

# Nature at the Tinneys

(August-mid-September 2019 – Photos and yard maintenance by Bob and Maxine Tinney)

## THE MULE DEER FAWNS



During August two sets of Mule Deer Fawns with unique sets of spots, are captured in a photo together.



The Fawns stay close to one another and their Moms and will be weaned by October or November.



The young Fawns eyes almost have a blue cast possibly caused by surrounding light reflecting.  
Adult Mule Deer eyes appear brown with horizontal pupils.



The sign reads "This place is for the birds", but the beautiful Mule Deer Fawns are always welcome!



The Tinneys are so blessed to have does and fawns visit our yard, and we try to keep the water pans filled for them.



Six fawns have been in the yard at one time, but believe there were at least 8 fawns born this Summer on State Land.

## OTHER YARD ANIMALS



A Cottontail Rabbit, Chipmunks, Mouse, and Gopher Snakes continue to visit the yard.



The Rock Squirrels will dine on the bird seed and grapes.



A young Gray Fox, perhaps one of the kit foxes from earlier, visits the water feature at night, along with a Skunk.



Javelina and Raccoons occasionally stop by at night searching for some bird seed, a drink, and a bath.

**2019    AUGUST    FIREY    MONSOONAL    SUNSETS**



## 2019 SHERIDAN FIRE AND SMOKE AUG - SEPT



The **Sheridan Fire** is a lightning-caused fire being monitored as it burns naturally across the landscape during August. This fire is being allowed to play its natural role within the fire-adapted ecosystem. Smoke as seen from the Tinneys.



During August & September, the fire continues to move steadily across the landscape burning more than 22,000 acres in a remote and rural area south of the Camp Wood Road, and northwest of Willow Spring in the Sheridan Mountain area.



On August 21 (left), the winds are more eastwardly making for a smoky sunset and is burning well into mid-September. On September 13 (right), with the Sheridan Fire still burning, the smoke from the **Whiskey Fire** South of Flagstaff reaches the Prescott area about 40 miles away.

# BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS



The hindwing of the **Pipevine Swallowtail** has orange spots on an iridescent blue field.



The **Two-tailed Swallowtail** is a wonderful addition to the Tinneys' Butterfly Bushes.



The humming-bird like White-lined **Sphinx Moth** uses its Proboscis to sip nectar from the red Salvia flowers.

# AROUND THE TINNEYS' YARD



The Trarantula Wasps, Rhinocerus Beetles, and Bees also make themselves a place with the plants and yard.



A small **Tarantula**, **Onate Tree Lizard** and blue-tailed **Striped Whiptail** venture forth on the rocks.



The **Prickly Pear's** tunas are beautiful this year and ready for many prickly uses.



Prescott Valley Monsoon Rainbow, the full **Sturgeon Moon** on August 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> September **Harvest Moon**.

## PINPYON PINE IPS BEETLES



Two of Tinney's Pinyon Pines were dying due to infestation by the ¼-1/8-inch male **pinyon pine ips beetles** which bore holes, drill cavities, release pheromones that attract female, mate, females lay eggs, etc. "Pitch and resins" readily flow from the various attack sites and lessens the tree's defenses. An arborist came on August 13 and the two trees were downed, removed, shredded and area cleaned by Jonny's Tree Service on September 4<sup>th</sup>.



## THE HUMMINGBIRDS



Two male **Anna Hummingbirds** (*Calypte anna*) with reflective iridescent red throats were named after Anna Massena, Duchess of Rivoli.



A female and possible juvenile **Anna's Hummingbird** with white over eye and red central throat patch. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is claimed that the Anna's bred only in Baja and southern California.



Male (left), female (right) and juvenile (below left) **Black-chinned Hummingbirds'** (*Archilochus alexandri*) tongues have two grooves; nectar moves through these via capillary action, and the birds retract the tongues at a rate of about 13-17 licks per second, and squeezes the nectar into the mouth.



A possible big-headed male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus platycercus* - right) with white line from chin to eye-ring to neck, but its throat feathers, normally magenta, are not reflecting.



Three possible juvenile **Rufous Hummingbirds** (*Selasphorus rufus*) will make one of the longest migratory journeys of any bird in the world, as measured by body size. At just over 3 inches, it covers a roughly 3,900-mile movement (one-way) from Alaska to Mexico.

