Southeast Arizona

*Bird Photography in the Sky Islands*

Tour Leader: Brian Zwiebel

April 6-13, 2025
On this exciting tour we will experience a number of the specialty bird species in the unique habitats of the desert southwest in southeast Arizona. From the hot and dry desert, we will gain several thousand feet of elevation in the sky islands. Our locations provide access to a wide variety of songbirds due to the incredible diversity of habitats we will encounter in a relatively small area.

**General Overview**

We will be visiting a number of private properties which have been set up specifically for photographing birds. Offerings of food and water draw the birds in where we will control perch selections and have distant backgrounds. We will visit some known and some not so well-known locations in the Coronado National Forest. A variety of the listed species will be can’t miss, while others will require a bit more luck!

We will target, in no particular order: Pyrrhuloxia, Phainopepla, Bullock’s, Scott’s and Hooded Orioles, Curve-billed Thrasher, Greater Roadrunner, Verdin, Lesser Goldfinch, Cactus, Canyon and Bewick’s Wren, Bridled Titmouse, Hepatic and Summer Tanager, Mexican Jay, Acorn and Arizona Woodpeckers, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks, Gambel’s and Scaled Quail, Vermillion and Ash-throated Flycatchers, several species of doves, Scaled Quail, hummingbirds, sparrows and towhees as well as Western and Whiskered Screech-Owls and Elf Owl.

In addition, we will seek breeding warblers such as Painted Redstart, Lucy’s, Virginia’s, Grace’s, Red-faced, Black-throated Gray and Olive Warblers. We will also search for Five-striped and other southwestern sparrows. Our accommodations will be top notch and we will enjoy some great food.
Equipment
Bring your longest telephoto lens and matching teleconverters as well as a tripod for this tour. You will learn why shutter priority mode is Brian's default camera mode. Bring a macro lens (or extension tubes) for close ups of flowers or cactus and a wide lens will come in handy for documenting the beautiful scenery encountered on this tour.

Environment
We will encounter a wide range of temperatures in April in southeast Arizona. Mornings at high elevation will be quite cold, possibly in the lower 50’s, while daytime highs in the desert could reach 90 degrees or higher. Plenty of water will be provided. The chance for rain will be low and the dry environment means we will not encounter many biting insects. You may wish to wear long sleeves, a sun hat and/or sunscreen to avoid burns. Long pants are highly recommended for protection from sun and cactus spines.

Physical Activity
Activity levels for this trip are not strenuous but some light off trail hiking for short distances can be expected. The majority of our photography will be done from private property set ups, along lightly traveled roads or adjacent to pull offs and parking areas. Light hiking boots will be sufficient for daily activity.

Daily Schedule
Sunrise is around 6:00am. Mornings will start early with limited breakfast options most days. Plan on having a light and quick breakfast at your room. We will want to start at near sunrise every day since the light gets harsh early, most often by 10:00am. An early and leisurely lunch will provide a needed break to refuel and recharge. In the late afternoon we will head back out to take advantage of better light than is found mid-day. Dinner may not be until late but snacks and water in the vehicle will keep us going. Over dinner we will discuss the day's events and plan for the following morning.
Likely Species on this trip (most likely species in **bold**):

Gambel's Quail
Scaled Quail
Montezuma Quail
**White-winged Dove**
Inca Dove
**Greater Roadrunner**
**Western Screech-Owl**
Whiskered Screech-Owl
Elf Owl
Anna's Hummingbird
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
**Broad-billed Hummingbird**
**Black-chinned Hummingbird**
Rivioli's Hummingbird
**Acorn Woodpecker**
Arizona Woodpecker
Gila Woodpecker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
**Vermillion Flycatcher**
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Bell’s Vireo
Hutton’s Vireo
Plumbeous Vireo
**Mexican Jay**
Bridled Titmouse
Verdin
Bushtit
Pygmy Nuthatch
Cactus Wren
Canyon Wren
Bewick’s Wren
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
Phainopepla
Olive Warbler
**Painted Redstart**
Lucy's Warbler
Virginia's Warbler
**Grace's Warbler**
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler
**Red-faced Warbler**
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Spotted Towhee
**Canyon Towhee**
Green-tailed Towhee
Rufous-winged Sparrow
**Black-throated Sparrow**
Five-striped Sparrow
**Yellow-eyed Junco**
Hepatic Tanager
Summer Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Pyrrhuloxia
Lazuli Bunting
**Black-headed Grosbeak**
Bullock's Oriole
Scott's Orioles
Hooded Oriole
Lesser Goldfinch
Trip Details:

Cost:
Price per person (double occupancy), from Tucson, Arizona: $5,499
Single Supplement: $700
Minimum Participants: 3
Maximum Participants: 5

Price Includes:
Expert Guides
Ground Transportation in Arizona
All Lodging
All Meals
Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:
Airfare to and from Tucson, AZ
Airport Taxes
Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)
Alcoholic Beverages
Personal Items
Travel Insurance
Tips

Deposit:
A deposit of $500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (January 5, 2025).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:
Sabrewing Nature Tours acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Sabrewing Nature Tours and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Sabrewing Nature Tours. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.