

The former San Pedro River Inn is now Echoing Hope Ranch, a private property, with teen and adult autistic residents in the cottages. It is no longer accessible to birders..

SIERRA VISTA ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS PARK (EOP)

The City of Sierra Vista overhauled its large wastewater treatment facility and attempted to make it environmentally friendly and welcoming to birds and birders. There is a shaded concrete viewing platform overlooking several acres of reed-filled ponds that attract waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds. Depending on the time of year, there is limited open water in the cattail beds viewed from the platform. Look for ducks (plentiful in winter) including Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, and Green-winged Teal. Less numerous are Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Bufflehead. Shorebirds, terns and White-faced Ibis are present seasonally. The cattails host large flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds except in mid-summer. In the immediate area are Northern Harrier (winter), Swainson's Hawk (summer), Chihuahuan Raven and various swallows. The surrounding fields are a good place to spot Vesper, Brewer's and Savannah sparrows and American Pipits in winter. Scan for Loggerhead Shrike, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon and Merlin. Many rarities have occurred. The best way to see the birds here is by attending the regular Sunday walks (see Accessibility and Helpful information below).

🌿 **Getting to Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park.** From Sierra Vista at the junction of AZ 90/92, go east 3.0 miles on AZ 90 (Fry Boulevard) to the Sierra Vista EOP and Animal Shelter. There is a brown Watchable Wildlife sign marking the left turn. Turn left (north) into the facility and follow signs to the bird-viewing platform and parking area. A scope is recommended.

Accessibility: The EOP viewing platform is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Bird by car along the curving road to the parking area and viewing platform; do not leave the paved road. There is a chemical toilet in the parking lot. Regular Sunday bird walks provide the only access to areas inside the fences.

Habitat: Grassland and mesquite scrub surrounding open water and marsh.



Helpful information: Sunday morning walks, held year round, are led by members of the Friends of the San Pedro River, SABO, and Huachuca Audubon Society. Once inside the gate, you will not be able to exit until the tour is completed. Tours take two-three hours, depending on the weather, the participants and the bird activity. You should bring water, sunblock, and a hat; a scope is recommended. Walks start at 7 am April through September and 8 am October through March. No pre-registration is required, but group size is limited by the City of Sierra Vista so arrive at least ten minutes before the start time. The City of Sierra Vista also requires participants to sign a release. There is no fee; however, donations are accepted and used to enhance the birding experience at the EOP. Special bird tours may be arranged through the Friends of the San Pedro River, 520-459-2555, <http://sanpedroriver.org/wpfspr/>; SABO, 520-432-1388, <http://sabo.wildapricot.org/Calendar.htm>; or Huachuca Audubon Society, <http://huachuca-audubon.org/wordpress/>.

About 80 miles from Tucson

Elevation: 4625 feet

BATTISTE BED, BREAKFAST AND BIRDS

Tony and Julie welcome day visitors to their yard and feeders, which have hosted numerous rarities as well as an excellent selection of local and migrant birds. Lucifer Hummingbird is regular. If you are interested in visiting their feeder station, please call ahead. Please consider a donation to the sugar fund.

🌿 **Getting to Battiste Bed, Breakfast and Birds.** From the Hwy 92/Fry Blvd intersection in Sierra Vista: Head south on AZ-92 E/State Hwy 92 E South for 9.7 miles. Turn right (west) onto E Vista Grande Rd. Drive for 0.3 miles, then take the take the 2nd left (south) onto S High St. Go another 0.3 mile and take the 2nd right onto E Robert Smith Lane. Your destination will be on the left (south) two houses down this road. Address: 4700 Robert Smith Ln, Hereford, AZ 85615. Phone 520-803-6908. www.battistebedandbirds.com.

HUACHUCA MOUNTAINS



The Huachuca Mountains are home to some of the best birding in Arizona. The superlative quantity and diversity of hummingbirds are probably unmatched in the U.S. and nowhere else north of Mexico are Buff-breasted Flycatchers

more common. Spotted Owls and Elegant Trogons are also highlights. The main birding areas are in canyons on Fort Huachuca and the Coronado National Forest and at privately-owned feeders.

The Garden Canyon complex and Huachuca Canyon, both located on Fort Huachuca, an active U.S. Army post, have excellent birding. The Fort is normally open to birders. Current restrictions allow access only to U.S. citizens. Foreign nationals who wish to visit must now be accompanied by a specially trained military escort. (The Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce may be able to assist you in finding an escort.)

