Habitat for the Black-chinned Hummingbird
(Photo credit: Lois Manowitz)

It is a habitat generalist, found in lowland deserts and mountainous forests, and in natural habitats and very urbanized areas as long as there are tall trees and flowering shrubs and vines.

Habitat for the Lucy's Warbler
(Photo credit: Joan Gellatly)

They nest and forage in mesquite bosques, thickets, edges of riparian forests and more rarely mature native vegetation in suburbs.

Habitat for the Vermilion Flycatcher
(Photo credit: Jeremy Hayes)

They prefer grasslands, pastures, parks and along streams and ponds; native trees surrounded by open areas.

Habitat for the Cactus Wren
(Photo credit: Jeremy Hayes)

They are found in a variety of arid deserts and foothills with native cactus, mesquite and other desert scrub species.

1 Agua Caliente Park
Pima County: 520-724-5000)
12325 E. Roger Road

This park houses a Tucson Audubon Nature Shop and is a location for Pima County Environmental Education and Interpretation programs. A spring-fed pond attracts birds, even during drought years when the spring's flow and pond's level is low. Over 200 species of birds have been seen here. Look for waterfowl and wading birds at the pond. Walk the north part of the park looking for flycatchers and sparrows. Take the path west of the buildings through eucalyptus trees and a mesquite forest which is a reliable location for Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet. Agua Caliente Park is on Roger Road, 0.4 mile east of Soldier Trail.

2 Arthur Pack Regional Park
(Pima County: 520-724-5000)
9101 N. Thornydale Road

This is a Pima County park on the west side of North Thornydale Road at West Overton Road with a golf course and large areas of native ironwood-saguaro vegetation. Look for birds like Cactus Wrens, Verdins, Gilded Flickers and in summer Purple Martins. Find an online map of hiking trails by searching on "Maeveen Behan Desert Sanctuary." Many people visit in the cool months to check the large golf course pond for waterfowl. From Thornydale Road, go west at Overton Road 0.25 mile to a dirt road called Maeveen Behan Way. Turn left (south) and drive 0.15 mile to trailhead parking on the left. From the parking lot, scope the pond or walk the Maeveen Behan Trail.

3 Case Natural Resource Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
9851 E. Kenyon Drive

Mostly undeveloped, this 53-acre park has a large natural area. The native desert vegetation is home to many of our resident desert birds. In addition to common birds, birders have seen migrant vireos, orioles, and warblers here. If you are on the east side of Tucson but don't have time for a trip to Saguaro National Park East, this is a good alternative where you will find similar desert plants and common desert birds. Case Park's entrance is at the corner of Kenyon Drive and Bonanza Avenue, northeast of Harrison Road and 22nd Street.

4 Catalina Highway/General Hitchcock Highway
(U.S. Forest Service: 520-749-8700)

This picturesque highway, locally known as the Mt. Lemmon Highway, has fantastic birding with over 230 species seen. The highway passes through desert scrub, semi-desert grassland, juniper woodland, oak woodland, and ponderosa pine to reach patches of spruce-fir forest near the top. Many birders visit the area to see southeast Arizona specialty species like Olive and Red-faced Warblers. At hummingbird feeders at the Palisades Visitor Center and Iron Door Restaurant you may see Magnificent or Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. Detailed information about 20 birding sites along the highway can be found in *Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona*, published by the Tucson Audubon Society. There are many stops along the highway (e.g. pullouts, picnic areas, trailheads, and campgrounds). Some areas have free parking but specific day-use sites require a pass (http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/coronado/passes-permits). Start up the Catalina Highway north of Tanque Verde Road to the Forest boundary where it becomes the General Hitchcock Highway.

