

GILBERT RIPARIAN PRESERVE: Thursday, January 13, 2022

GUIDES: Sonoran Audubon Society and Maricopa Audubon Society teamed up for this Field Trip to the Ponds. Emily Thomas, who is the Trip Coordinator for Maricopa Audubon and Karen LaFrance, Co-Chair and Coordinator for Sonoran Audubon guided two groups of 8-10 persons who reserved their spaces for 8 AM or 9:30 AM. The trip was billed as a "Trial Run" for future collaborative bird walks. It was also billed as "Introductory" so that attendees could attend for one hour for highlights and bird-watching and then go off on their own to explore the Gilbert ponds.

The "Trial Run" included an on line sign up for the free trip which had its positives and negatives; Karen and Emily will be searching for additional possible ways to do sign ups on line. Thanks go to everyone who figured it out and thanks to everyone who attended!

CONDITIONS: Bright sunny day, in low 40's at 7:30 AM. Cold for the 8 AM group; warmed up for the 9:30 AM group. Crowds arrived about 9:15 AM....

PARTICIPANTS: Several persons from Sonoran Audubon and several from Maricopa Audubon.

COMMENTS: This trip will be offered likely in spring 2022

SPECIES LIST FOR THE DAY, COMBINED LIST OF BOTH WALKS IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER (No actual counts unless noted):

Ring-Necked Duck (hundreds), Mallard, American Coot (a few), Ring-Necked Duck (hundreds), European Collared Dove, Great Tailed Grackle, Gambel's Quail, Mourning Dove, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, House Sparrow, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Common Gallinule, Abert's Towhee, White-Crowned Sparrow, Double-Crested Cormorant, Northern Mockingbird, Red-Winged Blackbird, Anna's Humminbird, American Avocet, Killdeer, Verdin, European Starling, House Finch, Northern Shoveler (4-6 birds), Black-necked Stilt (several), Northern Rough-Winged Swallow, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-Backed Woodpecker, Canada Goose, Orange-Crowed Warbler, Lesser Scaup (several), Neotropic Cormorant, American Wigeon, Least Sandpiper, Northern Cardinal (H), Curve-Billed Thrasher, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Osprey (1), Cinnamon Teal (several), American White Pelican (3), American Kestrel (1). 42 species.