

## BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

DATE: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Saturday

CONDITIONS: Blue sky with strands of cirrus and cirrostratus and temperature of 80 degrees F at inception with light to no breeze at 7:15 AM. A few more cirrus and cirrocumulus with a 3-8 mph breeze from the SW at 9:30 AM with a temperature of 92 degrees F

ITINERARY: Some observing was done around the visitor center, then resumed after a short drive to the east side. We took the riparian trail along the Gila River bed, crossed over to the north to the larger ponded area, then back tracked close to the mitigated lakes, then through the Mesquite Bosque and Blue Gum Grove. The river bed's surface was dry until we reached the area just west of the lakes.



PARTICIPANTS: Jane Olson, Gerry and Linda Molinelli, Paul Doucette, Joe Ford, Alexia Hopkins, photographer Karen Martin, guide Caleb Strand

HIGHLIGHTS: Bullock's Orioles had built a pendulous nest in a Blue Gum tree and both parents were busy gathering insects to feed the fledglings. We observed several trips the parents made back and forth and one of the kids was all but ready to leave its birth home. A couple of Vermilion Flycatcher males were busy displaying. A family of Gilded Flickers (two adults and two young) were busy around the visitor center. It was really a day of babies and fledglings as the begging calls of the young were easily heard from resident families. A good look at a Least Bittern, plus the silhouettes of Black-crowned Night

Hérons and White-faced Ibis flushed together, lifting into the sky, were special treats as well. Several flocks of White-winged Doves were encountered near the park, rushing through the sky.



SPECIES: Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Eared Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, American Kestrel, Western Wood Peewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Cliff Swallow, Burrowing Owl (on berms approaching the park on Estrella Parkway), Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, Hooded Oriole, House Finch, House Sparrow (56)

Counts and other details can be found at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S37524690>