

## Festival Field Trips 2022

### ***Thursday, August 11***

#### ***Overnight Field Trip—Meet at Lodging Location***

*Huachuca Hummingbirds at the Casa de San Pedro Inn, hosted by Sheri Williamson and Tom Wood of Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory*

\$300/person (includes one night lodging, gourmet dinner, breakfast, and birding guides)

Difficulty: Moderate (Shorter walking distances over some unpaved trails with possible grades)

**Begins at Casa de San Pedro Inn on Thursday, August 11 at 4pm**

**Ends at Casa de San Pedro on Friday, August 12 at 12pm**

Check in and enjoy the birds at the feeders at Casa de San Pedro, before participating in a hummingbird banding session with hummingbird experts Sheri Williamson and Tom Wood. After a wonderful dinner at the inn, enjoy more birding with Sheri and Tom before resting up for the morning's adventures. We'll plan to visit feeders at nearby locations possibly including Ash Canyon Sanctuary, Beatty's Guest Ranch, or Ramsey Canyon for a survey of hummingbirds (Rivoli's, Broad-billed, Calliope, Lucifer's, Broad-tailed, Violet-crowned) as well as many other species including Hepatic Tanager, Painted Redstart, and Scott's Oriole. Limited to 9 participants.

#### ***Full-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips (includes snacks, drinks, and lunch)***

*Carr & Ash Canyons with Cameron Cox and Troy Corman*

5:00am – 3:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Hard (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to locations approximately 2 hours on very rough road.)

We'll get an early start from Tucson to explore the Madrean oak woodland and open pine forests of Carr Canyon. This scenic canyon on the east flank of the Huachucas supports species such as Arizona Woodpecker and Painted Redstart on its lower slopes, and species such as Olive Warbler, Buff-breasted Flycatcher and Greater Pewee along the upper stretches of the road. We'll spend a few hours exploring along the main road that winds up to near the peaks of the Huachucas before taking our picnic lunch and then descending to nearby Ash Canyon, where a private bank of hummingbird feeders at Mary Jo's B&B should be buzzing with activity, including perhaps the range-restricted and very attractive Lucifer Hummingbird. We will be walking slowly along nearly level dirt roads at up to about 7000 feet in elevation. Lunch included. Limited to 16 participants.

*California Gulch Adventure with John Yerger and David Simpson*

5:00am – 3:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Hard (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to location approximately 2 hours on some rough road.)

This trip sets out in search of some of the avian treasures (at the very northern edge of their ranges here) for which southeast Arizona is renowned. The main event for the day is the chance to bird the rugged and remote California Gulch in search of Five-striped Sparrow, Varied Bunting, Gray Hawk, and

Montezuma Quail as well as other species from south of the border. California Gulch is set in the stunningly beautiful Atascosa Highlands and requires a full two hours in the van each way to get to this spot, including some rough roads. Depending on recent reports, we will try to maximize our time in this area by birding other nearby sites such as Pena Blanca Lake or Arivaca to look for other SE Arizona specialties. Note: this trip may include a steep mile-long (round trip) trek into the canyon or we may be able to simply take a short walk on a rocky jeep track. Access conditions are variable and can be impacted by the monsoon rains. Lunch included. Limited to 16 participants.

*Hummingbird Safari with Karen Krebbs*

5:30am – 2:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces. Drive time to location approximately two hours.)

This small-group excursion is a "can't miss" for beginner birders interested in getting to know some of the area's most dazzling birds and a few popular hummingbird locales around Southeast Arizona. Peak hummingbird diversity is happening and you'll have the chance to see anywhere from 7 – 10 species. Beatty's Guest Ranch and Ash Canyon are preliminary destinations but locations are up to the discretion of the leader and based on current observations. Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

*Mt. Lemmon: Sonoran Desert to Mixed Conifer Forest with Brian Gibbons*

5:30 am – 3:00pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to final location approximately 75 minutes.)

Rising over 6,000 feet above Tucson, Mount Lemmon is the highest peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains at 9,157 feet, and a popular escape from urban life and the Arizona's dry early-summer heat (before the relief of the cooling monsoon rains). It is also an incredible birding experience and biology lesson. Traversing six life zones, from the Sonoran Desert at the base to mixed conifer forests at the highest elevations, the 25-mile drive up the wide, paved, two-lane Catalina Highway is equivalent biologically to traveling from Mexico to Canada. Our efforts will be concentrated on the higher elevations far above the desert below. We'll look for typical mountain species like Steller's Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, and Plumbeous Vireo. We'll make a special effort to track down a variety of warblers; Painted Redstart and Olive, Red-faced, and Grace's Warblers all breed in these mountains and by August they are beginning to form mixed-species foraging flocks. A few hummingbird feeders are scattered about our route as well. Combine the birds with temperatures nearly 30 degrees cooler at the top and unparalleled scenery, it is hard to beat the Catalinas in August! Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

*Culture & Birds: The Dragoons and the Amerind Foundation with Rick Wright*

5:30am – 2:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes, but still on good surfaces. Drive time to location approximately 60 minutes.)

Rising to 7500 feet above sea level, the steep, sparsely vegetated Dagoon Mountains are home to such uncommon birds as Zone-tailed Hawks, Hepatic Tanagers, and Black-chinned Sparrows. The area is equally notable for its human history, commemorated in the collections of the nearby Amerind Foundation. We will bird the mountains in the morning, then after lunch pay a visit to the Foundation's museum, featuring the art, culture, and history of the region's Native American inhabitants.

## *Half-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips (includes snacks)*

### *Box and Florida Canyons with Rob Ripma of Sabrewing Nature Tours*

5:00am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Hard (Walking a narrow trail with uneven surfaces and some increase in grade. Drive time to location about 1 hour)

These two canyons are just north of the more famous Madera Canyon and offer fabulous birding in riparian areas flanked by upland desert and grassland. From the Florida Canyon parking lot we'll keep our eyes open and ears alert for Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, along with Varied Bunting. Working our way up higher along the creek, we'll look for Gray Hawk, three species of Myiarchus flycatchers, Bell's and Hutton's Vireo's, Hooded Oriole, and perhaps even catching a glimpse of the soaring resident Golden Eagles. Time permitting we will drive through Box Canyon hoping to find a rare Five-striped Sparrow or singing Scott's Orioles. Limited to 8 participants.

### *Patagonia Lake State Park with Alex Lamoreaux of Wildside Nature Tours*

5:00am - 12:30pm

\$70/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Will include walking along mostly level trail but with uneven surfaces for around 2 miles, one area with steep stairs. Drive time to location about 80 minutes)

This is the top eBird hotspot in the state with lake, riparian, and upland desert/grassland habitat affording the chance for a number of target species of lower elevations. Early walking along the birding trail, we hope to find Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Bell's Vireo, Bridled Titmouse, and Lucy's Warbler, eventually heading for the inlet creek where we might possibly find Green Kingfisher—one can hope! Scanning the lake, there are Mexican Ducks along with other species, as well as Neotropic Cormorants, and shorebirds at the dam area. Afterwards, time-permitting, a stop at the famous Roadside Rest will provide opportunity for both Thick-billed Kingbird and Varied Bunting. Limited to 9 participants.

### *Arivaca Lake and Buenos Aires NWR with Brian Nicholas*

5:00am – 1:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Difficult. (Some walking on steeper slopes with loose rock at Arivaca Lake. Open areas with high exposure. Drive time to location about 90 minutes)

We will explore Arivaca Lake and some areas of Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge such as Aguirre Lake. Locations and order will depend on overall and recent monsoon activity. Aguirre Lake always has some water and can be a shorebird bonanza during good monsoon years when the lake fills. Arivaca Lake was the hottest hotspot of the year in Pima County last year and always has potential for rarities. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Thick-billed Kingbirds and Gray Hawks are regular summer residents and Varied Bunting is expected most years. Based on scouting other short stops will be made in Buenos Aires NWR or Arivaca. Limited to 9 participants.

### *Oracle State Park and Peppersauce Canyon with Kathe Anderson*

5:30am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild hiking on fairly flat and rolling trails or gravel roads. About 50 minutes to destinations)

We'll head to beautiful Oracle State Park, located at 3,700' to 4,600', with landscape dominated by rolling hills and panoramic vistas as it transitions from desert grassland to oak-woodland. There, we'll likely encounter common desert species, such as Harris's Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee and summer visitors such as Summer Tanager, Lucy's Warbler and Brown-crested Flycatcher, among others. Then we'll move onto Peppersauce Canyon, an oasis mostly shaded by huge sycamores, where Bell's and other vireos, plus Acorn Woodpeckers and Western Wood-Pewees are common, amongst a variety of lovely summer surprises. Limited to 9 participants.

*Saguaro National Park and Tucson Mountains with John Higgins and Jacob Roalef*

5:30am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Paved roads, less than 1 mile walking)

Come see the birds that actually like it in the desert during the summer. We will travel through the saguaro cactus forest of the Pima County Tucson Mountain Park and the west side of the Saguaro National Park, looking for Gilded Flicker, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher and other desert denizens. The tour will stop at the National Park Service visitor center with its exhibits, restrooms and air conditioning. Limited to 8 participants.

*Las Cienegas NCA with Eric Ripma of Sabrewing Nature Tours*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some walking on mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces. Drive time to location approximately one hour plus driving on gravel/dirt roads)

Las Cienegas is a 45,000-acre national conservation area with high desert grasslands, riparian strips and perennial streams, marshes, and juniper-oak woodlands. Here we can find grassland breeders such as Cassin's, Botteri's and Grasshopper Sparrows, "Lilian's" Eastern Meadowlark, and Loggerhead Shrike, as well as riparian-associated species including Gray and Zone-tailed Hawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, and Summer Tanager. Las Cienegas is great for mammals, too -- we'll visit a colony of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs (road condition permitting) and keep an eye out for Pronghorn Antelope. Limited to 9 participants.

*Madera Canyon Sampler with Richard Fray*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails)

We'll start in grassland habitat around Proctor Road looking and listening for singing sparrows first thing in the morning. Along with sparrows we will be looking for birds of upland riparian habitat including Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, and Varied Bunting. Next we'll head into the mid-elevation oak-juniper habitat, looking for desirable southeast Arizona species like Arizona Woodpecker, Painted Redstart, and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. After this we'll spend some time walking along the nature trail and investigating the hummingbird feeders at the Santa Rita Lodge that make Madera one of the best spots for hummingbird diversity in the country. Maybe we'll find an Elegant Trogon! Back by noon. Limited to 9 participants.

*Birding with a Purpose: Montezuma Quail Habitat Restoration with Tess Wagner and Cholla Nicoll of Borderlands Restoration Network*

6:00am–12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes—mostly flat ground and good surfaces. Drive time about 85 minutes to destination.)

Combine birding and habitat restoration as we explore the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve. We'll walk the Smith Canyon Loop Trail (Approx 2 mi) with experts in habitat restoration and wildlife. Afterwards we'll tour the Borderlands Nursery & Seed to see the process of developing materials for restoration planting and a chance to purchase native plants and seeds. The Borderlands Wildlife Preserve has been identified as one of the most important wildlife migratory corridors in Arizona and is a biodiversity hotspot. We'll learn about the steps Borderlands Restoration Network is taking to restore Montezuma Quail habitat in this biologically diverse area identified by scientists as one of the areas most in need of protection for species survival. Limited to 8 participants.

Borderlands Restoration Network is an ecological restoration nonprofit located in Patagonia, AZ with a mission to rebuild healthy ecosystems, restore habitat for plants and wildlife, and reconnect border communities to the land through shared learning.

*De Anza Trail & Lucy's Warblers with Whitney Lanfranco, Olya Weekley, and Tubac Nature Center Volunteer*

6:00am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails. Drive time to location approximately one hour.)

Over the last 8 years Tucson Audubon has been conducting nestbox experiments with Lucy's Warblers, one of the two cavity-nesting warblers we have in the United States and designated by the Arizona Game and Fish as a Species of Conservation Concern. The De Anza Trail in Tubac is one stretch of trail where we've been monitoring these nestboxes. Come explore the area with Community Science Coordinator, Olya Weekley, and Whitney Lanfranco of Leica Sports Optics. You'll see and learn more about the nestbox program while also searching for Gray Hawks, flycatchers, Yellow-breasted Chats and fall migrants. Rose-throated Becard, whose nests look like a large football hanging from the end of a branch, have nested along this trail the past few years. A volunteer from the Tubac Nature Center will also be on the walk to share local bird and nature experience. Limited to 8 participants.

*Paton Center for Hummingbirds with Skye Haas and Jonathan Lutz*

6:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails. Drive time to location approximately 75 minutes.)

