

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 11 19 22

CONDITIONS: At 7:30 AM the temperature was 52 degrees F under clear skies with a brisk breeze from the NNW at 6-8 mph. At 9:30 AM the walk concluded with a 62 degree F temperature, clear skies, and a NNW breeze at 6-7 mph.



PARTICIPANTS: Christine Breuker, Ranger Mark Paulat, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Linda Molinelli, Pam Spinella (hospitality) and Tom Locascio, Joe Ford (guides)



ROUTE: Observations were made around the Nature Center, then the Overton Trail going north and east. We did navigate a wash, then returned via the Go John trail to Tonalite Drive. Our final stroll was on the main road back to the Nature Center.

COMMENTS: This day could be labeled the “Day of Avian Silence”. The wind was brisk. Perhaps most of the species normally seen and heard were still huddled down in a sheltered area. Vocals were hard to come by. We were graced with a Cooper’s Hawk, several coveys of Gambel’s Quail and some acrobatic Common Ravens. The emergence of the sun from the east seemed to spawn more activity, as time passed, due to a warming atmosphere.

SPECIES: Gambel’s Quail 21, Cooper’s Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 39, Gila Woodpecker 4, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Say’s Phoebe 1, Common Raven 5, Verdin 4, Rock Wren 1, Cactus Wren 2, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 1, Curve-billed Thrasher (heard later during the program held in the Nature Center), Phainopepla 3, Black-throated Sparrow 6, House Finch 4 (15)

Other details and information can be found at eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), checklist #S122668119, Cave Creek Regional Park 11 19 22.

Three birders attended the powerpoint program in the Nature Center on “Where Have All The Bird’s Nests Gone”