BIRD WALK AT CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK

DATE: January 6, 2018

CONDITIONS: Temperature 58 degrees F at 8:30 AM with cloudy skies dominated by alto-stratus, alto-cumulus, cirrocumulus and cirrus and no breeze. At finish our temperature was 69 degrees F with a slight wisp of an intermittent breeze, still cloudy skies, but more blue and lots of cirrocumulus (many "mackerel sky" formations). Dry conditions persisted in this Upper Sonoran Desert habitat with no measurable precipitation in the last two months. Not even the Brittlebush had buds. With the area sparse in terms of water sources and even food sources, it was not surprising that bird populations were thin.

TRAIL: The walk was taken from the Nature Center to the Overton Trail east past the shelters and onto the Slate Trail, then the group returned via Tonalite Drive and Cave Creek Parkway to the Nature Center.

PARTICIPANTS: Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Lorna Dyer, Pam Spinella, K.C. Jones, Yvonne Bentley, Leslie Dixwell, Linda Snyder, Shirley Sobkow, Leslie Brown, Michael Ameigh, Vanessa Glady, Bud Stratford, Cris and Elspeth Morgan, Brenda Holman, Lyn and Mary Keefer, Lana Brown, Ty Bigelow, Tim Flood, Linda Covey, and guide Joe Ford (two young birders were in attendance as well, no names listed)

HIGHLIGHTS: The species that did present themselves for viewing gave us some good looks and the cameras were in a clicking frenzy when opportunities arose. Especially cooperative were the Phainopepla pair and some nervous Black-tailed Gnatcatchers. The Gambel's Quail were already trading courtship calls and a Curve-billed Thrasher male was singing his heart out.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail (12), Costa's Hummingbird (1) at Nature Center, Gila Woodpecker (3), Gilded Flicker (3), Common Raven (2), Verdin (2), Cactus Wren (1), Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (7), Curve-billed Thrasher (3), Phainopepla (2), Black-throated Sparrow (8), House Finch (1 audio)   12 total

I did not put this data on eBird

Twenty-two people attended the program at the Nature Center on "Raptors"