

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

DATE: May 13th, 2017

CONDITIONS: The bird walk commenced under clear skies with little to no breeze and a temperature of 80 degrees F: at the conclusion the temperature had ascended to 96 degrees with a west breeze of 5-10 mph and still clear skies

ROUTE: The observation path began at the Mesquite Bosque, went through the Blue Gum Grove, the Desert Scrub region and concluded with a trek along the Gila River to the mitigated ponds just east of the park boundary.



PARTICIPANTS: Linda and Gerry Molinelli, David Sussman, Bob and Nancy Kopycinski, Wayne and Sherri Arnold, Jolene Lancaster, Nashelly Menejes, Russell Benford, Paul Doucette, and guide Joe Ford (12)

COMMENTS: The river bed was dry except for a few pools and some running water areas on the east side. Our colorful avian friends that graced us with their presence were the Bullock's Oriole, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Black-headed Grosbeak. We had 4 heron species, lots of doves, and 4 warbler species, The greatest challenge was the "limbo log barrier" on the lake trail. A lonely Harris Hawk allowed us great looks.

SPECIES: Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, cormorant species, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Turkey Vulture, Harris Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, White-winged Dove, Greater Roadrunner, hummingbird species, Gila Woodpecker, flicker species, American Kestrel, an Empidonax species (maybe a Dusky or Hammond's Flycatcher), Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Cliff Swallow (Estrella Parkway Bridge), Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, House Finch, House Sparrow (46)

Counts and other details can be viewed at eBird

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S36826604>

Two people attended the program at the visitor center on "Birds of the Sonoran Desert".