

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN PARK 2 10 18

CONDITIONS: Clear skies at 8 AM with a 50 degrees F temperature and a slight breeze from the NE: At 10:30 our thermometer read 72 degrees with some increasing clouds from the NW, mostly cirrus and cirrostratus and a breeze of 5-8 mph.

PATH OF WALK: After some observations around the visitor center, the official walk began in the Mesquite Bosque, then advanced through the Blue Gum Grove, the desert scrub, riparian trail along a mostly dry river channel with a few pools, then ended at the mitigated lakes east of Vineyard Blvd.



PARTICIPANTS: Paul Doucette, Lee Bradley, Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Cris and Elspeth Morgan, Ron Palmgren, Mike Palmgren, Matt Scotch, Jane Olson, Larry and Mary Dobson, Pam Spinella, and guides Karen Martin and Joe Ford (15)

COMMENTS AND HIGHLIGHT: Still a very dry habitat along the river channel, however bird presence was continuous along our trek within the park west of Vineyard. Some irrigation had sustained grasses within the camping and picnic areas. The lakes were the most vacant that we have seen them comparing to the last three monthly walks. Highlights had to be color, and Vermilion Flycatcher males and Red-naped Sapsuckers blessed our eyes with good visions of scarlet orange plumage. One surprise was the Gray Flycatcher, and one unusual observation was the group of some 7 Pied-billed Grebes together.

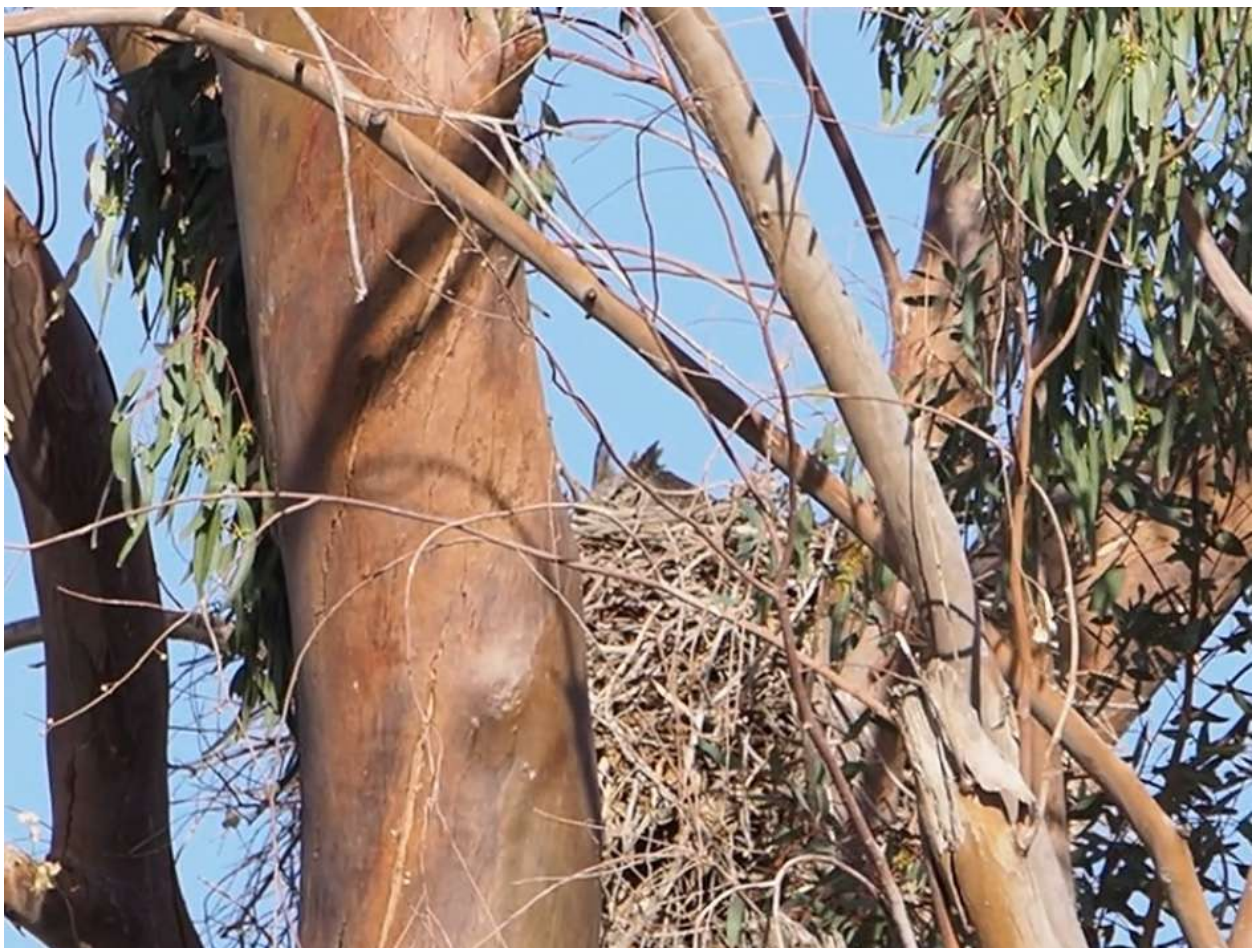
SPECIES: Canada Goose, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe???, Neotropic Cormorant, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Red-naped Sapsucker, American Kestrel, Gray Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Rock Wren, Marsh Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Curve-billed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow (48)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S42651691>

Seven people attended the program at the visitor center entitled "Bird Weirdness III".

A special thank you to Pam Spinella for the delicious refreshments and for serving as special picture lady to aid those needing pictures to help them find what to look for. Another special dose of gratitude to Jerry Molinelli and Karen Martin, our official photographers for the days outing.

PICTURES FROM KAREN MARTIN FROM THE WALK AT ESTRELLA MT. PARK 2 10 18



RED-TAIL HAWK NEST WITH GREAT HORNED OWL THAT TOOK POSSESSION



COOPER'S HAWK IN FLIGHT



RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER FROM BELOW



RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER MALE



VERMILION FLYCATCHER MALE



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON)