

ESTRELLA MT. REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 4 8 23

CONDITIONS: Ideal. Clear skies at 7:30 am, temperature at 54 degrees F, little to no breeze:: at conclusion, 10 am, still clear skies, 78 degrees, little to no breeze.

ROUTE: Observations were made at the Nature Center, then the group caravanned to the Navy Area on the east side, toured the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, the grassy areas and desert scrub region north of the parking lot. The group then crossed Vineyard and began the south riparian trail along a very high and flooded Gila River, thus the walk terminated due to flooded conditions.



PARTICIPANTS: Karen Parrow, KC Jones, Patricia Jones, Kate Prudhomme, Geovanni Orozco, Carmen Orozco, Hope Orozco, David Charles, Karen Martin (photography), Jerry Molinelli (photography), Linda Molinelli, Pam Spinella (hospitality and documentation), Paul Doucette, and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (15)

COMMENTS: The main source of excitement for this day was the flooding river out of its banks in several areas. So much water being released from reservoirs to the north and east produced a bloated river and rushing current, something seldom seen in our lifetime. The abundant flower bloom continued as spring began to

quickly merge into summer. Stinknet, the invader from South Africa, had just taken over in many areas of Maricopa County, as between Brittlebush, Desert Marigold, and Stinknet, yellow was everywhere. The magenta blooms from Hedgehog Cactus were also present. Lots of swallows were seen today and 4 flycatcher species. The return of the Western Kingbird, filling the air with its vocalizations, was a happy moment for all.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 13, Neotropic Cormorant 4, Double-crested Cormorant 2, Great Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 4, Snowy Egret 3, Osprey 1, Killdeer 2, Eurasian Collared Dove 2, Mourning Dove 15, Greater Roadrunner 1, Burrowing Owl 2, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Costa's Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, American Kestrel 1, Say's Phoebe 3, Vermilion Flycatcher 6, Ash-throated Flycatcher 3, Western Kingbird 1, Violet-green Swallow 1, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 15, Cliff Swallow 30, Barn Swallow 1, Verdin 5, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Northern Mockingbird 3, European Starling 11, Phainopepla 2, Abert's Towhee 4, Lark Sparrow 3, White-crowned Sparrow 22, Great Tailed Grackle 8, Brewer's Blackbird*, House Finch 12, Lesser Goldfinch 1 (38)

Details and other information can be found at eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) under checklists, #S133136373 Estrella Mt. Regional Park 4 8 23

Twelve lovers of birds stayed for the program in the Nature Center entitled "Caleb's Birds" presented by Joe Ford