reception committee of Mexican Jays that made great subjects for the cameras as we tucked in. Normally this is a fee-area, but notices proclaimed that 21 January was a fee-free day in honour of Martin Luther King's birthday! The only other bird of note during our meal was a Hairy Woodpecker seen by Lesley, but it flew further away into the pines and Live Oaks before any of the rest of us could see it. A good lunch deserves a good walk and we decided to try to find a spot along the creek where a large flock of Hermit Thrushes had been feeding on juniper berries. We thought we found the spot and were enjoying watching a Red Admiral, which like ours had come out of hibernation on a warm winter's day, when two local birders came along and informed us we were a few hundred yards short, so we followed them, but alas the berries had been finished and the thrushes moved on. The only mammal seen in the South Fork area was Cliff Chipmunk.

A return to Cave Creek Ranch seemed a good option as the light had changed and no doubt the birds would have too! Being less disturbed in the afternoon White-tailed Deer were coming out of the woods. Certainly by mid-afternoon the Pine Siskins had gone elsewhere allowing the Lesser Goldfinches to rule the nyjer feeders and therefore give us better photo-opportunities when they perched on surrounding branches. A food source we don't use at home is peanut butter, but when smeared into the cracks in the bark of a large tree Acorn, Ladder-backed and Arizona Woodpeckers loved it, as did the White-breasted Nuthatch. There were several species seen that had been absent this morning notably a stunning male Painted Redstart, White-throated Sparrow, Hutton's Vireo and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. By 16:30 the light was beginning to go and feeling that we could expect to get nothing better, we returned to the lodge allowing an hour before our 18:00 dinner in the café. The checklist followed another meal in good company. It had been a wonderful day full of so many opportunities and great birds.

## Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Fine and sunny, becoming warmer as the day wore on. 65°F

Our pre-breakfast excursion up towards the mountains became limited to views of the landscape, when discretion became the better part as signs warned of the road becoming narrow as well as there being road works. We chose to return to have a look around Portal and a last look at Dave Jasper's feeders, where our Dave and John photographed the first Verdin of the trip.

After breakfast we set off on the road south-east to Douglas, where we refuelled the minibus and bought lunch. The drive north was largely unproductive, although Lesley was pleased when we stopped and saw Say's Phoebe, for *Phoebe* is the name of her dog. During our picnic at the small park by the fire station at Elfrida we saw Black Phoebe this time as well as a Ladder-backed Woodpecker, whilst a Eurasian Collared Dove coo-ed in the background. Collared Doves have spread across the United States rapidly, having arrived in Florida in 1982, after been introduced to the Bahamas in 1970s; it was unrecorded during this tour 10 years ago.



It's always good to have a Plan B, and next time it will have been upgraded to Plan A. A few miles south on a country road was Whitewater Draw, a wetland that in some ways recalls a mini Bosque del Apache, which we will be visiting in a few days time. As we neared the area and checked fields for larks and raptors a distant flock of Snow Geese was seen, then further on when a Lark Bunting, amongst other sparrows, caught our attention we could hear the wonderful bugling of Sandhill Cranes *en masse* – on the still clear air they sounded magical. Scanning ahead we could see water, but no it wasn't all water for there were thousands of cranes there as well.

Whitewater Draw drew people as well and compared with some we were positively overdressed, for in fact as we strolled around the embankments between the viewing areas, the temperature was more like a warm spring day at home. Beyond the viewing platforms was water, surrounded by marsh, and there were cranes, thousands and thousands. Apparently there are up to 20,000 wintering here this winter. They roost at Whitewater and flight to feed in the surrounding fields during the morning and return at lunchtime. Obviously we had missed the return, but in the perfect sunlight the photographers were delighted with the views and opportunities that the situation offered with the nearest cranes being barely 50-75 yards away. Too far away to photograph were 100+ Snow Geese and with them at least six that were noticeably smaller – Ross's Goose, not named after James Clark Ross of the gull fame, but after Bernard R. Ross, an employee of the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Resolution in Canada's Northwest Territories.

Closer than the nearest cranes were ducks, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal and Gadwall. We also saw Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal and Mallard, whilst the only diving duck was a female Ruddy Duck. Pied-billed Grebes were also present and shorebirds were represented by Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers, Least Sandpiper and Killdeer. As we walked around towards another viewing area we found Great Egret and Great Blue Heron just before Pam turned up an American Bittern, a



local rarity apparently, and Lorna found Marsh Wren.

There were raptors in the area too. Usually we found ourselves looking at Red-tailed Hawks and Northern Harriers, but there were also a couple of Ferruginous Hawks, the last coming in to land on the roof of a shed. Pity about the artificial perch, but a stunning bird to photograph otherwise.

Time also has wings. 15:30 came around too fast and we still had three hours to go before reaching Tucson, our base for the next three nights. With John navigating we headed south and picked the road to Bisbee, home to the notorious Bisbee Girls, and then on to Sierra Vista and north to pick up I-10 and on to our destination.

