The field trip started at 9:00 am at the picnic site locating the ordinary desert suspects in the park. The Cactus Wrens loved the picnic tables and the large round containers placed nearby.

The first pond we visited was located just West of 59th Ave on Deer Valley Rd. Here a Cooper’s Hawk was seen hanging out in a palm tree. A Spotted Sand Piper slowly circled the lower pond which was filled with Neotropical Cormorants and American Wigions.

Our next pond was Arrowhead Lake. Several Green Herons sat the sides watching for fish while a Belted Kingfisher was busy catching fish on the side directly across form us. Heading to the spillway East of 59th on Melinda, many Canada Geese and Wigeons were seen on a golf course green. The spillway had several Double-Crested Cormorants and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Passing the conservation pond on the way back to the park, we had to make a u-turn to get a better look form the blind. Here we were amazed to see 400+ Neotropic/Double-crested Cormorants roosting/feeding on the conservation pond. 100 Common Merganzers were mixed in with the Cormorants feeding on the lake. There were also 18 Hooded Mergansers, 3 male, and 15 female. The Hooded Mergansers stayed so separate from the Common Mergansers as if they were in a higher social class.

We then joined several other Sonoran Audubon members for a wonderful lunch back at Thunderbird Park.

Birders: Jackie Anderson, Sam Insana, Peggy Cullen, Tim Cullison, Ruth & Dave Kennedy, leader – Bob McCormick

Species 33 species (+2 other taxa) total
Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Neotropic/Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Cooper’s Hawk, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, large falcon sp., Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, Great-tailed Grackle, House Sparrow

Photo by Dave Kennedy