

ESTRELLA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 12 14 19

CONDITIONS: Beginning—51 degrees F, 15% sky cover with cirrus and altocumulus, no breeze . Finish:--- 68 degrees F, 5% sky cover with cirrus and cirrostratus, 0-2 mph breeze from the SW.

TIME AND ROUTE: 3 hours and approximately 3 miles. The walk began with some observations around the Nature Center, then moved to the Mesquite Bosque on the east side of the park, trekked through the Blue Gum Grove, across the grassy area and the desert scrub, and finally ventured on the Gila River Trail to the east ponds.

PARTICIPANTS: Gerry and Cindy Theisman, Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Rick and Alisen Reeve, Ron Hitchcock, Mark and Ellen Brogie, Dan Jessen, Jared Conaway, Paul Mocko, Paul Doucette. Mark Brogie filled the role as guide with help from Tom Locascio and Joe Ford



COMMENTS: We were favored with a river with flowing water, after a three month period without this accommodation. However, since this body of water had only been in place in the last two weeks, adaptation to the new conditions had not encouraged many shore birds or duck types to begin to settle in. We did sight 5 raptor species and some grand color with the Vermilion Flycatchers and the Red-naped Sapsucker. Yellow-rumped Warblers seemed to show up everywhere and Northern Rough-winged Swallows dominated the overhead air waves. We had a special visit on the river from a Lesser Scaup male.

SPECIES: Lesser Scaup 1, Ruddy Duck 7, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Neotropic Cormorants 100, Double-crested Cormorants 12, Great Blue Heron 1, Snowy Egret 1, Great Egret 1, White-faced Ibis 40, Osprey 1, Northern Harrier 3, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 3, Common Gallinule 1, American Coot 16, Eurasian Collared Dove 2, Mourning Dove 35, Anna's Hummingbird 3, Belted Kingfisher 1, Gila Woodpecker 4, Red-naped Sapsucker 1, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 1, American Kestrel 1, Black Phoebe 3, Say's Phoebe 4, Vermilion Flycatcher 4, Ash-throated Flycatcher 1, Loggerhead Shrike 2, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 50, Verdin 3, Rock Wren 3, Marsh Wren 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3, Curve-billed Thrasher 1, Northern Mockingbird 4, European Starling 8, Phainopepla 1, Orange-crowned Warbler 5, Yellow-rumped Warbler 20, Abert's Towhee 4, Lark Sparrow 21, Black-throated Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 1, Lincoln's Sparrow 2, White-crowned Sparrow 15, Great-tailed Grackle 8, Brown-headed Cowbird 3, House Finch 12, Lesser Goldfinch 1 (48 species)

Details and other information can be find at eBird, ID Number: S62309644 or contact Tom Locascio (locascio2000@hotmail.com) for a sharelist.

Three people attended the program, "Our Avian Friends" at the Nature Center.