

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK

DATE: 6/9/18

CONDITIONS: Another clear, sunny day with a temperature of 80 degrees F and a minimal breeze greeted the faithful seekers of the aviary persuasion. We concluded our effort at 9:15 AM after a 2 hour and 15 minute walk with the temperature just south of 100 degrees F.

ITINERARY: A short “walk-a-bout” at the visitor center was followed by the gathering of our crew of 18, caravanning to the east side of the park, then trekking through the Mesquite Bosque, the Blue Gum Grove, the Salt Bush Scrub, then on to the riparian trail along a very dry Gila River bed, finishing at the mitigated lakes.

HIGHLIGHTS: The Crissal Thrashers at the visitor center,(a family of at least three), the two Say’s Phoebes in an aerial chase, the brilliant oranges and blacks of male Vermilion Flycatchers (their lesser colored mates were no less abundant), the constant chorus of White-winged Doves, and the absence of shorebirds and water fowl at the mitigated lakes, were all impacting on our memories of this excursion.



PARTICIPANTS: Sharon Manyx, Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Marilyn Cute, Marc Shlossman, Lee Bradley, Wendell and Janet Thrush, Sarah Soltow, Paul Doucette, Cris and Elspeth Morgan, Tina Bickel, Karen Martin, Cindy Davis, Shelley Gorti, Phil Evanstock, Tom Locascio, Pam Spinella, Joe Ford (20)

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Greater Roadrunner, Green Heron?, Turkey Vulture, American Coot, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, hummingbird species (Anna's??), Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Western Wood Peewee, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Nor. Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Common Yellowthroat, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, House Sparrow, possibly a Cinnamon Teal?? (36?)

Counts and other details can be found at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S46472380>