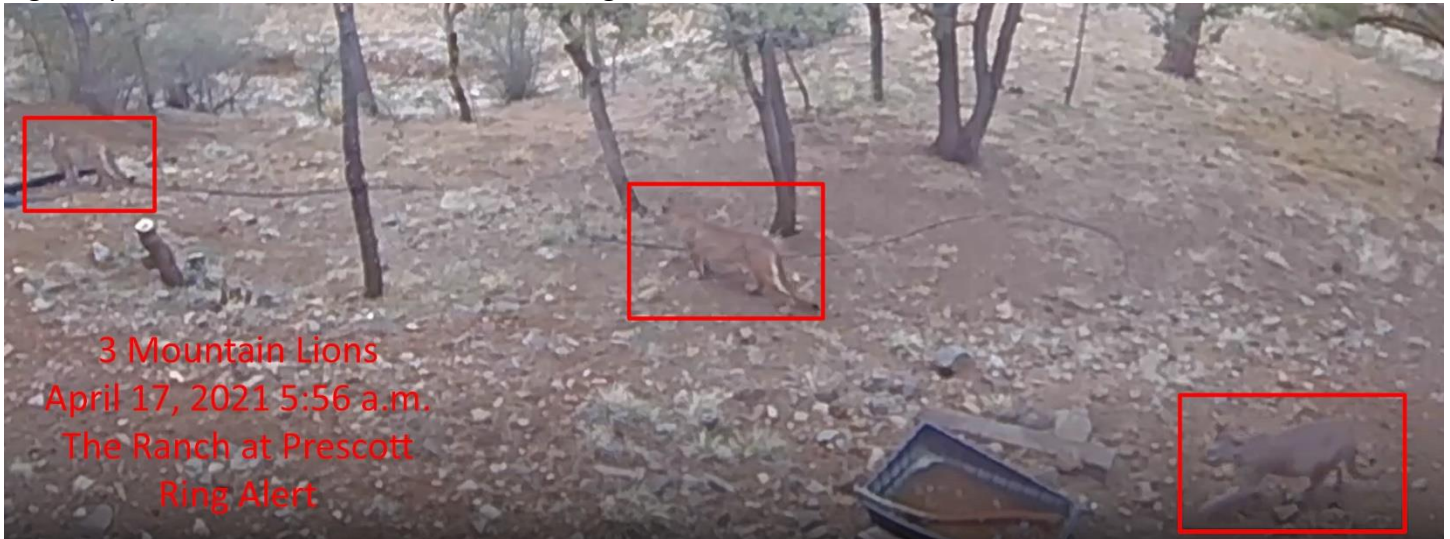


Nature at the Tinneys February - April 2021

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



On April 9, the Tinneys noted the fore-leg of a probable 1st-year Mule Deer down the hill from our home. Possible predators could have been a pack of coyotes or a mountain lion, but it was decided, not to look for the remainder of the carcass, so the night camera was set up to see if anything would return to finish the leg. A **Gray Fox** had been photographed on the night camera on the water feature and it came in and investigated the leg on April 10, but did not eat/nor take the leg.



Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 6 am, a most interesting **Mountain Lion** encounter came with a Ring alert video (only photo inserted to this document) for 3 Mountain Lions, believed to be a mother and two grown cubs (shown in red boxes) by a resident in The Ranch at Prescott and the alert was shared with neighbors. The Mountain Lion is also known as Cougar, Puma, and Catamount. The mother is an ambush predator that pursues a wide variety of prey and her youngsters are probably in training. Primary food sources are ungulates particularly Mule Deer. They seem to have taken a couple of Mule Deer in the Ranch as some neighbors have observed the carcasses.



A few days later the **Gray Fox** returns in the afternoon to investigate the water feature, gets a drink from a water pan, looks at a chipmunk which is caught in the live trap (Bob releases in forest), and it departs the yard.



Mule Deer FlopEar is one of the matriarchs of the heard and has visited the Ranch for some years. She has mastered the art of standing on her rear legs (center) to eat seed out of the cooper bird feeders.



FlopEar is also noted for leading the herd into the Tinneys on snowy days and has mastered the art of knowing how to teaching yearlings to access to the bird seed trays and seed stump (above right).



Mule deer yearlings' defining characteristic is their large ears, which will grow to about three-fourths the length of the head. They have a distinctive black forehead, or mask, that contrasts with a light gray face. In the spring/summer (above), mule deer are grayish and in the winter are brownish-gray in color (below). Each has a white rump patch and a small white tail with a black tip. When running, they bound in a motion called "stotting or pronking," in which all four hooves push off the ground at the same time.