5 Catalina State Park
(State Parks Department: 520-628-5798)
11570 N. Oracle Road

This park on the high desert slopes of the Santa Catalina Mountains is one of the premier high desert birding sites near Tucson. The park features dense thickets along washes with beautiful, saguaro-studded vistas. Take the entry road past the turn to the main campground and turn into the picnic area at the next left. Walk the paths through mesquites looking for birds such as Ladder-backed Woodpeckers and Crissal Thrashers. Continue on the main road to the trailhead parking to walk the Canyon Loop Trail and the Birding and Nature Trails. A panoply of desert birds is found along these trails. Access is from Oracle Road (AZ State Route 77) 0.75 mile south of Tangerine Road. There is an entry fee.

Tucson Mountains (Photo Credit: Kendall Kroesen)

6 Christopher Columbus Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
4600 N. Silverbell Road

Check the two lakes for waterfowl and, in spring, watch for migrants. At the larger lake, check the north end vegetation patch and the small Great Blue Heron rookery in the large eucalyptus trees on the island. The lake is also a reliable place to see both Double-crested and Neotropic Cormorants. The Loop is adjacent to the east side of Columbus Park and affords views of the Santa Cruz River north and south of the park. Along The Loop, just south of Columbus Park, are four recharge basins where you may see waterfowl and waders. Enter Columbus Park from Silverbell Road, south of El Camino del Cerro.

7 Chuck Ford Lakeside Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
8300 E. Stella Road

This a 50-acre park with an artificial lake. It's worth a trip any time of year to check the lake for unusual birds. During the warm season, several species of swallows may be catching insects over the water. In spring and fall, look in the trees for migrant songbirds. Like any lake in the desert, this lake has pulled in its share of unusual species like Bonaparte's Gull, Brown and American White Pelicans, and Forster's Tern. From Pantano Road, take Stella Road east to the park on the left. If you park in the lot on the east side of the lake, the morning sun will be at your back.

8 Coachline Gravel Pit/ Marana Rock Disc Golf Course
(Town of Marana: 520-382-1950)

In summer months, the old gravel pit fills up with stormwater forming a large pond. The area is mostly undeveloped and trails are informal but watch for disk golfers in the area. In fall and winter ,look for flycatchers, waterfowl, and shorebirds; in spring, the adjacent Santa Cruz River corridor brings in migrants. In summer, go early to beat the heat and remember to be careful on muddy trails. Watch for raptors catching updrafts along the volcanic ridge to the west. The gravel pit is located on Coachline Boulevard, one mile north of Twin Peaks Road. After passing the El Rio subdivision and Oak Stream Road, turn right on the dirt road west of the building with the blue roof, following the sign for the Marana Rock Disk Golf Course. Park near the berm.

9 Columbus Weed Patch and the Rillito River at Swan Wetlands Ecosystem Restoration Project
(Pima County: 520-724-4600)
3580 N. Columbus Boulevard

These sites are in the floodplain of the Rillito River (a large, usually-dry wash). From the small parking area at the north end of Columbus Boulevard, walk The Loop trail either west along the "weed patch" or north then east along the ecosystem restoration area. Both areas are great for native desert birds. The weed patch—an unmanaged area of scrubby vegetation—has seen its share of rarities such as Dickcissel, Sage Thrasher, and Indigo Bunting. Follow Columbus Boulevard north from midtown to its cul-de-sac at the Rillito River. Limited parking. Additional parking, restrooms, and water are available at the west end of the weed patch at the Riverhaven Trailhead located east of Alvernon Way on Paradise Falls Drive.

10 Dell Urich Golf Course/ Patrick K. Hardesty Building
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
1100 S. Alvernon Way

The paved perimeter trail that goes around Reid Park and the Randolph and Dell Urich Golf Courses cuts between one of the Dell Urich Golf Course ponds and the Patrick K. Hardesty Building. There are dense trees where migrant songbirds are seen and rarities sometimes appear; nearly 175 species have been seen overall. Spring nesters like Bell's Vireo and Yellow Warbler can be found. Enter the Hardesty Building parking lot off Alvernon Way just north of 22nd Street. Follow the trail along Alvernon Way north then west to walk between the buildings and the golf course pond.

