Tour Special Features

Hummingbirds
Wildflowers
Stunning Vistas
Unique Habitats
The Desert Bloom

Small Groups! Great Leaders! Interesting People!

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Southeastern Arizona
Desert Bloom

July 22–30, 2020

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Join Connecticut Audubon Society naturalists for a journey to one of America’s premier birding areas! Southeastern Arizona has more nesting land birds than any other comparable area in the U.S., many of which are Mexican species with ranges that barely extend over the border. Arizona is a naturalist’s paradise, rich in wildlife, history, and scenic landscapes. Come explore and experience some of the Southwest’s rich diversity of environments and cultural highlights. This is an amazing land known for its legendary beauty and for creating lasting memories!

Southeastern Arizona is the meeting ground of the Rocky Mountains and Mexican Highlands, as well as the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts. Our tour will take us from cool shaded canyons ideal for Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Arizona Woodpecker, to high spruce-fir forests inhabited by Red-faced and Olive warblers, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, and Mexican Chickadee. Our travels will take us through the beautiful Sonoran Desert, home to the diminutive Elf Owl, Bendire’s Thrasher, Gilded Flicker, and Gila Woodpecker, and to the canyon haunts of Common Poor-will, Whiskered Screech-owl, and Spotted Owl.

Late July and early August is prime time for finding hummingbirds. As many as 15 species, including White-eared, Violet-crowned, Berylline, and Plain-capped Starthroat have been found on past trips. This is also the time for Mexican rarities, such as Aztec Thrush, and the late summer breeding birds such as Varied Buntings and Botteri’s, Cassin’s, and Rufous-winged sparrows. These are but a few of the many species we’ll search out as we journey through this lovely and varied landscape, drawing birders, butterfly enthusiasts, and naturalists from all over the world. We hope you can join us!

Andrew Griswold has been the director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) since 1996. He graduated as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, where he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. Andy is the original concept creator and scientific consultant for a cable television series on bird watching called All Bird TV that aired on Discovery’s Animal Planet. He is the original concept creator of the award winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (during its time the largest birding festival in the world). Andy has conducted bird surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and been participating as a Christmas Bird Count captain for over 35 years. He’s been a consultant to the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism concerning development of birding tourism in its more remote islands. He leads trips for CAS to Canada, Texas, South Florida, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Iceland, and many other unique destinations. Andy is a former licensed USCG 100-Ton Master boat captain and lives in Essex, Connecticut, with his wife and their son. He is known for his attentiveness to traveler’s needs, fine birding skills, and infectious sense of humor.

Jay Hand is a veteran of the Connecticut Audubon Society travel program. He has led many tours, each one with rave reviews. to Texas, Chincoteague, Block Island, Cape May, South Florida, East Africa, Costa Rica, and Arizona, to name just a few. A former Connecticut native, he now lives in Tucson, Arizona, where he has been the voice of the Southeast Arizona Rare Bird Alert. Jay is a graduate of Yale University with a degree in geology and is known for his competent birding skills, great ear, energy, and commitment to your having a memorable trip.

For a Detailed Itinerary and More Information:
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