

SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY TRIP REPORT
Estrella Mountain Regional Park on April 11, 2015
By Joe Ford

At 8:10 AM a group of 23 birders began an excursion at the Estrella Mountain regional Park that lasted 2 hours and 30 minutes, first birding around the visitor center, then moving to the riparian area along the Gila River, and finishing with a stop at the Red Gum Grove to view the Red-tailed Hawks and other species. The temperature at the start was 60 degrees F, and at the finish was 80 degrees F under a clear sky with some partial high clouds and little to no breeze. Highlights: Common Yellowthroat males in full chorus, and the lonely Brown Pelican that flew over us at least once.

Guides for the walk were Joe Legander, Caleb Strand, Paul Doucette, and Joe Ford. Among the participants were Betty Safarik, Alisa Jacobson and family, Susan and Rich Miller, John and Janet Kafel, Ren Siddons, Roger Branstiter, Geovanni and Carmen Orozco and family (Geovanni and Ira), and Gordon Cooper.

The 65 species observed by ear and eye were: Mallard, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Sora, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, *Empidonax* species (possibly a Pacific-Slope Flycatcher), Gray Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal.

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22824971>

