

CAVE CREEK REG PARK BIRDWALK 3 18 23

CONDITIONS: At 7:30 am skies were clear with a temperature of 56 degrees F and a brisk breeze 8-12 mph from the NE:: at walk conclusion, 9:45 am, temperature was 62 degrees F under clear to partly cloudy skies (cirrus, cirrostratus, cirrocumulus) and still a brisk NE wind at 5-8 mph.



PARTICIPANTS: David Charles, Corrine Kelly, Donna Magee, Peggy Herring, Cheryl White, Chris McVittie, John Calhoun, Russ and Camille King, Pam Spinella

(documentation and hospitality), Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

ROUTE: Observations made around the Nature Center: group then took the Overton Trail to the Go John Trail parking area, then returned by the Slate Trail, and Cave Creek Parkway to the Nature Center.

COMMENTS: The spring wildflower bloom was in full swing, spurred by the frequent rains in the last two months. Bluedicks, Phacelia, Stinknet, Bladderpod, and Brittlebush, the latter three covering the area in yellow most everywhere we looked. Birding was difficult as our feathered friends hung tight in sheltered areas due to the brisk northeastern wind. This didn't discourage our most vocal group, the Cactus Wrens along with Verdins and Gambel's Quail. A couple of Northern Cardinals gave us color at the feeders and some Lesser Goldfinches added yellow for our eyes. A first for some of us was a Canyon Towhee actually singing its mating song.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 12, Cooper's Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 17, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 1, Gilded Flicker 1, flicker species 1, Say's Phoebe 2, Nor. Rough-winged Swallow 3, Verdin 3, Cactus Wren 7, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Curve-billed Thrasher 4, Phainopepla 3, Canyon Towhee 1, Abert's Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 3, White-crowned Sparrow 4, Northern Cardinal 2, House Finch 4, Lesser Goldfinch 3 (20)

Eleven birders remained for the program on "Vultures" in the Nature Center given by Joe Ford

Details and other information can be found at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird lists, #S131229699 for Cave Creek Regional Park 3 18 23