

ESTRELLA MT. REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 9 9 23

CONDITIONS: The observations began around 6 AM at the Nature Center under partly cloudy skies (alto-cumulus, cumulus), temperature 85 degrees F and humidity. A breeze of 0-1 was out of the southwest. The walk concluded around 8:10 AM with still PC conditions and a temperature of 92 degrees F, and little to no breeze.

ROUTE: Observations began at the Nature Center, then the group caravanned to the east side Navy Area, walked east for a half mile, then returned to the Navy parking lot by way of the northside parking lot. (mesquite bosque, blue gum grove, grass area, desert scrub)



PARTICIPANTS: We had a family group from Ohio (the Zolka's, Todd, Ernie, Karen, Terri) along with the regulars, Paul Doucette, Karen Martin (photography), Pam Spinella (documentation and hospitality), Perin Jackson, and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (10)

COMMENTS: It was a grand day for birding with some 30 species sighted. The temperature was in the high 80's and humidity was around 45 percent, so not as comfortable an outing as experienced in cooler times. The usual Vermilion Flycatcher families, plus a higher amount than normal of Curve-billed Thrashers and Cactus Wrens. Sparrows were common and Gila Woodpeckers and Gilded Flickers offered their calls to the airwaves and some were viewed. Mourning Doves were the dove species most present.

SPECIES: Mallard 7 (flyover), Gambel's Quail 15, Great Blue Heron 1, White-faced Ibis (nearby field, number uncertain), Turkey Vulture 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Killdeer 1, Eurasian Collared Dove 1, Mourning Dove 13, Greater Roadrunner 3, Burrowing Owl 5(seen in drainage canal on Bullard Ave.), Lesser Nighthawk 1, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 5, Gilded Flicker 3, Say's Phoebe 1, Vermilion Flycatcher 5, Ash-throated Flycatcher 1, Loggerhead Shrike 2, Verdin 3, Cactus Wren 7, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 1, Curve-billed Thrasher 6, Northern Mockingbird 5, European Starling 2 (probably more), Abert's Towhee 6, Lark Sparrow 14, Black-throated Sparrow 4, House Finch 4 (29)

Eight willing birders stayed for the presentation in the Nature Center by Joe Ford on "Birds of the Sonoran Desert".