

BIRD WALK AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

February 11th, 2017

CONDITIONS: Balmy conditions with the temperature at 62 degrees F with little to no wind. The sunrise was gorgeous with cirrus and cirro-cumulus clouds offering a tapestry painted with oranges and pink. Our sky was partly cloudy to cloudy. Two hours and fifteen minutes later our hike ended with a temperature of 71 degrees F, 0-3 mph breeze.

AREAS OBSERVED: Mesquite Bosque, park grounds with Blue Gum trees, grassy areas, desert scrub, riparian area along the Gila River, mitigated lakes

PARTICIPANTS: Gerry and Linda Molinelli, Kathryn Jones, Pam Spinella, Marcyes Schmaus, Wendell and Janet Thrush, Lee Bradley, Joshua Salzwedel and Family, Gordon Cooper, Karen Martin (photographer), Mitra Samadani (photographer), and guide, Joe Ford (17)



SPECIES: Canada Goose, Gadwall, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Eared Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe,

Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, flicker species (not sure of Gilded or Northern), Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Verdin, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Marsh Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Curve-billed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow (51)

HIGHLIGHTS: Horned Grebe debated but Karen Martin's photo was convincing. Vermilion Flycatcher is always an eye grabber. White Pelicans cruising placidly on the lake. Anna's Hummingbird female in a nest. Numerous House Finches warbling away as spring is in the air.

Details and counts can be found at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S34320387>

Nine people attended the program at the visitor center on "Rattlesnakes".