

## BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK 3 10 18

CONDITIONS: Under overcast skies (stratus clouds) and a temperature of 63 degrees F, and a light breeze from the northeast, we began our walk at approximately 8 AM. We finished around 11 AM, with skies still overcast, and a temperature of 76 degrees F, after observing in several habitats on the east side of the park, including the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, grassy areas, desert scrub, the riparian area along the Gila River and the mitigated ponds to the east.



PARTICIPANTS: Lee Bradley, David Glaeseman, Chris McVittie (photography), Jim Kneesch, Sharon Manyx, Dan Ingram, Marianna Cunningham, Vincent Galbreath, Bill and Linda Nokes, Shaun and Renee Barnette, Roseanna Rigo, Donna Rigo, Deborah Marshall, Cris and Elspeth Morgan, Linda Molinella, Jim Consolloy, Erv Johnson, and guides Jerry Molinelli (photography), Paul Doucette (photography), Pam Spinella (photo identification), and Joe Ford

A special thank you to Bill Nokes for serving as “crossing guard” on Vineyard Avenue to help prevent dismemberment or death.

HIGHLIGHTS: A Black-crowned Night Heron adult perched nicely for us by the ponds. A Great Horned Owl had sequestered a raptor nest to roost within, with possible inclinations toward using it for a future family. Western Blue-birds with their gentle warbles filled the air and the trees, most likely on their way north to the Rim, at least higher elevations. A Black Vulture was spotted aloft, mixed in with some Turkey Vultures riding some thermals.

SPECIES: Gadwall, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, cormorant species, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Virginia Rail (audio), American Coot, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper,(Greater Yellowlegs OR Black-necked Stilt, audio only), Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, flicker species (audio only), American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow (visitor center), Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch (51)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S43581126>

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHRIS McVITTIE, PAUL DOUCETTE, JERRY MOLINELLI FOR YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE.

DATE: 3 10 18 ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK



OSPREY BY JERRY MOLINELLI



BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON BY JERRY MOLINELLI



GREAT EGRET WITH MONTEZUMA PEAK IN BACKGROUND BY PAUL DOUCETTE



MALE AND FEMALE GADWALL BY PAUL DOUCETTE



WESTERN BLUEBIRD BY CHRIS McVITTIE



GREAT HORNED OWL IN OLD RED-TAILED HAWK NEST BY CHRIS McVITTIE