

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

DATE: August 12th, Saturday, 2017, 7:00 AM to 10 AM

CONDITIONS: Inception: 88 degrees F under partly cloudy skies. A shower had occurred in the early morning hours as a result of the still strong monsoon season Maricopa County has been experiencing. Very little breeze. At finish: 96 degrees with a breeze of 3-8 mph from the SE, again partly cloudy skies with mostly altocumulus and cumulus clouds

PARTICIPANTS: Elaine Camero, Ranger Amanda Rothermal, guide Joe Ford



TRAIL: The normal trail through the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, grass area, desert scrub, riparian trail along a mostly dry river bed until we reached the mitigated ponds on the east side of the park was taken.

HIGHLIGHTS: Ranger Amanda pointed out the numerous badger holes in the area and that these mammals have become a concern due to the lengthy tunnels they excavate, thus leading to unwanted subsidence and collapses of surface areas. The amazing number of doves and quail accentuated the obvious fact of a good breeding year for these species. A lonely Crissal Thrasher high in a leafless and probably dead tree. It was a quiet walk for the most part as migrants have yet to make their way south

and efforts to attract mates have all but vanished. It is time to take care of those new babies, which are almost to adulthood in most species.

SPECIES: Mallard, Gambel's Quail, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, American Coot, Killdeer, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher female, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch (31)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S38607349>