The famous Paton Center for Hummingbirds is known for its backyard birds and scenic location dating back to 1973! Wally and Marion Paton first began inviting birders into their yard shortly after moving to Patagonia, and after their passing, the center was acquired by the Tucson Audubon Society with generous help from the American Bird Conservancy and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. It is a place to explore and experience the special birds of southeast Arizona and it is dedicated to the celebration and conservation of hummingbirds—and all of southeast Arizona's astounding biodiversity. Violet-crowned Hummingbirds are common and the many feeders attract a wide array of bird species. Sit and watch the bird show with Skye and Jonathan along with short walks around the growing trail system. Limited to 8 participants.

*High Elevation in the Catalinas with Wesley Homoya of Natural Selections Tours*

6:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (some walking on mild slopes, drive time to location about 50 minutes on paved roads)

Enjoy birding where Tucson residents escape the summer heat in the small mountain hamlet of Summerhaven. We'll look for mixed warbler flocks which may include Red-faced, Orange-crowned, Virginia's, Townsend's, Hermit, Wilson's, and Grace's Warblers. Birding in the conifer forests of Mt. Lemmon can also produce species like Hairy Woodpecker, Stellar's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, and Cordilleran Flycatcher. Back by noon. Limited to 8 participants.

*Drive Yourself—Meet On-Site Field Trips. Please read description for meeting location and arrive promptly*

*Understanding The Language of the Birds with Kristi Dranginis*

5:00am – 7:00am

\$20/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails)

Did you know that a particular call of a bird can tell you if a deer is sneaking away from you or that a cougar is nearby or that another person is approaching you on the trail, giving you advance notice and the time you'd need to respond? In addition to identifying when a predator is moving through the landscape, understanding the language of the birds will also help us learn how to quiet our minds, blend in to the world around us and attune to our senses, allowing us to become sensitive to our effect on the natural world and those around us. Kristi Dranginis, founder of Bird Mentor and author of *Identify Any Bird Anywhere*, will help you learn the skills of instinctive birding, interpreting what the language of the bird looks and sounds like, through this engaging dawn bird sit. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on, your favorite morning beverage, binoculars if you chose and the willingness to try something new. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 25 participants.

*Sonoran Desert Ecology Hike with Franklin Lane and Melissa Fratello of the Arizona Master Naturalists Association*

6:00am – 10:00am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy to moderate (mostly flat trails with some uneven and rocky terrain, 2.5 miles roundtrip. Please bring at least 2 liters of water).

Enjoy an interpretive hike through desert and riparian zones of the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area in the Coronado National Forest. Of course we'll look for birds, but this will be an overall natural science experience exploring the flora, fauna, geology and cultural history of the Sonoran Desert. The most bio-diverse of North America's four deserts. Meet at the trailhead marker on the east side of the parking area at 5700 N Sabino Canyon Road. \$8 parking fee (encourage carpooling). Drive time to the meeting location from the festival venue is about 25 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 8 participants.

*Pima County's Historic Canoa Ranch with Julie Michael and Adrian Lesak of Vortex Optics*

6:30am – 9:00am

\$20/person

Difficulty: Easy (Mostly flat, groomed trails)

The Historic Canoa Ranch is a Pima County park that hosts a great variety of bird species due to its good sized lake and newly constructed cienega. Redhead were around all of last summer and there is always the chance for wandering gulls, terns, or waders. Say's Phoebes, Vermilion Flycatchers, Black-throated Sparrows, and Blue Grosbeaks should be common. This outing is offered in partnership with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR). Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 40 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 20 participants.

*Photography with Hunt's Photo at Sweetwater Wetlands with Noah Buchanan & Simon Tolzmann*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

Head over to our favorite birding hotspot in Tucson to try out the latest in photography gear with Noah Buchanan of Hunt's Photo. This is the perfect opportunity to try out new equipment in the field before making your purchases, as well as receive tips for birding photography from the experts. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 15 participants.

*Beginning Birding Photography with Lee Hoy and Alyce Bender at Reid Park*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$35/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

Bring your camera gear... whatever you have and join Lee Hoy and Alyce Bender of Wildside Nature Tours for this fun, casual photo walk-a-bout. Lee and Alyce will help find subjects while discussing exposure, reading light, and composition while helping each person with setting up their cameras for quick response to the action. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 2 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 16 participants.

*Birding with a Purpose: Kino Environmental Restoration Project with Tony Figueroa and Tom Brown*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$10/person

Easy to Moderate (mostly easy with paved trail and overlook, but some steep grade if walking down to sandy trails)

Join Tucson Audubon's Invasive Plant Manager, Tony Figueroa, and birding guide Tom Brown, at KERP--a Pima County facility designed to control flooding and harvest urban stormwater. Tucson Audubon started working at KERP in the summer of 2021, spraying buffel and fountain grass, and during winter 2022 we removed invasive trees, with chainsaws and chemically treated the stumps to prevent regrowth. You'll have the opportunity to see firsthand how it is benefiting the birds and other wildlife. Birds to look for include Harris's Hawk, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Lark Sparrow, and Yellow Warblers. Who knows what might show up to the ponds! This outing is offered in partnership with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR).

*Catalina State Park with Michael Welch*

6:30am – 9:00am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces.)

This state park on the northwest side of Tucson sits adjacent to the western slopes of the Coronado National Forest's Santa Catalina Mountains and contains a good mixture of desert scrub, mesquite

bosque, and riparian vegetation. These habitats support a varied mix of bird species including Brown-crested Flycatcher, Rufous-winged Sparrow, and Northern Cardinals. We will explore the Birding Trail which crosses a seasonal wash and depending on monsoon storms you may get your boots wet. \$7 parking fee. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 40 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Mindful Birding (with a bit of Yoga) at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds with Holly Thomas and Chris Benesh*

6:30am – 10:00am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Will include flat walking trails/roads with simple yoga stretches that can be done in the field--no yoga mat required)

Meet in Patagonia at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds for a unique outing that will introduce you to some mindful practices that you can incorporate into your birding experience. Our leaders will share the health benefits of mindful birding, lead the group in guided meditation and explore other nearby birding areas. There may be some time for optional sketching or journaling. This will not include a formal yoga practice, but we'll do some simple stretches that can be done in the field. No mats or yoga attire (regular "birding" clothes are fine!) will be needed. Our focus will be on being open to whatever shows up rather than a list of target species or identification of species (though we are not opposed to id-ing birds, it won't be an ID intensive field trip). This field trip may be for you if you are curious about mindfulness practices, and you're interested in exploring a less target-oriented style of birding. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 70 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 12 participants.

*El Rio Preserve and Pollinator Gardens with Kim Matsushino and Kari Hackney*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$10/person

Moderate (mostly easy with paved trail and overlook, but some steep grade if walking down to sandy trails)

Join Habitat at Home Coordinator, Kim Matsushino, and Urban Habitat Manager, Kari Hackney for a tour of the beautiful pollinator garden installed at the El Rio Preserve in Marana, along with looking for a variety of birds attracted to the seasonal lake. Learn about the habitat improvements that have been made at the location, specifically the pollinator and habitat gardens, and how you can bring these same enhancements to your home. Birds to look for include Broad-billed Hummingbird, Black-necked Stilt, Brown-crested Flycatcher, and Common Yellowthroat. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 30 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Tohono Chul Docent-Led Birding Tours*

8:30am – 9:30am

Free with festival registration, \$5 suggested donation at Tohono Chul

Difficulty: Easy (some mild slopes--mostly flat ground and good surfaces)

For visitors and those new to the Sonoran Desert, Tohono Chul's easy-walking trails and gardens provide close-up looks at many of the desert specialties. Of the more than 500 bird species that spend time in Arizona during the year, 140 are known to have visited Tohono Chul, and on any given morning you might see up to 10 or 20 species here. All year long you can watch our state bird, the Cactus Wren, flit from cactus to tree and back again, chattering as he goes. Observe the Curved-billed Thrasher, with its saucy two-part whistle, scabbling on the ground or nesting in cholla cactus. Enjoy our two year-round

resident hummingbird species, Anna's and Costa's, as they dart about, feeding among the many colorful flowers. And be sure to look upward for a glance of our majestic Cooper's Hawks, a pair of which has nested in the gardens for each of the last four years. Meet at Tohono Chul. Limited to 10 participants.

### *Afternoon/Evening Trips (Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips)*

#### *Hummingbird Murals of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe with Dan Weisz*

1:30pm–4:00pm

\$35/person

Difficulty: Easy (Very short walks from vehicle)

For a different kind of 'birding', take a tour of a number of beautiful outdoor murals depicting hummingbirds, created by artists of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. According to Louis D. Valenzuela, an accomplished Yaqui artist, the hummingbird "represents the Yoeme culture. The hummingbird is considered to be a spiritual bird that comes from the 'Sewa Ania' Flower World and is a messenger with powerful blessing and protection." Limited to 9 participants.

#### *Brown Canyon Evening Adventure with Tim Helentjaris*

4:00pm – 10:00pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Rocky to sandy footing on trails and/or road. Drive time to location approximately 75 minutes)

We will take an evening outing to Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge and explore the heart of the Baboquivari Mnts, Brown Canyon, to see if we can hear the rare Buff-collared Nightjars who make a summer home in the canyon. These elusive nightjars tend to start getting quiet this time of year but we'll make an effort to add it to our festival species list. Of course there will be other fantastic species to see such as Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Rufous-winged Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal to name a few. Dinner included. Limited to 8 participants.

#### *Sunset Birding Photography with Hunt's Photo at Reid Park with Noah Buchanan & Simon Tolzmann*

5:45pm – 7:15pm

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

We'll meet at the nearby birding hotspot, Reid Park, to try out the latest in photography gear with Noah Buchanan of Hunt's Photo. This is the perfect opportunity to try out new equipment in the field before making your purchases, as well as receive tips for birding photography from the experts. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is less than 5 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 15 participants.

#### *Moths: A Nocturnal Exploration with Jeff Babson*

7:30pm – 10:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Difficulty: Easy (Easily accessible location with a short drive)

On this trip, we will shine a light into the hidden diversity that exists in the Sonoran Desert! Pima County Naturalist, Jeff Babson will set up a UV light and see what treasures the night produces. UV lights, also known as black lights, emit wavelengths that attract many insects, including moths and beetles. Many of these insects are common, but live their lives in darkness and many people are unaware of their

existence. Feel free to arrive anytime during the allotted timeframe. Great for families! Location to be determined and specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand.

## ***Friday, August 12***

### ***Overnight Field Trip—Meet at Lodging Location***

*Madera Canyon at the Santa Rita Lodge, hosted by Laurens Halsey*

\$250/person (includes lodging, dinner, breakfast, and birding guide)

Difficulty: Moderate (Walking distances over unpaved trails with some steeper slopes)

**Begins at Santa Rita Lodge on Friday, August 12 at 3pm**

**Ends at Santa Rita Lodge on Saturday, August 13 at 12pm**

Staying at the Santa Rita Lodge gives you a unique experience of spending the night in iconic Madera Canyon where Elegant Trogons croak and hummingbirds zoom. Who knows, you might even see a Coati mundi snacking at the hummingbird feeders! Elf Owls are known to nest near the lodge and sometimes are visible poking their head out of their hole. Begin by enjoying the birds at the feeders (Rivoli's Hummingbird, Arizona Woodpecker, Wild Turkey) before evening birding in the mouth of Madera Canyon and proceeding up into the oak-juniper habitat, listening for nightjars and owls characteristic of these habitats (Mexican Whip-Poor-Will, Whiskered Screech-Owl & Elf Owl). We'll get an early start the next morning and explore the same range of habitats looking for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, and Varied Bunting lower down as well as Painted Redstart, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Elegant Trogon in mid-canyon. Limited to 9 participants.

### ***Full-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips (includes snacks, drinks, and lunch)***

*Big Day Adventure with Alex Lamoreaux of Wildside Nature Tours*

5:00am – 3:00pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (May include some walking on steeper slopes or rocky/rooted trails. Fast-paced and may include lots of jumping in and out of the van.)

Have you ever experienced the thrill of a "Big Day?" This is a fun, and somewhat competitive, way to see a wide variety of species and locations throughout the Tucson and Southeast Arizona area in a short amount of time! Exact route will be up to the discretion of the leader, to maximize numbers of species seen/heard. Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

*Ramsey Canyon Bird Photography with Jamie Cunningham and Tyler Ficker of Sabrewing Nature Tours*

5:00am – 11:30am

\$125/person

Difficulty: Easy (Most of the time will be spent in photography blind. Drive time to final location approximately 90 minutes)

Join Sabrewing Nature Photographers Tyler Ficker and Jamie Cunningham to experience the new photography blind at Ramsey Canyon Inn B&B! This exciting new opportunity gives photographers the chance to photograph up to 10 hummingbird species and a variety of songbirds, all from the comfort of the newly designed photo blind. This blind was designed by the Sabrewing photography team and puts

special focus on backgrounds, light angle and the ability to switch out perches easily! This tour will include a boxed breakfast.

