

Trip Report – Seven Springs Recreation Area

TOOK PLACE ON: April 21, 2018

LEADER: Bob McCormick



Photo by Tom Worchester



Hermit Thrush by Vera Markham

#### CONDITIONS:

A perfect day for birding. Temperature in the mid 50's under clear skies in the morning with no breeze. High 80's in the afternoon

#### PARTICIPANTS:

Vera Markham, Dan Bohlmann, Dave & Ruth Kennedy, Minna Mendelson, Tim Flood, Peter Herstein, Jean Eddins, Tom Worchester, Cynthia Rucker, Jerry & Cindy Theisman.

Bronco Trailhead – Bathroom!

This trip had five stops, the first being at the Bronco trailhead to look for sparrows and to use the bathroom. Several **Brewer's sparrows** and **Black-throated sparrows** made appearances while a **Woodhouse/Scrub jay** perched on a dead tree. Across the road, a 1<sup>st</sup> year **Bullock's Oriole** and a **Gray Flycatcher** were the highlights.

CCC Campground – Big trees few woodpeckers

The old CCC campground is closed to campers but, had a lots of large Cottonwood, Sycamore, and Ash trees just starting to leaf out. This was the favorite spot for **Lucy's** and **Yellow**

**Warblers.** Heading into the trees downstream, **Hermit Thrushes** and **White Crowned Sparrows** were getting a drink. Becoming a common site was one of many “**Western**” **Flycatchers**, probably all of the **Pacific Slope** variety

Group Campground – Hi Peoria High School!

The group campsite was full of high school kids and luckily we were able to talk our way in. The hillside along the East side of the campground is always a great spot. A **Phainopepla**, **Common Black Hawk**, **Northern Cardinals**, and lots of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Chipping Sparrows** were found here.

Seven Springs Campground – Lunch

We had lunch at the Seven Springs campground where we all fought over the only picnic table in the shade. Want to see **Bewick’s Wrens**? This is the spot. A pair was using one of the many holes in a Sycamore tree as a nest. Their calls were everywhere. We had to skip the creek here due to kid infestation. They were having a great time.

Cave Creek trail and Cave Creek -

Last stop was a short hike down the Cave Creek trail. Taking a loop off the main trail toward the creek you end up under a giant Sycamore tree. What was in this tree? A male **Western Tanager**, several **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, more **Lucy’s Warblers**, an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, a **Townsend’s Warbler** and a **MacGillivray’s Warbler**. We could have done the whole field trip just to this tree. We then moved to the creek where another **Common Black Hawk** was hanging out at the creek.

As we didn’t lose anyone, the trip was a great success! A seven warbler five sparrow day

Counts and other details with lots of photos are at eBird

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44871789>

4 Turkey Vulture, 3 Common Black Hawk, 1 Zone-tailed Hawk, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Mourning Dove, 1 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Broad-tailed Hummingbird, 1 Hummingbird sp., 3 Gila Woodpecker, 2 Ladder-backed Woodpecker, 1 Gray Flycatcher, 11 Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher (Western Flycatcher), 1 Black Phoebe, 2 Ash-throated Flycatcher, 3 Bell's Vireo, 4 Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, 6 Common Raven, 3 Violet-green Swallow, 2 Verdin, 9 Bewick's Wren, 2 Cactus Wren, 1 Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, 9 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3 Hermit Thrush, 1 Phainopepla, 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, 12 Lucy's Warbler, 1 MacGillivray's Warbler, 9 Yellow Warbler, 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, 1 Townsend's Warbler, 1 Wilson's Warbler, 3 Chipping Sparrow, 6 Brewer's Sparrow, 3 Black-throated Sparrow, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, 1 Lincoln's Sparrow, 1 Western Tanager, 3 Northern Cardinal, 1 Bullock's Oriole, 8 Lesser Goldfinch.