

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

September 10th, 2016



CONDITIONS: Clear skies with some cirrus and cirrocumulus clouds: Temperature 82 degrees F at the beginning of our walk at 7:15 AM with little to no breeze: Temperature at 9:20 AM at walk's conclusion was 89 degrees F, breeze 1-2 mph. Length of walk, 1.9 miles

OBSERVATIONS: Irrigation had inspired grasses and some forbs to grow well in the east end of the park. We toured the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, the grassy fields and the desert scrub dominated by salt bush, creosote and some palo verde and Velvet Mesquite. The group then walked the Gila River. The bed was dry with all water below ground. The two mitigated lakes were below normal levels and the marsh area just north of the lakes was dry, thus rail habitat was degraded. It has been a hot, dry summer with spotty monsoon showers having little effect upon replenishing the dwindling lakes.

HIGHLIGHTS: 4 raptor species, Wilson's Warblers, Western Grebe, flocks of Lark Sparrows, Bendire's Thrasher, White-faced Ibis traveling west in V formation, Prairie Falcon

PARTICIPANTS: Caleb Strand-guide: Paul Doucette, Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Karen Martin, Mitra Samadani, Lana Brown, Jean Eddins, Glen Bennett, Ron Ratner, Giovanni and Carmen Orozco and sons Giovanni, Gilbert, Ira, and daughter Hope, Joe Ford (17)

SPECIES OBSERVED: Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Western Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot (Red-shielded), Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, Common Ground Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Greater Roadrunner, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Rock Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Bendire's Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Vesper Sparrow, Western Tanager, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Spizella species, Parulidae species (55)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S31516363>