

WHITE TANK MOUNTAINS BIRDWALK 10-19-19

CONDITIONS: Clear skies, little to no breeze. Temperature 62 degrees F at 7:30 AM at the inception of the walk, and 80 degrees F at the conclusion after a 2 hours and 45 minutes in the field.

ROUTE: The hike began from Area 9 on the Ford Canyon Trail and reached the intersection of the Ironwood Trail, then returned via the Ford Canyon Trail to the vehicles at Area 9. Palo Verde, Ironwoods, various Cholla species and Saguars dominated the area and September rain events had produced a surge of greenery.

PARTICIPANTS: Nick and Jane Kaschuk, Erv Johnson, Karen Martin, and our White Tank Park volunteer, Stacia Novy, who helped the two leaders, Tom Locascio and Joe Ford (7)



PHOTOGRAPHY: Karen Martin

HIGHLIGHTS: Birds were frequent along the trail with lots of Black-throated Sparrows and a few White-crowned. Four Green-tailed Towhees were seen, three wren species, and three warbler species. Some White-throated Swifts were seen over the mountain and a major find was the Western Screech Owl flushed from a cavity in a Saguaro. Our leader, Stacia Novy, applied her eyes and ears and enriched the trip for all.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 1, Turkey Vulture 5, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Mourning Dove 4, Western Screech Owl 1, White-throated Swift 12, Anna's Hummingbird 2, Costa's Hummingbird 3, Gila Woodpecker 7, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker 3, Gilded Flicker 3, American Kestrel 1, Say's Phoebe 2, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2, Loggerhead Shrike 3, Verdin 6, Rock Wren 3, Bewick's Wren 3, Cactus Wren 4, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Curve-billed Thrasher 3, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 8, Black-throated Gray Warbler 3, Green-tailed Towhee 4, Black-throated Sparrow 8, Lincoln's Sparrow 2, White-crowned Sparrow 5, House Finch 32, Lesser Goldfinch 2, Zone-tailed Hawk 1 (32)

NOTE: A Northern Harrier and a few Great-tailed Grackles were seen near the Nature Center prior to the start of the walk and afterwards.

For the eBird list go to <https://ebird.org/checklist?subID=S60780410> or contact Tom Locascio for a shared list (locascio2000@hotmail.com)