

Nature at the Tinneys Sept-Oct-Nov 7, 2020

Tinneys' Home Near the Cattle Range of State Trust Land

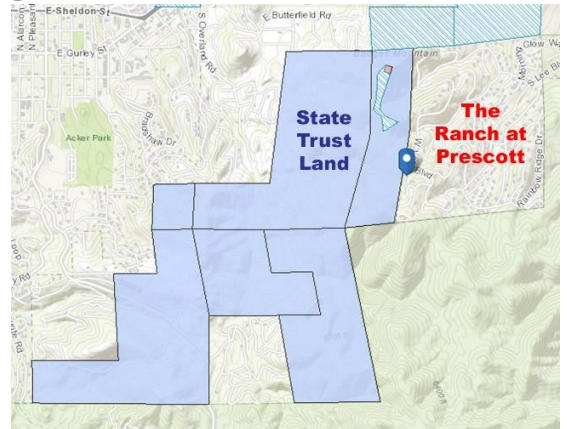
Over a year ago the State Trust Land to the West and Southwest was Leased and then re-leased to graze cattle, therefore fencing is being constructed.

State Trust Land - KE-Lease - 5 - 120610,
Legal - W2SW M&B IN LOT 4 AND SWNW,
Acres - 1,276.72

TRS - 13N-2W-(1-7,10,15,16) to the west and southwest of The Ranch at Prescott.

Animal Units – 21.5

Lessee Name - Lessee had recently changed to Chris Funk, of the FX Ranch near Dewey/Mayer.



Cash Noland (left) coordinator with Leese and Jorgee is head of the fencing group (center, right).



Fencers include Joseph, Tyrel, Jorgee, Rufous, Colt, Julius, Stran, and Leroy (not shown).



The Mule Deer investigate the new four wire fence with top three wires barbed and wonder how to return to State Trust Land. Because Mule Deer jump with their back legs forward the Tinneys make arrangements for a short distance of PVC covering the top wire to help protect the Mule Deer crossings to/from State Trust Land.

Both the 8-point and 6-point **Mule Deer Bucks** (both-side count) lose their velvet in late September and did brief sparring during mid-October, which seems a little earlier than past years, which may mean an earlier rut and winter . . . who knows. Look carefully to see the velvet (left), once shed, hanging by their faces (right, center).



Mule Deer Bucks in Velvet (left photos) and shed (right photos) 8 point (above) and 6-Point (below).



For Residents of The Ranch at Prescott: The Tinneys have not seen the 6-point big buck since 24 October during General Open Hunting Season Oct 23–1 Nov; the 6 point may have been taken! For **ARCHERY-ONLY NONPERMIT-TAG REQUIRED HUNTING** Antlered Deer for Region III 20A (includes Ranch Units I-VIII), is from 1-31 January, and Region III 19A (includes Ranch Unit IX) is from 11 December - 31 January, but **while hunting, it is illegal** to discharge a bullet or arrow within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of any residence, thus 'no hunting in Ranch'.



When nursing is over, water is most important, and the loving bonds between Does and Fawns continue.



Fawns are losing their spots, getting their winter coats, and remain dedicated to one another.



In their second-year the **Mule Year Bucks** are two tine, uptine-downtine, and one tine (Ein(s)tein).



The **Mule Deer Fawns** learn the position of water pans, when to be comfortable, and when to be alert!



Mule Deer Fawns' defining characteristics are their large ears, which are about 3/4th the length of the head.



Gambel's Quail are gregarious birds of the desert Southwest, where coveys gather along brushy washes and cactus-studded arroyos to feed. Males and females both sport a bobbing black topknot of feathers.

The young **Gambel's Quail** have grown to the size of their parents.

