

SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY TRIP REPORT
Estrella Mountain Regional Park on May 9, 2015
By Joe Ford

Saturday, May 9th, was International Migratory Bird Day, and was also the North American Migration Count – a perfect opportunity for a large group of birders to explore one of the West Valley’s better birding locations.

At 7:40 AM we began our 2.5-hour birding hike of 2 miles through the several habitats offered by Estrella Mountain Regional Park and the surrounding area. When we began the temperature was 70 degrees F under clear skies and little to no breeze. At the hike’s conclusion the temperature was 78 degrees, perfect birding weather.

The 23 participants that began the hike included: Kathleen Davidson, Betty Wass, the Orozco Family including Geovanni, Carmen, Geovanni, Jr. and Ira, the Brody Family, Dan Lawrence, Bob Crocken, Emily Roth and Alexia Hopkins. Guides for the trip were Joe Legander, Caleb Strand, Paul Doucette, and Joe Ford. Ranger Tippy Jackson bid the group happy birding at the visitor center.

Highlights for the day were the Forster’s Tern at the east lakes and the several warbler and vireo species. Good looks at a couple of Western Tanagers and a Vermilion Flycatcher were added treats.



Our group observed the following 70 species: Canada Goose (seen on golf course west of park), Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Gambel’s Quail, Western Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Forster’s Tern, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Inca Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner (seen on golf course near park), Burrowing Owl (seen on berms near Bullard Ave. just north of the park), Anna’s Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker (audio only), Black Phoebe, Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond’s Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Say’s Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Cassin’s Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Verdin, Rock Wren, Cactus Wren, Black-

tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Curve-billed Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Bird counts, notes, a link to a map of our birding location, and other details are at eBird
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S23374064>