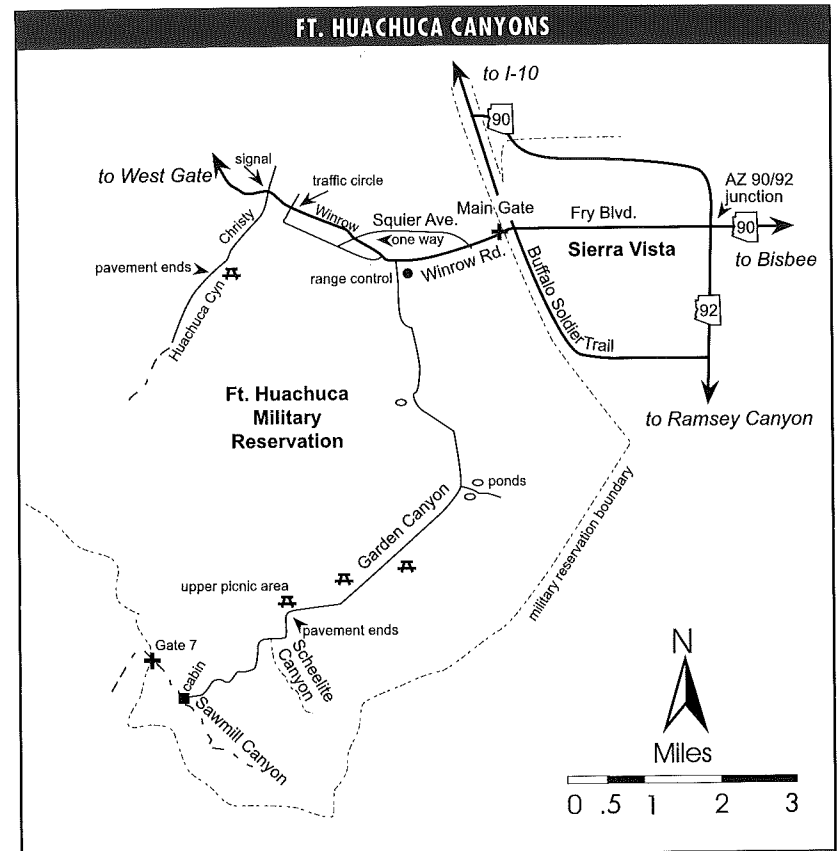
Have driver's license, auto registration and proof of insurance (or auto rental documents) to show at the drive through checkpoint at the Main Gate. All passengers should be prepared to show picture ID cards at the checkpoint if requested. Access rules have been subject to frequent change. Currently birders must check in AND out at the Military Police station at the intersection of Christy Ave and Boyd Ave. Be aware that military maneuvers and alerts can limit access at times. Obey all rules.

NOTE: The road into Garden Canyon beyond the Lower Garden Canyon picnic area was washed out in a flood in July 2014 and is closed to all traffic. Damage was extensive and the base doesn't expect repairs to be complete until late 2015 or early 2016. Check locally for current details.

The road to **Garden Canyon** crosses grassland where Botteri's and Cassin's sparrows nest. Look and listen for them from the roadside, but do not stray away from the road as there may be live ammunition lurking in the grass! If you stop to bird along the road, do not stop on the pavement or road shoulder; pull off only onto designated gravel roads; do not park in the grass. The fishing ponds at 4.6 miles from the Fort Huachuca Main Gate may be worth checking for waterfowl or marsh birds, but they are sometimes dry.

There are three picnic areas at 7.9, 8.3 and 9.2 miles from the Fort Huachuca Main Gate. All are good birding, but the upper picnic area at 9.2 miles is outstanding. Birds often seen here include Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Arizona Woodpecker, in addition to more common Bridled Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, Plumbeous and Hutton's vireos, Painted Redstart and many others. Buff-breasted Flycatchers occasionally nest here.

The pavement ends at the upper picnic area, but a graded road continues and is usually negotiable by passenger cars for at least the 0.6 mile



to the well-marked **Scheelite Canyon Trailhead**. Scheelite Canyon has a steep, rocky trail and is famous as a day-roost for Spotted Owl. The late Robert T. "Smitty" Smith led a great many birders to the owls while limiting disturbance. Please honor his legacy: use of recordings and imitated calls are banned by the Army; stay on the trail; move slowly, be very quiet and do not point at or approach the owls. No flash photography. Finding the owls requires a hike up the somewhat steep, rocky trail. The owls are most often found in roost in trees between 0.5 and 1.0 mile up the trail. Check the logbook at the trailhead for recent sightings. Many of the other prized birds of the area are seen along the trail.

