

ESTRELLA MT. REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 4 10 21

CONDITIONS: Clear skies with wisps of cirrus, some contrails from jet aircraft: temperature beginning 62 degrees F, temperature end 86 degrees F. breeze 1-3 mph from east.

ROUTE: Some observations at Nature Center. Walk began from Navy Area on east side of park, continued through the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, grass areas, edge of desert scrub but not into, across Vinyard to the riparian trail along the Gila River and on to the mitigated ponds east of the park.

PARTICIPANTS: Brian and Karin Grzanek, Bob and Ruthette Kennedy, Willie and Caroryl Fitzgerald, Ken and Jean Williams, Haylie Hewitt, Fred Werner, Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Paul Doucette (photography), and guides Tom Locascio, Joe Legander, Joe Ford.

COMMENTS: A high species total for this time of year. Gila River and ponds bank full, very little shoreline habitat available for shorebirds to glean. Ideal birding conditions. A big raptor day with 9 species sighted including a Prairie Falcon and a kettle of Swainson's Hawks and another kettle of Black Vultures. Three warbler species, one American White Pelican and the always colorful Vermilion Flycatcher.

SPECIES: Mallard 2, Ruddy Duck 8, Gambel's Quail 15, Pied Billed Grebe 2, Eared Grebe 1, Neotropic Cormorant 15, Double-crested Cormorant 1, cormorant species 25, American White Pelican 1, Great Blue Heron 3, Great Egret 5, Snowy Egret 2, Black-crowned Night Heron 2, Black Vulture 7, Turkey Vulture 8, Osprey 1, Northern Harrier 1 female, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, Cooper's Hawk 2, Swainson's Hawk 5, Red-tailed Hawk 5, American Coot 6, Killdeer 2, White-winged Dove 2, Mourning Dove 10, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker 2, flicker species 2, Prairie Falcon 1, Black Phoebe 1, Say's Phoebe 3, Vermilion Flycatcher 3, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2, swallow species 8, Verdin 4, Cactus Wren 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 5, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Curve-billed Thrasher 4, Northern Mockingbird 4, European Starling 14, Phainopepla 4, Lucy's Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 2, Common Yellowthroat 1, Abert's Towhee 3, Chipping Sparrow 1, Lark Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 6, White-crowned Sparrow 3, Red-winged Blackbird 7, Great-tailed Grackle 14, Brown-Headed Cowbird 5, House Finch 8, Lesser Goldfinch 2 (55)

Counts and other details can be found at eBird checklists, Estrella Mt. Park 4 10 21 ID# S85268004