

Sonoran Audubon Society Field Trip Report

Riparian Preserve at Water Ranch (Gilbert), November 26, 2014

By Joe Ford

The Riparian Preserve at Water Ranch in Gilbert is one of the best birding locations in greater Phoenix. Visit this site for more information: <http://www.gilbertaz.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks/riparian-preserve-at-water-ranch>

Our walk began at 8:30 am under clear skies, no breeze, and temperature 61 degrees; at conclusion the temperature was 72 degrees. Highlights of the trip were the Rosy-faced Lovebirds and the large number of waterfowl constantly coming in for landings and then taking off, especially the pintails.

The 8 participants - Joe Emmons, Martha Emmons, Vera Markham, Lois Lorenz, Joyce Anastasi, Joy Dolhanczyk, Joe Ford, and Caleb Strand (guide) – observed the following 72 species: Canada Goose, American Widgeon, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gambel's quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Swan Goose, Neotropic Cormorant,



Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Harris's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Inca Dove, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed

Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Marsh Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. One unusual duck appeared to be a wood duck/mallard hybrid.

For more details go to eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20697128>.