11 Evergreen Cemetery
(Evergreen Cemetery: 520-888-7470)
3015 N. Oracle Road

Located on the west side of Oracle Road north of Miracle Mile, this large historic cemetery has lawns and mature trees known for attracting migrants in spring and fall and vagrant birds in winter. Some winters there are irruptions of mountain birds such as Western Bluebirds, White-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskin, Brown Creepers, and Red Crossbills. Check the ditch on the north side of the cemetery for sparrows and finches. Private property. Avoid disturbing services, be respectful, and do not sit on headstones. Enter the cemetery off Miracle Mile just west of Oracle Road or from Oracle Road at its intersection with Ft. Lowell Road.

12 Fort Lowell Park and Pantano Wash
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
2900 N. Craycroft Road

Over 175 species have been seen at Fort Lowell Park and the adjacent Pantano Wash making it one of the best city parks in Tucson for birding. Many rarities have shown up in the park's mature trees and pond. Along the northeast side of the park there is a thicket of mesquites and other trees which provide habitat for many native species. In late March and early April, migrating Turkey Vultures, and sometimes hawks, rise from roosts to the east and circle on thermals. This park will be connected to The Loop in the future. Access the park from Craycroft Road north of Glenn Street or from Glenn Street just east of Craycroft Road.

13 Freedom Park
(Tucson: 520-791-4873)
5000 E. 29th Street

This 39-acre City park has a recreation center, ball fields, a pool, and a covered basketball court. Look for winter sparrows on the lawns or migrating birds in the spring or fall. Species like Western Bluebird and American Kestrel have been seen here in winter. Two of our four locally-breeding hummingbirds (Anna's and Black-chinned) have been seen here; close checking might also result in sightings of the other two (Costa's and Broad-billed). Record your data in eBird to help us improve our knowledge of this park. Access is from the south side of 29th Street just east of Swan Road.

14 Gene C. Reid Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
920 S. Concert Place

Reid Park is the premier City park in central Tucson. Reid Park has extensive turf, a dog park, a pool, a rose garden, ponds, Hi Corbett Field, and the Reid Park Zoo. Over 200 bird species have been sighted here. This is one of the best places to look for over-wintering raptors such as Merlin and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Winter irruptions of higher-elevation species may bring in Western Bluebird, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper some years and, in recent years, there is sometimes a Lewis's Woodpecker around. Regular winter waterfowl include Ruddy Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeons, and a few Redheads and Canvasbacks. Access the park from Country Club Road, 22nd Street, or Camino Campestre.

15 Greasewood Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
1075 N. Greasewood Road

If you want to see Sonoran Desert vegetation and birds without driving far, try Greasewood Park. Located west of central Tucson, this park is closer to town than Tucson Mountain Park or the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Common desert birds include Gambel's Quail, Gila Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, and Curve-billed Thrasher. In summer you may see the Sonoran Desert subspecies of Purple Martin which nests in small colonies in one or more large saguaro cacti with multiple woodpecker holes. Access Greasewood Park on the west side of Greasewood Road just south of Speedway Boulevard.

16 Himmel Park
(Tucson: 520-791-4873)
1000 N. Tucson Boulevard

Himmel Park is located in midtown Tucson making it a convenient stop for residents and visitors. While nearby Reid Park has more birds, Himmel Park still has an amazing 75 species sighted. In winter of 2013-14 a Harris's Sparrow was sighted on the south side of the park. Walk the perimeter of the park looking for Cooper's Hawks, Gila Woodpeckers, and Vermilion Flycatchers year-round. Expect to see many other city birds, wintering species, and migratory species. Himmel Park is on Tucson Boulevard one block south of Speedway Boulevard with parking lots on Tucson Boulevard and 1st Street.

