

## BIRDWALK 9/7/19 CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK

It was a pleasant morning, cloudy skies, 89 degrees F, and a very light breeze, almost minimal. The temperature was 94 degrees F when we finished. (7 AM to 9:15 AM)



Participants: Mitra Samadani, Yvonne Bentley, Pam Spinella, and our leaders, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

Route: We did some pre walk birding at the water feature just north of the visitor center. It was very productive with lots of the sparrow types continually finding the shoreline to partake of the fresh water in the basin. Black-throated Sparrows were in numbers seldom seen out on the trail. A couple of Phainopepla also were also seen taking a bath before resuming their perch in the surrounding trees.

We then made our way on the Overton Trail, through a ramada and took the pavement to the parking area near the Slate Trail and eventually returned by the paved road to the visitor center. It was a very quiet stroll with only an occasional Curve-billed Thrasher, a distant Gila Woodpecker, and several Cactus Wrens chuckling away in some Ironwood, Palo Verde, or cholla species. The very dry "Nonsoon" certainly affected the numbers of birds and the water feature at the visitor center was a blessing to the residents that still hung on through this dry spell

Species seen or heard:

Gila Woodpecker 1, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3, Verdin 2, Cactus Wren 12, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 4, Phainopepla 2, Abert's Towhee 1, Lark Sparrow 1, Black-throated Sparrow 30, House Finch 10, Gambel's Quail 24, Mourning Dove 1, hummingbird species 1

For numbers and more details contact Tom Locascio ( locascio2000@hotmail.com)

The program "Cryptic Birds of the Night" was presented at the visitor center following the birdwalk.