

# Nature at the Tinneys - Animals Including Birds

*(Photos and Story by Bob and Maxine Tinney – December 2018 and January 2019)*



The playful **Chipmunks** (left) fill their cheeks with food and have similar facial features to their larger rodent cousins, the **Squirrel** (right). They have tiny upright ears, big shiny black eyes and pointy whisker-covered noses and colored tail.



**Javelina** (*Tayassu tajacu*) also known as collared peccary, are medium-sized **animals** that look similar to a wild boar. Peccaries are not members of the **rodent** family or the **pig** family. They have mainly short coarse salt and pepper colored **hair**, short legs, and a pig-like nose. The winter snow may be harsh on the Javelina, but they seem to easily procreate.



One little, two little, three little Javelinas . . . **Javelinas** have no defined breeding season so newborns are often seen in the herd year-round. The babies, called reds because of their color, are able to travel with the herd just hours after birth.



On January 2, 2019 at dusk (poor photo light) a couple of **Coyotes** try to snatch the javelina babies to the west of the Tinneys' property, but the javelina family rallies around the babies and the coyotes are deterred.





Around the New Year when the snows fell the **Mule Deer** come into the West of the Tinneys' yard.



In early January the **Mule Deer Bucks** are steeped into the Rut. Does are coming into estrus, and bucks' testosterone levels peak. Prior to and during estrus, mule deer does produce pheromones. The buck traps scent from a doe's urine (above right) in its nose and mouth, and then lip-curls. A buck may trail a doe in estrus for up to 72 hours and then mate.



A dominant **Mule Deer Buck** (10-point counting both racks) has probably mated with several of the females.





**Mule Deer** diets differ across their range, but high-quality digestible forage is selected when available. Not all plants are nutritious for mule deer. High quality forage items like young tender shoots, young shrubs, leaves of plants that are high in nutrients, succulent grasses, and forbs are selected. Also, deer eat items such as bark, buds, acorns, and bird seed.



On December 13 a female and male **Gray Fox** visit the Tinneys' water feature at early night.



A male **Gray Fox** visits one of the outdoor Christmas trees and begs the hearing of bells on Santa's sleigh.





On Christmas Day, friends looking after our home and watering the birds emailed that three Black Angus had been seen on our property. When we returned home, we found 15 manure “gifts” and smudged windows. Maxine telephoned the Prescott National Forest believing that the cattle had escaped from the leased National Forest land to the south of The Ranch, and hoping to find the rancher’s info who had leased the land. Voice messages and emails were left with the Prescott National Forest, detailing of the incident; but no one responded as yet. Personnel were on furlough due to the lapse in federal funding from the Government Shutdown. On December 30 this yard photo of the cattle was taken and The Ranch HOA Council was contacted. After a rancher’s name was secured, two cowboys on horseback came to our yard looking for the cattle, and the cattle were rounded up/removed on 1/17/19.



The **Pronghorn** is a species of artiodactyl mammal indigenous to interior west and are the fastest ungulates in North America. Both the sexes have forked horns. However, **female** horns are underdeveloped or the growth is stunted. Males have lyre-shaped horns that curve inwards whereas **females** usually have straight horns. **Male pronghorns** show black marks on the face, starting below the eyes all the way up to their nose. (Photos taken in Chino, not in our yard).



The **horns** of the **pronghorn** help make it unique: they are a cross between **horns** and **antlers**, and shed yearly.