Beyond Scheelite, the road becomes narrower and rougher and may require a high-clearance vehicle. Any wide spot along the road is worth a stop to check for birds, particularly near the stream. About 2.0 miles

past Scheelite Canyon, the road ends in a widened circular area for vehicles to turn around or park at the mouth of **Sawmill Canyon**. A log cabin formerly useful as a landmark is no longer standing. Park here and walk up the cabled-off road to the left (south). Here in the oak and pines seek trogons, Greater Pewee, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Grace's, Olive and Red-faced warblers, Hepatic Tanager and, in the more open areas with Chihuahuan pine, Buff-breasted Flycatcher.

🌊 **Getting to Garden Canyon.** From the AZ 90/92 intersection in Sierra Vista, drive west on Fry Boulevard about 3.0 miles to the Fort Huachuca Main Gate. The Main Gate can also be reached by continuing south on Buffalo Soldier Trail from the traffic light where AZ 90 makes a right-angled turn to the east. After entering the Main Gate, continue on the entrance road for 2.0 miles to a signed left turn for Garden Canyon. This left turn is a little way past the conspicuous water tower on the right. Turn left here, continue beyond the next stop sign and follow the road past several gunnery ranges to Garden Canyon.

Helpful information: Fort Huachuca is experiencing tightened security since September 11, 2001. Check the Tucson Audubon Rare Bird Alert for changes or call ahead to the main gate, open 24 hours, 520-533-7373 for current access information. At Scheelite and Sawmill Canyons there are signs limiting group size to 10 and banning the use of recordings, calls and hooting.

Garden Canyon adjoins the Post Firing Range and the entire area may be closed at times. Avoid disappointment by calling Fort Huachuca Range Control ahead of time, 520-533-7095. Huachuca and Carr canyons are alternatives. Fire danger, heavy monsoon rains, or flood erosion may also close the canyons. Obey speed limits; take those dips SLOWLY. Strictly observe all rules. Usually open dawn to dusk, but the road may be blocked above the middle picnic area as late as 7 am at times.

Huachuca Canyon has a sycamore-lined stream amid juniper, oak and pine. Where the intermittent stream surfaces, birds congregate. The first place to look for water is at the first bridge picnic area, where the ABA area's second and third Sinaloa Wrens were found; one in 2011 and the other in September 2013. At the last picnic area, the road reaches a wet stream crossing, which is a particularly productive place to bird. The

bird community is similar to Garden Canyon, but with fewer people. The dirt road is graded for 1.7 miles but after the wet stream crossing, high clearance is needed and most birders choose to park at the last picnic area and walk up canyon from there. Pines begin at 3.0 miles. Arizona's second Aztec Thrush was found in this canyon. The canyon beyond the stream crossing has been a good place to find Elegant Trogons in summer and Williamson's Sapsucker in winter. Buff-breasted Flycatcher has been regular in recent summers about 0.5 mile beyond the wet stream crossing near a small, easy-to-miss check dam in the streambed. Good flocks of migrants and a few rarities have also been found at the check dam, where surface water often collects. **NOTE:** No food on your person or in your vehicle in Huachuca Canyon, due to the presence of bears.

🌊 **Getting to Huachuca Canyon.** From the main gate mentioned above, take Squire Avenue-Winrow Road west. At 3.3 miles, exit the traffic circle to the left on Smith. At the traffic light at 3.5 miles turn left on Christy and continue to the canyon mouth at 4.5 miles.

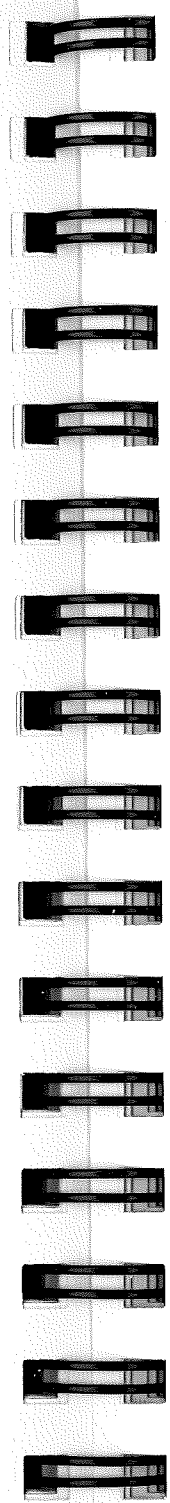
Accessibility: Good birding from a vehicle in both canyons. About 85 miles from Tucson. 🚗🧑🏻🧑🏻

