

2018 Tres Rios Nature Festival Summary

2018 Tres Rios Nature Festival at the B&M Wildlife Area in Avondale was held March 3 & 4. It was a little chilly in the mornings but absolutely beautiful in the afternoon. Live music, Fishing, Canoeing, Archery, a zip-line across the river and, bird hikes were some of the activities available.

Early bird tours were well attended with 6 participants Saturday and 8 for Sunday. Highlights included Black-throated Gray Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers and lots of Cinnamon Teal.

Saturday was quite the busy day with an estimated 5,000 attendees. Our booth volunteers did a great job in signing up folks for the bird hikes and putting a face on Sonoran Audubon. We took at least 85 people out on tours to see the Barn Owls and Cliff Swallows nesting under the bridge and to see how many different kinds of ducks were on the small pond. Children and adults both were fascinated inspecting the many owl pellets and seeing that some actually contained bird skulls. The female was lying down the whole festival meaning that she was probably on eggs. In a week or so, there should be babies. A total of 54 species were seen on Saturday.

Sunday was not quite as busy with an estimated 4,000 attendees. We took an additional 55 folks out on trips. It is always amazing to see how quickly the younger participants learn how to use binoculars! A Bald Eagle made a brief appearance and then headed east. An additional 10 species were observed Sunday giving us 63 species for the weekend which is about average for the festival. A notable no-show was the Northern Cardinal.

Joe Ford gave a talk on Eagles Sunday morning and I did a short talk on the B&M Wildlife area Saturday morning. The talks themselves went well but were not well attended. Some feedback to the festival organizers is how to make these talks more known to the public. Better placement of the talk schedule or an announcer may help the attendance.

As with previous years, the festival came and went so fast! I hope everyone had a great time!

Thanks go to all of our volunteers

Booth Volunteers – Saturday

Pam Spinella
Ruth & Dave Kennedy
Donna Smith
Patricia Dover-Bedwell

Birding Tours-Saturday

Bob McCormick
Andre Tarby
Peter Herstein
Dan Bohlmann
Dave Kennedy

Booth Volunteers – Sunday

Lana Brown

Birding Tours-Sunday

Tom Hildebrandt
Bob McCormick
Andre Tarby
Joe Ford
Sam Insana

Our two-day list...

Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, Black Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Barn Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Verdin, Marsh Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch

Sunday's Additions: Northern Rough-wing Swallow, Violet-Green Swallow, Eurasian Collared Dove, Red-winged Blackbird, Bald Eagle, Lincoln Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Common Yellowthroat, and Canada Goose.