Animals Visiting the Tinneys' Yard

Late March – Early April 2017 (Photos and Story by Bob and Maxine Tinney)

The Hummingbirds

In early April, no Hummingbirds were being seen by the Tinneys, but on 7 April Maxine thought she saw a hummingbird fly from the Water Feature, and later Bob saw a hummingbird come right up to the window as if to say “Where are the Hummingbird Feeders!!!”. So, Bob made sugar water and hung out two hummingbird feeders.

A small male Calliope Hummingbird with magenta streaked gorget is among the first to drink from the feeders.

The male Black-chinned Hummingbirds has no brilliant colors on its throat unless a thin strip of iridescent purple is lit.

Subadult and adult female Anna’s Hummingbirds are a blur of motion at the feeders.

With their iridescent emerald feathers and sparkling rose-rust throats, the male Anna’s Hummingbird are more like flying jewels than birds when the light hits them just right.
A juvenile and female *Rufous Hummingbirds* are feisty to control the feeders and their territory.

In good light, male *Rufous Hummingbirds* glow like coals: bright orange on the back and belly, with a vivid iridescent-red throat.

On April 11, two *Greater Roadrunners* hunt lizards and birds in our yard (one catches a chipmunk). The crown is black with pale spots, and they have a patch of bare, blue skin behind the eye and spread feathers to sunbathing (left below).
Some days the Band-tailed Pigeons number in the 20s, other days only a few are seen.

Spotted Towhees and Mourning Doves are seen on a regular basis.

The gregarious, male Gambel's Quail stands guard while the covey gathers seeds from the ground.
A female and male Ladder-backed and female and male Hairy Woodpeckers enjoy the fruits and seeds.

The female and male Acorns Woodpeckers laugh raucously, but do not disturb the Red-naped Sapsucker.

The male Red-shafted Northern Flickers (Intergrade left) enjoy breakfast every morning (as do the females).

Bushtits, Dark-eyed Juncos, Juniper Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, and House Finches enjoy the yard feeders.
The Lesser Goldfinch 'bob' for water from the ant motes. Our first Lazuli Buntings eat at a seed tray on April 14.

The American Robins, Chipping Sparrows, and Woodhouse Scrub Jay enjoy the water feature and suet.

Coopers, Sharp-shinned and Light Red-tailed Hawks and Common Raven visit the yard to capture smaller birds, and play aerial chase and flight games.

Chipmunks, and Squirrels partake of fruits, seeds and water; while Javelina (peccaries) search for ground seeds (below).
The Mule Deer and Gray Foxes

On April 12, fourteen (14) Mule Deer does and 1st year fawns are seen to the west of our home grazing on the spring shrub growth. As it has not rained for a few weeks, they move to drink water from the bird water pans and fountain. “Flop Ear” (above right) has been the beloved, matriarchal mule deer of the group for a few years.

Over the past month, two Gray Foxes have visited the water feature for fruit sticks and tree treats. A Coyote is spotted in the yard one night, and two nights the Tinneys listen to the hoot of a Great Horned Owl. Every Day is a Gift!