

## BIRD WALK AT WHITE TANK MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Time: 8:00 AM to 9:45 AM      Conditions: 62 degrees F under clear skies with a 3 mph wind from the north, northeast at inception: 69 degrees F under clear skies with a slightly freshened breeze upon conclusion.

Route: the walk included the parking area at Area 4 and a trek along the short loop of the Black Rock Trail. Included also were observations at the Nature Center and along the route from Area 4 to the Nature Center.



Participants: Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Bob Lemke, Pam Spinella, Yvonne Bentley, Don and Joyce Dirks, Robin Kazmicr, Barb Matesich, K.C. Jones, Jan Lilley, Joe Gormley, Rose Abrami, Pat Diaz, Richard Guthrie and Rajan, and Holden and Ross, and Joe Ford (guide)

Comments: This was a day when most of the Upper Sonoran Desert birds were found near water and potential food sources, which just happened to be in the parking area, with its trash cans and dripping faucets, than out on the trail. The Nature Center also was active, as feeders were there to attract some active hummers. Highlights were the flock of Common Ravens riding the thermals over a ridge and the inquisitive, ever curious Cactus Wrens hanging around the trash containers and parked cars seeking

handouts or some possible crumbs from a messy picnic. Small flocks of Black-throated Sparrows perched nicely at several points on the shrubs and Teddy Bear Cholla.

SPECIES: Red-tailed Hawk (seen from Nature Center), Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird (Nature Center), Gila Woodpecker, American Kestrel (on the road returning to Nature Center), Say's Phoebe (Nature Center), Common Raven, Verdin, Rock Wren, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Black-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow (Nature Center), Abert's Towhee (Nature Center), House Finch (17)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S40585708>

Fifteen people attended the program at the Nature Center, "Birds, Who Needs Them? We Do, and Here Is Why."