

Nature at the Tinneys (Bob and Maxine Tinney, June-July, 2019, Prescott, AZ)

Two adult male Gambel's Quail and twelve (12) Chicks



After an incubation period of about 21-31 days in a simple, bowl-shaped nest depression, the dull white to buff eggs with cinnamon-brown splotches yield the 12 or so baby Gambel's Quail chicks. Two adult males bring the 12 chicks (above) to the water pans for drinks. Gambel's Quail are ground-feeding desert birds, so they are likely to visit yards that offer birdseed and water at ground level.



Gambel's Quail are considered socially monogamous, but some females desert a mate and her brood to take a new mate and lay another clutch, leaving her original partner to raise the chicks on his own. Richly patterned in gray, chestnut, and cream that can serve as excellent camouflage. Males have a bright rufous crest, chestnut flanks striped with white, and creamy belly with black patch. Juvenile Gambel's Quail have buffy brown heads and mottled brown and black bodies.



Gambel's Quails walk or run along the ground in groups called "coveys" that can include a dozen or more birds. They scratch for food under shrubs and cacti, eating grasses and cactus fruits. The chicks enjoy dining on sunflower seeds, cracked corn, millet, and milo which Bob has placed on the ground.

Scott's and Bullock's Orioles visit in June and July



A male Scott's Oriole (left) and female/juvenile Bullock's Oriole (right) visit at different times.



Bullock's Orioles go for delicious oranges and grapes either right side up or upside down (above and below)!



Adult and Juvenile Black-headed Grosbeaks



The hefty, male **Black-headed Grosbeak** is a songbird with rich-orange cinnamon color with black head and back with white wing bars with a large conical bill for cracking sunflower seeds.



They also love jelly, grapes, oranges, and seeds.



The female and immature **Black-headed Grosbeak** are brown and streaky above with orangish underparts with a variable amount of streaking. Note the buffy white eyebrow and neck.



Both parents feed the new nestlings, and the young climb out of nest after about 11-12 days, but are unable to fly for about 2 more weeks. There appears to be at least two hatchlings.



Then both parents encourage them to fly to the seed blocks, seed trays, oriole feeders, and fruit sticks.



The diet also consists of insects, seeds, and berries. In summer they feed on many insects, including beetles, caterpillars, wasps, bees, flies, and many others, also spiders and snails.



It is not long until the juveniles adventure forth on their own and even learn to take a bath in the water feature.

Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers



Acorn Woodpeckers are unusual birds with such a complicated social behavior that they have given rise to one of the longest-running behavioral studies of birds. They live in family groups of up to a dozen or more individuals, and they cooperate in raising young and in gathering, storing, and guarding food. Photos 1 and 3 are males, and the 4th photo is a female with white and black feathers before the red cap. Photo 2 shows a juvenile with a slight blue eye.



The juvenile **Hairy Woodpeckers** have apparently hatched in early June as this adult male Hairy Woodpecker (note red on the back of the head above) continually comes to the yard and gathers orange several time a day for many days.



Finally, the fledglings also visit the yard and there appears to be at least two or three juveniles. Both male and female juveniles may have a red patch on the top of the head. Note the first photo with sort of three-line red markings on the top of the head, not the back of the head like adult males, which looks different from the 2nd and 3rd photos.



Photos 1 and 2 show the **Juniper Titmouse**, as a plain gray bird with a prominent black eye and a feisty tuft of feathers on its head. The 3rd photo shows a **Bridled Titmouse** with a small bill, top crest and striking facial pattern.



The small and inquisitive **Mountain Chickadee** looks similar to the Bridled Titmouse, but the head's markings are quite different with no crest.



With its pale lemon belly and cinnamon tail, the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** is reminiscent of a desert just before sunset. Its subtle hues help it blend into its surroundings, but notes sputter out of its mouth all morning long, giving away its location. Last photo is thought to be a flycatcher, or perhaps a sparrow (suggestions welcome).



