

ESTRELLA MT. REGIONAL PARK BIRDWALK 12 10 22

CONDITIONS: Clear skies with a temperature of 40 degrees F and no breeze at 8 AM. At walk conclusion around 11 AM, temperature of 66 degrees F with a slight breeze of 2-3 mph from the east, skies still clear with some cirrus clouds moving in from the northeast.

ROUTE: Observations around the Nature Center beginning at 7:30 AM. The group caravanned to the Navy Area and toured the Mesquite Bosque, Blue Gum Eucalyptus area, irrigated grassland area, desert scrub, then moved to the riparian trail to the south of the Gila River and ended at the two mitigated lakes east of Vineyard Avenue. The river was full most of the way.



PARTICIPANTS: Phyllis Smith, JJ Golio, Natalie Rivera, Paul Doucette, Erv Johnson, Jim Consolloy, Karen Martin (photography), and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford

COMMENTS: This was a sunny day with cool temperatures and when the sun breached the east horizon it began to add some heat to a very quiet morning. Soon the birds began to show themselves as they warmed. Color was provided by blooming Desert Marigolds, Cowpen Daisies, and Sand Verbena. Even some Willow Acacia were putting on flowers. The usual laughing Gila Woodpeckers were

present and large groups of White-crowned Sparrows and Lark Sparrows. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were about and the warblers were represented by several Yellow-rumps and one Orange-crowned Warbler. We did witness a calling Common Gallinule and possibly a Ridgeway Rail. This was a good day for raptors as we sighted a Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and Osprey.

SPECIES: Mallard 1, Pied-billed Grebe 2, Neotropic Cormorant 15, Double-crested Cormorant 1, American White Pelican 3 (a group heading west, some 25, were seen around 7:30 AM), Great Blue Heron 3, Snowy Egret 2, Black-crowned Night Heron 1, Osprey 2, Northern Harrier 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Common Gallinule 1, rail species 1, American Coot 8, Least Sandpiper 11, Wilson's Snipe 1, Mourning Dove 10, Anna's Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher 2, Gila Woodpecker 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 2, Gilded Flicker 1, Say's Phoebe 3, Vermilion Flycatcher 3, Loggerhead Shrike 1, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2, Verdin 2, Rock Wren 1, Marsh Wren 2, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3, Northern Mockingbird 2, European Starling 13, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 10, Abert's Towhee 4, Lark Sparrow 33, Song Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 20, Red-winged Blackbird 1, House Finch 2, (44)

Details and other information can be found at eBird checklist #S5123757060 under Estrella Mountain Regional Park