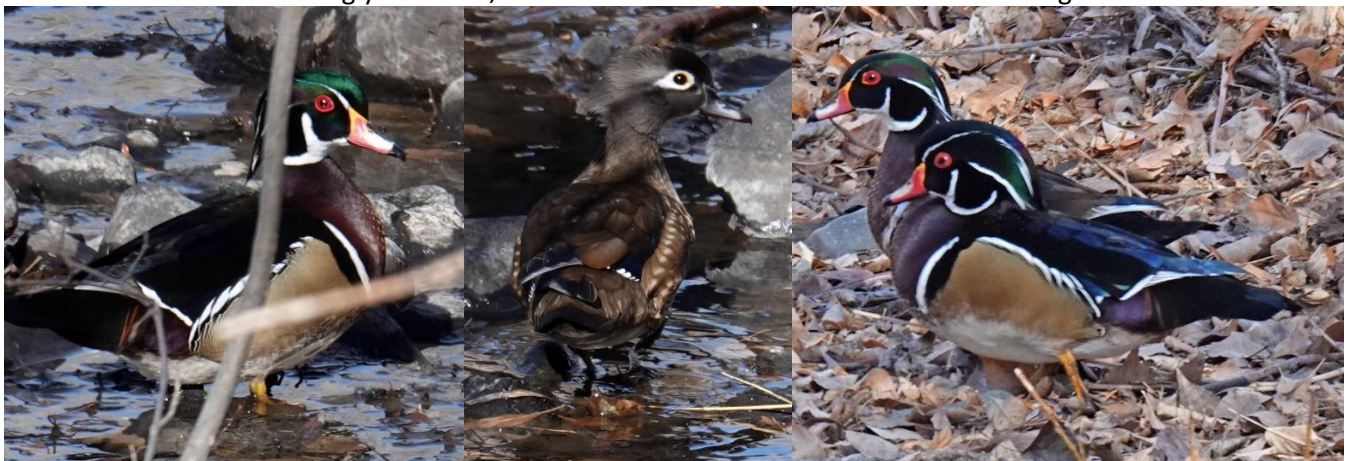
A familiar **Striped Skunk**, notorious for its unique predator-deterrent, searches for seed on the pavers and rocks.



While out on a morning drive, a **Hawk** (Rough-legged? left), **Great Blue Heron**, **Ducks**, and **American Kestrels** are seen.



About 30-40 stunningly beautiful, male and female **Wood Ducks** are viewed along Granite Creek.



Male **Wood Ducks** (left and right) are iridescent chestnut and green, with ornate patterns on nearly every feather; and the elegant female (center) have a distinctive profile and delicate white pattern around the eye.





About 5-6 inches of snow blankets the Tinneys' yard on New Year's Eve and Day.

***Birds are incredibly resourceful in the face of severe winter weather.***



As the snow storm begins, **Sparrows** and **Juncos** join together to eat on the seed trays and to keep warm in numbers.



**Juncos, Sparrows** and **Towhees** stock up on seed during the cold times on the seed blocks and feeders and suet cakes.



**Doves, Sparrows, Junco** and **Towhees** hunker down in bushes to protect themselves from wind, and even cold (it's warmer closer to the ground). **Birds** that nest in cavities, including woodpeckers, bluebirds, and chickadees, can also hide **out** in their tree holes.







One adaptation of the **Red-shafted Northern Flicker** is a **nictitating membrane** (right photo) or a third eyelid that is translucent or clear. It is used as an extra level of safety for the eye and allows the creature that has it to still see while affording its eyes an additional amount of protection such as from snow.



Bob and Maxine open water pans, clear areas of snow, and replenish seed for the birds, including **Mourning Doves**.



As the sunshine returns the birds including **American Robins** and **Towhees** are ready to again emerge, wash and feed.



Open water pans with fresh, unfrozen water are imperative for the birds' hygiene including **White-crowned Sparrows** and **Towhees**. Birds seen but no photos include **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Common Ravens**, and **Juniper Titmouse**.





The **Chipping Sparrow** is a slender, fairly long-tailed sparrow with a medium-sized bill that is a bit small for a sparrow.



**Cassin's and House Finches** and **Lesser Goldfinches** eat/drink from the various feeders and water feature.



**Gambel's Quail** are granivorous and feed on grasses, millet, and sunflower and general mixed seeds.



**Band-tailed Pigeons** and **White-breasted Nuthatches** also visit the yard.





The lineup of four male and female communal **Acorn Woodpeckers** continues at the bird bath.



