A pale adult **Western Tanager** has obvious pale wings bar (left) and a male adult breeding **Western Tanager** displays an orange-red head, brilliant yellow body, and coal-black wings, back and tail (right and below).

**Western Tanagers** spend most of their time quietly, methodically plucking food from twigs, branches, flowers, and foliage in the upper portions of forest trees and shrubs. They also scan for insects, perching motionless except for side-to-side movements of the head before sallying out flycatcher-fashion to nab prey on the wing.
The female **Western Tanager** is yellowish all over with darker back and two wing bars.

Two Western Tanagers quench their thirst in the water feature and splash a little bathing water.

Early stages of courtship may involve the red-headed male chasing a female among the trees.
The male breeding **Lazuli Bunting** is named for the gemstone lapis lazuli with a brilliant blue head, a pumpkin-colored breast and a white belly with white wing bars. Non-breeding males' heads (below) are mottled blue and tan.

Female and immature **Lazuli Bunting** are grayish brown with an unstreaked pale cinnamon or tan breast.
The agile adult breeding male **Bullock’s Oriole** is bright orange with a black back and white wing patch (left/center) while the 1st year male is more yellowish (right). Males have a black eyeline and are differentiated by the varying black throat patch. Bullock’s Orioles feed in the slender branches of trees and shrubs, catching caterpillars and also feeding on nectar from yard flowers or often will raid the hummingbird feeders for sweet water.

The slim/sturdy/yellow female **Bullock’s Oriole** with sharp beak (above) has no throat patch and grayish back.

Oriole feeders, homemade fruit sticks and grape jelly will attract these birds to your back yard during breeding season.
Male and female adult and subadult Bullock’s Orioles join together at the feeders to partake of the fruitful delights. Honeybees enjoy the grapes as well (center above). It is said that before eating honeybees, the Bullock’s Oriole extracts and drops the stinger with its beak.
The flashy black, white, yellow, and cinnamon male **Black-headed Grosbeaks** can sometimes be feisty and territorial.

While a **Black-headed Grosbeak** moves into the orange eating area of **Bullock’s Oriole**, there is a slight confrontation.

After the **Bullock’s Oriole** scolds and intimidates the **Black-headed Grosbeak**, the Grosbeak seeks another fruit stick.
Female Scott’s Oriole

The rich, melodious whistles of the Scott’s Oriole carry well across the slopes of the western foothills and valleys where it spends the summer. This bird occupies a variety of southwestern habitats, from dense oak woods of the lower canyons to open grassland with scattered yuccas, often placing its nest in a yucca and using the long fibers of this plant in nest construction.

The female Scott’s Oriole is conspicuous dull-yellow to olive-green plumage and has a drab, grayish head and dusky mottled back. Males display delayed plumage maturation: individuals in their first potential breeding season (yearlings) are intermediate between females and adult males (with black head and breast in appearance).
A possible juvenile and subadult male **Bullock’s Oriole** (left/center) and **Hooded Oriole** (right) with smudgy eye front and speckled throat markings full yellow breast through to the scruffy long, graduated tail.

**Black-headed Grosbeaks** are hefty songbirds with very large bills that are conical and thick with short, thick necks.
Other Birds and Animals

The adult and sub-adult Cooper’s Hawks continue to ravage the yard for little birds, driving them into the windows.

A lucky Hummingbird survives the window hit, but the lovely little MacGillivray’s Warbler was not so fortunate.
Tips for Identifying Hummingbirds

1) **Geographical Location** is important in knowing what Hummingbirds are likely to be seen and reference book will help. There are more than 325 unique species of Hummingbirds in the world. For Yavapai County there are basically six species of Hummingbirds: Anna’s, Costa’s, Black-chinned, Calliope, Broad-tailed, and Rufous, but other species will occasionally be vagrants/strays to the area.

2) **Appearance:** All widespread hummingbird species are sexually dimorphic, meaning that adult males and females look different from one another. Observe your mystery hummingbird and gather a general impression of its overall size and shape and anatomy. Observe bill color, shape (straight or curved) and length, Throat color and markings, and eye rings and brows. Observe plumage coloration, wing shape, tail shape, color and position, spots or bands and lighting.

3) **Behavior** while feeding, aggression, head and tail movement and sounds, songs and calls they make. Enjoy Them!
The male *Red-shafted Northern Flicker* emerges from his 4:00 afternoon water-feature bath and flies in a smooth rising and falling motion as it alternates periods of flapping with gliding to a nearby tree to begin his self-maintenance and preening processes (left). He has a powerful, stocky build, a slim, rounded head, a long orange-red tail that tapers to black points, and a robust, downward-curved bill. He is richly patterned with warm grayish brown with barred upperparts, spotted underparts and black crescent mark on his upper breast.

His bright red malars and red colors visible on the undersurface of the wings are flashed at potential mates or rivals during courtship and territorial defense, so each feather must be perfectly groomed into position using his beak. Preening of feathers are critical to a bird's survival—contributing as they do to insulation, waterproofing and aerodynamic flight — birds spend a great deal of time maintaining them. Many species have a preen or uropygial gland, which opens above the base of the tail feathers and secretes a substance containing fatty acids, water, and waxes. The bird gathers the substance on its bill and applies it to its feathers (above). The Red-shafted Northern Flicker often mates for life and is ready for attracting its mate and begin the courtship again (top right).
A **White-winged Dove** eats seeds from a tray, while the Gambel’s Quail and **Mourning Dove** get drinks of water.

**Green-tailed, Spotted and Canyon Towhees** garner seeds from the ground.

Male and female **Ladder-backed, Acorn** and male **Hairy Woodpeckers** glean for insects and seeds.

While in the yard, a **Greater Roadrunner** snatches a lizard which lumps in its throat and it has to swallow hard!

**A Juniper Titmouse, Chipmunks, Squirrels, and Rabbits** enjoy the fruits, greens, and seeds in the yard.
About 6:00 in the morning of May 7, one of our neighbors sees a Mountain Lion from his home.

On May 12 about 10:00 a.m., Bob observes a Bobcat with possibly a squirrel in its mouth.

The Collared Peccary, or Javelina, evolved in South America and migrated north, only recently arriving in Arizona. Javelina bones are not found in Arizona archaeological sites and early settlers made infrequent references to their occurrence. The night of May 4 a Javelina family enters the yard with two new tiny pink baby Javelina, weighing about a pound at birth, with their Mom and family. A flashlight is used thru the window to see them and only got this one photo!

The Mule Deer continue to visit the Tinneys’ yard (above) for water and snitch migrating birds’ fruit treats (below).

The Gray Foxes are beautiful, inquisitive mammals and in 2017 NO foxes were reported to have rabies in Yavapai Co.

Remember: The Number One Gift to the animals is to provide water!