

ESTRELLA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK

DATE: October 12, 2019

TIME: 7:30 AM TO 10:30 AM

CONDITIONS: Clear skies, no breeze, 64 degrees F at inception: 86 degrees F at conclusion

PARTICIPANTS: Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Beth Whittam, Judy Clinjerman, Judy Watts, Pam Spinella, Mary Woszczyzna, Gordon Cooper, Marsh Alphonso, Christina Keller, Sharon Manyx, Ester French, Paul Doucette, and leaders Tom Loscascio and Joe Ford (15)



ROUTE AND REVIEW: It was a grand day for birding with almost perfect weather conditions. The group traversed the park from the Navy Area on the east side going through the Mesquite Bosque then on to the area of Blue Gum trees, scoping out grassy areas, then quickly through the desert scrub segment, crossing Vineyard Ave., and onto the east ponds by way of the south river trail.

The Gila River bed was without water and even the east ponds had dropped shore levels due to the extended drought that has been experienced in the last 4 months, with the exception of a couple of rain events in late September.

OBSERVATIONS: Five raptor species were sighted plus several Turkey Vultures. A tern species was seen over the east ponds which promoted much discussion as to its identity. A Great Horned Owl flew across

our path in the east side of the park and two Belted Kingfishers flew back and forth overhead at the ponds expressing their disgust at the intruding bipeds below. The Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-crowned Sparrows are back in good numbers, the White-crowns constantly singing. Three wren species were observed.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 18, Neo-tropic Cormorants 35, Great Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 1, Turkey Vulture 8, Osprey 2, Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Killdeer 1 (audio), Black Tern 1 (still up for discussion, waiting on Jerry's pictures), Eurasian Collared Dove 4, Mourning Dove 22, Greater Roadrunner 2, Great Horned Owl 1, Costa's Hummingbird 1, Anna's Hummingbird 1, HB species 3, Belted Kingfisher 2, Gila Woodpecker 4, Gilded Flicker 1, American Kestrel 2, Black Phoebe 2, Vermilion Flycatcher 3, Ash-throated Flycatcher 3, Loggerhead Shrike 2, Rock Wren 4, Marsh Wren 1 (audio), Bewick's Wren 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 1, Northern Mockingbird 3, European Starling 6, Phainopepla 2, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 8, Abert's Towhee 1 (audio), Black-throated Sparrow 5, White-crowned Sparrow 20, House Finch 25, Verdin 2, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3, Barn Swallow 1, (41)

Details and other information can be found at eBird <https://ebird.org/checklist?subID=S60619834> or contact Tom Locascio (locascio2000@hotmail.com)

Six people attended the program at the Nature Center on "Vultures and Owls" .