

Tonto Fish Hatchery
July 24, 2014
Report by Donna Smith

We enjoyed a great sunny, cool day of birding at the Tonto Fish Hatchery north of Payson. We planned the trip for when we could see plenty of warblers and we got what we wished for. The Painted Redstarts were abundant, flying out and catching small insects over the ponds. A Red-faced Warbler flew in and a pair of MacGillivray Warblers joined the crowd.

We tested our ID skills when an early southbound migrating Nashville Warbler showed up. Was it a Virginia's or Nashville? It had a full eye-ring and a grey face as they both have, but the throat and underside were all yellow, making it a Nashville.

The most exciting event of the day was when two Ospreys flew in toward the hatchery and a Peregrine Falcon flew up like a fighter jet to intercept them. The falcon beat up one Osprey, hitting it and pulling its tail, and finally drove off the larger bird. Then the falcon took off after the other bird, beating and driving it off as well. It was quite an air show for us.

Birders: Duane Marse, Cathy Bertucci, Sue Morland, Ellen Hairston, Phil Evanstoch, Fran Baughman, Carol Pfeifer and Donna Smith, leader.

More trip details are at eBird.org <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S19362720>