

BIRD WALK AT CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK 4 21 18

CONDITIONS: Our walk began around 8:35 AM with a temperature of 78 degrees F with clear skies and some haze to the southeast, little to no breeze: we finished at 10:10 AM with a temperature of 84 degrees F and a slight breeze of 1-3 mph. Dry conditions continued in the Sonoran Desert Uplands with no precipitation since our last walk in March. Some Foothills Palo Verde were in bloom along with Ocotillo and Ironwoods. Saguaro buds were prominent and flowering will soon grace the columns.



PARTICIPANTS: David Glaeseman, Linda Molinelli, Beat and Lisa Raess, Marilyn Cute, Ray and Diane Rainka, Mary Dixon, Gail Watts, Roger Bateman, Matt Scotch, Ranger Mark Paulat, and guides Jerry Molinelli (photography), Jim Consolloy, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (17)

HIGHLIGHTS: A frisky group of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers offered us good photo opportunities, some sparrows offered identification challenges, Cactus Wrens were chucking almost around every turn, and the bright yellow of a Wilson's Warbler and vivid scarlet of a male Vermilion Flycatcher graced the vision of a few. A few of us wanted to make a Western Kingbird into a Say's Phoebe.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail, Turkey Vulture, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker female, Gilded Flicker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-

tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch (and possibly a Chipping Sparrow). (22)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S44847167>

Seven people attended the program, "What Mineral is This?" in the Nature Center.