

Fair Feathered Friends

Birds of Casa Blanca

House Finches

Tube feeder feast! Finches don't have to compete against larger birds on the feeder tube. But, on the hopper, larger birds like Doves and Pigeons often maintain pecking order as show on this [YouTube](#) clip.



Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's Hawk patiently awaits his prey for dinner. I originally misnamed him as a Sharp-shinned Hawk, but a viewer kindly corrected my mistake on [YouTube](#).



Anna's Hummingbirds

Occasionally they cooperate and peacefully share a drink of nectar. Mostly we see them dog-fighting for pecking order status. See our Hummingbirds dog-fighting on [YouTube](#).



Northern Cardinal

Surprise visit by Northern Cardinal, not officially sighted in southern California but known to visit Arizona. See more of our Cardinal scenes on [YouTube](#).



Black-headed Grosbeak

Seasonal visit by our migrating neighbors from Mexico. This is a male with bright yellow-orange coloring. See female in next slide.



Black-headed Grosbeaks

The female poses in front showing duller colors than the male, just behind. They often accompany one another as a couple in our bird feeder array. A female is also shown in this [YouTube](#) video.



Grosbeak and Finches

Black-headed Grosbeak begrudgingly shares feed cake with female Finch on the left and male Finch on the right. This scene comes alive for you on [YouTube](#).



Female Grosbeak vs. Brown-headed Cowbird

Female Black-headed Grosbeak faces off
against Brown-headed Cowbird known
for laying eggs in other birds' nests.



House Finch and Cowbird

Here's a better view of the Brown-headed Cowbird showing the shades of his colors.

The House Finch is a male with the red tinted head behind. See this scene on

[YouTube](#).



Brown-headed Cowbird

This migrant bird is called a cowbird because he is known to follow herds of cattle in the prairie in search of the insect prey that were flushed up by the large grazing mammals. Females forgo building nests and instead put all their energy into producing eggs, sometimes more than three dozen a summer. These they lay in the nests of other birds, abandoning their young to foster parents, usually at the expense of at least some of the host's own chicks.



