

Nature at the Tinneys

May 13 - August 18, 2018 *(Photos and Story by Bob and Maxine Tinney, The Ranch at Prescott)*



Sunrise, sunset. Sunrise, sunset, Swiftly flow the days.



Monsoon Season begins on June 15 and ends on September 30, but the storms peak between mid-July and mid-August.



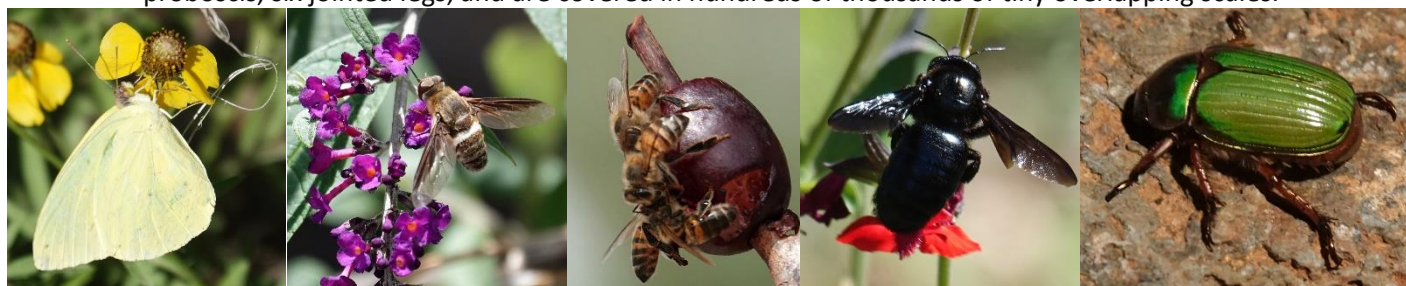
On average, most of **Arizona** receives about half of its annual rainfall during the **Monsoon Season**.



Arizona designated the **Two-tailed Swallowtail Butterfly** (*Papilio multicaudata*) as the official state butterfly in 2001.



Swallowtails have two different types of eyes (single and compound), one pair of segmented antennae, a siphoning proboscis, six jointed legs, and are covered in hundreds of thousands of tiny overlapping scales.



Mimosa Butterfly, Bees, Longhorn Bee, and Green June Beetle



Seedlings turn overnight to sunflowers, Blossoming even as we gaze.



A long-fingered **Turkey Vulture** with red head circles overhead, while a juvenile **Cooper's Hawk** visit the yard to bathe and scare other birds from the yard.



An adult **Cooper's Hawk** with red eye and reddish barring on the underparts drinks from a water pan, not seeing the plump, chestnut-sided **Gambel's Quail** secluded at the water feature.



The blue-ringed-eyed **Mourning** and **White Wing Doves** drink from the water feature and dine in the seed trays.



About forty soft blue-gray and purplish-gray, **Band-tailed Pigeons** fly agilely to the Tinneys' trees, ground and feeders.



Adult **Band-tailed Pigeons** have a white crescent on the back of the neck (left) while immatures have no crescent (right).



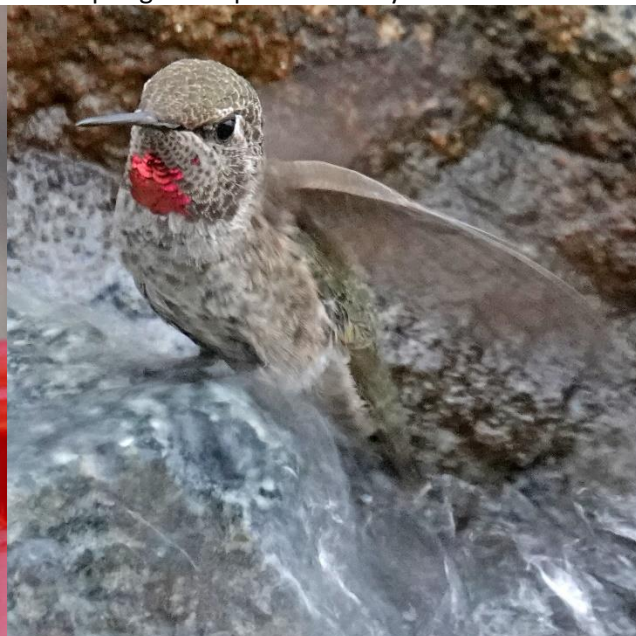
Band-tails frequent mineral springs where available, but in our yard, they siphon drinks from the water pans.