Elevation: 4900 feet to 6500 feet

BROWN CANYON RANCH

The historic Brown Canyon Ranch, located north of Ramsey Canyon Road, was acquired by the Forest Service in 1998. A new access road built after the 2011 Monument Fire allows easier entry to this interesting area. The ranch buildings are under renovation but birders are free to walk around the area. Check the trees around the buildings and walk north from there to the pond. Birds of the oaks and grasslands may be found including (in season) Scaled Quail, Acorn Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Bewick's Wren, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Botteri's, Chipping and Lark sparrows and Blue Grosbeak. Several hiking trails cross the area.

🌊 **Getting to Brown Canyon Ranch.** From the AZ 90/AZ 92 junction in Sierra Vista, take AZ 92 south 6.0 miles to Ramsey Canyon Road. Turn right (west) here and drive 2.0 miles to the unpaved entrance road on the right. This turn is marked with a USFS sign saying Brown Canyon



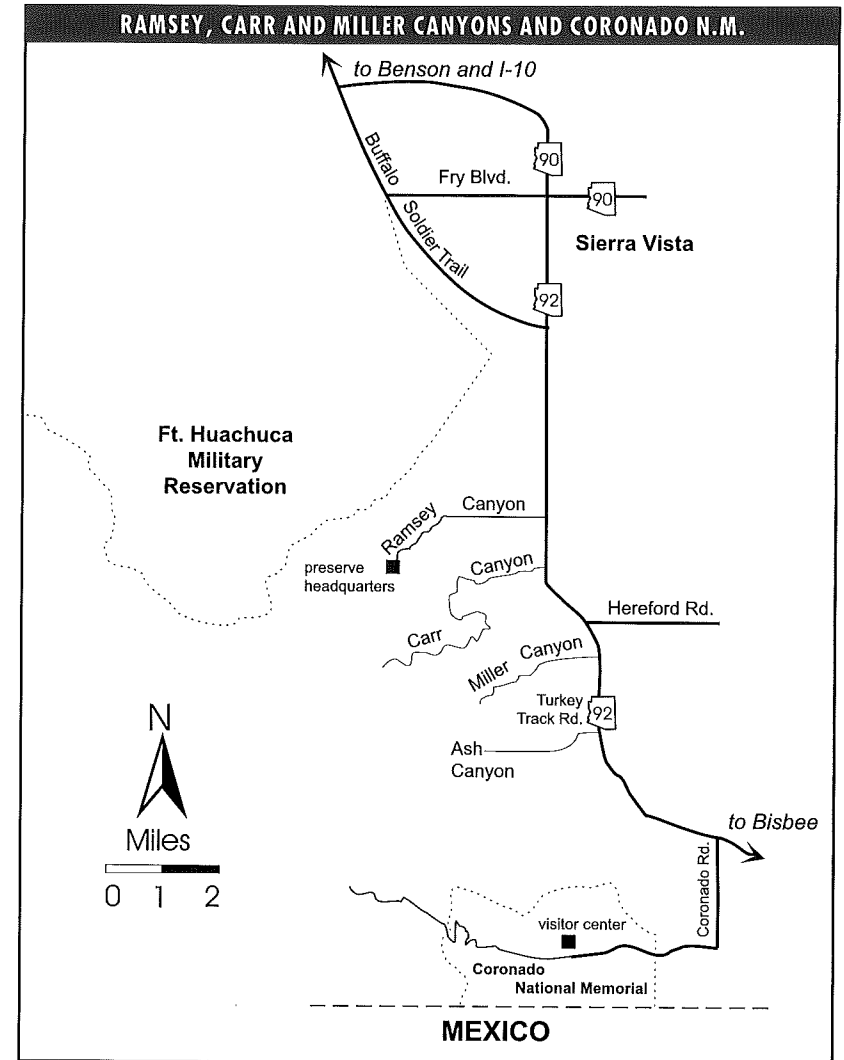
Trail #115 and a smaller sign saying Brown Canyon Ranch. Turn right (north), drive through the trailhead parking lot, and continue 0.8 miles to the ranch house. At 0.2 miles and again at 0.4 miles, bear right at each fork, continuing on the main track north to the ranch house parking lot.

