

April 2025 Newsletter

Arizona-Texas Bird Safari



Hi to Everyone,

Sorry for the delay in getting out this newsletter, but I've been busy shooting. I just got back from the Arizona-Texas Bird Safari which followed several other bird safaris earlier this month. While I have prepared some images for this newsletter, it will be weeks before I actually see all the images and edit them. Last year was the year of the painted buntings (among others), while this year was the year of the scissor-tailed flycatchers (among others). We just got some tremendous opportunities with them. I photographed 9 new species on this safari - with my favorites being the Arizona Woodpecker, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Berylline Hummingbird, Bridled Titmouse, and Pipevine Swallowtail. See the images in the gallery.

I'm already planning the 2026 Arizona-Texas Bird Safari to be bigger and better. Next year this safari will include a couple more days, and a couple more incredible locations in Texas, including the Corpus Christi - Port Aransas area for the spring bird migration coming back north from central America. This safari will run April 23-30, 2026 and be epic. I haven't created the safari page yet, but it will be up in the next week or so.

Most of you know that I keep a "want" list of species that I either want to encounter, or I want to improve on the images I already have of them. A week before the AZ-TX bird safari I had been back to Kern NWR, west of Delano, CA, mainly for the redhead ducks, and it didn't disappoint. Those images are also in the gallery. This summer my main bird targets are saw-whet owls here in California, and Boreal owls in either Yellowstone or Glacier. Both are small owls that have proven elusive for me to find. Speaking of Glacier, I have two openings in my truck for that safari ([LINK](#)) in late September. I'm not sure how many more years I will include this safari, so if you are considering it, this might be the year to go.

Lastly, I've put more dates up this summer for the black bear safaris in Sequoia ([LINK](#)). But don't think that the black bear safaris are only about the bears (mostly about the bears...), I have done some tremendous bird photography and wildflowers up there as well - not to mention the obvious landscape opportunities. We do some walking on these bear safaris, but it is nothing steep or tough - mostly just level ground with very slight grades. There are a couple of two-day black bear safaris - those include one day in Sequoia, the other day in Mineral King, which is also in Sequoia National Park, though an entirely different area with different subjects - like Sooty Grouse. ([LINK](#))

The American West just continues to get better in terms of wildlife and bird photography. It is a thrill to head out each day not knowing which species we will encounter, or what those encounters will bring in unique photography moments - but it is always something. Maybe this year will be the moment we shoot another Great Gray Owl in Sequoia, or stumble upon the pack of gray wolves that now call the park home. Its been a thrilling journey, so come along. **BRP**

Hell begins on the day when God grants us a clear vision of all that we might have achieved, of all the gifts which we might have wasted, of all that we might have done which we did not do.
Gian-Carlo Menotti

[Scissor-tailed Flycatchers | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari](#)

Click the link above to download the wallpaper in a new window, then right-click and copy it to your computer. You can see all **FREE** Wallpaper here: ([LINK](#)) The wallpaper is sized to 1980 px by 1080 px to easily fit most computer screens.



All the currently scheduled upcoming 2025 Photo Safaris and Workshops are shown on the Safari Page on my website. That is the most accurate location to view these events. Here is a [LINK](#) to that page. Below are links to the individual safaris for the next several months. New safaris are added every few weeks. Upcoming ZOOM Shows are here - [LINK](#).

2025 Safari Schedule

April 29 Morongo Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

May 7-9 San Juan Island (WA) Fox Safari ([LINK](#)) **SOLD OUT**

May 19 Peregrine Falcon Safari ([LINK](#))

May 22 Mineral King Grouse Safari ([LINK](#))

May 27 to June 3 Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari **SOLD OUT**

June 9 Peregrine Falcon Safari ([LINK](#))

June 12-13 Sequoia Black Bear and Mineral King Safari ([LINK](#))

June 24-25 Sequoia Black Bear and Mineral King Safari ([LINK](#))

July 10 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari ([LINK](#))

July 15 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari ([LINK](#))

July 22 Sequoia Black Bear and Birds Safari **SOLD OUT**

July 28-31 Colorado Wildflowers and Landscapes Safari

August 11-12 Sequoia Black Bear and Mineral King Safari ([LINK](#))

August 20 Sequoia Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

September 4 Sequoia Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

September 15-19 Yellowstone Fall Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) **2 Openings**

September 22-26 Glacier Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) **2 Openings**

October 2 Sequoia Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

October 7-10 Autumn in the San Juan Mountains (CO) ([LINK](#))

October 16 Bobcat Safari **SOLD OUT**

October 21-22 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

November 18 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

November 25 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

December 4 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

December 10-12 Bosque del Apache Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

December 14-16 Texas Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))

I will be posting the 2026 photo safaris over the next several weeks.