*Birding with a Purpose: Birding by Boat at Patagonia Lake State Park with Eric Ripma of Sabrewing Nature Tours and Sonoita Creek Watershed Specialist, Howard Buchanan*

5:00am–12:30pm

\$75/person

Difficulty: Moderate (May include walking along mostly level trail but with uneven surfaces for around 1 mile, one area with steep stairs. Please follow boat rules. Sunscreen highly recommended. Drive time to location about 80 minutes)

Check out the top eBird hotspot in the state from a different perspective as we will be birding from a pontoon boat. Sonoita Creek Watershed Specialist, Howard Buchanan, will share with us the unique features of Patagonia Lake and the conservation challenges it faces. Mexican Duck, Ruddy Duck, and Neotropical and Double-crested Cormorants should be readily seen on the lake along with raptors and riparian species along the shore. Time permitting we will explore some of the trails around the state park after the boat excursion for more Arizona specialties. Limited to 6 participants.

*Mt. Lemmon: Sonoran Desert to Mixed Conifer Forest with Jake Mohlmann*

5:30 am – 3:00pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to final location approximately 75 minutes.)

Rising over 6,000 feet above Tucson, Mount Lemmon is the highest peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains at 9,157 feet, and a popular escape from urban life and the Arizona's dry early-summer heat (before the relief of the cooling monsoon rains). It is also an incredible birding experience and biology lesson. Traversing six life zones, from the Sonoran Desert at the base to mixed conifer forests at the highest elevations, the 25-mile drive up the wide, paved, two-lane Catalina Highway is equivalent biologically to traveling from Mexico to Canada. Our efforts will be concentrated on the higher elevations far above the desert below. We'll look for typical mountain species like Steller's Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, and Plumbeous Vireo. We'll make a special effort to track down a variety of warblers; Painted Redstart and Olive, Red-faced, and Grace's Warblers all breed in these mountains and by August they are beginning to form mixed-species foraging flocks. A few hummingbird feeders are scattered about our route as well. Combine the birds with temperatures nearly 30 degrees cooler at the top and unparalleled scenery, it is hard to beat the Catalinas in August! Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

*Patagonia Hotspots with Julie Michael*

5:30am – 2:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some walking on mild slopes, and possibly rocky/uneven surfaces. Drive time to location approximately one hour on mostly paved roads)

Some of the most well-known birding locations in Southeast Arizona, and the United States, occur in the riparian area that runs along the Sonoita Creek and around the small mining town of Patagonia. Gray Hawks, Summer Tanagers, and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds are the stars of the show. We'll have lunch at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds courtesy of local favorite, Gathering Grounds. Limited to 8 participants.

*Birding Photography on Mt. Lemmon with Henry Johnson*

6:30am – 3:00pm

\$125/person

Difficulty: Easy (Maybe some uphill walking but mostly at feeders. Drive time to location approximately 50 minutes)

For this workshop we will travel up Mt Lemmon in the Catalina Mountains to the instructor's cabin to practice your photography in mixed conifer forest. At 7500 feet expect to see Yellow-eyed Juncos, Acorn Woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, Pine Siskins, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, plus hummingbirds and a possible warbler or tanager. Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

### *Half-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips (includes snacks)*

*Arivaca Cienega Area with Ethan Beasley*

5:00am–12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (mostly flat walking trails on some uneven and rocky terrain. Drive time to Arivaca is about 75 minutes.)

Just outside of the small town of Arivaca is the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge where efforts to re-introduce the Masked Bobwhite are being undertaken by a group of partners, including Tucson Audubon. We'll focus our birding efforts at the Arivaca Cienega and along the Arivaca Creek where we'll look for Black Vultures, Gray and Zone-tailed Hawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Tropical Kingbird, and buntings. Limited to 9 participants.

*Pena Blanca Lake and Canyon with Richard Fray and David Simpson*

5:00am - 12:30pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to location approximately 90 minutes, some gravel road.)

An interesting man-made lake makes a great water source and stopover for migrants and nesting birds. The adjoining canyon is a good location for Elegant Trogon, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, and Hepatic Tanager. Montezuma Quail favor the hillsides surrounding the lake and other interesting species include Gray Hawk, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Varied Bunting are expected species. Expect to walk on groomed trails around the lake and a gravel/loose rock forest service road through the canyon. Limited to 18 participants.

*Santa Cruz Flats with Keith Kamper and Cameron Cox*

5:00am – 12:30pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Birding from vehicles and the road but very hot by mid-morning. Drive time to flats area approximately one hour. Will include driving on gravel roads.)

This flat area of agricultural fields, mesquite bosques, pecan groves and desert scrub is rarely birded in the summer, but it can hold many surprises. Tropical Kingbirds should be fledging their young at this time, and we can expect to see them in the rows of pecan trees along the road. Raptors such as Black Vultures, Swainson's Hawks, and Burrowing Owls and if we are lucky, an early Crested Caracara, are possible. Sludge ponds and flooded fields at this time of year have yielded a variety of shorebirds,

waders and blackbirds, while swallows and flycatchers catch our attention in the air. It will be very hot by 10 am so put on sunblock, bring a water bottle and wear a hat. Limited to 8 participants.

*Madera Canyon Sampler with Gordon Karre*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails)

We'll start in grassland habitat around Proctor Road looking and listening for singing sparrows first thing in the morning. Along with sparrows we will be looking for birds of upland riparian habitat including Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, and Varied Bunting. Next we'll head into the mid-elevation oak-juniper habitat, looking for desirable southeast Arizona species like Arizona Woodpecker, Painted Redstart, and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. After this we'll spend some time walking along the nature trail and investigating the hummingbird feeders at the Santa Rita Lodge that make Madera one of the best spots for hummingbird diversity in the country. Maybe we'll find an Elegant Trogon! Back by noon. Limited to 9 participants.

*Guindani Canyon with Brian Gibbons*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (About 3 miles roundtrip walking on some steeper slopes and rocky/rooted trail. Be prepared for sun exposure and bring water. Drive time to location approximately 50 minutes)

Guindani Canyon is situated on the east slopes of the Whetstone Mountains and accessed through Kartchner Caverns State Park. The trail begins in grassy desert with intermixed mesquites and a narrow line of oaks in the canyon bottom, where one can find Ash-throated Flycatchers, Rufous-winged, Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows, and Lucy's Warblers. Approaching the canyon mouth, the foothills are festooned with flowering agaves that attract a variety of hummingbirds possibly including Lucifer Hummingbird. Limited to 9 participants.

*Sky Island Discovery with Franklin Lane and Karen Vandergrift of the Arizona Master Naturalists Association*

5:30am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some steeper slopes on somewhat rocky/rooted trails. 2 miles roundtrip hiking at 9,000' elevation. Bring at least 1 liter of water.)

The Santa Catalina Mountains are one of many (65) Sky Islands within the Madrean Gap of the Basin and Range Geological Province. Enjoy a driving and hiking interpretive experience including a two mile hike on the Mt Lemmon Loop Trail. We'll make brief stops at Babad Do'ag and Windy Point on our way up. Ecologically speaking, we'll be driving vertically to the Canadian border! Limited to 8 participants.

*Tubac De Anza Trail with Robert Mesta*

6:00am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails. Drive time to location approximately one hour.)

An easy stroll through this lush riparian corridor along the Santa Cruz provides many opportunities for migrants, Gray Hawks, flycatchers, and hordes of Yellow-breasted Chats. Rose-throated Becard, whose nests look like a large football hanging from the end of a branch, have nested along this trail the past few years. A volunteer from the Tubac Nature Center will also be on the walk to share local bird and

nature experience. Time permitting, a stop at the Amado Wastewater Treatment plant on the way back could be good for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Limited to 9 participants.

*Willcox and Cochise Lake with John Yerger*

6:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking on groomed trails or roads. Drive time to location approximately 80 minutes.)

This half-day trip to the Willcox area and Cochise Lake will add a wide variety of shorebirds to your Arizona and festival species list. Likely species include Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Western, and Least Sandpipers. The lakes also play host to an array of migrant swallow species, as well as birds of the open grassland like Scaled Quail and Lark Sparrow. With sometimes hourly turnover nearly every visit during migration has a good chance of turning up something unusual. This will be a very relaxed paced half-day trip with limited walking on level surfaces. Limited to 9 participants.

*Beyond Birds: Lizards of Saguaro West with Jim Rorabaugh and Larry Jones*

6:00am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild hiking on sandy/rocky trails. Drive time to locations approximately 50 minutes)

Are you interested in more than birds? The Sonoran Desert is home to a variety of amazing creatures and this trip will offer the opportunity to go herping with Larry "The Lizard Guy" Jones and Jim Rorabaugh, co-author of A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Sonora, Mexico. We'll look for Desert Iguanas and a variety of other desert lizards while walking the Sendero Esperanza Trail in Saguaro NP and on the way back we'll stop to look for Collared Lizards and other rock dwellers. Gilded Flickers, Purple Martins, and other Sonoran Desert birds won't be ignored! Limited to 9 participants.

*Native Plant Birding Walk on the Yetman Trail with Whitney Lanfranco and Carianne Funicelli of Strategic Habitat Enhancements*

6:00am – 10:00am

\$45/person

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate (Around 2 miles round trip over rocky trail with sandy wash portions)

We'll head out to the Camino de Oeste Trail in the Tucson Mountains. This is a 2-mile round trip stroll through a Sonoran Desert wash and hillside that will bring us to the remains of an historic homestead known as the Bowen Stone House. Along the way we will focus on birding and identifying the native plants along the way, with discussion of the resources they provide to our rich avifauna. There will be a lot to see and so we will be walking at an easy pace, but there will be some rocky and sandy portions of the trail. Limited to 8 participants.

*Drive Yourself—Meet On-Site Field Trips. Please read description for meeting location and arrive promptly*

*Sabino Canyon with Jean & Mark Hengesbaugh*

6:30am – 9:00am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Moderate (mostly flat walking trails on some uneven and rocky terrain)

We'll bird Sabino Canyon Recreation Area walking a loop that includes both Sonoran desert upland and Sabino Creek riparian area. Gila Woodpeckers, Purple Martins, Cactus Wrens, and Phainopeplas should be readily seen with other desert and riparian birds. Meet at the ramada by the Visitor's Center at 5700 N Sabino Canyon Road. \$8 parking fee. Return to car by 9am. Sunhat, water and walking shoes always recommended. Leaders are Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 25 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Tohono Chul Docent-Led Birding Tours*

8:30am – 9:30am

Free with festival registration, \$5 suggested donation at Tohono Chul

Difficulty: Easy (some mild slopes—mostly flat ground and good surfaces)

For visitors and those new to the Sonoran Desert, Tohono Chul's easy-walking trails and gardens provide close-up looks at many of the desert specialties. Of the more than 500 bird species that spend time in Arizona during the year, 140 are known to have visited Tohono Chul, and on any given morning you might see up to 10 or 20 species here. All year long you can watch our state bird, the Cactus Wren, flit from cactus to tree and back again, chattering as he goes. Observe the Curved-billed Thrasher, with its saucy two-part whistle, scrabbling on the ground or nesting in cholla cactus. Enjoy our two year-round resident hummingbird species, Anna's and Costa's, as they dart about, feeding among the many colorful flowers. And be sure to look upward for a glance of our majestic Cooper's Hawks, a pair of which has nested in the gardens for each of the last four years. Meet at Tohono Chul. Limited to 10 participants.

*Birding with a Purpose: Kino Environmental Restoration Project with Jay Snowdon and Tom Brown*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$10/person

Easy to Moderate (mostly easy with paved trail and overlook, but some steep grade if walking down to sandy trails)

Join Tucson Audubon's Invasive Plant Project Manager, Jay Snowdon, and birding guide Tom Brown, at [KERP](#)--a Pima County facility designed to control flooding and harvest urban stormwater. Tucson Audubon started working at KERP in the summer of 2021, spraying buffel and fountain grass, and during winter 2022 we removed invasive trees, with chainsaws and chemically treated the stumps to prevent regrowth. You'll have the opportunity to see firsthand how it is benefiting the birds and other wildlife. Birds to look for include Harris's Hawk, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Lark Sparrow, and Yellow Warblers. Who knows what might show up to the ponds! This outing is offered in partnership with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR).

*Behind the Scenes at the Reid Park Zoo*

8:00am – 9:30am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (paved pathways)

Join keepers at the Reid Park Zoo for a tour of the South American and Flight Connection Aviaries and get a sneak peek at some of the birds that will be featured in the zoo's upcoming expansion. Please be prepared for moderate walking in the heat. Face masks are currently required in some sensitive areas. Participants will meet keepers at the Zoo's main entrance at 8am. Includes zoo entry fee. Limited to 20 participants.