Helpful information: Brown Canyon Ranch is a day use only area; it is closed from 10 pm to 6 am. There are toilets at the ranch house. When hiking the trails, be aware that mountain bikers and horseback riders also use the trails, especially on weekends. Friends of Brown Canyon Ranch <http://www.browncanyonranch.org/>

RAMSEY CANYON PRESERVE

Once known as the Mile-Hi Ranch, this Nature Conservancy Preserve in a lush canyon is one of America's best known sites for hummingbirds with 14 species recorded. It also offers a diversity of birds, butterflies and wildflowers. The high canyon walls, east-west orientation and perennial stream create a cooler environment supporting more than a dozen rare and sensitive species, including a unique leopard frog, the rare lemon lily and an endangered bat. Summer residents include Elegant Trogon, Magnificent, Blue-throated, Broad-tailed and Black-chinned hummingbirds, Dusky-capped and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers, Greater Pewee, Plumbeous Vireo, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager and much more. Berylline and White-eared hummingbirds are occasional, while Violet-crowned has nested. Peak hummer diversity begins in late July. There are hummer feeders and a seating area behind the visitor center.

In 1998 many of the buildings were removed from the preserve. Check at the visitor center for trail access. The first 0.5 mile up the canyon is not steep and traverses pine-oak woodland and the sycamore lined riparian area. Above this the Hamburg Trail switchbacks up a steep 800 feet to the Overlook in 1.0 mile. Past the overlook the Miller Peak Wilderness has mixed conifer forest with Grace's, Red-faced and Olive warblers. Aztec Thrush and Eared Quetzal have been seen in this area. In 2009, the ABA area's first accepted record of Brown-backed Solitaire was relocated here after it disappeared from nearby Miller Canyon.



🚶 **Getting to Ramsey Canyon.** From the AZ 90/AZ 92 junction in Sierra Vista, take AZ 92 south 6.0 miles to Ramsey Canyon Road. Turn right (west) here and drive 4.0 miles to the preserve entrance.

Accessibility: The hummingbird feeding station is wheelchair accessible. No stopping along the upper part of Ramsey Canyon Road. The public rest room and bookstore are accessible.

Habitat: Grassland, pine-oak woodland, mid-level riparian and mixed conifer.

Helpful information: Ramsey Canyon Preserve is the private property of The Nature Conservancy. The preserve is open Thursday through Monday all year, but closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Hours are: 8 am to 5 pm, all year. There is essentially nowhere to park legally below the preserve. Parking at the preserve is limited to 23 spaces and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations are needed or taken. General admission is \$5 per person. No pets are allowed. Admission for residents of Cochise County and Nature Conservancy members is \$3 per person. Children under 16 free. Admission is good for seven days from the date of purchase. Annual passes are available. The visitor center has a gift and bookshop. About 90 miles from Tucson. ♿♿♿

For further information call 520-378-2785,

www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/arizona/preserves.

Photographers please check with staff before setting up equipment. No picnicking, camping, fires, collecting, pets or feeding wildlife. Register groups in advance with the manager.

Accommodations: The Ramsey Canyon Inn Bed and Breakfast is now privately operated, www.ramseycanyoninn.com; 520-378-3010.

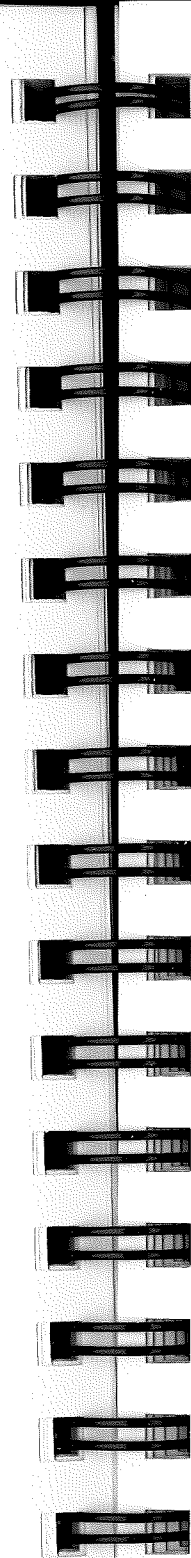
Elevation: 5500 feet at Visitor Center.

CARR CANYON

A major canyon served by a winding, narrow road allows auto access to high-elevation birds at 7400 feet. On the way up, pullouts let you sample great views and birds of the oaks. Beyond the last switchback on the Reef the road enters ponderosa pine near the Reef Townsite Campgrounds, before ending at Ramsey Vista Campground. Birding is especially good in both campgrounds and along the road between them. Look for Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Greater Pewee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, 3 species of nuthatches, Eastern Bluebird, Grace's, Red-faced and Olive warblers, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee and Yellow-eyed Junco. In open areas with Chihuahuan pine near the end of the road, look for Buff-breasted Flycatcher.