The **Squirrels** enjoy drinking from the water feature and eating grapes from the Oriole feeders.



The **Chipmunks** dine on stump seed and occasionally seen munching pine cones.



Collared peccary, **Javelina** are a medium-sized family-oriented hoofed mammals.



One Mom **Javelina** has a blonde and a red baby (left). Another Mom has two red babies (center/right).



Skunks visit at night and glean bird seed left from the day.



The **Horned Lizard** met his death on the road probably from a vehicle.

Lizards are omnivores, searching the yard for both edible insects and plants.



Small **Gray Butterflies** indicated that Spring was on the way!



Gambel's Quail are plump, volleyball-sized birds with short necks, small bill, and square tail. The male has a black face. Both sexes have a comma-shaped topknot of feathers atop their small heads, fuller in males.



Animal Visits, but **NO Photos**: One morning a lone **Coyote** rambles through the yard, a couple of **Turkey Vultures** cruise the hills, Swallows flying over the house, Rabbit visits at dusk, and two nights a **Great-horned Owl** hoots his/her rhythmic series *ho hoodoo hoooo hooo*.



The juvenile **Cooper's Hawk** has yellow eyes, while the adult has red eyes. Both have blueish-gray backs. The juvenile Cooper's has dark streaks on its breast, while the adults underparts are pale with orangish barring.



They generally nab the medium sized birds, and once in a while, dine in yard with the wind taking feathers into the nearby cactus. They also eat chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, mice, and bats.



The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** with a flash of white tail feathers and black half collar at the back of the neck settles into a tree while eyeing the ground for seed.



Mourning Doves withstand the snows and enjoy seeds which make up 99 percent of a **Mourning Dove's** diet.



Doves normally eat roughly 12 to 20 percent of their body weight per day.



Seven **Band-tailed Pigeons** are soft blue-gray above and purplish-gray below, with lovely greenish-gray feathers below a white crescent on the back of the neck. They typically travel and feed in flocks with as many as 40+ visiting the Tinneys' yard at one time.

April Hummingbirds enjoy the running water at the Tinneys' Water Feature

Thanks to Eric Moore, Walt Anderson, and David Moll for helping to identify hummingbirds on this page.



Female **Anna's Hummingbird** with red central throat patch – April 14, 2021 9:53- 9:54 a.m.



Male **Anna's Hummingbird** with red crown and throat– April 20, 2021 6:08-6:09 a.m.



Female/Immature **Anna's Hummingbird** – April 20, 2021 6:46 a.m.



Probable male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** with white chest/belly feathers – April 24 – 7:18 -7:19 a.m.



Male **Anna's Hummingbirds** with vibrant heads and gorget feathers from the sun's reflections.



The coal-glowing male, green-rufous-washed female/subadult **Rufous Hummingbirds** are beautiful.



Possible adult male, female/subadults of small green-backed **Black-chinned** and greenish backs and buffy-flanked female **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds** also visit the yard's hummingbird feeders (above/below).



In March Bob and Maxine are awakened several mornings with an amplified metallic drumming sound coming from the roof above our bedroom fireplace. Maxine gets dressed, grabs the camera and sure enough . . .



. . . the culprit is a male **Red-shafted Northern Flicker** hitting its beak repeatedly against the metal vent. Drumming is used as a means of attracting a mate, communication, and defending their territory.



The female **Red-shafted Northern Flickers** (left) has a brownish face, while the male has red malars or whiskers, (right). They enjoy the suet cakes at the Tinneys, but ants and insects are their favorite foods. When in flight, they show off their red-orange under colors.



The male **Acorn Woodpeckers** (left) have a red cap while the females (right) have a black cape with red restricted to the back of the head. Both sexes enjoy both the seed and suet blocks.



The **Hairy Woodpeckers** are contrastingly black and white. The black wings are checkered with white; the head has two white stripes (and, in adult males, a flash of red toward the back of the head).



The light blue and gray **Woodhouse Scrub-Jays** are certainly not a picky eater.



The intriguing **Common Ravens** are among the smartest of all birds, gaining a reputation for solving ever more complicated problems invented by ever more creative scientists.



The long-tailed **Crissal Thrashers**, have curved bills, black moustaches, and cinnamon undertail coverts.

What tiny birds love the seed blocks???



Bridled Titmice



Juniper Titmice



Mountain Chickadees and Bushtits



Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches



Ruby-crowned Kinglets



The **American Robins** drink from the birdbath and water pans and like eating insects and earthworms!

Migration into Prescott of the Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers



The adult male **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers** have yellow rumps, throats, side-patches with heavily patterned breasts and extensive white primary coverts.



