



Monsoon Magic in Southeast Arizona with Ken Blankenship & East West Birding Tours Five Day Home-Base Group Tour August 20-26, 2023

Join Golden Gate Audubon Society and East West Birding Tours during the peak of SE Arizona's famous "Second Spring" — the Monsoon Rain Season!

Hummingbird numbers and diversity are at their highest... White-eared, Berylline, Anna's, Costa's, Violet-crowned, Rivoli's, Broad-tailed, Lucifer, Broad-billed, Black-chinned, Calliope, Rufous, and Blue-throated Mountain-gem are all possible! Late breeders are singing and conspicuous: Five-striped Sparrow, Botteri's Sparrow, Varied Bunting, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Cassin's Sparrow, and much more! Many of our local and migrant breeding birds use the bounty brought by the rains to raise a second brood. Huge agave stalks are in blossom, the grasslands green up, and wildflowers abound.

Included

- ✓ 6 nights of lodging at Ramsey Canyon Inn
- ✓ 5 full days guided birding and interpretation by Ken Blankenship
- ✓ 15 passenger van for maximum 8 participants (to provide room for luggage, gear, and elbow room)
- ✓ Pickup from Tucson International Airport (we will not pick up from Phoenix Sky Harbour)
- ✓ Transportation between birding sites and lodging
- ✓ Swarovski ATX 30-70 x 95mm scope available for use whenever necessary
- ✓ Entrance fees to parks, recreation areas, & feeder stations
- ✓ Breakfasts provided by Ramsey Canyon Inn
- ✓ Picnic lunches provided by East West Birding Tours
- ✓ Sit-down dinners at local restaurants & Ramsey Canyon Inn (excluding alcoholic beverages)
- ✓ Full five-gallon water cooler each day

Monsoon Magic Trip Reports

Click on the following links to view past trip reports to give you an idea of what this tour will be like:

- [Monsoon Magic with Georgia Audubon 2019](#)
- [Monsoon Magic with Seven Ponds Nature Center 2019](#)

Sample Schedule

(itinerary timeline subject to change)

Arrival Day August 20, 2023	Arrival at TUS airport Pick-up by East West Birding Tours at 3:30 pm Check-in at Ramsey Canyon Inn Feeder watch at Ramsey Canyon Inn Dinner in Sierra Vista
Day 1 August 21, 2023	Birding at Brown Canyon Ranch Sit-down breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn Birding at Ramsey Canyon Preserve Picnic lunch provided by EWBT Birding at Beatty's Guest Ranch & Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary Dinner at Pizzeria Mimosa Lodging at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Day 2 August 22, 2023	Early continental breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn Birding Patagonia Lake State Park Lunch at Gathering Grounds Birding at Paton Center for Hummingbirds & Sonoita Creek Preserve Get Fort passes made at Fort Huachuca Dinner in Sierra Vista Lodging at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Day 3 August 23, 2023	Early continental breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn Birding in the Chiricahuas; Cave Creek, Barfoot, Pinery Picnic Lunch at Rustler Park provided by EWBT Birding Lee-Clark feeder station & George Walker House Dinner in Sierra Vista Lodging at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Day 4 August 24, 2023	Early continental breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn Birding at Box Canyon & Proctor Road Picnic lunch provided by EWBT Birding at Madera Canyon Dinner in Sierra Vista Lodging at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Day 5 August 25, 2023	Feeder watch at Ramsey Canyon Inn Sit-down breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn Birding at Fort Huachuca Picnic lunch provided by EWBT Birding at Sawmill Canyon Dinner in Sierra Vista Lodging at Ramsey Canyon Inn
Departure Day August 26, 2023	Breakfast at Ramsey Canyon Inn Depart for airport at 9:00am Drop off at Tucson International Airport 10:30am

Highlight Species

Gambel's/**Montezuma Quails**, Inca Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lesser/Common Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, White-throated Swift, **Rivoli's/Blue-throated Mountain-gem/Lucifer/Black-chinned/Anna's/ Costa's/Calliope/Rufous/Broad-tailed/Broad-billed/White-eared/Violet-crowned/Berylline Hummingbirds**, Golden Eagle, Gray/Swainson's/**Zone-tailed Hawks**, **Whiskered Screech**/Western Screech/Northern Pygmy/Burrowing Owls, **Elegant Trogon**, Acorn/Gila/Ladder-backed/**Arizona Woodpeckers**, Prairie Falcon, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, **Greater**/Western Wood-Pewees, Hammond's/Cordilleran/**Buff-breasted**/Black Phoebe/Vermilion/Dusky-capped/ Ash-throated/Brown-crested/**Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers**, **Cassin's/Thick-billed**/Western Kingbirds, Bell's/Hutton's/Plumbeous Vireos, Steller's/Woodhouse's Scrub/Mexican Jays, Chihuahuan Raven, **Mexican Chickadee**, Bridled/Juniper Titmouse, Verdin, Violet-green Swallow, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Rock/Canyon/Bewick's/Cactus Wrens, Curve-billed Thrasher, **Phainopepla**, Lesser Goldfinch, **Rufous-winged/Botteri's/Cassin's/Five-striped**/Black-throated/Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Yellow-eyed Junco, Canyon/Abert's/Spotted Towhees, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded/ Bullock's/**Scott's Orioles**, **Grace's**/Black-throated Gray/Townsend's/Hermit/Painted Redstart/ **Red-faced Warblers**, **Hepatic Tanager**, **Pyrrhuloxia**, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli/**Varied Buntings**



Transportation

East West Birding Tours will provide transportation during your tour. You are responsible for getting yourself to Tucson, and we highly recommend flying into the Tucson International Airport. It's easy to be tempted by the prices for Phoenix Sky Harbour, but it's not worth the time and miles on the road.

Covid-19

Please provide proof of Covid-19 vaccinations for every participant to EWBT a minimum of two (2) months prior to the start of your tour. We will be keeping an eye on Covid-19 precautions by the government, but please ensure you bring a mask with you on this tour.