

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 5 21 22

CONDITIONS: Ideal: Clear skies with some haze as due to wind and high temperatures, lots of dust in the air from past days. Temperature 76 degrees F at 7 AM, little to no breeze:: at conclusion the temperature was 82 degrees F, skies still clear, but hazy toward downtown, and an east breeze at 3-4 mph. 9 AM



PARTICIPANTS: Pam Spinella (hospitality and resources), Karen Martin (photography), and guides, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

ROUTE: The group met at the Nature Center north patio. Several observations were made near the feeders and around the building. We followed the Overton Trail to the Go John Loop, then cut down to the Slate Trail, returning by the Overton Trail to the nature center.

COMMENTS: We have had so little precipitation in the last month, thus the obvious dry conditions enhanced by higher than normal temperatures through the past few weeks have limited water accessibility with food sources also diminished. The saguaros should be in full bloom at this time, but at this elevation buds were more common than actual blooms. The normal spring bloom had already passed and most plants had entered into the “beat the heat” mode, many just drying up. It has been a banner year for Cactus Wrens as the calling and chortling were ubiquitous during our trek. Several Black-throated Sparrows also offered beautiful songs and doves of two species were present throughout the walk, but especially at the feeders.

SPECIES: Gambel’s Quail 28, Turkey Vulture 2, Red-tailed Hawk 2, White-winged Dove 20, Mourning Dove 15, Greater Roadrunner 1, Costa’s Hummingbird 3, Gila Woodpecker 6, Gilded Flicker 1, Say’s Phoebe 2, Ash-throated Flycatcher 4, Brown-crested Flycatcher 2, Verdin 5, Cactus Wren 15, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 15, Phainopepla 2, Canyon Towhee 4, Abert’s Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 6, Brown-headed Cowbird 5, House Finch 10 (22)

Details and other information can be found on eBird at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, checklist #S110870268 Cave Creek Regional Park Bird Walk 5 21 22