The **Red-naped Sapsucker** has visited the yards several days in December to sip sap from the trees.



During the Xmas Bird Count, a **Cooper's Hawk** moves from sticks to rocks to ground to pursue smaller birds.





The **Woodhouse's Scrub Jay's** pointed bill is adept at getting at the **pine** nuts hidden between **pine** cone scales.



Along with preening and scratching, bathing is a favorite activity of **Audubon's** and **Myrtle's Yellow-rumped Warbler**.



The quintessential early bird, the **American Robins** are not that common in the Tinney's yard.





**Pink-sided and Oregon Dark-eyed Juncos** take baths in the water-feature.



**Slate-colored Dark-eye Junco** pauses in the snow and **Grey-headed Dark-eyed Junco** stops at the seed block.



The elegant **Townsend Solitaire** stops by the Tinneys to be counted and celebrate the Prescott Christmas Bird Count.





Pine Siskin, Hairy Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse and Ruby-crowned Kinglet visit the yard .



The **Spotted** and **Canyon Towhees** enjoy coming out of the bushy surroundings to find seeds.



The **Greater Roadrunner** is the most famous bird in the southwest, featured in folklore and cartoons.



A flock of about 20 **Cedar Waxwings** descend on berry-laden trees at the Gateway Mall.



# Birds of Norman, Oklahoma

*(Photos by Bob and Maxine Tinney, December 22-25, 2018)*



**Canada Geese** and **Mallards** enjoy water, grassy fields and grain.



**Red-Winged Blackbirds** gurgle their liquid songs from high tree perches.



Preening female and male **Northern Cardinals** are beautiful, long-tailed, crested songbirds.





The **Carolina Chickadee** has a black cap and throat, and the **American Goldfinch** has a conical beak and notched tail.



The **Northern Mockingbirds** mimic the calls of other birds and even frogs.



Adult and Juvenile **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Red-bellied Woodpecker** have stiff prop tails.

