



# Happenings

P R E S E R V A T I O N ~ C O N S E R V A T I O N ~ E D U C A T I O N

**APRIL-MAY BIRD SIGHTINGS**

- Red-Tailed Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Harrier Hawk
- Vermillion Flycatcher
- Western Tanager
- Summer Tanager
- Western Kingbird
- Black Headed Grosbeak
- Lazuli Bunting
- Scott's Oriole
- Bullock's Oriole
- Hooded Oriole
- Painted Redstart
- Great Horned Owl
- Chihuahuan Raven
- Northern Mockingbird
- Mexican Jay
- Northern Cardinal
- Pyrrhuloxia
- Canyon Towhee
- Spotted Towhee
- Green-tailed Towhee
- Abert's Towhee
- Gambel's Quail
- Scaled Quail
- Hummingbird's
- Dark-eyed Junco
- House Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch
- Bronzed Cowbird
- White-winged Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Curved-billed Thrasher
- Bendire's Thrasher
- Northern Flicker
- Red-shafted Flicker
- Gila Woodpecker
- Cactus Wren
- Bewick's Wren
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Roadrunner
- Pine Siskin
- Wilson's Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- American Robin

**THEY'RE BAAAAACK!**

**Paradise Found!** Once again, *Cochise Stronghold Ranch* becomes *the bird's* resort of choice for spring~summering!

Our **Red-tailed Hawks'** nest is perking with two new chicks again this year. The always hopeful Turkey Vultures "**Zopilotes**" circle overhead for any unfortunate victim. Three **Oriole** species are back to nest & eat as many oranges as we'll put out! The very



An old favorite! The Western Tanager.

entertaining **Bronzed Cowbird** hovers above the ladies, impressing & waiting for opportunities.

**New this year?** A **Raven** couple has made the area

near the Circle Pond their new home! A **Bendire's Thrasher** has taken over the lawn around the Koi Pond, unwilling to



share the caterpillars with the resident **Curve-billed Thrasher**. Earlier this year, Mark spotted a **Painted Redstart**, a Ranch first!

The Western Fence Lizards AKA "**Blue-belly**" are courting with their fancy dance steps. The **Whitetail Deer** find our budding roses a real treat!

The Iris are blooming & huge! The Plum tree promises a crop this year. The Almond & Pecan trees are loaded and **MAYBE** an apple or two.

A mild winter allowed all that grows to flourish. Only 1.49" of rain so far this year.

Looking forward to a great monsoon season!

Always in our viewfinder... **Preservation, Conservation and Education.**

**BIRDING ~ HIKING ~ CAMPING HISTORY TOUR**

If you or your group is interested in visiting the Ranch to enjoy birding, hiking, camping or a history tour, feel free to contact us for arrangements.

The Ranch boasts **5 Seasons!** **Winter** brings occasional snow and crisp clear skies. During **Early Spring** the wildflowers & grasses begin peeking out. Mesquites & manzanitas come alive. Our ponds are abuzz with

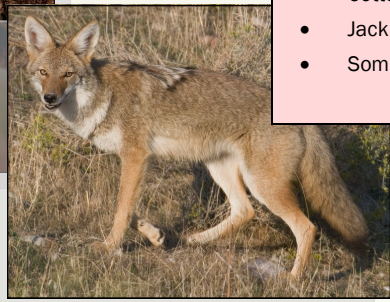
happy birds, dragonflies & Koi. Late April & May bring the most birds. Check the "**Watch the Birdies**" page on our web site for a list of our sightings. This early Spring green-up often recedes into a dry period until the much anticipated monsoons begin. This is known as the fifth or **Spring Dry Season**. Although we don't see much rain during this time, the birdlife, nesting &

newborn wildlife is abundant. **Summer** shows off tall green grasses and the bluest skies in Arizona. Since we are at 4848 feet, temperatures are 10-15 degrees cooler than Tucson or Phoenix. Many years have not seen 100° and the maximum only 101-103°. **Fall** begins with cooler temps changing colors & evolves into the best weather in the entire country!

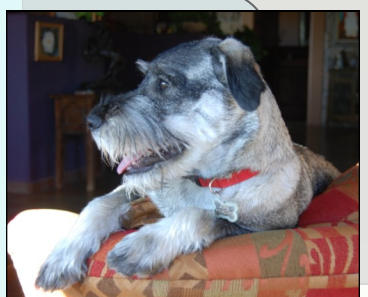
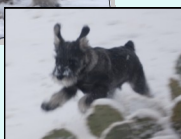
Our habitat maintenance is paying off! These BIG bucks are right at home. The largest Whitetail & Mule Deer Bucks ever spotted on the Ranch felt comfortable drinking from our many fresh water tanks and munching our grasses!