17 Honeybee Canyon Park
(Town of Oro Valley: 520-229-5050)
13880 N. Rancho Vistoso Boulevard

Located on the southeast slope of the Tortolita Mountains, this picturesque park is easily accessed and has had nearly 100 species recorded. The park encompasses a large desert wash (a canyon in some places) with diverse native desert vegetation south of Rancho Vistoso Boulevard. Look for Cactus and Canyon Wrens, Verdins, Greater Roadrunners, Gambel's Quail, Rufous-winged Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, Pyrrhuloxias, and many others. From the parking lot you can walk in the bottom of the wash up or down canyon. Walking in sand can be strenuous so take water and do not overexert. Beware of flash floods during the summer monsoon. Access Rancho Vistoso Boulevard from Tangerine Road or Oracle Road.

18 John F. Kennedy Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
3700 S. Mission Road

This park sports a list of nearly 180 species due to its pond, trees, and desert vegetation. The lake attracts herons, egrets, shorebirds, and migrants. Look for Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Spotted Sandpiper, and Killdeer on the water's edge. In winter find Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeons, and sometimes rarer migrants. Common park birds such as Western Kingbird and Vermilion Flycatcher are also found here in season. Park access is from Mission Road north of Ajo Way or from La Cholla Boulevard north of Ajo Way.

19 Lincoln Park and Atturbury Wash
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
8300 E. Escalante Road

Lincoln Park has large areas of natural vegetation including the intact floodplain of ephemeral Atturbury Wash. Designated as the Atturbury-Lyman Bird and Animal Sanctuary, the floodplain has resident birds like Phainopepla, Gambel's Quail, Greater Roadrunner, and Northern Cardinal. In spring look for migrant warblers, grosbeaks, orioles, tanagers, and lingering over-wintering birds like Green-tailed Towhees, Lincoln's Sparrows, and Northern Flickers. Nesting birds include Vermilion Flycatcher, Lucy's Warbler, Bewick's Wren, and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. From Pantano Road take Escalante Road 0.5 mile east to the second park entrance. Walk southeast from the parking lot, past the restrooms, to the wash.

20 McCormick Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
2950 N. Columbus Boulevard

This City park has picnic areas, a basketball court, and ornamental trees. It seems unremarkable but has hosted some unusual birds. In winter there are usually Red-naped Sapsuckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-crowned Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Some years there may also be Western Bluebirds, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Cedar Waxwings. Rarer sightings include Common Ground-Dove and Williamson's and Red-breasted Sapsuckers. Located 0.75 mile south of The Columbus Weed Patch, the two may easily be combined into one trip. McCormick Park is located on Columbus Boulevard 0.25 mile south of Fort Lowell Road.

21 Michael Perry Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
2755 S. Pantano Parkway

This park is another place to familiarize yourself with the most common birds in Tucson. Due to its location along the Pantano Wash, you might also see a variety of raptors such as American Kestrel, Prairie and Peregrine falcons, Red-tailed, Harris's, and Cooper's Hawks, and Northern Harrier. Look for other aerial experts such as White-throated Swift and several swallow species. This park, like most parks, can be good in winter for sparrows, Brewer's Blackbird, and maybe a Western Meadowlark. The park is located south of Golf Links Road on Pantano Parkway.

22 Morris K. Udall Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
7290 E. Tanque Verde Road

Udall Park has about equal parts undeveloped desert and developed park amenities. It is birded less than other parks but a wide variety of birds are seen here. Your best bet is to walk through the mature vegetation on the west side of the park, skirting the recreation center buildings. Desert scrub vegetation to the south may yield birds as well. The park is on the south side of Tanque Verde Road just east of Sabino Canyon Road.