## MIGRATING ACCIDENTAL BIRDS



A **Yellow Budgerigar Parakeet** (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) visits the yard periodically from 4-8 August. The Tinney's put feelers out for the escapee's owner, but no luck and after 5 days the bird left for good.



Two juvenile **Black-Throated Gray Warbler** (*Dendroica nigrescens*) pluck insects from the trees.



The bright **Yellow Warbler** (*Dendroica petechia*) eats mostly insects that they pick from foliage or capture on short flights or while hovering to reach leaves.



The **Plumbeous Vireo** (*Vireo plumbeus* left) has a unique eye-ring, white wing bars and lacks yellow tones. The **Warbling Vireo** (*Vireo gilvus* right) sings a fast up-and-down, rollicking, "warbling" song.



The female with black dot on bib and immature **Hermit Warblers** have yellow faces with beady, black eyes.



The female **Townsend's Warblers** with dark ear-patch/yellow throats, pluck insect and larvae from conifer trees.

## BUSHTIT AND SPARROWS



**Bushtits** (left) visit the seed blocks. The female **Black-chinned Sparrows** (right) are found in scrubland/brushy hillsides.



The rusty and black/white crowns and pink/orange bills differentiates the **Chipping** and **White-Crowned Sparrows**.



The adult (left) and juvenile (right) **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** come to water feature to bathe and seek seed in the yard.



The agile **White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis*) creeps along the tree trunk upside down with an appetite for insects. The red-eyed, ragged-crested, female **Phainopepla** (*Phainopepla nitens*) in its "silky robe" is a flycatcher.



The conspicuous male **Lazuli Buntings** (*Passerina amoena*) flash the blue of the lapis gemstone with pumpkin-colored breasts and white bellies, while the plainer creamy/brown juveniles and females (center/right) are far more elusive.



The **Juniper Titmouse** enjoys bird seeds, and the **Bridled Titmouse** (right) recovers from a window bonk.

## JUVENILE WOODPECKERS



In August, the juvenile **Red-shafted Northern Flicker** has left the nest and colors are duller, plumage is softer and looser, than its parents, especially in the bib area.



The dark eyes of the young male **Acorn Woodpeckers** (*Melanerpes formicivorus* - left) have turned sky blue (next) and will eventually become white eyes like the adult males (right). They also grab pine nuts to store in granaries.



The Juvenile **Hairy Woodpeckers** (*Dryobates villosus*) have small red patches on the front of their foreheads, but as they mature the red will recede to the back of the crown or go away for females.



The **Turkey Vultures** have large wings with “fingers” at the tips and have an exceptional sense of smell for carrion.



A **White-winged Dove** (*Zenaidura macroura* - left) has an extended crescent along the wing when perched (left).  
The intelligent and remarkable **Common Ravens** and **Cooper's Hawks** are scavengers and predators.



The graceful, slender-tailed **Mourning Dove** cools off in the bubbling water feature on a warm afternoon.



The all-juvenile **Band-tailed Pigeons** lack the crescent collar on the hindneck unlike the adults.

## BULLOCK'S ORIOLES



The beautiful, sturdy and slim yellowish-orange adult female **Bullock's Orioles** have sharply pointed beaks.



The agile juvenile females are pale yellow and light gray with white bellies and enjoy nectar and fruits.



Another juvenile **Bullock's Oriole** daintily enjoys Bob's refreshing grapes.



A first-year male **Bullock's Oriole** with black stripe on throat also visits the water pans for a bath and a drink.



Eighteen (18) **Lesser Goldfinches** love the thistle seed feeders (left photo, one side of feeder). A female and male enjoy seeds (left center) and a juvenile (right center) is being fed by its father (fourth photo).



The female and immature **House Finches** are gray/brown overall with blurry streaks, while the adult males have red eyebrow and throat. The more carotenoids in their food the brighter red they become.



The **Spotted Towhee** is a large sparrow; males have a black head while females are more brownish, and the juveniles (second photo) is just getting its orangish sides.



