

ESTRELLA MT. PARK BIRD WALK 2 08 20

CONDITIONS: Another great day for the bird watchers. Temperature 42 degrees F at 8:00 AM, clear skies, and a breeze of 1-3 mph from the SE at walk inception:: 58 degrees F, clear skies, breeze SE, 2-3 mph at 10:45 at walk conclusion.



PARTICIPANTS: Beth Whittam, Jerry (photography) and Linda Molinelli, Bill and Phyllis Feusahrens, Cindy Gardner Morse, Dean and Cathy Woidtke, Erv Johnson, Paul Doucette, guides Tom Locascio, Joe Ford, and guest guide, Stacia Novy (13)

ROUTE: After some observing around the visitor center, the group caravanned to the Navy Area on the east side of the park, toured the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, the grassy region, Desert Scrub, the Gila River riparian trail, and finished at the mitigated ponds east of Vineyard Avenue.

COMMENTS: This was a great day of bird diversity as we observed 50 species. Yellow-rumped Warblers were chipping at us all through the course of the walk. Several Vermilion Flycatchers added some bright colors for our eyes to see as well as a Red-naped Sapsucker. Several duck types (8 species) were seen on the ponds and the Gila River, as for the first time in several months the river had water actually in flow. Several Ruby Crowned Kinglets were seen and 5 raptor species. Killdeers represented the plovers and a Lesser Yellowlegs was the sandpiper delegate to the overall species mix. Several American White Pelicans were sighted in soaring patterns aloft.

SPECIES: Gadwall 4, Mallard 2, Blue-winged Teal 5, Cinnamon Teal 4, Northern Pintail 1, Green-winged Teal 3, Bufflehead 1, Ruddy Duck 3, Gambel's Quail 8, Neotropic Cormorant 32, Double-crested Cormorant 1, American White Pelican 38, Great Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 1, Osprey 1, Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Coot 16, Killdeer 2, Lesser Yellowlegs 1, Eurasian Collared Dove 1, Mourning Dove 8, Anna's Hummingbird 3, Belted Kingfisher 2, Gila Woodpecker 5, Red-naped Sapsucker 1, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3, American Kestrel 1, Black Phoebe 3, Say's Phoebe 5, Vermilion Flycatcher 5, Nor. Rough-winged Swallow 9, Verdin 3, Rock Wren 2, Marsh Wren 2, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 3, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6, Curve-billed Thrasher 1, Northern Mockingbird 4, European Starling 28, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 20, Abert's Towhee 4, Lark Sparrow 4, Lincoln's Sparrow 2, White-crowned Sparrow 8, Brewer's Blackbird (murmuration pattern along with starlings and red-wings possibly north of the river) 20+, Great-tailed Grackle 8, House Finch 8 (50)

Other details can be found at eBird under Estrella Mountain Park Report number S64274900 or contact Tom Locascio (locascio2000@hotmail.net) for a sharelist.

Seven people attended the program at the Nature Center on "Ratites".