A bird born to run, the **Greater Roadrunner** can outrace prey/lizards, kill rattlesnakes, and thrive in harsh landscapes.



The feisty **Rufous Hummingbirds** (left) are relentless attackers attempting to keep others away from the feeders.



The male, female and juvenile **Anna's Hummingbirds** are native to the west coast of North America, and were named after Anna Masséna, Duchess of Rivoli and are common Hummingbirds to our yard.



A sweet, little **Black-chinned Hummingbird** (above) takes a fall against the house, but soon recovers and flies away.





Acorn Woodpeckers (above) are such unusual birds with such complicated social behavior that they have multiple breeding males and females, and all of a group's breeding females lay their eggs (destroying other eggs) in a single nest. They live in family groups of up to a dozen or more, and cooperate in raising young and gathering/storing/guarding food.



Incubation lasts about 11-12 days for the **Hairy Woodpecker** and the young leave the nest in about 28-30 days.



The **Ladder-backed Woodpecker** (left, center) and the **Red-Shafted Northern Flicker** (right) are attentive to their young.



The **Woodhouse Scrub Jay** with a blue /gray back, a whitish throat and grayish belly enjoys bathing and fluffing.



An impatient adult tries to teach the scruffy juvenile **Woodhouse Scrub Jay** how to find some food sources.



The family of **Common Ravens** always seem to be making a rackety 'brronk'.
The juvenile Common Raven has a short tail, pink on the gape, and violet-blue eyes.



Juniper Titmice grab seeds from the seed blocks and fly up to tree branches to crack and eat the seeds.



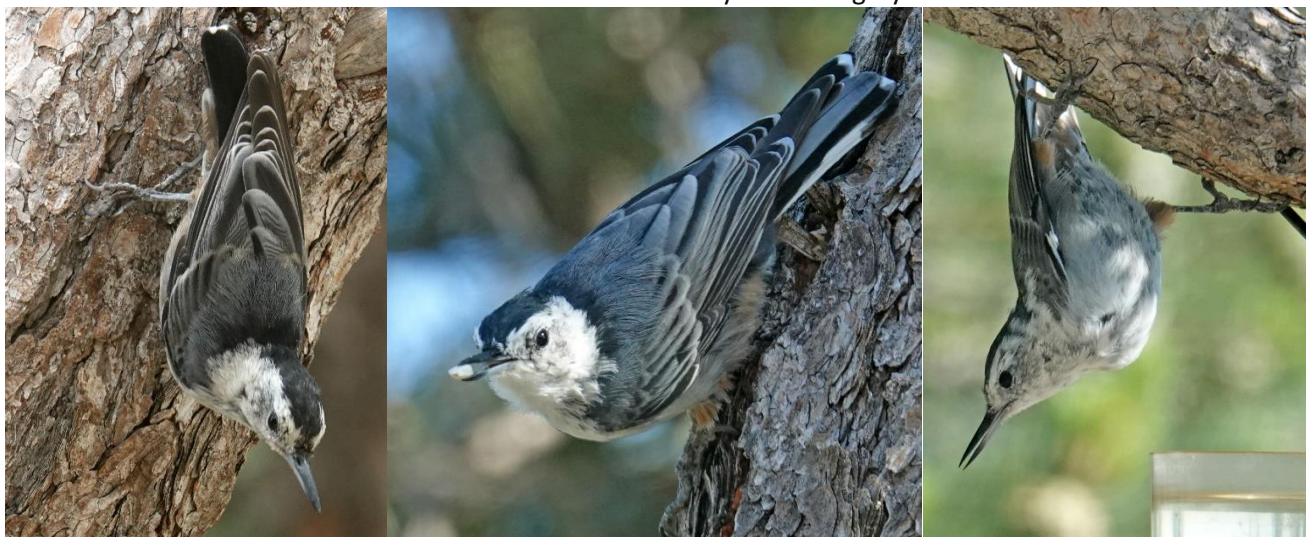
The **Bridled Titmouse** (left) is one of the most common birds of all seasons.

