

10-23

My latest animal adventures are mild. A Grey Fox came for a drink night before last and again the next morning. I wasn't quick enough with the camera, so I am getting a trail cam, tired of missing these opportunities! Then when I was outside a bit ago, I frightened a fairly large Desert Spiny Lizard so badly that it rushed into hardware wire and got stuck!

I reached in (it was in a doubled-up bunny-deterrent fence) and tried to persuade it to back out, whereupon it quickly and with much force BIT me! These local lizards are such ungrateful wretches! Desert Spinys get very large (7 to 12 inches in length, but they are a large-bodied lizard. Maybe they should be called Desert Spiny Sausage Lizard.) They look somewhat like a chipmunk in size, but this one was probably half grown.

As their name implies, they are very spiny. Each scale on the body comes to a sharp point. So that is the reason the lizard could not back out of the wire. It was wedged in, with the spines holding it inside a square of the wire.

I should have taken photos but was concerned to hurry up and get the poor lizard loose. I grabbed some small wire clippers that just barely fit in beside the lizard. Fortunately the stupid guy had wedged in even more, immobilizing the front legs which was good so that it wouldn't struggle while I worked on the wire. I had to snip the sides of the square of wire and after 3 careful snips, the lizard shot past me to freedom. I live such a life of adventure, ha ha ha!

10-24

If I was superstitious, I would think I had used up my year's allotment of luck with seeing Cuckoos, Elf Owls and a Mountain Lion, because now all I am getting is near misses. But the trail camera is on its way, so hopefully some of the local drama can be captured during the hours when I can't see what is going on.

A proliferation of cottontail bunnies spends large amounts of time in my yard. I think this is because of the physical barriers (fences) that deter a lot of predators but not bunnies, who deftly slip through the wire. Plus, they

drink the water that I have out, and they eat every available plant, so they are in sort of a bunny oasis

The fences don't deter all predators, the leapers for instance. In the morning, as I go out to toss some seed for the birdies, half a dozen bunnies bounce away like ping pong balls on a concrete floor.

This morning there were no bunnies, not even one. I flung seed and then noticed in the dim, early morning light, lots of deeply scraped tracks in the dirt, not far from the bedroom window. Words sometimes don't tell stories very well and for sure tracks don't. My guess was that a bobcat nailed one of my bunnies. In a ruckus of tracks in the sand, I could make out a very clear, big cat track (almost 3 inches across. My domestic cats feet are about an inch or inch and a half across) and a couple of little bunny tracks. There was a set of long, dual scrapes ending in the large cat track and many scuffs and dents in the sand.

I saw no blood however. But whatever happened, occurred in the wee hours and didn't wake us up even though it was maybe 15 feet from our sleeping heads.

I hurried around to chores and beat it back into the house to get my camera to get photos of the tracks. When I went out the door I scattered a flock of feeding birds. Much to my dismay, the little birds, in a short time, had obliterated the tracks!!! Arrgghhh! I used to be a light sleeper and probably could have heard something in times past. But now I sleep like the proverbial log and missed something amazing in the night!!

11-6-2017

This guy was in the yard all night! I have lots of photos and 2 videos of the beautiful thing. I don't know how to send videos and probably the files are too big anyway but at least I can now see what comes for water



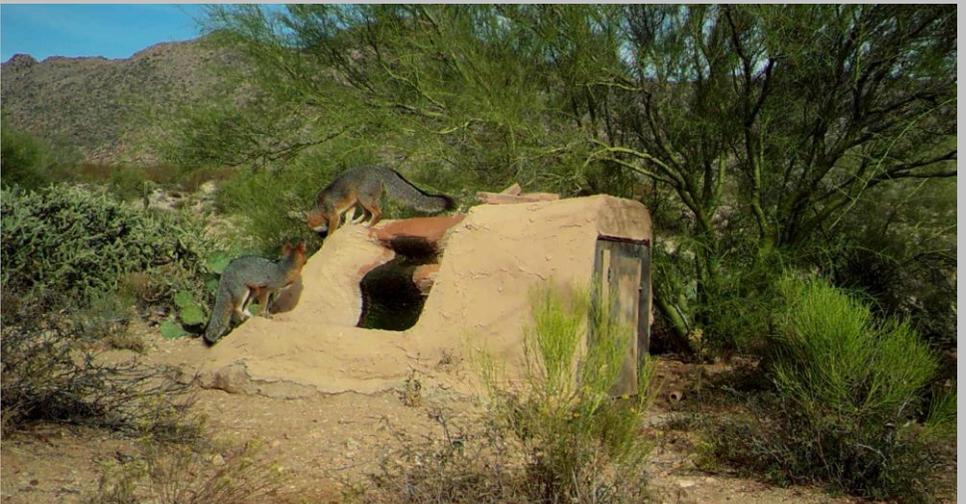
in the night! I actually saw this fox when I got up. The moonlight was still bright and the fox was out there getting a drink. Yahoo! Fun to have a trail camera!

11-6

U. Ashby took these photos with her trail camera in the daytime. They might be the same foxes that come here; she lives close by.



MOULTRIE 78°F 26.82inHg MOULTRIECAM 02 NOV 2017 01:37 pm



MOULTRIE 78°F 26.84inHg MOULTRIECAM 03 NOV 2017 02:25 pm