

Arizona and Sonora Mexico

21st December 2008 - 7th January 2009

Participants

Hans-Åke & Karin Gustavsson
Exercisgatan 30 B
SE-212 13 Malmö, Sweden
E-mail: hans-ake.gustavsson@telia.com

General information

The following observations were made during a two week holiday trip to Arizona. The main purpose of the trip was to visit friends living in Scottsdale and it was by no means a dedicated birding trip. As we had visited Arizona before during the same period of the year (in 1997-1998), birding was focused on localities or on species of certain personal interest. Therefore some common birds might be missing in the report or were only recorded in small numbers.

Compared to a visit during the spring or summer the number of species present is far lower during winter, but birding can still be very exciting. We recorded totally 155 species whereof 124 in Arizona and additionally 31 species only seen in Mexico.

Travel and lodging

We flew with British Airways from Copenhagen to London-Heathrow and continued from there non-stop to Phoenix. Tickets cost 9.477 SEK (c. 950 EURO) each. We booked our tickets rather late and with a bit better planning a better deal can probably be found. In Arizona we stayed with our (non-birding) friends in Scottsdale with the exception for two excursions; four days to Puerto Peñasco at the Sea of Cortez in Mexico and three days birding in southern Arizona, when we stayed in the following hotels or B & B:s:

Hotel Peñasco Del Sol, Puerto Peñasco, <http://www.hotelrockypoint.com/>. A modern, comfortable beach hotel which cost 93 USD per night for a double room without breakfast.

Marriott TownePlace Suites, Yuma, <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yumts-towneplace-suites-yuma/>. A modern apartment hotel where a two bedroom suite, large enough for the six of us cost 189 USD including a large buffet breakfast.

Santa Rita Lodge, Madera Canyon, <http://www.santaritalodge.com/>. Cabins and cositas (also kind of cabins but for maximum two people) of which the latter cost 92 USD per night. Very nice and friendly.

The Duquesne House Bed and Breakfast, Patagonia, <http://www.theduquesnehouse.com/>. A large two room suite which cost 125 USD including a very nice homemade Mexican-style breakfast. Strongly recommended!

Car rental

We rented a Ford Fusion from Hertz for 14 days (December 23rd – January 6th). The car was booked and pre-paid in advance from Sweden and cost 5.052 SEK (approximately 500 EUROS) including unlimited mileage, collision damage waiver, theft protection and taxes. Gas cost 1,65 USD per gallon and we drove totally 1.073 miles without any problems.

Weather

Compared to the very hot summer period, the weather during December-January is completely different, much cooler and rain, or in higher areas even snow, has to be expected. We experienced very variable conditions from rainy and cold (+5° C) to sunny and nice (+21° C).

Literature & maps

To find different localities we used "**Finding Birds in Southern Arizona**", seventh edition, published by the Tucson Audubon Society as well as the "**A Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona**", fourth edition from 1995 by Richard Cachor Taylor. In comparison the Taylor guide was definitely the preferred one, with more detailed descriptions of the localities, better maps and generally more information. This book is also available in an updated edition from 2005 which should be the best choice if only using one locality guide.

For the Phoenix area we used the "**Guide to 101 Birding Sites - Phoenix**" by Michael J. Rupp. The strength of this book is the large number of localities covered, which all are depicted in aerial photos, taken by the author himself. Unfortunately however, the information given about each locality is very basic, often only mentioning the commoner species or making statements like "*...various warblers, sparrows, wrens and tanagers...*"

Mexico

The trip to Mexico was decided with short notice and the main purpose was to escape from the cold winter weather. The journey from Scottsdale to Puerto Peñasco, a beach resort on the northeastern shore of the Sea of Cortez in Golfo de California, took approximately four hours. On the way down we drove via the border crossing at Lukeville (open 06 -24) and on the way back we drove via Algodones, northwest of Yuma (and thereby also touching the southeastern corner of California). Here, there are two possibilities to cross the border; at San Luis/Yuma (open 24/7) and a smaller crossing at Algodones (open 06-22). When re-entering USA we had to wait in line for almost two hours, so take this into account for the return trip if you go to Mexico.

The roads from Lukeville/Sonoita to Puerto Peñasco, as well as from Sonoita to San Luis/Yuma, were of good standard with light or moderate traffic only. Please note however that there are almost no gas stations or other facilities along these desert roads.