Male **House Finch**, female/immature **Cassin's**, juvenile **Red Crossbill**, and preening male and immature **Lesser Goldfinch**.

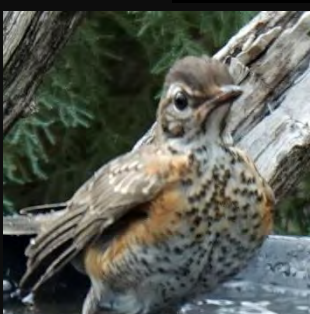
Band-tailed Pigeons and Juvenile Robins



The **Band-tailed Pigeon** is common in forests of the Pacific Coast and the Southwest. A sociable bird with a mellow coo, it forms large flocks (sometimes 50 or more-Tinneys scare away) in mountain forests (close-ups below).



The juvenile **American Robins** can cause identification confusion for birders because they appear very different from the well-known plumage of adults. Juveniles hold their spotted plumage for a few months.



Spotted Towhees and Canyon Towhees



Male **Spotted Towhees** have jet-black upperparts and throats; females more brownish black, their wings and back are spotted bright white. The flanks are warm rufous and the belly is white. Spotted Towhees hop in dense tangles of shrubs, scratching in leaf litter for food. They also climb into lower branches to search for insects and fruits.



The juvenile **Spotted Towhees** are heavily streaked and brownish until fall.



The Canyon Towhees are big, warm brown sparrows and keep a low profile across their range.



Just like their cousins they love to bathe and preen.

Common Ravens, Black-chinned Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatches



The intriguing **Common Raven** has accompanied people around the Northern Hemisphere for centuries, following their wagons, sleds, sleighs, and hunting, and is the most distributed corvid, and can become a close friend.



The **Common Raven** has a deep, croaking call. The female **Black-chinned Sparrow** is localized and inconspicuous.



The adult and juvenile **White-breasted Nuthatches** are active, agile little birds who love eating insects.

Woodhouse's Scrub Jays



The Woodhouse Scrub Jay is light blue and gray above, with a whitish throat and grayish belly separated by an indistinct, partial breast band of blur.



Preening, Head-Scratching, Stretching, Bathing, Fluffing, Drying, and Anting are favorite activities.



Two poses of a gray-fronted juvenile Woodhouse's Scrub Jay with father/mother looking after its youngster.

The Lovely Hummingbirds



Two photos of the most common, male Anna's Hummingbirds with red reflective feathers and two female/imm Anna's.



A young Anna's Hummingbird bathing in the water feature.



The feistiest of Hummingbirds, the female Rufous and colorful, male Rufous.



A wide-spread male Black-chinned Hummingbird (left) and an unknown (suggestions welcome) white undersided Hummingbird (two right).

July 4th, 2019 Fireworks Displays

Watson Lake and Prescott Valley Fireworks taken **from Tinneys' Patio**

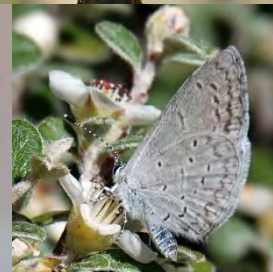
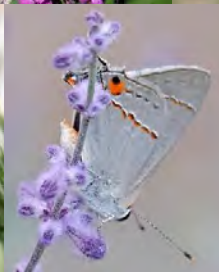
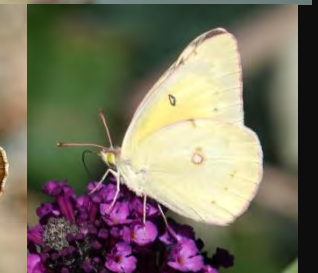
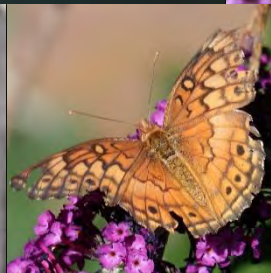
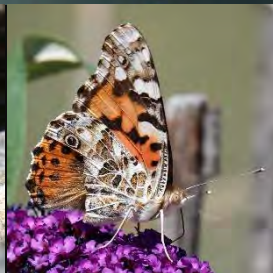
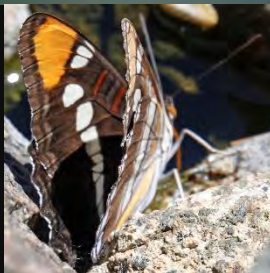