Once checked in there was time to settle in before dinner at the adjacent Village Inn, which was not as anticipated for it was a pub with no beer!

### **Wednesday, 23 January**

Cloudy in morning, sunny afternoon and warmer. 75°F

After a good buffet breakfast at the hotel we set off for the desert, the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum to be precise. Our route took us through Gates Pass in the craggy mountains to the west of Tucson, where photostops gave us the opportunity to capture images of the tall Saguaro Cactus of the western movies and the vicious spiny Cholla Cactus. Below us was the former film set of Old Tucson, now a sort of theme park, and nearby the Desert Museum.



The museum prides itself in being a living museum, for it is like a glorified botanic garden with many of the species to be found naturally in the Arizona-Sonoran Desert being planted and some, but sadly not all, being labelled for the benefit of the enquiring mind. Many of the penned animals are in 'natural' surroundings carefully created to look like their natural habitat. There's nothing to stop the wildlife from the surrounding desert coming in and I seem to remember more birds about previously, but perhaps this winter hasn't been cold enough – certainly not today, when shirtsleeves were an appropriate dress code!



© John Cranmer

Birds seen included Phainopepla, Cactus Wren, Gambel's Quail, Gila Woodpecker, Verdin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Curve-billed Thrasher and several sparrows – Black-chinned, Black-throated, Rufous-winged and the introduced House Sparrow, which seems to be moving in to old woodpecker holes. There were a few butterflies too – Southern Dogface, which recalled our Brimstone when at rest, 'our' Red Admiral, Funereal Duskywing (a black skipper) and two orange ones – Sleepy and Tailed Oranges. The only wild mammal was Rock Squirrel.

We spent the morning wandering around looking at Mountain Lions, Mexican Red Wolves and watching and photographing more before having lunch and then wandering further afield to enjoy an excellent flying presentation and narrative with Grey Hawk, Barn Owl, Peregrine and Harris's Hawk. An excellent event.

By mid-afternoon we headed back towards Tucson through the Saguaro National Park. Great navigating brought us to the gates of Sweetwater, a water treatment works that is a birders' haven, so green compared with the desert vegetation we had been in for the rest of the day. The birding was great and there were good photo opportunities. Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers were in the trees around the car-park and along the (only) smelly ditch we encountered were Song Sparrows, a Solitary Sandpiper, two Soras and a male Common Yellowthroat. A Harris's Hawk flew over with nesting material and there was another resting in a tree nearby. On the lagoons were wildfowl including Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal and the Mexican race of Mallard along with American Coot and an Eared Grebe. There were stunning views of Yellow-headed Blackbirds as they gathered in the surrounding trees and on telegraph wires with Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds before dropping into the reedbeds to roost.

As the light began to fade we returned to the hotel and an hour or so later headed out to dinner, finding good food and service at BJ's, a few miles back towards the city.

### **Thursday 24 January**

Overcast with rain at times during the morning. 67°F

After breakfast we headed for Catalina State Park on the north-western side of Tucson, where the first birding under leaden skies was around the camp ground, which was full of snowbirds and their RVs from all states north of Arizona. Some had feeders and initially that's where the birds were – mainly House Finches with lesser numbers of Gila Woodpeckers, Pine Siskins and Lesser Goldfinches. It was great to have first-class views of male Vermilion Flycatchers, a species that one of the temporary residents claimed to have only appeared for the first time this morning and that was when she looked out to see us watching it! Other new species were a confiding Gray Flycatcher and Bushtit, although the latter was seen only relatively briefly at a hummingbird feeder that was then to be dominated by a Verdin and Anna's Hummingbirds. A drinking bowl attracted a stunning male Northern Cardinal.



In spite of steady rain we took a hike in the back country beyond. Birding was quiet initially, but eventually we discovered a large feeding flock of Chipping Sparrows and in a dry stream bed further on Rufous-

crowned Sparrows feeding alongside Abert's Towhees, which were both new birds for the tour. Also seen during the walk were Canyon and Green-tailed Towhees, Western Bluebirds, Hermit Thrush and a Pyrrhuloxia feeding beside a Northern Cardinal. The highlight for Lorna came as we were almost back at the car park, when Lesley spotted a Greater Roadrunner, her target bird. Unfortunately the views would have been longer if a lady walking her pooch had not come round the bend in the path at the wrong moment. However both Lorna and John managed photos before the bird ran away!

We had lunch in a picnic area within the state park, before returning for a longer visit to Sweetwater. The Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers were still in the bushes near the entrance and the Solitary Sandpiper still fed along the ditch. We followed a clockwise track around the larger lagoons, soon discovering Sora and watching Common Gallinules, formerly Common Moorhen before being split. When Dave reached the same area during his slower photographic stroll he found and photographed a Nashville Warbler, much to the excitement of a local birder, who confirmed the i.d. before we left the area. There were several interesting wildfowl species today with good views of Bufflehead and resting Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. Looking down on two other lagoons outside the area open to birders we found Least Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitchers. However, should the Americans be worried about their Ruddy Ducks, after we found what appeared to be an escaped White-headed Duck on one of the lagoons? There were not so many blackbirds today as yesterday, so it made the memories and photos of them in yesterday's sunshine even better. Back near the car park was a male Wilson's Warbler and the local birder pointed out a Lincoln's Sparrow behaving more furtively than the more obvious Song Sparrows.

