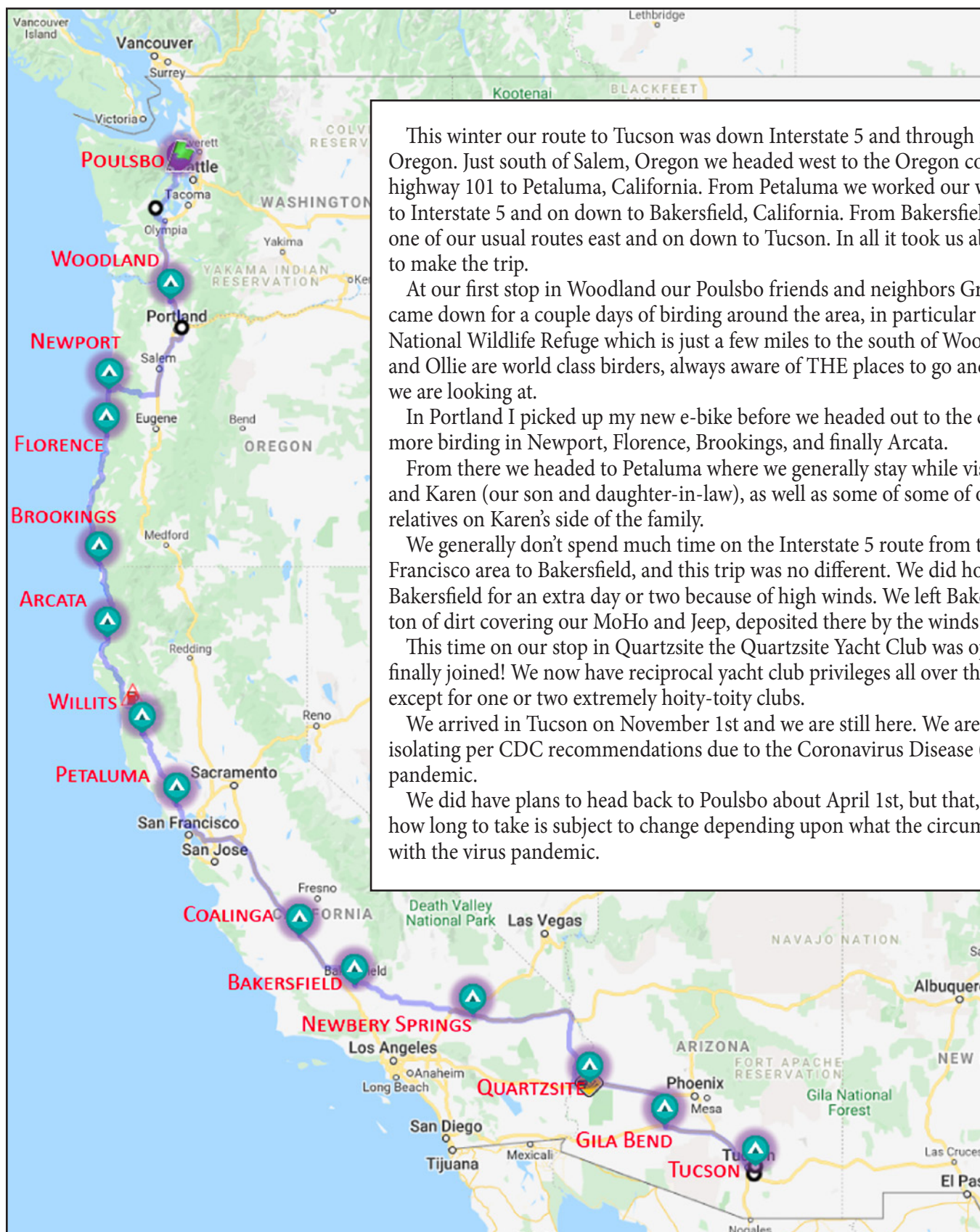


POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020



This winter our route to Tucson was down Interstate 5 and through Portland, Oregon. Just south of Salem, Oregon we headed west to the Oregon coast and down highway 101 to Petaluma, California. From Petaluma we worked our way back over to Interstate 5 and on down to Bakersfield, California. From Bakersfield we took one of our usual routes east and on down to Tucson. In all it took us about a month to make the trip.

At our first stop in Woodland our Poulsbo friends and neighbors Grace and Ollie came down for a couple days of birding around the area, in particular the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge which is just a few miles to the south of Woodland. Grace and Ollie are world class birders, always aware of THE places to go and know what we are looking at.

