

## **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists will take place at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center, 2047 South Highway 92, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635, 520-459-5900, [www.windemerehotel.com](http://www.windemerehotel.com). The dates are Wednesday, August 17 to Sunday, August 21, 2011. Details on the meeting are below and online at [www.westernfieldornithologists.org](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org).

The program includes:

- **Dan Fischer**, author of *Early Southwest Ornithologists* and dedicated naturalist with many decades of local experience, will open the science portion of our annual meeting with a Plenary Session on Friday, August 19. Dan will introduce us to the contributions of ornithologists responsible for finding many species unique to the area and share their exciting (and harrowing) experiences in the field.
- **Troy Corman**, president of Arizona Field Ornithologists, will open the Saturday Science Sessions with a review of recent trends in status and distribution of Arizona birds.
- Two afternoons of science sessions, Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20
- Visual and sound identification challenges moderated by **Ed Harper** and **Nathan Pieplow**
- Four morning workshops to further enhance skills will be conducted by a group of western experts in their fields. (Complete descriptions at the end of this and on the website)
  - *Flycatcher Identification* with **Homer Hansen** (classroom session Friday, field session Saturday)
  - *Bird Banding* with **Heather Swanson**
  - *Wilderness First Aid* with **Heath Wakelee**
  - *Skins Preparation Workshop* with **Kimball Garrett & Company**
- Welcoming reception on Thursday, August 18 hosted by **Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors**.
- Annual Banquet and Membership Meeting. **Peter Pyle** will give our **Keynote Address** Saturday evening, August 20 on Molt Migration and the Southwestern Monsoon. This recently-discovered phenomenon has added significantly to our understanding of movements of western birds and has important conservation implications for many species. Peter is probably best known for his monumental publications on identification of birds in the hand, *Guide to North American Birds, Parts 1 and 2*, the bible for all North American banders.
- Coordinated by WFO board member **Kurt Leuschner**, we are offering an impressive suite of regional field trips over six days, including two pre-meeting trips and one post-meeting trip. In addition to the pre and post-meeting trips, full

day trips will be Thursday, August 18 and Sunday, August 21. Part-day field trips will be Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20 in the AM. Most trips are limited to 12 participants to ensure the best possible experience and, vans will be provided for most trips. Detailed descriptions of field trips are in this document and can be viewed during the online registration process. **We recommend you review the many options before beginning your registration.**

- An informal wrap up reception at the end of the day on Sunday, August 21 at the Windemere.
- Special Fundraising overnight field trip to California Gulch, Patagonia, and Rio Rico led by **Jon Dunn** and **Kurt Leuschner** August 21-22. This two day trip will begin in Sierra Vista on Sunday and end at California Gulch on Monday afternoon. Along the way we'll bird the Sonoita grasslands, Patagonia, the Rio Rico area near Nogales, and Pena Blanca Lake. A wide variety of habitats and famous birding spots will be sampled as we make our way to our ultimate destination: California Gulch, where Five-striped Sparrows await. We'll overnight at the very comfortable Rio Rico Inn which lies in the midst of some incredible birding opportunities. 'Lilian's' Eastern Meadowlark, Varied Bunting, Thick-billed Kingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Gray Hawk, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Painted Bunting, Least Grebe (and more!) are all possible.

Meeting Faculty and Field Trip Leaders List:

Ken Able (Workshop Coordinator)  
Tony Battiste (field trips)  
Carol Beardmore (field trips)  
Bob Behrstock (field trips)  
Daryl Coldren (field trips)  
Tory Corman (Plenary Session, field trips)  
Roger Craig (field trips)  
Bob Dickerman (Skins Workshop)  
Jon Dunn (field trips)  
Jon Feenstra (field trips)  
Dan Fischer (Plenary Session)  
Robbie Fischer (Registration Coordinator)  
Ted Floyd (field trips)  
Mary Freeman (field trips)  
Nick Freeman (field trips)  
Kimball Garrett (Skins Workshop, field trips)  
Dan Gibson (Skins Workshop, field trips)  
Bob Gill (field trips)  
Homer Hansen (Flycatcher ID Workshop)  
Ed Harper (Visual ID panel moderator)  
Lauren Harter (field trips)