23 Pima Canyon Trail
(Pima County (trailhead): 520-724-5000;
Coronado National Forest: 520-749-8700)
1698 E. Magee Road

One of several canyons in the front range of the Santa Catalina Mountains, Pima Canyon has one of the best combinations of birding and dramatic scenery available. The first three miles of the trail gain approximately 800 feet of elevation and provides good birding opportunities. Look for desert birds such as Gambel's Quail, Gilded Flicker, and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at lower elevations. At about 1.7 miles you cross a riparian area and enter a scattered oak forest where wide range of birds can be seen. This is a strenuous hike so carry and drink plenty of water or liquids providing electrolytes. The Iris Dewhirst Pima Canyon Trailhead is located on Magee Road 1.6 miles east of Oracle Road. No dogs allowed.

24 Rio Vista Natural Resource Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
3974 N. Tucson Boulevard

This City park provides playgrounds, a small turf area, and equestrian access to The Loop. Plenty of native vegetation results in a good mix of bird species making Rio Vista a great place to become acquainted with Tucson's birds. Walking around the park and then out to the trail along the Rillito, you should see a combination of resident desert birds (e.g. Cactus Wrens, Curve-billed Thrashers), wintering birds (e.g. various sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees), and some of the many raptors (e.g. American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon) which prowl the Rillito especially in the winter. Rio Vista is located at the northern end of Tucson Boulevard north of Prince Road.

25 Roger Road Ponds
(Pima County: 520-724-6500)
2600 W. Sweetwater Drive

This is one of the oldest wetland birding sites in Tucson with continuous visitation since the 1960s. There have been over 210 species seen here including a number of rarities. The ponds are currently inaccessible but you may look into the pond area from the fence along Sweetwater Drive. The County has plans to turn the pond area into a park so in the future you will be able to walk among the mature vegetation around the ponds looking for waterfowl, spring and fall migrants, and many nesting birds. There are currently no amenities at the ponds but there are restrooms, drinking water, and parking east of the ponds at Sweetwater Wetlands. The ponds are located at the northwest end of Sweetwater Drive west of the I-10 frontage road.

26 Sabino Canyon Recreation Area
(Sabino Canyon Visitors Center: 520-749-8700)
5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road

Of the Santa Catalina front range canyons, Sabino Canyon reaches farthest into the mountains, has the biggest watershed, and has the longest perennial stream. Sabino Canyon also contains the most diverse set of hiking trails, including a 3.8-mile paved pedestrian road up the main canyon. Motorized trams operate 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily and cycling is allowed on the road before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. except on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The canyon is very popular so arrive early to beat the crowds. About 200 species have been seen here making Sabino Canyon one of the area's premier birding sites. All desert birds are here plus canyon birds and riparian species. Plenty of migrants pass through the canyon and many vagrants have been found. There is an entrance fee; check in at the Visitor Center for a map and advice (open 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 7 days a week) or call ahead if you will arrive early. The trail to the dam affords good birding and has the broadest, most diverse riparian area upstream of the dam. Enter from Sabino Canyon Road just north of Sunrise Drive. No pets.

27 Saguaro National Park – Rincon Mountain District (East)
(520-733-5153)
3693 S. Old Spanish Trail

Saguaro National Park offers the quintessential Sonoran Desert experience with scenic, saguaro-filled terrain. Just past the Visitor Center, there is an 8-mile loop road (Cactus Forest Drive) which provides many opportunities to stop and see birds and other wildlife. Over 100 bird species have been seen on the loop road so you'll have plenty of opportunities to see desert birds such as Canyon Towhees, Rufous-winged Sparrows, and Black-throated Sparrows. If you're lucky, a Harris's Hawk or a Golden Eagle may fly over. Access trails from Cactus Forest Drive or the trailheads located on Broadway and Speedway Boulevards. The Park entrance is on Old Spanish Trail, 0.25 mile north of Escalante Road.

