

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 5 20 23

CONDITIONS: Ideal. Temperature 72 degrees F at 6:30 AM under clear skies with a few altocumulus and cirrus clouds to the east, little to no breeze. :: at the walk conclusion, 8:20 AM, temperature was 90 degrees F, clear skies and a slight breeze from the east at 0-1 mph.



PARTICIPANTS: Jacques and Suzie Pauchey, Kate Preudhomme (hospitality), Joan McGue, Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Pam Spinella (documentation and hospitality), and guides, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (9)

ROUTE: The trail followed was the same as last month: Overton, Go-john, Slate, Tonalite Drive, main Cave Creek Parkway. Observations were made around the Nature Center before the walk was initiated.

COMMENTS: The Stinknet bloom was over with lots of seed heads present to be distributed in the coming weeks. Ironwood was in full violet/pink and the Foothills Palo Verde were showing their last cadmium yellow blooms. Saguaro's were in peak flower with many creamy white blossoms and some fruits beginning to form.

The usual chorus of Cactus Wrens dominated the air waves with occasional offerings from Gila Woodpeckers, Curve-billed Thrashers, and Verdins. Gambel's Quail were constantly calling and many parents were accompanied by young fledglings. A family of Rock Wrens showed up too. The bird feeders delighted us with a vision of a Western Tanager and a Black-headed Grosbeak.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 27, White-winged Dove 20, Mourning Dove 15, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Greater Roadrunner 1, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Gilded Flicker 2, Say's Phoebe 4, Ash-throated Flycatcher 3, Common Raven 2, Verdin 4, Rock Wren 6, Cactus Wren 8, Curve-billed Thrasher 5, Yellow Warbler 2, Abert's Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 5, White-crowned Sparrow 1, Western Tanager 2, Black-headed Grosbeak 1, Great-tailed Grackle 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 5, House Finch 22, (24)

Other information and details can be found at eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), checklist #S138564257 Cave Creek Regional Park 5 20 23

Nine people attended the program in the Nature Center following the birdwalk on "Bird Weirdness II, the Sequel" presented by Joe Ford.