

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN PARK BIRD WALK 1 09 22

CONDITIONS: CLOUDY SKIES DOMINATED BY STRATUS, STRATOCUMULUS, TEMP 45 DEGREES F AT 8 AM, NO BREEZE;;; PARTLY CLOUDY SKIES, CIRRUS, CIRROSTRATUS, STRATOCUMULUS, AT 11 AM, TEMP 61 DEGREES F, A BREEZE 1-3 MPH FROM THE EAST.



PARTICIPANTS: Ed and Pat Thomas, Angela Bergelt, Joan Grussing, Nancy Mac, Joyce Anastasi, Haylie Hewitt, Chris Breuker, Sharon Beal, Erv Johnson, Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Karen Martin (photography), Jim Consolloy (consultant), Pam Spinella (resources), Paul Doucette (consultant), Joe Ford (guide) (17)

ROUTE: The path of the walk was similar to past trips. Navy Area with Velvet Mesquite, Blue Gum Grove, grass areas, Brittlebush and Saltbush Median, Desert Scrub, south riparian trail along the Gila River, mitigated ponds east adjacent to the sand and gravel operation.

COMMENTS: Ideal conditions with warming temperatures as the walk commenced. The bank full river eliminated most shoreline waders as mudflat areas were non-existent. Forty three species is a strong number for early January. Highlights were the radiant plumage on the Vermilion Flycatchers, a large flock of Black-crowned Night Herons, a noisy couple of Belted Kingfishers, American White Pelicans and numerous Snowy and Great Egrets plus Blue Herons perching in adjacent trees close to the river. Waves

of cormorants crossed the sky in V formations, two warbler species were spotted, and one male Northern Cardinal

SPECIES: Mallard 6, Common Merganser 13, Ruddy Duck 8, Gambel's Quail 5, Western Grebe 2, Neotropic and Double Crested Cormorant 275 (mostly the neos, but cormorant identification on the fly can be difficult), American White Pelican (2 at the lake, 17 seen later in flight by Karen), Great Blue Heron 5, Great Egret 10, Snowy Egret 12, Black-crowned Night Heron (20, possibly 26), Osprey 2, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Coot 20, Mourning Dove 4, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Belted Kingfisher 2, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3, flicker species 1 (audio only), American Kestrel 1, Black Phoebe 1, Say's Phoebe 1, Vermilion Flycatcher 3, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2, Loggerhead Shrike 1 (Karen sighting), Northern Rough-winged Swallow 20, Verdin 4, Marsh Wren 3, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Northern Mockingbird 1, European Starling 15, Orange-crowned Warbler 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 25 (mostly audio), Abert's Towhee 2, Lark Sparrow 25 (Karen sighting), Song Sparrow 6, White-crowned Sparrow 12, Dark-eyed Junco 6, Northern Cardinal 1, Red-winged Blackbird 2 (audio), Great-tailed Grackle 2, House Finch 5 (43)

Other details can be found at eBird Checklist ID number S100376352 Estrella Mountain Regional Park.