

CAVE CREEK BIRD WALK 1 4 20

CONDITIONS: The walk was initiated close to 8:00 AM under mostly clear skies accompanied by high clouds of the cirrus, cirrostratus variety, a few cirrocumulus and some contrails, a temperature of 41 degrees F with little to no breeze. The walk finished at 10 AM with clearing skies and a temperature of 61 degrees F, breeze 1-3 mph.

ROUTE: We walked the Overton Trail toward Tonalite Drive, spent time in the parking lot, then returned via pavement to the Nature Center.



PARTICIPANTS: Carol and Joe Petsch, Yvonne Bentley, Glen Baxa, Pam Spinella (resource person) and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

COMMENTS: What began as a quiet morning on the trail blossomed into a very “birdy” area at the parking lot near the Slate Trailhead. The emerging warmth from the rising sun seemed to stimulate bird activity and inspired Cactus Wrens and Phainopepla to assume most observable positions at the tops of Ironwood and Paloverde trees. And with calls from several species, including White-crowned Sparrows and tinkling Black Throated Sparrows, the air waves seemed to



echo with a diverse symphony of sounds. The water source near the Nature Center attracted a few Yellow-rumped Warblers and the usual Gambel's Quail and Mourning Doves. A grand day with lots of looks.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 8, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 4, Greater Roadrunner 1, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 3, Gilded Flicker 1, Loggerhead Shrike 1, Common Raven 1, Verdin 4, Rock Wren 3, Cactus Wren 5, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Phainopepla 4, Yellow-rumped Warbler 5, Canyon Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 7, Lincoln's Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 5, House Finch 8 (22)

Counts and other information can found at eBird-Cave Creek Regional Park 1 4 20 under ID number S63014649 or contact Tom Locascio at locascio2000@hotmail.com for a share list.

Nine people attended the program on "Canaries in the Coal Mine" at the Nature Center.