28 Sam Lena Park and Kino Environmental Restoration Project (KERP) (Pima County: 520-740-4600)
3400 S. Country Club Road

Sam Lena Park is a small PimaCounty park providing convenient access to the Kino Environmental Restoration Project (KERP). The KERP is a 141-acre flood control area which features open water, riparian, grassland, mesquite bosque, marsh, and upland Arizona Upland habitats. Over 175 species have been seen here since the vegetation began to mature in 2004. Walk around KERP on the 2.2 mile loop path. Note: playback of bird songs is not permitted here. Enter from Ajo Way north on Forgeus Avenue or from Country Club Road north of Ajo Way.

Phainopepla
(Photo credit:
Lois Manowitz)

Funding for this project has been provided by Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Fund

29 Santa Cruz River—Cortaro Road and Crossroads at Silverbell District Park
(Town of Marana: 520-382-1950)
7548 N. Silverbell Road

For a view of the Santa Cruz River, walk The Loop trail on the west side of the river south of Cortaro Road. This part of the river has flowing water and riparian vegetation and a wide variety of riparian birds can be seen. Look for wintering species, spring migrants, and many nesting birds like the Yellow Warbler. In late spring, Cliff Swallows nest under the Cortaro Road bridge. Watch the strip of native desert plants between the trail and the park for sparrows and quail. Enter the park on Mamie Kai Drive from Cortaro Road or at park entrances off of Silverbell Road south of Cortaro Road. Crossroads Park is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and The Loop is open dawn to dusk.

30 Santa Cruz River—Ina Road
(Town of Marana: 520-382-1950)

Ina Road crosses the Santa Cruz River at a good place for bird habitat. A grade control structure under the bridge creates ponding upstream resulting in dense vegetation. The view from the berm along the river on the northeast bank is good for swallows and nighthawks. That vantage point also gives you a view of a small, artificial waterfall under the bridge. You can walk or bicycle The Loop trail north along the west side of the river toward Crossroads at Silverbell District Park. No amenities. The bridge is located on Ina Road 0.75 mile west of I-10. Watch for traffic.

31 Sentinel Peak Park
(City of Tucson: 520-791-4873)
1000 S. Sentinel Peak Road

This park encompasses Sentinel Peak, also known as "A" Mountain. There are great views of Tucson here and it is a good place to see raptors like Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Peregrine Falcons, and, in winter, Sharp-shinned Hawks. Watch for other airborne birds such as swallows and White-throated Swifts. Birds of our rocky hillsides and upland deserts such as Rock Wren, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and Greater Roadrunners may also be found here. From Congress Street west of I-10, turn left on Cuesta Avenue. Cuesta Avenue turns into Sentinel Peak Road; follow Sentinel Peak Road to the parking lot on the west side of the peak.

32 Silverlake Park
(Tucson: 520-791-4873)
2420 S. Kino Parkway

This centrally-located City park has mature trees which host many birds that like park habitat. This is a good place to see Vermilion Flycatcher and Say's Phoebe. In winter watch for Northern Flickers, American Kestrels, and blackbirds on the lawns, especially Brewer's Blackbird. Concentrate your birding along the tree-lined draw at the north end of the park. Enter parking lots off of Kino Parkway between Silverlake Road and 36th Street.

33 Sweetwater Wetlands
(Tucson Water: 520-791-4331)
2551 W. Sweetwater Drive

Sweetwater Wetlands is the best wetland birding site in Tucson. Nearly 300 species have been seen at the Wetlands since it was constructed in 1996. Ducks are numerous in winter, particularly Northern Shovelers and American Wigeons. Green Herons, Snowy Egrets, Common Gallinules, and Soras may be found along the edges of reeds. Common Yellowthroats breed among the reeds and Marsh Wrens winter there. Abert's Towhees forage on the trails and in the saltbush hedges. From the south side look through the fence at the infiltration basins (a scope is useful). Park amenities include restrooms, information kiosk, checklists, and a "recent sightings" notebook. Access is via Sweetwater Drive west from the west-side I-10 frontage road. Open approximately one hour before sunrise to approximately one hour after sunset (opens late on Mondays March – October). No dogs.