January 9-15 Yellowstone Winter Safari ([LINK](#))

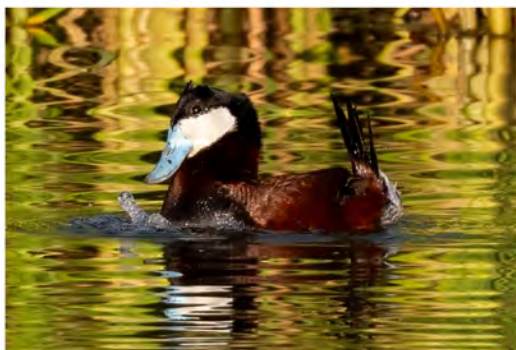
January 16 Utah Raptor Safari ([LINK](#))

April 23-29 Arizona-Texas Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

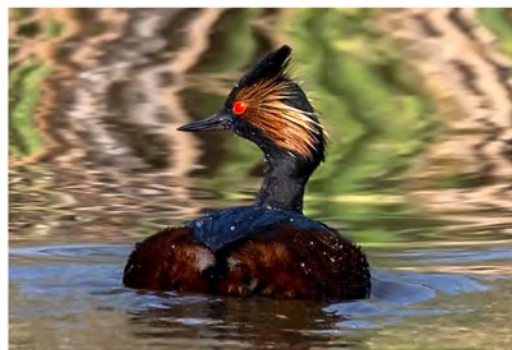
Kern NWR Gallery



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Drake Redhead Duck | Kern NWR Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Drake Ruddy Duck | Kern NWR Safari
amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Eared Grebe | Kern NWR Safari
amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Fighting Drake Mallards | Kern NWR Safari
amwestphoto.com

Arizona-Texas Bird Safari Gallery



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Female Arizona Woodpecker | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Broad-billed Hummingbird | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Bridled Titmouse | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Berylline Hummingbird headshot | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

This male berylline hummingbird was photographed at a hummingbird feeder up Madera Canyon in southern Arizona. I had never seen this bird before. It is a large hummingbird, and this dark green head is unique and really stands out. I had been shooting around the Santa Rita Lodge when this hummer, normally found in Mexico, suddenly appeared at the feeders. That is also where I shot the broad-billed hummingbird for the first time, though there were quite a few of them.

The Arizona woodpecker is the only brown woodpecker, all others are black-and-white based with some combination of other colors, like rose on the Lewis's

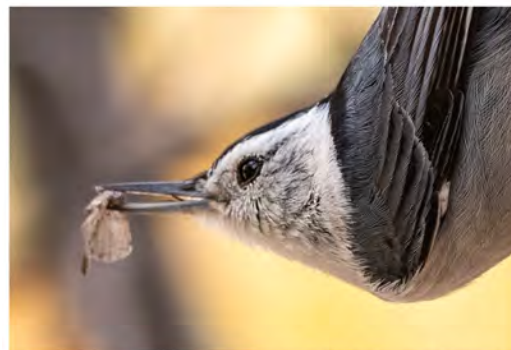
woodpecker, and spots or stripes. This is another bird whose range only comes north into extreme southern Arizona.



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Big Bertha Torch Cactus Blossom | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Male Arizona Woodpecker | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
White-breasted Nuthatch with Moth | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Gila Woodpecker on Saguaro Blossoms | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Pipevine Swallowtail | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Curve-billed Thrasher | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher w/prey | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Northern Cardinal | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Painted Bunting | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Scissor-tailed Flycatchers | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Curve-billed Thrasher on Prickly Pear Cactus | Arizona-Texas Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY
Male Vermilion Flycatcher w/prey | Arizona-Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Last Call Notes:

All my PDF books can be purchased from my website on this page - [LINK](#). I should have my next book done in about a week on the Raptors and Owls I've photographed on the wildlife safaris.

The new bridge over the Yellowstone River at Roosevelt Junction in Yellowstone should be completed this summer, it was 1/2 finished when we passed it on the winter safari. That area, the beginning of Little America, is such a good wildlife area that getting the construction done and the equipment and noise out of there will improve the local wildlife activity.



There is lots of great photography coming this year. Many of you have mentioned the safaris you have done around the world and I hope they have been as successful as you would have wanted. Send me a favorite and I will put them in the next newsletter I do after the San Juan Island Black Fox Safari in a couple of weeks.

There is never a better time to just get out and chase for images, so to borrow a phrase from Nike, "just do it".

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Russell Paull".

Brent Russell Paull
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Please forward this e-mail to your photographer friends, maybe we can make a connection that otherwise would never happen. The world of photography is vast and only getting bigger. Also, I can sometimes change safari dates to accommodate folks, so if you would like to do a custom date, or see if I can switch a date, just let me know.



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