

## *'Real Redtail' Hawk Visits the Lumianski's*

*September 2020*

We have a small backyard with a cactus garden at one end and a little pool at the other end. In between we have a small, circular bird bath which, to our delight, attracts many desert flyers - Cactus wrens, verdins, thrashers, quail, mockingbirds, house finches, hummers, doves, towhees, road-runners, woodpeckers, fly-catchers, sparrows, occasional cardinals, orioles, phainopeplas and beautiful tanagers. Over the past six months or so, we've received four visits from The Sky Giant, AKA the famed Red-Tailed Hawk. He's a very large bird with a wingspan of 4+ feet, big grasping claws, an impressive beak and clear, piercing eyes - he's simply an awesome/magnificent sight. We sent some pics of his first visit a while back, but his last visit was what we considered to be an astounding and dramatic sight. It's possible this is common behavior among Red-Tailed hawks, and certainly our relentless desert heat creates a powerful incentive for cooling your feathers, but in our 30 years of living here, he's the very first bird to ever take an actual bath in our pool, see the photo montage below. He stayed in our yard for a total of about one hour - first sitting on the wall, then in the bird bath, then in the pool, then back on the wall, then back in the pool for a second dip, then over to our neighbor's roof to dry off. We were able to approach him at will and get as close as six feet without disturbing his impervious calm and lordly demeanor. It's great to have animals sharing our planet!! Pete

### **The Scene - Birdbath, Patio, Pool**



**The Arrival - Red Tails are "Perch-Hunters" - i.e., they sit and wait to attack from their perch**

Hmmm, it's hot under all these feathers (it was about 110°)



An Official and Rare Red Tail Moon Shot (!)



A Little Small, but perfect for cooling your heels!

What are you looking at?? What would YOU do if you had all these feathers??



Ahhh - Better than a Bud! That Old Beak is Good for eating, not so good for scooping (!)

**Take Off!!!**



**Hmmm . . . This is nice, but have a look at that bigger bird bath over there.**



**Now this really looks like a Hawk's Bath!!**



**But let's see, how do I get in without looking like I'm drowning??**



**How about landing gently on the first step . . . .**



**Perfect, just as I thought!!**

**Ahhhh - the Life of Riley!!**



**Just go under . . .**



**And fluffle around for a bit . .**





**Perhaps a pina colada with a bit of a mouse garnish?? (!)**

Ten minutes later...



I think I'll get out for a bit with the old reverse water hop

Hey - I don't look like a wet chicken do I?



I'm NOT a chicken!!

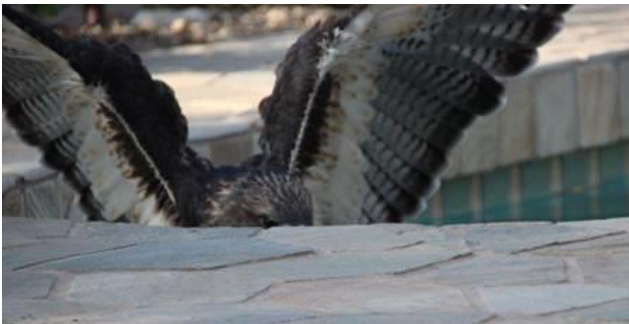
Time to dry off a little bit over on that wall.



**You know what, the sun feels great, but I wouldn't mind one more dip.**



**Let's see, how did I do that again???**



**...Ahh Yes, Plop and Flop!**

**OK That was great, now let's see if I can still fly with soaking under-feathers . . .**



**'Look out below!'**



**YIKES!!**

**Perfect, a nice warm rooftop next door!!**



**Now, did you say there were rabbits nearby??**





**Missing Redtailers: Jerry Bever, Jim Conway, Dean Cook, Fred Brooks, Carl Davidson, Wiley Harris, Bob Zapalac, Pete Anselmo, Marty Fox, Bob Bass, Troy Degroot, Ken Scott, Gene Reichle, Rod Whalen, Ted Henry, Steve Jordan, Paul Verstraete**