

WHITE TANK BIRD WALK 1 18 20

CONDITIONS: Ideal. Temperature of 40 degrees F under clear skies with no breeze upon inception of our walk at approximately 8 AM. At the conclusion the temperature had risen to 58 degrees F. We were in the field for 2.5 hours.

ROUTE: Our group met at Area 4, made a brief observation effort in the parking area, then initiated our major trek along the Black Rock Trail Long Loop before returning to the parking area.



PARTICIPANTS: Diane Bradbury, Marcella Jones, Gary and Shirley Ahearn, Dorothy Hansen, Don and Janelle Dedrick, Ken and Mary Weber, John and Courtney Aber, Kim Lipsky, John Wolfe, David Charles, Mary McLurg, Matthew Salas and his Family, David Glaesman, Giovanni and Carmen Orozco along with Giovanni, Jr., Ira, and Hope, and our guides, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford.

COMMENTS: A chilly start, which had some what of an inhibiting effect on the urge that would ignite bird activity. The sun finally began to bring the warmth and thus the stimulus to awaken birds toward motion. The Upper Sonoran vegetation was greening up, the brittlebush was close to going bloom and the Teddy Bear Cholla with glistening edges, illuminated by the east rising sun, dotted the landscape beneath the towering saguaro columns and understory paloverde and ironwood. Cactus Wrens were the most vocal of our species seen, with Curved-billed Thrashers a close second. The usual desert residents, represented by Black-throated Sparrows and visiting White Crowns, appeared at several spots along our

walk. And of course our most common resident hummingbirds, Anna's and Costa's, put in their appearance as well.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 6, Turkey Vulture(seen as we left the park), Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove 3, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Costa's Hummingbird 3, Gila Woodpecker 7, Northern Flicker, Gilded Flicker, Say's Phoebe 3 (visitor center), Loggerhead Shrike 2, Verdin, Rock Wren, Cactus Wren 8, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Curve-billed Thrasher 6, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling 4, Orange-crowned Warbler, Abert's Towhee 2, Black-throated Sparrow 25, White-crowned Sparrow 5, House Finch 17 (24)

Counts and other details can be found at eBird ID Number S63546019 or contact Tom Locascio locascio@hotmail.com for a sharelist.

Fifteen people attended the program at the Nature Center (held in the library) on Bird Weirdness II.