

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13, 2014

Patagonia Loop

Leader: Claudia Kirchner

Reported by Barb Meding

Our group started the day with a quick loop through Santa Cruz flats via Sunshine Rd for any migrating Swainson's Hawks and we found a Lewis's Woodpecker on a utility pole. We met Larry Morgan (from Paton's) at Las Cienegas NCA where Claudia showed us a black-tailed prairie dog town and explained the reintroduction of this species to the grasslands. Wind gusts up to 35 MPH made birding the cottonwoods along Empire gulch challenging but we still managed to get 35 species including Gray and Zone-Tailed Hawks and a MacGillivray's Warbler. After lunch and a tour of the historic ranch house, we drove through Canelo Pass picking up Eastern Bluebirds. As we drove through the San Rafael grasslands we were treated to close up looks of Chihuahuan Ravens. Because of the wind we could actually see their white neck feathers. At the old Harshaw cemetery Mexican Jays entertained before we drove Harshaw Creek road into Patagonia. As we entered the town, we were surprised by a White-tailed Kite. We ended the day at Tucson Audubon's Paton House with a Violet-Crowned Hummingbird and 35 Lazuli Buntings among the usual birds. The next morning Larry once again joined us at Pena Blanca Lake where the highlight/trip bird was the Least Grebe. After lunch and a quick pass by the Rio Rico Ponds and the Amado STP, we headed home.

The participants were Kathe Anderson, Lois Lorenz, Susan Fishburn, Barbara Buck, Sue Moreland, Barb Meding, Claudia Kirchner.

Here are the 99 species we identified: Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Least Grebe, Pied-billed grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Gray Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Inca Dove, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Gila Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Hammond's Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Western kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Mexican Jay, Chihuahuan Raven, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bridled Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Canyon Towhee, Abert's Towhee, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Western Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged blackbird, Brewer's

Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch and House Sparrow