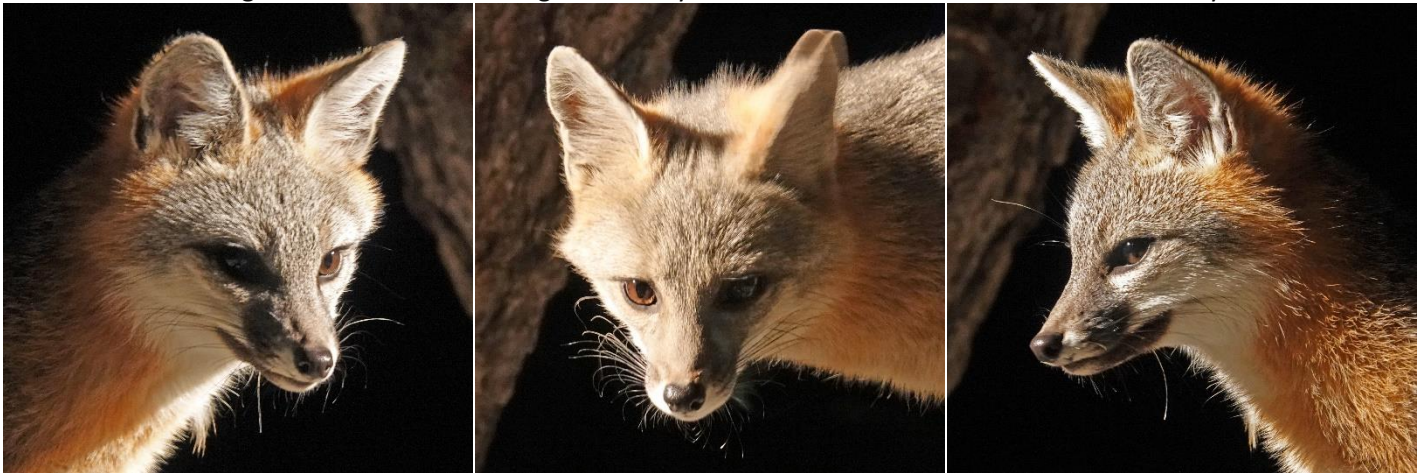


Recent Animals at the Tinneys

March-April 2018 – Story and Photos by Bob and Maxine Tinney



One to three **Gray Foxes** (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) visit the Tinneys' yard after dark and have a unique ability not shared with other wild canines: they can climb trees, using their sharp, stout, slightly curved claws, usually to seek refuge or in search of roosting birds. They ascend headfirst and descend the same way.



The **Gray Fox's** color is silver-gray on its back and face, has beautiful brown eyes and reddish highlights on neck and legs and a long bushy tail with a black tip and black stripe along the top.



Small mammals (such as **Rabbits**, **Squirrels**, **Chipmunks**, and mice) eggs, fruit, birds, insects, nuts, berries, and lizards are some of a fox's food choices, but if a **Skunk** is bothered it might scent at the foxes.



The **Javelina** and **Mule Deer** visit the yard to drink water, snack on the bushes, sneak seed from the bird feeders, and will even steal the oranges placed on sticks for the migratory birds.



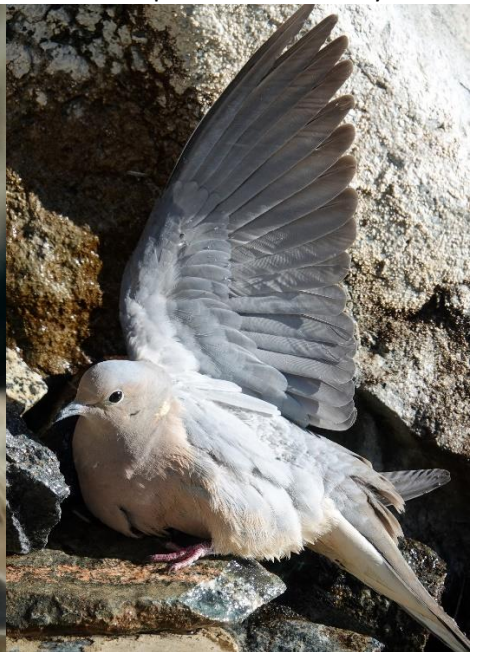
The adult **Cooper's Hawk** is a medium-sized diurnal bird of prey of the family Accipitridae and visits the yard regularly often seizing smaller birds at feeders or running smaller birds into the windows to possibly grab a tasty meal.



The juvenile **Sharp-shinned Hawk** will dive right into the Manzanita bushes to catch a small bird.



The male and female **Gambel's Quail** drink from a water pan, while the **Common Raven** perches in a nearby tree.



The **Band-tailed Pigeon** awaits its turn, while a **Mourning Dove** enjoys bathing in the water feature.



In 2010 the remains of the newfound species, *Xixianykus zhangj*, were found by a local farmer in China's Henan Province. Nicknamed the roadrunner, the tiny dinosaur is one of the smallest and leggiest Alvarezsaurs and roamed the Earth about 85-million years ago. Perhaps a remote descendant is our modern **Greater Roadrunner** (*Geococcyx californianus*) with a threatening display of its crest revealing a bright orange-red and blue patch of skin behind the eye.



The male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** has a velvety black throat with a thin, iridescent purple base in reflective light, while the female has a pale throat, and both partake of flower nectar, small insects/spiders, and sugar water.



The male and female **Anna's Hummingbirds** have iridescent emerald feathers and sparkling rose-pink throats, although the female's patch is not so ostentatious as the male's red head and throat.



The male **Calliope Hummingbird** has magenta rays bursting from the throat, while the male **Rufous Hummingbird** glows like coals: rusty-orange on the back and belly, with a vivid iridescent-red throat.

The Woodpeckers



Reminiscent of a troupe of wide-eyed clowns, four **Acorn Woodpeckers** (center) vie for the ant mote to get drinks of water. Although known for storing acorns, they will just as eagerly raid the suet cakes and seed blocks.



Male and female **Hairy Woodpeckers** forage along tree branches and seed feeders.



Male and female **Ladder-backed Woodpeckers** partake of fruits, suet, and sweet water from hummingbird feeders.



The **Red-shafted Northern Flicker** (left) and the hybridized **Intergrade** (right), which has the usual red malars of the Red Shafted (but Intergrade also has a red-nape like the Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker) enjoy eating ants and beetles.



A small **Empidonax Flycatcher** visits the yard in early April looking for a drink in the waterfeature.



The dusty blue with gray-brown and white **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays** find irresistible peanuts which Bob disperses.



The **White-breasted Nuthatches** are active, agile little songbirds with an appetite for insects and large, meaty seeds. The quintessential early bird, an **American Robin** enjoys an early morning bath in the water feature. The **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** flitters down the branches on its way to the water feature.



The flashy black, white, yellow, and cinnamon male and the less flamboyant female **Black-headed Grosbeaks** sing from perches and feed effortlessly on fruits, seeds and suet.





The ground-feeding **Canyon, Green-tailed** (above), and **Spotted** (below) **Towhees** are joined by a lovely **Lazuli Bunting**.



Small passerine birds including the **Lark, White-crowned, and Chipping Sparrows** stop by the Tinneys' yard.



The Finch Family includes female, juvenile, and male Cassin's Finches (above) and female and male House Finches and female and male Goldfinches (below).



The beautiful, migrating **Orioles** and **Tanagers** are anxiously awaited to the Tinneys' yard.