

## **ESTRELLA MT PARK BIRDWALK 3-9-24**

**CONDITIONS:** Ideal! Temperature 53 degrees F at 7:30 am under mostly clear skies with some altocumulus and small cumulus clouds mostly too the east of the park: at 10 am the temperature was 61 degrees with clear skies, some altostratus, alto cumulus clouds and a breeze from the NE at 3-4 mph.

**ROUTE:** Observations were made around the Nature Center, the group caravanned to the east side Navy Area, walked west through the Mesquite Bosque and Blue Gum Grove, then returned through the irrigated grass area, then along the edge of the Desert Scrub to the parking lot. Some of our group crossed Vineyard Ave and made some sightings along the south trail adjacent to the Gila River and the mitigated lakes.



**PARTICIPANTS:** Perin Jackson, Paul Alleman, Paul Doucette, Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Karen Martin (photography), Erv Johnson, Bev Ledig, Helen Pugh (scope), Carolyn Braun, Mike

**McConnell, Christine Breuker, Jason Feig, Clint Rohrer, Pam Spinella (hospitality), and guides, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (17)**

**COMMENTS:** The spring bloom was present, although most of the flowers on the stalks were invaders, such as mustard types and Stinknet with a sprinkling of globemallow here and there. Recent rains had stimulated the increase in green we saw everywhere. The bird group we saw were mostly residents of this riparian Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Small flocks of White-crown and Lark dominated the sparrow group. A Western Meadowlark was seen, some Lesser Goldfinches, the colorful Vermilion Flycatchers, and one glossy Phainopepla.

**SPECIES:** Gambel's Quail 24, Double-crested Cormorant 13, Great Blue Heron 1, Great Egret 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Killdeer 1, Eurasian Collared Dove 2, Mourning Dove 6, Anna's Hummingbird 1, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2, Gilded Flicker 2, flicker species 1, American Kestrel 1, Say's Phoebe 2, Vermilion Flycatcher 3, Verdin 3, Rock Wren 2, Cactus Wren 3, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Northern Mockingbird 3, European Starling 21, Abert's Towhee 4, Lark Sparrow 17, White-crowned Sparrow 25, Western Meadowlark 1, Great-tailed Grackle 15, House Finch 6, Lesser Goldfinch 3, Phainopepla 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Loggerhead Shrike 1, Green Heron 1, Black-crowned Night Heron 1 (35)

The eBird list can be found at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology under eBird, checklist #S161133937 under Estrella Mt. Reg Park Birdwalk 3 9 24.

Ten bird lovers remained for the program in the Nature Center, "Bird Weirdness III" given by Joe Ford. A big thank you to Pam who provided our pastries.

**Next up: Cave Creek, March 16, 7:30 am**