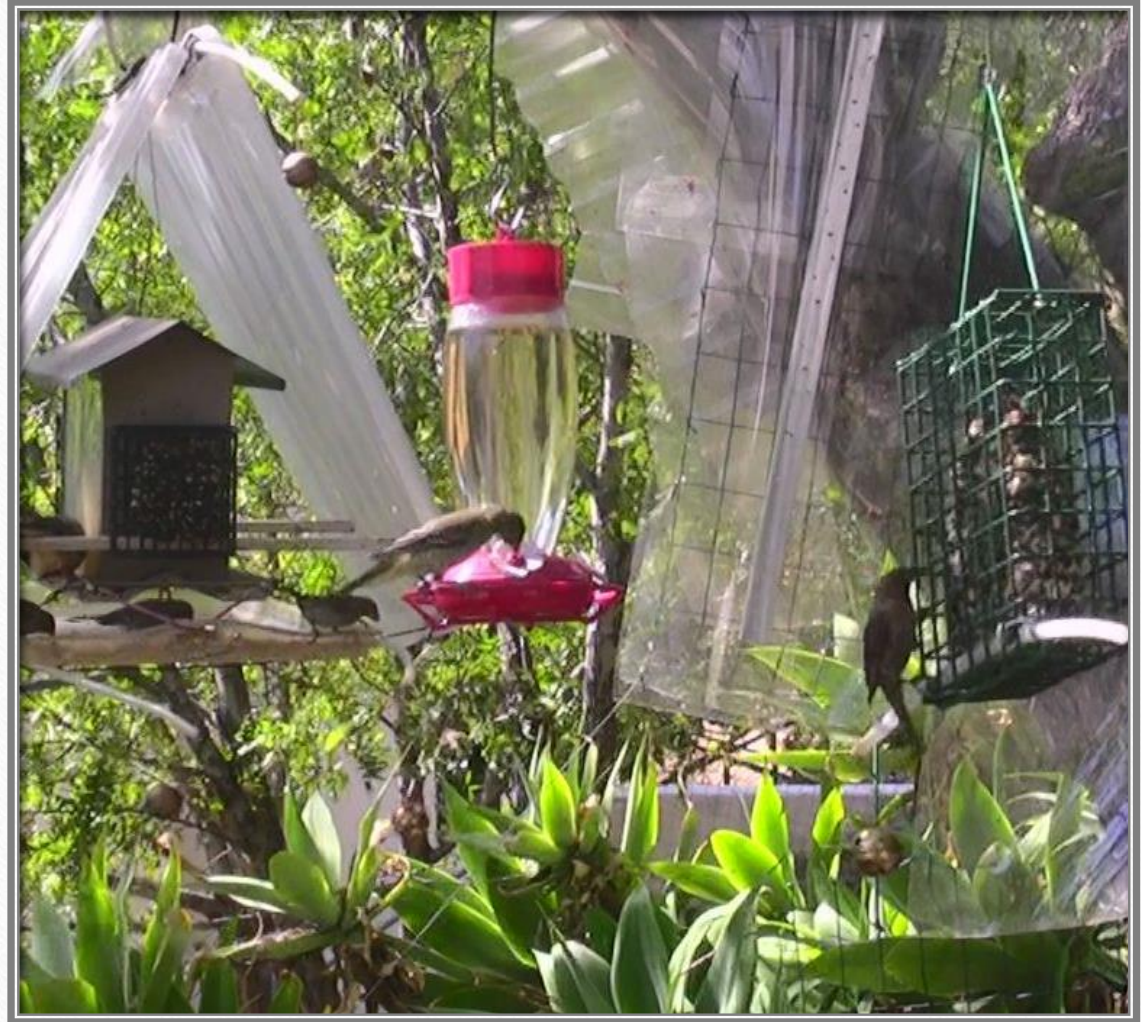
Western Tanager

His orange head and black wings with yellow body gives away his identity as this male Western Tanager tries to suck up nectar.



Hooded Oriole

Like the Western Tanager, the Hooded Oriole also likes to suck up Hummingbird nectar. Our formula for nectar is simply one part sugar to four parts water. He also is known to bathe in the ant moat atop the feeder as shown in this clip on [YouTube](#). They often nest in our Giant Bird of Paradise shown in the next slide.



Hooded Oriole Nest

The Giant Bird of Paradise large leaves seem to accommodate the nests of these beautiful seasonal visitors just fine. They also pluck the seeds from the flowers for nutrition. To see mom and dad feeding this hatchling, check out our [YouTube](#) video.



Band-tailed Pigeons

Band-tailed Pigeons face off for pecking order. Usually one peck will suffice, maybe two.



Western Scrub Jays

These are powerful predators that I have witnessed raiding the nests of house finches and eating their eggs and fledglings. They also mimic the calls of other species, such as Orioles. In this scene on [YouTube](#) the Jay will take over a peaceful scene of Finches on the hopper feeder.



Western Scrub Jay

Better lighting shows the shades of beige or brown colors on the Jay's back and wings.



Mockingbird Bathing

Our Mockingbirds love to drink and bathe, but never take our seeds. See more birds bathing on [YouTube](#).



House Sparrow

House Sparrows like this guy on the left are daily visitors here at Casa Blanca along with our House Finches on the right.



Lesser Goldfinches

These Lesser Goldfinches have their own special diet of thistle seeds. See scenes of our Goldfinches on a sunny day on

[YouTube](#).



Mourning Doves and Finch

Showing off his wings and giving off the whimpering sound with each beat as this Mourning dove lives up to his name, joining another dove on the hopper feeder. The female finch enjoys the tube feeder to the left. You can hear them flap their wings and whimper in this [YouTube](#) scene.



Downy Woodpecker

Lots of goodies in the bark of our Jacaranda tree is enjoyed by this Downy Woodpecker, who also occasionally pecks at the feed cake.

Here you can see him working hard on

[YouTube](#).



It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a Mourning Cloak Butterfly!

Mourning cloaks belong to the butterfly family Nymphalidae, one of the largest butterfly families. The familiar red admiral, viceroy, and monarch are also members of this group. Bees have also been seen sucking up this sweet nectar.

