

# Gillespie Creek Journal

Both Red and White-Breasted Nuthatches, the acrobats of the bird kingdom, frantically change their diets to **seeds** this time of the year. Here at Gillespie Creek they work with Gold Finches to totally clean out my sunflower feeder at least twice daily!

Together with the Nuthatch species here in the Central U.S. the Pygmy and Brown-headed species, Nuthatches are found in throughout the entire continental U.S. It is the Nuthatch that uses layers of tree bark as winter storage pantries. Perhaps the Prickly Pear Cactus growing out of the bark of a Pineapple Palm in the Quail Run Neighborhood of Sun City, Arizona came about as a Pygmy Nuthatch planted and simply had a "senior moment" forgetting about its Palm tree stash!

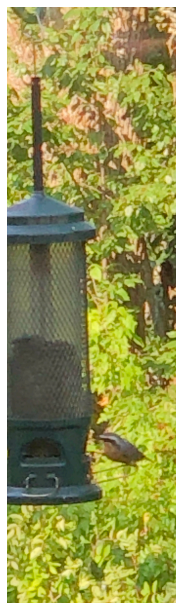
The Navajo say Nuthatches are a symbol of Old Age. "One who possesses Nuthatch wisdom can face the masses and has the ability to move ideas from thought to practice."



**Pileated Woodpecker**  
8/29/23



**Arizona Gilded Flicker**  
8/22/23  
Photo by Linda

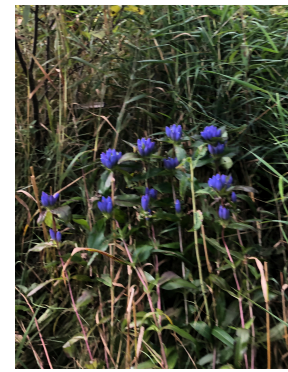


**Red-Breasted Nuthatch**  
8-18-23



**White-Breasted Nuthatch** 8/18/23

[gillespiecreek.com](http://gillespiecreek.com)



**Bottle Gentian,**  
My Favorite Jewel of September  
9/1/23

These days as the meadows and forests of the Midwest take on the jewel tones of Autumn we change our diet. Human's feast on garden fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and sweet corn.

Woodpeckers seek out **ants!** Pileated Woodpeckers announce their foraging territories at sunup and chat with each other until sun set. The guy pictured was working our ancient grandmother Bur Oak with a mate. In the meantime Flickers both here and in the desert were about in search of ants both in trees and on the ground as they begin to bulk up. The hungry months of winter may be fierce.

Ant eating Woodpeckers extend their long sticky tongues to lap up the larvae of wood-boring insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer and termites as well as ants at a rate of 2,000 a day!.

Flickers play an important ecological role by excavating meadow ant nest holes. Other forest creatures find the small caverns to be safe, snug winter homes.