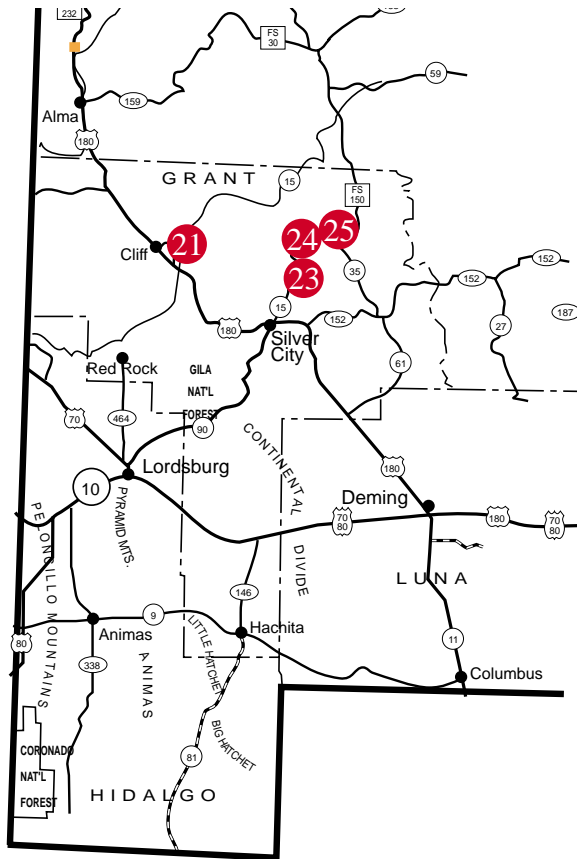




Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



Site 21 - Gila River/Mogollon Creek Confluence

Gila National Forest (505) 539-2481
The Nature Conservancy (505) 988-3867



Outstanding spring birding throughout the primitive campground, along the river, and in the areas beyond the two gates to the north. Possible species include resident Gambel's Quail; Acorn Woodpecker and Mexican Jay. In summer, Summer and Western Tanagers, Bridled Titmouse, Bullock's Oriole; Lucy's Warbler, Western Wood Pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher (occasional), Zone-tailed Hawk, Common Black-Hawk; Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill are present. In winter, Townsend's Solitaire can be seen. Look for MacGillivray's Warbler during migration. Several pairs of Elf Owls nest in the Arizona Sycamores.

Habitat: Riparian habitat with large cottonwoods,



junipers, mesquite and scrub hillsides.

Directions: From Silver City drive northwest on US 180 about 28 miles to Cliff. Turn right on NM 211 for about 1 mile past the high school. Take the left fork in the road (NM 293) and continue

for about 5.8 miles, crossing a cattle guard and then entering the Gila National Forest. Continue 1.1 miles to a three-way fork, turning right. Parking and a primitive campground are located at the road's end



Site 22 - Big Ditch Park

Silver City (505) 538-3785

Once the main street of Silver City in the late 1800s, this unique park was created by a series of floods in the early 1900s. The area offers pleasant birding near historic downtown Silver City. The Visitor Center has feeders. Ladder-backed Woodpecker is resident. Black-chinned Hummingbird; Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, Summer Tanager, and Bullock's Oriole are present in summer. In winter look for Townsend's Solitaire; migrants include Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, and Cassin's Finch.

Habitat: Cottonwood woodland with box elder, plus many introduced species.

Directions: Near the Silver City/Grant County Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center on NM 90 (Hudson Street.) You can park here and access the park via a footbridge.



Site 23 - Cherry Creek/McMillan Campgrounds

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201



The birds in Cherry Creek (elevation 6,800 feet) and McMillan Campgrounds are generally similar



Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

although McMillan is at a slightly higher elevation. Cherry Creek is one of the best spots in the state to find Painted Redstart while McMillan is a reliable spot for Greater Pewee. In summer you may see Band-tailed Pigeon; White-throated Swift; Broad-tailed Hummingbird; Cordilleran Flycatcher; Violet-green Swallow; Plumbeous Vireo; Virginia's, Grace's, Red-faced and Yellow-rumped Warblers; Painted Redstart; Western and Hepatic Tanagers; and Black-headed Grosbeak. Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Dark-eyed Junco are resident. Spotted and Flammulated Owl, Poorwill and Whip-poor-will can sometimes be heard on summer evenings.

Directions: From the junction of US 180 and NM 15 in Silver City, take NM 15, 5 miles beyond Pinos Altos. Cherry Creek Campground is on the right side of the road. McMillan Campground is 1.5 miles farther up NM 15.

