

## BIRD WALK AT CAVE CREEK RECREATIONAL PARK

DATE: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

CONDITIONS: 81 degrees F at 8:35 AM: partly cloudy skies and no breeze. Our walk finished at 10:15 AM under partly cloudy skies and a warm 92 degrees F. Dry conditions continue in this Upper Sonoran Desert habitat and the flower bloom was minimal when compared to past years. Brittlebush, milkweed were in bloom and Hedgehog Cactus were putting out some magenta blooms. Palo Verde trees were beginning to flower as was Velvet Mesquite. Water sources were hard to come by for the resident birds.



PARTICIPANTS: K.C. Jones, Tom Worcester, Craig Carmon from Tennessee, Ronna Knowles, David Glaeseman, Gabrielle Parks, Allie Carsia, Marie Carsia, The Stevens Family from Ontario, which included a young photographer, Matthew, Marcyes Schmnus, Jorge and Nancy Lopez, Carol Samson, Connie Sherwood, Desiree Johnson, John and Dianna Hopkins, Deborah Marshall, and leaders for the day, Pam Spinella with identification keys, and Joe Ford. Several young birders began the hike but left our group early. We started with 29 birders in our group.

COMMENTS: The trail taken was from the Nature Center to the Overton Trail, east across Tonalite Avenue into the parking lot where the Slate Trailhead was located, then the group returned by major roads to the Nature Center. Highlights were the looks at Black-throated Sparrows and Canyon Towhees, Common Ravens soaring with the thermals in the distance above the mountains, the American Kestrel, and the Costa's Hummingbird and singing Lucy's Warbler at the Nature Center.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Say's Phoebe, Common Raven, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, House Finch (17)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S44141831>

Twelve people attended the program, "Flowers That Fire the Imagination" at the Nature Center