

White-lined Sphinx Moth – August 24, 2018

(Photos and Story by Bob and Maxine Tinney)



While Maxine is working in the flower beds, *Hyles lineata*, also known as the **White-lined Sphinx Moth**, of the family *Sphingidae* is observed pollinating the red Salvia. They are sometimes referred to as the hummingbird moth because of their bird-like size and flight patterns.



The **White-lined Sphinx Moth** has morphed from egg to caterpillar to pupa, to the current adult stage with a wingspan of 2½ to 3½ inches. Upperside of forewing is dark olive brown while the hindwing upperside is black with a reddish pink median band. This moth may have bred and laid up to 1000 eggs on food source plants.



The moths have a long tongue (proboscis) coiled beneath head, that unfurls when they approach a plant. They dip this tongue/proboscis into the nectaries and drink the sweet fluids and are one of the most important pollinators of AZ plants.