

Gillespie Creek Journal



**A Harty Cardinal Pair
Posing Above the
Gillespie Creek Feeder
2/19/25
Photo by RA**

where we are
By Gerald Locklin

I envy those
Who live in two places.
New York, say and London,
Wales and Spain,
L.A. and Paris.
Hawaii and Switzerland.
There is always the anticipation
Of the change, the chance that what is
wrong
Is the result of where you are. I have
always loved both the freshness of
arriving and the relief of leaving, with
two homes every one would be a
homecoming
I am not even considering the weather,
hot
Or cold, dry or wet. I'm talking about
hope.



**Real Winter Has Finally Arrived at
Gillespie Creek
Ambient Temperatures Hover Around
-27 Wind Chills in the -40 Range
2/19/25**



Vermillion Flycatcher

Photo by JA

A Vermillion Flycatcher is called
"bien viaje". Often translated a
good luck bird!

A Cardinal in your yard can
symbolize hope, love, new
beginnings. Also a connection
with loved ones who have
passed. (From the **Farmers'
Almanac.**)

Today I walked through my neighborhood. The sun shone brightly, the wind was calm; filled with songs of birds. Merlin eBird listened along with me. Together we identified the following singers: House Sparrow, House Finch, Vermillion Flycatcher, Gambrel's Quail, Mourning Dove, Great-tailed Grackle, Curved Billed Thrasher, Northern Mocking bird, Gila Woodpecker. For me an early morning walk is time to resettle my brain into a writing mode. Earlier I had started this piece, it seems however that once at the computer, the direction Nature Notes take often surprises me. Today's surprise was the Vermillion Flycatcher's visit.

The presence of an unexpected red bird appears as a talisman of hope, joy and elegance. Our creator thoughtfully has allowed stunning red birds to pass quietly from Northern to Southern homes as well as from West to East.

All is a promise of hope to be cherished.

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