



Bird Walk at Estrella Mountain Regional Park

Date: Saturday August 11th 2018

6:00 am to 8:45 am

Conditions: Inception: 75 degrees F under mostly clouded skies. Like a year earlier, grounds were wet from an early morning monsoon rain.

Cooling breeze made us optimistic for a pleasant walk. At the 8:45 finish it was up to only 85 degrees

Trail: The usual trail through the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, grassy area, desert scrub, and on to the ponds via the dry riparian river bed. <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47822039>

Participants: Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Yvonne Bentley, Pam Spinella, Amanda Rothermal, Lyle and Sharon Sands, Haylie Hewitt, Marilyn Cute, Gretchen Trumbull, Dave Glaeseman, and guide Tom Locascio

Great Egret	1
Gambel's Quail	12
Turkey Vulture	1
Neotropical Cormorant	2
Cormorant sp.	40
Red-tailed Hawk	2
White-winged Dove	25
Mourning Dove	15
Lesser Nighthawk	3
Gila Woodpecker	6
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1
Gilded Flicker	2
American Kestrel	2
Vermillion Flycatcher	6
Empidonax sp.	4
Loggerhead Shrike	3
Verdin	3
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	2
Curve-billed Thrasher	1
Northern Mockingbird	3
European Starling	10
Black-throated Gray Warbler	2
Abert's Towhee	2
Western Tanager	1
Lesser Goldfinch	4

Species count (25) on the left. Highlights of the trip below.

Some of us were missing from the above group photo as Dave and Gretchen joined us in progress. After a few fleeting views of birds we would observe well later, we made our way to the Navy parking lot and headed into the Mesquite Bosque. Once there, some of us saw parts of a Western Tanager. There was a good variety of birds here and they made up the bulk of the species list. An interesting sighting was a Lesser Nighthawk continually landing on mesquite branches and flying off as humans entered his comfort zone. There were opportunities to see it resting on a branch instead of the usual fly by view. There were several Empidonax flycatcher that generated much speculation. Adding to the difficulty were several immature birds. Most I saw were light underneath and some had yellow underparts. Didn't get good views and if I were speculate I would say Pacific-slope and Willow. Jerry has some good photos so we might be able to make a determination later. Between a large puddle and a grassy berm, a small black and white head popped up and down. Seeing only the head, it was easy to ID it as a Black-throated Grey Warbler. It eventually flew up and Jerry caught it on "film" We saw three woodpeckers, Gila, Gilded Flicker and in the now greatly diminished desert scrub, The Ladderback. The trail to the ponds were pretty devoid of bird life except for a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher and a Great Egret fly by. Gunfire at the large pond denied us our Red-winged Blackbird, Coot, and Mallard species list entitlements.