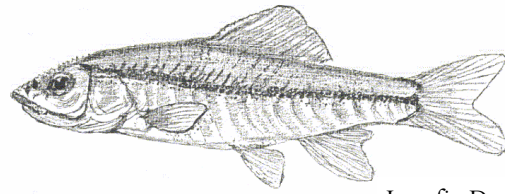


Recycle

If you are not likely to use this brochure at home please return it to our visitor center so it may be used again.

Monies saved will be applied towards our local restoration efforts.



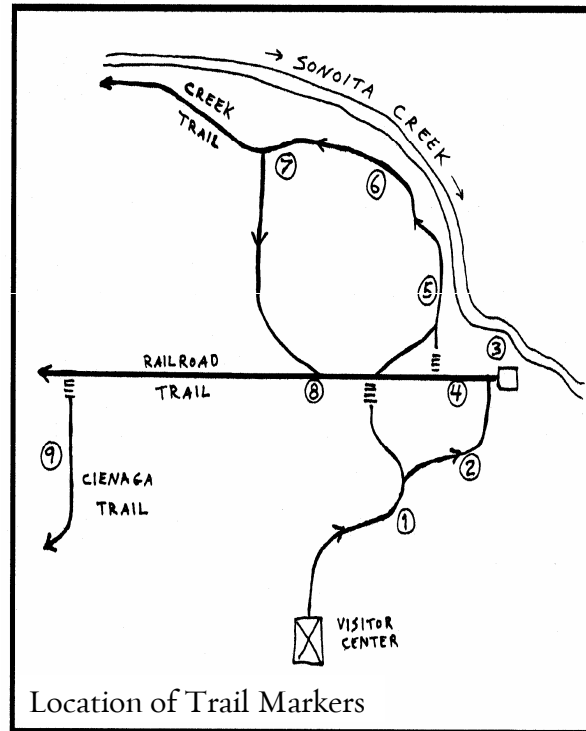
Longfin Dace

Notes for Numbered Trail Markers

- Sacaton:** The large bunchgrass near this marker is giant sacaton (*Sporobolous wrightii*), which still occurs in large stands on the few remaining undisturbed floodplain areas in the Southwest. These grasses provide an important link between uplands and riparian areas.
- Groundwater Well:** This groundwater monitoring well is used to track groundwater levels. By tracking groundwater, precipitation and streamflow we will better understand how changing land use practices affect Sonoita Creek.
- The Railroad:** The Railroad Trail on which you are standing supported tracks for a line that ran from Benson, Arizona to Guaymas, Mexico. This line, or portions of it, ran from 1882 until 1962.
- Sonoita Creek:** This creek has about 5 miles of perennial flow the first 2 of which are on the preserve. The creek's watershed covers approximately 200 square miles.
- Aquatics:** Aquatic plants and animals are among the most endangered organisms in the Southwest. This creek still harbors 3 rare aquatic species: the Gila topminnow (a fish), the Huachuca water umbel (a plant), and the Huachuca spring snail.
- Fremont Cottonwood:** This cottonwood is one of the oldest and largest of its kind. It is about 140 years old. The cottonwood-willow riparian forest you see here is believed to be one of the most productive habitat types for birds in the United States.
- Birds of Prey:** 22 species of raptors have been seen at PSCP, with 6 species confirmed as breeders. The gray hawk (*Asturina nitida*) is a tropical species that ranges into only the southernmost parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. PSCP usually hosts 3-4 breeding pairs each summer.
- Mixed Deciduous Forest:** As you move away from the creek

the vegetation transitions from the cottonwood-willow forest to less water-dependent woodlands. The less water-dependent trees include Mexican elders, Velvet ash, Velvet mesquite, Arizona walnut, and Netleaf hackberry.

- Cienegas:** The change in vegetation you see here indicates a higher level of groundwater here than the area to the west. These marsh-like or swampy areas are referred to as cienegas. This term originates from the Spanish words *cien aguas* or 100 waters. This cienega is what remains of a larger swamp that may have once extended to what is now the town of Patagonia. These cienegas are rapidly disappearing throughout the southwest as groundwater recedes.



The Nature Conservancy

SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve

<http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/arizona/>

Biodiversity: What is biodiversity and why should we be protecting it?

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the immense variety and variability found among Earth's living organisms; it includes diversity at the ecosystem, species, and genetic levels. Whether it is birds, mammals, insects, fish, or microbes, all species have relationships with other species and with their physical environments. These relationships are the source of the ecological services that all living organisms, including humans, need to survive. These services include clean air, clean water, fertile soil, food, fuel, medicine, raw materials, erosion and flood control, nutrient recycling, and climate regulation. By understanding biodiversity and its importance, and realizing our complete dependence upon it, we hope to inspire a strong commitment to protecting it and its life sustaining relationships for generations to come.

