

WHITE TANK MT. REG. PARK BIRDWALK 10 28 23

CONDITIONS: Ideal. At 7:15 AM the temperature was 66 degrees F with clear skies and no breeze:: at 9:30 the temperature was 78 degrees, clear skies with haze(smog) to the east and a light breeze of 0-1 mph from the SW.

ROUTE: Observations were made around the Nature Center, then the group caravanned to Area 4 and walked the Black Rock long loop before returning to the Nature Center for the program on “Cryptic Birds of the Night”.



PARTICIPANTS: Jason Feig, Pam Spinella (hospitality and documentation), Linda Molinelli, Jerry Molinelli (photography) and guides Tom Locascio and Joe Ford.

COMMENTS: Last year on this walk we had 25 species. Once again, as it was last week at Cave Creek, the higher temperatures in the last two months, plus the lack of any rain to generate growth had left the area without food sources and water sources available. This was a quiet walk with few birds offering any vocals to the

air waves. Cactus Wrens and Black-throated Sparrows were the most visible groups and a couple of Loggerhead Shrikes perched atop a Saguaro. Several areas on some of the saguaros had dropped arms, again evidence for the dry conditions which limited water supplies needed to keep them healthy and avoid stem rot.

SPECIES: Gambel's Quail 10, Mourning Dove 7, Costa's Hummingbird 2, Gila Woodpecker 5, Gilded Flicker 2, Say's Phoebe 1, Loggerhead Shrike 2, Common Raven 3, Verdin 2, Rock Wren 1, Canyon Wren 1, Cactus Wren 9, Curve-billed Thrasher 4, European Starling 5, Yellow-rumped Warbler 3, Abert's Towhee 1, Black-throated Sparrow 8, House Finch 4 (18)

The eBird list can be found at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, White Tanks Regional Park 10-28-23 Checklist #S153270083,

Six bird lovers stayed for the program in the Nature Center on "Cryptic Birds of the Night" presented by Joe Ford.