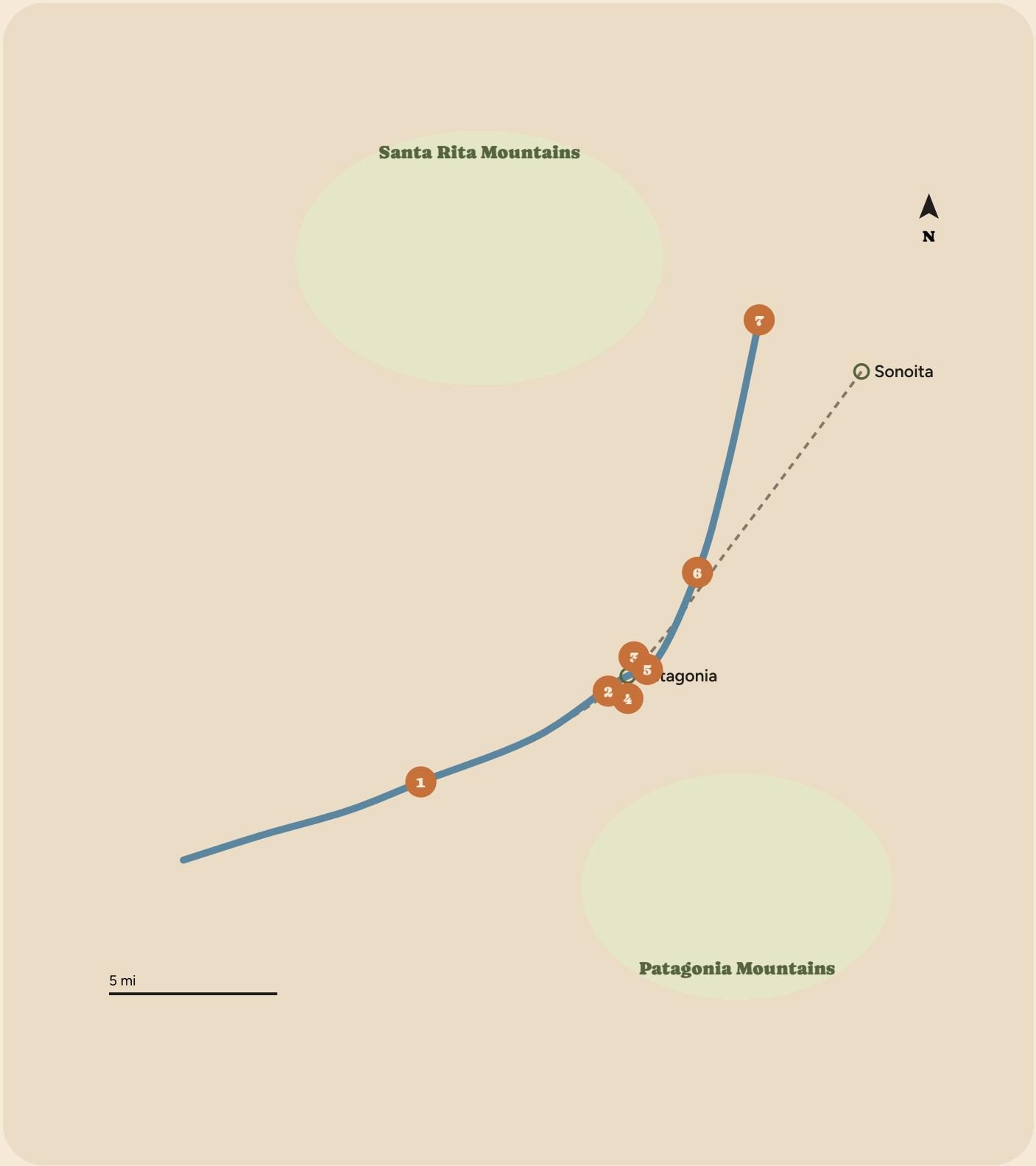


Sonoita Creek Riparian Corridor

A birder's route guide — from the Sonoita grasslands headwaters down through Patagonia to Patagonia Lake



— Sonoita Creek - - - State Route 82 1 Numbered birding stop ○ Town **Range** Mountains

Route geometry plotted from named-place coordinates (USGS / Wikipedia); creek course simplified between them for a legible field map. Not for navigation.

Plan Your Route

Seven stops along roughly 22 miles of SR 82 and Harshaw Creek Road — allow a full day, longer during spring migration.

1 Patagonia Lake State Park & Sonoita Creek Natural Area

Start at the lake's marina area, then walk into the Natural Area below the dam — cottonwood-willow gallery forest along the creek's most reliable perennial stretch. Grebes and waterfowl on the lake; vermilion flycatcher and gray hawk along the trail.

Entrance fee

Trailhead parking

2 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve (The Nature Conservancy)

The first two miles of the creek's permanent flow, and TNC's first Arizona project. A short loop through mesquite bosque and beneath tall cottonwoods — look for gray hawk, thick-billed kingbird, and canyon treefrog along the water.

\$8 entry

Visitor center

3 Paton Center for Hummingbirds

Tucson Audubon's famous backyard feeder station in town — up to 14 hummingbird species recorded, plus a violet-crowned hummingbird specialty. A one-mile volunteer-built trail connects here to the Preserve.

Free, donations welcome

4 Town of Patagonia

Base camp for the corridor — lodging, the Patagonia Museum, and the Roadside Rest picnic area, itself a modest migrant trap worth five minutes with binoculars.

5 Harshaw Creek Road

Where Harshaw Creek joins Sonoita Creek just south of town. The gravel road climbs into the Patagonia Mountains — good for canyon towhee, painted redstart, and (in season) elegant trogon reports.

High-clearance beyond first mile

6 Upper Sonoita Creek along SR 82

The steady, perennial reach between Patagonia and Sonoita, sustained by treated effluent from town. Riparian edge against open oak savanna — watch overhead for gray hawk and zone-tailed hawk.

7 Sonoita Creek Headwaters & Sonoita Grasslands

The creek rises in high grassland two miles northwest of Sonoita. A change in habitat and bird list — grassland sparrows, pronghorn country, and Santa Rita Mountains views to the north.