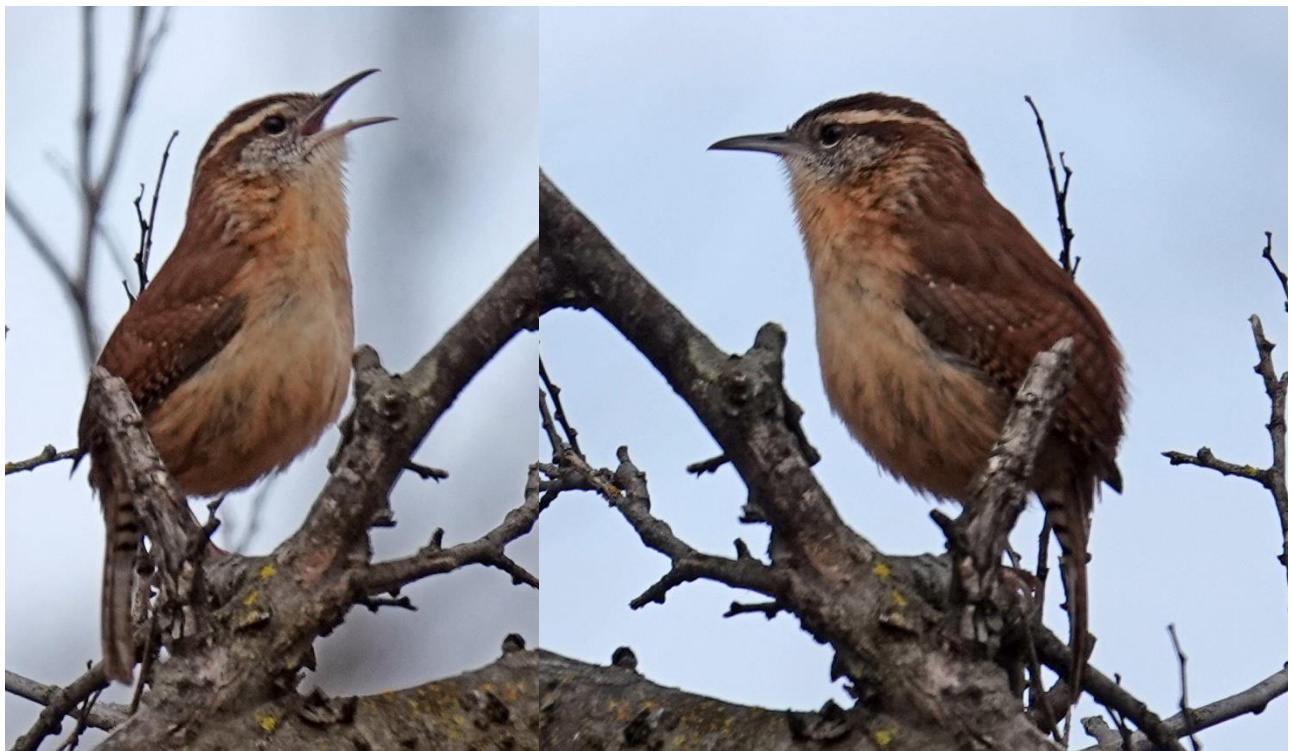




**White-throated Sparrow** and **Harris's Sparrow** feed on seeds in the winter.



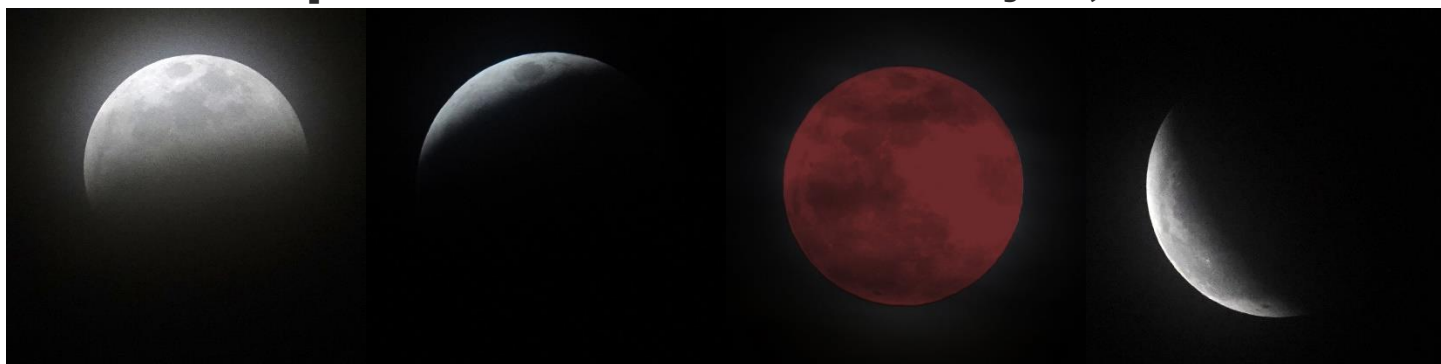
**Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Slate-colored Junco** are both residents of Oklahoma.



