

Hassayampa River Preserve Report

October 24, 2018

Leader: Dan Bohlmann

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day after a rain storm that came through the night before. The ground at Hassayampa Preserve barely looked wet and the river was running at its usual trickle not flooding. When we met in the parking lot at 8:30am we noted the absence of normal bird calls in the early morning here. We wondered if the birds were sleeping in after being kept up by thunder and lightning last night. We first visited the picnic area south of the Visitor Center and waited for something to show up in all the trees. The first to arrive were two female Western Tanagers and a Hermit Thrush. Then we heard and then saw a number of Yellow-rumped Warblers who were out in great numbers all day. I realized later that I had stopped counting after 26 because they were so common. We kept looking at all of them hoping that some other type of warbler would show up, but no such luck. Then a Northern Flicker came by and showed up 11 times during the day.

We decided to head Northwest up the river trail first in case it got hotter later since it is exposed in places. A Verdin called out over head in the trees along with a Black Phoebe which we saw later in his usual spot at the south end of the lake. Then we began to hear and see the numerous Gila Woodpeckers who love this end of the preserve. We also kept hearing the Yellow-breasted Chats who would make great social media users because they are always chatting away. They are also great hide and seek players because you never can find them. One person in our party finally saw one! Then we had two Red-napped Sapsuckers show up and two Aberts Towhees. We also found a Song Sparrow hiding out in the bushes along the river bank.

We then headed back to take the trail around the lake but we didn't find

much. We saw the usual American Coots, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Northern Cardinal, Ladderback Woodpecker and a Great Blue Heron trying his best to hide out from us. We went back to the Visitor Center and decided to eat our lunch on the benches under the seed and orange feeders. Thus we got to see lots of Lesser Goldfinches and very colorful House Finches and another bright Cardinal. We also spent some time at the hummingbird feeders and got treated to a nice male Costa's and the male and female Anna's and Black-chinned. So we had a total of only 21 bird species but lots of birds.

Attendees: Nick & Jane Kaschak, Ruth Kennedy, Kathy Heyman, Dan Bohlmann
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