

ESTRELLA MOUNTAINS BIRDWALK 5 14 22

CONDITIONS: Ideal! Clear skies at 6:30 AM and no breeze, temperature 66 degrees F; at walk conclusion mostly clear skies with some high cirrus, cirrostratus, breeze 2-3 mph from the East, temperature 86 degrees F at 9:30 AM.

ROUTE: Observations around the Nature Center, group then caravanned to the Navy Area on the east side of the park; toured the Mesquite Bosque, the Blue Gum Grove, grasslands, desert scrub region, then crossed Vineyard Avenue and walked the south riparian trail along the Gila River to the mitigated lakes region east near the sand and gravel operation.



PARTICIPANTS: Giovanni and Carmen Orozco, Chris McVittie (photography), Natalie Rivera (came in late), Paul Doucette, Pam Spinella (resources), Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), and Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (guides)

COMMENTS: Truly an ideal day for birding, little to no wind, clear skies, and ideal temperatures. The migration was over for the most part: even the White-crowned Sparrows had gone north. Most of all year residents were in place and evidence of young birds was present with some feeding young. The usual suspects were about, including the ever present Vermilion Flycatchers and Say's Phoebes. We had great looks at a Bullock's Oriole and a Western Kingbird. Lots of Gambel' Quail were about and the constant "who cooks for you" from the numerous White-winged Doves filled the air waves. It has been a great year for doves as Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves were seen frequently. Two Greater Roadrunners were seen before our walk began near the visitor centre.

SPECIES: Mallard 3, Ruddy Duck 1, Gambel's Quail 12, Neotropic Cormorant 10, Great Blue Heron 4, Great Egret 6, Snowy Egret 2, Green Heron 1, Black-crowned Night Heron 2, Turkey Vulture 1, Black-necked Stilt 1, Killdeer 2, Eurasian Collared Dove 6, White-winged Dove 20, Mourning Dove 15, Greater Roadrunner 2, Burrowing Owl 3, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 3, Northern Flicker 1, Gilded Flicker 2, Black Phoebe 1, Say's Phoebe 5, Vermilion Flycatcher 6, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2,

Western Kingbird 2, Nor. Rough-winged Swallow 9, Cliff Swallow 20, Verdin 4, Cactus Wren 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 3, Curve-billed Thrasher 4, Northern Mockingbird 8, European Starling 15, Phainopepla 2, Lucy's Warbler 1, Common Yellowthroat 3, Wilson' Warbler 1, Yellow-breasted Chat 1, Abert's Towhee 4, Song Sparrow 2, Red-winged Blackbird 25, Great-tailed Grackle 8, Bronze Cowbird 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 6, Bullock's Oriole 2, House Finch 12 (43)

The checklist and other details can be found at eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology under Estrella Mountain Park Birdwalk, 5 14 22, checklist #5110166550.