Fred Heath (field trips)  
Oscar Johnson (field trips)  
Melody Kehl (field trips)  
Mary Klinkel (field trips)  
Dave Krueper (field trips)  
Kurt Leuschner (Field Trip Coordinator)  
Michael Marsden (field trips)  
Kathy Molina (Skins Workshop)  
Narca Moore-Craig (field trips)  
Ted Mouras (field trips)  
Ed Pandolfino (field trips)  
Nathan Pieplow (Sound ID Panel moderator, field trips)  
Peter Pyle (Keynote Speaker)  
Dave Quady (Science Sessions, ID Panels, field trips)  
Tom Ryan (field trips)  
Dave Shuford (field trips)  
John Sterling (field trips)  
Connie Stevens (field trips)  
Heather Swanson (Banding Workshop)  
Scott Terrill (field trips)  
Linda Terrill (field trips)  
Phil Unitt (Skins Workshop, field trips)  
David Vander Pluym (field trips)  
Debbie Van Dooremolen (Science Sessions, ID Panels, field trips)  
Heath Wakelee (Wilderness First Aid Workshop)  
Wezil Walraven (field trips)  
Catherine Waters (WFO past president)  
Richard Webster (field trips)  
Jack Whetstone (field trips)  
Sheri Williamson (field trips)  
Erika Wilson (field trips)

## **FIELD TRIPS**

### **Wednesday, August 17**

Pre-conference special:

#### ***The Chiricahuas with Kurt Leuschner***

We'll sample a variety of habitats as we bird and drive from the desert scrub of Portal and the riparian zone/oak woodland of Cave Creek Canyon to Barfoot Park in the high country of the Chiricahuas. We will focus on finding Short-tailed Hawk and Mexican Chickadee, two specialties of the area. Other possibilities include: Zone-tailed Hawk, Elegant Trogon, Montezuma Quail, Juniper Titmouse, and Red Crossbill, plus a host of other species as well as spectacular scenery. High clearance vehicles recommended for the drive to Barfoot. Bring your own lunch/snacks for the entire day. After we're done birding in the late afternoon we'll head to Sierra Vista to join the conference at the Windemere Hotel Wednesday evening.

Suggested lodging for Tuesday night: Portal Peak Lodge.

Meeting time and place: For those spending Tuesday night, meet for dinner at 6PM at the Portal Peak cafe; Wednesday morning meet at 6:30AM in front of the Portal Peak cafe/store

Transportation: Carpooling

another pre-conference option:

#### ***California Gulch afternoon/evening special with Melody Kehl***

Melody will meet the group at 3PM at the McDonald's in Green Valley. From here you'll car-caravan (high clearance vehicles a must) to California Gulch, with the goal of finding the very local Five-striped Sparrow before sundown. On the way in you might see Varied Bunting and other Arizona specialties. In the evening the group may try for the Buff-collared Nightjar if the conditions are right. Expect to finish around 10PM so make sure you have guaranteed your room for Wednesday night at the Windemere. Bring your own dinner/snacks to get you through the evening.

Meeting time and place: 3PM at the McDonald's in Green Valley, 170 W Continental Rd, just off I-19 in the Safeway Shopping Center.

Transportation: Carpooling

and one more pre-conference option:

#### ***Owling in the Huachucas with Wezil Walraven***

Join local guide Wezil Walraven to listen and look for local owls in the canyons and foothills of the Huachuca Mountains. Western and Whiskered Screech-Owls are possible and will be targeted, but up to four other owl species may also be encountered. It's a

little too late in the year for Elf Owl but you never know.... Nightjars, nighthawks, and snakes will also be on the agenda. Don't forget to bring a flashlight or headlamp.

