

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 12 12 20

CONDITIONS: 45 degrees F at 8:00 AM, slight breeze 1-2 mph, partly cloudy skies with cirrus, cirrostratus and ground fog. Hike concluded at 11:05 AM, mostly clear skies (some cirrus, cirrostratus) and a breeze from the east at 2-3 mph and a temp of 61 degrees F

PATH TAKEN: After some observing around the Nature Center, the group caravanned to the east side Navy Area for parking. Trail was through the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, grassland areas, desert scrub to the north, then across Vineyard Ave. and along the riparian trail on the south side of the Gila River to the mitigated ponds near the sand and gravel operation. (~1.8 miles)

COMMENTS: It was the "Day of the Thrushes" as numbers of Western Bluebirds seemed to lead us along as we trekked through the park. A flock of Lark Sparrows was seen as well and there seemed to be an abundance of White Crowned Sparrows. Yellow-rumped Warblers eluded most of our efforts for visuals, but the unmistakable chip call gave their presence away. Two Red-tailed Hawks thermalized for us over the metamorphic mountain core to our south. And of course, an Estrella walk wouldn't be complete without the Vermilion Flycatchers.



PARTICIPANTS: Pam Spinella (documentation), Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Erv Johnson, Haley Hewitt, Beth Whittam, Tom Watson, Karen Martin (photography) and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (10)

SPECIES: Northern Shoveler 1, Ruddy Duck 2, Gambel's Quail 6, Pied-billed Grebe 2, Neotropical Cormorant 32, Great Blue Heron 3, Black-crowned Night Heron 1, Osprey 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Coot 18, Mourning Dove 3, Greater Roadrunner 1 (seen by Karen Martin post hike), Anna's Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Gila Woodpecker 3, Red-naped Sapsucker 1, Gilded Flicker 2, flicker species 1, Black Phoebe 1, Say's Phoebe 2, Vermilion Flycatcher 5 (2 males, 3 female), Loggerhead shrike 2, Verdin 4, Cactus Wren 4, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 8, Western Bluebird 40, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Northern Mockingbird 5, European Starling 25, Yellow-rumped Warbler 13, Abert's Towhee 2, Lark Sparrow 15, Song Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 100, Dark-eyed Junco 10, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Great-tailed Grackle 2, House Finch 12, American White Pelican 5 (seen by Jerry and Linda in a flyover after the birdwalk) (39 species)

Details and other information can be found at eBird (Estrella Mt. Regional Park Checklist 12 12 20 ID NUMBER S577401470).