The female **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers** have lighter gray heads and bodies with streaked breast.



The Juvenile (left possible Myrtle's) **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers** have plain heads, pale throats and less breast streaking. One day in April, eight **Yellow-rumped Warblers** visit at one time.



The colorful black/yellow/white **Townsend's Warbler** (left) searches for insects in the foliage. The past week the female/immature (center) and male (right) **Black-headed Grosbeaks** visit the yard.



Two flaming orange-headed males and a female **Western Tanagers** add color to an afternoon.



The first-of-year non-breeding(left), female(center), and breeding male **Lazuli Buntings** flash the blue of lapis gemstone.



The **Spotted Towhees** are large, striking sparrows of sun-baked thickets, gleaming black above with white spots, and striped with rufous sides and brilliant white bellies, not to mention the red eyes.



The **Green-tailed Towhees** have deep olive lightening to yellow-green on the edges of the wings and tails which are set off by gray chests, white throats and come to the water feature for drinks.

Sparrows “The Earth has music for those who listen.” George Santayana



The **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** with streaky backs and bright reddish-brown crowns, white eye-rings and white malars or whisker stripes that are bordered in black, enjoy the copper feeders.



In 1929, Edward Forbush called the **Chipping Sparrow** “the little brown-capped pensioner of the dooryard and lawn, that comes about farmhouse doors to glean crumbs shaken from the tablecloth by thrifty housewives.”



Watch for flocks of the **White-crowned Sparrows** (adults above, juveniles below) to visit yards.





Lincoln's Sparrows spend a lot of time sneaking around on the ground in search of insects or small seeds, never straying far from cover, but do come out for drinks of water.

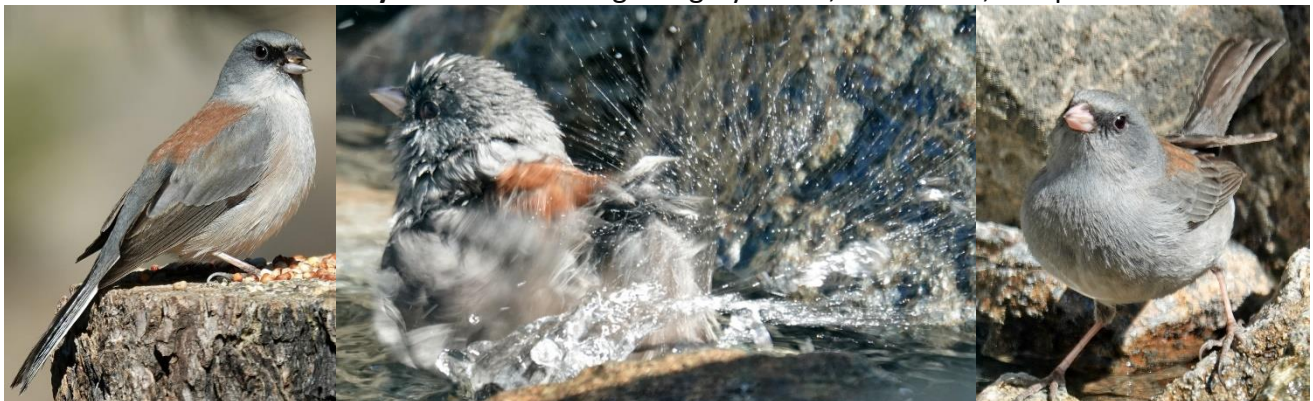
Many Dark-eyed Juncos are migrating out of Arizona to cooler climes!



The Oregon Dark-eyed Juncos have dark heads, light brown backs, and buffy sides.



The Pink Sided Dark-eyed Juncos have lighter gray heads, black lores, and pinkish sides.



The adult (Red-backed bi-colored bill, perhaps left) Gray-headed Dark-eyed Junco makes a splash.

Many Orioles and other birds are migrating into/thru Arizona from Mexico!



On April 16 a female/immatute **Scott's Oriole** is identified by the slightly curved beak, mottled back, and yellow spotting on the forewing. A male **Bullock's Oriole** has a black throat and eye-line.



On April 20, a non-breeding male **Hooded Oriole** (left) visits an Oriole feeder with fruit. Shortly afterwards, a male **Scott's Oriole** appears (right), scares off the Hooded Oriole, proceeds to eat a bit of grape jelly, and then drops to the water feature to wash the jelly off its beak (right above, left below).



Then another **Scott's Oriole** (right) with a light area on its head, comes to the water and proceeds to bathe.



