

ESTRELLA MT. REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 3 11 23

CONDITIONS: START: 7:17 AM: cloudy to overcast skies dominated by stratus, cirrostratus, altocumulus clouds, temperature 64 degrees F with a breeze of 1-2 mph from the SW. CONCLUSION 10:30 AM: cloudy skies, cumulus, altocumulus, cirrocumulus, cirrostratus clouds, temperature 78 degrees F with a breeze of 14 mph from the SW



PARTICIPANTS: JJ Golio, Phyllis Smith, Paul Doucette, Tanya Perkins, Beverly Ledig, Kate Preudhomme, Christine Breuker, David Charles, John Calhoun, Andrea Trujillo, Ross and Bridget Levin, Devonna Petree, Asad Rahim, Pam Spinella (documentation and hospitality), Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography), Karen Martin (photography), and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

ROUTE: Observations were made around the Nature Center early, then the group caravanned to the Navy Area on the east side of the park, toured the Mesquite Bosque, Blue-gum Grove, irrigated area, desert scrub, then crossed Vineyard Avenue to the south Gila River Riparian Trail to the mitigated lakes, and then returned.

COMMENTS: The spring boom was in full flower, dominated by invasive Stinknet and Globe Chamomile. Brittlebush was still blooming in quantity and spring ephemerals were present, including Desert Globemallow, Fiddleneck, Phacelia, Lupine, Cryptantha, and Filaree. Some 51 species were sighted in the bird category, mostly the usual suspects. Vermilion Flycatchers were dashing from tree limbs to catch insects, then returning to the perch they had launched from. A treat was the sighting of a Bald Eagle and 9 American Pelicans aloft. It was the day of the American Robin and many Yellow-rumped Warblers were offering their chips to the avian chorus.

SPECIES: Cinnamon Teal 3, Northern Shoveler 4, Green-winged Teal 2, Ruddy Duck 13, Gambel's Quail 2, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Neotropic Cormorant 19, Double-crested Cormorant 10, American White Pelican 9, Great Blue Heron 1, Great Egret 2, Snowy Egret 6, Black-crowned Night Heron 1, Turkey Vulture 1, Bald Eagle 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Coot 2, Black-necked Stilt 1, Killdeer 5, Eurasian Collared Dove 2, Mourning Dove 12, Burrowing Owl 1, Anna's Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Black Phoebe 1, Say's Phoebe 4, Vermilion Flycatcher 5, Ash-throated Flycatcher 1, Empidonax species (Hammond's??) 1, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 4, Verdin 2, Cactus Wren 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, American Robin 10, Curve-billed Thrasher 2, Northern Mockingbird 5, European Starling 22, Phainopepla 2, Orange-crowned Warbler 3, Yellow-rumped Warbler 8, Abert's Towhee 2, Song Sparrow 6, White-crowned Sparrow 16, Red-winged Blackbird 3, Great-tailed Grackle 5, House Finch 8, Lesser Goldfinch 2 (51)

Following the trip, Helen Pugh, one of our group today, saw a Cooper's Hawk and 5 Mallards to add to the list.

Eleven birders stayed for the program in the Nature Center given by Joe Ford on "Birds with Unusual Sounds and Colors"

More information can be accessed by visiting Cornell Lab of Ornithology at eBird to see the checklist for Estrella Mt. Regional Park, #S130700549.