

Sonoran Audubon Society Field Trip Report
Estrella Mountains Regional Park on January 10, 2015

By Joe Ford

At 8:10 AM we began our 1.5-mile birding hike at Estrella Mountains Regional Park meandering through the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, grassy meadows, desert scrub, and riparian areas of the park, plus the east lakes. The temperature was 55 degrees F under cloudy skies with a brisk east wind blowing near 10 mph.



The 21 participants were Kristina Paoff, Debbie Miller, the Tabur Family (Tina, Jesse, Jacob), Donna Needham, Steve Young, Carol Samson, Wendell and Janet Thrush, Lee Bradley, Gordon Cooper, Kirk Smith, Merle and Dee Long, Jim Consolloy, Erv Johnson, and guides Paul Doucette, Joe Legander, and Joe Ford.



White Pelican

Highlights included: several pelicans provided aerial displays and exhibited their grace moving across the waters of the east lake; 4 species of grebes!; and two Red-tailed Hawks soaring together using the thermals rising across the bluff of the local hill.

We observed the following 44 species:
Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned

Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, American Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Verdin, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, European Starling, Phainopepla, Yellow-rumped

Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Finch.

After the walk, six participants attended the program on "Ravens and Other Corvids" at the visitor center.

Pictures are courtesy of Paul Doucette. Counts and other details, including a link to a map of where we birded, are at eBird.org <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S21302747>

