

Holiday Wishes 2019

Nature at the Tinneys

Photos, Story and Provisions
by Bob and Maxine Tinney
(October - Early December 2019)



In early October, 6-8 **Mule Deer Fawns** had lost their spots, gained their winter coats and are weaned from their mother's milk. The **Mule Deer Does** are attentive to their Fawns' needs, and care for and protect them.



A Mule Deer Doe with her two girl fawns (left) and Doe washing two boy fawns with nubs (right).



In mid-October a neighbor mentions seeing a little fawn with spots and sure enough a few days latter the Doe and the precious little, 'late birther' Fawn with spots visit the Tinneys' yard.





In early October the **Mule Deer Bucks'** antlers are covered in a skin-like tissue called velvet.



All Mule Deer Bucks' antlers are bifurcated, which means they fork as they grow.



By November they begin to shed their velvet and the rut will soon begin.



The **Mule Deer Bucks** fight for dominance, lip-curl the **Does'** estrus urine, and hope for the right to mate.





The **Common Raven**, a large all-black passerine bird, and the common woodland **Cooper's Hawk** visit frequently.



Adult **Band-tailed Pigeons** have white crescents on the back of the necks, but not the juveniles.



The **Mourning Doves** have soft, drawn-out calls that sound like laments.





The male and female **Gambel's Quails** have relatively short, rounded wings and long, featherless legs.



Some **Rufous** and **Anna's Hummingbirds** remain in Prescott during October.



Western Bluebird, Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Bushtits visit the Tinney's feeders.



The **White-Breasted Nuthatch** has a powerful bill and strong feet for walking up-side-down.

The **Mountain Chickadee** and **Bridled Titmouse** are unique birds, and often confuse novice birders (center birds).

The **Juniper Titmouse** is a plain gray bird with a prominent black eye and a feisty tuft of feathers.





The male and female **Acorn** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** enjoy the suet blocks.



The breast of the **Red-shafted Northern Flicker** (center) has a few heart-shaped polka dots on its feathers.



Male and female (white on chin, right) **Red-naped Sapsuckers** drill holes in aspen and birch to lap up the sugary sap.

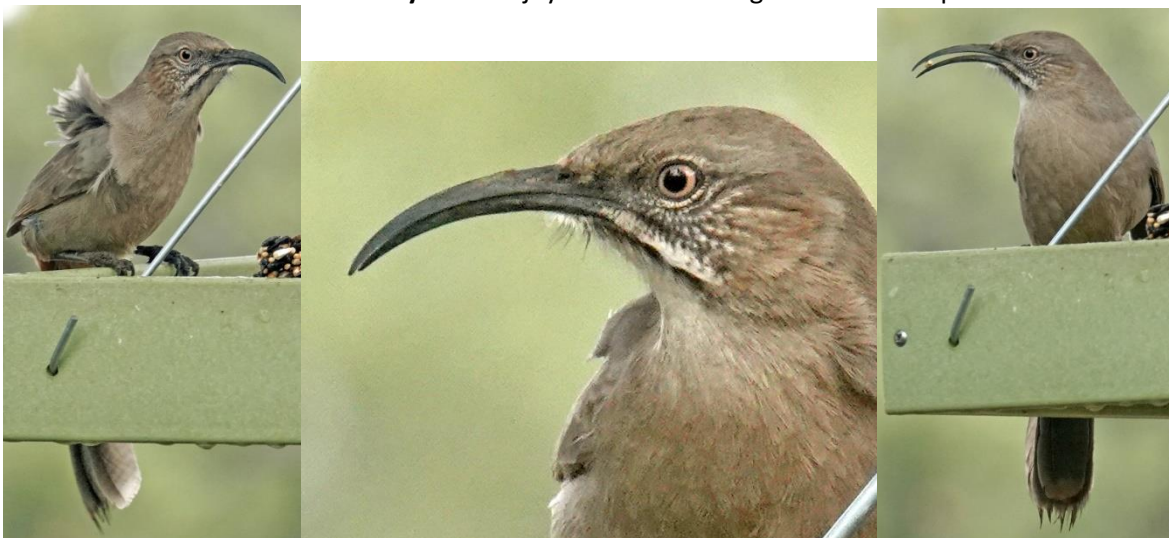




The **Woodhouse Scrub-Jays** are gluttons, filling it beaks with many seeds.



The **Woodhouse Scrub-Jays** also enjoy baths and eating nuts from the pine cones.



The beautiful **Crissal Thrasher** is recognized by its long, down-curved bill, its long tail, and its reddish undertail.





The western **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers** are numerous in the winter.



