



BIRDWATCHING BASICS: Are you ready to delve into the wonderful world of watching birds? Or have you watched birds for awhile, but wish to expand your knowledge about birds? This workshop provides an introduction to birds, their behaviors, ecology, and natural history. You will learn the basics about bills and foraging, wings and flight, songs and communication, and other characteristics. These will be combined with an introduction to the hierarchy and methods of identification that will enhance your birdwatching experiences.

RAPTORS: A favorite among birdwatchers, raptors impress us with their size and speed. Though there are not many species of raptors, identification challenges arise from variation in their plumages due to age, sub-species, or color morphs. In this workshop you will learn how to recognize species apart from their plumages and learn behaviors that aid in identification. The importance of a raptor's wing shape and its influence on flight and behavior and other physiological features will be presented. This workshop covers 28 species of raptors that may be found in the southwest.



SPARROWS: Often skulky and elusive, these "little brown jobs" are easily overlooked in the field. As part of this workshop you will learn how to find and observe sparrows in their preferred habitat. Useful foraging behaviors and flight characteristics are presented by genera and vocalizations for breeding species are reviewed. The significance of bill shape and size, wing length, and tail length are all discussed in relation to identification. This workshop covers 34 species of sparrows, towhees, and longspurs that may be found in the southwest.

WARBLERS: These colorful harbingers of spring are a thrill to observe and hear. Identifying warblers can be a challenge since most species have male and female plumages, which is compounded in fall with immature plumages also. For this workshop taxonomic relationships of warblers will be covered along with the habitat use, foraging strategies, and behaviors associated with each species. Plumage characteristics will be discussed and vocalizations of breeding species reviewed. This workshop covers 32 species of warblers that may be found in the southwest.



FLYCATCHERS: The largest family of birds in the world, flycatchers are also unique in that they are the only passerines in the U.S. that do not learn their songs. As a result, species can be very similar in appearance, and the dreaded 'Empids' are notorious as one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify. In this workshop you will learn about 'superspecies' and how their recognition simplifies *Empidonax* identification. The relation between primary projection and flycatcher forays is presented and vocalizations for breeding species are reviewed. This workshop covers 24 species of kingbirds, phoebes, and other flycatcher species that may be found in the southwest.

BIRDING BY EAR: A key element for bird identification, birding by ear allows you to find and identify species that are unseen, and confirm challenging visual identifications. In addition, learning bird vocalizations opens doors to richer birdwatching experiences. This workshop presents how birds communicate and the function of songs and calls. The workshop covers how to interpret sonagrams and the components of birds' songs. Methods of learning bird vocalizations are introduced with an emphasis placed on the G.I.S.S. approach. Family and similar species' vocalizations are covered in detail.



About the Workshops & Tours: All workshops and tours are instructed by Homer Hansen. Workshops are powerpoint presentations given in a classroom setting and may include hands-on activities. Workshops vary in length from 1 to 4 hours. Tours are led to different habitats with a focus on reinforcement of the information learned during the workshops. Tours vary in length from 3 to 8 hours. Workshops and tours may be customized to suit your group's needs. Please contact Aplomado if you would like further information.

About Homer Hansen: Homer is the author of the *G.I.S.S. Series* bird identification guides and has been bird watching in the southwest since 1995. Homer is a native of Willcox, Arizona, and is chairman of the annual Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival. He feels fortunate to have grown up surrounded by Sandhill Cranes in winter and Cassin's Sparrows in summer. Homer has given numerous workshops and tours on raptors, sparrows, flycatchers, warblers, bird vocalizations, and other aspects of bird ecology over the years and is a regular presenter and trip leader for other Arizona birding festivals. He is also the course instructor for the Tucson Audubon Society's Moving to Mastery birding workshops.