

SONORAN AUDUBON FIELD TRIP REPORT
Glendale Recharge Ponds, November 14, 2014
By Dan Bohlmann

One of the best birding locations in the Phoenix area is the Glendale Recharge ponds. The site's real name is the New River-Agua Fria Underground Storage Project (NAUSP), but that's quite a mouthful. Read more about NAUSP here <http://www.srpnet.com/water/waterbanking.aspx#3>



Our group had been looking forward to going to this remarkably productive birding location. But we were concerned by an earlier report from a SAS member who visited the ponds the previous week and said only one pond had water in it and that the only birds present were a few coots. However, we went anyway and we lucked out because all three ponds were full of water and there were so many ducks and other birds

that we had trouble counting them all.

We had over a hundred American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, and everyone's favorite American Coots – loved almost as much as House Sparrows. There were also 85 Ruddy Ducks, 20 Gadwalls, 13 gorgeous Buffleheads, 8 Green-winged Teal, 9 Ring-necked Ducks, and 2 lonely Northern Pintails that didn't see the signal when the head Pintail said he and the rest of the flock were leaving. Something similar must have happened with other species, too, because there were several parties of one that you don't normally see – one Snow Goose, one Canada Goose, one Mallard, one Turkey Vulture, one Great Blue Heron and the final finality of one Bald Eagle. There were also a number of shorebirds enjoying the waves of surf coming in such as Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Dowitcher, Killdeer, and flocks of Least Sandpipers.



We had a total of 47 different species, and the total of 694 birds on and around the ponds looked like 1,000 or more. We were sure thankful that we didn't have to submit a paltry eBird report with only three birds on it if we had been there last week.

The 6 happy participants - Vera Markham, Tom Lazzelle, Carol Beardmore, Ed Jeter, Dean Luehrs, and leader Dan Bohlmann – saw the following 47 species: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer,

Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Gila Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Curved-billed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, and House Sparrow.

More details can be found at eBird: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20591931>

Photos by Vera Markham: Least Sandpipers (top); Dan Bohlmann, Ed Jeter, and Tom Lazelle (bottom).