From the west side of the Ramsey Vista Campground the wonderful trail to Comfort Spring drops 200 feet through chaparral,



then turns a corner at a stream. From the corner to **Comfort Spring** (0.6 mile) look for Northern Pygmy-Owl, White-eared Hummingbird and Buff-breasted Flycatcher. Olive-sided Flycatchers in migration top the snags. Save some energy for the hike out. Eared Quetzal, Aztec Thrush and Slate-throated Redstart have been seen between the trailhead and the stream. Determined hikers take this trail across the ridge and steeply down to Hamburg Meadow above Ramsey Canyon (2.3 miles).




The Old Sawmill Trail, starting across the road from Reef Townsite Campground, leads to **Old Sawmill Spring** where choke cherry trees hosted an amazing seven Aztec Thrushes in August 1996. The spring was recently cleaned and a new set of stepped pools put in as an Eagle Scout project, making the spring attractive for bird photography. The Carr Peak Trail, beginning near Ramsey Vista Campground, leads to the 9200-foot summit. **Caution:** This high country receives many lightening strikes during thunderstorms; don't get caught out

☞ **Getting to Carr Canyon.** From the intersection of AZ 90/92 in Sierra Vista, take AZ 92 south 7.0 miles (1.0 mile south of Ramsey Canyon Road). Turn right (west) on well-signed Carr Canyon Road. Pavement ends after a mile. One mile later the road narrows to one lane with pull-outs and is switchbacked, rough and gullied. Although usually passable for cars, it is not the road for acrophobes, and requires care. There are few guardrails despite 300-foot drop-offs. May be closed or hazardous when icy. Total length is 8.5 miles but will seem much longer.

Accessibility: Campgrounds offer flat ground and one wheelchair-accessible site each.

Habitat: Oak woodland, chaparral, pine and mixed conifer.

Helpful information: Best from April to October. Fee for camping and picnicking. Check signs for trailhead fees. Water is not available. Dirt road with rocks; high clearance helpful but not essential. Reservations required for group site at the Reef Campground; other camping sites are first-come, first-served. The Carr Canyon interpretive center (the Carr House), about 2.0 miles up the Carr Canyon Road, is usually staffed on April-September weekends by Friends of the Huachucas volunteers. Call ranger station for schedule. Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista

Ranger District, 5990 S. Hwy 92, Hereford, AZ 85615; 520-378-0311; www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/. About 95 miles from Tucson. 

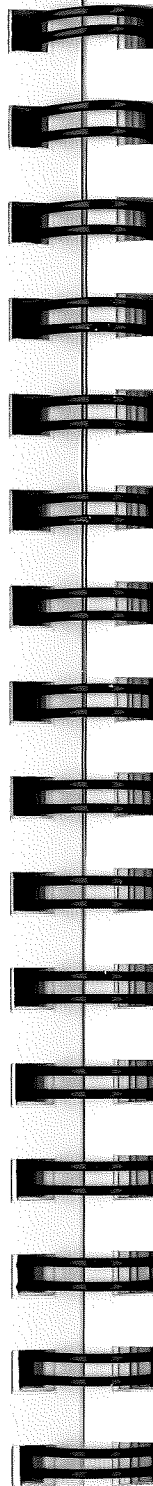
Elevation: 5000 feet to 7400 feet

MILLER CANYON

This deep, steep sided canyon carves the east side of the Huachucas below 9466 feet high Miller Peak. Attractions include the forested canyon, trails and the Beatty's world famous hummingbird feeding extravaganza. A graded dirt road leads up the canyon to a new, larger public Forest Service parking area, just below the Beatty's property, which replaces one damaged in the serious floods following the 2011 fire. Besides the many hummingbird species, breeding birds of the pine-oak woodland are common. Farther up canyon in the shaded forest, Spotted Owl, Eared Quetzal, Aztec Thrush and Flame-colored Tanager have been found at least once. In 2009, the ABA area's first accepted record of Brown-backed Solitaire was discovered here.


