

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 4 20 24

CONDITIONS: Ideal. At 7:30 AM skies were clear. Temperature of 75 degrees F with a soft breeze of 0-2 mph from the NE. At 9 AM upon the walk conclusion, the temperature was 88 degrees F and a breeze from the SE of 2-3 mph, still clear skies

ROUTE: Observations made around the Nature Center, then the group hit the Overton Trail NE to the Go John parking lot, then looped south past the Slate Trailhead and on to Tonalite Drive and the Cave Creek Parkway to return to the Nature Center.



PARTICIPANTS: Rachel, Elsa, and Derek Boender, Polly Bowen, Jason Feig, Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Pam Spinella (hospitality), and Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (guides) 10

COMMENTS: This was day of “Amarillo” as yellow coated the hillsides thanks to fading Brittlebush, invasive but pretty Stinknet and several Foothills Paloverde still in late bloom. Several Hedgehog Cactus shared their purple-pink blossoms as well. It was relatively quiet in terms of seeing lots of avian species, but the song of Gambel’s Quail, Curve-billed Thrashers, Gila Woodpeckers, White-winged Doves and Cactus Wrens

plus a couple of Northern Cardinals filled the airwaves. Even a Phainopepla and Cactus Wrens had chicks in their nests.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 25, Red-tailed Hawk 1, White-winged Dove 4, Mourning Dove 7, Gila Woodpecker 7, Verdin 4, Cactus Wren 8, Curve-billed Thrasher 8, Phainopepla 2, Abert's Towhee 4, Black-throated Sparrow 3, Northern Cardinal 3, Brown-headed Cowbird 6, House Finch 12, Say's Phoebe 1, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2 (16)

Other information can be found at Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird under checklist #S169518841, Cave Creek Regional Park 4 20 24

All 10 bird lovers stayed for the presentation in the Nature Center on "Toucans" presented by Joe Ford

A big thank you to Pam Spinella for providing the cookies!!!