*The Secret Lives of Desert Purple Martins with Jennie MacFarland and Olya Weekley*

6:00am – 10:00am

\$20/person

Difficulty: Moderate (walking over uneven, rocky terrain and off trails relatively short distances)

Be a part of the Desert Purple Martin Project research crew for a morning! Tucson Audubon is using technology and a network of volunteers to learn more about these little known birds that nest in saguaro cavities during the monsoon abundance. We will visit several saguaros with active nests and use an endoscope camera and telescoping pole to peek inside the nests. We will be gathering real datapoints of what stage each nest has reached as specific timing of nests is still not completely known to science. Participants must wear sturdy shoes, long pants and sleeves, binoculars, hat and other sun protection. Bring water and snacks, it heats up quickly in the desert! Meeting place will be the Greasewood Park parking lot. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Tucson Audubon's Mason Center with Jim Gessaman*

6:00am – 8:00am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (flat walking trails, around 1-2 miles easy walking)

The Mason Center is located on 20 acres of mostly undisturbed saguaro-ironwood desert in NW Tucson with many hummingbird and seed feeders which attract a variety of Sonoran Desert birds and wildlife. As a protected area adjacent to additional natural desert in Arthur Pack Park, it provides habitat for the preservation and study of many desert plants and animals. Costa's, Black-chinned, and Anna's Hummingbirds could be expected along with Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, and Lucy's Warblers. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 25 minutes. Limited to 10 participants.

*Photography with Hunt's Photo at Sweetwater Wetlands with Noah Buchanan & Simon Tolzmann*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

Head over to our favorite birding hotspot in Tucson to try out the latest in photography gear with Noah Buchanan of Hunt's Photo. This is the perfect opportunity to try out new equipment in the field before making your purchases, as well as receive tips for birding photography from the experts. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 15 participants.

*Beginning Birding Photography with Lee Hoy and Alyce Bender at Reid Park*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$35/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

Bring your camera gear... whatever you have and join Lee Hoy and Alyce Bender of Wildside Nature Tours for this fun, casual photo walk-a-bout. Lee and Alyce will help find subjects while discussing exposure, reading light, and composition while helping each person with setting up their cameras for quick response to the action. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 2 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 16 participants.

*Southwestern Songbirds at Saguaro NP East with Holly Kleindienst*

6:30am – 9:00am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes, and soft, rocky or uneven terrain.)

Come for a hike to see and hear many songbirds unique to the Southwest in the cactus forests of Saguaro National Park East. Likely species include: Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Phainopepla, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Pyrrhuloxia, and maybe even a nomadic Greater Roadrunner. We will walk about three miles on scenic trails that are sometimes soft, rocky, or uneven, with some slopes. Meet at the Broadway Trailhead for Saguaro NP East. Specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Reid Park with Bruce Webb of Swarovski Optik*

9:00am – 10:00am

Free with Festival Registration

The tall aleppo pines and eucalyptus, along with two large ponds, create great bird habitat right next to the festival venue. Meet Bruce Webb of Swarovski Optik at Reid Park to look for Black-crowned Night Herons, Neotropic Cormorants, Cassin's Kingbirds, Vermilion Flycatchers, and more. This is a great opportunity if you're just getting into birding. Drive time to the meeting location from festival venue is about 2 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Mission Gardens—Tucson's Birthplace with Kendall Kroesen*

8:00am–9:30am

Free with festival registration, plus \$5 donation at Mission Garden

Difficulty: Easy (some mild slopes—mostly flat ground and good surfaces)

We'll visit Mission Garden (at the base of "A" Mountain) which revives Tucson's history through garden plots representing four millennia of multicultural and gastronomic history. Find some of the same birds that have been visiting Tucson gardens for 4,000 years! Drive time to the meeting location from festival venue is about 15 minutes. Limited to 10 participants.

*Birdability outing to Agua Caliente Park with Birdability's Virginia Rose and Freya McGregor*

8:00am – 10:30am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (At Agua Caliente Park, a 0.8 mile asphalt loop trail, with an optional additional 0.3 mile side trip. For detailed accessibility information on this location, please visit the [Agua Caliente Regional Park Birdability Site Review on the Birdability Map.](#))

Bathrooms: Bathrooms are available at Agua Caliente, although no wheelchair accessible bathrooms are present.

Type of bird outing: This trip is designed to be intentionally inclusive and accessible for beginner and advanced birders who experience accessibility challenges as a result of a disability or other health concern. The three outing leaders experience their own accessibility challenges, including one who uses a manual wheelchair, and the location's accessibility features have been documented in detail to help you decide if you'd like to attend.

Join us for a leisurely birding experience at Pima County's [Agua Caliente Park](#). Enter via E Roger Rd, and we will meet at the end of the parking lot farthest from the entrance. We will bird along the asphalt loop trail which extends approximately 0.8 miles around two retention basins. Participants are welcome to wait for us and enjoy some stationary birding, or turn back at any time. We have the option of travelling along several hard packed dirt trails (total distance about 0.3 miles) that branch off from the asphalt trail, or the group splitting if participants have different preferences. This outing is offered in partnership with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR).

Target birds: Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler, Cooper's Hawk, Great-horned Owl, Vermillion Flycatcher, Verdin, Gila Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Lesser Goldfinch, Bell's Vireo, Brown-crested Flycatcher.

Number of attendees: Limited to 15 participants, with up to five additional attendants if you need to bring someone to help you participate.

Additional information: 12 pairs of loaner binoculars will be available. Please feel free to email [info@birdability.org](mailto:info@birdability.org) with any additional questions you may have about this event. To learn more about Birdability, please visit [birdability.org](http://birdability.org)

### *Afternoon/Evening Trips (Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips)*

#### *Looking for Burrowing Owls with Dan Weisz*

5:00pm – 8:00pm

\$45/person

Difficulty: Easy (Mostly birding around vehicle, possible short walks over dirt trail or on road)

We'll travel up towards the small town of Marana just northwest of Tucson with hopes of finding Burrowing Owls. Once we find them, we'll spend some time at a respectful distance admiring these unique long-legged owls. The surrounding agricultural fields and nearby water treatment facility will offer us the opportunity for a variety of other birds, including possible Lesser Nighthawks at dusk. Leaves from festival venue in 15-passenger van. Limited to 9 participants.

#### *Sunset Birding Photography with Hunt's Photo at Reid Park with Noah Buchanan & Simon Tolzmann*

5:45pm – 7:15pm

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

We'll meet at the nearby birding hotspot, Reid Park, to try out the latest in photography gear with Noah Buchanan of Hunt's Photo. This is the perfect opportunity to try out new equipment in the field before making your purchases, as well as receive tips for birding photography from the experts. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is less than 5 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 15 participants.

#### *Photography Field Workshop: Bat Photography at Pond at Elephant Head with Dano Grayson*

6:00pm–10:00pm

\$120/person

Difficulty: Easy (Most of the time spent in photography blinds)

The desert comes alive at night and the Pond at Elephant Head offers the perfect opportunity to catch it in action with your camera. Bat migration is happening during the monsoon season and offers an amazing experience. Join Wildlife Photographer, Dano Grayson for an evening of photographing bats and other wildlife at this private photography location. **Recommended equipment: Camera with telephoto lens of at least 300mm along with tripod and shutter release cable.** Leaves from festival venue in 15-passenger van. Limited to 8 participants.

#### *Creatures of the Night with Hanna Strauss and Wesley Homoya of Natural Selections Tours*

6:00pm – 10:00pm

\$25/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Will include walking in the dark, some uphill on dirt trails and some paved road.

Total distance about 3-4 miles.)

Sabino Canyon night hikes during monsoon season are a local favorite past-time. Bring your flashlight as we walk up in the light and walk down in the dark in search of birds, toads, snakes, bugs, and more!

Good possibilities for Lesser Nighthawk and Common Poorwill at sunset and we'll hope for monsoon

rains so we can see and hear Spadefoots and giant Sonoran Desert Toads. Lizards, scorpions, and tarantulas are crowd favorites and maybe we'll run into a Gila Monster. We will go at a slow pace and plan on being back to the parking area by 10pm. Bring a water bottle and be prepared for hot weather. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is approximately 25 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 15 participants.

*Scorpion Adventure with Kari McWest and Chris Benesh*

6:00pm – 10:30pm

\$50/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Will include walking in the dark on possibly some uneven surfaces and gravel roads. Recommended to have a black light)

Go beyond the birds and explore the world of scorpions with Kari McWest and Chris Benesh. Arizona is one of the world's hot spots for scorpion diversity, especially Southeast Arizona, so we may see over 10 species of scorpions on this tour. Route will be up to the discretion of the leaders based on weather, but will consist of numerous stops in different types of habitats. Leaves from festival venue in 15-passenger van. Limited to 8 participants.

*Going Batty with Karen Krebs*

7:30pm – 8:30pm

Free with Festival Registration

Difficulty: Easy (Easy watching from pathway/parking area and short drive.)

Join Karen Krebs on an adventure to watch thousands of bats come out of their roost at dusk.. Karen has studied bats for more than 30 years and will share her vast knowledge of these misunderstood night creatures. This nightly Tucson spectacle even brings in a Cooper's Hawk or Peregrine Falcon on occasion. You will meet Karen on-site on the east side of Tucson near Pantano and Broadway. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is approximately 15 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand.

*Moths: A Nocturnal Exploration*

7:30pm – 10:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Difficulty: Easy (Easily accessible location with a short drive)

On this trip, we will shine a light into the hidden diversity that exists in the Sonoran Desert! Pima County Naturalist, Jeff Babson will set up a UV light and see what treasures the night produces. UV lights, also known as black lights, emit wavelengths that attract many insects, including moths and beetles. Many of these insects are common, but live their lives in darkness and many people are unaware of their existence. Feel free to arrive anytime during the allotted timeframe. Great for families! Location to be determined and specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand.

## ***Saturday, August 13***

### ***Overnight Field Trip—Meet at Lodging Location***

Madera Canyon at the Santa Rita Lodge, hosted by Gordon Karre

\$250/person (includes lodging, dinner, breakfast, and birding guide)

Difficulty: Moderate (Walking distances over unpaved trails with some steeper slopes)

**Begins at Santa Rita Lodge on Saturday, August 13 at 3pm**

**Ends at Santa Rita Lodge on Sunday, August 14 at 12pm**

Staying at the Santa Rita Lodge gives you a unique experience of spending the night in iconic Madera Canyon where Elegant Trogons croak and hummingbirds zoom. Who knows, you might even see a Coati mundi snacking at the hummingbird feeders! Elf Owls are known to nest near the lodge and sometimes are visible poking their head out of their hole. Begin by enjoying the birds at the feeders (Rivoli's Hummingbird, Arizona Woodpecker, Wild Turkey) before evening birding in the mouth of Madera Canyon and proceeding up into the oak-juniper habitat, listening for nightjars and owls characteristic of these habitats (Mexican Whip-Poor-Will, Whiskered Screech-Owl & Elf Owl). We'll get an early start the next morning and explore the same range of habitats looking for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, and Varied Bunting lower down as well as Painted Redstart, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Elegant Trogon in mid-canyon. Limited to 9 participants.

*Full-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips  
(includes snacks, drinks, and lunch)*

*California Gulch Adventure with Scott Olmstead and Cameron Cox*

5:00am – 3:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Hard (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to location approximately 2 hours on some rough road.)

This trip sets out in search of some of the avian treasures (at the very northern edge of their ranges here) for which southeast Arizona is renowned. The main event for the day is the chance to bird the rugged and remote California Gulch in search of Five-striped Sparrow, Varied Bunting, Gray Hawk, and Montezuma Quail as well as other species from south of the border. California Gulch is set in the stunningly beautiful Atascosa Highlands and requires a full two hours in the van each way to get to this spot, including some rough roads. Depending on recent reports, we will try to maximize our time in this area by birding other nearby sites such as Pena Blanca Lake or Arivaca to look for other SE Arizona specialties. Note: this trip may include a steep mile-long (round trip) trek into the canyon or we may be able to simply take a short walk on a rocky jeep track. Access conditions are variable and can be impacted by the monsoon rains. Lunch included. Limited to 16 participants.

*Carr & Ash Canyons with Brian Gibbons and David Simpson*

5:00am – 3:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Hard (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to locations approximately 2 hours on very rough road.)

We'll get an early start from Tucson to explore the Madrean oak woodland and open pine forests of Carr Canyon. This scenic canyon on the east flank of the Huachucas supports species such as Arizona Woodpecker and Painted Redstart on its lower slopes, and species such as Olive Warbler, Buff-breasted Flycatcher and Greater Pewee along the upper stretches of the road. We'll spend a few hours exploring along the main road that winds up to near the peaks of the Huachucas before taking our picnic lunch and then descending to nearby Ash Canyon, where a private bank of hummingbird feeders at Mary Jo's B&B should be buzzing with activity, including perhaps the range-restricted and very attractive Lucifer Hummingbird. We will be walking slowly along nearly level dirt roads at up to about 7000 feet in elevation. Lunch included. Limited to 16 participants.

*Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge with Richard Fray*

5:00am – 2:30pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Will involve some walking on dirt/gravel trails and roads on mostly flat surface.

Open areas with high exposure. Drive time to location about 90 minutes)

We'll explore this 117,000 acre refuge with habitat that ranges from semi-desert grassland to cottonwoods and is uniquely managed for Masked Bobwhite Quail. Depending on water levels we may stop at Arivaca Cienega, Aguirre Lake, and the BANWR Headquarters. Swainson's Hawk, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, and Eastern Meadowlark should be in the grassland areas, and we'll keep our eyes open for early fall migrants like Lazuli Buntings. If water levels are high at Aguirre Lake we could expect a variety of shorebirds as well. Limited to 8 participants.

*Mt. Lemmon: Sonoran Desert to Mixed Conifer Forest with Jake Mohlmann*

5:30 am – 3:00pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to final location approximately 75 minutes.)

Rising over 6,000 feet above Tucson, Mount Lemmon is the highest peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains at 9,157 feet, and a popular escape from urban life and the Arizona's dry early-summer heat (before the relief of the cooling monsoon rains). It is also an incredible birding experience and biology lesson. Traversing six life zones, from the Sonoran Desert at the base to mixed conifer forests at the highest elevations, the 25-mile drive up the wide, paved, two-lane Catalina Highway is equivalent biologically to traveling from Mexico to Canada. Our efforts will be concentrated on the higher elevations far above the desert below. We'll look for typical mountain species like Steller's Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, and Plumbeous Vireo. We'll make a special effort to track down a variety of warblers; Painted Redstart and Olive, Red-faced, and Grace's Warblers all breed in these mountains and by August they are beginning to form mixed-species foraging flocks. A few hummingbird feeders are scattered about our route as well. Combine the birds with temperatures nearly 30 degrees cooler at the top and unparalleled scenery, it is hard to beat the Catalinas in August! Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

*Sycamore Canyon with Ethan Beasley*

5:00am – 3:00pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Hard (Round-trip hiking distance of about 2.5 hot miles, over very uneven tread and multiple, wet stream crossings. About two hour drive on some rough road)

Rugged, remote Sycamore Canyon is legendary among birders for the rarities it has harbored over the years, as well as for its scenic terrain. This steep-sided canyon is in the Pajarito Wilderness Area of Coronado National Forest. It drains southward into Mexico, crossing the international border 5.6 miles from the trailhead off Ruby Road, west of Nogales. Along the way we'll encounter species typical of Oak-Juniper and Riparian habitats, with the potential to see Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Montezuma Quail. Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

*Birding with a Purpose: Harshaw Creek and Mining with Keith Kamper*

6:00am – 2:00pm

Difficulty: 2 (Some mild slopes—mostly flat ground and good surfaces. Drive time about 85 minutes to destination.)

Combine birding and conservation as we explore the unique Patagonia Mountains. Harshaw Creek is lined with Sycamores making it a great location for woodpeckers, flycatchers, tanagers, and more. Elegant Trogons breed through here and Mexican Jays are common in the oaks. We'll learn about the threat of 21st century industrialized mining in this biologically diverse area identified by scientists as one of the areas most in need of protection for species survival. Concludes with a lunch provided by the local Gathering Grounds at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds. Limited to 8 participants.

### *Half-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips (includes snacks)*

#### *San Pedro House with John Yerger*

5:00am - 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (some walking on mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces. Prepare for possibility of chiggers. Drive time to location approximately 90 minutes)

The San Pedro River is one of the single most important biological features in the arid Southwest and serves as a migratory corridor for an estimated 4 million migrating birds each year! The conservation and restoration of the San Pedro River has been a long-standing priority for Tucson Audubon and this field trip will give you the opportunity to see it up close. Riparian specialties like Common Ground-Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Gray Hawk are expected along with a good mixture of flycatchers like Western Wood Pewee, Cassin's Kingbird, and plenty of Vermilion Flycatchers. A walk through the historic ranch house operated by the Friends of the San Pedro will follow our birding. Limited to 9 participants.

#### *Las Cienegas NCA with Chris Rohrer*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some walking on mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces. Drive time to location approximately one hour plus driving on gravel/dirt roads)

Las Cienegas is a 45,000-acre national conservation area with high desert grasslands, riparian strips and perennial streams, marshes, and juniper-oak woodlands. Here we can find grassland breeders such as Cassin's, Botteri's and Grasshopper Sparrows, "Lilian's" Eastern Meadowlark, and Loggerhead Shrike, as well as riparian-associated species including Gray and Zone-tailed Hawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, and Summer Tanager. Las Cienegas is great for mammals, too -- we'll visit a colony of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs (road condition permitting) and keep an eye out for Pronghorn Antelope. Limited to 8 participants.

#### *Tubac De Anza Trail with Robert Mesta*

5:30am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails. Drive time to location approximately one hour.)

An easy stroll through this lush riparian corridor along the Santa Cruz provides many opportunities for migrants, Gray Hawks, flycatchers, and hordes of Yellow-breasted Chats. Rose-throated Becard, whose nests look like a large football hanging from the end of a branch, have nested along this trail the past few years. A volunteer from the Tubac Nature Center will also be on the walk to share local bird and nature experience. Time permitting, a stop at the Amado Wastewater Treatment plant on the way back could be good for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Limited to 9 participants.

*Tyrant Flycatcher Field Workshop with Homer Hansen*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some walking on mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces.)

Following up on the flycatchers presentation, this field trip will head out to various habitats to observe and practice identification of our Arizona flycatchers. In the field, many species of flycatchers can be easily observed perched in the open watching for insect prey, allowing opportunities to study bill shape and size, wing length, and primary projection. These characteristics will be combined with habitat and behavior to help learn how to identify Tyrannid species. Limited to 9 participants.

*High Elevation in the Catalinas with Alex Lamoreaux of Wildside Nature Tours*

6:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (some walking on mild slopes, drive time to location about 50 minutes on paved roads)

Enjoy birding where Tucson residents escape the summer heat in the small mountain hamlet of Summerhaven. We'll look for mixed warbler flocks which may include Red-faced, Orange-crowned, Virginia's, Townsend's, Hermit, Wilson's, and Grace's Warblers. Birding in the conifer forests of Mt. Lemmon can also produce species like Hairy Woodpecker, Stellar's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, and Cordilleran Flycatcher. Back by noon. Limited to 9 participants.

*Montosa Canyon with Wesley Homoya of Natural Selections Tours*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Hard (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to location approximately one hour with some gravel roads.)

While Madera Canyon has long been the most visited spot in the Santa Rita Mountains, this adjacent canyon to the south is deserving of more birders' attention. Join us on a half-day exploration of Montosa Canyon, which supports some hackberry thornscrub habitat as well as a nice drainage with scattered oaks and mesquites. Our top target is Black-capped Gnatcatcher, which has been breeding in the area for several years, and we should also see dazzling Varied Buntings on territory. Five-striped Sparrow frequented the area in past years as well. Some more common species we can expect to encounter include Bell's Vireo, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Canyon Wren, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. Limited to 8 participants.

*Saint David & Benson Area with Jim Rorabaugh*

5:30am - 12:30pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes but excellent surfaces. Drive time to location approximately one hour on paved roads.)

Saint David is a curiously lush oasis bordering the San Pedro River, characterized by artesian wells and springs that support high groundwater levels and abundant trees and ponds. Summer Tanager, orioles, Tropical Kingbird, Gray Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and others are likely to be seen, as well as migrants. We will also search for Mississippi Kites, which nest nearby, and any other rarities that happen to be in the area. Limited to 9 participants.

*Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve with Skye Haas*

6:00am – 12:30pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some walking on mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces. Drive time to location approximately one hour on mostly paved roads)

The preserve is one of the best known U.S. birding hotspots with tall cottonwoods and willows lining a perennial stream. Open fields, mesquite bosque and a cienega compound the habitat diversity that make it a birding paradise. Listen for the Gray Hawk's whistle in the cottonwoods while looking for Common Ground Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Thick-billed Kingbird, and more. Nature Conservancy fees are included in the price. Be prepared to wear chigger protection. Limited to 9 participants.

*Photography Field Workshop: Bird Photography at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds with Maresa Pryor-Luzier*

5:30am – 11:00am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails. Drive time to location approximately 75 minutes.)

Join Maresa in a hands-on bird photography workshop. We'll start with feeder-watching and then walk through the Richard Grand Memorial Meadow looking for Violet-crowned Hummingbirds, Broad-billed Hummingbirds, Lazuli Buntings, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Phainopepla, and more. We'll work on natural lighting, aperture and shutter speed settings, backgrounds, and enjoy the morning. As a long-time birder and photographer, Maresa's compassion for the outdoors and documenting nature's behavior and beauty is a great thrill to share with other photographers. Limited to 8 participants.

*Birds & Culture: Birding Tumacacori Mission with Rick Wright*

6:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails. Drive time to location approximately one hour.)

Almost 300 years ago, Jesuit missionaries moved their San José de Tumacácori to the banks of the Santa Cruz River, where the imposing ruins still stand, the centerpiece of a National Historical Park. Today, this riparian oasis is home to more than 200 species of birds over the course of a desert year. On our half-day visit, we can hope to discover Gray Hawks, Vermilion Flycatchers, Summer Tanagers, or Rufous-winged Sparrows as we explore a site as rich in history as it is in natural history. Limited to 9 participants.

*Drive Yourself—Meet On-Site Field Trips. Please read description for meeting location and arrive promptly.*

*Understanding The Language of the Birds with Kristi Dranginis*

5:00am – 7:00am

\$20/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails)

Did you know that a particular call of a bird can tell you if a deer is sneaking away from you or that a cougar is nearby or that another person is approaching you on the trail, giving you advance notice and the time you'd need to respond? In addition to identifying when a predator is moving through the landscape, understanding the language of the birds will also help us learn how to quiet our minds, blend in to the world around us and attune to our senses, allowing us to become sensitive to our effect on the natural world and those around us. Kristi Dranginis, founder of Bird Mentor and author of *Identify Any Bird Anywhere*, will help you learn the skills of instinctive birding, interpreting what the language of the bird looks and sounds like, through this engaging dawn bird sit. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on, your

favorite morning beverage, binoculars if you chose and the willingness to try something new. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 25 participants.

*Birdability "Big Sit" at Sweetwater Wetlands with Marcia OBara and Birdability's Virginia Rose and Freya McGregor*

6:00am – 10:30am

Free--drop by anytime during the timeframe

Difficulty: Easy (0.1 miles to covered ramada where we'll set up the "Big Sit." For detailed accessibility information on this location, please visit the [Sweetwater Wetlands Birdability Site Review.](#))

Bathrooms: Bathrooms are available although the threshold is not on a slant or in the middle of a doorway.

This trip is designed to be intentionally inclusive and accessible for beginner and advanced birders who experience accessibility challenges as a result of a disability or other health concern. The three leaders experience their own accessibility challenges, including one who uses a manual wheelchair, and the location's accessibility features have been documented in detail to help you decide if you'd like to attend. We'll be birding around the ramada at Sweetwater which will provide shade, and we'll also have some chairs, snacks, and water for you. We'll be looking for target birds such as Mallard, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Green Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird, Song Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, and Common Yellowthroat. Additional information: 12 pairs of loaner binoculars will be available. Please feel free to email [info@birdability.org](mailto:info@birdability.org) with any additional questions you may have about this event. To learn more about Birdability, please visit [birdability.org](http://birdability.org)

*Tucson Audubon Mason Center and Safe Urban Habitat with Kim Matsushino and Olya Weekley*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (flat walking trails, less than one mile easy walking)

Join Habitat at Home Coordinator, Kim Matsushino, and Community Science Coordinator, Olya Weekley for a tour of the 20-acre Mason Center that is situated in a nearly pristine saguaro-ironwood habitat in NW Tucson. Learn about the habitat improvements that have been made around the facilities, including pollinator and habitat gardens, and how you can bring these same enhancements to your home. Along with discovering new ways to improve your habitat at home, we'll also look for Sonoran specialty birds like Costa's Hummingbird, Gambel's Quail, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, and Black-throated Sparrow. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 25 minutes. Limited to 10 participants.