In Portland I picked up my new e-bike before we headed out to the coast to do more birding in Newport, Florence, Brookings, and finally Arcata.

From there we headed to Petaluma where we generally stay while visiting Scot and Karen (our son and daughter-in-law), as well as some of some of our newer relatives on Karen's side of the family.

We generally don't spend much time on the Interstate 5 route from the San Francisco area to Bakersfield, and this trip was no different. We did hold up in Bakersfield for an extra day or two because of high winds. We left Bakersfield with a ton of dirt covering our MoHo and Jeep, deposited there by the winds.

This time on our stop in Quartzsite the Quartzsite Yacht Club was open and we finally joined! We now have reciprocal yacht club privileges all over the world, except for one or two extremely hoity-toity clubs.

We arrived in Tucson on November 1st and we are still here. We are well but self-isolating per CDC recommendations due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

We did have plans to head back to Poulsbo about April 1st, but that, the route and how long to take is subject to change depending upon what the circumstances are with the virus pandemic.

POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Barred Owl

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, WA



White-Breasted Nuthatch

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, WA

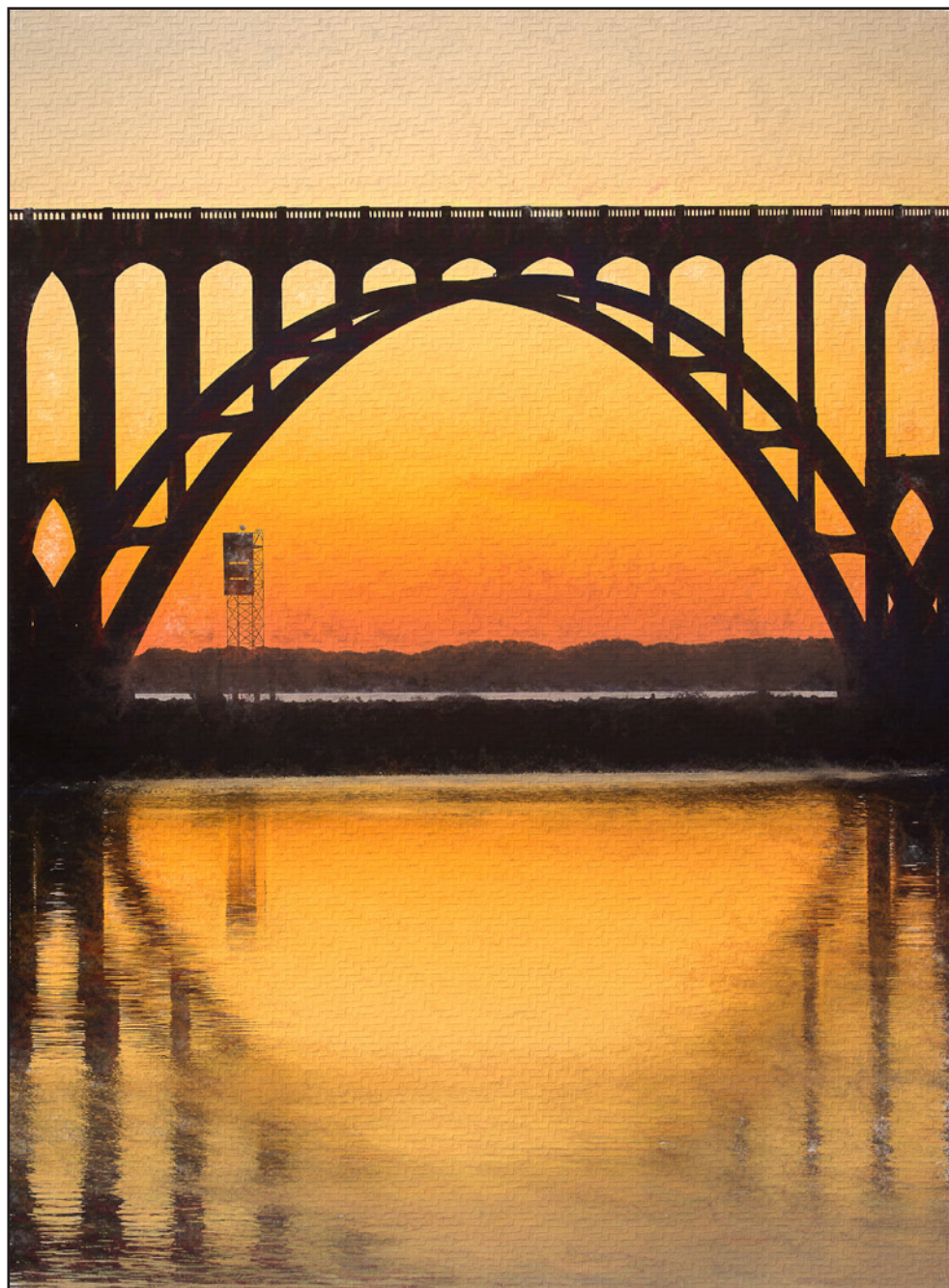


POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

In Newport, Oregon we find that the Oregon Coast Aquarium is a great place to get very close to birds. With a nice RV park right next door to it as well as the Rogue River Brewing Company for dinner, beer and their distilled products, we enjoy our stays. There are walking trails and birding along the shoreline of the Newport Harbor as well, all right next door to the RV park.

After picking up my new e-bike in Portland I was beginning to get concerned if my existing two bike rack on the Jeep was really stout enough to hold it as well as Wendy's bike. I had always thought that Wendy's Townie bike was really heavy compared to my trail bike. Now her bike seemed very very light compared to the new e-bike. I let it go for now as the next stop in Florence was not that far away and I'd do a little research about the weight limit then.

Newport Sunset
Newport, OR



POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Tufted Puffin
