

BIRD WALK AT WHITE TANK MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK

DATE: April 7th, 2018

CONDITIONS: A partly cloudy sky dominated by cirrus clouds, barely any breeze, and a temperature of 78 degrees F as we initiated our walk along the Waddell Trail from Area 8, moving south to the Mesquite Canyon Trailhead, adjacent ramadas, then returning by way of pavement to our starting point. The breeze had freshened to around 1-2 mph and our temperature was at 92 degrees F, still under partly cloudy skies at the terminus of our trek.

COMMENTS: Dry conditions continued to deter efforts of ephemerals to germinate and produce flowers. The Creosote Bush was in full flower and Foothills Palo Verde was in bloom in some areas approaching the park, but still missing on our walk. Buds were appearing at the tops of Saguaro columns in anticipation of a bloom in late April into May. Our walk was not along the "Lane of Lovers", but instead we named it the "Lane of Wrens". With almost every step we could hear the "churdling" of Cactus Wrens and many were perched up for good views, many attending nests in the forks of armed Saguaros. Several Ash-throated Flycatchers made appearances and at one point a flock of Black-throated Sparrows graced our presence in response to a pseudo-sparrow call.

PARTICIPANTS: Erick and Marion Lurie, Sharon Manyx, Alan Linn, Matt Scotch, David Glaeseman, and guides Pam Spinella and Joe Ford



SPECIES: Gambel's Quail, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Raven, Verdin, Rock Wren, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Abert's Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, House Finch, and possibly a Brown-headed Cowbird (20)

Counts and other details are at eBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S44349570>

Five people attended the program at the nature center entitled "Cryptic Birds of the Night".