*Fort Lowell Park with Holly Kleindienst*

6:30am – 8:30am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (easy walking around city park trails)

Less than 15 minutes from the festival venue, this is one of the best spots in Tucson to find Vermilion Flycatchers and the city park habitat (along with pond) offers a good variety of species. We'll walk the grounds hoping to find Broad-billed Hummingbird, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird, Lark Sparrows, and Lucy's Warblers. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 10 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Honey Bee Canyon Park with Gerry Hodge*

6:30am – 8:30am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes, most of walking in soft sand)

Join Gerry Hodge for a trip to this under-birded and hidden park in Oro Valley. Fall migrants, like Western Tanager and Lazuli Bunting, are beginning to come through and we will look for usual desert inhabitants, like the range-restricted Gilded Flicker. We will also check out a large rock with Indian petroglyphs. Most of the walking will be in soft sand, but it could be wet in places this time of year so please be prepared. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 45 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Christopher Columbus Park with Matt and Karen Vandzura and Adrian Lesak of Vortex Optics*

6:30am – 8:30am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking surfaces, with less than two miles covered)

This city park on the west side of town hosts two lakes, Silverbell and Archer Lakes, that provide habitat for herons, grebes, a resident Snow Goose, and many other bird species. Vermilion Flycatchers are all over the place and the water resources bring a variety of other bird species to the park. You'll have an opportunity to try out some new optics too, courtesy of Vortex Optics. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Isabella Lee Natural Preserve with Karen Howe and Jacob Roalef*

6:30am – 8:30am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Two mile loop over level, but often soft, uneven and dusty terrain. No restrooms are available)

Isabella Lee Natural Preserve, at the confluence of Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde wash in northeast Tucson, is a dry mesquite bosque providing year-round habitat for resident and migrant birds. Summer hosts Lucy's Warblers, Bell's Vireos, and Ash-throated Flycatchers. One or two pairs of Blue Grosbeaks are also possible. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 25 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

Reid Park with Swarovski Optik with Bruce Webb

7:30am – 8:30am or 9:00am – 10:00am

Free with Festival Registration

The tall aleppo pines and eucalyptus, along with two large ponds, create great bird habitat right next to the festival venue. Meet Bruce Webb of Swarovski Optik at Reid Park to look for Black-crowned Night Herons, Neotropical Cormorants, Cassin's Kingbirds, Vermilion Flycatchers, and more. This is a great opportunity if you're just getting into birding. Drive time to the meeting location from festival venue is about 2 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants during each time slot.

*Tohono Chul Docent-Led Birding Tours*

8:30am – 9:30am

Free with festival registration, \$5 suggested donation at Tohono Chul

Difficulty: Easy (some mild slopes—mostly flat ground and good surfaces)

For visitors and those new to the Sonoran Desert, Tohono Chul's easy-walking trails and gardens provide close-up looks at many of the desert specialties. Of the more than 500 bird species that spend time in Arizona during the year, 140 are known to have visited Tohono Chul, and on any given morning you

might see up to 10 or 20 species here. All year long you can watch our state bird, the Cactus Wren, flit from cactus to tree and back again, chattering as he goes. Observe the Curved-billed Thrasher, with its saucy two-part whistle, scabbling on the ground or nesting in cholla cactus. Enjoy our two year-round resident hummingbird species, Anna's and Costa's, as they dart about, feeding among the many colorful flowers. And be sure to look upward for a glance of our majestic Cooper's Hawks, a pair of which has nested in the gardens for each of the last four years. Meet at Tohono Chul. Limited to 10 participants.

*Photography with Hunt's Photo at Sweetwater Wetlands with Noah Buchanan & Jacob Bagley*

6:30am - 8:30am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

Head over to our favorite birding hotspot in Tucson to try out the latest in photography gear with Noah Buchanan of Hunt's Photo. This is the perfect opportunity to try out new equipment in the field before making your purchases, as well as receive tips for birding photography from the experts. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 15 participants.

*Birding Stroll for Beginners with Clay Taylor of Swarovski*

9:00am - 10:00am

Free with festival registration

Difficulty: Easy (Slow walking on sidewalks)

Join festival friend and sponsor, Clay Taylor of Swarovski Optik, for a leisurely stroll around the hotel to pick up some birding basics and tips, and of course, some good birds. Anna's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, and more hang out right around the festival venue! Hummingbird feeders around the hotel will make it easier. Meet at the Swarovski Optik Mobile Experience outside of the Expo area. Finish at 10am when the Nature Expo opens.

## *Afternoon/Evening Trips*

*Sunset Birding Photography with Hunt's Photo at Reid Park with Noah Buchanan and Simon Tolzmann*

5:45pm – 7:15pm

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces)

We'll meet at the nearby birding hotspot, Reid Park, to try out the latest in photography gear with Noah Buchanan of Hunt's Photo. This is the perfect opportunity to try out new equipment in the field before making your purchases, as well as receive tips for birding photography from the experts. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is less than 5 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 15 participants.

## ***Sunday, August 14***

*Full-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips  
(includes snacks, drinks, and lunch)*

*Specialty Clean-up with Tim Helentjaris*

5:00am – 2:00pm

\$110/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Depends upon areas chosen but generally short walks from vehicle, but be prepared for uneven surfaces or slight upgrade)

This specialty outing is designed to find species of interest that participants might have missed during the other festival trips. Target birds and trip location/s will be selected by the leader to match the interests of participants and decided upon during the course of the festival. Lunch provided. Limited to 8 participants.

*Hummingbird Photography Field Workshop with Stephen Vaughan at the Paton Center*

6:00am – 2:00pm

\$125/person

Hummingbirds can flap their wings up to 80 times a second, which can present quite the challenge for a photographer. This is the perfect opportunity to learn the specialized techniques needed to create stunning images of hummingbirds. We'll be traveling to the famous Paton Center for Hummingbirds and discuss ambient light, fill-flash and high-speed flash photography techniques. Join professional nature photographer Stephen Vaughan for this fantastic opportunity to experience the joys of photographing these flying jewels. Recommended equipment: Digital SLR, TTL flash, tripod and a telephoto lens capable of focusing close enough to fill the viewfinder with a 5 x 7 inch object. You can email Steve at StephenHVaughan@Gmail.com if you have questions. Lunch included. Limited to 8 participants.

*Half-day Van Trips—Complete Covid-19 Vaccination Required for Van Trips (includes snacks)*

*Arivaca Cienega Area with Ethan Beasley*

5:00am–12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (mostly flat walking trails on some uneven and rocky terrain. Drive time to Arivaca is about 75 minutes.)

Just outside of the small town of Arivaca is the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge where efforts to re-introduce the Masked Bobwhite are being undertaken by a group of partners, including Tucson Audubon. We'll focus our birding efforts at the Arivaca Cienega and along the Arivaca Creek where we'll look for Black Vultures, Gray and Zone-tailed Hawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Tropical Kingbird, and buntings. Limited to 9 participants.

*Madera Canyon with Philip Chaon*

5:00am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Iconic Madera Canyon is one of the top destinations for any birder. We'll start in grassland habitat around Proctor Road looking and listening for singing sparrows first thing in the morning. Black-capped Gnatcatcher has been a regular along this nature trail along with Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, and Varied Bunting. Next we'll head into the mid-elevation oak-juniper habitat, looking for desirable southeast Arizona species like Arizona Woodpecker, Painted Redstart, and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. After this we'll spend some time walking along the riparian trail and investigating the hummingbird feeders that make Madera one of the best spots for hummingbird diversity in the country. Maybe we'll find an Elegant Trogon! Limited to 9 participants.

*Patagonia Area with Scott Olmstead*

5:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some walking on mild slopes, and possibly rocky/uneven surfaces. Drive time to location approximately one hour on mostly paved roads)

The Patagonia area is one southeast Arizona's best-known destinations for riparian birds. Some of the specialties found around Patagonia are Gray Hawk, Thick-billed Kingbird, Varied Bunting, Violet-crowned Hummingbird and Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet. There are many famous places to bird here including the Patagonia Roadside Rest, Harshaw Canyon, and of course the Paton Center for Hummingbirds. Our exact itinerary will be at the leader's discretion, based on where our target birds are being seen most readily. Limited to 9 participants.

*Walker Canyon with Richard Fray*

5:00am - 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Will include walking along some graded roads and mostly level trail but with uneven surfaces for about 3 miles. Drive time to location about 75 minutes)

This area is located in the southern mountains just a few miles from the border and west of Nogales with excellent oak habitat, and much less birder visitation than many other better known locations. Walking along the old road/trail in the shade of the riparian zone and flanked by grasslands, we'll have opportunity for many target species, including Montezuma Quail, Gray Hawk, Elegant Trogon, Acorn and Arizona Woodpeckers, Rufous-winged and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Scott's Oriole and Varied Bunting. Thick-billed Kingbird have also recently colonized this drainage and we'll be actively hunting for them as well. Back by noon, limited to 9 participants.

*Birding with a Purpose: San Pedro River with Robert Mesta and David Robinson*

5:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Around 2-3 miles walking distance over mostly level terrain, some ups/downs in wash/river area, muddy conditions are possible in sections. Drive time to location about 90 minutes)

We'll head to the San Pedro River, designated one of America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2022. As American Rivers' announcement explains, "Arizona's San Pedro River supports one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in North America and is one of the last, major free-flowing rivers in the desert Southwest. However, excessive groundwater pumping is causing stretches of the San Pedro to dry up—a problem exacerbated by poorly planned development that withdraws too much of the river's limited water. Additionally, rollbacks to the Clean Water Act initiated during the Trump administration have removed protections for seasonal and intermittent streams, which encompass almost 94 percent of the San Pedro River's waterways and provide the lifeblood that sustains the river." On this field trip, we'll see for ourselves just how special the San Pedro is, and what we can do to protect it — all while enjoying an exciting morning of Arizona birding at the San Pedro House and along the river itself. (To download American Rivers' 2022 report on the San Pedro River, [click here.](#)) Limited to 8 participants.

*Las Cienegas and Empire Ranch with Jennie MacFarland and David Simpson*

5:30am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some walking on mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces. Drive time to location approximately one hour plus driving on gravel/dirt roads)

Las Cienegas is a 45,000-acre national conservation area with high desert grasslands, riparian strips and perennial streams, marshes, and juniper-oak woodlands. Here we can find grassland breeders such as Cassin's, Botteri's and Grasshopper Sparrows, "Lilian's" Eastern Meadowlark, and Loggerhead Shrike, as

well as riparian-associated species including Gray and Zone-tailed Hawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, and Summer Tanager. Las Cienegas is great for mammals, too -- we'll visit a colony of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs (road condition permitting) and keep an eye out for Pronghorn Antelope. Limited to 18 participants.

*High Elevation in the Catalinas with Cameron Cox*

5:30 am – 12:00 pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (some walking on mild slopes, drive time to location about 50 minutes on paved roads)

Enjoy birding where Tucson residents escape the summer heat in the small mountain hamlet of Summerhaven. We'll look for mixed warbler flocks which may include Red-faced, Orange-crowned, Virginia's, Townsend's, Hermit, Wilson's, and Grace's Warblers. Birding in the conifer forests of Mt. Lemmon can also produce species like Hairy Woodpecker, Stellar's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, and Cordilleran Flycatcher. Back by noon. Limited to 9 participants.

*Box and Florida Canyons with Skye Haas*

5:30am - 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Hard (Walking a narrow trail with uneven surfaces and some increase in grade. Drive time to location about 1 hour)

These two canyons are just north of the more famous Madera Canyon and offer fabulous birding in riparian areas flanked by upland desert and grassland. From the Florida Canyon parking lot, we'll keep our eyes open and ears alert for Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, along with Varied Bunting. Working our way up higher along the creek, we'll look for Gray Hawk, three species of Myiarchus flycatchers, Bell's and Hutton's Vireo's, Hooded Oriole, and perhaps even catching a glimpse of the soaring resident Golden Eagles. Time permitting we will drive through Box Canyon hoping to find a rare Five-striped Sparrow. Back by noon, limited to 9 participants.

*Cienega Creek & Davidson Canyon with Pima County Naturalist Jeff Babson*

5:30am – 11:30am

\$65/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Steeper slopes or more rocky/rooted trails. Drive time to location approximately 45 minutes.)

The perennial stream flow and lush riparian vegetation at Pima County's Cienega Creek Natural Preserve is an important nesting and migration corridor for a multitude of avian species. Home to Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Bell's Vireo, and Lucy's Warbler, the creek has also hosted a number of vagrants. Cienega Creek has potential for Yellow-billed Cuckoo as well. Under the shade of towering Fremont cottonwoods, we will explore this well-watered and increasingly rare habitat on a half-day outing. This outing is offered in partnership with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR). Limited to 9 participants.

*Cochise Lake with Chris Rohrer*

6:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking on groomed trails or roads. Drive time to location approximately 80 minutes.)

This half-day trip to the Willcox area and Cochise Lake will add a wide variety of shorebirds to your Arizona and festival species list. Likely species include Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Western, and Least Sandpipers. The lakes also play host to an array of migrant swallow species, as well as birds of the open grassland like Scaled Quail and Lark Sparrow. With sometimes hourly turnover nearly every visit during migration has a good chance of turning up something unusual. This will be a very relaxed paced half-day trip with limited walking on level surfaces. Limited to 8 participants.

*De Anza Trail and Area with Jake Mohlmann*

6:00am – 12:00pm

\$65/person

Difficulty: 1 (Flat walking trails. Drive time to location approximately one hour.)

