

**Arrowhead Ponds & T-Bird Park
January 22, 2014**

**Leader and reported by: Dan
Bohlmann**

Photo: George Wall

We started our birding adventure at the bridge over Melinda Drive and had some of the usual cast of characters that show up here. They were Rock doves, Morning Doves, House Sparrows, Quail, Curve – billed Thrasher, Gila Woodpecker, and Great-tailed Grackle around the



nearby houses. Flying overhead were a Belted Kingfisher, Double-crested Cormorants , Common Mergansers and some Mallards. Around the shores of the lake to the north of us were the always present Black-crowned Night Herons hiding in the trees, a great Blue Heron, and a Green Heron swallowing a fish. In the water was an American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe and a pair(M&F) of Mergansers that flew in and gave us a nice close look at their beautiful colors. We then went over to the bird blind just north of Melinda on 59th Ave to see if the flock of 200 to 300 Common Mergansers that always come here this time of year were present. It looked like there was only about 25 so far and they were way over on the other side of the lake. Usually there is a good variety of ducks that are there, but they were hiding out I guess. We did get a nice Mockingbird and Anna's Hummingbird in the tree limbs above us.

We went from there for a quick look to see what desert birds were hanging around at T-Bird Park . We found a Verdin, a flock of White-crowned Sparrows, several posing Cactus Wrens, a bright red Cardinal and a Roadrunner up in a tree. We then headed out to check out the Arrowhead Ponds on the west side of 59th Ave. We turned right on Deer Valley Road and stopped at the first lake/pond that we came to on the right. We found a Killdeer, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, some Canada Geese, Black Phoebe, Starlings, House Finches and some American Wigeon. We drove on and turned left at the next stop sign. In a little ways we came to a school on the right that had a rocky stream running in front of it filled with Wigeons and Mallards. We got out and realized that one of the Wigeons had a red(russet) head. Even though he was definitely a foreign Wigeon he was happy as a clam pretending that he was an American. He was in reality a Eurasian Wigeon and was a life bird for almost everyone. We went to one last lake west of 67th Ave which is the largest of the Arrowhead Lakes . It contained Ruddy Ducks galore (maybe 50), female Mergansers(10), American coots(75), Northern Shovelers(3), a Great Egret and the spectacular stars of the lake the Buffleheads(7 males) and (7 females). It was a beautiful day with a great group of enthusiastic birders. We had a total of 35 species.

Attendees: Vera Markham, Marla Wilson, Nancy Lewis, Beth Moore, Tom Ferranti, George Wall, Haylie Hewitt, Don Foot, Fran Baughman, Alan Mayp, Peggy Cullen, Susan Corless and Dan Bohlmann