

# Gillespie Creek Journal



**Says Phoebe**  
A Flycatcher  
Photo by Audubon

Professional Naturalists have this to say about watching birds.  
 “When you’re watching birds-and this could apply to the natural world at large- there is so much going on beyond our comprehension. Because of our sensory capabilities as human beings, we are condemned to having only an ankle deep understanding of what it is to be alive on Earth. To me, that’s humbling and mind-blowing. What do you think?”

**Those Who Love**  
From Sara Teasdale

“ Those who love the most,  
 Do not talk of their love...  
 In the fragrant gardens of heaven  
 Are silent, or speak if at all  
 Of fragile, inconsequent things...”  
 But hearing his name by chance,  
 A light would pass over her face.”

*Today’s Journal explores the Flycatcher Species a little more broadly. Over the years I have fallen in love with the three Flycatchers pictured below. Why? Each neighbor lives around me going about its protective job whether I’m in the Midwest, Southwest or the Eastern Coast of the United States. These birds flash a light of recognition to me the bird watcher as they take their positions; Great Crested on the tree top, Vermillion hiding within the leaves, Phoebe darting about below.*

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**Vermillion Flycatcher**  
Photo by JA



**Great Crested Flycatcher**  
Photo By All About Birds

“Flycatchers are some of the hardest birds to identify. With many of them looking remarkably similar, finding the differences between the species to tell them apart can be nearly impossible. This family has about 400 species, all of which are found only in the United States and Canada. Most flycatchers have a slanted forehead and slight peaked head feathers. Each plays a critical role in insect control by preying on flying insects, including mosquitos. Each targets a different size of insect and species.. This invites multiple breeds to coexist in the same area without excessive competition. Flycatchers monitor the fluctuations in environmental health conditions. “  
 (From **NestBox Live**)  
 Say a prayer for this treasured avian neighbor!