

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

DATE: March 24th, 2017

Trip Leader: Jim Consolloy

Conditions: We started out at the north entrance to Lake Pleasant Park at 8:30 a.m. under clear and windless skies. Temps were in the low 70's and found a lot of bird activity along this roadside area. We were all amazed at the colorful wildflower displays wherever we traveled. Lake levels were at their highest, with no exposed calcium carbonate deposits visible, (i.e. "no bathtub ring affect") seen around the lake shoreline. We explored a couple of the more active birding sites in the northern part of the park (Cottonwood Creek ramadas and large boat launch areas) before driving to the bridge-culverts on Castle Hot Springs Rd. The lake waters had moved up Castle Creek as far as we could see from the bridge; attracting many Western Grebes and one lone Clark's Grebe into this area.

Around 11:30 we returned to the south end of the park and enjoyed an early lunch overlooking Scorpion Bay at the Pipeline Canyon trailhead. After lunch we hiked that trail to the floating bridge site, hearing and seeing wild burros as we went and photographing them amongst the splendid wildflower displays.



The trip ended at the newly rebuilt Discovery and Visitors Center located above the Waddell Dam. After sharing our species list with a ranger and reflecting on how it turned out to be one of the most beautiful days this year, we headed home at 3:15 p.m. The temperature was 79 degrees.



Participants: Lana Brown, Peggy Cullen, Jean Eddins, Nancy Mac, Erv Johnson and Dave Kennedy. A big thank you to Peggy for driving and Nancy for keeping up with recording all of the species.

Species seen and heard:

Common Raven, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, American Coot, Mallard Duck, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Great-tailed Grackle, Mourning Dove, Curve-billed Thrasher, Gila Woodpecker, Gambel's Quail, Cactus Wren, Verdin, Lucy's Warbler, Northern Rough-wing Swallow, House Finch, White-crowned Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebe (nesting),

Other wildlife seen:

Nubian and Somalian Wild Burros, Ground Squirrel, Antelope Ground Squirrel, Long-tailed Lizard, Desert Blister Beetle, Common Kingsnake (d.), White, Sulfur and Swallowtail Butterflies.