In April, male (left) and female(right) **Brown-headed Cowbirds** visit the yard feeder. They are a brood parasite, meaning that it lays its eggs in nests of other species.



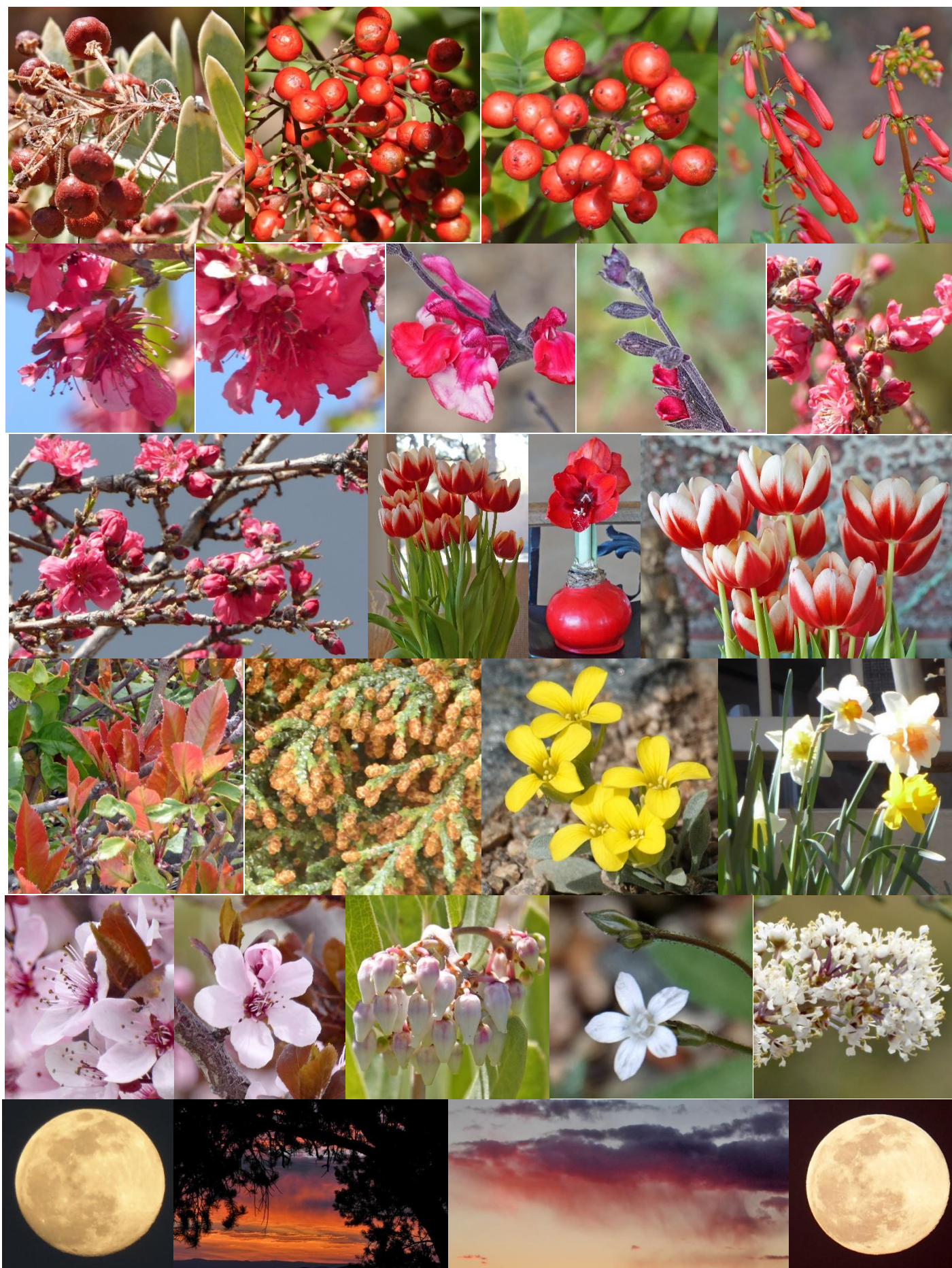
The rosy-tinged males and brownish-streaked females **Cassin's Finches** enjoy the seeds from the tree stump.



The male red-tinted and male orange-pigmented **House Finches** eat at the seed blocks while a female scours the ground for seeds.



From a nearby tree the **Pine Siskin** (left) wishing it was in the water, watches the black-capped male and female/immature **Lesser Goldfinches** as they bathe in the water feature.



February 27 Snow Full Moon, April 1 Sunset, April 18 Walking Rain Sunset, and April 26 Pink Full Moon