Meeting time and place: 6:30PM in the Windemere lobby

Transportation: Van provided

## **Thursday, August 18**

### ***Madera Canyon***

There are many birding opportunities along the way to Madera Canyon as you travel through the Sonoita grasslands and desert scrub. Just below Madera Canyon, Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows should be singing and Varied Bunting may be seen as you look for the Black-capped Gnatcatchers that nest in the area. Interesting hummingbirds occur throughout the canyon: Violet-crowned, Berylline and White-eared are all possible. As you hike along the upper trails Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Hepatic Tanager may be encountered and there is always the chance for a rarity like Aztec Thrush.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:30AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 5PM

Transportation: Van provided

### ***Patagonia (two trips offered)***

There are so many wonderful places to bird in Patagonia and we'll try to sample them all: the Paton's feeders, the picnic table, the Patagonia-Sonoita Sanctuary, Harshaw Canyon, and Lake Patagonia. Besides the usual riparian specialties, Zone-tailed Hawk, Rose-throated Becard, Thick-billed Kingbird, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Montezuma Quail and Black Vulture are all possible. In some years Sinaloa Wren, Neotropic Cormorant and Black-capped Gnatcatcher are seen. There are also grassland birding opportunities between Sierra Vista and Patagonia. It promises to be an exciting day of birding in one of Arizona's most famous locales!

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

### ***Ft. Huachuca: Garden Canyon/Scheelite Canyon***

This is one of southeastern Arizona's premiere spots for species such as Mexican Spotted Owl, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Montezuma Quail, and Elegant Trogon. Unexpected sightings over the years in this magical canyon include: Evening Grosbeak, Short-tailed

Hawk, and Northern Pygmy-Owl. The optional hike into Scheelite Canyon is moderately strenuous.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

NOTE: Open to US citizens only

### ***Bisbee area***

The Bisbee area is home to many resident southwestern species like Crissal Thrasher, Scott's Oriole, Black-throated Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia and Canyon Wren. There are also many places to bird on the way to Bisbee such as the San Pedro River crossings, where anything can show up (Gray Hawk and Common Black-Hawk for example). You'll also have a chance to see historic downtown Bisbee around lunchtime. On the way back to Sierra Vista a different route will be taken to increase the chances of new sightings.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

### ***Benson and St. David Area***

Along the San Pedro River near St. David there is a chance to see Mississippi Kite and if they are around they will be a target species. All the other riparian species are possible too, such as Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager and Gray Hawk. Depending on which way the wind is blowing, Benson Sewage ponds can turn up migrating shorebirds and lost species such as Brown Pelican. There are also mesquite thickets and side-canyons to explore en route to the Benson/St. David area where Scaled Quail, Crissal Thrasher, Chihuahuan Raven, Lucy's Warbler or Phainopepla may be seen.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

### ***Ash Canyon B&B plus pot luck canyon***

This trip will leave later for those who might be feeling sleep-deprived from owling or other activities the night before. It will visit the Ash Canyon B&B and add a visit to one of the other nearby canyons (Miller or Carr Canyon) at the discretion of the leader. At the Ash Canyon Bed and Breakfast there is usually at least one pair of Lucifer Hummingbird at the feeders. Patience is required (the chairs are very comfortable). While you are waiting, Montezuma Quail can often be heard in the nearby leaf-litter. Scott's Oriole,

Arizona Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher and other species typical of a slightly more xeric habitat are regular visitors to the feeders. Birds you might find in Carr or Miller Canyon are noted in descriptions of those trips elsewhere in this document or on the registration site.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **8:00AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 5:00PM

### ***The Other Chiricahuas***

Our birding begins at the lush riparian oasis of Leslie Canyon NWR, a little-known refuge situated at the southern end of the Chiricahua Mountains. Over 270 species of birds have been recorded along this short stretch of Leslie Creek. We'll next wind our way across arid lower slopes and healthy, well-managed grasslands, into the mountain fastness of Rucker Canyon, within the Chiricahua Wilderness Area. This infrequently-birded southerly region of the Chiricahuas always holds potential for producing both the interesting resident species typical of Southeast Arizona, and an unexpected visitor wandering up from Mexico, especially during the post-breeding season. Leslie Canyon has hosted up to three pairs of nesting Black-capped Gnatcatchers every year since their discovery in 2003—and Rucker Canyon sheltered an Eared Quetzal in the winter of 1995-6. We'll be looking for southern Arizona specialties, including Gould's Wild Turkey, Arizona Woodpecker, southwestern warblers such as Grace's and Painted Redstart, Cassin's and Botteri's sparrows, Yellow-eyed Junco, Varied Bunting... and Black-capped Gnatcatcher! (Hiking is mostly easy, with a few short stretches of moderate difficulty.)

