

CAVE CREEK REG. PARK BIRDWALK 2 18 23

CONDITIONS: Ideal. Clear skies at 8 AM with a few altocumulus and cirrus to the east and a temperature of 52 degrees F and a light eastern breeze of 1-2 mph. At walk conclusion, 10:15 AM, the temperature had risen to 62 degrees, skies still clear and an eastern breeze of 1-3 mph.



PARTICIPANTS: Bob and Sue Lawrence, Jim Wilson, David Charles, Christine Breuker, John Calhoun, Russ and Camille King, David and Debbie Medalie, Pam Spinella (documentation and hospitality), Jerry Molinelli (photography), Linda Molinelli, and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (15)

ROUTE: Birders met on the back patio of the Nature Center to observe at the feeders and browse the surroundings around 7:30 AM. The group then moved to the Overton Trail north to the Go John trailhead, then circled back to the Cave Creek Drive and returned to the Nature Center.

COMMENTS: The frequency of rain events through the last two months has stimulated a growth of vegetation (mostly invaders), thus a carpet of green seemed to be ubiquitous. Brittle bush was beginning its bloom. The cooler temperatures during the last two months had impeded the emergence of several of the normal perennials. Vocalizations from Cactus Wrens, Curve-billed Thrashers, Gambel's Quail and Gila Woodpeckers were the dominant sounds in the air. A couple of Say's Phoebes were also sharing their songs along with chase mode near the Nature Center. A Northern Cardinal appeared at the feeder.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 15, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 21, White-throated Swift 2, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 8, Gilded Flicker 1, flicker species 3, Say's Phoebe 3, Verdin 6, Rock Wren 4, Cactus Wren 8, Curve-billed Thrasher 6, Northern Mockingbird 2, Phainopepla 3, Canyon Towhee 3, Abert's Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 8, White-crowned Sparrow 12, Northern Cardinal 1, House Finch 6, Lesser Goldfinch 2 (21)

Details and other information can be found at eBird, checklist #S128871060 under Cave Creek Regional Park 2 18 23.

Nine birders stayed for the program in the Nature Center on "The Wonder of Warblers" presented by Joe Ford