

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

December 12, 2015

At 8:15 AM we began our 2 hour and 15 minute walk over a distance of 1.5 miles. The usual route was taken from the east side of the park at the Mesquite Bosque, through the Blue Gum Grove, over the grassland area, the desert scrub, the riparian habitat along the Gila River, and ended at the mitigated ponds on the eastern boundary of the park. We were unable to follow this route last December due to the presence of active gunfire, thus our species numbers increased this year compared to last.

CONDITIONS: 42 degrees F at inception, 60 degrees F at conclusion. Skies were partly cloudy to cloudy with remnants of strato-nimbus to the east. A breeze from 5-10 mph from the southeast made the morning a bit cooler than normal and a few light showers had fallen during the previous night.

PARTICIPANTS: Erv Johnson, Wendell and Janet Thrush, Deborah Strand, Alexia Hopkins, Jim Rust, Paul Doucette, Lee Bradley, Mitra Samadani, Mia Mellin, Julie Ambur and Brian, Janet Flewell, Karen Martin, Joe Ford. Our guide was Caleb Strand (16)

SPECIES: Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, (Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawk), Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Rock Wren, Marsh Wren, Bewick's Wren, Cactus Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Crissal Thrasher, Bendire's Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla (audio), Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon), Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle), Abert's Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch (61+ species)

HIGHLIGHTS: Soaring pelicans, the pair of Bonaparte's Gulls, soaring Red-tail Hawks and mobbing ravens: great pictures from Karen Martin, Jim Rust, and Mitra Samadani

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26260420>

Twelve people attended the program at the nature center on "Penguins, the Tuxedo Bird".