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:30AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

## **Friday, August 19**

### ***Miller Canyon (two trips offered)***

At the Beatty's Orchard hummingbird feeders attract both White-eared and Berylline Hummingbird on a regular basis, in addition to common species like Blue-throated and Magnificent. An optional (strenuous) hike further up the canyon can yield Red-faced Warbler, Mexican Spotted Owl, as well the usual oak woodland specialties like Painted Redstart and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Ramsey Canyon***

Ramsey Canyon is a wonderful place to spend the morning with the chance to see all of the usual oak woodland specialties as well as hummingbirds that are attracted to the feeders near the nature shop/bookstore. The hike up the canyon is not nearly as steep as Miller Canyon. We'll look for Elegant Trogon, Plumbeous Vireo, Hepatic Tanager, and sightings of Aztec Thrush are possible.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***San Pedro House/hike to Kingfisher Pond***

This leisurely hike will take you from the San Pedro House to Kingfisher Pond and back. Along the way you will walk along the lush riparian corridor of the San Pedro River, filled with colorful species such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, and Vermilion Flycatcher. With any luck you might see a Varied Bunting, Gray Hawk, Great Horned Owl or a Green Kingfisher. The San Pedro House itself is also an interesting place to visit (great bookstore and nature store) and the hummingbird feeders attract Blue-throated Hummingbird and other species.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park***

You'll have the unique opportunity to explore behind-the-scenes at the Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park – a marshy wetland area that is kept alive with wastewater. All kinds of waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds are attracted to the year-

round water such as White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Cinnamon Teal. Other residents include: White-tailed Kite, Swainson's Hawk, and Chihuahuan Raven.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Ft. Huachuca/Huachuca Canyon***

Huachuca Canyon on Fort Huachuca is an easy-to-get-to and less crowded version of nearby Garden Canyon. Here you might see any of the species associated with Garden Canyon. The presence of sycamore trees and running water attracts Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and other species typical of the surrounding oak/pine woodland such as Hepatic Tanager.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

NOTE: Open to US citizens only

### ***Montezuma Quail Quest***

Our target will be Montezuma Quail – no guarantees for this tough bird but we'll have fun trying to get a look at one of the most elusive birds in southeastern Arizona. Wear long pants and bring bug spray as we'll be walking through dry grass. We'll get to see parts of the Coronado National Memorial and if there's time we might stop at the Ash Canyon B&B to do some hummingbird watching. Besides the quail, there will be beautiful scenery and plenty of other interesting birds we'll see along the way.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### **Two evening options for those who don't mind being sleep-deprived:**

#### ***Owling in the Huachucas with Wezil Walraven***

Join local guide Wezil Walraven to listen and look for local owls in the canyons and foothills of the Huachuca Mountains. Western and Whiskered Screech-Owls are possible and will be targeted, but up to four other owl species may also be encountered. It's a little too late in the year for Elf Owl but you never know.... Nightjars, nighthawks, and snakes will also be on the agenda. Don't forget to bring a flashlight or headlamp.

Meeting time and place: 6:30PM in the Windemere lobby

Transportation: Van provided

## ***Crepuscular Herps and other Night-time Critters with Nick & Mary Freeman***

This late afternoon/evening adventure will explore the local canyons and roadways for lizards, snakes and other night-time critters including mammals and birds. The exact locations visited will be a last minute decision based on the weather and recent sightings. You never know what you might find in this rich and biodiverse area. Don't forget to bring a flashlight or headlamp.

