

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 9 17 22

CONDITIONS: Ideal. Clear skies at 6 AM with a temperature of 74 degrees F and 0 to 1 windspeed from the NE:: at 8:30 AM, clear skies and a slight breeze, 1-2 mph from the NE again.



PARTICIPANTS: David and Beth Murphy, Cristina Anguiano, Gina Rizzo-Orr, Helen Locascio, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Linda Molinelli, Pam Spinella (resources and hospitality), Natalie Rivera (attended the program following the walk), and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

ROUTE: Observations were made around the patio at the nature center. The group then took the Overton Trail to the Go John Loop and returned by way of Tonalite Drive and the main road back to the Nature Center.

COMMENTS: The temperature was ideal for a walk, however the locals were not as obvious as in the past. Reasons for this are uncertain. Possibly the lack of flowering vegetation, molting of some adults, warblers have yet to begin their move southward due to sustaining temperatures above normal. September can be a quiet time in terms of birdsong as most of the juveniles have fled the nest and the season for mating is past. The most vocal birds were the Curve-billed Thrashers and Cactus Wrens. Gambel's Quail were calling from time to time. Overall, the walk was pleasant, just not full of audio as per normal.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 12, Mourning Dove 16, Lesser Nighthawk 2, Anna's Hummingbird 1, Costa's Hummingbird 1, Gila Woodpecker 4 (audio mostly), Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Gilded Flicker 1, Say's Phoebe 3, Warbling Vireo 1, Verdin 8, Cactus Wren 7, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 1. Curve-billed Thrasher 5, Phainopepla 2, Black-throated Sparrow 8, House Finch 3, Lesser Goldfinch 3 (18)

The checklist #S 118917018 can be found at All About Birds from Cornell Laboratory, eBird with further comments and details, Cave Creek Checklist, 9 17 22

Seven birders attended the program in the Nature Center following the walk, entitled "Bird Weirdness", presented by Joe Ford