

## BIRD WALK AT WHITE TANK MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK

DATE: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

CONDITIONS: At approximately 8 AM, the temperature was 40 degrees F under clear skies with no breeze. Upon conclusion of the walk the warmth had advanced the thermometer to 58 degrees with only a few contrails to blemish the azure blue and a freshening breeze of 3-4 mph.

LOCATION: Area 4 parking area was the initiating point, then a walk on the Mule Deer Trail to the horse staging area, returning by way of the major park road to the starting point.



PARTICIPANTS: Sharon Manyx, Jim and Sue Genthner, George Maly, Rachel Barrett, Carmelita Pride, Mary Woszczyna, Pam Spinella, K.C. Jones, June McMullen, Crystal Nesfield and friend, and guides Karen Martin and Joe Ford

COMMENTS: Dry conditions persist in our parks, thus food sources are depleted and water areas are at a premium. January has few blooms in the upper Sonoran Desert areas. Thankfully a few Creosote Bushes are offering some blossoms for bees, flies and hummingbirds. Our most plentiful bounty of avian friends was found within the parking area as woodpeckers and wrens were raiding the trash cans and flickers were calling in the distance to join the chorus of laughing Gilas. Good looks at Black-throated Sparrows and frisky Black-tailed Gnatcatchers.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 21, Red-tailed Hawk 2 (seen just east of the gate on a power pole upon leaving), Costa's Hummingbird 3, Gila Woodpecker 6, flicker species 3, Verdin 6, Rock Wren 2 (seen after the walk on the short loop of the Black Rock Trail), Cactus Wren 3, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, European Starling 4, Black-throated Sparrow 14, White-crowned Sparrow 6, House Finch 9, Pyrrhuloxia 1 (seen after the walk on the short loop of the Black Rock Trail) 15 TOTAL

I did not eBird this list

Twenty-five people attended the program in the Foothills Library Auditorium on "Canaries in the Coal Mine"