Meeting time and place: 6:00PM in the Windemere lobby

Transportation: Van provided

## **Saturday, August 20**

### ***Miller Canyon***

At the Beatty's Orchard hummingbird feeders attract both White-eared and Berylline Hummingbird on a regular basis, in addition to common species like Blue-throated and Magnificent. An optional (strenuous) hike further up the canyon can yield Red-faced Warbler, Mexican Spotted Owl, as well the usual oak woodland specialties like Painted Redstart and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Ramsey Canyon***

Ramsey Canyon is a wonderful place to spend the morning with the chance to see all of the usual oak woodland specialties as well as hummingbirds that are attracted to the feeders near the nature shop/bookstore. The hike up the canyon is not nearly as steep as Miller Canyon. We'll look for Elegant Trogon, Plumbeous Vireo, Hepatic Tanager - and sightings of Aztec Thrush are possible.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***San Pedro House/hike to Kingfisher Pond***

This leisurely hike will take you from the San Pedro House to Kingfisher Pond and back. Along the way you will walk along the lush riparian corridor of the San Pedro River, filled with colorful species such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, and Vermilion Flycatcher. With any luck you might see a Varied Bunting, Gray Hawk, Great Horned Owl or a Green Kingfisher. The San Pedro

House itself is also an interesting place to visit (great bookstore and nature store) and the hummingbird feeders attract Blue-throated Hummingbird and other species.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park***

You'll have the unique opportunity to explore behind-the-scenes at the Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park – a marshy wetland area that is kept alive with wastewater. All kinds of waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds are attracted to the year-round water such as White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Cinnamon Teal. Other residents include: White-tailed Kite, Swainson's Hawk, and Chihuahuan Raven.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Sonoita Grasslands***

The Las Cienegas National Conservation Area near Sonoita is home to grassland species that you won't find in other parts of Sierra Vista. These include: Grasshopper Sparrow, Pronghorn Antelope, 'Lilian's' Eastern Meadowlark, and Golden Eagle. Other more widespread grassland species may be found as well such as Cassin's Sparrow, Botteri's Sparrow, Scaled Quail, and Lark Sparrow. And there is always the chance to see Montezuma Quail.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Ash Canyon B&B/Hereford Road & bridge***

At the Ash Canyon Bed and Breakfast there is usually at least one pair of Lucifer Hummingbird at the feeders. Patience is required (the chairs are very comfortable). While you are waiting, Montezuma Quail can often be heard in the nearby leaf-litter. Scott's Oriole, Arizona Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher and other species typical of a slightly more xeric habitat are regular visitor to the feeders. If there is time a stop at the Hereford Bridge over the San Pedro River will add a host of riparian and mesquite-loving species to the morning list including possible Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summer Tanager, Lucy's Warbler, Botteri's Sparrow and Cassin's Sparrow .

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

### ***Ft. Huachuca/Huachuca Canyon***

Huachuca Canyon on Fort Huachuca is an easy-to-get-to and less crowded version of nearby Garden Canyon. Here you might see any of the species associated with Garden Canyon. The presence of sycamore trees and running water attracts Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and other species typical of the surrounding oak/pine woodland such as Hepatic Tanager.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

NOTE: Open to US citizens only

### **Sunday, August 21**

#### ***Guadalupe Canyon/San Bernardino NWR (replaces Carr Canyon)***

We will start in Guadalupe Canyon, a mosaic of private (managed for conservation by a generous family) and public land in the Peloncillo Mountains. The breeding season will be largely over, but most of the breeding species should still be present, along with some fall migrants. We will look particularly for Gray and Zone-tailed Hawks, Thick-billed Kingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, and Varied Bunting. Some of the first records for Arizona (and the U.S.) of Buff-collared Nightjar, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Rose-throated Becard, and Fan-tailed Warbler occurred here, and Black-capped Gnatcatcher has been seen more recently; we don't expect any of these (but might see Violet-crowned, even without feeders), but they illustrate the potential of this seldom-birded location. The habitat is sycamore riparian between desert scrub slopes (Crissal Thrasher, Scott's Oriole, Rufous-crowned Sparrow), and we will be walking for much of the morning along a road beyond a locked gate. The grade is gentle, but it could be hot, and you should be prepared to carry enough water to be away from the vehicle for four hours. The main canyon is about five miles long, but we are unlikely to make it to the New Mexico portion (the last two miles). Part of the riparian burned in spring 2011, but there is still plenty to enjoy.