The "**Finding Birds in Southern Arizona**" contains a chapter about birding in the surroundings of Puerto Peñasco. During our stay, birding was limited to evening and morning walks along the beach close to the hotel as well as a two hour visit to the mudflats and estuaries of Cholla Bay, just a few miles northwest of the hotel areas. Here **Reddish Egret**, **American Oystercatcher**, **Wilson's Plover** as well as large numbers of other shorebirds were seen. If possible, visit the area during high tide. Otherwise many of the birds will be seen only very distant

In general we found Mexico to be nice and pleasant and the only incident was when we got stopped by the police when making a forbidden left turn in San Luis. The police officer initially was going to fine us with 85 USD for this and wanted to confiscate the license of the driver, until the fine had been paid in the police station, which we didn't find as a good option considering the long queue at the border. However, after some discussions this was "solved" by the police officer by accepting 38 USD – which we said was all that we had in cash – on the spot, without giving any receipt. A quite interesting experience...

Useful contacts

The Audubon Society of Tucson runs the **Southeast Arizona Rare Bird Alert**, <http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/birding/seazrba.htm> where sightings of rarer species are posted as well as useful information about access conditions to some localities, ongoing road works/deviations etc. This site is normally updated only weekly but is still a good source of interesting information.

Another useful sight is the **Arizona-New Mexico Birding List**, <http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/AZNM.html>, a mailing list, constantly updated, often containing interesting observations, descriptions how to find different birds etc.

Itinerary

Sunday, 21st December

Left Malmö at 07:30 and flew off from Copenhagen at 10:40. Arrived in Phoenix at 19:15 local time, slightly delayed. Got picked up by our hosts and went to their house in Scottsdale where we had a few beers before crashing into bed, rather tired after the journey.

Monday, 22nd December

Slow start with some garden birding during the morning when the only *Gilded Flicker* of the trip was seen. Otherwise no birding.

Tuesday, 23rd December

A walk in the desert scrub close to the Westworld Exhibition Center during two hours in the afternoon, otherwise no birding

Wednesday, 24th December

Visited Saguaro Lake, northeast of Fountain Hills in the morning and Gilbert Water Ranch during the afternoon. The latter proved to be a very nice, easy accessible site with numerous waterbirds present. Finished the day with some shopping at the Pavilions Shopping center where the small ponds close to the crossing of E Indian Bend Road and N Pima Road contained a pair of *Hooded Mergansers* among several other water birds.

Thursday, 25th December

Rain almost all day. Found out on the web that a *Wood Duck* had been seen at Camelback Lake in the center of Scottsdale earlier the same day. As this would be a lifer for me, we promptly went there and found the bird without problems. Also present was a *Pacific Loon* as well as a *Ring-billed Gull*. Continued to the Scottsdale Community College where a Burrowing owl had been reported but failed to find it despite the weather beginning to clear up.

Friday, 26th December

Made a second visit to the Gilbert Water Ranch during the morning. More or less the same birds as on the 24th with the addition of 15 *Northern Rough-winged Swallows* pushed down by the rain during the previous day. Drove towards the Cave Creek Dam, north of Scottsdale late in the afternoon but was caught up in a snow storm. Few birds were seen but plenty of people took the opportunity to watch and take photos of the landscape in a thin cover of snow.

Saturday, 27th December

Left Scottsdale at 08:55 and arrived in Puerto Peñasco at 13:45. Took a two hour walk along the beach northwest of the city in the evening. Six species of gulls were present of which *Yellow-footed Gull* was of the greatest interest. Also present were some shorebirds, among others a flock of *Surfbirds* and a *Royal Tern*.

Sunday, 28th December

Spent the two first hours of daylight walking on the beach again. Bitterly cold winds from the north and more or less the same birds as the previous day. New species included several *Common Loons* and *Brown Boobies*. The rest of the day was spent on tourism including a delicious meal of grilled shrimps in the evening.

Monday, 29th December

Again the hours from dawn to breakfast were spent on the beach. Thereafter we went to Pelican Point and the large mudflats and adjacent estuaries at Cholla Bay, a very nice area. Birds seen included **Reddish Egret, Prairie Falcon, Wilson's- Snowy-** and **Semipalmated Plovers, American Oystercatcher, Long-billed Curlew** and **Marbled Godwit**. The afternoon was spent travelling back to the US via San Luis-Algodones to Yuma where we stayed overnight.