An easy stroll through this lush riparian corridor along the Santa Cruz provides many opportunities for migrants, Gray Hawks, flycatchers, and hordes of Yellow-breasted Chats. Rose-throated Becard, whose nests look like a large football hanging from the end of a branch, have nested along this trail the past two years. A volunteer from the Tubac Nature Center will also be on the walk to share local bird and nature experience. A stop at the Amado Wastewater Treatment plant on the way back could be good for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Limited to 9 participants.

*Drive Yourself—Meet On-Site Field Trips. Please read description for meeting location and arrive promptly*

*Sweetwater Wetlands with Luke Safford*

6:00am – 8:00am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (Less than a mile walking on excellent surfaces.)

Celebrate the end of a fantastic festival with some of your Tucson Audubon friends. We'll maneuver in groups of no more than 10 around this "must see" destination for any birder. This artificial wetland is the premier birding hotspot in the Tucson Valley, offering a stunning variety of species that can be found here at any time during the season. Green Heron, Common Gallinule, Tropical Kingbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Abert's Towhees are some of our prime targets. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 20 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 20 participants.

*Lakeside Park with Holly Kleindienst*

6:00am - 8:00am

\$10/person

Difficulty: Easy (1.75 mile round trip on concrete and paved surfaces. Restrooms are available)

Lakeside Park in southeast Tucson is a great place to get to know your urban birds. We'll be at the front end of the possibility of migrating shorebirds, wading birds, gulls or terns, so while unlikely, we'll be sure to keep our eyes peeled for unusual birds as well. Last August a Tricolored Heron hung out at this lake for a few weeks. We'll explore the lake and the adjacent lawns and ball fields. Likely sightings include Black-crowned Night-heron, hummingbirds (Anna's, Black-chinned, & Broad-billed), Cassin's Kingbird, Vermillion Flycatcher, Cooper's Hawk, swallows, Abert's Towhee, and more! Drive time to park and meeting location is about 15 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Catalina State Park with Michael Welch*

6:30am – 9:00am

\$20/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Some mild slopes, but still on excellent surfaces.)

This state park on the northwest side of Tucson sits adjacent to the western slopes of the Coronado National Forest's Santa Catalina Mountains and contains a good mixture of desert scrub, mesquite bosque, and riparian vegetation. These habitats support a varied mix of bird species including Brown-crested Flycatcher, Rufous-winged Sparrow, and Northern Cardinals. We will explore the Birding Trail which crosses a seasonal wash and depending on monsoon storms you may get your boots wet. \$7 parking fee. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 40 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Photography with Hunt's Photo in Madera Canyon with Noah Buchanan & Jacob Bagley*

6:30am – 8:30am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Moderate (Fairly good trail surfaces, but with some rocky/rooted sections)

Enjoy a birding photography experience in the iconic Madera Canyon with Jacob Bagley, an amazing young photographer, and try out the latest in photography gear with Noah Buchanan of Hunt's Photo. This is the perfect opportunity to try out new equipment in the field before making your purchases, as well as receive tips for birding photography from the experts. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 50 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 10 participants.

*Beyond Birds: Dragonflies & Damselflies in Southeast Arizona with Michael Bogan*

7:00am – 11:00am

\$15/person

Difficulty: Easy (Flat walking trails.)

Have you been curious about dragonflies but mystified by the challenge of identifying them? Join Michael Bogan, Assistant Professor of Aquatic Biology at the University of Arizona, for a field trip focused on examining the odonate diversity found around Southeast Arizona. This trip will be a two part outing starting at Sweetwater Wetlands for an easy and accessible walk, followed by a more "moderate" level of walking at the nearby Santa Cruz River which will involve more walking on uneven ground or even getting our feet wet. These two locations will enable us to see the difference between lotic and lentic species. Specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 12 participants.

## **Festival Workshops, Socials, and Expo 2022**

### ***Wednesday, August 10***

***Nature Expo is Open with Festival Friends & Partners***

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Free—no need to register

Explore the festival's Nature Expo on the first night and talk with leaders and exhibitors about their favorite birding locations in Southeast Arizona while checking out new optics, beautiful nature-oriented art, and more.

***Opening Celebration with Luke Safford and Tucson Audubon***

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Free—no need to register

We'll kick-off the festival by introducing special guests, recognizing our greater purpose as birders, and celebrate the first birds seen by checking them off the "Big Board" together. A cash bar will be on-site along with free appetizers and door prizes.

***Thursday, August 11***

***Sketching Birds with Saraiya Kanning***

9:30am – 11:30am

\$20/person

Learn to sketch lifelike birds and use drawing as a way to grow your birding skills! No fancy tools needed, just pencil and paper. Limited to 10 participants. *Art Materials: any pencil, unlined paper, and eraser (optional, preferred magic eraser or kneaded eraser).*

***Nature Expo is Open with Festival Friends & Partners***

12:00pm – 5:30pm

Free—no need to register

Explore the festival's Nature Expo after a morning (or day!) of birding. Check the "Big Boards" (birds and wildlife checklists) to see if you can mark off any new birds, snakes, or butterflies seen that day on your field trip and engage with our exhibitors and volunteers who are happy to share their expertise and hospitality with you.

***The Birds of New Zealand – 6 Endemic Families and so Much More with Sav Saville***

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

An illustrated introduction to the unique birds of New Zealand. There are 6 endemic families in addition to many other unique birds and a multitude of seabirds. For example, the Wrybill is a shorebird which has a laterally curved bill – it is the ONLY bird in the World that has that. Only 20 years ago New Zealand Storm-petrel was rediscovered after 150 years – and it breeds almost within eye-sight of the largest city – Auckland! There are many other strange and interesting birds – like a carnivorous, Alpine parrot, or the only mainland colony of albatross in the World.

***Eggs & Nests with Kathe Anderson***

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Free with Festival Registration

We might take omelets for granted, but we shouldn't! Birds' eggs are complex and remarkable, from the shape, color and formation to what's inside. Nests, too, have many varieties and unusual aspects. Dabble in the wonder of birds' nests and eggs in this interactive class that showcases both familiar and exotic species with the hope of inspiring your curiosity to learn more.

***Best Field Practices for Birders and Photographers***

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Free with Festival Registration

Whether you're meandering through a forest, canoeing a river, or traipsing across a desert ridgeline, every step you take is being carefully observed by countless creatures both above and below. With that in mind, there's no denying that our very presence in nature affects the lives of our abundant avian allies. How exactly does our behavior impact them, though? The short answer: it depends. Join four naturalists as we explore birding and photography etiquette in a unique interactive experience. With over 70 years of combined experience watching and photographing wild birds, Steve Vaughan, Henry Johnson, Dan Weisz, and Ian Adrian will share insight and guide discussions to better enhance the birding experience for avian and enthusiast alike.

***Moths: A Hidden World of Nocturnal Diversity with Pima County Naturalist Jeff Babson***

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Moths are often dismissed as drab creatures whose caterpillars devour our gardens and sweaters. While some species do exhibit bad habits, the truth is that moths are incredibly diverse, abundant, and easy to observe. Many moths are strikingly patterned and stunningly beautiful, refuting the idea that these insects are unattractive. This workshop is an introduction to the vibrant, beautiful, and surprising world of moths. Don't forget to join Jeff on Thursday or Friday evenings to experience a moth and insect extravaganza!

***Japan: An Amazing Winter Birding Photography Location with Alyce Bender***

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Take a break from the heat of Arizona and join Alyce Bender, Tamron Ambassador and Wildside Nature Tour leader, as she introduces you to Northern Japan and the wildlife that call it home during the winter! A variety of birds, like the Steller's sea eagles and whooper swans, migrate to the area to overwinter while others, such as the Red Crowned Crane, are year-long residents. Learn more about the rare and endemic species that can be found during the coldest months of the year in this unique birding location. Additionally, Bender will include tips that are applicable to birding photography in general and speak about some of the ethical and conservation issues that surround birds in this part of the world.

***Enabling Every Body to Use Birding as Empowerment with Virginia Rose & Freya McGregor***

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Free with Festival Registration

Birds and birding can bring so much joy and empowerment to everybody, especially people with disabilities and other health concerns. Join Birdability founder Virginia Rose, who has used a manual wheelchair for 48 years, and Birdability Coordinator Freya McGregor, an occupational therapist with a background in blindness and low vision services, to learn how a brand new nonprofit is working to enable that. Hear Virginia's story about the joys she's found in birding, and what Birdability is doing to share those joys with everybody with access challenges. Discover some simple actions you can take to be a more welcoming and inclusive birder. And help Birdability ensure that birding truly is for everybody and every body! Learn more about Birdability at [birdability.org](http://birdability.org) or on social media @birdability

*Virginia Rose, founder of Birdability and Board member of Travis Audubon in Austin, Texas has been a paraplegic for 48 years. She began birding 18 years ago and realized she needed to help others with access challenges discover the joys of birding.*

*Freya McGregor (she/her), OTR/L, CIG is the Birdability Coordinator and an occupational therapist. Birding since childhood, her 'dodgy' knee often creates an accessibility challenge for her. With a clinical*

*background in blindness and low vision services, she works in her spare time for the radio show and podcast Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds, and is passionate about enabling all birders and potential future birders to enjoy birding and nature as much as she does.*

***Identify Any Bird, Anywhere: Advanced Skills for Beginning Birders***

4:30pm – 5:30pm (Classroom Portion) & 5:45pm – 7:30pm (Field Portion at Reid Park)

\$50/person, includes sandwich dinner from Beyond Bread

Have you reached a plateau with your birding skills? Maybe you are able to identify a handful of birds, but can't really seem to get beyond the basics? If that's the case, you'll want to check out this innovative workshop to learn a unique approach to identifying and connecting with birds. You won't just hear cool tips about backyard birds, you'll actually learn HOW TO LEARN about birds. Kristi Dranginis, founder of Bird Mentor and author of *Identify Any Bird Anywhere* will unveil "The Seven and a Half Questions to Bird Identification" that will catapult your bird loving skills and confidence after just a little practice. You will walk away with a solid set of new bird ID skills that you can start applying right away.

***Festival Celebration in the Nature Expo with BWD***

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Free—no need to register

Are you as excited as we are that Bird Watcher's Digest is coming back as "BWD"?! BWD's first issue will be July/August of this year and the first 100 festival attendees to meet them at the Nature Expo from 4:30pm - 5:30pm will receive a free copy. Don't miss the chance to celebrate the launch of this fabulous, new magazine. A cash bar will be on-site along with free appetizers.

***Hoots, Herps, and Hops: An Event for Young Birders and Those Young at Heart***

6:00pm – 10:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Trip difficulty: Easy, ~1.5-2 miles along paved road with gradual incline, restrooms and water available at the Visitor's Center.

Please join us for this social birding event designed to welcome young birders and new birders of all kinds into the community! We will bird at Sabino Canyon followed by a drink at Three Canyon Beer and Wine Garden. We'll start the evening with a guided walk up Sabino Canyon Road, where we'll hope to catch Purple Martins, Black-Throated Sparrows, Cardinals, Lesser Nighthawks, and other Sonoran specialties. On the way down, we will listen for Poorwills, Elf Owls, and Great-Horned Owls and keep our eyes out for toads, lizards, snakes, tarantulas, and scorpions. Afterwards, we'll all meet at the nearby Three Canyon Beer and Wine Garden for food, drink, and great company!

No transportation is provided. Please note, there is an \$8 parking fee at Sabino Canyon. Specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand. Limited to 50 participants.

With this event, our goal is to welcome and make space for the newest generation of birders and those historically left out of the community. We invite birders of all ages to join us in welcoming our newest members!

***IBA Dedication of Tucson Mountains at Saguaro NP***

6:30pm – 10:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Celebrate the dedication of the relatively new Tucson Mountains Important Bird Area. Enjoy a short evening ceremony including a few words from key folks from Saguaro NP and the Coronado National Forest and eat some cake and refreshments. Afterwards we'll have an optional evening Herp and Night

Creatures walk on the pavement and trails with Jim Rorabaugh and an opportunity to view moths with Jeff Babson and a UV light set-up. Limited to 50 participants.

## **Friday, August 12**

### ***Nature Journaling at Reid Park with Trenton Jung***

8:00am – 9:30am

\$20/person

*This workshop takes place at Reid Park. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is less than 5 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand.*

Advance your birding by documenting your observations through nature journaling! Science illustrator, Trenton Jung, will introduce you to nature journaling skills by observing and journaling Tucson's urban wildlife at Reid Park. Nature journaling is a great way for you to capture information through drawing and note-taking, develops your observational skills, and helps you create a visual database of your birding adventures. Limited to 10 participants. *Art Materials: Medium, hardcover sketchbook/journal, Graphite Pencils, Pencil Sharpener, Eraser, Ballpoint Pen. Optional: Binoculars, Travel watercolor set, Toned paper sketchbook, Ruler, Colored Pencils, Micron Pen. Other things to bring: Camping chair, Water bottle, Hat, Sunglasses.*

### ***Nature Expo is Open with Festival Friends & Partners***

12:00pm – 5:30pm

Free—no need to register

Explore the festival's Nature Expo after a morning (or day!) of birding. Check the "Big Boards" (birds and wildlife checklists) to see if you can mark off any new birds, snakes, or butterflies seen that day on your field trip and engage with our exhibitors and volunteers who are happy to share their expertise and hospitality with you.

