

Trip Report – Oak Flats Campgrounds and nearby.

TOOK PLACE ON: April 8, 2017

LEADER WAS: Bob McCormick



Photo by Alan Mayo



Photo by Don Whitter

CONDITIONS:

Temperature mid 50's at beginning under clear skies with no to a variable breeze. Temperature in the high 70's at conclusion. Ideal birding.

PARTICIPANTS:

Dan Bohlmann, Don Whitter, Gay Christensen, Jean Eddins, Lana Brown, Alan Mayo & wife

HIGHLIGHTS:

We knew this was going to be a great day when the first bird out of the car was a **Vermillion Flycatcher**. We spent the first two hours wandering under the Oak trees on the East side of the campsite. **Bewick's Wrens** and **Lucy Warblers** were singing everywhere. A **Bush Tit** family was observed bringing food to the nest. A singing bird that was extremely shy turned out to be a **Plumbius Vireo**. After a short break, we moved to the West side of the campsite encountering **Juniper** and **Bridled Titmice** in the same tree. The pond had no ducks but the Willow trees had several Warbler species and a **Belted Kingfisher**. Returning to the car for lunch, we encountered a **Anna's Hummingbird** on a nest.

After lunch, we headed West down Forest Road 315 toward the Devil's Canyon trail head. This rugged landscape of Hoodoos and other rock formations was home to working drilling rigs. Walking up an old jeep trail we encountered several Wren and Sparrow species while a **Zone-tailed Hawk** flew lazy circles above us. Some spots just get really birdy. A **Northern Cardinal**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Western Scrub Jays**, and singing **Black-chinned Sparrow** family all made appearances. A steep trip up the Jeep trail in the vehicles to the ridge ended the day with an outstanding view to the south.

Counts and other details with lots of photos are at eBird
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S35902674>

52 species!

1	Vermillion Flycatcher	14	Bell's Vireo (S)	4	Cassin's Kingbird
15	Bewick's Wren (S)	12	Anna's Hummingbird	8	Ash-throated Flycatcher
10	Lucy's Warbler (S)	17	Turkey Vulture	7	Plumbius Vireo (S)
24	Lesser Goldfinch	3	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	2	Spotted Towhee (S)
8	Verdin (S)	1	Abert's Towhee	13	Chipping Sparrow (S)
5	Black-throated Sparrow (S)	2	American Robin	4	Bushtit (N)
4	White-crowned Sparrow (S)	8	House Finch (S)	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
2	Common Raven	2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1	European Collared Dove
1	Juniper Titmouse	5	Bridled Titmouse	3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
2	Northern Cardinal (S)	4	Mourning Dove	1	Yellow Warbler (S)
1	Black Phoebe	1	Belted Kingfisher	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler
1	Lark Sparrow	1	Black-chinned Hummingbird	1	House Wren
1	White-winged Dove				

Road 315 additions (species seen already at Oak Flats were added to numbers above)

5	Phainopepla	3	Gamble's Quail	2	Gray Flycatcher
2	Canyon Towhee (Baby)	3	Black-chinned Sparrow (S)	1	Rock Wren
2	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1	Zone-tailed Hawk	1	Cactus Wren
1	Virginia's Warbler	1	Canyon Wren	1	Orange-crowned Warbler
2	Western Scrub Jay	1	Red-tailed Hawk.		