

Gillespie Creek Journal

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Beautiful Purple Finch
9/21/25

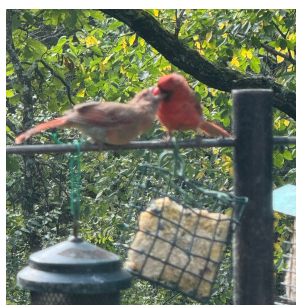
Photo By JA

I enjoy going beyond studying bird taxonomy books when searching and identifying birds and butterflies. With climate change these beautiful creations move Northward with their food sources. The most stunning are found only in pockets of intentionally protected ecosystems. One of which is the Vermillion Hills. Two book titles that I have used recently are:

Butterfly's Daughter by Mary Alice Monroe and
Kingbird Highway by Kenn Kaufman

"Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures."

Henry David Thoreau



Northern Cardinal Dad Feeds His Second Clutch Fledgling
9/22/25

Photo By JA

The California Condor became extinct in the wild in 1987 when all remaining wild individuals were captured. The breed was successfully revived and 6 pair were reestablished in the rugged mountain/Glen Canyon area at the Arizona Utah border. As of 2024 85 Condors were successfully breeding there. The Butler's watched three of them quietly rustling about. Research suggests that these vultures do not build nests. Instead they incubate their young in mud structures often times on the ground of mountainsides. California Condors are extremely rare.

Here at the 45th parallel young garter snakes squiggle in front of my footfalls through acorn paved paths during this rare but welcome extended September 2025 summer. Our sumac is just beginning its crimson phase. Light breezes filter goodbye calls of Sandhill Cranes. An occasional solitary Monarch Butterfly drifts Southward.



A California Condor Of Vermillion Hills Area of NW Arizona Rests in It's Historic Navajo Bridge Hangout

9/24/25

Photo by J Butler

Autumn Thought

By Langston Hughes

*Flowers are happy in summer.
In autumn they die and are
blown away.
Dry and withered,
Their petals dance on the wind
Like little brown butterflies.*