

ESTRELLA MT. REG PARK BIRDWALK 5 13 23

CONDITIONS: At 6:30 AM, the temperature was 75 degrees F with clear skies and haze and a slight breeze 0-2 mph. At the walk conclusion around 8:30 AM the temperature was 80 degrees F, still clear skies and a breeze of 1-2 mph from the east.



PARTICIPANTS: Phyllis Smith, Karen Parrow, Emily Roth, Bob McDermott, Perin Jackson, Kate Preudhomine, Pam Spinella (documentation and hospitality), Paul Doucette, Linda Molinella, Jerry Molinelli (photography) and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

ROUTE: Observations around the nature center began around 6 AM. Caravanning to the Navy Area then occurred and the walk continued through the east end of the park (Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, irrigated grassy area), then returned by way of the desert scrub to the parking lot. Entrance to the area across Vineyard Avenue to the south side Gila River riparian trail was restricted due to possible hazardous conditions, therefore the walk was aborted at that point.

COMMENTS: This was the second week in May and the temperature extremes to follow in the coming months were not yet present on this morning. The Stinknet

were all but finished and seeds only remained on the many plants that dominated the spring vegetation. Saguaros were in bloom and even the Ironwoods had the violet blossoms, those in contrast to the Palo Verde yellows. The bird species were pretty much the usual suspects, however two tanager species and a Western Kingbird made for a better day in the park. The chorus from White-winged Doves was everywhere. No Cactus Wrens today??

SPECIES: Mallard 1, Gambel's Quail 8, Great Blue Heron 1, Great Egret 1, Snowy Egret 1, Turkey Vulture 2, Red-tailed Hawk 1, White-winged Dove 12, Mourning Dove 15, Greater Roadrunner 1, Burrowing Owl 5 (seen earlier around Bullard Avenue), Anna's Hummingbird 3, Gila Woodpecker 3, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Say's Phoebe 4, Vermilion Flycatcher 6, Ash-throated Flycatcher 3, Western Kingbird 1, Violet-green Swallow 7, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2, Cliff Swallow 20, Verdin 3, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 1, Curve-billed Thrasher 1, Northern Mockingbird 6, European Starling 6, Phainopepla 2, warbler species 2?, Abert's Towhee 5, Summer Tanager (Pam Spinella), Western Tanager 1, Great-tailed Grackle 8, Brown-headed Cowbird 3, House Finch 6 (32 species)

Other information and details can be found at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird under checklist # S137518087 Estrella Mt. Regional Park 5 13 23.

Twelve birders remained for the presentation in the Nature Center on "Birds of the Sonoran Desert" by Joe Ford