

Trip Report Montezuma's Well & V-bar-V Ranch

April 4, 2016

Reported by Bob McCormick

The first part of the field trip found us at the picnic area at Montezuma's Well on a beautiful sunny morning. Our guide, Park Biologist Tina Greenawalt, explained that this part of the park is an old ranch site acquired by the National Park service and is being reclaimed. This picnic area, nestled amongst many huge trees, contained **Lucy's Warblers**, **Yellow Warblers**, and a **Bridled Titmouse**. Trails lead out to the Beaver Creek Mesquite Bosque where **Woodpeckers** and **Bewicks Wrens** were in abundance along with a pair of very noisy **Cooper's Hawks**.

At the Well, a ranger gave us a short talk on the Well's history and pointed out the **Great-horned Owl** nest on the side of the cliff with mama and two little babies in it. The trail down to the creek and well outlet had just been re-opened and the short hike down to the canal was absolutely beautiful. Here we saw a **Black Phoebe** nest and lots of poison Ivy. On the way out a large **Diamond-back Rattlesnake** took it's time crossing the trail.

We had lunch at the Beaver Creek Picnic area and then moved over to the V-bar-V heritage site. This is the largest known petroglyph site in the Verde Valley. The rock art site consists of 1,032 petroglyphs in 13 panels. It was acquired by the Coconino National Forest in 1994. The visitor center had several bird feeders up and here we saw several **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** and a **Pine Siskin**. On the way to the petroglyphs a **Common Black Hawk** flew by with a snake in it's talons. The petroglyphs were very interesting with some depicting herons. Several **Rock Wrens** were hopping up and down the wall. Wild flowers were still plentiful along the trail as we headed back to the car.

Our group of birders were Donna Walkuski, Ruth and Dave Kennedy, Vicky Johnson, Gail & George Krasean, Vera Markham, Fran Baughman, Dan Bohlmann, Sue Moreland, Lana Brown, Richard Kaiser, Claudia Ozark, Park Biologist Tina Greenawalt, and leader Bob McCormick

Bird list in order of appearance...36 species.

Bridled Titmouse, Northern Flicker, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Mourning Dove, Common Raven, Verdin, House Finch, Bewick's Wren, Gila Woodpecker, European Starling, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, White-breasted Nuthatch, Turkey Vulture, Bell's Vireo, Canyon Wren, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, White Crowned Sparrow...at the well... Lesser Scaup, Gadwall, N. Rough-wing Swallow, Great-horned Owl, Violet-green Swallow, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Phainopepla...at V-Bar-V site... Common Black Hawk, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Dark-eyed Junco, Lesser Gold Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Pine Siskin.



Canyon Wren



Lesser Scaup





Rough Winged Swallow



Violet-Green Swallow



Only full length photo



Nine rattles



Sensing with his tongue



Petroglyphs



Petroglyphs



Petroglyphs



Coopers Hawk



Red Tail Hawk



Phainopepla



Coopers Hawk in flight