

Field Trip Report

Tres Rios YBCU survey site 30 July 2023

By Bob McCormick, Sonoran Audubon Society

Upon our arrival, we were greeted with lightning and gusty winds from the West. As this weather system quickly moved off, the bird activity rapidly rose. **Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows and Yellow Breasted Chats** were very vocal as we reached the first pond. Here a **Bullock's Oriole** sat upon a branch in one of the large cottonwood trees.



As we hiked along the road toward the West, we encountered a **Cooper's Hawk** enjoying its breakfast on one of the pond dumpsters. From the photo, you can see that the victim was a **White-winged Dove**. These doves were so numerous that we ended with a final estimate of 725! Slowly we approached the hawk until we were only about 30 feet away.

This is when it decided that it wanted to finish breakfast elsewhere.



The various ponds along the way contained multitudes of riparian species. **Common Gallinules** were very “common” with seven on one pond alone.

The Cottonwood and Willow trees were full of birds including the many **Western Kingbirds**. A look into the spillway and we returned to the cars along the North road to check out the large patches of sunflowers.



Black-crowned Night Heron



Harris Hawk

While our target bird was the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, we unfortunately... did not encounter one.

For those of you who normally bird Tres Rios from 91st Avenue, I suggest you join the friendly fishermen in the know and enter at 107th Ave and bird this easy 2 ½ mile loop route instead.

E-Bird Checklist S146009137 - South 107th Avenue, Tolleson, Arizona

43 species were observed on the day.

Gambel's Quail, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Common Gallinule, Killdeer, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Harris's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Verdin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, European Starling, House Sparrow, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, Bullock's Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, Western Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak

Participants: Sue Moreland, Leader: Bob McCormick