

# Anna's Hummingbird

The colors of a hummingbird's feathers change depending on the angle you view them from. They can appear as greens, golds, or vivid magenta. These two photos are of the same hummingbird taken less than 1 minute apart. (6/10/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)

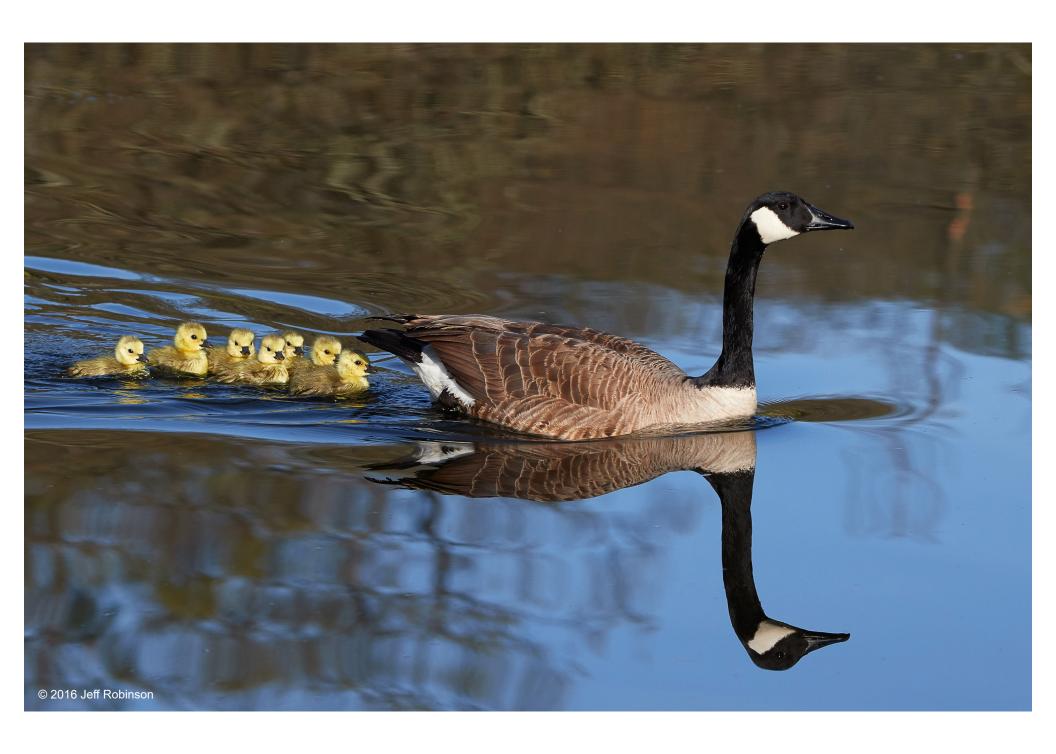
DECEMBER 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	January 2017								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
New Year's Day									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	10	11	12	13	14			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30	31							



Sand dunes are formed by the wind blowing sand, and the air currents drop the sand in one area. This results in a very harsh environment for the plants that try to live on dunes.

(3/10/2016, Death Valley National Park, CA)

S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			Febi	ruary 2	2017		MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Groundhog Day		
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lincoln's Birthday			Valentine's Day				
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		President's Day		Washington's Birthday			
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28				



### Canada Goose and Goslings

Unlike most songbirds, goslings are not fed by their parents. They hatch able to eat and swim. This is the fifth year this mother goose has nested on the roof of our horse paddock. The day after they hatch, the goslings jump 10 feet from the roof onto the ground to start feeding and walking to the lake. This photo was taken minutes after they started swimming, less than an hour after they left their nest.

(3/23/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)

FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
			1	2	3	4			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Daylight Saving Begins	13	14	15	16	St. Patrick's Day	18			
19	Spring (3:30 AM PDT)  20	21	22	23	24	25			
26		28	29	30	31	23			



Many people think of the desert as mostly lifeless, but water makes it spring to life. We visited Eureka Dunes soon after a rain, and found many parts of it covered with tiny seedlings with 2 leaves each. We returned 2 days later, and found that the little seedlings now had 4 leaves each.