San Bernardino N.W.R. is cottonwood riparian and ponds in the bottom of the San Bernardino Valley. Primarily protecting various endangered aquatic organisms restricted to the Río Yaqui drainage, it is also a magnet for birds. The refuge manager has kindly facilitated access so that our visit for a few hours on a warm afternoon will be without a hot hike. We will concentrate on some of the wetter and shadier sections, looking for Gray Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo (scarce and secretive), Tropical Kingbird (one pair nesting in July 2011), and some of the many common breeders of the Southwest's riparian, such as Vermilion Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Yellow Warbler (the bright *S. p. sonora*), Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer Tanager. If it has been

raining recently, we could find Cassin's Sparrow, and perhaps Botteri's or Rufous-winged. Grassy areas have the potential for four species of bunting, Lazuli and Varied the most numerous (five species if you count Blue Grosbeak!). There is often a Green Kingfisher somewhere in the area (a couple of sightings in June and July 2011), but the area is huge, and our chances of stumbling into it are small. This is an oasis, and anything could drop in.

Both locations are good for migrants, and we will take what we can find, from a variety of flycatchers, Oreothlypis (have to practice those new names!), and sparrows to a few grosbeaks and tanagers.

Guadalupe is famous for interesting butterflies and San Bernardino has an excellent dragonfly list (but bring your own expertise--your guide doesn't have much in these departments!).

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:30AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

### ***Madera Canyon***

There are many birding opportunities along the way to Madera Canyon as you travel through the Sonoita grasslands and desert scrub. Just below Madera Canyon, Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows should be singing and Varied Bunting may be seen as you look for the Black-capped Gnatcatchers that nest in the area. Interesting hummingbirds occur throughout the canyon: Violet-crowned, Berylline and White-eared are all possible. As you hike along the upper trails Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Hepatic Tanager may be encountered and there is always the chance for a rarity like Aztec Thrush.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:30AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 5PM

Transportation: Van provided

### ***Patagonia***

There are so many wonderful places to bird in Patagonia and we'll try to sample them all: the Paton's feeders, the picnic table, the Patagonia-Sonoita Sanctuary, Harshaw Canyon, and Lake Patagonia. Besides the usual riparian specialties, Zone-tailed Hawk, Rose-throated Becard, Thick-billed Kingbird, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Montezuma Quail and Black Vulture are all possible. In some years Sinaloa Wren, Neotropic Cormorant and Black-capped Gnatcatcher are seen. There are also grassland birding opportunities between Sierra Vista and Patagonia. It promises to be an exciting day of birding in one of Arizona's most famous locales!

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

***Ft. Huachuca: Garden Canyon butterfly/dragonfly trip***

This trip will focus on the identification and natural history of local butterflies and dragonflies. There will be some birding too, especially in the early morning hours. Garden Canyon is home to a variety of colorful and local butterfly and dragonfly species, as well as Mexican Spotted Owl, Montezuma Quail, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Elegant Trogon, and occasionally Short-tailed Hawk.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

NOTE: Open to US citizens only

***Bisbee area***

The Bisbee area is home to many resident southwestern species like Crissal Thrasher, Scott's Oriole, Black-throated Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia and Canyon Wren. There are also many places to bird on the way to Bisbee such as the San Pedro River crossings, where anything can show up (Gray Hawk and Common Black-Hawk for example). You'll also have a chance to see historic downtown Bisbee around lunchtime. On the way back to Sierra Vista a different route will be taken to increase the chances of new sightings.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

### ***Benson and St. David Area***

Along the San Pedro River near St. David there is a chance to see Mississippi Kite and if they are around they will be a target species. All the other riparian species are possible too, such as Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager and Gray Hawk. Depending on which way the wind is blowing, Benson Sewage ponds can turn up migrating shorebirds and lost species such as Brown Pelican. There are also lots of mesquite thickets and side-canyons to explore en route to the Benson/St. David area where Scaled Quail, Crissal Thrasher, Chihuahuan Raven, Lucy's Warbler or Phainopepla may be seen.