Tuesday, 30th December

The whole day was spent in Algodones in non-birding purposes. Drove back to Scottsdale in the evening.

Wednesday, 31st December

Mainly a shopping and relaxing day. Made a second attempt to find the **Burrowing Owls** at the Scottsdale Community College and this time we succeeded in finding a bird sitting on the ground close to the parking lot.

Thursday, 1st January

Slow start after the New Year celebrations last night. Went to the South Trails Area of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, in the outskirts of Scottsdale and hiked 4-5 miles along the trails above the city. Pleasant weather but rather few birds, the only **Costa's Hummingbird** of the trip was however seen feeding in flowering Ocotillos in a small desert wash.

Friday, 2nd January

Left Scottsdale at 07:20 and headed south. First stop at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, close to Tucson where we arrived at 09:30. The "museum" is actually a zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, all in one place, and a visit is strongly recommended. Continued to the Madera Canyon where we first visited the area around the Florida Work Station where **Hammond's Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo** and a **Greater Roadrunner** were seen. After checking in at the Santa Rita Lodge we walked along the trails close to the lodge for the rest of the evening. Lots of birds at the feeders and species seen included **Arizona Woodpecker, Mexican Jay** and **Painted Redstart**. A short night walk for owls however unfortunately proved fruitless.

Saturday, 3rd January

Early morning was spent along the trail along the Madera Creek. Rather quiet: a **Townsend's Warbler** being the most noticeable bird. Continued by walking the Carrie Nation Mine Trail, along the "Hopkins fork" of the canyon where a **Hermit Warbler** was found in a large mixed bird party. On the way down to the lodge a short stop at the Madera Kubo gave a single **Yellow-eyed Junco**, another **Painted Redstart** as well as three **Raccoons** running off in a small stream. After checking out of our cosita we continued down the canyon with stops at the Proctor parking area and the Florida Wash resulting in **Hammond's** and **Grey Flycatchers** as well as a **Green-tailed Towhee**. Drove the "shortcut" along the Box Canyon Road to Highway 83 and Sonoita and further on to Patagonia where we stayed for the night.

Sunday, 4th January

First hour of daylight was spent along the Blue Haven road just outside Patagonia looking for the Sinaloa wren (the first record for US) which had been present in the area since the 25th of August. Unfortunately no sign of the bird and with little time to our disposal we continued to the Patagonia Lake State Park where we birded until lunch. Birds seen included **Common Yellowthroat, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow** and a **Great Horned Owl** roosting in a tree along the Sonoita Creek. On the way back to Patagonia a short stop was made at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area where two **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** were seen. When arriving at the Paton's residence it unfortunately started to rain which decreased the hummingbird activity. Lots of birds at the feeders however, among others two **Lazuli Buntings**. The afternoon was spent visiting wineries in

the Elgin area before returning to Phoenix, a rather strenuous drive in bad weather conditions and with heavy traffic the last evening of the school winter holidays.

Monday, 5th January

Left Scottsdale at 07:10 and drove to the Theodore Roosevelt Lake, situated about 100 miles northeast of Phoenix. During our last visit in 1997-98 this locality hosted large numbers of waterbirds. Unfortunately, since then the water level had been raised significantly (the lake is a water reservoir) and the most productive, shallow northwestern parts, including a lot of riparian woodland, was now under water. Ducks included 35 **Redheads**, a few **Canvasbacks** and a single female **Wood Duck**. Other birds of interest were a pair of **Bald Eagles** and numerous **Ring-billed Gulls**.

On the way back to Phoenix stops were made at Sycamore Creek and at the Fountain Hills Lake, the latter producing a good selection of ducks among others 5 **Hooded Mergansers**.

Tuesday, 6th January

Our final day was spent without birding. Left Scottsdale at 16:30 and flew off from Phoenix Sky Harbor, on time 21:10.

Wednesday, 7th January

Long day of traveling and finally returning to our home in Malmö at 22:40.