On the way back to the hotel we were able stop at a store for John to purchase a portable hard drive to replace one that had failed, and then later in the evening we returned to BJ's again for dinner.

### **Friday 25 January**

Fine start with some cloud, which increased as the day wore on. 65+°F



A prompt start at 08.00 found us heading south and the day's first stop at the iconic San Xavier's Mission set in an Indian reservation, but unfortunately the surrounding habitat has become somewhat degraded by the locals over recent years. Birdwise we had good views of Curve-billed Thrasher, White-throated Sparrows, Abert's Towhees and Rock Wren, but they weren't as noisy as the Eagles (F-15s), Fighting Falcons (F-16s), and Warthogs (A-10s) roaring off Tucson's airbase! Around the back of the mission Dave hoped to photograph Gambel's Quail that were coming to scattered food, but I think it was the quail that scattered.

Pressing on we drove up into Madera Canyon to be greeted by two groups of male Wild Turkeys lekking near the road – brilliant, especially as it was one of Lesley's 'must see' birds. Along at the lodge the feeders were attracting a good variety of species; on the suspended feeders were Pine Siskins and Lesser Goldfinches, whilst Acorn, Arizona, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers also came in. On the ground beneath White-crowned and Chipping Sparrows joined three forms of Dark-eyed Junco and a Yellow-eyed Junco, which was

a new one for the list. Of course Mexican Jays were always coming and going as well. The star bird was without doubt a male Hepatic Tanager. Two White-nosed Coatis and an Arizona Grey and a Rock Squirrel also put in an appearance. We had two species of butterfly – Mexican Yellow and Pipevine Swallowtail.



After our picnic further up the canyon it was time to leave, but not without another look at the turkeys that had now

moved in below the feeders. Then it was back to the highway and south to Nogales, another of the towns on the Mexican border. On the way north-east towards our destination of Patagonia we diverted to bird at the birder-friendly golf course at Kino Springs, where there was more water in one of the ponds below the club house than last April; sufficient to hold several Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks and a female Bufflehead. Outside the buildings a tree laden with clusters of black berries attracted over 15 Phainopeplas as well as Common Starlings and Red-winged Blackbirds. The nearby water-treatment ponds only produced single Black and Say's Phoebes and a female Vermilion Flycatcher.

Continuing towards Patagonia, we deviated along a back road that led us past the Paton's garden, where birders have been welcomed for decades, and although both Wally and Marion Paton have passed on, the tradition continues. Unlike the mornings there were relatively few birds, but no problem, we'd be back tomorrow.

Our welcome at the hotel in Patagonia was as warm as it was last April and later, after dinner at the nearby restaurant, we went looking for night life, but not a lot happens in Patagonia on a Friday night. We tried several places for Western Screech Owl, but beneath a full moon we saw and heard nothing. We did have a great encounter with a young Coyote; firstly on the outward part of our drive and then as we returned we followed it slowly for several hundred yards. After stopping for another owling attempt we met it coming back and just sat and watched it coming towards us. There came a time when it became all of a dither when confronted by the lights of the minibus, so by switching them off it came by and disappeared into the night as ominous black clouds began to obscure the moon.

### **Saturday, 26 January**

Torrential rain during the night, but easing to become squally showers after breakfast time, heavy at times. Brighter at times during the morning and afternoon. 62°F.



Following breakfast at 07:30 we drove down to the Paton's Bird Haven, by which time the sun was trying to break through and there enjoyed great views of many species including our first House Wren and Lazuli Buntings – several stunning males and a plainer-coloured female. There were great photo opportunities especially of woodpeckers coming to fat on the shady side of a tree, when the birds themselves were rim-lit as the approached. Other good opportunities arose when Dave and John rearranged some branches for the birds to land on as they came to feed on sunflower seeds. Amongst the other species seen, and perhaps photographed, were Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Bridled Titmice, Pine Siskins, Lesser Goldfinches, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, Pyrrhuloxia and both Mourning and White-winged Doves.

Patagonia Lake State Park was our next stop and there we found some 70+ Goosanders, but only three were adult drakes. Also on the water were American Coot, Ruddy Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck and Double-crested Cormorant. During lunch we saw a Spotted Sandpiper teetering along the water's-edge. A walk into the wooded country near the top end of the lake followed, but thoughts of finding the wintering Elegant Trogon were thwarted as another heavy shower threatened. We did have excellent views of many smaller species including the Bewick's Wren, photographed by Dave, and a number of Bridled Titmice, several Gray Flycatchers, both Black and Say's Phoebes and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Yellow-rumped was the commonest Warbler and we also saw one or two Orange-crowned. Along the edge of the reedbed were a number of Song Sparrows as well. A stop at the visitor's centre produced some landscape photo opportunities as well as those of American Coot and Ruddy Duck. Unfortunately the Great Blue Herons were too far away.



