

SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP TO THE LOWER RIVER ROAD PONDS, ARLINGTON VALLEY, AND ARLINGTON NATURE PRESERVE PONDS

NOVEMBER 11, 2015



CONDITIONS:

CLEAR SKIES, LITTLE TO NO BREEZE: BEGINNING TEMPERATURE 49 DEGREES, TEMPERATURE AT 11:30 AM 73 DEGREES F.

The trip had 14 participants and was mostly a caravan of 4 vehicles stopping at active points to observe. The trip for some concluded with a walk around the trails at the Arlington Nature Preserve. Some participants finished birding around 11:30, with the rest of the group birding other sites into the afternoon. Birders were Barbara Bean, Barb Meding, Ed Jeter, Cindy Rucker, Fran Baughman, Joe Emmons, Martha Emmons, Carol Samson, Barbara Lewis, George Shoop, Joe Ford. Leading the trip was Caleb Strand with assistance from Donna Smith and Susan Fishburn. Haylie Hewitt coordinated the trip roster. Bird lists were kept separately for the Lower River Road Ponds area and the Arlington Valley area. Major highlights were the “sleepy eyed” Great Horned Owl at the Arlington ponds, the White-tailed Kite actually displaying “kiting” behavior, the sighting of 3 falcon species, Sandhill Cranes, and a fly-over by Long-billed Curlews, plus a rare sighting of a Common Grackle.

Species observed (39 at the Lower River Road Ponds area and 52 in the Arlington Valley) were Gadwall, American Widgeon, Mallard, Gambel’s Quail, Eared Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture,

White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Verdin,, Marsh Wren, House Wren (Northern), Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Abert's Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, COMMON GRACKLE, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow



Photos by Caleb Strand l-r White-tailed Kite, Great-horned Owl, Common Grackle

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25804187>, [S25804354](http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25804354), [S25804328](http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25804328). These are three separate lists, so access each separately.