List of species

1. **Canada Goose** – *Branta canadensis*
3 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 20 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 50 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.12, 15 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
2. **Wood Duck** – *Aix sponsa*
1 male Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 1 female Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
3. **Gadwall** – *Anas strepera*
5 Patagonia Lake 4.1, 5 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
4. **American Wigeon** – *Anas americana*
c.80 Ponds at Pavilions shopping center, Scottsdale 24.12, c.150 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, c.100 Ponds at Pavilions shopping center, Scottsdale 31.12, c.100 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
5. **Mallard** – *Anas platyrhynchos*
Rather common. Highest count: c.200 Ponds at Pavilions shopping center, Scottsdale 24.12. 2 birds resembling “Mexican Ducks” at Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12.
6. **Cinnamon Teal** – *Anas cyanoptera*
1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 3 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
7. **Northern Shoveler** – *Anas clypaeta*
c.100 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 30 Camelback lake, Scottsdale 25.12, c.120 Gilbert Water Ranch 26.12, c.30 Gilbert Water Ranch 26.12, 5 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.12, 25 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1. Mexico: 1 Puerto Peñasco 27-28.12.
8. **Northern Pintail** – *Anas acuta*
c.300 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 and 26.12, 15 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
9. **Green-winged Teal** – *Anas carolinensis*
c.150 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 and 26.12, 2 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.12, 20 Patagonia Lake 4.1.

10. **Canvasback** – *Aythya valisineria*
6 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
11. **Redhead** – *Aythya Americana*
c.35 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
12. **Ring-necked Duck** – *Aythya collaris*
c.30 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 and 26.12, 5 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12,
5 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.12, c.20 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
13. **Lesser Scaup** – *Aythya affinis*
9 Saguaro Lake, Fountain Hills 24.12, 3 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
14. **Surf Scooter** – *Melanitta perspicillata*
Mexico only: c.20 Puerto Peñasco 28-29.12.
15. **Bufflehead** – *Bucephala albeola*
c.45 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
16. **Common Goldeneye** – *Bucephala clangula*
1 male Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
17. **Goosander** – *Mergus merganser*
10 Saguaro Lake, Fountain Hills 24.12, c.20 Gilbert Water Ranch 26.12, 5 Patagonia Lake 4.1,
3 Tonto River, just north of Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
18. **Red-breasted Merganser** – *Mergus serrator*
Mexico only: 10-25 daily Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.
19. **Hooded Merganser** – *Lophodytes cucullatus*
1 male and 1 female Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 24.12, 2 males and
2 females Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 26.12, 2 males and 3 females Fountain
Hills Lake 5.1.
20. **Ruddy Duck** – *Oxyura jamaicensis*
c.30 Saguaro Lake 24.12, c.20 Gilbert Water Ranch 24.12 and 26.12, 10 Camelback Lake,
Scottsdale 25.12, 10 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.,12, c.40 Patagonia Lake
4.1, c.30 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1, c.30 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
21. **Gambel's Quail** – *Callipepla gambelii*
Rather common, totally 100 birds recorded 22.12-6.1. Highest count: 30 Scottsdale 23.12.
22. **Pacific Loon** – *Gavia pacificus*
1 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12. Mexico: c.10 Puerto Peñasco 28.12.
23. **Common Loon** – *Gavia immer*
Mexico only: c.15 Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
24. **Pied-billed Grebe** – *Podilymbus podiceps*
Rather common, totally 32 birds recorded 24.12.5.1. Highest count: c.15 Gilbert Water Ranch,
Phoenix 24.12.
25. **Black-necked Grebe** – *Podiceps nigricollis*
1 Saguaro Lake 24.12, 35 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1, 5 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1. Mexico: Up
to 20 Puerto Peñasco 28-29.12.
26. **Western Grebe** – *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
At least 370 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1. Mexico: 25 Puerto Peñasco 28-29.12.
27. **Brown Booby** – *Sula leucogaster*
Mexico only: Totally 20 Puerto Peñasco 28-29.12.

28. **Brown Pelican** – *Pelecanus occidentalis*
Mexico only: More than 100 daily Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.
29. **Neotropic Cormorant** – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
 6 Gilbert Water Ranch 26.12.
30. **Double-crested Cormorant** – *Phalacrocorax auritus*
 c.25 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, c.30 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1. Mexico: up to 200 daily Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.
31. **Great Blue Heron** – *Ardea herodias*
 Rather common. Totally 28 birds recorded 23.12-5.1.
32. **Great White Egret** – *Egretta alba*
 15 Gilbert Water Ranch 24.12, 1 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 24.12, 2 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 5 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12, 2 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.12, 1 Verde River, Fountain Hills 5.1, 2 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
33. **Snowy Egret** – *Egretta thula*
 1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 and 26.12. Mexico: 5 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12, 1 Algodones 30.12.
34. **Reddish Egret** – *Egretta rufescens*
Mexico only: 2 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.



