

Sonoran Audubon Society Trip Report
White Tank Mountain Regional Park on February 21, 2015
By Joe Ford

At 8:10 we started our two-hour birding hike of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on the Black Rock Loop Trail near Area 4 in the White Tank Mountain Regional Park in the West Valley. The temperature was 61 degrees at the beginning of the hike and 75 at the finish. A breeze of 0-1 mph and partly cloudy skies helped provide a beautiful day for birding in this Upper Sonoran Desert setting with the many saguaros acting as sentinels while we observed with eyes and ears.

Half of the 30 participants were from the Canadian provinces, including Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, and Nova Scotia. Others came from the west coast, the mountain states, and the Midwest, New York and of course the southwest. Participants were: Catherine and Gary Blackman, George Shoop, Alexandra Felkins, Gerte Butler, Geovanni and Carmen Orozco with their children Ira and Geovanni, Elizabeth Owens, Bill Brock, Ruth Van Haitsma, Gary Martin, Flynn Fuller, Lois White, Ronald and Sharim Shirley, Marceyes Schmaus, Mary Brinkman, Bob and Jan Tate, Carol Hannon, Anne DiBartolomeo, Lee Bradley, Vic Miller, Sheri Radcliffe with Samuel and Joseph, Andrea Portillo, and Roger Branstiter. Guides for the trip were Wendell and Janet Thrush and Joe Ford.



We identified, either by audio or visual cues, the following 22 species: Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, unidentified flicker, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Verdin, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Finch.

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22014608>

After the bird walk, 22 participants attended the program at the Nature Center entitled "Name the Stone", a primer on rock identification.