

## **Tonto Fish Hatchery Trip**

**Thursday, July 26, 2018**

**Leader: Dan Bohlmann**

It was a nice cool morning below the Mogollon Rim when we arrived - 77 degrees. One look into the main pond at the hatchery revealed that it was another fine kettle of fish we got ourselves into - lots of 2 and 3 foot long rainbow trout. We had also seen another fine kettle of Turkey Vultures as we drove up from Payson on route 260. We took a stroll around the drive that circles the fish hatchery and found several interesting birds. We discovered that there were quite a few Cordilleran Flycatchers building nests in the rafters over the cement trout ponds. An Osprey who had found a gold mine of trout to eat kept circling above us. The Steller's Jays were around making their usual chattering calls. Up at the top of several dead snags were the colorful Acorn Woodpeckers calling to each other and flying back and forth. Halfway around the hatchery we picked up the friendly official hatchery cat who stuck with us and pointed out some interesting birds by staring at them. He found a nice female Western Tanager for us and a Robin. We also had some "heard birds" that we didn't see such as the Raven, Summer Tanager and the "rrrring" of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird flying by overhead. We spotted several hawks soaring overhead - a Red-tailed and a Sharp-shinned. There was one Northern Flicker that showed up versus the last time when there were many.

We decided to then check out the creek, ponds and waterfalls that were downstream from the Hatchery. The last time here this area had the treat of a number of different warblers. No such luck this time! We did find a fine male Western Tanager that posed for a long time for us in all his glory. Part of our group also saw a Black Phoebe and a Black-headed Grosbeak in this area. We saw briefly some swallows high overhead which were probably Violet-greens based on past years. Jerry and Linda stayed to eat lunch in this area and saw a Painted Redstart and a Rivoli's Hummingbird.

Attendees: Fran Baughman, Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Mary McSparen, Donna Walkuski, and Dan Bohlmann