

Trip Report Santa Cruz Flats
By Claudia Kirscher
DATE: February 26, 2017

Under cloudy skies, sporadic sprinkles, and midmorning gusty winds, our Sonoran Audubon field trip group worked hard for our species list, nothing unusual just the expected winter birds found in this area. Always fun and challenging to suss out the sparrows. We failed to find our target birds of Rufous-backed Robin (tried twice, morning and afternoon), Mountain Plover or Crested Caracara. In fact, overall raptor numbers seem to be decreased from last month. Time for them to head back north? The previously reported "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk continues near the intersection of Green Reservoir & Curry as well as the "Harlan's" along E. Phillips Rd about 1/4 mile west of S. Barrett Rd (seen in January and December also). Other highlights include Bendire's Thrasher, large mixed flocks of Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds swirling and foraging in desert scrub, lots of red with Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Cardinals, and Vermillion Flycatchers, and a very light Ferruginous Hawk hunkered down low against the gusts of wind in a field. We ended our day via Red Rock feed lot where we found a 200+ flock of Lark Buntings along Sasco Rd. All in all, an invigorating day to be out in the field. Many thanks to all the sharp-eyed participants!

Participants: Claudia Kirscher (trip leader), Donna Smith, Dan Bohlmann, Carol Sharplin, Vera Markham, Lana Brown, Dominic Sherony, Jim Consolloy

Dominic's species list, posted on ebird:

Santa Cruz Flats Travel Count, Pinal, Arizona, US

Feb 26, 2017 8:15 AM - 1:15 PM

Protocol: Traveling

76.0 mile(s)

Comments: Sonoran Audubon Society field trip

41 species (+2 other taxa)

Mallard 4
Gambel's Quail 3
Great Blue Heron 2
Northern Harrier 3
Red-tailed Hawk 32 Includes 2 Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks
Ferruginous Hawk 1
American Coot 1
Killdeer 14
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) X
Eurasian Collared-Dove 10
Inca Dove 3
Mourning Dove 40
Greater Roadrunner 4
Gila Woodpecker 9
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3
Northern/Gilded Flicker 1
American Kestrel 6
Say's Phoebe 3

Vermilion Flycatcher 2
Loggerhead Shrike 1
Common Raven 40
Horned Lark 8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
Curve-billed Thrasher 1
Curve-billed/Bendire's Thrasher 1
European Starling X
American Pipit 30
Phainopepla 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler 3
Brewer's Sparrow 1
Lark Sparrow 4
Lark Bunting 250
White-crowned Sparrow 30
Abert's Towhee 1
Northern Cardinal 3
Red-winged Blackbird 600
Western Meadowlark 4
Yellow-headed Blackbird 8
Brewer's Blackbird 1000
Great-tailed Grackle 10
Brown-headed Cowbird 2
House Finch 30
House Sparrow X