Site 24 - Signal Peak Road

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201



This fire lookout access road climbs to 9,000 feet. The summit, Signal Peak, offers dramatic views of the Gila National Forest and Gila Wilderness. Initially, the fire road passes through stands of ponderosa pines, and later, large groves of aspens. At the junction with NM 15, Greater Pewee, Grace's Warbler, Hutton's Vireo, and Hepatic Tanager are possible. Up the road a short distance, Olive Warbler may be foraging in the ponderosa pine as early as March. At the higher elevations, Northern Goshawk is possible. The fire tower crew sometimes maintains a hummingbird feeder in summer at the fire tower. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are regular and Magnificent Hummingbird is possible.

Habitat: Aspen and mixed-coniferous forest, including Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine.

Directions: From Silver City take NM 15 north. Turn right on to Forest Road 154, 3 miles past

Cherry Creek Campground. At its upper range, Forest Road 154 may require a high-clearance vehicle. The summit is a short walk beyond the locked gate. Restrooms are at summit.

Site 25 - Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

National Park Service (505) 536-9461



The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (533 acres) is located in the Gila National Forest. Birding can be productive in the area around the Visitor Center, in the campgrounds, along the trail by the stream, and on the trail leading to the cliff dwellings. Birds include: Warbling Vireo, Painted Redstart, Western Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, Steller's Jay, Blue and Black-headed Grosbeaks, Indigo and Lazuli Buntings, Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, Pine Siskin, Western Tanager, American and Lesser Goldfinches, and Canyon Wren.

Habitat: Riparian and scrub forest.

Directions: From US 180 in Silver City take NM 15 north through Pinos Altos. After 45 miles the road ends at the Cliff Dwellings.



Flammulated Owl



Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

Check List

Band-tailed Pigeon	<input type="radio"/>	GROSBEAK		SPARROW	
BLACKBIRD		Black-headed Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	Lincoln's Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Red-winged Blackbird	<input type="radio"/>	Blue Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	Song Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<input type="radio"/>	HUMMINGBIRD		White-crowned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Bridled Titmouse	<input type="radio"/>	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Swamp Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Bullock's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Spotted Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Bushtit	<input type="radio"/>	Blue-throated Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	SWALLOW	
BUNTING		Calliope Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Cliff Swallow	<input type="radio"/>
Indigo Bunting	<input type="radio"/>	Magnificent Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Violet-green Swallow	<input type="radio"/>
Lazuli Bunting	<input type="radio"/>	Rufous Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	TANAGER	
Canyon Wren	<input type="radio"/>	JAY		Hepatic Tanager	<input type="radio"/>
Cedar Waxwing	<input type="radio"/>	Mexican Jay	<input type="radio"/>	Summer Tanager	<input type="radio"/>
Common Black Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	Pinion Jay	<input type="radio"/>	Western Tanager	<input type="radio"/>
Common Loon	<input type="radio"/>	Steller's Jay	<input type="radio"/>	Townsend's Solitaire	<input type="radio"/>
Common Poor-will	<input type="radio"/>	Western Scrub Jay	<input type="radio"/>	VIREO	
Dark-eyed Junco	<input type="radio"/>	Killdeer	<input type="radio"/>	Hutton's Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
DUCK		Lesser Nighthawk	<input type="radio"/>	Plumbeous Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
American Widgeon	<input type="radio"/>	Lesser Scaup	<input type="radio"/>	Warbling Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Bufflehead	<input type="radio"/>	Mountain Chickadee	<input type="radio"/>	WARBLER	
Common Merganser	<input type="radio"/>	Northern Cardinal	<input type="radio"/>	Grace's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Gadwall	<input type="radio"/>	Northern Goshawk	<input type="radio"/>	MacGillivray's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Pintail	<input type="radio"/>	NUTHATCH		Olive Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Shoveler	<input type="radio"/>	Pygmy Nuthatch	<input type="radio"/>	Red-faced Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Ring-necked Duck	<input type="radio"/>	White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="radio"/>	Virginia's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Ruddy Duck	<input type="radio"/>	OWL		Yellow-rumped Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
EAGLE		Elf Owls	<input type="radio"/>	Yellow Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Bald Eagle	<input type="radio"/>	Flammulated Owl	<input type="radio"/>	Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>
Golden Eagle	<input type="radio"/>	Spotted Owl	<input type="radio"/>	White-throated Swift	<input type="radio"/>
FLYCATCHER		PEWEE		WOODPECKER	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Greater Pewee	<input type="radio"/>	Acorn Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Western Wood-Pewee	<input type="radio"/>	Hairy Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Pied-billed Grebe	<input type="radio"/>		
Gambel's Quail	<input type="radio"/>	Pine Siskin	<input type="radio"/>		
GOLDFINCH		Purple Martin	<input type="radio"/>		
American Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>	Painted Redstart	<input type="radio"/>		
Lesser Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<input type="radio"/>		
		Say's Phoebe	<input type="radio"/>		