(3/10/2016, Death Valley National Park, CA)

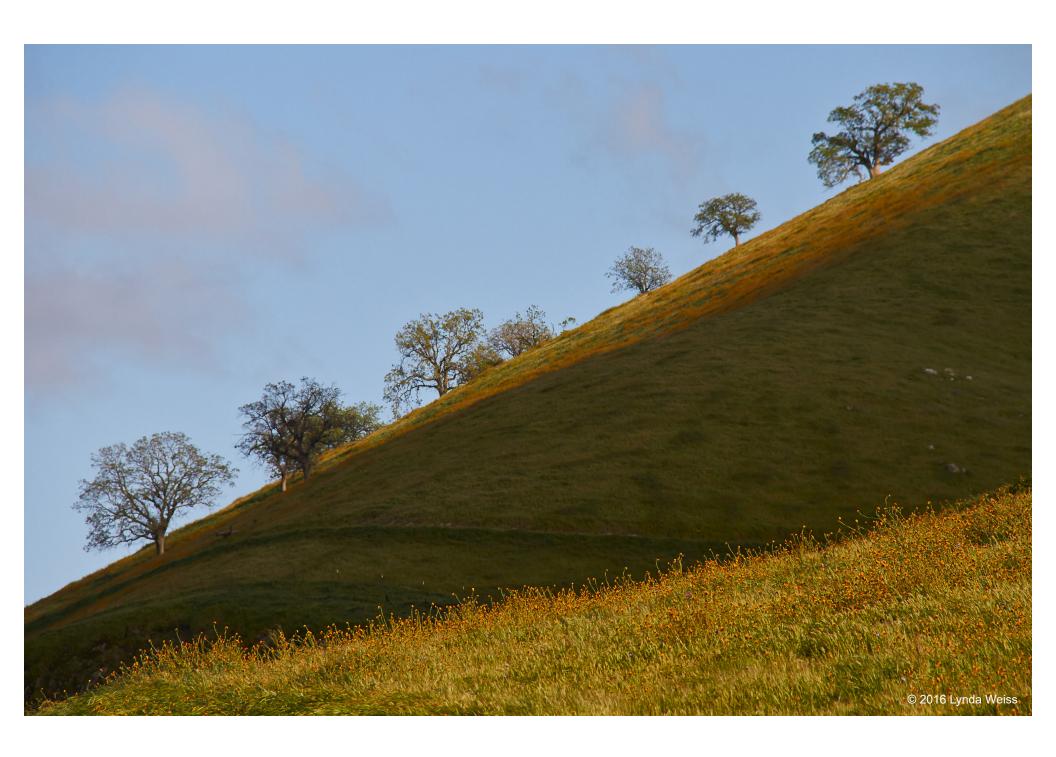
MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	3 4 10 11 17 18 24 25							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
						April Fool's Day		
						1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
						Tax Day		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
Easter Sunday								
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30								



## American Robin

The American Robin is a common sight in California. Their diet includes insects, earthworms, fruits, and berries. (3/26/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)

APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	May 2017							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
				National Day of Prayer	Cinco De Mayo			
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
Mother's Day								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
	Memorial Day							
28	29	30	31					