Reddish Egret

35. **Green Heron** – *Butorides virescens*
 1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 1 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 6 Gilbert Water Ranch 26.12.
36. **Black-crowned Night-heron** – *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 5 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 6 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12.
37. **Black Vulture** – *Coragyps atratus*
Mexico only: 40 Sonoita 27.12, 5 Sonoita 29.12.
38. **Turkey Vulture** – *Cathartes aura*
 8 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 6 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12. Mexico: 5 Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
39. **Osprey** – *Pandion haliaetus*
 1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12. Mexico: Totally 11 birds recorded 27-30.12.
40. **Bald Eagle** – *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
 2 adults Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1, 1 imm. Verde River, Fountain Hills 5.1.

41. **Northern Harrier** – *Circus cyaneus*
Totally 9 birds recorded 25.12-5.1.
42. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** – *Accipiter striatus*
1 Gilbert, Phoenix 26.12.
43. **Cooper's Hawk** – *Accipiter cooperii*
1 Scottsdale 22.12, 1 Scottsdale 1.1, 1 Paton's residence, Patagonia 4.1, 2 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
44. **Harris's Hawk** – *Parabuteo unicinctus*
3 Scottsdale 26.12.
45. **Red-tailed Hawk** – *Buteo jamaicensis*
Common. Totally 29 birds recorded 23.12-5.1.
46. **American Kestrel** – *Falco sparverius*
Common. Totally 31 birds recorded 22.12-6.1.
47. **Prairie Falcon** – *Falco mexicanus*
Mexico only: 1 Puerto Peñasco 29.12, 1 San Luis 29.12.
48. **Common Moorhen** – *Gallinula chloropus*
5 Patagonia Lake 4.1. Mexico: 1 Algodones 30.12.
49. **American Coot** – *Fulica americana*
Common. Present at most freshwater locations.
50. **Black-bellied Plover** – *Pluvialis squatarola*
Mexico only: totally c.25 Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.
51. **Snowy Plover** – *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Mexico only: 2-3 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 28-29.12.
52. **Semipalmated Plover** – *Charadrius semipalmatus*
Mexico only: 2 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
53. **Wilson's Plover** – *Charadrius wilsonia*
Mexico only: 3 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
54. **Killdeer** – *Charadrius vociferus*
1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 5 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 3 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12.
55. **American Oystercatcher** – *Haematopus palliatus*
Mexico only: 6 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
56. **Black-necked Stilt** – *Himantopus mexicanus*
c.25 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 and 26.12, 10 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 24.12, 10 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 10 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.12. Mexico: 1 Puerto Peñasco 28.12.
57. **American Avocet** – *Recurvirostra americana*
2 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 & 26.12.
58. **Greater Yellowlegs** – *Tringa melanoleuca*
Mexico only: 1 Puerto Peñasco 28.12, c.10 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
59. **Willet** – *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*
Mexico only: up to 35 daily Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.

60. **Spotted Sandpiper** – *Actitis macularia*
1 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1, 2 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1.
61. **Whimbrel** – *Numenius phaeopus*
Mexico only: 5 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
62. **Long-billed Curlew** – *Numenius americanus*
Mexico only: c.20 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
63. **Marbled Godwit** – *Limosa fedoa*
Mexico only: 1 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
64. **Ruddy Turnstone** – *Arenaria interpres*
Mexico only: 1 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
65. **Surfbird** – *Aphriza virgata*
Mexico only: 16 Puerto Peñasco 28-29.12.



Surfbird

66. **Dunlin** – *Calidris alpina*
Mexico only: c.40 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
67. **Sanderling** – *Calidris alba*
Mexico only: up to 25 daily, Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.
68. **Least Sandpiper** – *Calidris minutilla*
c.200 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 and 26.12, c.10 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 24.12, c.10 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 5 Pavilions shopping center ponds, Scottsdale 31.12, 4 Fountain Hills Lake 5.1. Mexico: 5 Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
69. **Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
c.200 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 & 26.12. Mexico: 3 on the beach at Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12, c.10 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
70. **Wilson's Snipe** – *Gallinago delicata*
3 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12.
71. **Bonaparte's Gull** – *Larus Philadelphi*
Mexico only: 5 Puerto Peñasco 28.12 and 29.12.
72. **Heermann's Gull** – *Larus heermanni*
Mexico only: Common in Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12, up to 300 daily.
73. **Ring-billed Gull** – *Larus delawarensis*
1 adult Saguaro Lake, Fountain Hills 24.12, 1 adult Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 1 adult Gila Bend 27.12, c.35 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1. Mexico: Common in Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12, up to 400 daily.