Bushtits (left center) are sprightly, social songbirds that twitter as they fly between seed blocks and suet cakes.

Two **Black-throated Gray Warblers** (above right) are striking, yet monochrome warblers that wear only a tiny spot of yellow just above and in front of the eye.



Townsend's Warblers eat insects and feed extensively on the sugary excretions of scale insects.



Readily attracted to bird feeders for sunflower seeds and suet, the **White-breasted Nuthatch** spends much of its time up-side-down industriously carrying seeds away to hide them in crevices of tree bark.

Birds seen, not photographed, include **Mountain Chickadee**, **Flycatcher**, **Bluebird**, **Phainopepla**, and **Lazuli Bunting**.



The **Crissal Thrasher** forages almost entirely on the ground under dense brush; finds much of its food by digging in the soil or among debris with its curved bill, but sometimes it emerges for a drink of water, bath, and raiding the suet cakes.



Adult male **Black-headed Grosbeaks** have rich orange-cinammon breasts with black heads . . . and love to eat grapes.



Female and immature **Black-headed Grosbeaks** have streaked heads and warm, buffy orange breasts with streaking.



The sweet song of the **Grosbeak** carols down from the treetops, and the insistent whining whistle of the young begging for food is also often heard.



Adult **Canyon** and juvenile **Spotted Towhees** are seen drinking and bathing at the water pans.



The **Spotted Towhee** is a large striking sparrow with warm rufous flanks blending with the surrounding vegetation.



The **Green-tailed Towhee** shows off with deep olive lightening to yellow-green on the edges of the wings and tail.



A male breeding **Black-chinned Sparrow** and **Chipping Sparrow** bathe after bouncing around the brushy scrublands.



Late May birds include male and juvenile **Bullock's Orioles** which are nimble canopy and fruit bowl gleaners.



A male **Western Tanager** wants to be a part of the action as he peers over a female **Bullock's Oriole** hogging the fruit and jelly area, while a female **Scot's Oriole** enjoys grapes while hanging up-side-down.



A male **Western Tanager** gets his turn to eat jelly while a male and female **Bullock's Oriole** partake of the fresh fruits.



A red-headed male and duller female **Western Tanagers** imbibe the tasty grape jelly on the oriole feeders.



A nonbreeding male, female, breeding male, and pale female **Western Tanagers** show off their distinctive patterns, varying colors and nature of this beautiful species.



On August 12 a hatch year (note underbelly marbling) **Summer Tanager** briefly visits the Tinneys' yard.



Jabbering clouds of bright yellow males with black caps, duller females/juveniles **Lesser Goldfinches** gather at feeders.



The **Lesser Goldfinches** are often found in the flower beds imbibing seeds from sage, Mexican Hat flowers and grasses.



The adaptable, 'cheery-voice' male **House Finches**, one in water and another with injured beak and eye.