Departure Time: Van will leave promptly at **5:45AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Transportation: Van provided

### **Sunday, August 21 – Monday, August 22**

#### ***California Gulch (including Patagonia and Rio Rico) overnight trip with Jon Dunn and Kurt Leuschner***

This two day trip will begin in Sierra Vista on Sunday and end at California Gulch on Monday afternoon. Along the way we'll bird the Sonoita grasslands, Patagonia, the Rio Rico area near Nogales, and Pena Blanca Lake. A wide variety of habitats and famous birding spots will be sampled as we make our way to our ultimate destination: California Gulch where Five-striped Sparrows await. We'll overnight at the very comfortable Esplendor Resort at Rio Rico which lies in the midst of some incredible birding opportunities. 'Lilian's' Eastern Meadowlark, Varied Bunting, Thick-billed Kingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Gray Hawk, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Painted Bunting, Least Grebe (and more!) are all possible.

Departure Time: Trip will leave promptly at **5:30AM**

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: on your own once the trip ends Monday afternoon

Transportation: Carpooling

COSTS: In addition to the \$100 trip fee, which includes a free box lunch Sunday, participants will be responsible for their lodging costs Sunday night (\$91 single or double) and meals.

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Friday, August 19**

Workshop: ***Identification of the Flycatchers of Southeastern Arizona***  
(classroom session)

**Workshop includes a classroom session on Friday and field session on Saturday.**

Leader: **Homer Hansen**, Aplomado Environmental

Time: 8:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: Buffalo Soldier Hall, Windemere Hotel

Workshop description. Ready to leap into the identification of *Empidonax* and *Myiarchus* flycatchers? This workshop introduces you to the diverse family Tyrannidae and highlights the ways to separate the kingbirds, pewees, empids and flycatchers of southeastern Arizona. The workshop will focus on generic and species-specific structural and plumage characteristics with a brief introduction to vocalizations for a few of the species. The workshop includes a classroom session on Friday and a field trip focused on flycatchers on Saturday morning.

Leader bio: Homer Hansen is the chairman of the annual Wings Over Willcox Birding and Nature festival and is a native of southeastern Arizona. Homer earned his B.S. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona and is the president and owner of Aplomado Environmental, providing services to characterize and remove contaminants from soil and groundwater. Homer has presented many workshops on sparrows, raptors, flycatchers, warblers, and bird ecology over the past 14 years and has led many birding tours in Arizona. He is the author of the *G.I.S.S. Series* bird identification guides and also instructs the Moving to Mastery courses offered by the Tucson Audubon Society. He especially enjoys the challenges of complex identifications and loves to learn about the nature of birds.

Workshop: ***Banding Demonstration and Introduction to Operation of a MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity) Station***

Leader: **Heather Swanson**, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Land Management.

Departure Time: Leave at 6:45AM

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: 10:30AM

Transportation: Carpooling

Workshop description. This workshop will introduce the work and operation of the long-term MAPS banding station in the San Pedro River riparian area. Netting and banding will be taking place and participants will be able to observe first-hand all of the capturing and banding procedures. There will be an in-depth discussion of aging and sexing techniques for passerines, including plumage characters, feather wear, active molt, and molt limits.

Leader bio: Heather L. Swanson, a native of Arizona, grew up in Cochise County, and is a graduate of University of Arizona with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She began employment with the Bureau of Land Management in 2007 as the Natural Resource Specialist on the San Pedro Riparian and Las Cienegas Conservation Areas. This is her seventh year of involvement with the MAPS station on the San Pedro River, where she serves as the master bander.

## **Saturday, August 20**

Workshop: *Identification of the Flycatchers of Southeastern Arizona* (field trip)

### **Workshop includes a classroom session on Friday and field session on Saturday**

Leader: **Homer Hansen**

Departure Time: Leave at 5:30AM

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: 10:30AM

Transportation: Van provided

Field trip description: The field trip will visit the San Pedro River riparian corridor and the canyons of the Huachuca Mountains in search of flycatchers. The field trip will focus on application of the material presented in the workshop and will spend more time with identification than seeking rarities. Expected species include Vermilion Flycatcher, Say's and Black Phoebes, Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Western Wood-Pewee. Possible species include Tropical Kingbird, Brown-crested and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Greater Pewee, Buff-breasted, Hammond's, Gray, and "Western" Flycatchers, and Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet.

