



**WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK BIRD WALK 9 23 23**

**CONDITIONS:** Ideal. The walk began with observations at the Nature Center. Time 6:15 AM, temperature 76 degrees F, no breeze, cloudy to overcast, mostly stratus and stratocumulus clouds. At 8:50 AM the walk finished at Area 4. Temperature 86 degrees F, still cloudy to overcast, breeze 1-2 mph from the east. Some light sprinkles at walk conclusion (strato-nimbus)

**ROUTE:** Observations made at the Nature Center. Group caravanned to Area 4 and made observations in the parking lot area, then toured the Black Rock Long Loop.



**PARTICIPANTS:** Karen Martin (photography), Jerry Molinelli (photography), Pam Spinella (documentation and hospitality) (“great donuts”), Linda Molinelli, Joe Ford

**COMMENTS:** A very hot summer temperature wise and a very light monsoon season has left the desert very dry. This has really affected the saguaro population as numerous signs of dropped arms and fungus rot have resulted in the demise of a percentage of saguaros we observed. A few were actually blooming in an effort to make one more last effort to produce seeds. One area of Teddy-bear Cholla had 5 Cactus Wren nests within 10 feet of each other. Only the Desert Senna had blooms along with a few wilted flowers of barrel cactus. As for birds, thrashers, wrens, and shrikes ruled the air waves. Black-throated Sparrows were the most numerous of the sparrow group and a couple of Green-tailed Towhees appeared.

Five bird lovers stayed for the program in the Nature Center presented by Joe Ford entitled “Birds of the Sonoran Desert”.

**SPECIES:** Lesser Nighthawk 5, Abert’s Towhee 3, Rock Wren 6, Gila Woodpecker 3, Curve-billed Thrasher 8, Greater Roadrunner 1, Loggerhead Shrike 4, Gilded Flicker 2, Cactus Wren 10, House Finch 9, Say’s Phoebe 2, Verdin 3, Costa’s Hummingbird 2, Anna’s Hummingbird 1, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 5, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Black-throated Sparrow 15, Ladderback Woodpecker 2, Common Raven 2, Green-tailed Towhee 3, Mourning Dove 2, Canyon Wren 1, (23)

The checklist can be accessed at eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology,, White Tank Regional Park 9 23 23, #S150592622

**Ps. The vision of a Stellar Sea Eagle turned out to be just a rock simulation. Tears.**