

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 2 13 21

CONDITIONS: 97 percent sky cover to complete cover at times: breeze 0-4 from the NE: temp 49 degrees F at start: 59 degrees F at end: cirrus, cirrocumulus, alto cumulus, alto stratus

ROUTE: Normal route (observe at visitor center, east side Navy Area, Blue Gum grove, Mesquite Bosque, grassy area, desert scrub, riparian trail north of Gila River to mitigated ponds)



PARTICIPANTS: 12 birders: Pam Spinella (documents), Karen Martin (photography), Jerry Molinelli (photography), Linda Molinelli, Janice Reed, Haylie Hewitt, Dori Hawkey, Lydia Keksi, Phyllis Feusahrens, Bill Feusahrens (identification), Lynette Brouwer, and guide Joe Ford

COMMENTS: A cool start for the day with cloud cover retarding the sun's efforts to warm the landscape and a cool breeze to enhance discomfort. The park itself had not awakened much, thus a bit barren on the numbers sighted in that area. Good looks at a group of Dark-eyed Juncos, the ever noisy Gila Woodpeckers, a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, and the stunning Vermilion Flycatchers. A group of Western Bluebirds was sighted later in the walk. Along the river trail we flushed numerous Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons. A couple of Western Grebes cruised the tops of the sparkling water on the ponds. It was a good raptor day and a couple Common Ravens delighted us with some acrobatics above the southern ridge.

SPECIES: Mallard 2, Ruddy Duck 5, Gambel's Quail 7, Pied-billed Grebe 3, Western Grebe 2, Neotropical Cormorant 15, Double-crested Cormorant 1, American White Pelican 4, Great Blue Heron 8, Great Egret 8, Black-crowned Night Heron 7, Cooper's Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Osprey 2, American Coot 10, Killdeer 8, Mourning Dove 4, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Belted Kingfisher 1, Gila Woodpecker 4, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2, flicker species 2, Peregrine Falcon 1, Black Phoebe 2, Say's Phoebe 4, Vermilion Flycatcher 3 (1 female), Loggerhead Shrike 1, Common Raven 2, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 13, Verdin 2, Rock Wren 1, Cactus Wren 2, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 4, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Western Bluebird 10, American Robin 2, Northern Mockingbird 4, European Starling 12, Yellow-rumped Warbler 20, Abert's Towhee 2, Song Sparrow 2, White-crowned Sparrow 21, Dark-eyed Junco 12, Great-tailed Grackle 3, House Finch 15 (43)

The eBird check list can be found at eBird ID Number S81253798