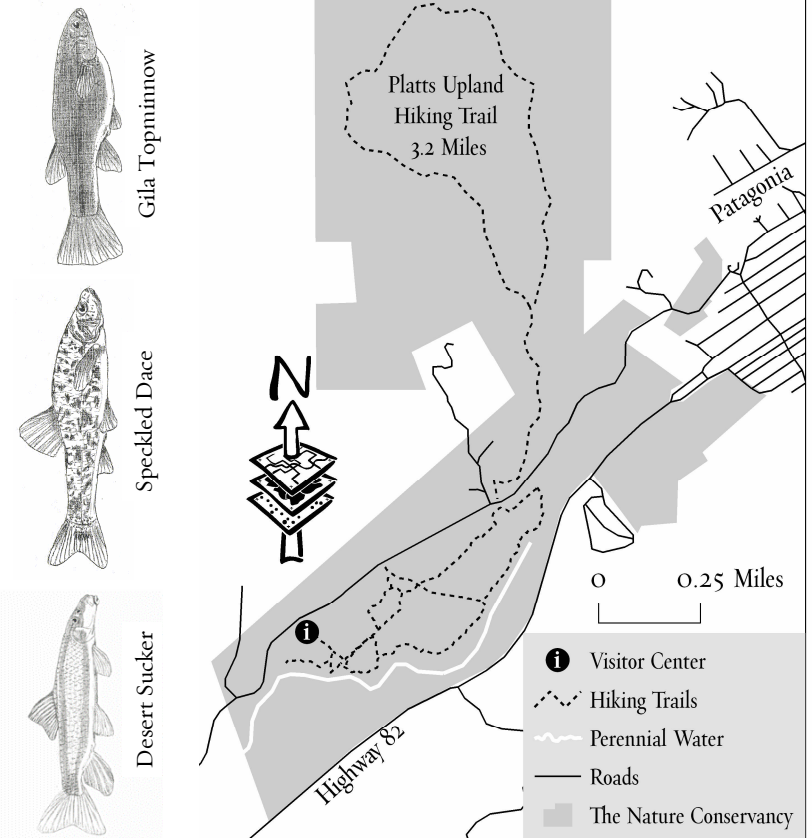
Biodiversity in southeastern Arizona: What makes southeastern Arizona so unique?

Southeastern Arizona (and Patagonia) lies at an ecological crossroads where the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts as well as the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Madres come together. This bio-regional collision occurs in an area of great topographic diversity. Add to that much wild and open space and a summer rainy season of subtropical origin and you have all the ingredients for a biodiversity hotspot.

The Nature Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization. Our mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the land and waters they need to survive.

The Nature Conservancy and its more than one million members worldwide have helped to protect more than 117 million acres of land in 27 countries, including 15 million acres in the United States. We work internationally by assisting like-minded partner organizations and have helped preserve wildlife habitat in Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Pacific.

For information on joining The Nature Conservancy or volunteering at Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve please stop by our visitor center and speak with a volunteer or call (520) 394-2400.



Summer Bird Checklist

Winter birds have been omitted but are on the display list at the Visitor Center.

Abundance Codes:

C = Common (easy to find in favorable habitat)

F = Fairly Common (usually found with persistence)

U = Uncommon (found less than 50% of the time)

O = Occasional (found annually in nearby habitats, but easily missed on the preserve)

R = Rare (present in small numbers; usually annual, but very unlikely)

I = Irregular (not found every year, but found in varying abundance from year to year)

Ca = Casual (years between sightings; cannot be expected)

X = Accidental (seen five or fewer times)

Seasonality Codes:

p = permanent resident (some individuals present all year)

s = summer

t = transient (spring and fall migrant)

y = year-round (vagrant individuals possible any-time)

***** = confirmed breeder

Grebes

Pie-billed Grebe (*O-y*)

Western Grebe (*O-t*)

Cormorants

Double-breasted Cormorant (*O-y*)

Hérons, Egrets & Ibis

Great Blue Heron* (*C-p*)

Great Egret (*O-y*)

Snowy Egret (*O-y*)

Green Heron (*U-y*)

Black-crowned Night Heron (*U-y*)

White-faced Ibis (*O-t*)

Geese & Ducks

Canada Goose (*R-t*)

Black-Bellied Whistling-Duck (*F-s*)

Ruddy Duck (*O-y*)

American Vultures

Turkey Vulture (*C-s*)

Black Vulture (*F-s*)

Kites, Hawks & Eagles

White-tailed Kite (*R-y*)

Mississippi Kite (*R-s*)