Sweetwater Wetlands
(Photo credit: Kendall Kroesen)

34 Tanque Verde Wash at Tanque Verde Loop Road

Tanque Verde Loop Road is not a loop at all, but goes straight north and south between Broadway Boulevard and Tanque Verde Road. Where it crosses the Tanque Verde Wash the birding can be very good, either from the roadside or walking up and down the wash. Spring and fall migration can be good in the dense plantings along the road north of the wash. A variety of raptors nest in the large cottonwoods along the wash including, in recent years, Gray Hawks. Riparian birds such as Song Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, and Yellow Warbler nest in the area. This is one of the few remaining places to find Inca Dove. No amenities. Park carefully off the side of the road north or south of the wash and be careful walking along the narrow roadside. Do not block driveways or gates and respect private property. Do not cross the wash when water is flowing.

35 Tanque Verde Wash at Wentworth Road

This site is similar to Tanque Verde Loop Road but is located 2 miles further east. There is good birding walking along Wentworth Road and walking up and down the wash. Some pastures north of the wash provide opportunity to see grassland sparrows, Say's Phoebe, or Vermilion Flycatcher. Broad-billed Hummingbird, Bell's Vireo, and Brown-crested Flycatcher are among the many riparian birds seen along the wash. A pair of Gray Hawks has been present in recent years. No amenities. Park carefully off the road either north or south of the wash and do not block driveways or gates. Respect private property. Do not cross the wash when water is flowing.

36 The Loop
(Pima County: 520-243-2453)

The Loop is not a single location but a system of shared-use paths that welcomes non-motorized users for recreation and alternative transportation. There are currently more than 100 miles of trails completed out of the 131 miles planned and eventually The Loop will encircle metro Tucson along the major watercourses with connections to surrounding communities. The Loop is adjacent to several birding sites listed in this brochure, particularly along the Santa Cruz River, the Rillito River, and Atturbury Wash. The Sweetwater Wetlands has an entrance on The Loop. Open every day from dawn to dusk. Most informative reference to The Loop is available at: www.pima.gov/theloop.

37 Tohono Chul Park
(520-742-6455)
7366 N. Paseo del Norte

This is a privately-run, 49-acre botanical garden on Tucson's northwest side. The park has desert habitat but also lovely gardens, ethnobotanical exhibits, and an artificial riparian area. This is a good place to see common desert birds. Look for multiple hummingbird species at the many attracting flowers in the Hummingbird Garden. Combine birding with visits to the native plant nursery, art gallery, and the Garden Bistro (breakfast, lunch or Sunday brunch: 520-333-9209). For more information, and membership, go to www.tohonochulpark.org. Tohono Chul is located on Paseo del Norte just north of Ina Road.

38 Tucson Audubon's Mason Center
(Tucson Audubon: 520-209-1811)
3835 W. Hardy Road

The Mason Center is a 20-acre nature preserve and a demonstration of sustainable desert life. Currently the center can be visited most weekdays (any time the parking lot chain is down). Call ahead for availability. Watch feeders and flowers for Costa's Hummingbird in winter and spring. At the seed feeder watch for Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Abert's Towhee, and sometimes Gilded Flicker. Half-mile and quarter-mile loop trails go through the preserve. The best birding is in fall, winter, and spring. Call to sign up for Saturday morning bird walks during the cool season. The Mason Center is on Hardy Road west of Thornydale Road.

39 Tucson Botanical Gardens
(520-326-9686)
2150 N. Alvernon Way

This 5.5-acre site has a lot of dense, mature vegetation that harbors many species of birds. Over 50 species have been seen here making the Botanical Gardens a great local resource in mid-town Tucson. Besides typical desert and park birds, the mature vegetation has drawn in migrants like Willow Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, and "Western" Flycatchers. On warm days this is a shady place for birders and plant lovers alike to cool off and see what birds might be lurking. There is an entrance fee. The Gardens are located on the east side of Alvernon Way south of Grant Road.

