

Red Rock State Park Report

Monday, May 22, 2017

Leader: Dan Bohlmann

The day began with absolutely perfect weather for birding and a place that is one of the most beautiful spots in Arizona. The colors there are striking with the blue sky, filled with fluffy white clouds in contrast with the red cliffs, green trees and the sound of gurgling water flowing down Oak Creek. The only negative thing was the shock that we got upon entering the State Park was that the price for entry had gone up from \$6 per car to \$7 a person. Oh well!! Every exotic bird in the state better show up as a result! We started up at the Visitor Center and found that they had put out some bird feeders which gave us a jump start on the viewing. Three different types of Hummingbirds were sucking up the juice and the Lesser Goldfinches, House Finches and Black-headed Grosbeaks were chowing down on the seeds. All day as we walked around along Oak Creek the House Finches, Bewick's Wrens, Yellow and Lucy's Warbler's, Lesser Goldfinches, and Northern Cardinals were singing like crazy in celebration of such a great day! And it seemed like every bush around had a bird with a cell phone in it because there was a lot of Chat-ing going on. All of our group tried and tried to see it, but only one person saw it and she said it was yellow-breasted.

We started our stroll by crossing Oak Creek on the Kingfisher bridge which didn't get called that for nothing. I don't know how many times I've stood there and he has always shown up. I don't understand why! We paid big money today for him to show up but he didn't. We did have several types of swallows put on an aerial display for us from the bridge however. And a Bridled Titmouse was working on feeding her young near the bridge but she quit when she realized we were watching. We got some good looks at several later on. We then walked along Oak Creek for quite a ways and the Gila and Hairy Woodpeckers were very active calling and drilling away. The bird of the day then showed up and gave us great, long views of a beautiful Blue Grosbeak and a little later a brilliant Summer

Tanager arrived.

After birding all morning hunger interfered and we took a break for a picnic lunch in the shade and waited for the birds to come to us. Sure enough a Western Kingbird and Say's Phoebe did. After lunch some of us went to the Visitor's Center Museum and gift shop and others watched the Video on Oak Creek Canyon. The perfect end to a great day of birding.

33 species seen; Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove; Black-chinned, Anna's, & Broad-tailed Hummingbirds; Gila & Hairy Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven Violet-green & Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bridled Titmouse, Verdin, Canyon & Bewick's Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Phainopepla, Lucy's & Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Chipping & White-crowned Sparrow Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal; Black-headed & Blue Grosbeak, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, American Kestrel.

Attendees: Fran Baughman, Barbara Bean, Donna Walkuski, Sarah Burbank Joe Ford, Vera Markham, and Leader Dan Bohlmann