

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

July 11, 2015, Saturday

Temperature and Sky Condition: 84 degrees F at start, 91 degrees at finish, partly cloudy skies, Altocumulus, cirrocumulus, cumulus, cirrus, no breeze at start, slight at 9:30 upon conclusion

Participants: Joe Ford

At 7:10 AM I began the walk from the east end of the park. I did scope the area around the visitor center before making my way to the east side. The usual route was taken; mesquite bosque, large Blue Gum area, grass areas, desert scrub, and the finally the riparian area along the Gila River and the mitigated ponds. The river only had a few pools with adjacent mud areas, an attractant for the shorebirds found there. It was as dry as I



have seen the river. Some marshy areas at the northwest side of the ponds, which were pretty beaten down.

Trip highlights: Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Black Vultures, Turkey Vultures all riding one thermal together. Another kettle of 15 Black Vultures with 6 American White Pelicans thermalling, all together. A flock of 30 Snowy Egrets took to the air all at once—beautiful.

SPECIES SEEN:

Mallard, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe??, cormorant species, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, House Wren, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, House Sparrow (49 species)

Missing: no hummingbirds, Blue Grosbeaks, flickers, or swallows

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S24226051>