Oregon Coast Aquarium ~ Newport, OR



Black Oystercatcher
Oregon Coast Aquarium ~ Newport, OR



POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020



Tufted Puffin
Oregon Coast Aquarium ~ Newport, OR



Rhinoceros Auklet
Oregon Coast Aquarium ~ Newport, OR

POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

For the first time after several years we finally got a spot on the river / bay front in a Florence, Oregon RV park we had been trying to book for years. Besides having spots right on the river / bay, the RV park is a short walking distance to the old downtown area where there are many restaurants and shops. For years one thing or another prevented us from getting one of those 'prime' waterfront spots.

Well.... things didn't work out as well as we had hoped. The electrical / water / sewer connections on the 'prime' waterfront spaces were in front of the MoHo. We had neither the length nor extensions necessary to make it work for us. We moved to another spot where the connections were more normal and did work well, just not a waterfront spot. We still enjoyed our days here and the easy five minute walk into the old town and it's many restaurants.

We readdressed and did more research on the bike rack issue and finally decided to get a newer, more stout, two-bike rack rated for the weight of e-bikes. The new e-Bike is 54 pounds without the 9 pound battery. It turns out there were very few options for our requirements and such, but we found a couple that would work for us. Unfortunately, there were none locally. The nearest one we could find was in Corvallis, Oregon. We spent one day driving back and forth to Corvallis to get it. We had to assemble the bike rack in an adjacent parking lot of a restaurant but it all worked out okay. When we got back we disassembled the old bike rack so it would fit 'somewhere' until we got to Tucson where we could reassemble the bike rack and sell it, (which we did very easily).

After a couple days of sampling Florence's restaurants and rearranging things due to the bike rack switch, we headed further south to another of our favorite stops on the Oregon Coast at Brookings. We like this park because it is right on the beach. Not a fancy RV park, but being able to take twenty steps out the MoHo and be on a sandy beach is just so cool! AND... we can also walk to restaurants here too! We've already shown photographs of this park in other travelogues, so we won't repeat them here. The painting below is from the MoHo!

