

Gillespie Creek

Color, Seeds and Seed Eaters



The top photo was taken at sunrise on Monday morning. The trees in the Gillespie Creek watershed are just beginning to show their fall splendor. No doubt the rain storm predicted late week will bring with it wind. Have you seen wind?



Who Has Seen the Wind

by
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Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.
Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:

The top left side photo of course shows **Milkweed** beginning to spread its seeds. I have fond memories of my toddler grandsons picking up satiny bundles of milkweed seeds a decade ago, holding them high in the wind, twirling around singing, "Fly away, fly away, fly away to Sandstone...". Below is a beautiful flowering **Little Blue Stem** plant filled meadow. The seed eating bird to the right is a female **Northern Flicker**. I believe the bird's pink cheeks indicate its sex. This very common woodpecker spends most of its time on the ground eating ants and seeds. Interestingly she will also crush the some of the ants to extract formic acid to preen with. The chemical will kill any parasites that threaten her skin and feathers.