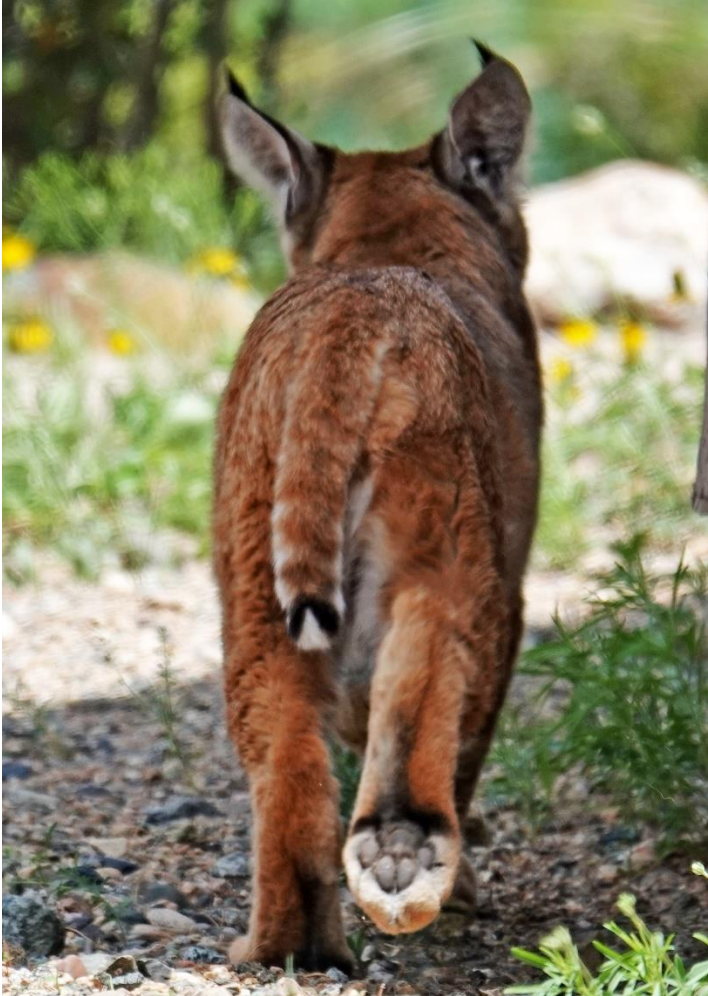


Almost all of the **House Finches** diet is vegetable matter including weed and flower seeds, buds and berries.



Possible Juveniles; **House Finches**, and perhaps a **Pine Sisken**.

Bobcat Visit June 26, 2018



June 26, 2018, while Bob was cleaning debris from the eavestroughs, a **Bobcat** (*Lynx rufus*) visits the Tinneys' yard.



Cottontail Rabbit drinking water, **Chipmunk** seeking seed, **Squirrel** shows off his home and seeds in mouth.



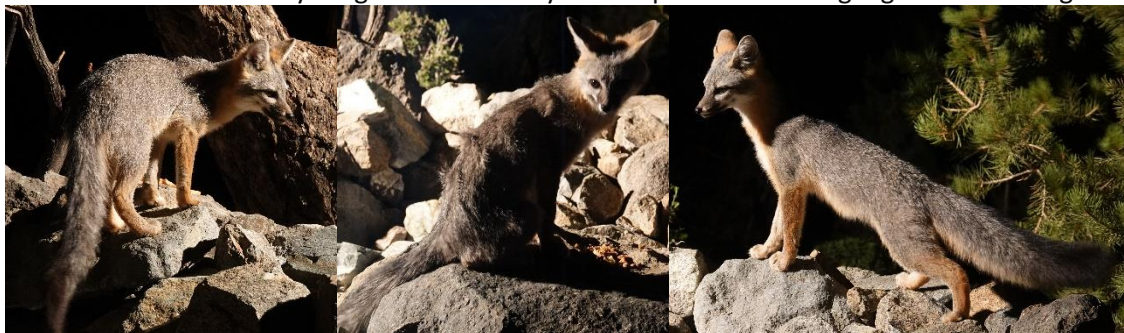
In early May a mother **Javelina** gives birth to two babies, and in August she occasionally brings them into the yard.



The black masked **Raccoon** and the **Skunk** have opportunistic, omnivorous, nocturnal natures.



The **Gray Fox** is normally a solitary hunter, but in May 2018 three foxes visit together in our yard, which we believe were a young fox escorted by its two parents teaching nighttime hunting skills.



A large part of the **Gray Fox's** diet is made up of small mammals like mice, voles and cottontail rabbits. It also eats birds; insects; and plants like corn, apples, nuts, berries and grass.



The male **Mule Deer** are currently in velvet and are bifurcated, which means they branch . . . velvet will be shed in Fall.



In summer some of the female **Mule Deer** will sneak bird seed and fruit . . . and give secured birth to their fawns.

First Mule Deer Fawn of 2018 – August 18



On August 8 Bob and Maxine enjoy a Porkchop lunch on the north Patio about 1:30 p.m., and Maxine goes in the house to get apple pie for dessert, when the patio door opens and Bob says “Mule Deer doe drinking at the water pan with new fawn.” Mule Deer females usually give birth to two fawns, unless it is their first time to have a baby and only give birth to one fawn, as is probably the case here. Every fawn has a unique set of spots, even twins.



The fawn has magical eyes (natural photos, not photoshopped), is full of life, and enjoys scurrying about the yard. Since 2005 the earliest the Tinneys have seen fawns is July 23 in 2006, but generally in August and September.

Fawns are born scent-free and have white camouflage spots which protect them from predators.

“Blessings come to those who are prepared to receive them.” Quote by Walt Anderson