Hawks: *Accipiters*



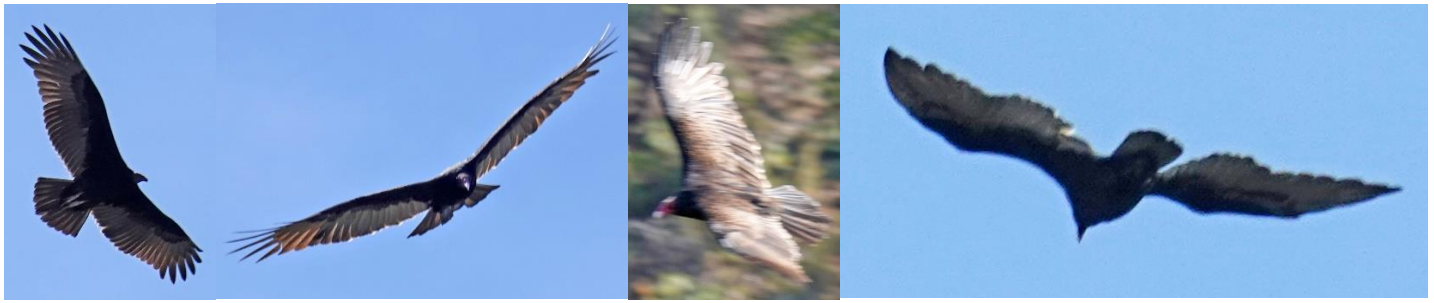
Adult Cooper's Hawk bluish-gray upperparts, dark cap, orange eye, and dense reddish barring underparts.



Immature Cooper's Hawk with brown upperparts contrasting white underparts with lovely, brown streaking.



Juvenile Cooper's Hawks (left, center), immature **Red-tailed Hawk** in flight.



Soaring with its wings raised in a V and making wobbly circles, red-headed **Turkey Vultures** ride thermals in the sky and use their keen sense of smell to find fresh carcasses.



The **Common Ravens** are acrobatic fliers, often doing rolls and somersaults in the air. Young birds are fond of playing games with sticks, repeatedly dropping them, then diving to catch them in midair.



Common Ravens can carve deep grooves into suet cakes, sometimes master opening the cage, and get substantially larger portions of suet and other food through these advantageous behaviors.



The **Band-tailed Pigeons** get seed from the trays, seed feeders, and seed blocks.



Greater roadrunner fossils dating from the Holocene and Pleistocene have been found in California, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The oldest known fossil comes from a cave in New Mexico, estimated at an age of 33,500 years.



With a few morning temperatures in the 20s/30s, the **Greater Roadrunner** practices thermoregulation by frequently **sunbathing** for warmth. It turns its back towards the sun, wings apart, ruffles the black feathers on its back and head, exposing its black skin, allowing both skin and feathers to absorb the heat of the sun's rays.



Mourning Doves are light grey and brown and generally muted in color. Males and females are similar in appearance. The species is generally Monogamous with two squabs (young) per brood. Both parents incubate and care for the young. Mourning doves eat almost exclusively seeds, but the young are fed crop milk by their parents.



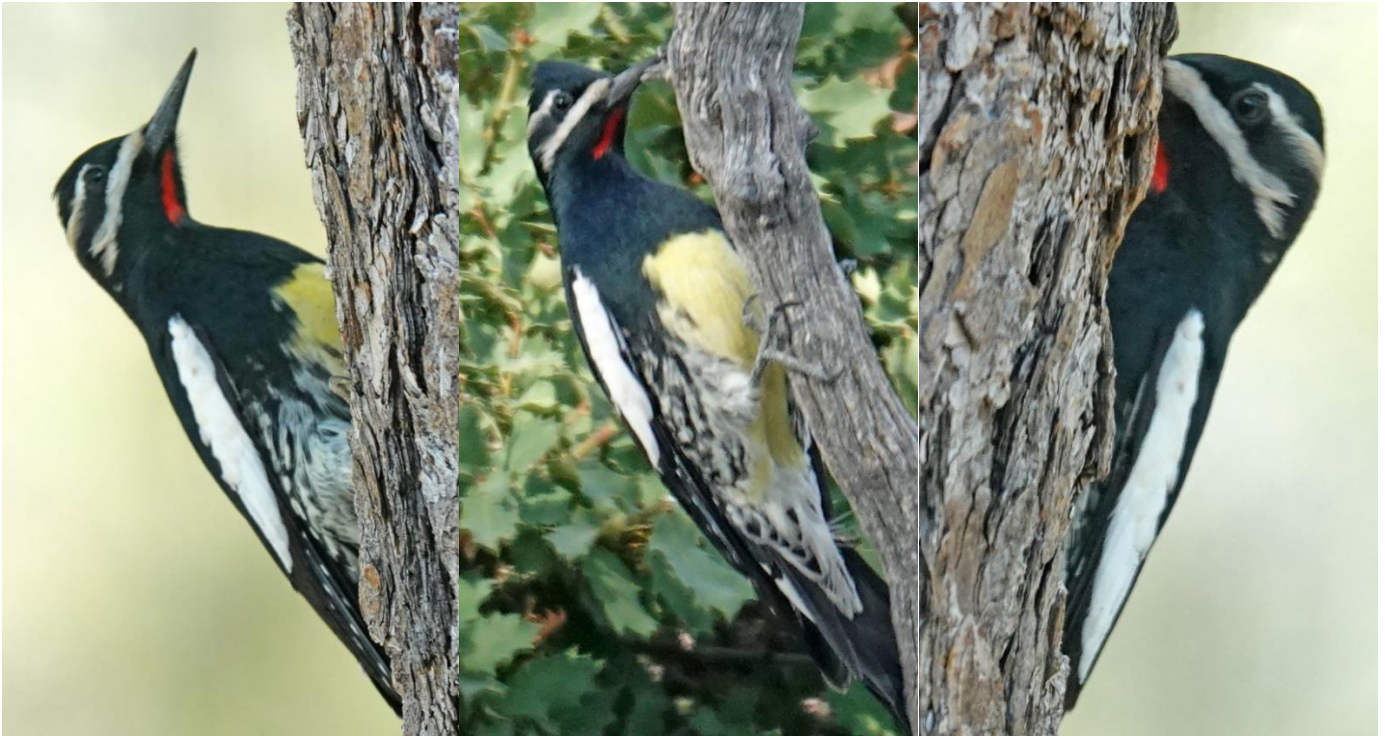
Three **Red-shafted Northern Flickers**, male with red malars, and two females with tan malars.



