

ESTRELLA MTS. REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 1 11 20, 8 AM to 10:30 AM

CONDITIONS: It was a chilly start from the Nature Center with a temperature of 40 degrees F under clear skies sprinkled with a few cirrus clouds and a light, but chilling, breeze from the east at 3-4 mph. At the walk's termination our temperature had risen to 50 degrees F and the breeze had lessened to 1-2 mph. with clear blue skies.

ROUTE: After a short stroll around the Nature Center, we caravanned to the east side and took our usual trek from the parking lot near the Navy Area through the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Grove, grassy areas, the Desert Scrub, and attempted to pursue the trail east of Vineyard along the Gila River, however, several firearms were being discharged in the area, which forced our retreat back to the park central to avoid the potential "war zone" erupting in the distance. Therefore, we missed observing at the mitigated ponds.



PARTICIPANTS: Diane Bradbury, Tom Worcester, Kaylee Delcid, Jessica Graham, Paul Doucette, David Charles, Bill and Linda Nokes, Dorothy Hansen, Jim Consolloy, Erv Johnson, Chris and Elspeth Morgan, Karen Martin (photography) and our guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (16)

COMMENTS: There was disappointment at not being able to see some shore birds and water fowl, however liability concerns dictated that we abort that part of our walk. Sparrows are always a treat and flocks of Lark Sparrows and White-crowns were in several spots. Northern Rough-winged Swallows filled the air waves along the Gila River Trail and cormorant flocks in the distance seemed to be moving west at synchronized intervals. The resident warblers, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumps entered the stage

as well, giving us good looks. And soaring pelicans and Vermilion Flycatchers, wow! Our photographer, Karen Martin, took some great pictures including a Red-naped Sapsucker.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 4, Neotropic Cormorant 4, Double-crested Cormorant 25, cormorant species 100, American White Pelican 9, Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove 6, Eurasian Collared Dove, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 6, Red-naped Sapsucker, Gilded Flicker 2, Say's Phoebe 3, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher 4, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Common Raven 1, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 15, Verdin 4, Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird 2, European Starling 16, Phainopepla, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler 8, Lark Sparrow 12, White-crowned Sparrow 30, Great-tailed Grackle 3, House Finch 4 (30))

Details and numbers can be found at eBird under Estrella Mt. Park ID Number S63289108 or contact Tom Locascio locascio2000@hotmail.com for a sharelist.

Ten people attended the presentation at the Nature Center on "Raptors".