

BIRD WALK AT WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK 12 16 17

CONDITIONS: A rare cloudy to overcast day greeted birders at 8:00 AM as they gathered at Area 9 to hike onto the Ford Canyon Trail. A 54 degree F temperature with little to no breeze was in place at the beginning of the walk and temperatures climbed to the high 50's at conclusion. Cloud type was mostly stratus and cirrostratus



PARTICIPANTS: K.C. Jones, Yvonne Bentley, Pam Spinelli (refreshments chairlady), Erv Johnson, Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Mark and Ellen Brogie, David Sussman, Bob Lemke, Alan and Susan Lafo, June McMullen, Leanne Post, and guides Karen Martin (photographer) and Joe Ford (16) Great cookies Pam!!!!

COMMENTS: Cloud cover inspired desert visions not often experienced in the upper Sonoran Desert Highlands. The sunrise was enchanting with flaming oranges and crimson. Birds were less prone to appear as the warmup of early morning was late to arrive, thus the experience of silence was pleasant, only marred by occasional human "babble". A few birds perched atop the majestic saguaros, some House Finches appearing to group as if enjoying early morning coffee while the noisy humans continued to gape at them like "peeping toms". A fluttering Phainopepla was a treat and numerous Black-throated Sparrows darting here and there through the shrubs, daring us to see them, were on the scene.

SPECIES: Red-tailed Hawk (seen approaching the White Tank gate), American Kestrel (seen leaving the White Tanks on Olive), Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird (visitor center), Gambel's Quail, Gila

Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Say's Phoebe (visitor center), Loggerhead Shrike, Common Raven, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Phainopepla, Black-throated Sparrow, House Finch (17)

Twelve people were at the program, "Owls" held at the Nature Center

I did not send this list to eBird