

ESTRELLA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 10 9 21

CONDITIONS: At 7:30 AM the temperature was 72 degrees F under partly cloudy skies mostly composed of altocumulus, cirrocumulus, altostratus. The sunrise was beautiful with clouds glowing with a garnish of orange and numerous cumulus puffs, slight breeze from the NW, but minimal. At the walk conclusion, 10:30 AM the sky was cloudy with altostratus, alto cumulus being dominant, temperature at 79 degrees F, wind NW at 2-4 mph.

ROUTE: The walk toured the Nature Center, Navy Area east, the grassy meadow, desert scrub and finished with the riparian trail along the Gila River and to the mitigated ponds east of Vineyard Avenue.



PARTICIPANTS: Pam Spinella (resources), Natalie Rivera, John Holmes, Haylie Hewitt, Brenda Priddy, Linda and Jerry Molinelli (photography), Karen Martin (photography), Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (guides)

COMMENTS: This day offered the best weather and observation conditions we have had for a while. Most of the bird families had raised their young, so few really young birds were witnessed. Perhaps some migration was in process, but the warblers have not returned to Maricopa County yet, at least not at Estrella Park. (I think we heard Yellow-rumps) Actually a quiet day with occasional calls, but little in terms of songs. The most vocal were a couple of Northern Mockingbirds sharing actual songs. Our most abundant species were the Neotropical Cormorants, which were seen in random numbers leaving water surfaces or in V formations higher up. Of course, the singing Say's Phoebes at the Nature Center and the

colorful Vermilion Flycatchers were among the highlights of the day, plus several shorebird species. We had 4 raptor species including the magnificent Osprey.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 5, Neo-tropic Cormorant 200 (at least), Great Blue Heron 3, Great Egret 8, Green Heron 3, Black-crowned Night Heron 5 (some juveniles), Turkey Vulture 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Killdeer 2, Least Sandpiper 3, Western Sandpiper 2, Mourning Dove 28, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Belted Kingfisher 2, Gila Woodpecker 4 Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Gilded Flicker 1, Black Phoebe 3, Say's Phoebe 4, Vermilion Flycatcher 3, Loggerhead Shrike 1, Common Raven 1, Verdin 2, Rock Wren 2, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Northern Mockingbird 2, European Starling 17, Abert's Towhee 2, Lark Sparrow 5, White-crowned Sparrow 4, Song Sparrow 1??, House Finch 15 (35 total)

Details and other totals can be found at eBird Checklists #S95875316 Estrella Mountains Regional Park
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