Thoughts of visiting the San Rafael Grasslands beyond Harshaw Canyon stuck in my mind, but as we headed in that direction the effects of a particularly heavy storm we had seen passing as we drove up from Patagonia Lake became only too apparent. With discretion and valour we returned to the hotel slightly earlier than usually, but with sufficient daylight remaining for people to explore historic Patagonia before a colourful sunset. There must have been a radar trap up the road for we were seeing police cars pulling drivers over as they passed along the main street for a pastime!

Another good dinner along the street preceded the checklist and instead of going to the karaoke in a bar further down the street we opted for an early night as yet more heavy rain fell.

**Sunday, 27 January**

Rain in early morning becoming brighter the further east we headed. 60°F



Low cloud and rain greeted the day in Patagonia, but as we drove north to Sonoita after breakfast the rain eased and the clouds started to lift. To begin with only sodden Western Meadowlarks on fences and forlorn Red-tailed Hawks were seen until we reached Sierra Vista. By then the sun had broken through so that by the time we reached the local water treatment works the day had improved significantly. From a viewing platform we overlooked the reedbeds, no longer green, but the dried yellow of winter. Red-winged Blackbirds and American Coot might have been the hoped for target species of the two or

three ring-tailed Northern Harriers that were quartering the area. Several Gadwall and a few Mexican Ducks took to the wing, but after a couple of circuits of the marsh they either settled or flew away completely. Passerines were few for other than the blackbirds we only saw several Savannah Sparrows and a lone Vesper Sparrow.

A few hundred yards further down the main road we did a slight detour to see if we could see anything of the lower end of the water treatment works, but could only come up with two drake Northern Pintail on the wing, perhaps disturbed by Erika Wilson leading her weekly Sunday bird walk for the local Audubon chapter. On the other hand sustained views of a Greater Roadrunner feeding beneath bushes only yards away was better than anything we had seen so far of this iconic bird of the dry south-west. For the most part it was completely relaxed and usually ignored the rapid firing of camera shutters. Only when a Red-Hawk soared overhead did it seriously react by quietly slipping into the shade of an adjacent bush and lying down motionless.

Down by the San Pedro River we stopped at San Pedro House, but it was very breezy so that the House Finches and White-crowned Sparrows queuing up for the feeders were taking quite a buffeting. Add to that a few Lesser Goldfinches, a Northern Cardinal or two, a Curve-billed Thrasher and a Loggerhead Shrike and that's about the sum total of the birding in the immediate area. Talking of sum totals the cash register at the shop went into overdrive as the group's retail therapy skills went into action!

Then it was a cross-country drive on a good road across to Tombstone, tourist trap of the Old West. En route we stopped to have our sandwiches off the road, so that when we hit the town we were just in time for one of the day's re-enactments of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral! Some leisure time gave people a chance to look around historic town, before we hit the highway once more and headed for Willcox by way of the Davis Road across towards Elfrida having good views of a Chihuahuan Raven and an adult Golden Eagle along the route.



Until we neared Willcox the best bird of the final leg was Lark Bunting, a species that turned out to be quite common along the verges and the field edges we passed. Near Apache Power Station we took a side road that led to a viewing area overlooking an area where several thousand Sandhill Cranes had gathered. During

the next hour we watched them, although they were further away than those the other day at Whitewater Draw. Birds were dancing, calling and from time to time flocks would leave, coming almost over our heads as they flew south towards Whitewater Draw, perhaps some 20 miles or so away. It was a wonderful experience and hopefully set us up for the tour's finale at Bosque del Apache. As we left, away in the distance, the lonesome whistle blew on a westbound freight train heading towards Tucson – so melancholy, yet so American!

We arrived at Willcox as dusk fell and found our hotel without any trouble. Dinner this evening was at a nearby diner close to a truck stop that will surely provide John with some subjects before we depart tomorrow morning for New Mexico.

### **Monday, 28 January**

Cooler. Rain in morning followed by sunny periods, strong winds, dust storms and even passing snow showers against mountains. 42°F, but felt colder with the wind, rising to low 50°F

Following breakfast at the hotel we refuelled and bought lunch before crossing I-10 into Willcox and out to the south-western side to what birds there were at Twin Lakes Golf Course ponds. American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal and Ruddy Duck were the commonest species and there was also a party of 10 Snow Geese, made up of both adults and immatures.

Back on I-10 we headed east passing Lordsburg and on to Deming. It was during this part of the drive we came out of the rain, which looked as if it was falling as snow on the mountains. Leaving those particular mountains behind we crossed the first of several broad and very flat valleys. Tumbling Tumbleweed rolled across the road to become trapped in the cattle fencing as we heeded the roadside warnings of dust-storms and poor visibility.