74. **California Gull** – *Larus californicus*
Mexico only: up to 75 daily Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.
75. **Herring Gull** – *Larus argentatus*
Mexico only: 1 Puerto Peñasco 28.12, 15 Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
76. **Yellow-footed Gull** – *Larus livens*
Mexico only: totally 75 birds recorded Puerto Peñasco 27-29.12.



Mexican gulls. From left: Ring-billed, Bonaparte's, California and Yellow-footed

77. **Caspian Tern** – *Hydroprogne caspia*
Mexico only: 7 Puerto Peñasco 28.12, at least 10 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
78. **Royal Tern** – *Thalasseus maximus*
Mexico only: 2 Puerto Peñasco 27.12, 7 Puerto Peñasco 28.12.
79. **Forster's Tern** – *Sterna forsteri*
Mexico only: 7 Puerto Peñasco 28.12, at least 5 Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco 29.12.
80. **Rock Dove** – *Columba livia*
 Feral birds recorded during five days 26.12-5.1.
81. **European Collared Dove** – *Streptopelia decaocto*
 20 Mesa 22.12, 2 Gilbert 26.12, 20-25 daily Patagonia area 3-4.1, c.30 Theodore Roosevelt Lake-Fountain Hills 5.1.
82. **White-winged Dove** – *Zenaida asiatica*
 1 Patagonia 4.1.
83. **Mourning Dove** – *Zenaida macroura*
 Common. Recorded during 15 days 22.12-6.1.
84. **Greater Roadrunner** – *Geococcyx californianus*
 1 Florida Work Center, Madera Canyon 2.1, 1 Verde River, east of Fountain Hills 5.1.
85. **Great Horned Owl** – *Bubo virginianus*
 1 on a day roost Sonoita Creek 4.1.
86. **Burrowing Owl** – *Athene cunicularia*
 1 Scottsdale Community College (Chaparral x Loop 101) 31.12.



Burrowing Owl

87. **Peach-faced Lovebird** – *Agapornis roseicollis*
5 Gilbert Water Ranch 24.12.
88. **Anna’s Hummingbird** - *Calypte anna*
Rather common. Totally 44 birds recorded 22.12-5.1.



Anna’s Hummingbird

89. **Costa’s Hummingbird** – *Calypte costae*
1 male McDowell Sonoran Preserve, South Trails Area, Scottsdale 1.1.
90. **Acorn Woodpecker** – *Melanerpes formicivorus*
2 Madera Canyon 2.1, c.10 Madera Canyon 3.1, c.10 Patagonia 4.1.
91. **Gila Woodpecker** – *Melanerpes uropygialis*
Rather common. Totally 26 birds recorded during seven days 23.12-6.1.
92. **Red-naped Sapsucker** – *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*
1 Santa Rita Lodge, Madera Canyon 2.1, 1 Carrie Nation Mine Trail, Madera Canyon 3.1,
2 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
93. **Ladder-backed Woodpecker** – *Picoides scalaris*
4 Sonoita Creek 4.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1, 1 male Sycamore Creek, NE of Phoenix
5.1.
94. **Arizona Woodpecker** – *Picoides arizonae*
1 male Santa Rita Lodge, Madera Canyon 2.1, 1 male Carrie Nation Mine Trail, Madera Canyon
3.1.
95. **Northern Flicker** – *Colaptes auratus*
2 Scottsdale 23.12, 1 Madera Canyon 3.1, 2 Patagonia 4.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1,
3 Sycamore Creek, NE of Phoenix 5.1, 1 Scottsdale 6.1. All birds of the red-shafted form.
96. **Gilded Flicker** – *Colaptes chrysoides*
1 female Scottsdale 22.12.
97. **Hammond’s Flycatcher** – *Empidonax hammondii*
1 Florida Work Station, Madera Canyon 2.1, 2 Proctor Road, Madera Canyon 3.1.
98. **Grey Flycatcher** – *Empidonax wrightii*
1 Florida Wash, Madera Canyon 3.1, 2 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
99. **Black Phoebe** – *Syornis nigricans*
Rather common. Totally 10 birds recorded 22.12-5.1.
100. **Say’s Phoebe** – *Sayornis saya*
Rather common. Totally 13 birds recorded 22.12-5.1.
101. **Ash-throated Flycatcher** – *Myiarchus cinerascens*
2 Patagonia Lake 4.1.

