

Nature at the Tinneys July 15 - Sept 7, 2020

(Photos and Story by Bob and Maxine Tinney, The Ranch in Prescott, AZ)

The Mule Deer and their Family Herd



During the Covid 19 Summer/Fall the Tinneys continue to enjoy the Mule Deer Fawns and interactions with their Moms (above) and possible fathers and other members of the herd (below).



"Mr. 8-point Buck are you our father or is it some other male?"

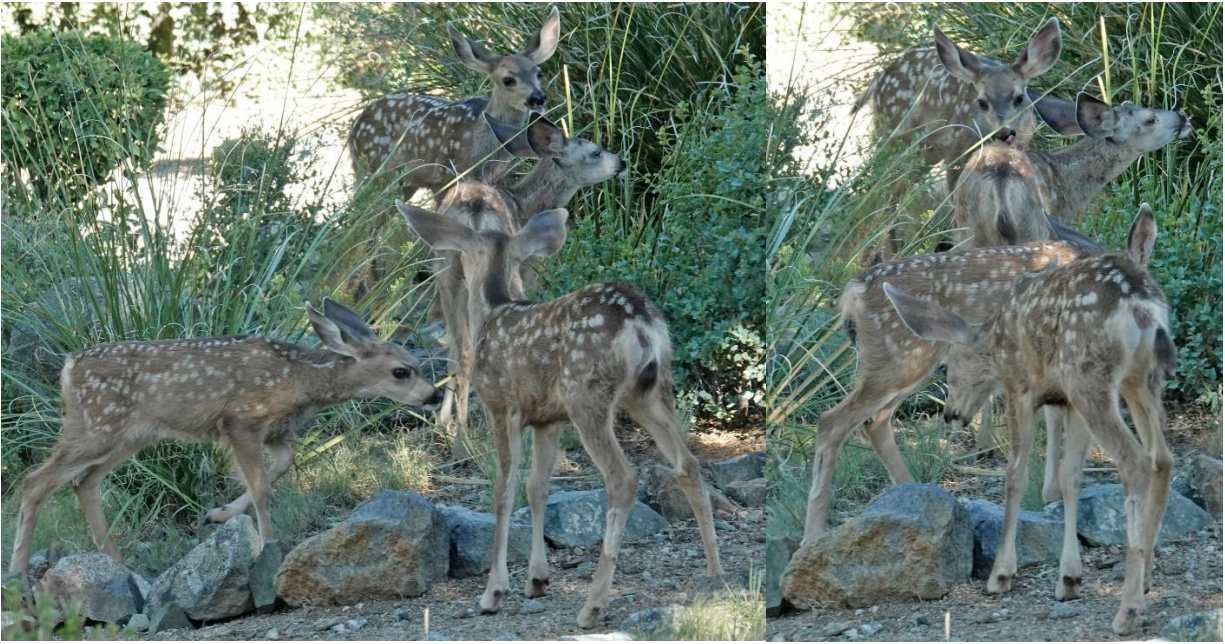


The 6-point Buck tries to instruct three fawns how to drink from the water feature.



Other deer include 4-point, getting acquainted with the Unicorn, Up-tine-down-tine, and two tines.

Blessed Are the Mule Deer Fawns



On August 30, six fawns traveled through the yard, but the most photographed at one time is four together (above).



Three fawns hanging out by the bird bath, but it is too high to reach, so go to the ground water pans. Meeting other fawns by circling and smelling (right). There are several sets of twins with different spot patterns and colorations.



All of the fawns, especially the twins, are so precious and we enjoy watching them throughout the days.



On August 15, twin fawns visited the water pans for a drink, with one (left/center) having a large protrusion on the right side of its head, but by an August 25 visit, the swelling has subsided with a scarred area (right photo).



Although many are twins, they each have a unique coloration on their face and ears.