A Rainbow of Flowers

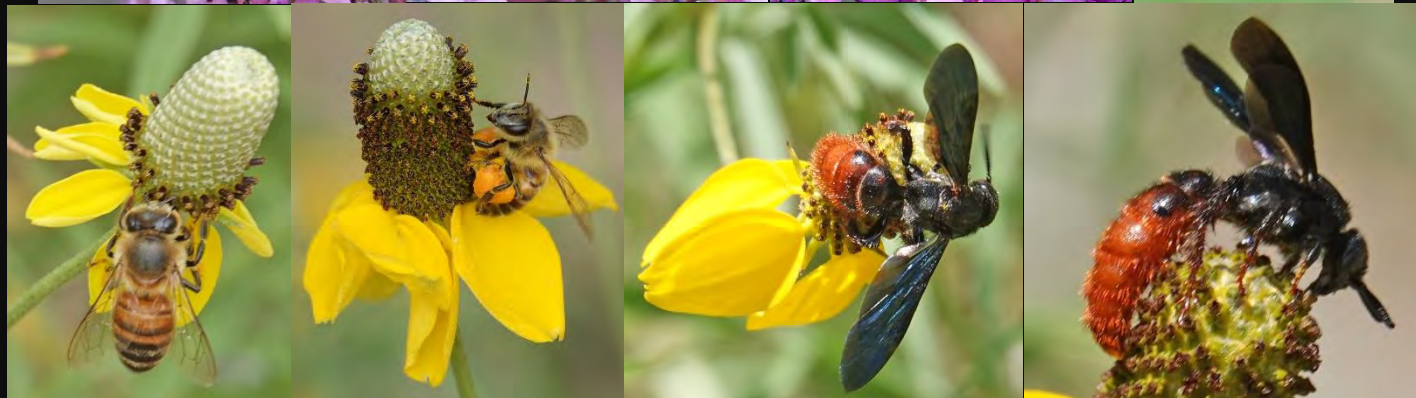


Butterflies and Moths

include Two-tailed Swallowtail (Arizona's State Butterfly), Queen, Sister, Painted Lady, Fritillary, Buckeye, Yellow, White, Common Ringlet, Gray Hairstreak, Grass Blue, and Underwing in the Tinneys' yard.



Bees, Wasps, Grasshoppers, Spiders, and Flies



Gopher Snake and Lizards



Mule Deer Drink Water and Trim Bushes



Water is the most important necessity for the Mule Deer.



Flop Ear is appropriately named (left ear damage) and she snacks on oranges and seed left for the birds.



The Mule Deer Bucks are growing antlers which are in velvet.



One Mule Deer Doe may have given birth to her fawns as her teats look ready for nursing.

First Mule Deer Fawn 29 July 2019, 8:40 a.m.



Coming to the Tinneys is a new adventure for the big-eared Fawn with its mother Mule Deer Doe.



The Doe has come for the water. The mother hears a noise of another deer walking nearby and directs the Fawn to lay down immediately and be very still.



Filled with water and the danger alert over, the Fawn and Doe head back into the forest area.

Other Animal Blessings



Rabbits enjoy flower leaves/stems, **Squirrels** enjoy seed and a **Chipmunk** secures a drink of water.



The **Skunk** seeks bird seed, but if interrupted may ignite a strong, unpleasant spray.



The **Raccoon** scrounges for bird seed and baths in the water feature.



Late May two Gray Fox Kits are inquisitive, adventurous, and seek knowledge about their surroundings and rocks.