

Let's Go Wildlife Watching

Lake Pleasant Regional Park Near Phoenix, Arizona

<http://www.communitywalk.com/wildlife#1019044fV210733.3BAJ9-112.19bV10>

Watchable Wildlife Inc. has created a wonderfully helpful website (above) to help wildlife watchers find places or animals of interest. We at Wildlife Watch are always on the lookout for places where our readers will be safe from the ricocheting bullets of hunting. Unfortunately, hunting is permitted in other parts of the larger system, but this Regional Park is hunting free.



Photo of Harris's antelope squirrel by Alan and Elaine Wilson <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

The park boasts resident deer, javelina, coyote, foxes, gray squirrel, Harris' antelope squirrel, and multiple bird species including peregrine falcon and nesting bald eagles, which in the winter and spring are main wildlife attractions. The lake's quieter coves attract a variety of migratory and wintering waterfowl, grebes, and other

water birds such as herons, egrets, cormorants, and gulls.

Flocks of American white pelicans and the occasional brown pelican (late summer) stop by the lake during migration. Common desert birds surrounding the lake include gilded flicker, Gila and ladder-backed woodpeckers, Costa's hummingbird, ash-throated and brown-crested flycatchers, verdin, black-tailed gnatcatcher, cactus and rock wrens, curve-billed thrasher, phainopepla, and black-throated sparrow. The taller and denser vegetation found in desert washes is also attractive to many migrating warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles. In addition, multiple reptiles inhabit the area, including desert tortoise, desert spiny lizard, zebra-tailed lizard, coachwhip, common kingsnake, and speckled and western diamond-backed rattlesnakes. You'd be one lucky wildlife watcher to see all the wildlife that calls this park home and it's just a short drive north from the Phoenix metropolitan area.

To learn more about this park and all it offers, contact: Maricopa County Parks at Ph: 602-506-2930; maricopacountyparks@mail.maricopa.gov