

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 12 18 21

CONDITIONS: Upon inception, 43 degrees F at 8 AM with clear skies, a breeze from the north at 10-12 mph. At walk conclusion, 57 degrees F at 10:30 AM, clear skies and a breeze still from the north at 4-6 mph.

ROUTE: We altered our normal path for the walk due to a running event hosted by Aravaipa Running Club. There were over 100 runners participating in this event, mostly keeping space between each other, but certainly dominating activity on the trails in their trek for glory. Their presence certainly altered the bird's normal activities and made visualizing efforts more difficult. Our path for the excursion led us on parts of the Overton Trail going south then we merged onto the Clay Mine Trail. Our return was still on the Clay Mine Trail, but we did take a detour to the overpass near the Nature Center to see if we could scare up a couple of Great Horned Owls that often roosted beneath the structure. No success in this effort. The feeders at the Nature Center offered the best place to see species and we spent some time observing there.



PARTICIPANTS: Harpreet Sehgal, Denise Paille-Jones, K.C. Jones, Pam Spinella (refreshments, documentation), David Glaeseman, Laura Munson, John Shoemaker, and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (9)

COMMENTS: The day began with cool temperatures and the early start didn't allow Mr. Sun to emerge over the east mountains very quickly, which probably needed to happen to spread a little warmth to our avian friends and perhaps stimulate some activity. The constant presence of runners was also a factor that may have inhibited bird presence in the area. So, the feeders provided the most diversity of species. A few Rock Wrens were the most vocal birds, Mourning Doves were everywhere near the horse corrals, and few Common Ravens "swam" through the sky.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 6, Mourning Dove 30, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 4, Common Raven 4, Rock Wren 5, Cactus Wren 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Canyon Towhee 1, Abert's Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 4, Great-tailed Grackle 2, House Finch 8 (13)

Details and other information can be found at eBird, Cave Creek Regional Park Bird Walk 12 18 21, ID #599084740. We had no professional photographers with us on this walk, so the usual great photos are not available to send on.