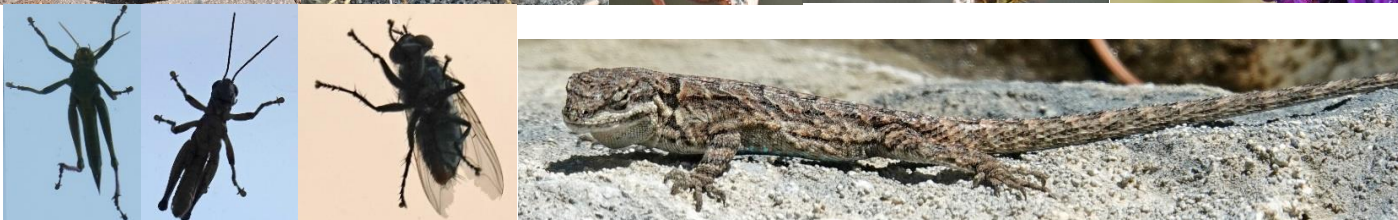
By coloration, spotting, and size, it is believed that there are 8-12 new Ranch fawns this summer. The dark-eared fawn is losing its spots (left below) and dark-faced marked fawn (center) is very frisky.



Predators not wanted! About 25 July, our next-door neighbor identified a **Mountain Lion** on his night camera. About 4 September, as several deer came through our yard from State Trust Land, Maxine looked up from the computer and a healthy **Coyote** was about 8 feet outside the window, (no camera nearby). Another couple we visited with while walking in The Ranch a few days later, said they had seen three **Coyotes**, one being a juvenile.



The **Mule Deer** love eating oranges (above)
... and **Bees** love sweets and sweet water (below).



Grasshoppers, fly, and a lizard (above).



Butterflies, Moths (above), but no photo of a **Tarantula**.



The burrowing **Rock Squirrels** (above) gather seeds from the ground and eat green vegetation.



The agile **Cliff Chipmunks**, two photos with Leucism, a partial lack of pigmentation causing a white face.



The wild-boar looking **Javelina** is actually known as a **Collared Peccary**.



The omnivorous **Skunks** make their nightly venture through the yard looking for bird seeds and insects.



Among the bird world's most skillful fliers, **Cooper's Hawks** are common woodland hawks that tear through cluttered tree canopies in high speed pursuit of other birds. A 1st year **Cooper's Hawk** with thin dark breast streaks, flies in to a water pan from a nearby tree and proceeds to take a bath by flipping water all over itself.



After bathing it goes to a nearby tree to preen, and then flies away as quickly as it arrives.



The **Zone-tailed Hawk** is a sleek, blackish raptor of arid foothills and canyons of Arizona. Zone-tailed Hawks may mimic the relatively harmless Turkey Vulture in order to fool their prey of birds, mammals, and lizards.

Many **Turkey Vultures** are seen, but Maxine does not get a photo.



The gregarious covey of ground-dwelling **Gambel's Quail** seems to elude the **Coyotes** and flourish.



A group of **Band-tailed Pigeons** mostly juveniles, as the adults have a white band on the back of the neck, visit the ground and feeders for seed. A sociable bird with a mellow coo, it forms flocks in mountain forests.



A bird born to run, the **Greater Roadrunner** can outrace a human and easily kill a rattlesnake.



Female and juvenile **Black-chinned Hummingbirds**



Male, female, and juvenile **Anna's Hummingbirds**



Male, female and juvenile **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds**