The **Green-tailed, Canyon and Spotted Towhees** enjoy rummaging in the undergrowth.



The adult **White-crowned Sparrows** have bold black and white striping on their heads and orange bills.



The 1st Winter **White-Crowned Sparrows** are more muted in tone on their heads.





The **Rufous-Crowned Sparrows** are small passerines that enjoy lurking in the shrubby thickets.



The **Red Fox Sparrows** have streaking fronts and orangish lower bills.



The **Chipping Sparrows** have pink legs and bills.



First Unknown Sparrow, second 1st Winter **Chipping Sparrow** and third a possible **Lincoln's Sparrow**.





The Dark-eyed **Oregon** Juncos have dark heads and pinkish-brown flanks and backs.



The Dark-eyed **Pink-Sided** Juncos have pinkish flanks and black lores.



Possible **Slate-Colored Brown** Dark-eyed Juncos have some pinkish-brown hints on head.



The Dark-eye **Gray-Headed** Juncos have no pinkish sides.





A Leucistic **Dark-eyed Junco** has crown and nape feathers lacking melanin pigments.



Male, female, and juvenile **House Finches** with curved culmen and blurry streaking.



Female and male **Cassin's Finches** have white around their straight culmen and crisp streaking.



Pine Siskins have thin, pointed bills and yellow wing-bars.



Western female and male (black cap) **Lesser Goldfinches** migrate to warmer climates.





The **Greater Roadrunner** is a fast-running ground cuckoo with long tail and crest.



This **Greater Roadrunner** seems aggressive towards a **Squirrel** and chases the squirrel from the area.



Two **Squirrels** meet in a nearby tree and the **Chipmunks** enjoy eating some of the bird seed.



At night a **Raccoon** and **Skunk** visits the water feature area for a drink and to dine on some of the bird seed.



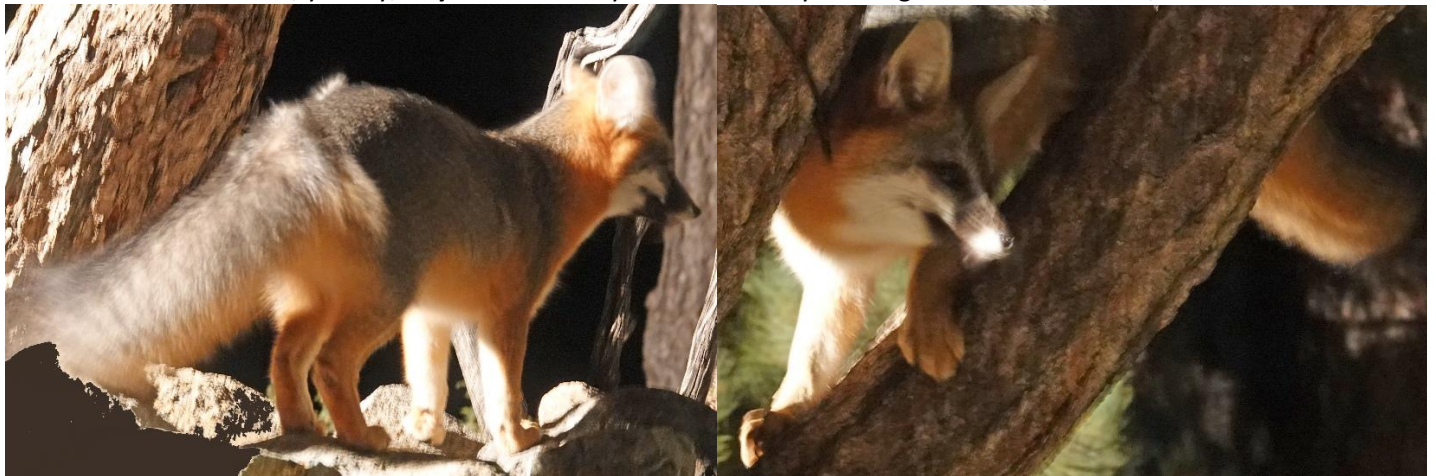
After dark on Sunday evening 11 November 2019, about 8:00 p.m., a **Mountain Lion** passes by the Water Fountain, pauses for a few seconds, and moves on around our house. (Sorry, no photos.)



Adult, juvenile, and baby **Javelina** or collared peccary visit the yard periodically and generally we scare them away.



The clever, yet shy, **Coyote** visits the yard occasionally hunting for rabbits, rodents, or birds.



A **Gray Fox** sometimes climbs the trees to sneak into a bird tray for some bird seed.

***Hope that you have enjoyed your adventure to the Tinney's yard!
Wishing you a Joyous Holiday Season!***

