

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN PARK BIRD WALK 3 14 20

CONDITIONS: Ideal!!! 58 degrees F at 7:45 AM with clear skies and a breeze 1-3 mph from the NE: walk was finished at 10:00 AM with a temperature of 69 degrees F and skies sprinkled with fair weather cumulus clouds and a breeze of 2-3 mph from the NE.

ROUTE: Our trek was modified due to possible flood and mud issues approaching the mitigated ponds to the east. The trail taken led through the east side of the park, observing birds in the Mesquite Bosque, the Blue Gum Grove, grass areas, desert scrub, then on to the Gila River Riparian Trail west of Vinyard Avenue.



PARTICIPANTS: David Charles, Gary and Winnie Sosa, Min Ye Yue, Paul Doucette, Chris McVittie, Sharon Manyx, Jerry Molinelli (photography) and Linda Molinelli, Carl and Deb Rogalski, Pam Spinella (resource and refreshments), Della Killeen, Glen Baxa, Beth Whittam, Bob Nowak, Karen Martin, and our guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

COMMENTS: Truly one of the best days to be birding after the three day rain event that left close to 3 inches of precipitation in parts of the valley. Many birds, such as the Gila Woodpeckers, were rattling to mark territory, Northern Mockingbird males were singing enticing songs to impress the females, several male Phainopeplas were flitting back and forth when not perched atop a mesquite or paloverde, and the local resident Vermilion Flycatchers sparkled our visions with their reddish orange plumage. A real plus

was a kettle of Black Vultures. Chipping Yellow-rumps and whining Lesser Goldfinches accompanied us along the trail.

SPECIES: Mallard, Cinnamon Teal 3, Gambel's Quail 14, Pied-billed Grebe, cormorant species, Great Egret, Black Vulture 5, Turkey Vulture 2, Northern Harrier 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Coot 4, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove 8, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker 6, Gilded Flicker 2, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher 4, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2, Common Raven 2, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 16, Verdin 2, Bewick's Wren, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 4. Northern Mockingbird 7, European Starling 12, Phainopepla 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 10, Abert's Towhee 2, Lark Sparrow 10, Black-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow 4, White-crowned Sparrow 12, Dark-eyed Junco 2, Great-tailed Grackle 15, House Finch 6, Lesser Goldfinch 12 (42)

Counts and other details can be found at eBird ID Number S62534359 Estrella Mt. Park, or contact Tom Locascio locascio2000@hotmail.com for a share list.

Thirteen attended the program at the Nature Center on "The Wonder of Warblers". A big thank you to Ranger Amanda for her assistance with the program.

As we consider the possible presence of the coronavirus, we must ask participants of bird walks to be very conscientious of personal health factors. The presence of coughs, fever, and other obvious symptoms should be an obvious concern for all involved and therefore we discourage participation in our activities by those so afflicted. Safety must be our first priority.