

## CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 4 15 23

CONDITIONS: Ideal. At 7 AM, skies were clear with an air temperature of 55 degrees F:: at walk conclusion 9 AM, skies still clear with a temperature of 62 degrees F. No breeze today



PARTICIPANTS: Chris Johnson, Karen Parrow, Steve Osgood, Jackie Anderson, Diane Currie, Judy Higgins, John A. Calhoun, Tracy Dixon, Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Pam Spinella (documentation and hospitality), and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (13)

ROUTE: Leaving the Nature Center the birders took the Overton Trail to the Go John Parking lot, then retraced the Go John to the Tonalite Road and down to the Cave Creek Parkway, returning to the Nature Center. The best birding was at the patio on the north side of the Nature Center near the feeders.

COMMENTS: This day was blessed with the massive bloom of Brittlebush along with Stinknet that covered the hills with yellow. The glory of colors seemed to enhance the greens of the stately Saguaros and the just beginning to bloom Palo Verde. This vision unmatched when compared to the lesser blooms displayed after drier winter seasons in the past. And even Hedge Hog cacti were throwing up

magenta flowers to add to the yellows. There was even a broken branch on an Ironwood that resembled a Llama as imaginations soared. The usual avian residents were in chorus as the calls of Cactus Wrens and Gambel Quail dominated along with Verdins, Curve-billed Thrashers, and laughing Gilas.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 27, White-winged Dove 3, Mourning Dove 10, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 4, Gilded Flicker 1, Say's Phoebe 2, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2, Verdin 3, Cactus Wren 6, Curve-billed Thrasher 6, Canyon Towhee 2, Brewer's Sparrow 2, Black-throated Sparrow 2, White-crowned Sparrow 6, Northern Cardinal 2, Brewer's Blackbird \*, Brown-headed Cowbird 3, House Finch 8, Lesser Goldfinch 5, Phainopepla 2, and foot prints from a Greater Roadrunner (not seen however). (21) 22?

Eleven "diehard" birders stayed for the presentation in the Nature Center on "Penguins, the Tuxedo Bird" by Joe Ford

Other information and details can be found at eBird through Cornell Lab of Ornithology under checklist #S133899717, Cave Creek Regional Park checklist 4 15

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