

# Southeast Arizona

## Fall and Winter Sky Island Sampler

### Species List | November 3-10, 2024

#### With Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guides James Petersen and Troy Corman. Our clients included Alan, Barbara, Carol, Dennis, Howard, Jamie, John, Lynne, Mathias, Michael, and Terrie.**

Our Southeast Arizona Fall and Winter Sky Island Sampler was an awesome tour. This tour led us through the two most eastern Sky Islands of Southeast Arizona: the Huachucas and the Chiricahuas. We also explored the grasslands that make up the habitat between the two ranges and where we encountered numerous grassland birds including multiple Chestnut-collared Longspurs amid the Horned Lark flocks.

Among the Sky Islands, we explored the Sycamore shaded canyons where we had multiple run-ins with Painted Redstarts and a fleeting wintering Elegant Trogon. As well as fantastic looks at White-nosed Coati and “Coues” White-tailed Deer. We ended the trip with 139 species of birds, 10 species of mammals, 1 species of Dragonfly and 3 species of Reptiles.

BIRDS: 139 species were recorded; of which 2 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 139 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you’re new to eBird, be sure to click “Show All Details” on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Southeast Arizona Fall and Winter Sky Island Sampler | November 3-10, 2024 | ebird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

#### **MAMMALS: (10)**

**Pronghorn** *Antilocapra americana* — Seen loafing the first two days of the trip, with multiple individuals seen loafing while birding the Sonitoa Grasslands.

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* — Only seen once throughout the trip with it standing at the base of the road to Ramsey Canyon Preserve.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* — A very common animal, seen most days of the trip, with great looks of the “Coues” race while in the Chiricahuas.

**Collared Peccary** *Pecari tajacu* — Seen sporadically while in the Chiricahuas, with a large group seen crossing the road while heading into Portal.

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* — Only seen once, but we had an amazing view of two interacting at Cave Creek Ranch. The dominant male chased the 2<sup>nd</sup> male across the feeding area and into the woods.

**Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus audubonii* — Seen twice, on the trip with good looks while at Cave Creek Ranch

**Harris's Antelope Squirrel** *Ammospermophilus harrisi* — This striped ground squirrel was seen while watching the feeders at Dave Jasper's.

**Rock Squirrel** *Otospermophilus variegatus* — Good looks at this squirrel on the first full day while at Ramsey Canyon Preserve.

**Arizona Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus arizonensis* — Good looks at this large, gray Squirrel the first two days. The best looks came while at Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary.

**Striped Skunk** *Mephitis mephitis* — Good views of an individual that was wandering around the bird feeding area while at Cave Creek Ranch.

**Cliff Chipmunk** *Tamias dorsalis* — This common chipmunk was seen every day while in the Chiricahuas.

**Mexican Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus nayaritensis*— A squirrel that is only found in the Chiricahuas in the United States. This race of the fox squirrel is the "Apache" race and was seen everyday while in the Chiricahuas.

#### **Butterflies: (4)**

**Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* — Seen while birding Ramsey Canyon Preserve.

**Arizona Sister** *Adelpha eulalia* — This brown butterfly with orange dots in the wings was seen while birding Ramsey Canyon Preserve.

**Checkered White** *Pontia protodice* — Seen while birding at White Water Draw.

**Common Checkered Skipper** *Pyrgus communis* — Also seen while birding at White Water Draw.

#### **Odonates: (1)**

**Variiegated Meadow hawk** *Sympetrum corruptum*— We only saw this dragon perched while we were walking the loop at White Water Draw.

#### **REPTILES: (3)**

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scriptta* — Seen in the smaller ponds while at Lake Cochise.

**Ornate Tree Lizard** *Urosaurus ornatus* — Seen while walking the trails at White Water Draw.

**Texas Horny Toad** *Phrynosoma cornutum*— Seen in the afternoon while out in the garden area at the Chiricahua Desert Museum.