

SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD WALK AT HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE

October 29, 2014
By Vera Markham

Ten participants and I picked a productive day to bird at the Hassayampa River Preserve near Wickenburg, AZ. When we started around 8AM the weather was cool, in the 60's. At the entrance driveway, Cooper's Hawk, Greater Roadrunner, and Phainopepla were spotted. Palm Lake wasn't productive, but in and around the visitor's center and the trail along the river were. Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Orange-crowned Warblers were abundant. The highlights of the trip were seeing 8 Band-tailed Pigeons and a lot of colorful butterflies.



After most of us stopped birding when it got quite warm, around 10:30AM, three participants continued birding. Unfortunately, both Joy Dolhanczyk and I were stung by bees!

Participants were: Nancy Mac, Nancy Lewis, Paul Doucette, Caleb Strand, David Strand, Joy Dolhanczyk, Ruth Kennedy, Dan Bohlmann, Dean Luehrs, Donna Smith and Vera Markham (leader).



The 44 species seen or only heard (h) were: Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Harris's Hawk, Greater Roadrunner, Sora (h), Rock Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern (red-shafted) Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Vireo, Common Raven, Bridled Titmouse, Verdin, Canyon Wren (h), House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, Curve-billed Thrasher (h), American Pipit (h), Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warbler,

Yellow-rumped Warbler (mostly or all Audubon's), Black-throated Gray Warbler, Common Yellowthroat (h), Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow (h), White-crowned Sparrow (h), "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal (h), Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, and Lesser Goldfinch. Two vocalizing Western Tanagers were reported, but they would be highly unlikely at Hassayampa in late October.

More details are at the following eBird checklist:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20391039>

Photos: unknown butterfly and Band-tailed Pigeon by Vera Markham.