

Gillespie Creek Journal

Gillespiecreek.com

Merlin Identified Birds 2/18/24 in my neighborhood:

- House Sparrow
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- House Finch
- Red Crossbill
- Mourning Dove
- Gila Woodpecker
- Black-necked Stilt
- Violet-green Swallow
- Costa's Hummingbird
- Verdin
- Orchard Oriole
- 'Gambrel's Quail
- Peregrine Falcon
- Harris's Hawk
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Cedar Waxwing
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Lesser Goldfinch
- Northern Mockingbird
- Curve-billed Thrasher
- Northern Cardinal



Do You Recognize This Nest?

Of course the above is an Oriole's Nest. According to Audubon, experts aren't sure why birds have adapted to build hanging nests. The most obvious benefit is that the deep cups and narrow entranceways-two to three inches wide- provide better protection from predators and brood parasites. Baltimore, Orchard, Scott's and Hooded Orioles all build hanging nests.

It is believed that an oriole's ability to create the architectural wonders is driven by instinct says Audubon. Over time birds have become increasingly adept at weaving hanging structures. Orioles use the materials at hand...even fishing line!

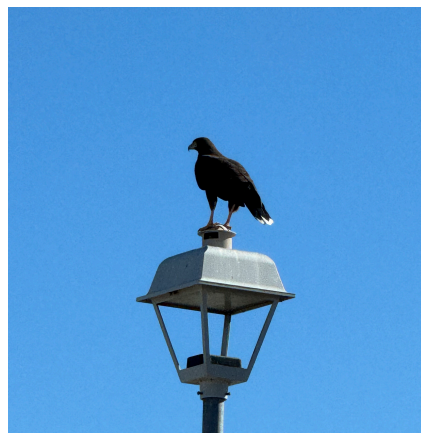
This time of the year when much of the thick foliage has left bare branches in trees its fun to scan deciduous trees to forecast which birds will be expected in the next weeks.

Please join Audubon today in using your downloaded Merlin Bird ID program to identify the birds in your neighborhood. **Today is the final day of their February World Wide Bird count.**

Interestingly my Sun City, Arizona ecosystem is currently welcoming a huge migration of song birds as well as a few "accidental" arrivals. Pink colored listed birds are recent arrivals

A notice to my South Carolina followers: March 25-March 30 Audubon is celebrating a "Southeast Shorebird Festival." Suggestions for the event are hosting a walk, a presentation, movie premier, bird-themed happy hour, kid activities.

"A friend is some creature that knows the song of your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words." Donna Roberts



Harris's Hawk Looking For Breakfast 2/16/24

Baltimore Orioles generally arrive the second week of April to our Stillwater neighborhood. Colorful males first. I loved their joy filled arrival song. To me it was the assurance of our friendship .

To Hear An Oriole Sing

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To hear an Oriole sing
May be a common thing-
Or only a divine.

It is not of the Bird
Who sings the same, unheard,
As unto Crowd-

The Fashion of the Ear
Attireth that it hear
In 'Dun, or fair-

So whether it be 'Rune,
Or whether it be none
Is of within.

The "Tune is in the Tree--"
The Skeptic-showeth me-
"No Sir! 'In Thee!"

 Emily Dickinson