A welcome break for all of us came with a stop at Caballo Dam, where Dave found a skunk, not just an ordinary skunk, but a Hooded Skunk, a species that reaches southern New Mexico and south-eastern Arizona from Central America. Along the river below the dam were several species of dabbling ducks as well as a pair of Hooded Mergansers.



A first look at Bosque del Apache showed only a few Sandhill Cranes in the area of the Flight Deck, but on the muddy margins were a few shorebirds – Dunlin,

Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Greater Yellowlegs. It was, however, somewhat chilly standing around outside. A mile or so north of the Visitor Centre were two ponds, South and North Crane Pools, where more cranes and a few Snow Geese were roosting out in the water. They were merely silhouettes as the sun had set beyond the western mountains by then.

So it was back to the Interstate and north to Socorro, where we were soon settled at our hotel and out to dinner an hour or so later.

### **Tuesday, 29 January**

Mainly sunny, but with a bitter wind that took the temperature down to low 30s

Breakfast was taken at 06.00 at the hotel and we were all set to go for a day at Bosque del Apache. Shortly after we arrived at the South Crane Pool thousands more Snow Geese flew in to join those resting in the water and ice amongst the Sandhill Cranes. That was a thrilling sight. Gradually, as the sun rose, the cranes

left in small parties, and then the geese started to do the same shortly after – first the small Ross’s Geese and then Snow Geese before suddenly a major ‘blast-off’ that cleared the pool as thousands of geese flew over our heads. Before the geese left, the excavating antics of a Botta’s or Valley Pocket Gopher digging up the embankment near our tripods was an interesting diversion.



With nothing to look at we moved up to North Crane Pool and its amazing concentration of birds. A few small groups were leaving, but then as the geese became more vocal the whole flock rose as one, creating a blizzard of Snow Geese as once again they came right overhead. Absolutely incredible! How better to celebrate than to visit the shop in nearby San Antonio and warm-up with a hot chocolate!

A stop at South Crane Pool produced a number of Ring-necked Duck, seven Canvasbacks and a trio of Redheads. Next we called in at the Visitor’s Centre for more retail therapy in their well-stocked natural history shop. During the rest of the morning we drove around the North Loops of the reserve seeing many of the by now familiar dabbling ducks as well as distant Bald Eagles, cranes and geese. We saw several Northern Harriers, usually ring-tails, as well as two or three Harlan’s Hawks amongst the more plentiful Red-tails. There were passerines too mainly in the form of a flock of 100+ Horned Larks feeding along the water’s-edge of one of the lagoons. Less expected perhaps was an Eastern Phoebe seen from one of the viewing platforms or ‘decks’ as they are called locally.



After such an early start it was time to think about lunch, so a quick return to San Antonio sourced all the necessary items and included seeing a Ferruginous Hawk in a roadside field. We enjoyed our meal watching the wildfowl on South Crane Pool as did, from a tree across the water, an adult Bald Eagle, well concealed in a willow.

Afterwards, as we continued on to the reserve, a Rough-legged Hawk was discovered near the railway track, but unfortunately it never came as close as we would have liked. During the afternoon we drove slowly around both the South and North Loops of the reserve, enjoying good views of many wetland species whilst attempting to take advantage of the good lighting conditions when it came to the photography. How lucky we were, especially during the latter part of the afternoon with several Neotropic Cormorants resting on a fallen branch in one of the pools by the road, and then later when a procession of crane flocks flew to join others feeding in a large bare field. They provided some of the best flight shots of our visit so far. Back at the Flight Deck we hoped to see more than yesterday, but apart from a doubling of Dunlin numbers to two, there was little extra about.

With the light beginning to fade we made our way back to Socorro, noting that cranes and geese had returned to the two Crane Pools – tomorrow would be another day. With that it was back to the hotel and out to dinner later.

### **Wednesday, 30 January**

Cold and almost cloudless. More areas of frozen water than yesterday at Bosque del Apache. About 30°F at dawn, 60+°F at El Paso.

Again we had a 06:00 breakfast and headed off to Bosque del Apache, arriving before sunrise to find large numbers of Snow and Ross's Geese already at the ponds where we had seen the 'blast-off' yesterday. Today we concentrated on the northern pond from where we watched the geese on the other pond take off with a great deal of vocalisation. Our birds went off in smaller groups, Ross's before the Snow Geese, and then at 08:10, earlier than yesterday, the remaining birds rose as one and passed overhead into the sunshine – wonderful!



