

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 12 26 20

CONDITIONS: Clear skies, no breeze, 43 F at 8:00 AM. At conclusion at Visitor Center 10:30 AM 60 F, breeze 1-2 mph

ROUTE: The observations were made initially at the Visitor Center environs, then moved to Area 4 parking area. A stroll around the area was taken, then a jaunt along the Black Rock Trail long loop, returning to Area 4. Further observations were made again in the Visitor Center area



PARTICIPANTS: Chris and Michelle Scott, Erv Johnson, Randy Zastrow, Joette Conger, Pam Spinella ( eyes and documentation), Jerry Molinelli (photography), Linda Molinelli (eyes), and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (10)

COMMENTS: A most pleasant day was enjoyed by all as the weather was ideal for observations. Most of the action was around the Visitor Center and in Parking Area 4. The Black Rock loop led us on an invigorating hike, however the birds seemed to be secretive, soundless, or were just not there, at least in numbers usually encountered. The hot, dry summer may have contributed to this as water sources, as well as food sources, were limited. Where there was easy water access and feeders, there were birds. Cactus Wrens chuckled for us several times, a flock of Black-throated Sparrows found us, a couple of ravens croaked over, flickers perched on top of saguaros, and the gorgeous gorget on the Costa's

Hummingbird dazzled our eyes. A Red-tailed Hawk gave us our only raptor, unless we count the Turkey Vulture also. We will.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 7, Turkey Vulture 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 17, Costa's Hummingbird 1, hummingbird species 2, Gila Woodpecker 6, Ladder-back Woodpecker 2, Gilded Flicker 8, flicker species 2, Say's Phoebe 1, Loggerhead Shrike 2, Common Raven 2, Verdin 3, Rock Wren 1, Cactus Wren 10, Curve-billed Thrasher 8, Northern Mockingbird 1, Phainopepla 1 male, Abert's Towhee (audio), Black-throated Sparrow 12, House Finch 24 (20)

Details and other information can be found under White Tank Park on eBird, identification number S78068178