Drive to the end of the road and park in the new trailhead lot. The 2011 fire and subsequent floods severely affected Miller Canyon, seriously damaging the trail up the canyon. From the signed Miller Canyon trailhead on the north side of the loop, a 0.5 mile hike through chaparral leads around Beatty's private property to large groves of sycamore and maples lining Miller Creek. Be aware that the Forest Service has not repaired the trail—use caution when crossing the deeply eroded dry stream beds along the trail. Farther up the trail in the coniferous forest, Red-faced and Grace's warbler may be found and the rarities mentioned above have been seen. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, nuthatches and Painted Redstart also nest. A few Buff-breasted Flycatchers nest in an old burned area along the trail. Most birders enjoy the first 2.5 miles of trail before it really takes off climbing for Miller Peak at the second stream crossing. Hybrid tanagers involving Flame-colored parentage have presented an identification problem in recent years, with hybrids sometimes outnumbering "pure" individuals. Short-tailed Hawks have sporadically soared over the canyon since 1999, but Red-tailed and Zone-tailed are more likely.

Just beyond the trailhead parking area is Beatty's Guest Ranch and Orchard. A premier hummingbird watching site, the Beatty's hummingbird feeders may be the busiest in the Huachucas and have hosted many



rarities, including Plain-capped Starthroat, Berylline (and hybrids), White-eared and Lucifer hummingbirds in addition to most of the usual Arizona nesting and migrant species. The one day-one site US record for hummers is 14 species, seen here in June 2002 and again in July 2006. Rare passerines have been seen, including Arizona's second Tropical Parula. Do not drive onto the Beatty's property unless you are a paying overnight guest or have a handicapped placard. Instead, walk the short distance to the driveway and feeders. Beatty's CAS (Controlled Access Site) for hummers, with multiple feeders, a water feature, and protected, shaded seating, is set in oaks and sycamores above the creek. This is the spot for seeing White-eared Hummingbird(s) in season. A small fee is charged for access to this area, as well as access to a back gate that connects with the hiking trail up Miller Canyon.

There is good night birding along the road in the National Forest up to the parking loop. Listen for Western and Whiskered screech-owls, Flammulated and Great Horned owls, Common Poorwill and Mexican Whip-poor-will.

 **Getting to Miller Canyon.** From the junction of AZ 90/92 in Sierra Vista, drive south on AZ 92, 9.0 miles to the signed right turn. Turn here and drive west, entering the national forest at a signed cattle guard, to the parking loop trailhead at about 2.5 miles. The dirt road is rough but usually passable for cars when dry. About 95 miles from Tucson.

Accessibility: Oak woodlands along the road can be birded from a vehicle. Those with handicap placards or plates may watch the Beatty's feeders from their vehicle, with permission.

Habitat: Oak, chaparral, mid-elevation riparian and mixed conifer.

Accommodations: Beatty's Guest Ranch; 520-378-2728; www.beattys-guestranch.com; beattysguestranch@wildblue.net

Elevation: 5000 feet to 6800 feet

HUNTER CANYON

Lying between Miller Canyon and Ash Canyon, underbirded Hunter Canyon's main attraction is the presence, since 2013, of Rufous-capped Warblers in the canyon's upper section. Look for Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, and Evening Grosbeak (rare). In addition, the lower section has an easily accessible spring in an oak grove that was bypassed during the 2011

fire. The spring attracts both oak woodland residents and migrants in season. Gray Hawk, Northern Parula, Greater Pewee, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Golden-crowned Kinglet have been noted at this spring. Montezuma Quail may be seen along the graveled road to the trailhead throughout the year. The trail up the ridge holds a variety of sparrows, including Black-chinned Sparrow (rare). Mexican, Western Scrub-Jay, and Steller's jays all occur, as the elevation increases. The same holds true for Summer, Western, and Hepatic tanagers. A recent ban by the USFS of target shooting in the area has greatly enhanced the birding experience here.

🏞️ **Getting to Hunter Canyon.** From the junction of AZ 90/92 in Sierra Vista, drive south on AZ 92, 10.5 miles to FS 367 on the right, just as AZ 92 narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Turn right, crossing a cattle guard into the national forest. Drive west on the graveled dirt road 0.7 miles to a pullout on the left marked by large boulders. Park here, cross the (usually) dry creek bed on foot, and follow the trail 50 yards south through an oak and sycamore grove to the spring. Returning to the pullout, and ignoring FS 4786 that goes off to right (a short, dead-end spur to a trailhead for Miller Peak), drive uphill, west, on FS 367 to the trailhead at 1.3 miles and park. The trail soon enters the Miller Peak Wilderness Area, crosses the (usually) dry creek, and then runs uphill on a ridge that was swept by the 2011 fire. At 0.6 miles the trail enters trees next to the creek, with intermittent water flow. Rufous-capped Warblers and high elevation birds have been spotted all along the creek from here upward for 0.1 mile, where the trail crosses the stream.