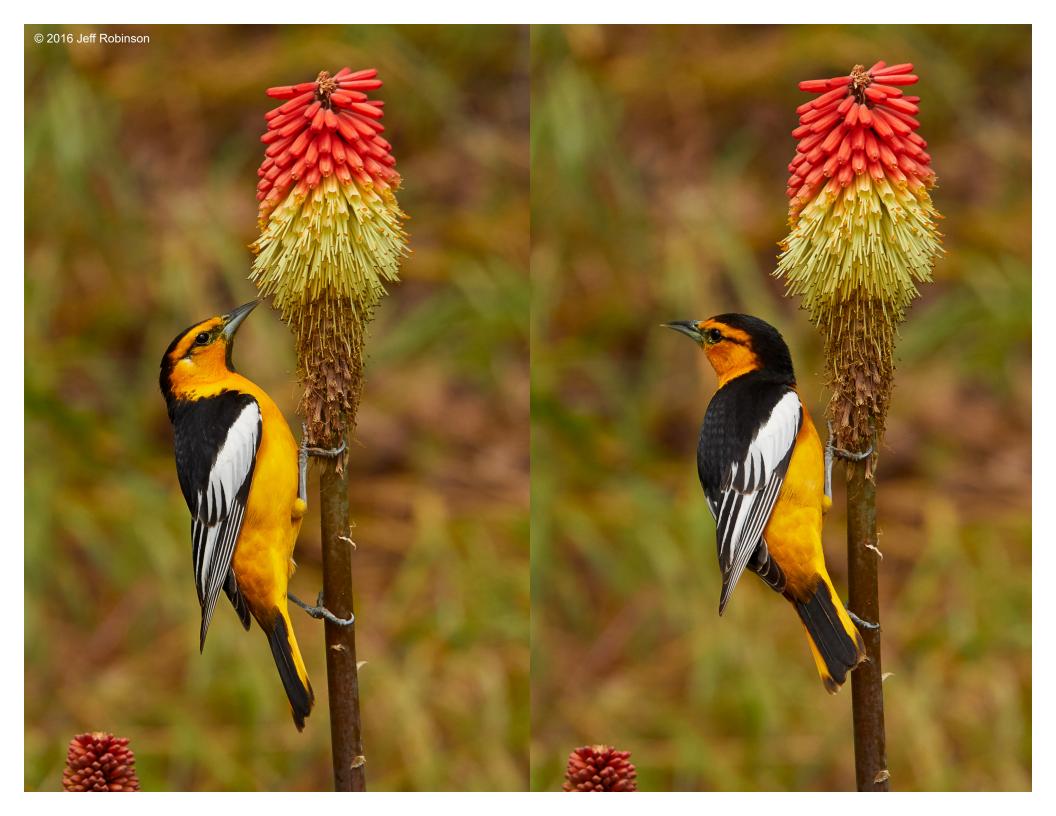


#### Fiddleneck and Oak Trees

We saw gold on the hills from miles away, and originally thought they were covered with California Poppies. It wasn't until we got up close that we realized the gold was all from fiddleneck (Amsinckia).

(3/12/2016, Caliente, CA)

MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Julie 2017							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
				1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
Father's Day		Summer (9:25 PM PDT)						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30			



#### Male Bullock's Oriole

The male Bullock's Oriole is one of the most colorful birds I have seen in California. It's rare that I see them, but every several years I spot one feeding in the spring on the nectar of the Red Hot Pokers (flowers) that grow in my front yard. (5/4/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)

S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	July 2017							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
						1		
		Independence Day						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
	···	10						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30	31							



The wind is constantly shifting sand dunes around: removing footprints, creating ripples, and moving ridges. If you look closely, you can see the sand blowing off of the upper-right ridge.

(3/10/2016, Death Valley National Park, CA)

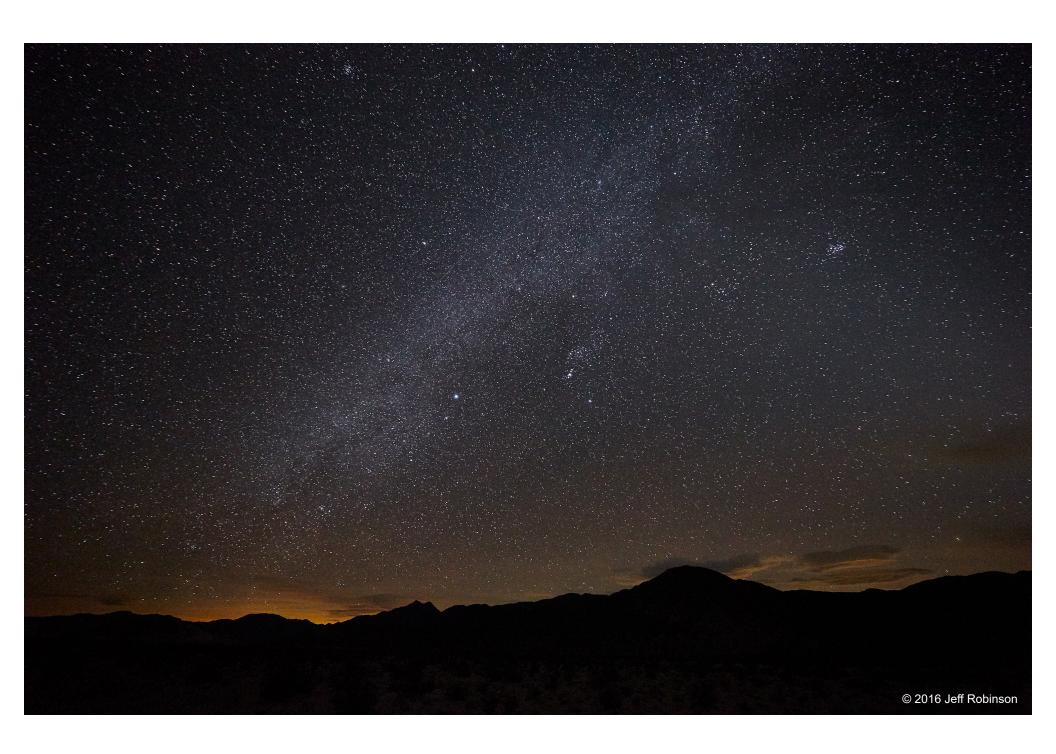
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		Aug	gust 2	017		SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