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*U-s*)

Cooper's Hawk* (*C-s*)

Northern Goshawk (*I-y*)

Common Black Hawk (*R-s*)

Harris's Hawk (*I-y*)

Gray Hawk* (*C-s*)

Zone-tailed Hawk* (*F-s*)

Broad-winged Hawk (*F-s*)

Swainson's Hawk (*U-s*)

Red-tailed Hawk (*C-p*)

Golden Eagle (*U-y*)

Osprey (*U-t*)

Caracara & Falcons

Crested Caracara (*I-y*)

American Kestrel* (*C-p*)

Prairie Falcon (*O-y*)

Peregrine Falcon (*R-y*)

Turkey & Quail

Montezuma Quail* (*F-p*)

Gambel's Quail* (*C-p*)

Scaled Quail (*O-y*)

Wild Turkey (*I-y*)

Rails, Moorhens & Coot

Common Moorhen (*O-y*)

American Coot (*O-y*)

Virginia Rail (*O-y*)

Shorebirds

Killdeer (*O-y*)

American Avocet (*U-t*)

Solitary Sandpiper (*R-t*)

Spotted Sandpiper (*U-t*)

Western Sandpiper (*I-t*)

Pigeons & Doves

Mourning Dove* (*C-p*)

White-winged Dove* (*C-s*)

Inca Dove* (*F-p*)

Common Ground-Dove (*F-p*)

Rock Pigeon* (*F-y*)

Band-tailed Pigeon (*U-s*)

Cuckoos, Roadrunners & Ani

Yellow-billed Cuckoo* (*C-s*)

Groove-billed Ani (*Ca-s*)

Greater Roadrunner* (*F-p*)

Owls

Barn Owl* (*U-p*)

Long-eared Owl (*I-w, Ca-s*)

Great Horned Owl* (*F-p*)

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Ca-y*)

Elf Owl* (*O-s*)

Whiskered Screech-Owl (*O-y*)

Western Screech-Owl (*F-p*)

Nighthawks & Nightjars

Common Poorwill (*F-s*)

Whip-poor-will (*arizonae*) (*O-s*)

Common Nighthawk (*O-s*)

Lesser Nighthawk (*U-s*)

Swifts

Vaux's Swift (*U-t*)

White-throated Swift (*F-s*)

Hummingbirds

Plain-capped Starthroat (*Ca-s*)

Lucifer H-bird (*I-s, R-t*)

Violet-crowned H-bird* (*C-s, R-t*)

Broad-billed H-bird* (*C-s*)

White-eared H-bird (*R-t*)

Blue-throated H-bird (*U-t*)

Magnificent H-bird (*U-t*)

Anna's H-bird (*C-s*)

Costa's H-bird (*U-s, C-t*)

Black-chinned H-bird* (*C-s*)

Calliope H-bird (*U-t*)

Broad-tailed H-bird (*F-t*)

Allen's H-bird (*R-t*)

Rufous H-bird (*C-t*)

Trogon

Elegant Trogon (*R-t*)

Kingfishers

Green Kingfisher* (*I-s*)

Woodpeckers

Acorn Woodpecker* (*F-p*)

Gila Woodpecker* (*C-p*)

Red-naped Sapsucker (*C-t*)

Ladder-backed Woodpecker* (*C-p*)

Guillemot Flicker (*I-y*)

Northern Flicker* (*C-p*)

Tyrant Flycatchers

Rose-throated Becard* (*R-s*)

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet*

(*C-s*)

Greater Pewee (*R-t*)

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*U-t*)

Western Wood-Pewee* (*C-s*)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*C-t*)

Cordilleran Flycatcher (*O-s*)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*X*)

Willow Flycatcher (*F-t, I-s*)

Least Flycatcher (*Ca-t*)

Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*R-t*)

Black Phoebe* (*C-p*)

Say's Phoebe* (*C-p*)

Vermillion Flycatcher* (*C-s*)

Ash-throated Flycatcher* (*F-s*)

Brown-crested Flycatcher* (*C-s*)

Thick-billed Kingbird* (*F-s*)

Tropical Kingbird (*R-s*)

Cassin's Kingbird* (*C-s*)

Western Kingbird (*F-s*)

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*U-t, O-s*)

Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike (*I-y*)

Vireos

Grey Vireo (*R-s*)

Red-eyed Vireo (*Ca-t*)

Yellow-green Vireo (*X*)

Warbling Vireo (*U-s, C-t*)

Bell's Vireo* (*C-s*)

Hutton's Vireo* (*F-s*)

Yellow-throated Vireo (*X*)

Plumbeous Vireo (*F-t*)

Cassin's Vireo (*C-t*)