ASH CANYON

Ash Canyon is the next canyon south of Miller Canyon. The main attraction is the delightful bird viewing area of Mary Jo Ballator's Ash Canyon B & B. It gained fame when a Plain-capped Starthroat summered there in 2002 and 2003 and since then has proven to be the most reliable site in Arizona for Lucifer Hummingbird. A Yellow Grosbeak in June 2011 stuck around for a few days and allowed many people the chance to see a bird that is typically a "one day wonder". The feeders attract many species of hummingbirds as well as Arizona Woodpecker, Canyon Towhee, Scott's Oriole and many more.

🏞️ **Getting to Ash Canyon B&B.** Turkey Track Road (milepost 332.8) is 2.5 miles south of Miller Canyon Road on AZ 92 or about 12 miles


south of the AZ 90/92 junction in Sierra Vista. Turn right (west) on Turkey Track Road then follow the road as it turns to the left to its end, then right again on E. Spring Road. The Ash Canyon B & B is the last house on the right, a total of 0.5 mile from AZ92. <http://ashcanyon.com/>. (520) 378-0773.

Spring Road is one lane, parking is limited to six spaces, and no vehicles larger than an Econoline-class van can be accommodated. RVs and motor coaches will have no place to turn around and should not attempt to drive to the B&B. Birders are welcome, and should drive slowly (maximum of 15 MPH), leaving any gates as you find them. There are no toilet facilities at the B&B for day birders. The B&B yard is closed on Wednesdays from dawn until noon. Open all other days from dawn until dusk."


If you want to go farther into Ash Canyon, return to AZ 92 and turn right (south). Less than 0.5 mile south is well-marked Ash Canyon Road. After 0.6 mile, this good graded road enters the national forest where it becomes rough and rocky and suitable only for high-clearance vehicles as it continues west for several miles. Vegetation is oak-manzanita chapparal. Birds to be expected are the same as in the lower parts of Miller and Carr canyons. Note that much of this area was affected by the June 2011 fire.

CORONADO NATIONAL MEMORIAL



This National Park Service unit, situated on the south side of the Huachuca Mountains, is a monument to the great explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. While the area is drier than corresponding slopes on the north side of the range, it is still a good place to see mid-elevation bird species including Mexican Jay, Bridled Titmouse, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Painted Redstart. Rufous-crowned Sparrows are common and easy to see and Montezuma Quail are possible. Wildlife comes to a water source viewable from inside the visitor center. Feeders have been removed.

 **Joe's Canyon Trail** is 3.1 miles long with a 1300-foot elevation gain. Moderately difficult. **Cave Trail**, 0.75 mile, has a 500-foot elevation gain, moderately difficult. A permit is required to enter the cave. The **Coronado Peak Trail** is 0.4 mile, a 300-foot elevation gain with benches and interpretive signs along the way. The **Crest Trail** has

2.0 miles within the monument, 5.5 miles to Miller Peak and a strenuous 3000-foot climb. Trails were damaged by a massive flood in 2006 and severe fire with more floods in 2011.

 **Getting to Coronado National Memorial.** From the AZ 90/92 junction in Sierra Vista drive south on AZ 92 for 13.4 miles. Turn right and drive about 5.0 miles on a paved road to the visitor center.

Habitat: Madrean oak woodland.

Helpful information: Coronado National Memorial, 4101 E. Montezuma Canyon Road, Hereford, AZ 85615; 520-366-5515; www.nps.gov/coro/ Visitor center open 9 am to 5 pm. Park open sunrise to sunset. Picnic area. No fee. The road through the memorial is open 24 hours. Camping is permitted on undeveloped sites in the adjacent Coronado National Forest. About 100 miles from Tucson.  

The Memorial frequently experiences heavy rains during the monsoon and may be closed at times due to flood damage.

Elevation: 5000 feet to 6200 feet

Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory, Bisbee, AZ. The Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory (SABO) is a non-profit organization founded in 1996 and dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats in the region. Their Banning Creek Field Station closed in 2009, but they are still very active in the southern region of Southeast Arizona. Call or check their website for tours and events.

Phone: 520-432-1388; www.sabo.org; sabo@sabo.org

Elevation: about 5360 feet. About 86 miles from Tucson, 20 from Sierra Vista

NOTES