Female and juvenile **Rufous Hummingbirds**



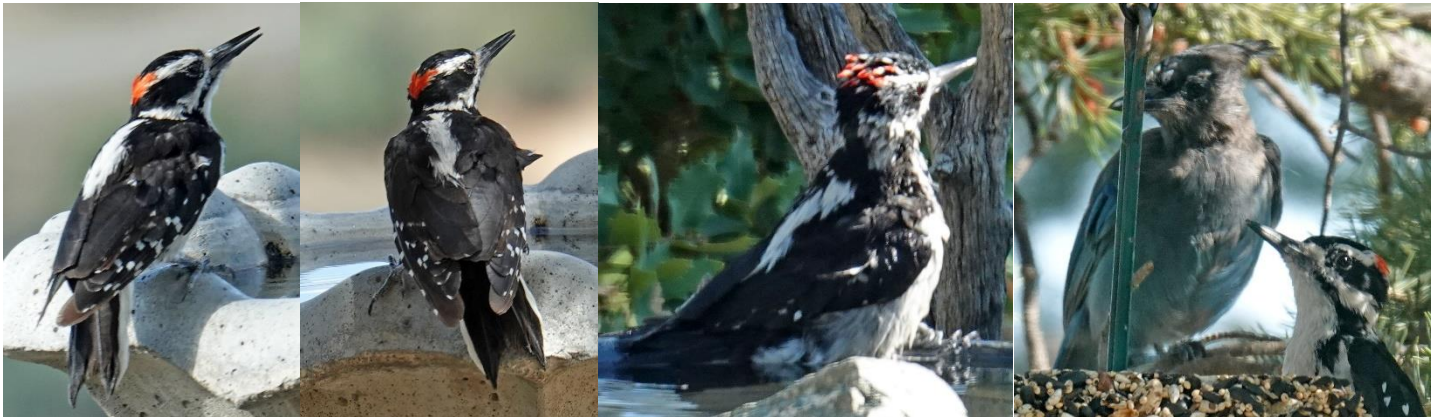
The **Mourning Dove** is a graceful, slender-tailed, small-headed dove that's common across the continent.



The clown-faced **Acorn Woodpeckers** breed cooperatively and hoard acorns.



The male **Ladder-backed Woodpecker** has a ladder of stripes up its back, and this one a scruffy red crest.



The **Hairy Woodpeckers** are black and white all over with the male having a tiny patch of red on the back of its head and almost solid black wings. The last photo is of a Hairy with a **Steller's Jay**.



The juvenile and male **Red-shafted Northern Flickers** have handsome, black-scalloped plumage. They love ants and beetles, but also enjoy digging into the seed blocks with their slightly-curved bills.



The black/white **Plumbeous Vireo** with hints of yellow is a songbird with a slow, deliberate foraging style.



The adult (2 left) and juvenile (2 right) **Woodhouse's Scrub Jays** are a dusty blue set off by gray-brown and white.



It is the season when the **Woodhouse's Scrub Jays** are gathering and eating pinyon pine nuts.



The **Common Raven** with black plumage, croaking call, and diet of carrion exclaims, “*Bob, I need more suet!*”
Lazuli Buntings, several **Turkey Vultures**, and numerous **Swallows** are seen, but too fast for photos.



The ashy gray **Bridled Titmouse** has a boldly black and white face, chin and crest.



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



Seventeen (counting all tails) sprightly, twittering **Bushtits** gather on one of the Tinneys’ seed blocks to feed.



White-breasted Nuthatches are active, agile little birds with an appetite for insects and moving up-side-down.



Male Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee and Brown-headed Cowbird.



The adult rufous-sided **Spotted Towhee** is a large, striking sparrow hopping around sunbaked thickets.



The juvenile **Spotted Towhee** is heavily streaked, brown (above) and starting to show rufous sides.



The adult **Canyon Towhee** is brownish over all with under tail rufous color; juvenile lighter.



The **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** has a long tail, white eye ring, malar stripes, and rufous cap.



The crisp, pretty **Chipping Sparrow** has a rufous cap, pink bill, and the juvenile has more brown tones.



The **Black-chinned Sparrows** are small, slender sparrows with a round head, a conical bill, and a long tail.



Black-headed Grosbeaks are hefty songbirds with very large bills and show the young how to get food.



The male and female **Bullock's Orioles** are nimble canopy-gleaners of open woodlands.



The red-marked males, brownish/streaked female, and juvenile **House Finches** have conical bills.



The male, female, and immature **Lesser Goldfinches** enjoy bathing in the water feature.



July 21 **Waxing Moon** with clouds, August 3 **Sturgeon Moon**, September 2 **Corn Moon** evening and morning.



Sunrise, sunset, sunrise, sunset, swiftly flow the Covid Days!



***Hope that
You enjoyed
Nature at
the Tinneys!***