#### Male Western Bluebird

As is common in the bird world, the male Western Bluebird has much more vivid colors than the female. (3/23/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)

S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		Septe	ember	2017		OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
	Labor Day					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Patriot Day					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	Fall (1:03 PM PDT)	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

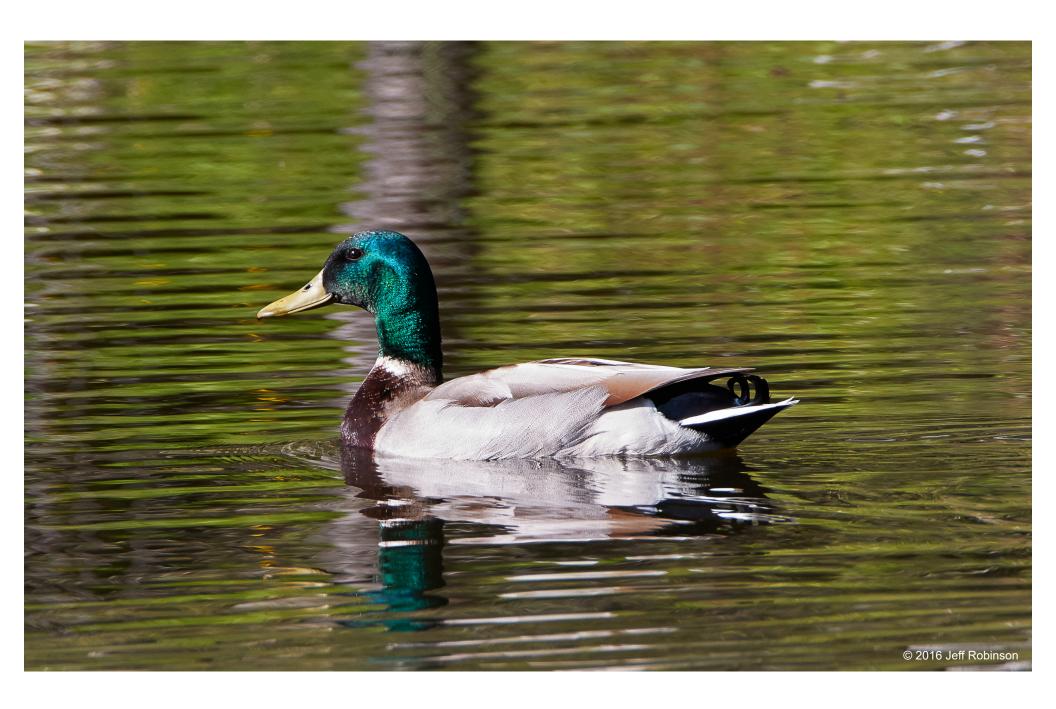


# Eureka Valley

When you get away from the lights of populated areas, the night sky lights up with stars. This northerly view from Eureka Valley includes the edge of the Milky Way. The lights of Big Pine and Bishop create the glow on the clouds over the mountains.

(3/10/2016, Death Valley National Park, CA)

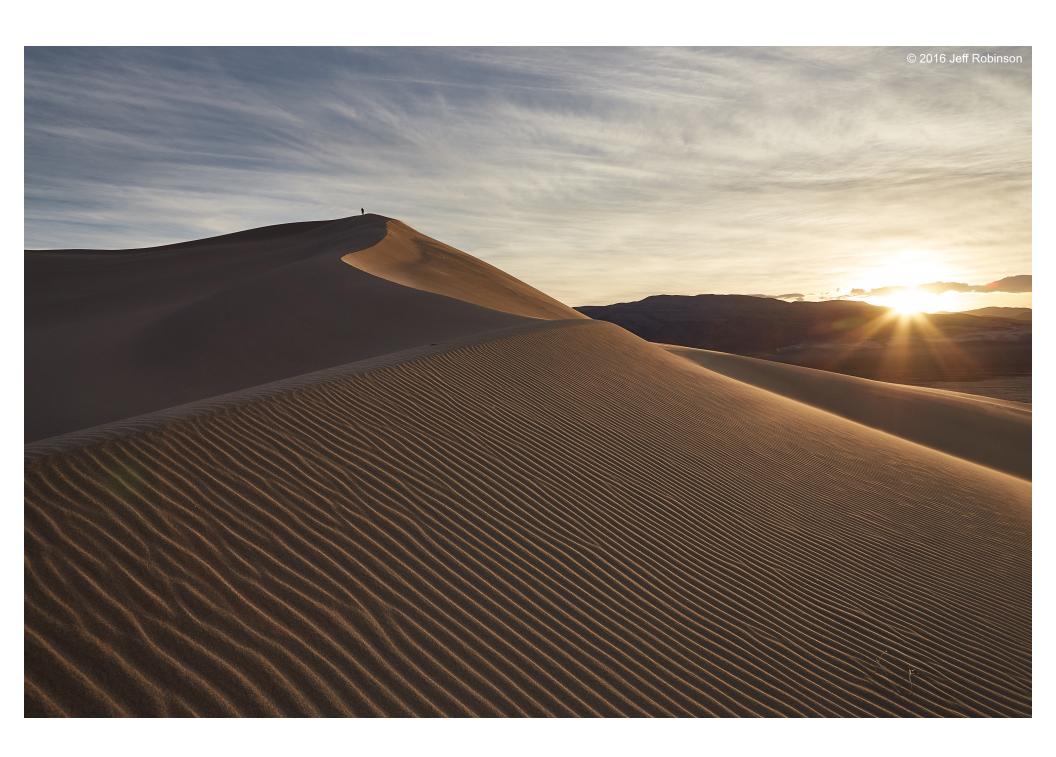
SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	UCLOPER ZUIT 4 15 16 1 22 23								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
	Columbus Day								
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30	Halloween 31							



#### Male Mallard Duck

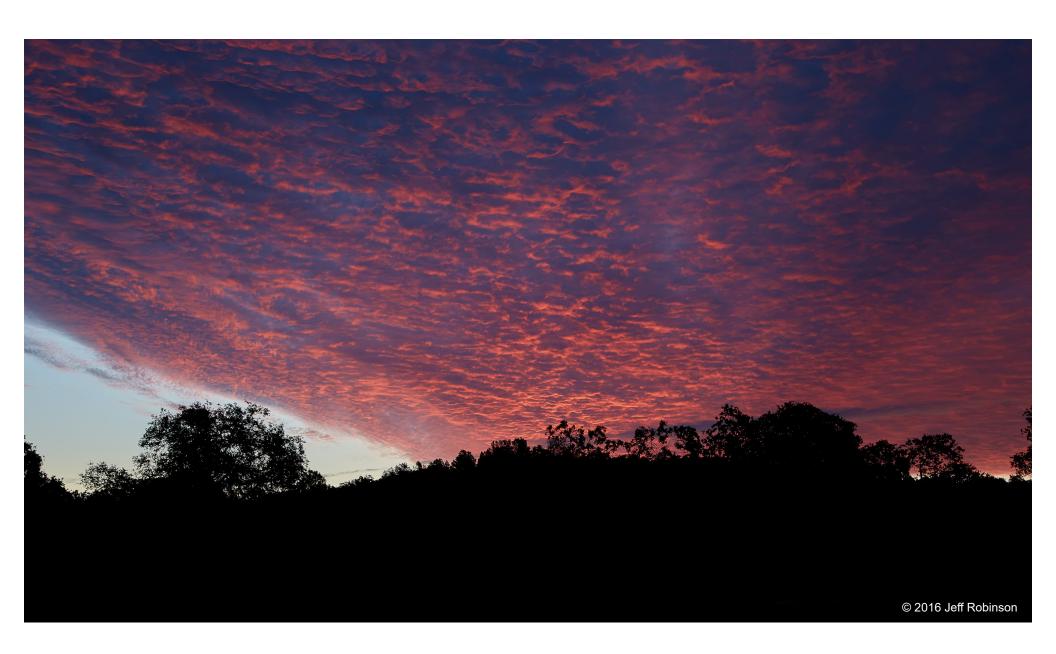
The male Mallard Duck (pictured here) is very distinctive with its brilliant green head and yellow bill. In its nonbreeding colors of summer, however, its plumage looks very similar to the female Mallard Duck, so it's easy to mix them up then. (3/23/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		NOVE	mber	<b>2</b> 017		DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Daylight Saving Time Ends						Veteran's Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Thanksgiving Day		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Something about human nature makes us want to climb to the highest point we can find... (3/10/2016, Death Valley National Park, CA)

November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	December 2017  12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  December 2017								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
					1	2			
				Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
10		12	10	Winter (8:29 AM PST)	10	10			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	Christmas 25	26	27	28	29	30			
31									



Sunrise (6/16/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)