We made a visit to the Visitor Centre, reducing their stock of hot chocolate significantly, before driving round both the southern and northern loops and seeing many of the birds we had noted yesterday. There was far more ice, so the wildfowl were concentrated in the remaining areas of open water. Buffleheads were more in evidence today, but the Harlan's Hawks were as distant as ever unlike a circling adult Bald Eagle that gave excellent views against the blue sky – Dave and John wished it were closer. At the northern end there were far more Sandhill Cranes than previously feeding in the stubble fields. The clock went round too fast and just



after 11:00 we were back at the hotel to check out. Dave kindly helped to clean the minibus before we checked out of the hotel and loaded the bags.

A leisurely lunch was had at Denny's before we hit the road south. On the quiet Interstate the miles soon passed so there was time to stop off at Caballo, where there were not as many wildfowl as previously, but we did see another Hooded Skunk, this one was smaller and not in

such good condition as the one seen the other day. In the trees near the car park a Ruby-crowned Kinglet searched for insects, whilst a small flock of Western Bluebirds and a male Phainopepla fed on mistletoe berries nearby.

Just before 16:00 we rejoined the Interstate and continued south, entering Texas from New Mexico just south of Las Cruces. Soon we reached the outskirts of El Paso and the rush hour – a six lane highway and bumper to bumper, but unlike the M25 this was moving! We reached the hotel shortly before 18:00 and later dinner accompanied with wine and beers courtesy of Ornitholidays, followed by the final checklist and an early night.

#### **Thursday, 31 January**

A fine sunny morning in El Paso 62°F.

After breakfast we loaded the minibus for the last time and topped up the fuel en route to the airport where the vehicle was returned to the hire company with just over 1,700 more miles on the clock than it had 12 days ago. Not knowing what the traffic and the check-in would be like, we had allowed plenty of time. As it turned out we were delayed by neither. Our American Airlines flight to Dallas/Fort Worth left on time, as did our onward connection to London with British Airways.

Our route from Dallas headed north-east toward New York and over Connecticut beyond before reaching Newfoundland and the beginning of our Atlantic crossing.

#### **Friday, 01 February**

A grey and rather wet morning greeted our arrival at Heathrow, unlike the snowy and bitter weather that had seen us off! We arrived some 45 minutes ahead of schedule, pushed along in the jetstream from North America by an 80-100 mph tail wind. Once in the baggage hall we said our farewells to one another before setting off on the final legs of our respective journeys home.

## Acknowledgments

First and foremost I must thank you all for coming and being such great company. It was great fun taking you round and showing you a fascinating part of North America. The punctuality was brilliant – if one was on time you were late! Your help in navigating, spotting and in other ways was greatly appreciated, and I also learned more than a tip or two from Dave and John. Many thanks to Dave and John for allowing me to use their wonderful photos in this report. I hope the pictures all came out, at least films don't get lost these days, and that our paths will cross again on another Ornitholidays' tour. Nigel is starting to look at planning 2014 – see you then, if not before!



Richard Coomber  
Ornitholidays  
29, Straight Mile  
Romsey  
Hampshire  
SO51 9BB  
01794-519445  
info@ornitholidays.co.uk

March 2013



Front cover: Sandhill Crane

All photographs © R Coomber, J Cramner and D Tollerton

## ITINERARY & WEATHER

- 19 January** Dept. London Heathrow for El Paso via Dallas/Fort Worth. Early evening arrival. Transfer to hotel & overnight.
- 20 January** Drive to Portal, Arizona via Las Cruces, Hatch, Deming (New Mexico).  
Fine and sunny after a chilly start. 62°F
- 21 January** Birding and photographing in Portal area visiting feeders at Dave Jasper's and Cave Creek Ranch with lunch and afternoon walk at South Fork.  
Another fine and sunny day. 60°C
- 22 January** Pre-breakfast birding, then transfer to Tucson via Douglas, Whitewater Draw and Bisbee.  
Fine and sunny, becoming warmer as the day wore on. 65°F
- 23 January** Morning and part of the afternoon at Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, then through Saguaro National Park to Sweetwater WTW.  
Cloudy in the morning, sunny afternoon and warmer .75 °F
- 24 January** Catalina State Park in morning, returning to Sweetwater WTW after lunch.  
Overcast with rain at times during the morning. 67°F
- 25 January** Morning visit to San Xavier del Bac Mission, rest of morning and lunch at Madera Canyon. Afternoon visit to Kino Springs before checking-in to hotel in Patagonia.  
Fine start with some cloud, which increased as the day wore on. 65+°F
- 26 January** Morning visit to Paton's garden and Patagonia Lake State Park.  
Torrential rain during the night, but easing to become squally showers after breakfast time, heavy at times. Brighter at times during the morning and afternoon. 62°F.
- 27 January** Transfer to Willcox via Sonoita, Sierra Vista, San Pedro House, Tombstone, AEPCO Ponds and Willcox.  
Rain in early morning becoming brighter the further east we headed. 60°F
- 28 January** Birding at Willcox before transfer to Socorro via Caballo Dam and Bosque del Apache.  
Cooler. Rain followed by sunny periods, strong winds, dust storms and passing snow showers against mountains. 42°F, but felt colder with the wind, rising to low 50°F
- 29 January** Whole day at Bosque del Apache.  
Mainly sunny, but a bitter wind took the temperature to low 30s°F
- 30 January** Morning visit to Bosque del Apache. Lunch in Socorro before drive south to El Paso for dinner and overnight.  
Cold and almost cloudless. More areas of frozen water than yesterday at Bosque del Apache. About 30°F at dawn, 60+°F at El Paso.
- 31 January** Flight to Dallas/Fort Worth to connect with overnight flight back to London.
- 01 February** Early morning arrival at Heathrow.

