

Trip Report Arrowhead Ponds February 9, 2018

It was a bright clear sky at 8:30 a.m. with no wind and the temperature already climbing into the 50's. The waterfowl was very cooperative, allowing all of us to study them at close range and at time use Tom's wonderful scope. Being a weekday parking was not an issue nor was moving around on local roads with little difficulty.

Birding convoy style with six cars seemed like the best way to see many sites within three hours. After circling Arrowhead Lakes from the Melinda Lane bridge, we hopped from the birding blind on 59th to Thunderbird Park. Desert birds were not plentiful, but we saw all target birds in the first half hour. From there we headed west on the Arrowhead Lakes Loop Rd, counting numerous rafts of ducks and cormorants along that loop.

We thank everyone present for their keen observations and identifying bird calls, spotting numerous birds though out the morning. Those present were: Dan Bohlman (SAS Field Trip Committee Chmn.), Jim Consolloy (Trip Leader), Sue and Russ Costello, Lorna Dyer, Nancy Mac (Scribe), Vera Markham (Photographer), and Elspeth and Cris Morgan.

List of 42 Bird species seen:

Double-Crested Cormorant 23, Neotropic Cormorant 77, American Coot 80, Canada Goose 36, Mallard Duck 142, Northern Shoveler 5, Ruddy Duck 102, Common Merganser 58, American Wigeon 144, Eurasian Wigeon 1 (in the roadside stream in front of the school), Pied-billed Grebe 5, Ring-necked Duck 20, Great Blue Heron 8, Great Egret 8, Black-crowned Night Heron 2, Green Heron 3, Raven 2, Spotted Sandpiper 2, Gambel's Quail 15, Mourning Dove 20, Rock Pigeon 67, European Starling 12, Northern Mockingbird 5, Gila Woodpecker 3, Curve-billed Thrasher 4, Abert's Towhee 2, Black Phoebe 1, Great-tailed Grackle 33, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3, Swallow spp. 1, Cactus Wren 2, White-crowned Sparrow 3, Black-throated Sparrow 5, Sparrow spp. 1, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher 7, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Verdin 4, Anna's Hummingbird 1, Costa's Hummingbird 1, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler 1, House Finch 10, House Sparrow 2.

Vera's best picks of the day still to come!