40 Tucson Mountain Park
(Pima County: 520-724-5000)
8451 W. McCain Loop

41 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
(520-883-2702)
2021 N. Kinney Road

42 Saguaro National Park – Tucson Mountain District (West)
(520-733-5158)
2700 N. Kinney Road

This sprawling desert area west of Tucson has low volcanic peaks, broad desert basins, and well-preserved upland desert—among the most diverse desert vegetation. Birds range from Curve-billed Thrashers to Rock and Cactus Wrens, Elf Owls, Gilded Flickers, Black-throated Sparrows, multiple raptors, and many others. Access Tucson Mountain Park from Speedway Boulevard west of I-10. Bear left at Camino de Oeste on to Gates Pass Road. Use caution driving narrow and winding Gates Pass Road (trailers and RVs are restricted and must use the southern alternate access route via Ajo Highway/Kinney Road). Stop at the Gates Pass Overlook to take in the view before driving over the pass. There are many pull-outs throughout the park along Gates Pass Road and Kinney Road where you can enjoy birds and scenery. Turn right on to Kinney Road to find the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (part zoo, part botanical garden, part natural history museum with two aviaries and fine birding) and Saguaro National Park (West). Go 2.5 miles on Kinney Road to the Museum entrance and continue another 2.1 miles on Kinney Road to Saguaro National Park's Red Hills Visitor Center.

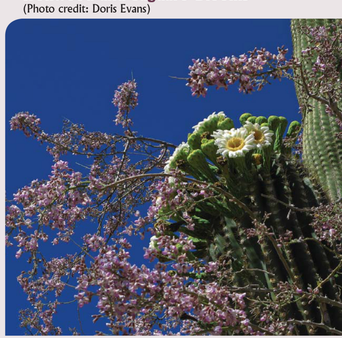
43 University of Arizona Campus Agricultural Center
(520-621-3246)
4101 N. Campbell Avenue

This 80-acre Agricultural Center contains experimental crops and pastures and provides a kind of open space found nowhere else in Tucson. It is one of the best places in Tucson for birds attracted to open, well-watered farm fields. Breeding season sees Western and Cassin's kingbirds, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Lesser Nighthawk. In winter, Killdeer, American Pipit, Western Meadowlark, and Savannah Sparrow are examples of birds not easily found elsewhere within city limits and blackbird flocks are worth scanning. The concentrations of birds attract many raptors; and Prairie and Peregrine Falcons are regularly sighted. Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk are frequent sightings with a pair of the latter often breeding in the complex. Drive the south, west, and north perimeter of the farm on Roger Road, Mountain Avenue, and Limberlost Drive. There are places where you can pull off the road but observe signs and be cautious.

44 Ventana Canyon
(U.S. Forest Service: 520-749-8700)

Like Pima and Sabino canyons, Ventana Canyon is a picturesque canyon on the front range of the Santa Catalina Mountains. It is a bit less diverse in birds than Pima Canyon but rivals it for desert vistas. At 6.4 steep miles in, there is an arch or window rock that is a goal for many hikers. Eight hummingbird species have been seen along the trail, with best bets being Costa's, Black-chinned, Anna's, and Broad-billed. From Kolb Road, turn right on Resort Drive to the trailhead parking on the left. No dogs.

45 Woodland Road

Woodland Road is a public road that passes several ranches and large properties along the north side of the Tanque Verde Wash floodplain. There are remnants of a mesquite forest and open pasture areas for horses and other livestock. You may see a combination of grassland birds like meadowlarks, mesquite forest birds like Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and pasture-loving birds such as flycatchers and Phainopeplas. You may drive along the road and stop when you see birds but do not block driveways or gates and respect private property. No amenities here. Woodland Road is south of Tanque Verde Road east of Pantano Road and east of the bridge over Tanque Verde Creek.

Ironwood and Saguaro Blooms
(Photo credit: Doris Evans)