

Sonoran Audubon Society Field Trip Report Cave Creek Regional Park on April 25, 2015

By Joe Ford

At 8:40 AM, after spending some time observing birds near the Cave Creek Regional Park's Nature Center, we began our 0.75-mile walk which was largely on the Overton Trail. The temperature was 64 degrees F at the start and 82 degrees F at the conclusion, one hour and 40 minutes later. Skies were cloudy, laden with strato-cumulus and cumulus with nimbus traits, but no rain fell; no breeze.

The Upper Sonoran Desert community was witnessing the conclusion of the Foothills Palo Verde bloom and the beginning of the Saguaro bloom signaled by the white pedestals atop the Saguaro columns. Highlights were the constant symphony of Cactus Wrens, Gila Woodpeckers, and a couple of Lucy's Warblers, plus the straight-line flight of a Golden Eagle heading east.



The 13 participants included Ranger Mark Paulat, Jeffrey Ross, Mary Buckingham, Bob Filler, Mark Reynolds, Ann Guedet, and Carmen and Geovanni Orozco with sons Geovanni and Ira. Our guide was Joe Ford.



Species observed by sight and sound were Gambel's Quail, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, White-winged Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Common Raven, swallow species, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Finch (22 species plus the swallows).

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S23059310>

After the walk, 9 people attended Joe's presentation "Birds of the Sonoran Desert" at the park's Visitor Center.