

BIRD WALK AT WHITE TANK REGIONAL PARK

November 26th, 2017



CONDITIONS: Overcast sky with cirrostratus, alto-stratus cloud cover, temperature 56 degrees F at the beginning with no breeze: 72 degrees F at conclusion and still overcast.

TIME AND DISTANCE: The walk covered 1.5 miles along the Bajada Trail and part of the Goat Camp Trail initiating at Area 2 parking lot

PARTICIPANTS: Tom Worcester, John and Judy Loomis, Jed Fulkerson, Sharon Beal, Cheryl Muzikowski, Gary Blume, Cris and Elspeth Morgan, Brenda Bernardi, Sharon Manyx, Dan Lawrence, Bob Stofac. Guides for the hike were Karen Martin (birder and photographer), and Joe Ford

SPECIES: Red-tailed Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker (A), Gilded Flicker (A), Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Rock Wren, Cactus Wren (A), Curve-billed Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow (A), White-crowned Sparrow:: 12 species total

COMMENT: Trying to explain the reason we saw so few birds on this trail today can only be speculated. It is true there is no surface water source in this area and food sources in November are minimal. An

overcast sky plus temperatures some 10-15 degrees above normal may have influenced bird numbers. Human traffic may be another factor. Most of the birds detected on this list were audio birds (A). Unusual was the lack of any House Finches, gnatcatchers, quail, dove and obvious woodpecker species atop saguaros. The lack of surface heating, due to the overcast, negated any potential thermals that might have encouraged some vultures or other raptors.

The birders stayed with the detection efforts and remained positive under discouraging circumstances. At least it was a pleasant day in a beautiful Sonoran Upland community for an invigorating stroll.

Due to the minimal numbers, both in species and counts, I did not record this trip on eBird

Fifteen people were in the audience at the nature center to see the power point presentation "Birds of the Sonoran Desert".

