

Glendale Recharge Ponds Field Trip 11/22/19

Conditions: Skies were clear and sunny following several days of rain, which brought higher levels to 4 of the 6 ponds. With only a light breeze, temperatures remained in the low 60's.

The berm roadways were soft but draining nicely. Construction at the west end of pond #4 is still active and barricaded, so we briefly observed ponds #3, #4 and the drainage structure from a narrow walkway on the bridge.

Parking was available for many cars at the east end of pond #6 along the service road.

Route: After meeting at Dust Devil Park, we proceeded to the ponds at the end of 107th Ave. Eventually parking at the east end of the service road and greeted by the screeching call of an Osprey, sitting on top of a pole along the Salt River Projects (SRP) feeder canal. Our route from there was around pond #6 where we had perfect light for viewing ducks and shorebirds in pond #5 and to the north in pond #1. Ponds 2 and 3 were drained.

Participants: Sarah Burbank, Gerry and Cindy Theisman, Dave and Ruth Kennedy, Lorna Dyer, R.D. Webster, Adrian Reznik, Karen Bulkeley, Peggy Cullen, Susan Corless, Paul Doucette, Barb Meding and Jim Consolloy (leader).

Highlights: Ideal water levels and great back lighting enabled great photographs and viewing of many colorful ducks and shorebirds. Unfortunately the restrooms at Dust Devil Park were not yet open at 8 a.m. We will consider an alternate meeting location for our next visit to these ponds. There were several new birders in our midst who had a great deal to offer to the sightings.

Birds Seen: Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Rudy Duck, Gambel's Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer Plover, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Eurasian Collared Dove, Mourning Dove, Hummingbird (sp), Belted Kingfisher, Gila Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, European Starling and House Sparrow.