

CAVE CREEK BIRD WALK 9 18 21

**CONDITIONS: 81 degrees F at 6:45 AM, 0-2 mph breeze from the SE, partly cloudy (Cu, AlCu):
95.4 degrees F at 9:15 AM, 1-3 mph breeze from the SE, partly cloudy (Cu, AlCu, CiCu, Cirrus)**



PARTICIPANTS: Natalie Rivera, Pam Spinella, Tom Locascio, Joe Ford

ROUTE: Observations made at the Nature Center. The trek followed the Overton Trail to the ramada on Tonalite Drive, then past the Slate Trailhead and circled to the Go John Trailhead and back to the Nature Center via the main road, across the bridge to the entrance to the Nature Center.

COMMENTS: The green was refreshing to see following a generous monsoon season experienced by these Sonoran Desert Uplands. Ubiquitous to our eyes were the many Mourning Doves and to our ears the “weep, weep” call of the Curve-billed Thrashers. Gambel’s Quail were also abundant, constantly calling with the “food is here” or “over here” cries. A sighting of a Black-headed Grosbeak was special as was the flushing of two Great Horned owls from beneath the bridge close to the Nature Center.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 28, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 30, Great Horned Owl 2, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 4, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Gilded Flicker 1, Verdin 3, Cactus Wren 3, Curve-billed Thrasher 10, Northern Mockingbird 2, Phainopepla 1 female, Abert's Towhee 1, Black-throated Sparrow 7, Black-headed Grosbeak 1, House Finch 15 (17 species).

Other details can be found at Cave Creek Birdwalk at eBird ID# S94830442, Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