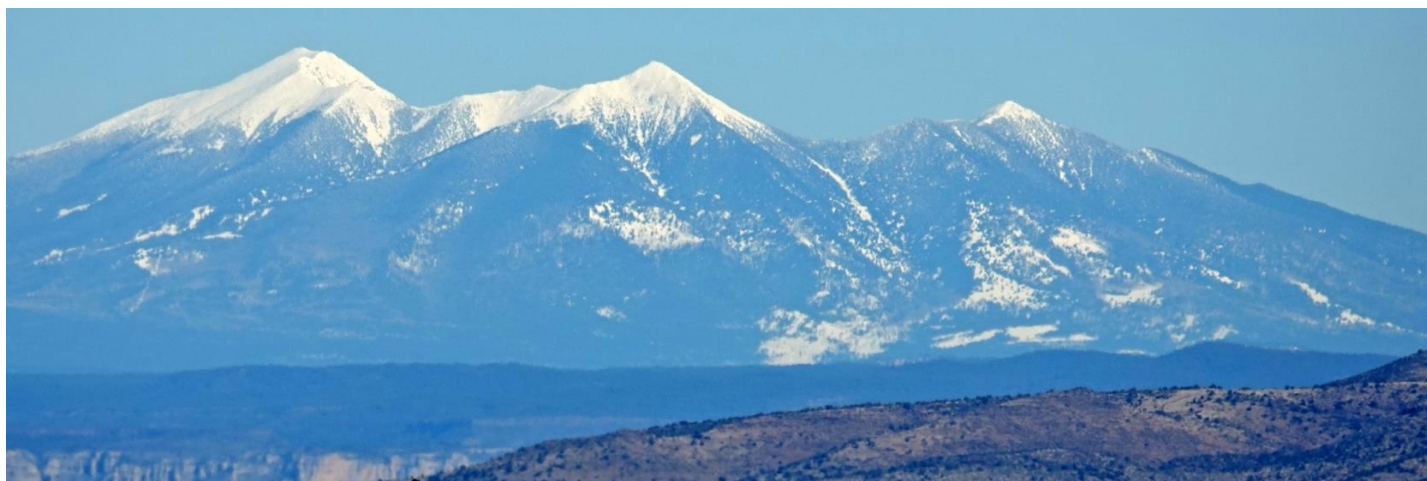
**Carolina Wren** has mottled black and white sides of the neck and displays some distinctive white dot markings.



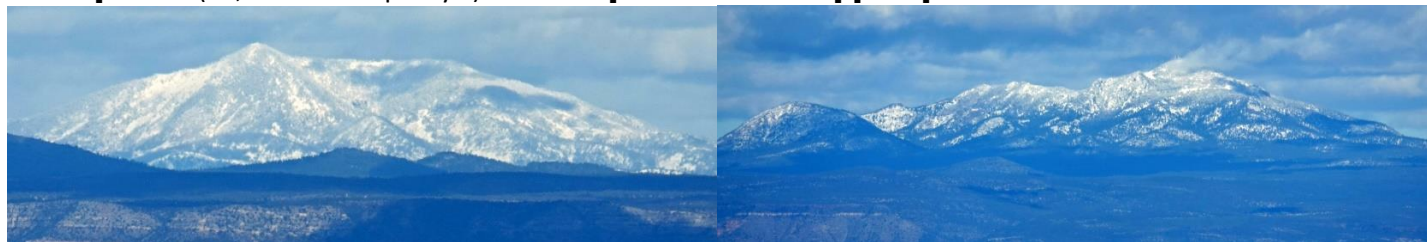
## Super Blood Wolf Moon January 20, 2019



When the earth passes between the sun and the moon and the earth's shadow sweeps over the lunar surface (photos 1 and 2) to give it a reddish tinge or "**Blood Moon**" (photo 3) with the atmosphere filtering out the blue light. It coincides with 2019's first full moon — a "**Wolf Moon**" in the folklore tradition because it occurs at a time of year when wolves howl outside villages — and comes when the moon is slightly bigger and brighter "**Supermoon**" because it's at the closest point to Earth in its elliptical orbit. The eclipse began about 8:30 p.m. Arizona time when the Earth's shadow just starts to cross the Lunar surface. The **full eclipse** occurs about 9:40 p.m. and **Totality (Super Blood Wolf Moon)** occurs when the sun, moon, and Earth are perfectly aligned about 10:12 p.m., and the Eclipse then begins to recede (photo 4).



**Six peaks** (12,633 ft. Humphrey's) **make up the snow-capped peaks of San Francisco Peaks**



**Kendrick Peak** (10,425 ft.) **and Bill Williams Peaks** (named after an 1800's scout, guide and mountain man)



**Clouds gather around Glassford Hill and the Granite Dells**

*(Photos taken from the Tinneys' Home)*

***Wishing you a Blessed and Happy 2019! Bob and Maxine Tinney***