102. **Loggerhead Shrike** – *Lanius ludivicianus*
1 Cave Creek Road, Scottsdale 26.12. Mexico: 1 along the road Puerto Peñasco-Sonoita 29.12.
103. **Hutton's Vireo** – *Vireo huttoni*
1 Florida Work Station, Madera Canyon 2.1, 1 Carrie Nation Mine Trail, Madera Canyon 3.1,
2 Proctor Road, Madera Canyon 3.1, 2 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
104. **Western Scrub-Jay** – *Aphelocoma californica*
5 Sycamore Creek, NE of Phoenix 5.1.
105. **Mexican Jay** – *Aphelocoma ultramarina*
Common in upper Madera Canyon. Approximately 70 birds seen 2-3.1.
106. **Chihuahuan Raven** – *Corvus cryptoleucus*
Mexico only: c.10 birds in the desert along the road Sonoita-Puerto Peñasco 27.12 and 29.12.
107. **Common Raven** – *Corvus corax*
Common. Recorded during 11 days 22.12-5.1.
108. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
2 Camelback Lake, Scottsdale 25.12, 15 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12.
109. **Bridled Titmouse** – *Parus wollweberi*
10-15 daily in Madera Canyon 2-3.1, 5 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
110. **Verdin** – *Auriparus flaviceps*
1 Scottsdale 23.12, 3 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 5 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix
26.12, 1 McDowell Sonoran Preserve, South Trails Area, Scottsdale 1.1, 2 Proctor Road,
Madera Canyon 3.1.
111. **White-breasted Nuthatch** – *Sitta carolinensis*
c. 10 Madera Canyon 2-3.1, 5 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
112. **Brown Creeper** – *Certhia americana*
1 Carrie Nation Mine Trail, Madera Canyon 3.1, 1 Sonoita Creek 4.1.
113. **Cactus Wren** – *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*
Rather common. Totally 21 birds recorded 23.12-6.1.
114. **Rock Wren** – *Salpinctes obsoletus*
1 McDowell Sonoran Preserve, South Trails Area, Scottsdale 1.1. Mexico: 3 Puerto Peñasco
28.12.
115. **Bewick's Wren** – *Thryomanes bewickii*
1 Blue Haven Road, Patagonia 4.1, 1 Sonoita Creek 4.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
Surprisingly few.
116. **House Wren** – *Troglodytes aedon*
1 Sonoita Creek 4.1.
117. **Marsh Wren** – *Cistothorus palustris*
3 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
118. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – *Regulus calendula*
Rather common. Totally 75 birds recorded 22.12-5.1. Highest number: c.40 Madera Canyon
3.1.
119. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – *Polioptila caerulea*
1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12.
120. **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** – *Polioptila melanura*
1 female Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson 2.1.