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	N = New Mexico – Las Cruces, Hatch and westwards to stateline, Caballo Dam and Bosque del Apache	1 = 1 – 4 2 = 5 - 9
	C = Chiricahua Mountains area = Portal	3 = 10 - 99
	A = Arizona including Patagonia area, Kino Springs, Sierra Vista, Whitewater Draw across to Willcox, but excluding Chiricahuas and Tucson	4 = 100 – 999 5 = 1,000- 9,999 6 = 10,000+
	T = Tucson area, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, San Xavier Mission, Sweetwater WTW, Catalina State Park and Madera Canyon	
	> = seen on transfer to or from	

Species	No of Days Recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	Scientific Name
---------	---------------------	-----------	-----------------	-----------------

The sequence for birds follows AOU checklist 7<sup>th</sup>. Edition (1998) with subsequent revisions.

Pied-billed Grebe	5	A T N	1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Eared Grebe	2	T	1	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
American White Pelican	1	N	1	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
Double-crested Cormorant	1	A	2	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	2	T N	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
American Bittern	1	A	1	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
Great Blue Heron	5	A N	1	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Great Egret	2	A	1	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Black Vulture	2	A	1	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Snow Goose	4	A N	6	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
Ross's Goose	4	A N	4	<i>Chen rossii</i>
Canada Goose	2	N	4	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Gadwall	6	A T N	3	<i>Anas strepera</i>
American Wigeon	6	A T N	4	<i>Anas americana</i>
Mallard	7	A T N	4	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Cinnamon Teal	4	A T	3	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Northern Shoveler	6	A T N	5	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Northern Pintail	4	A T N	4	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Green-winged Teal	6	A T N	4	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>
Canvasback	2	N	2	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>
Redhead	2	N	1	<i>Aythya americana</i>
Ring-necked Duck	5	A T N	3	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
Lesser Scaup	4	A N	3	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
Bufflehead	6	A T N	3	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
Hooded Merganser	2	T N	1	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
Common Merganser	1	A	3	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Ruddy Duck	7	A T N	3	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
Bald Eagle	2	N	1	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Northern Harrier	7	A T N	3	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Cooper's Hawk	2	T N	1	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Harris's Hawk	2	T	1	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	10	C A T N	3	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Ferruginous Hawk	3	A N	1	<i>Buteo regalis</i>
Rough-legged Hawk	1	N	1	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>
Golden Eagle	2	A	1	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
American Kestrel	6	A T N	2	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Merlin	1	N	1	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Prairie Falcon	1	N	1	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>
Wild Turkey	1	A	3	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Scaled Quail	1	A	3	<i>Callipepla squamata</i>
Gambel's Quail	7	C A T N	3	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>
Sora	2	T	1	<i>Porzana carolina</i>
Common Moorhen	1	T	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
American Coot	8	A T N	3	<i>Fulica americana</i>
Sandhill Crane	6	A N	6	<i>Grus canadensis</i>