### ***Birding the Upper Peninsula: A birder's year in the North Woods with Skye Haas***

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Join Skye Haas as he describes the experiences of birding along the shores of Lake Superior and of the diverse array of birds that inhabit the ecotone that is the North Woods of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Skye will talk about the dynamic migrations of raptors, waterbirds and passerines that are funneled along the extensive shoreline that comprises the majority of the Upper Peninsula's border as well as the alluring boreal specialties such as Kirtland's Warbler, Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee and Great Gray Owl, most of which are at the southern edge of their breeding and wintering ranges of this wild and beautiful land.

### ***Innovative Lucy's Warbler Nestbox Research with Olya Weekley***

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Lucy's Warblers are one of only two cavity-nesting warblers in United States and a species of Conservation Concern. Their breeding range is fairly small with the heart of it being in Arizona. This species is very understudied and previously unknown to use nestboxes, unlike other secondary cavity-nesters. Tucson Audubon has been studying Lucy's Warbler nesting needs for the last 8 years using innovative techniques to design a nestbox style that they will readily use. Join Community Science Coordinator, Olya Weekley, to learn more about the process and what we have learned so far.

***Introduction to Southeast Arizona Tyrant Flycatchers with Homer Hansen***

1:30pm – 2:30pm

\$10/person

The largest family of birds in the world, Tyrant Flycatchers, includes an amazing diversity of species. Flycatchers regularly pose identification challenges due to similar plumages and overlap with similar species range and habitat. As part of this workshop, you will learn about useful characteristics and behaviors that aid in flycatcher identification. This workshop places an emphasis on bill shape and size, wing length, and primary projection in relation to Tyrannid genera and species identification. This workshop will start with an overview of the family characteristic, and then cover flycatchers that might be seen during the festival.

***The Scorpion Diversity of SoAZ—or what Scorpions Did Gadsden Purchase? with Kari McWest***

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Free with Festival Registration

Arizona is one of the world's hot spots for scorpion diversity, especially SoAZ, the southern portion of Arizona that was included in the Gadsden Purchase. Join Kari as he discusses the rich diversity of scorpions of Arizona, concentrating on the area referred to as SoAZ and the Gadsden Purchase. This scenically beautiful, biologically and geologically diverse region is home to five scorpion families, ten genera, and at least half of Arizona's nearly 60 described species, and a few undescribed.

***A Field Guide to the Hummingbirds of Southeast Arizona with Rick Taylor***

3:00pm – 4:00pm

\$10/person

With 17 documented species in recent history, SE Arizona hosts a wider variety of hummingbirds than any region of the United States. Habitat preferences play a major role in creating this cornucopia of diversity and abundance. Rick's talk will cover the polychrome males, as well as identification clues that distinguish the females and immatures in this unique family. Afterwards Rick will be in the Nature Expo signing copies of his new field guide.

***Making the Most of the Birding Experience: A Guide to Holistic Birding with Lee Hoy of Wildside Nature Tours***

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Join Lee Hoy, OM-D Pro Ambassador, owner of Big Bend Birding and Photo Tours, and Wildside Nature Tour Photography Workshop Leader, for a humorous, inspirational, and challenging presentation designed to help you transition your birding to a more holistic and enjoyable experience. We will examine methods and mindsets designed to move you beyond simple bird identification and listing to expanding your views of both and developing a richer, deeper understanding of the birding experience. Lee has birded in 49 states, leads 15 to 20 Colima Warbler hikes a year, and worked on the PBS Nature Special "Big Bend: The Wild Frontier of Texas." He leads international and domestic photography workshops with some of his favorite destinations being Yellowstone in Winter, Amazon Riverboat Cruise, Big Bend National Park, and Newfoundland. This presentation is sure to make you laugh, make you reconsider some of your current assumptions about birding, and possibly even shed a tear.

***Festival Celebration in the Nature Expo***

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Free—no need to register

Drop by the Nature Expo for a chance to win some special door prizes and get an update on festival bird sightings. Rick Taylor, author of the new *Birds of Arizona* field guide, will be on hand for book signings. A cash bar will be on-site along with free appetizers.

***The Exciting Night Life of Bats with Karen Krebbs***

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Karen has studied bats for more than 30 years. Learn about this exciting and unique nocturnal mammal and how it is so successful as a predator and pollinator. There are more than 1,100 species of bats that occur worldwide. Bats are an important part of our ecosystems and deserve our respect and admiration. Echolocation allows a bat to fly in total darkness to locate, chase, and capture flying insects. Bridges and other human structures are important roost habitat for many species of bats. Nectar bats visit and pollinate columnar cactus and succulents in our area. Also learn about the threats to bats and how we can help. Afterwards you can join Karen to watch the bats head out for the night at a known roosting location about 15 minutes from the festival venue.

***Birds and Brew sponsored by Beaumont & Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau***

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Spend an evening at the local brewery and enjoy some food and drink with your birding friends. Share your stories from recent bird trips and learn about new places to explore while drinking and eating—what could be better? Information on location to be given closer to event. Limited to 75 participants.

***Saturday, August 13***

***Nature Expo is Open with Festival Friends & Partners***

10:00am – 5:30pm

Free—no need to register

Explore the festival's Nature Expo after a morning (or day!) of birding. Check the "Big Boards" (birds and wildlife checklists) to see if you can mark off any new birds, snakes, or butterflies seen that day on your field trip and engage with our exhibitors and volunteers who are happy to share their expertise and hospitality with you.

***Birds & Animals at the Nature Expo***

10:00am – 5:30pm

Free—no need to register

Festival partners, Reid Park Zoo and Arizona Game & Fish, will be on-site with a variety of birds and animals for close-up viewing and interpretation. Perfect wildlife viewing for kids—and adults!—and you'll be in a comfortable air-conditioned room. *Reid Park Zoo will be on-site from 10:00am – 1:00pm, and Arizona Game & Fish will be on-site from 10:00am – 5:30pm.*

***Art Workshop: A Splash of Color with Artist Christina Baal of Drawing 10,000 Birds***

10:00am – 12:00pm

\$20/person

*This workshop takes place at The Drawing Studio. Drive time to meeting location from festival venue is about 15 minutes, specific meeting instructions will be emailed beforehand.*

Birds are amazingly vivacious and colorful. Drawing and painting birds not only helps explore our emotional attachments to these winged wonders- it makes us better birders! This art workshop will explore how to overcome the anxiety of the blank page with fun, expressive drawing and watercolor painting techniques. Intended for beginners and intermediate artists, but all are welcome! Be prepared to get a little messy. Art Materials: paper, pencils, and watercolors. Limited to 20 people.

***Panama: A Birding & Nature Paradise with Carlos Bethancourt***

10:30am – 11:30am

Free with Festival Registration

Panama, though scarcely the size of South Carolina, but perfectly positioned as a narrow land bridge between North and South America, is blessed with an incredible natural beauty and biodiversity second to none. Over 1010 bird species, hundreds of mammals, reptiles & amphibians, and a staggering 10,000 plant species have been recorded here. Join knowledgeable and entertaining Canopy Family senior guide Carlos Bethancourt on a photographic journey of the tropical birds, bizarre mammals, unusual reptiles & amphibians and spectacular habitats from the former Canal Zone of Panama, to the foothills of western Panama and into the wilds of the Darién lowlands in eastern Panama. From toucans to hummingbirds, Panamanian Night monkeys, Kinkajou, Carlos will keep you spellbound with his stories of discovery and vivid images. Come experience why Panama is indeed a birding and nature paradise!

***Borderlands Jaguars with Mark Hart of Arizona Game & Fish***

11:30am – 12:30pm

Free with Festival Registration

Southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico are the only locations in the United States where jaguars have been sighted in the past twenty years. In late 2016, two jaguars were present in the region, one in the Huachuca Mountains and the other in the Dos Cabezas. Earlier that year a video surfaced of a third jaguar in the Santa Rita Mountains. The video caused an international sensation, but that jaguar hasn't been seen since. Although the Huachacucas jaguar came to a bad end in Mexico, its return there was biologically significant. Meantime, the Dos Cabezas jaguar has persisted south of Willcox since. This presentation will examine how the presence of these endangered species in the region pose unique challenges for wildlife and land managers, and how they have made even more popular among the general public trail camera technology.

***Identifying Barriers to Youth Involvement in Conservation with Ruby Lenertz***

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

As a high school student, Ruby encountered barriers to becoming more involved in conservation despite her desire and ability to do so. As a Youth Engagement Intern with Tucson Audubon, she sought to explore this issue by surveying 290 students from Tucson to examine and bring awareness to the most important barriers students face that prevent them from becoming involved in environmental conservation. She'll discuss what she discovered and what steps conservation organizations can take to bring young people into the conversation.

***How to Protect Birds at the Ballot Box with Conservation Advocate David Robinson***

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Free with Festival Registration

Birders know the vital importance of having pro-bird, pro-environment policymakers in office. From legislation such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, to climate-change urgency vs. climate-change denial, to environmental justice for historically overburdened communities, the response to issues we care so

deeply about depends overwhelmingly on elected officials and the people they appoint. And yet millions of environmentalists don't consistently show up to the polls! In this interactive workshop, Tucson Audubon's Conservation Advocate, David Robinson, will present the facts about environmentalists and voting, and will teach attendees how to take part in highly effective, nonpartisan efforts to turn inconsistent environmentalist voters into environmentalist super-voters in time for the upcoming midterms — all while having fun with fellow bird-lovers!

***Hummingbird Photography Workshop with Stephen Vaughan***

1:30pm – 2:30pm

\$10/person

Hummingbirds can flap their wings up to 80 times a second, which can present quite the challenge for a photographer. This is the perfect opportunity to learn the specialized techniques needed to create stunning images of hummingbirds. We will cover ambient light, fill-flash and high-speed flash photography techniques. Join professional nature photographer Steve Vaughan for this fantastic opportunity to experience the joys of photographing these flying jewels. You can email Steve at StephenHVaughan@Gmail.com if you have questions.

***How to Misidentify the Birds with Rick Wright***

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Free with Festival Registration

Face it. Most birds, especially in North America north of Mexico, are easy to identify: just a matter of matching the right name to the feathered creature before us. There are exceptions, though, some of them right here in southeast Arizona. The local thrashers, female hummingbirds and orioles, and those devilish ravens can have birders tearing out their hair, especially those of us who get to see them only on our occasional late summer ornitho-pilgrimages. But it is precisely these birds we learn the most from—whether we get them right all the time or not. Join Rick Wright for a light-hearted but informative look at some of Arizona's most challenging field identifications and the lessons to be learned in confronting them.

***Mastering Bird Photography Workshop with Lee Hoy of Wildside Nature Tours***

3:00pm – 4:00pm

\$10/person

Join Lee Hoy, OM-D Pro Ambassador, as he helps you understand how to master your autofocus settings, birds in flight settings, understand why mirrorless cameras are so beneficial for bird photography, and a list of simple tricks, tips, and techniques for improving your bird photography. This is designed for bird photographers of any skill level and with any camera gear/system.

***Festival Celebration in the Nature Expo***

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Free—no need to register

This is the last hour of the festival Nature Expo! Prepare for your next birding adventure by talking with your favorite birding guides from around the world. You'll have a chance to win some special door prizes and receive our final update on festival bird sightings before your last day of field trips. A cash bar will be on-site along with free appetizers.

***Southeast Arizona Birding Festival Banquet & Culmination with special guest, Jennie MacFarland***

6:00pm – 8:00pm

\$60/person

Wrap up your festival experience with us as we celebrate more than just the new birds we've seen, but also the movement that birding is becoming—all over the world, and right here in Tucson. You'll enjoy a delicious meal, visit with friends, and hear from special guest, Jennie MacFarland, Tucson Audubon's Bird Conservation Biologist.

Jennie's talk, ***"The Ties That Bind: How Birds Inspire Conservation and Community,"*** centers on how birds have captured our attention and wonder across millennia and cultures. Their flights and migrations are the core of legends, and their songs and plumages are metaphors of beauty and inspiration for art across the world. We are increasingly replacing their homes with our homes and therefore often find birds in our urban spaces. Many of our societal activities affect their lives and populations, but how do they affect us in return? Birds inspire awe in those who love them. How can we expand this community for the benefit of bird conservation?