

ESTRELLA MT. REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 11/9/19

CONDITIONS: Partly cloudy skies (cirrus and cirrostratus) at 7:45 AM with a temperature of 54 degrees F at inception of the trek, and cloudy skies (again mostly cirrus and cirrostratus) at 10:30 AM and a temperature of 83 degrees F with an east breeze of 2-4 mph upon conclusion of the walk. Distance of 2.2 miles.

ROUTE: From the east end of the park near the Navy Area through the Mesquite Bosque, the Blue Gum Grove, the irrigated regions, then on to the Gila River south trail to the 2 ponds near the sand and gravel operation east of Vineyard Ave.

PARTICIPANTS: Jerry and Linda Molinelli, Erv Johnson, Paul Mocko, B. and Lisa Raess, Paul Doucette, Giovanni and Carmen Orosco with Giovanni, Jr., Ira, and Hope, Donna Rigo, David Charles, and our guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford.



COMMENTS: The Gila River bed was dry with the exception of some isolated pools toward the east ponds. Otherwise dry conditions still negated large numbers of sightings. Water is so important. Fortunately, within the park itself irrigation saves the day and provides water resources for our avian residents. Flocks of cormorants appeared almost every 10 minutes or so making their way west, perhaps seeking food sources. Lots of Mourning Doves and pockets of White-crowned Sparrows, singing their

song, seemed to dominate the species numbers. Of course, the radiant Vermilion Flycatcher is always a treat for avid birders.

SPECIES: Ruddy Duck 3, Gambel's Quail 6, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant 300, Double-crested Cormorant 2, Great Blue Heron 3, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis 20, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot 15, Mourning Dove 50, hummingbird species, Gila Woodpecker 6, Red-naped Sapsucker, flicker species 2, Gilded Flicker 1, American Kestrel 2, Say's Phoebe 3, Vermilion Flycatcher 3, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Nor. Rough-winged Swallow 2, Verdin 2, Rock Wren 3, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher 3, European Starling 12, Yellow-rumped Warbler 15, Abert's Towhee 3, White-crowned Sparrow 20, Great-tailed Grackle 10, Brown-headed Cowbird 4, House Finch 37 (38)

Details and other information are at eBird Estrella Mountains Regional Park, Identification Number: S61333658 or email Tom Locascio (locascio2000@gmail.com) for a share.

Eight people attended the program at the Nature Center, "Birds, Memorable Sounds and Colors" A big thank you to Ranger Amanda Rothermal for assistance with the links in the program.