



Audubon Bird Walk at the White Tank Mountains

Date: Saturday October 15th 2018
7:30 am to 9:30 am

Conditions: Inception: 70 degrees F under clear skies. At the finish it was up to 80 degrees.

Itinerary: We met at area 4 and took the Mule Deer trail north to the horse staging area where we proceed to the “pond” on the Wildlife Trail.

Participants: Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Pam Spinelli, Marilyn Cute, Yvonne Bentley, David Glaeseman, Richard Chambers, Carole boyer, Shirley and Jim Catto, Emily Roth, Jane, Nick, and guide Tom Locascio

Species count: 21

Jerry Molinelli photo

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48991149>

Trip summary

Mourning Dove	3
Anna’s Hummingbird	2
Rufous Hummingbird	2
Turkey Vulture	4
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Gila Woodpecker	4
Gilded Flicker	1
Empidonax sp.	1
Say’s Phoebe	1
Loggerhead Shrike	1
Cassin’s Vireo	1
Common Raven	3
N R W Swallow	1
Cactus Wren	1
Curve-billed Thrasher	2
European Starling	3
House Finch	7
Brewers Sparrow	1
Black-throated Sparrow	5
Great-tailed Grackle	3
Black-throated Gray Warbler	

It was a beautiful morning for a bird walk in the elegant and majestic Sonoran Desert. At first the birds were somewhere else as we hiked the Mule Deer trail with the pond (“water hole”) as our destination. A few of the permanent residents were heard but our idyllic trek was marred by rude cyclists. We, a group of vintage humans averaging about 65+, were not given enough time to get to the very shallow side of the trail before 2 separate angry cyclists bore down on us at dangerous speed. Saturdays might present a problem for bird walkers in the cooler weather.

We found the waterhole but there was no life there. We decide to go back to the parking lot and on to the visitor center. We had heard or seen Common Raven, verdin, Black-throated sparrows, Cactus Wrens and several other residents at this point.

At the visitor center the birding was good. We checked to see if the Western Screech owl was in his home in a broken Saguaro next to an Ironwood tree east of the library - he wasn’t. Then the birds arrived. In quick order we saw a Loggerhead Shrike, a Cassin’s Vireo, a black-throated Gray Warbler, a Brewers Sparrow, and among others some great views of sparkling jewel-like Rufous Hummingbirds.