



Montezuma Quail © Liam Hutcheson

Welcome to Monsoon Season

The sound of thunder rolls down the canyon as Montezuma Quail call in appreciation from the slopes above. A flash of lightning briefly illuminates the trails as we track an Elf Owl, fresh off a meal of juicy sphinx moths. A warm, humid breeze envelops you, carrying the intoxicating scent of Sacred Datura blossoms through the evening air.

This is a taste of what the monsoon months of July and August bring to Arizona. The North American Monsoon, a remarkable seasonal phenomenon, delivers life-giving rains to northern Mexico and the southwestern United States, transforming Southeast Arizona into a showcase of biodiversity. Towering saguaros, rain-fed desert streams, and an extraordinary array of birds—including species found nowhere else in the U.S.—bring the desert to life in a brief window that reveals the intricate, awe-inspiring relationships between flora, fauna, and summer rains. As each day ends, breathtaking sunsets wash the mountains and valleys in purples, pinks, and blues—a daily reminder of the profound beauty and wonder this region holds.

Come experience the magic of monsoon season with us.



Varied Bunting © Michael Sadatmousavi



Elf Owl © Aaron Graham

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Summer Birding in the Intermountain West

Beating the heat of the southwestern deserts is easy in the lofty heights of the Intermountain West. Colorado and New Mexico are uniquely positioned with culture-rich locales and easy access to montane habitats above 7,000 feet. Here, one can explore diverse ecosystems along an elevational gradient while enjoying birds in the comfort of cooler daytime temperatures.

American Dippers thrive in crisp mountain streams, while **Canada Jays** work tirelessly to stash food for the fast-approaching winter. Meanwhile, the northern reaches of the Chihuahuan Desert burst to life with monsoon rains, igniting ecological transformations that must be witnessed by anyone who loves the natural history of North America.



Summer in Colorado is a season of remarkable beauty. The typically cool, high mountain peaks come alive with diversity as migrant songbirds like **Olive-sided Flycatchers** and **MacGillivray's Warblers** sing on territory and feed their young. From the dramatic landscapes that create the waterfalls needed by **Black Swifts** to the monsoon-swept plains where **Cassin's Sparrows** lark skyward in display, summer in Colorado offers an experience not to be missed.



Green-tailed Towhee © Shailesh Pinto

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New Mexico is a striking blend of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Madre. Summertime brings abundant rainfall, thriving insect life, and fresh vegetation growth. **Common Black Hawks** stand sentinel over canyon walls in the Gila National Forest, while **Dusky Grouse** forage across the high elevation montane forest floor. With its varied habitats and dramatic vistas, you'll find yourself in awe of the summertime beauty in the Land of Enchantment.



Virginia's Warbler © Michael Sadatmousavi

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Meet Our Newest Guides

Our outstanding team of professional birding guides is growing! We're honored to be working with these incredible birders to bring you the best possible birding experiences.



Nell Smith

Arizona Birding Guides

Nell's early fascination with natural history in Maine sparked her love of birds, but she didn't begin birding in earnest until moving to Arizona in her twenties. Since then, she has made up for lost time, birding everywhere from the Midriff Islands in the Gulf of California to the Arctic tundra of Alaska's North Slope Borough. Whether chasing life birds or enjoying her neighborhood patch, Nell promotes ethical birding practices and loves taking time to observe and listen to birds' uninterrupted behaviors...

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Rodd Kelsey

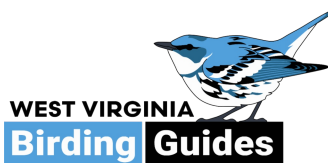
California Birding Guides

A California native with roots in the southern part of the state, Rodd has explored and birded throughout the western U.S. and internationally. His passion for biology, natural history, and birding was ignited during college, launching a 30-year career in wildlife research and conservation. For his master's degree, he researched the behavior and ecology of Island Scrub-Jays on Santa Cruz Island, followed by a Ph.D. during which he studied red crossbill types in the western U.S...

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In The Works...

Three new locations are taking shape! Our experienced guides are ready to help you explore the birds and landscapes that make these regions so special. Websites for each will be live shortly!



Let's Go Birding!

We now have 12 teams of expert guides ready to get out birding with you! And with Ohio, Montana, Alaska, and Hawaii in development, you'll soon have even more world-class destinations to explore with ABG!



Reach Out!

Don't hesitate to reach out if you want additional information or if you'd like to chat about options for an upcoming or future trip. We are here to help!

571-215-7948

americanbirdingguides@gmail.com

We're looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Felipe Guerrero -- Jake Thompson
American Birding Guides

Phone: 571-215-7948 | Email: americanbirdingguides@gmail.com
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American Birding Guides | 239 N 2nd Ave | Patagonia, AZ 85624 US

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