The reddish under-tailed **Crissal Thrasher** drinks water with its long down-turned bill. The **Green-tailed Towhee** has a green tail, gray head, white throat, and reddish cap,



As mentioned in Eric Moore's *Courier* article on September 12, the **Woodpeckers** and the **Woodhouse Scrub-Jays** are busy extracting the pine nuts from the abundant cones on the Pinyon Pine trees.



The **Woodhouse's Scrub Jays** are animated birds that move about in bold hops and lunges from limb to limb.

# GREATER ROADRUNNER VERSES WOODHOUSE'S SCRUB-JAY



A clacking **Greater Roadrunner** and a squawking **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** begin a confrontation and rough squabble.



The quicker **Greater Roadrunner** grabs the **Scrub Jay** with its beak, giving the Jay a good shake, then slams it down.



The **Roadrunner** uses its strong legs and sharp curved claws, then using its beak, inflicts deadly damage to the **Scrub-Jay**.



And the **Winner** is the **Greater Roadrunner**, which takes a victory lap! **BEEP! BEEP!**

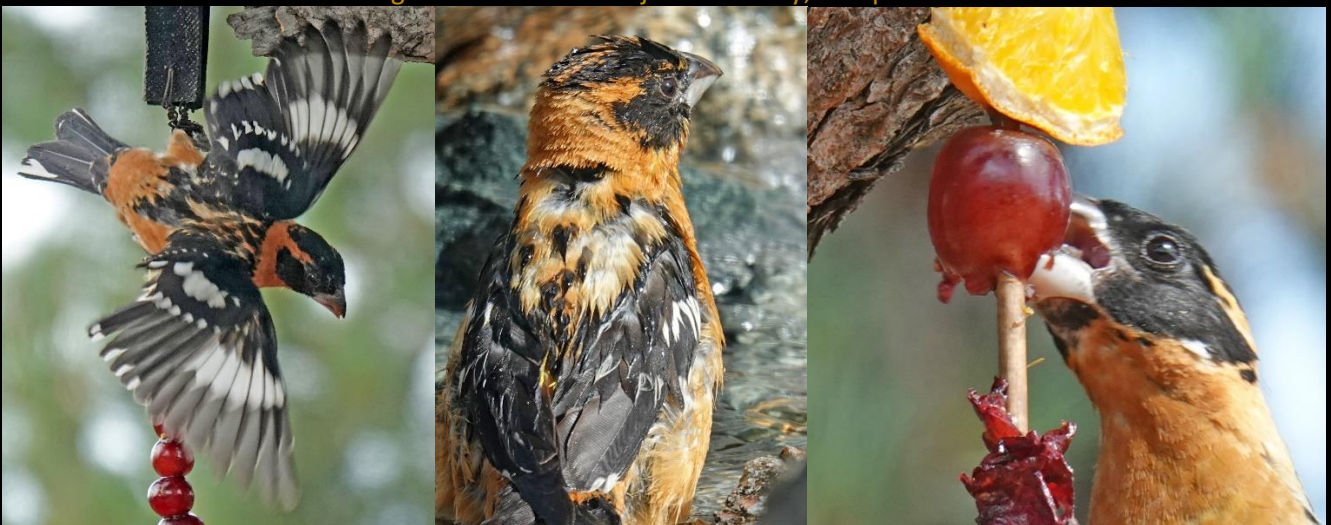
# GOODBYE BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS



In early August the juvenile **Black-headed Grosbeaks** depend on their parents until they learn about the fruit & feeders.



The colorations and markings of the female and juveniles vary, except for the black and white heads.



Male Black-headed Grosbeak (above) enjoy the grape sticks as do the juveniles, males, and females (below).



Breeding season is over and each day of fall brings a few less Grosbeak as they migrate to Mexico as winter nears.

# GROWING GAMBEL'S QUAIL



The adult male (above left) leads the growing **Gambel's Quail** Covey (below) into yard for seed and water.



## ARRIVAL OF FALL



The Mule Deer Bucks are in velvet, which will be shed by November or so, and the winter breeding season will begin.



As the weather cools, the Mule Deer Does and Fawns enjoy a morning's rest.



In mid-September, the Fawns are starting to lose their spots and getting their winter coats, like their Moms.

***Hope that you have enjoyed your adventure to the Tinney's yard!***