Jays, Magpies & Crows

Steller's Jay (*R-y*)

Mexican Jay* (*U-p*)

Common Raven (*F-s*)

Chihuahuan Raven (*C-s*)

Larks

Horned lark (*U-s*)

Swallows

Purple Martin (*R-s*)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*C-s*)

Bank Swallow (*F-t*)

Violet-green Swallow (*C-t, U-s*)

Tree Swallow (*C-t*)

Cliff Swallow (*U-s*)

Barn Swallow* (*C-s*)

Titmice & Chickadees

Bridled Titmouse* (*C-p*)

Verdin & Bushtit

Verdin* (*C-p*)

Bushtit* (*F-p*)

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*I-y*)

White-breasted Nuthatch* (*C-p*)

Creepers

Brown Creeper (*U-p*)

Wrens

Bewick's Wren* (*C-p*)

House Wren (*F-p*)

Cactus Wren (*U-p*)

Rock Wren* (*F-p*)

Canyon Wren* (*F-p*)

Kinglets & Gnatcatchers

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*F-p*)

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher* (*F-p*)

Black-capped Gnatcatcher (*Ca-y*)

Thrushes

Townsend's Solitaire (*U-t*)

Western Bluebird (*U-s*)

Eastern Bluebird (*fulva*) (*U-y*)

American Robin (*U-y*)

Veery (*X*)

Swainson's Thrush (*U-t*)

Mockingbirds & Thrashers

Northern Mockingbird* (*C-p*)

Curve-billed Thrasher* (*C-p*)

Crissal Thrasher* (*U-p*)

Starlings

European Starling* (*C-p*)

Silky Flycatchers

Phainopepla* (*C-s*)

Wood Warblers

Northern Parula (*Ca-t*)

Orange-crowned Warbler (*C-t*)

Tennessee Warbler (*R-t*)

Golden-winged Warbler (*Ca-t*)

Virginia's Warbler (*F-t, R-s*)

Nashville Warbler (*C-t*)

Lucy's Warbler* (*C-s*)

Yellow Warbler* (*C-s*)

Black-throated Grey Warbler (*C-t*)

Townsend's Warbler (*F-t*)

Hermit Warbler (*U-t*)

Palm Warbler (*Ca-t*)

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Ca-t*)

Grace's Warbler (*R-t*)

Worm-eating Warbler (*Ca-t*)

Prothonotary Warbler (*Ca-t*)

Black-and-white Warbler (*Ca-t*)

American Redstart (*R-t*)

Painted Redstart (*U-t*)

Ovenbird (*Ca-t*)

Northern Waterthrush (*R-t*)

Louisiana Waterthrush (*C-t*)

MacGillivray's Warbler (*C-t*)

Common Yellowthroat* (*C-s*)

Red-faced Warbler (*R-t*)

Wilson's Warbler (*C-t*)

Hooded Warbler (*Ca-s*)

Yellow-breasted Chat* (*C-s*)

Crescent-chested Warbler (*X*)

Tanagers

Hepatic Tanager (*U-s*)

Summer Tanager* (*C-s*)

Western Tanager (*U-s, C-t*)

Cardinals, Grosbeaks & Buntings

Pyrrhuloxia* (*F-p*)

Northern Cardinal* (*C-p*)

Yellow Grosbeak (*Ca-s*)

Black-headed Grosbeak (*U-s, C-t*)

Blue Grosbeak* (*C-s*)

Lazuli Bunting (*U-s, C-t*)

Indigo Bunting* (*F-s*)

Varied Bunting* (*C-s*)

Painted Bunting (*Ca-t*)

Sparrows, Towhees & Juncos

Spotted Towhee* (*U-p*)

Green-tailed Towhee* (*R-s*)

Canyon Towhee* (*C-p*)

Abert's Towhee* (*C-p*)

Rufous-crowned Sparrow* (*C-p*)

Cassin's Sparrow (*U-s*)

Botteri's Sparrow (*U-s*)

Rufous-winged Sparrow (*O-y*)

Black-throated Sparrow* (*C-p*)

Clay-colored Sparrow (*I-t*)

Grasshopper Sparrow (*O-y, R-t*)

Lark Sparrow (*F-p*)

Song Sparrow* (*C-p*)

Blackbirds & Orioles

Eastern Meadowlark (*liliana*) (*O-y*)

Bronze-headed Cowbird* (*C-s*)

Bronzed Cowbird* (*F-s*)

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*U-t*)

Red-winged Blackbird (*C-t*)

Brewer's Blackbird (*C-t*)

Great-tailed Grackle* (*C-p*)

Streak-backed Oriole (*X*)

Bullock's Oriole* (*F-s</*