**APRIL ~ MAY  
ANIMAL  
SIGHTINGS**

- Whitetail Deer
- Mule Deer
- Mountain Lion
- Javelina
- Pocket Gophers
- Coyotes
- Ringtail Cats
- Cottontail Rabbits
- Jack Rabbits
- Sombrero'ed Lunatics



Casual & very much at home since January is Standard Schnauzer, **BINGO!** He started out small enough...now sneaking up on his soon to be 50 lb's!



"In It Together"  
From our *Coming Home* series

We continue to research health concerns, enjoy working the land, oil paint, squish clay & create wheat/grain/sugar-free, lo-carb recipes!



Tile work for the Brinig Installation



Orange Cake

# MEETINGS



Metabolic Syndrome Workshop



SUNDOWNERS WITH FRIENDS



The folks of Vision Quest returned. Camping with their covered wagons & tipi's. Doug sharing the rich history & ways of Cochise.



Once again, we welcomed our friends from the Wings Over Willcox celebration for the Birding & History Tour as well as other groups. Check our website for more pics!



# VISITORS

## HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 10,000 BC~** Wetter, warmer climate. Giant mammals. Folsom Point. Hunter Culture
- 5,000 BC~** Colder, dryer climate. Smaller animals. Hunter/Gatherer Culture
- 200 AD~** Archaic Hunter/Gatherer Culture
- 800 AD to 1240 AD~** Archaic Culture becomes more organized. Pueblo Period begins. Mogollon, Hohokam, Mimbres
- 1240 AD~** Dramatic climate change. Drought. Natural resources over-utilized
- 1250 AD~** Mesa Verde (Colorado) ~ abandoned
- 1260 AD~** All Mogollon (New Mexico) sites abandoned Casas Grandes (Mexico) site abandoned
- 1299 AD~** Kayenta sites (Arizona) abandoned All peoples widely scattered throughout regions
- 1300 AD~** Apaches have filtered into the Southwest & are widely scattered
- 1540 AD~** Coronado & Spanish explore Southwest "Despoblado"
- Between 1805 & 1815~** Cochise born - Chokonon Band - Chiricahua Apache
- 1786 - 1831 generally peaceful
  - 1810 - 1821 Mexican War of Independence ~ Apaches return to raiding
- 1846~** U.S. / Mexican War begins
- 1851~** New U.S. border ~ Colorado, Utah & Arizona annexed into the U.S. Raiding increases ~ beginning of 35 year Apache Wars
- 1861 ~ 1872~** Cochise War begins - Bascom Affair
- 1861 - 1865 Civil War
- 1872~** Cochise achieves Peace Treaty
- 1874~** Cochise dies, is buried somewhere in the Stronghold
- 1876~** Reservation closed. Geronimo War begins
- 1884~** John Rockfellow starts horse ranch
- 1886~** Geronimo surrenders. Deported to Florida
- 1894~** Martin Costello establishes Cochise Stronghold Ranch
- 2005~** Ranch acquired from Costello Estate
- 2013~** Wings Over Willcox & other groups visit the Ranch

## SUGGESTED READING

**An Apache Life - Way**

~ Opler

**COCHISE** ~ *Chiricahua Apache Chief*

~ Sweeney

**COCHISE** ~ *The Life and Times of the Great Apache Chief*

~ Aleshire

## AREA INTERESTS



**Cochise Stronghold Ranch** rich in history, nature and a true sense of calm. Favorite home of Apache Chief Cochise in the Dragoon Mountains. Come visit the birds & wildlife. Hike in the footsteps of Cochise! 99 N. Stronghold Ranch Rd, Pearce, AZ

**602-510-6980**

[www.strongholdranch.com](http://www.strongholdranch.com)



**Wings Over Willcox** celebrates the Sandhill crane migration with it's annual birding and nature festival. It features birding tours, trade show, seminars and much more. 1500 N Circle I Road, Willcox, AZ 85643

**800-200-2272**

[www.wingsoverwillcox.com](http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com)



The **Amerind Foundation** museum & research facility dedicated to the preservation & interpretation of Native American cultures & their histories. 2100 N. Amerind Road, Dragoon, AZ 85609

**520-586-3666**

[www.amerind.org](http://www.amerind.org)



**Cochise County ~ Land of Legends** tourism council has the scoop on visiting our area! Bisbee's mining & art, Tombstone's Wild West, historic forts, wine country, caverns, ghost towns, hiking, birding, deserts, public lands astronomy, & even U-Pick farms!

Cochise County, Arizona

[www.explorecochise.com](http://www.explorecochise.com)

Sign Up to receive our quarterly newsletter via email

**Contact Us At:** [strongholdranch@aol.com](mailto:strongholdranch@aol.com)



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