Workshop: *Wilderness First Aid*

Leader: **Heath Wakelee**, Certified Wilderness First Responder and CPR and WFA instructor for the American Red Cross.

Time: 8:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: Buffalo Soldier Hall, Windemere Hotel

Workshop description. What will you do when **you**, someone on a field trip, someone at a field station or your partner in the field needs medical help? The medical definition of being in the “wilderness” is being more than one hour away from arriving at a hospital. How you deal with a medical emergency in the wilderness may greatly influence the patient’s outcome. In this four hour introductory course, we will cover your legal Duty to Act, universal safety precautions (wearing gloves), primary and secondary assessments, treatment of cardiac arrest, snake bites, sprains, strains, bleeding, hyperthermia (too hot), hypothermia (too cold), anaphylaxis (allergic reactions), broken bones, diabetes, lightning strikes, plus how to deal with someone with a possible head/neck or back injury. In addition, we will cover documentation of the event and how to send for help under various scenarios. This is a first aid class and not a wilderness survival course. Cardiac arrest will be mentioned but not covered sufficiently enough to issue CPR course completion certificates

Leader bio: An amateur birder, Heath Wakelee has been a WFO member for four years. He is a past president of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society and aside from leading local bird walks, Heath is an avid backpacker and fly fisher. His outdoor activities into remote areas (often alone) led him to first taking a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course. He then took the certification training and began volunteer teaching both CPR and the WFA course for the American Red Cross. After several years of teaching the 16-hour Wilderness First Aid course, Heath went on to become a certified Wilderness First Responder. Heath will interrupt his solo hike of the John Muir Trail (out at Bishop and back to Bishop to complete the trek after the WFO meeting) to share his knowledge of how to be prepared and deal with first aid emergencies in the wilderness.

Workshop: ***Bird Specimens: How They’re Prepared and What We Learn from Them***

Leader: **Kimball L. Garrett**, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Departure Time: Leave at 8:10AM

Departure Location: Windemere Lobby

Return Time: 10:30AM

Transportation: Carpooling

Additional instructors: Kathy C. Molina, UCLA-Dickey Bird and Mammal Collection; Philip Unitt, San Diego Natural History Museum; Robert W. Dickerman, Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico; and some surprise guest stars.

Workshop description. A congenial group of long-time bird specimen preparators, all of whom are active members of Western Field Ornithologists and who collectively have over a century and a half of specimen preparation experience, will demonstrate how research specimens of birds are prepared. We’ll talk about the kinds of information recorded during preparation and the ways in which specimens are used for research once

prepared and integrated into museum collections. Demonstrations will include both traditional bird “study skins” and flat skin/complete skeleton preparations. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about external and internal bird anatomy. We’ll show how we learn about molt, fat deposition (migration), gonadal development (breeding phenology), parasites, and diet during the process of specimen preparation. Having multiple preparators performing demonstrations will allow participants to see a variety of species being prepared and to compare the various skinning techniques that are employed.

The workshop will take place at Cochise College. After an introduction by workshop host Kimball Garrett, we’ll begin the demonstration and allow ample time for questions and discussion throughout the morning. We plan to wrap up in time for participants to be back at the hotel by 11:00 a.m.

Special requirements: None (but there will be blood...)

Leader bio: Kimball Garrett has been the Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County since 1982. An active birder since the late 1960s, he has a keen interest in the status and distribution of the birds of California, and western North America. He is a long-time member of the California Bird Records Committee, Southern California regional co-editor for *North American Birds*, coauthor (with Jon Dunn) of the Peterson Field Guide to Warblers, *Birds of Southern California*, and *Birds of the Los Angeles Region*, and past President of Western Field Ornithologists.