121. **Hermit Thrush** – *Catharus guttatus*
2 Madera Canyon Picnic Area 2.1, 1 Madera Canyon 3.1, 1 Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 4.1.
122. **Northern Mockingbird** – *Mimus polyglottos*
Rather common. Totally 23 birds recorded during eight days 22.12-6.1.
123. **Curve-billed Thrasher** – *Toxostoma curvirostre*
Only 12 birds recorded during five days 22.12-3.1.
124. **Buff-bellied Pipit** – *Anthus rubescens*
2 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12.
125. **Phainopepla** – *Phainopepla nitens*
Totally 19 birds recorded during six days 23.12-5.1.
126. **European Starling** – *Sturnus vulgaris*
Common. Recorded during 13 days 22.12-6.1.
127. **Orange-crowned Warbler** – *Vermivora celata*
1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 2 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12, 1 Proctor Road, Madera Canyon 3.1, 1 Patagonia lake 4.1.
128. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** – *Dendroica coronata*
Common. Totally 66 birds recorded 22.12-5.1.
129. **Townsend's Warbler** – *Dendroica townsendi*
Totally 8 in Madera Canyon 3.1.
130. **Hermit Warbler** – *Dendroica occidentalis*
1 female Carrie Nation Mine Trail, Madera Canyon 3.1.
131. **Common Yellowthroat** – *Geothlypis trichas*
1 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
132. **Painted redstart** – *Myioborus pictus*
1 adult Madera Canyon Amphitheatre 2.1, 1 adult Madera Kubo 3.1.
133. **Northern Cardinal** – *Cardinalis cardinalis*
1 Saguaro Lake, Fountain Hills 24.12, 1 Cave Creek Road, Scottsdale 26.12, 2 Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 4.1. 3 Paton's residence, Patagonia 4.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1, 2 Sycamore Creek, NE Phoenix 5.1
134. **Lazuli Bunting** – *Passerina amoena*
2 Paton's residence, Patagonia 4.1.
135. **Green-tailed Towhee** – *Pipilo chlorutus*
1 Proctor Road, Madera Canyon 3.1.
136. **Spotted Towhee** – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*
1 Sycamore Creek, NE of Phoenix 5.1.
137. **Canyon Towhee** – *Pipilo fuscus*
5 Sycamore Creek, NE of Phoenix 5.1.
138. **Abert's Towhee** – *Pipilo aberti*
Rather common. Totally 29 birds recorded during five days 22.12-5.1.
139. **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** – *Aimophila ruficeps*
2 Patagonia Roadside Rest Area 4.1.
140. **Chipping Sparrow** – *Spizella passerina*
10-15 daily Madera Canyon 2-3.1, c.30 Paton's Residence, Patagonia 4.1.

141. **Black-throated Sparrow** – *Amphispiza bilineata*
3 Saguaro Lake, Fountain Hills 24.12, c.10 Cave Creek Road, Scottsdale 26.12, 3 McDowell Sonoran Preserve, South Trails Area, Scottsdale 1.1.
142. **Savannah Sparrow** – *Passerculus sandwichensis*
3 on farm fields along Chaparral Rd, east of Loop 101, Scottsdale 31.12.
143. **Song Sparrow** – *Melospiza melodia*
2 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 26.12, 1 Patagonia Lake 4.1, 1 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
144. **Lincoln's Sparrow** – *Melospiza lincolni*
1 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12, 2 Paton's residence, Patagonia 4.1.
145. **Swamp Sparrow** – *Melospiza georgiana*
1 Patagonia Lake 4.1.
146. **White-crowned Sparrow** – *Zonotrichia leucophrys*
Common. Recorded during eight days 22.12-5.1.
147. **Dark-eyed Junco** – *Junco hyemalis*
5 Saguaro Lake, Fountain Hills 24.12, 20-30 daily Madera Canyon 2-3.1, 10 Patagonia Lake 4.1, c.40 Sycamore Creek, NE of Phoenix 5.1 whereof at least 5 of the "Oregon form".
148. **Yellow-eyed Junco** – *Junco phaeonotus*
1 Madera Kubo 3.1.
149. **Red-winged Blackbird** – *Agelaius phoeniceus*
Rather common. Largest numbers: at least 300 Gilbert Water Ranch, Phoenix 24.12 and 26.12.
150. **Western Meadowlark** – *Sturnella neglecta*
1 on farm fields along Chaparral Rd, east of Loop 101, Scottsdale 31.12, 1 Patagonia Lake 4.1, c.30 Elgin 4.1.
151. **Great-tailed Grackle** – *Quiscalus mexicanus*
Common. Recorded daily.
152. **House Finch** – *Carpodacus mexicanus*
Common. Totally 250 birds recorded during 11 days 22.12-6.1.
153. **Pine Siskin** – *Carduelis pinus*
c.30 Madera Canyon 2-3.1, c.15 Paton's Residence, Patagonia 4.1.
154. **Lesser Goldfinch** – *Carduelis psaltria*
c.20 Madera Canyon 2-3.1, c.20 Paton's residence, Patagonia 4.1, c.20 Theodore Roosevelt Lake 5.1.
155. **House Sparrow** – *Passer domesticus*
Common. Recorded during 13 days 22.12-4.1.

Mammals

- Coues White-tailed Deer** – *Odocoileus virginianus couesi*
3 Madera Canyon 3.1.
- Antelope Jackrabbit** – *Lepus alleni*
1 Patagonia Lake State Park 4.1.
- Common Raccon** – *Procyon lotor*
3 Madera Kubo 3.1.
- Coyote** – *Canis latrans*
1 Saguaro Lake, Fountain Hills 24.12.