

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 3 19 22

CONDITIONS: Partly cloudy to cloudy dominated by cirrus, cirrostratus: temperature 59 degrees F at 7:30 AM, no breeze;; cloudy skies, again mostly cirrostratus, cirrus with some altocumulus, temperature 66 degrees F, slight breeze 1-2 mph at 10:15 AM when the hike ended.



PARTICIPANTS: Russ and Camille King, Pam Spinella (resources and hospitality), Loretta Richards, David Charles, Christine Breuker, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (guides)

ROUTE: Observations were made around the rear patio at the Nature Center, then the group took the Overton Trail to Tonalite Drive, made the loop from the Slate Trail to the Go John, then back to the Overton Trail and returning to the Nature Center.

COMMENTS: The most species were observed at the feeders behind the Nature Center. The desert chorus was very vocal around the feeders as Gambel's Quail were consistently voicing their demands for the presence of the females. A small group of Lesser Goldfinches were present in the adjoining Palo Verde at the Nature Center with vocalizations aplenty. Cactus Wrens, a couple with nests, were busy "churling" their rattling calls, especially when our presence seemed to stimulate them into vocals that were perhaps warnings for us to keep our distance. A couple of Phainopeplas also darted from branches, seeking flying prey within the air around them.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 35, Turkey Vulture 1?, Red-tailed Hawk 2, White-winged Dove 2, Mourning Dove 12, Costa's Hummingbird 3, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2, flicker 1, Say's Phoebe 2, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2, Common Raven 1, Verdin 2, Cactus Wren 5, Curve-billed Thrasher 4, Phainopepla 2, Abert's Towhee 5, Canyon Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 3, Lincoln's Sparrow 4, White-crowned Sparrow 2, House Finch 4, Lesser Goldfinch 8 (22)