Killdeer	6		A	T	N	3	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	3		A		N	1	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	2			T		1	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	3		A		N	1	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Dunlin	2				n	1	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Least Sandpiper	5		A	T	N	2	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
Long-billed Dowitcher	3		A	T	N	2	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
Ring-billed Gull	3				N	4	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
Rock (Feral) Dove ( <i>introduced</i> )	8		A	T	N	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	9		A	T	N	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
White-winged Dove	4	C	A	T	N	3	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>
Mourning Dove	10	C	A	T	N	4	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Greater Roadrunner	4		A	T	N	1	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>
White-throated Swift	1				N	2	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>
Blue-throated Hummingbird	1	C				1	<i>Lampornis clemenciae</i>
Anna's Hummingbird	3		A	T		1	<i>Calypte anna</i>
Acorn Woodpecker	4	C	A			3	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
Gila Woodpecker	5		A	T		3	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>
Williamson's Sapsucker	1	C				1	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	8	C	A	T	N	2	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	1	C				1	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Arizona Woodpecker	2	C	A			1	<i>Picoides arizonae</i>
Northern Flicker	4	C	A	T		1	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Gray Flycatcher	2		A	T		1	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>
Black Phoebe	7		A	T	N	1	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Eastern Phoebe	1				N	1	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
Say's Phoebe	8		A	T	N	2	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
Vermilion Flycatcher	2		A	T		1	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
Loggerhead Shrike	4		A	T	N	3	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
Hutton's Vireo	3	C	A	T		1	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>
Western Scrub-Jay	3	C	A	T		2	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>
Mexican Jay	3	C	A			3	<i>Aphelocoma ultramarina</i>
American Crow	3				N	3	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Chihuahuan Raven	5		A		N	3	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>
Common Raven	10	C	A	T	N	3	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Horned Lark	3				N	4	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Bridled Titmouse	3	C	A			3	<i>Parus wollweberi</i>
Verdin	4	C	A	T		2	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>
Bushtit	1			T		1	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	C	A			1	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
Cactus Wren	3	C		T		1	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>
Rock Wren	1			T		1	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
Bewick's Wren	1		A			1	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
House Wren	2		A			1	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Marsh Wren	3		A	T		1	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	C	A	T	N	2	<i>Regulus calendula</i>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	C	A	T		1	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>
Western Bluebird	3	C		T	N	3	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>
American Robin	2	C			N	1	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Northern Mockingbird	6	C	A	T		1	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Curve-billed Thrasher	6	C	A	T	N	1	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>
Crissal Thrasher	1	C				1	<i>Toxostoma crissale</i>
Common Starling ( <i>introduced</i> )	9		A	T	N	4	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Buff-bellied Pipit	2		A		N	1	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>
Phainopepla	7	C	A	T	N	3	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler	3		A	T		2	<i>Vermivora celata</i>
Nashville Warbler	1			T		1	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	C	A	T		3	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1		A			1	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>
Black-and-white Warbler	1			T		1	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Wilson's Warbler	1		A			1	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>
Common Yellowthroat	1			T		1	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Painted Redstart	1	C				1	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>

Green-tailed Towhee	4	C	A	T		1	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>
Spotted Towhee	1	C				1	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
Canyon Towhee	6	C		T	N	1	<i>Pipilo fuscus</i>
Abert's Towhee	2			T		1	<i>Pipilo aberti</i>
Rufous-winged Sparrow	1			T		1	<i>Aimophila carpalis</i>
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1			T		2	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>
Chipping Sparrow	4	C	A	T		3	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Brewer's Sparrow	5	C	A		N	3	<i>Spizella breweri</i>
Black-chinned Sparrow	1			T		1	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>
Vesper Sparrow	4	C	A		N	1	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>
Black-throated Sparrow	3	C		T		2	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>
Lark Bunting	1		A			4	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>
Savannah Sparrow	4		A		N	1	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Song Sparrow	3		A	T		3	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Lincoln's Sparrow	1			T		1	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>
White-throated Sparrow	1	C				1	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
White-crowned Sparrow	10	C	A	T	N	4	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
Dark-eyed Junco	4	C	A		N	3	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
Yellow-eyed Junco	1		A			1	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>
Northern Cardinal	7	C	A	T	N	2	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Pyrrhuloxia	7	C	A	T		3	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>
Hepatic Tanager	1		A			1	<i>Piranga flava</i>
Lazuli Bunting	1		A			2	<i>Passerina amoena</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	7		A	T	N	4	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Western Meadowlark	6		A		N	3	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
Yellow-headed Blackbird	3		A	T		4	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
Brewer's Blackbird	5		A	T	N	3	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>
Great-tailed Grackle	8		A	T	N	3	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
Brown-headed Cowbird	1				N	1	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
House Finch	8	C	A	T		3	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
Pine Siskin	6	C	A	T	N	3	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>
Lesser Goldfinch	7	C	A	T	N	3	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>
House Sparrow ( <i>introduced</i> )	11	C	A	T	N	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

#### MAMMALS

Coati	1		A			1	<i>Nasua narica</i>
American Badger	1				N	1	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>
Hooded Skunk	2				N	1	<i>Mephitis macroura</i>
Coyote	3	C	A		N	1	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Rock Squirrel	3		A	T	N	1	<i>Citellus variegatus</i>
Roundtail Ground Squirrel	1			T		1	<i>Citellus tereticaudus</i>
Cliff Chipmunk	1	C				1	<i>Eutamias dorsalis</i>
Arizona Gray Squirrel	1		A			1	<i>Sciurus arizonensis</i>
Valley (Botta's) Pocket Gopher	2		A		N	1	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>
Hispid Cotton Rat	1			T		1	<i>Sigmodon hispidus</i>
Desert Cottontail	4	C	A	T		1	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>
Collared Peccary (Javelina)	1	C				3	<i>Pecari angulatus</i>
Mule Deer	2				N	2	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>
Whitetail Deer	3	C	A			3	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>

#### BUTTERFLIES

Pipevine Swallowtail							<i>Battus philenor</i>
Southern Dogface							<i>Zerene cesonia</i>
Mexican Yellow							<i>Eurema mexicana</i>
Tailed Orange							<i>Eurema proterea</i>
Sleepy Orange							<i>Eurema nicippe</i>
Red Admiral							<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Funereal Duskywing							<i>Erynnis funeralis</i>

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.