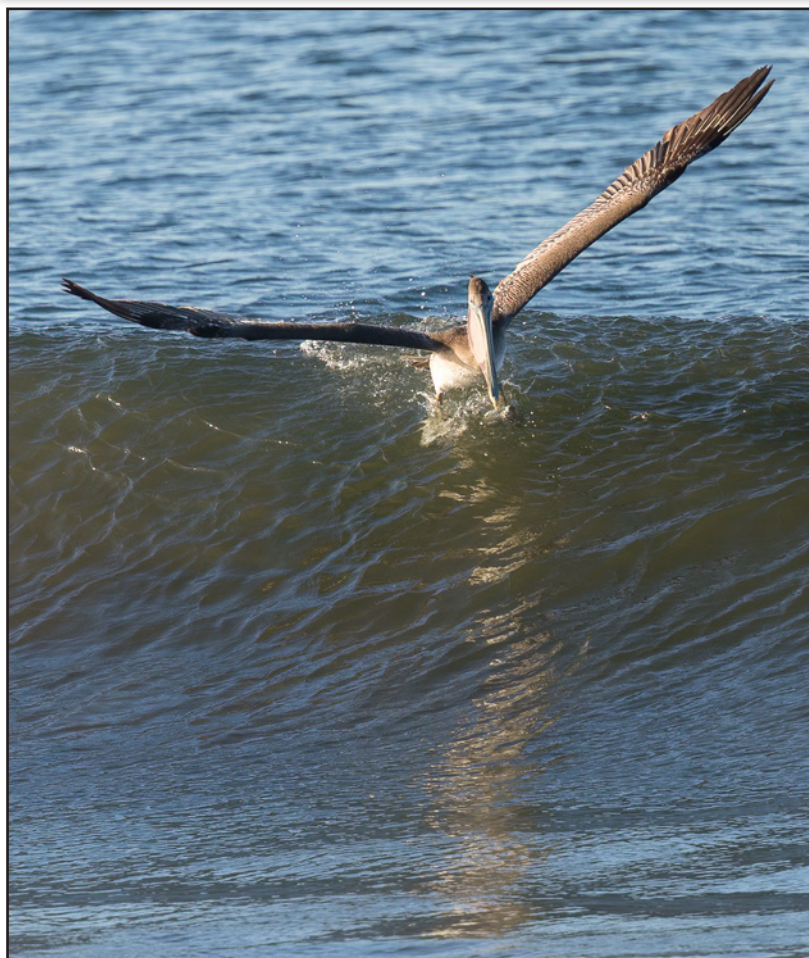


POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Brown Pelican
Brookings, OR