The number of juvenile **Red-shafted Northern Flickers** expanded this fall at the Tinneys.



Northern Flicker RSM with eye either closed or the protective, transparent Nictitating member shows (left), Northern Flicker RSM 'Intergrade' with a slight red-naped Yellow-shafted trait (center), and lovely RS Female (right).



A special, uncommon **Williamson Sapsucker** appear on Monday, October 5, 2020, but hasn't been seen since. Several seen between 2005-2012, but haven't knowingly had a sighting at our place since 2012.



Hairy Woodpeckers' heads have two white stripes and three males show a flash of red toward the back of the head.



Acorn Woodpeckers are very unusual woodpeckers living in large groups, hoarding **acorns**, and breeding cooperatively.



The female and juvenile **Anna's Hummingbirds** will be leaving the upper elevations and moving southward.



The female and juvenile feisty **Rufous Hummingbirds** enjoy preening and commanding the area.





With black head and upper body, the crested **Steller's Jays** are common in forest wildernesses (above, below).



The **Woodhouse's Scrub Jays** live in the sparse woodlands of juniper and pinyon pine in arid foothills.





With a dashing swirl of black and white on its face, the **Bridled Titmouse** is a specialty of the middle-elevation forests.



Plain and drab but full of personality, the **Juniper Titmouse** enlivens pinyon-juniper woods.



Often the nucleus in mixed flocks of small birds, **Mountain Chickadees** flit through high branches, hang upside down to pluck insects or seeds from cones, and give their scolding *chick-a-dee* call seemingly to anyone who will listen.



The **White-breasted Nuthatch** is stocky, with a large head, short tail, powerful bill, and strong feet. It has a black cap, white face, chest, and flanks, blue-gray upperparts, and a chestnut lower belly.



Bushtits are sprightly, social songbirds that twitter as they fly weakly between shrubs and thickets in lively flocks.



The **Phainopepla** is slender, long-tailed songbird with a distinct crest.

Color Pattern of adult males are glossy black with red eyes and large white patches in the underwings.



The **Crissal Thrasher** can be recognized by its long, down-curved bill, its long tail, and its reddish undertail. Its mellow, musical song makes it one of the finest desert songsters.



The brilliant blue-and-rust **Western Bluebirds** sit on low perches and swoop lightly to the water feature for a drink.



They live in evergreen and deciduous woods, particularly ponderosa pine, also pinyon pine-juniper and mixed conifers.



The orange-breasted **American Robins** are common sights on lawns across North America, seen tugging earthworms out of the ground, and enjoy drinking at the water feature and bird baths at the Tinneys.



In Fall the **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** likes open woods and shrubby habitats.



The **Virginia's Warbler** with yellow under-rump twitches around the water feature for a drink.



The thirsty **Townsend Warblers** bathe and forage by gleaning, hovering, and hawking insects in the foliage.





Spotted Towhees hop over the ground beneath dense tangles of shrubs, scratching in leaf litter for food and insects.



The **Canyon Towhee** forages primarily for seeds by running and hopping on the ground.



