

**BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK 12 09 17**

**CONDITIONS:** A beautiful morning for a hike with clear skies and a temperature of 36 degrees F at inception (8:00 AM) with no to light breeze. We terminated the observations at approximately 10:30 AM with skies still clear, although showing some cirrus wisps, and a temperature of 71 degrees F, plus a light breeze of 1-2 mph.

**ROUTE:** The usual path was taken, although we took the west side of the Mesquite Bosque to avoid a very vocal group of cub scouts camping the area, traversed the Blue Gum Grove, the grassy area, desert scrub, and then on to the riparian trail along a dry Gila River (a few shallow pools) until we reached the mitigated ponds on the east end of the park.



**PARTICIPANTS:** Ellen Brogie, Lee Bradley, Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Paul Doucette, Sharon Beal, Peg Neilon, Howard Katz, Memly Corder, George Smith, Jim Consolloy, Erv Johnson, James Battese, Jamie Hubble, Chad Hubble, Emma Battese, Cris and Elspeth Morgan, and guides for the day, photographer Karen Martin, Mark Brogie and Joe Ford

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The presence of several American White Pelicans on the waters of the east pond, not to mention the flyovers of some 80 pelicans before the walk began. Five raptor species were seen, including a Cooper's Hawk and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

SPECIES: Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, rail species, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Nor. Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Rock Wren, Marsh Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Curve-billed Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch (59)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S41010310>

Twelve people attended the program at the Nature Center on "Bird Weirdness 1"