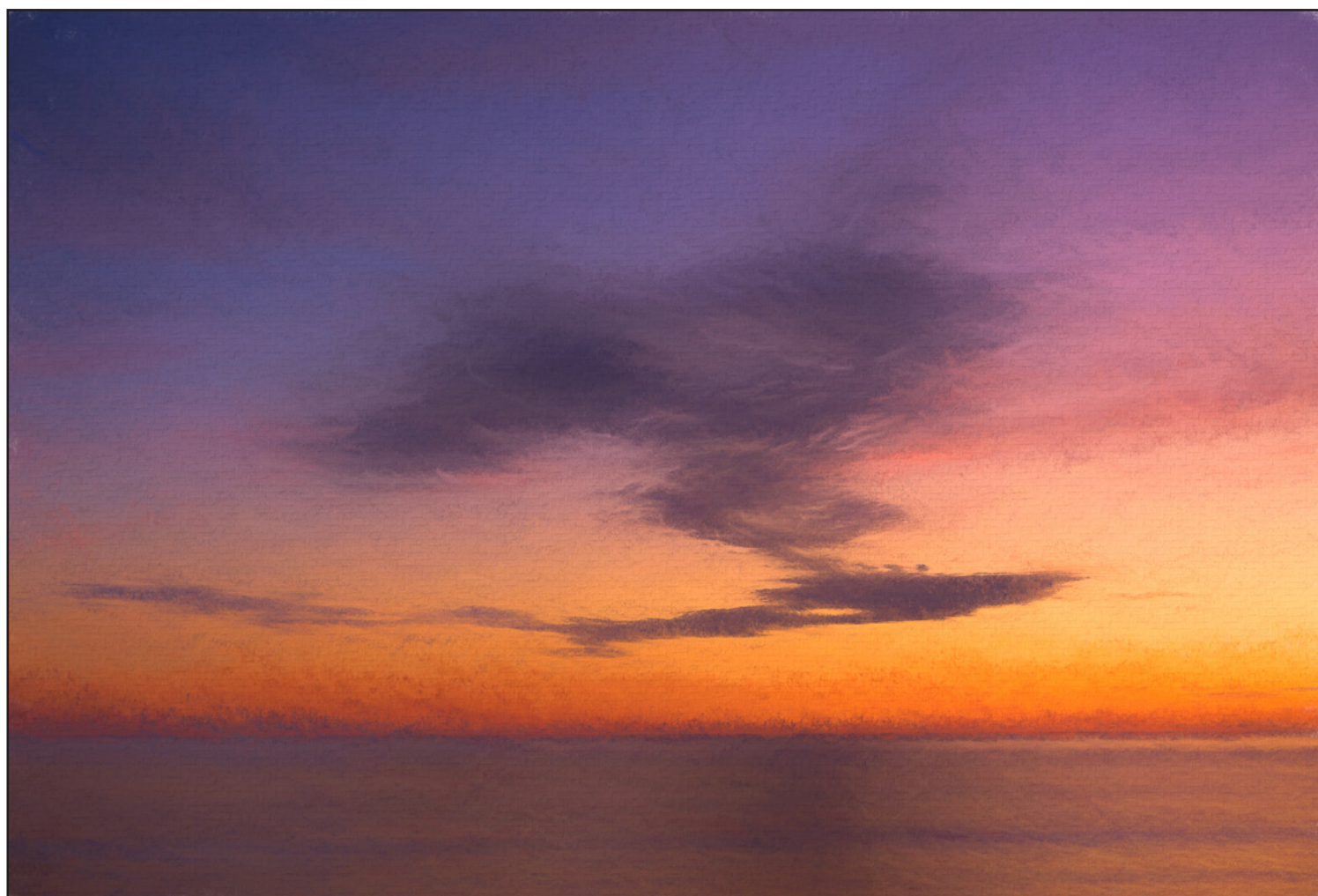


Brown Pelican, Surfing
Brookings, OR



POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Brookings Seashore
Brookings, OR



POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020



Humboldt Bay Shoreline In Fog
Humboldt Bay, California

Our next stop was in Arcata, California. This is on the north side of the Humboldt Bay where birding is our interest here. Well... wait... they have a couple really good restaurants and bakeries we like too!



American Avocet
Humboldt Bay, California

POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020



American Avocet
Humboldt Bay, California



American Avocet
Humboldt Bay, California

POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020



Sanderling with a few Dunlin in the mix and a rare sub-species of Sanderling: The Limp-Footed Sanderling, seen in the upper left of the photo (ID'd by my friend Ollie)

Humboldt Bay, California



Marbled Godwit

Humboldt Bay, California

POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Our Humboldt Bay birding provided me mostly with some new American Avocet photographs to work with. Weather and such was less than ideal the days we were there and while we did see lots of birds my resulting imagery was limited this time.

From Arcata we drove south to Petaluma with a stop at a Willits, California RV park between. After a few days of visiting family in the Petaluma / Santa Rosa area we continued on south via Interstate 5 to Bakersfield. We were held up by bad weather for three days in Bakersfield and when we were finally able to exit we were covered in Bakersfield dust.

We arrived in Tucson the first of November and spent the next week or so setting up our winter quarters, making a few MoHo repairs and giving the MoHo a thorough cleaning inside and out and catching up with friends that were already there.

Over the next months we did a fair amount of birding around the area, some of the photographic results follow.

Acorn Woodpecker
Mt. Lemmon AZ



POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Vermillion Flycatcher
Tucson, AZ



Acorn Woodpeckers
Mt. Lemmon, AZ



POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Verdin
Tucson, AZ



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Patagonia Lake, AZ



POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

For the past few years we been going to Madera Canyon, about an hour south of Tucson, to try to see an Elegant Trogon bird. We had no success until this year, when with Ollie and Grace (our previously mentioned world class birding friends and neighbors from Poulsbo) we saw this one. It hung around for about an hour feeding on the berries of a certain well know individual bush. It was our single most successful birding experience this winter in Tucson.



Elegant Trogon
Madera Canyon, AZ

POULSBO ~ TUCSON: WINTER 2019 / 2020

Black-Crowned Night
Heron
Tucson, AZ



This is the end of this *Flying Pig Adventures* travelogue. As we said already, we are self-isolating in Tucson, living in our MoHo, in an RV park due to the COVID 19 virus. All activities in the RV park have been canceled and public areas closed (pools, offices, library, pool hall, etc.). Some Tucson restaurants do have take out and there is some that also deliver now. Most people have left or are planning to within the next few days. There are some people that are staying, in particular people from the Seattle area. At the current time it is safer here than in Seattle for us should we need medical attention as there are much fewer cases in Tucson than the Seattle area... at the present time. We suspect that those circumstances will change and we will then reconsider our options.

In the meantime, we are making heavy use of Amazon shopping services rather than the traditional brick and motor stores. We can still do a fair amount of birding locally and enjoy some outdoor activities without engaging with people. We are still having our daily evening Attitude Adjustment get together with the three or four RVing couples that are still here, albeit at 6' spacing.

I've a couple more *Flying Pig Adventures* travelogues in mind, maybe even another before we leave here. Until then please take care and stay safe.

Wally & Wendy

END