

## Arrowhead Ponds Trip Report

Friday, January 13, 2017

Leader: Dan Bohlmann

The first stop at the bridge over Melinda Lane produced 16 different species which were mostly the cast of usual characters such as the Belted Kingfisher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron, Canada Geese and the always present Double-crested Cormorant, American Coot and Black Phoebe. We also added some typical neighborhood birds and desert birds.

We then headed for the bird blind overlooking the large lake north of the Arrowhead Community and south of T-Bird Park. As we arrived there a woodpecker type bird was spotted in a tree nearby. It preferred hiding behind a limb most of the time so we couldn't get a really good look at it. It finally came out from hiding and we could tell it was a sapsucker female but what kind? We had lots of fun debating and looking at field guides and we finally decided that it was a Red-napped. We then looked through the blind and found a beautiful male Bufflehead but the 100 or so Common Mergansers that were there a few days before had up and left. They even put on their "hoods", that is their cousins the Hooded Mergansers that were with them and departed. Such a shame!!

We went to our next lake and on the way past an artificial stream between ponds we saw flocks of American Wigeons waddling along the banks, a great Blue Heron and a Great Egret busy fishing without a pole or a for that matter a license. When we arrived at the big lakes west of 67th Ave on Arrowhead Loop Road we found more different types of ducks and about a dozen of our missing Common Mergansers.

Our final spot was Thunderbird Park. As we drove there, it poured rain but it quit the minute we stepped out of the cars. We were amazed a little bit later to

see a large hawk flying toward us and as it got overhead we could tell it had an all white head and tail otherwise known as a Bald Eagle. I've seen them many times along the Salt and Verde Rivers in the Valley(in winter) and even on the Gila River near PIR on the southwest side of town, but never on the northwest side of town. We picked up some more typical desert birds wandering around but the Cardinals and Loggerhead Shrike that we usually see here were out for lunch.

Species seen: 33 Total

Belted Kingfisher, Canada Geese, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, American Coot, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, American Wigeon, Common Merganser, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Pied-billed Grebe, Cactus Wren, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, House Finch, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gila Woodpecker, Mockingbird, Black Phoebe, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Great-tailed Grackle, Mourning Dove, Rock Dove, Red-naped Sapsucker, Orange-crowned Warbler, Anna's Hummingbird and Bald Eagle.

Attendees:

John & Judi Heath, Vera Markham, Earl Ederis, Tom Lazzelle, Joe & Martha Emmons, Peggy Cullen, Pat Stiltner, Veronica Burris and Dan Bohlmann

ebird checklist # S33813995