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



The large, beaked male **House Finches** in bath, orange tone, and lighter female and juvenile.



The red male, female and possible juvenile **Cassin's Finches** have a longer, straighter bill.



The dry southwestern hills where sparse brush covers the rocky slopes is home to the **Rufous-Crowned Sparrows**.



Crisp, pretty **Chipping Sparrows** with pink bills and legs, and rufous caps provide a splash of color.



The orangish-billed **White-crowned Sparrows** appear each winter to grace our gardens and favorite trails.



Other **Sparrows** seen are unknown, possible guesses **Fox, Chipping and Brewers**.



The mustard-yellow **Summer Tanager** with pinkish/horn-colored bill has a distinctive chuckling call note.



The yellow juvenile and adult female **Western Tanagers** have darker backs and tails.



Jabbering clouds of black capped males, yellow females and juvenile **Lesser Goldfinches** enjoy the water feature.



Flocks of tiny **Pine Siskins** may monopolize the bronze feeder one moment and be absent the next.



The brown-sided **Oregon Dark-Eyed Juncos** are the most common backyard bird in the winter.



Lacking pigment of some head feathers, this leucistic **Oregon Dark-Eyed Junco** is seen several times.



The **Pink-sided Dark-Eyed Junco** has a medium-gray head and breast, pinkish sides, and a white belly.



These possible **Brown** and **Slate-colored Dark-eyed Juncos** have a gray/black look with white bellies.



The **Gray-headed Dark-eye Junco** has a well-defined rufous mantle and low contrast between breast and belly.



The **Red-backed Dark-eyed Junco** has a rufous back with a bicolored bill, black-top/light-bottom.



Lively and speedy critters, **Chipmunks** have pudgy cheeks, large, glossy eyes, stripes, and bushy tail.



An uncommon, tassel-eared **Aberts Squirrel** (left) and common **Rock Squirrels** (right) enjoy the Tinneys' yard.



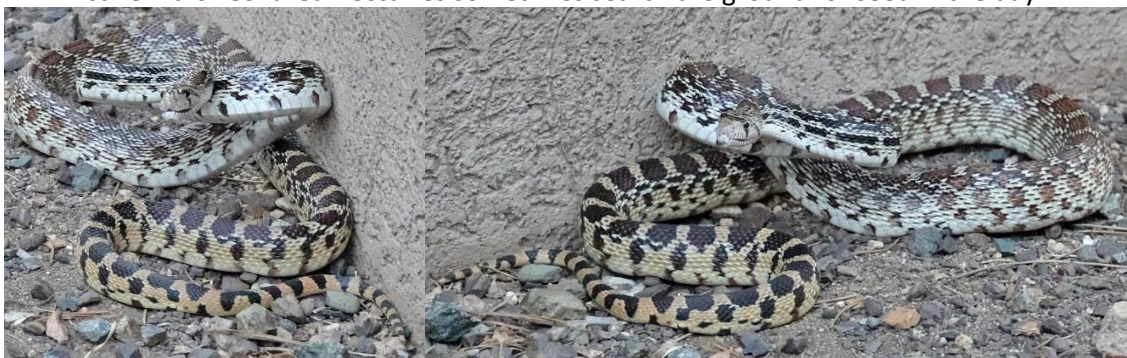
A **Cottontail Rabbit** sometimes appears, and three **Raccoons** get a drink and scamper away the night of October 15th.



Skunks generally visit at night looking for seeds and drinking from the water-feature.



Javelina or **Collared Peccaries** sometimes search the ground for seed in the day.



This **Groper Snake** was mistaken as a Diamondback Rattlesnake on 10 October near the house.



Lizards are invertivores, eating beetles, flies, ants, caterpillars, aphids, and other insects, as well as spiders.

A 6x6 grid of 36 images showcasing a variety of natural subjects. The top row features a large orange moon, two different views of yellow and red flowers, and a bee on a flower. The second row includes purple flowers, green foliage, a flower bud, a yellow flower, and a cluster of small yellow flowers. The third row shows a close-up of a flower, orange flowers, red berries, a small flower, and three dark purple berries. The fourth row contains a green grasshopper, a black beetle, yellow leaves, and two praying mantises. The fifth row depicts a bee on a purple flower, a dark beetle, red leaves, and an orange and black butterfly. The bottom row shows a white flower, a dark beetle, red leaves, and a large white moon.

Hope that you enjoyed this Nature at the Tinneys. Blessings, Bob and Maxine