

ESTRELLA MT. REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 10 14 23

CONDITIONS: Ideal. At 7 AM, clear skies and a temperature of 65 degrees F, no breeze. At walk conclusion, clear skies, temperature of 72 degrees F, slight breeze of 0-1 from the east.

ROUTE: Observations were made around the Nature Center. The group then caravanned to the Navy Area and proceeded east through the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, the irrigated grass areas, then returned via the desert scrub adjacent to the new parking area. With the gate to the lakes no longer available and with the sound of gunfire in the area east of Vineyard, the group aborted the trip at that point. Thus the usual walk to the mitigated ponds was cancelled.



PARTICIPANTS: Paul Doucette, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Linda Molinelli, Kim Campbell, Laura Reynolds, Dennis and Kerry Bruner, Jason Feig, Perin Jackson, Natalie Rivera, and guides, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

COMMENTS: The continuing dry conditions have affected the bird populations in the area. Water availability is so important. The usual residents were present. An abundance of cormorants were in flight to the north, moving west, as several waves of birds were visible. Only one warbler species was seen and White-crowned Sparrows were back in numbers. No Turkey Vultures aloft and only two raptors were seen.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 2, Neotropic Cormorant 100, Double-crested Cormorant 6, Great Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Eurasian Collared Dove 2, Mourning Dove 8, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 6, Red-naped Sapsucker 1, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Gilded Flicker 2, Black Phoebe 1, Say's Phoebe 4, Vermilion Flycatcher 4, Verdin 2, Cactus Wren 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 1, Curve-billed Thrasher 3, Northern Mockingbird 3, European Starling 12, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, Abert's Towhee 4, Lark Sparrow 8, Black-throated Sparrow 2, White-crowned Sparrow 35, Great-tailed Grackle 6, House Finch 8 (29)

Eight birders stayed for the program in the Nature Center on "Ravens and Crows" presented by Joe Ford

The checklist can be found at eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) under Estrella Mt. Regional Park, 10-14-23