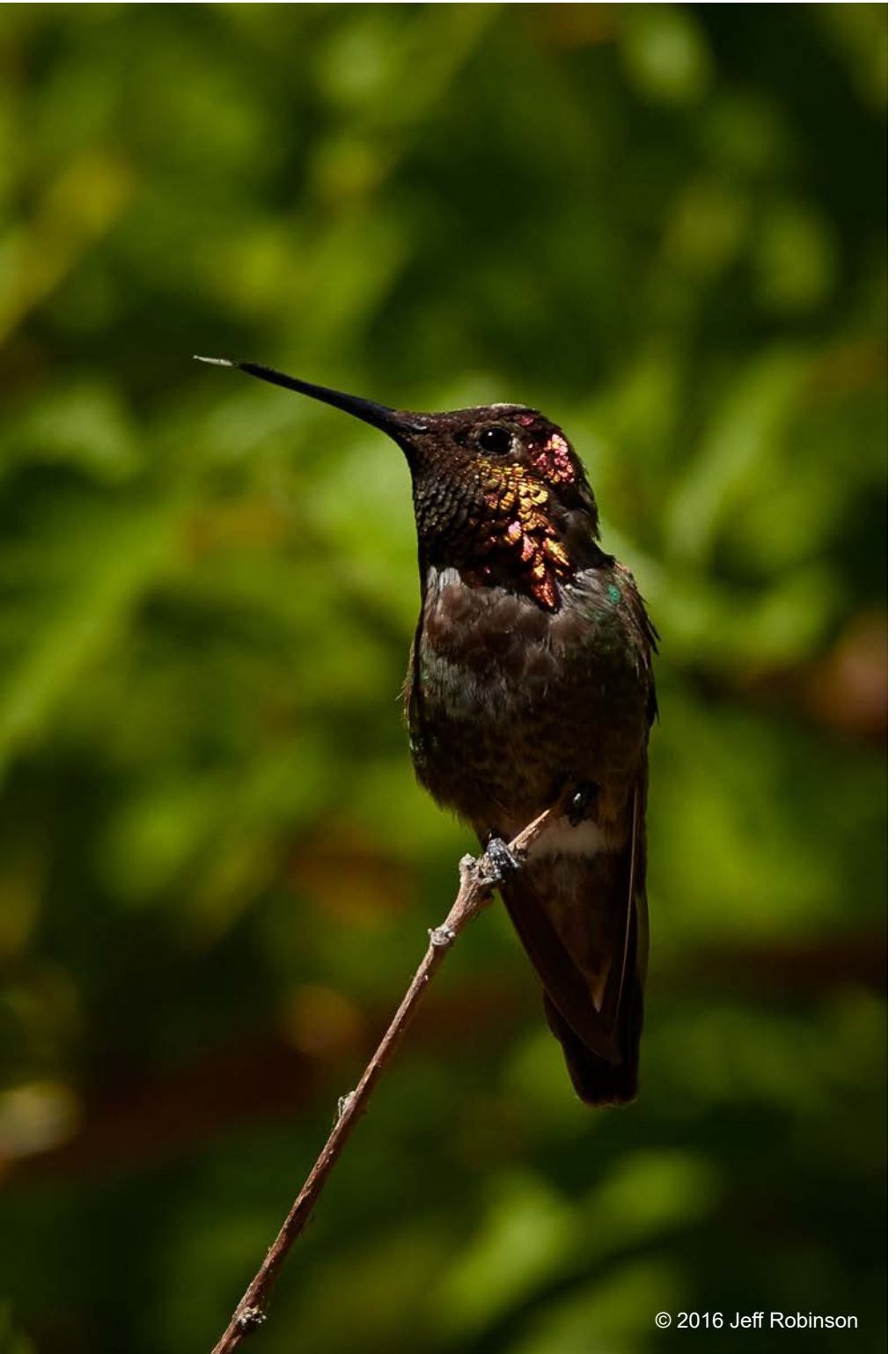
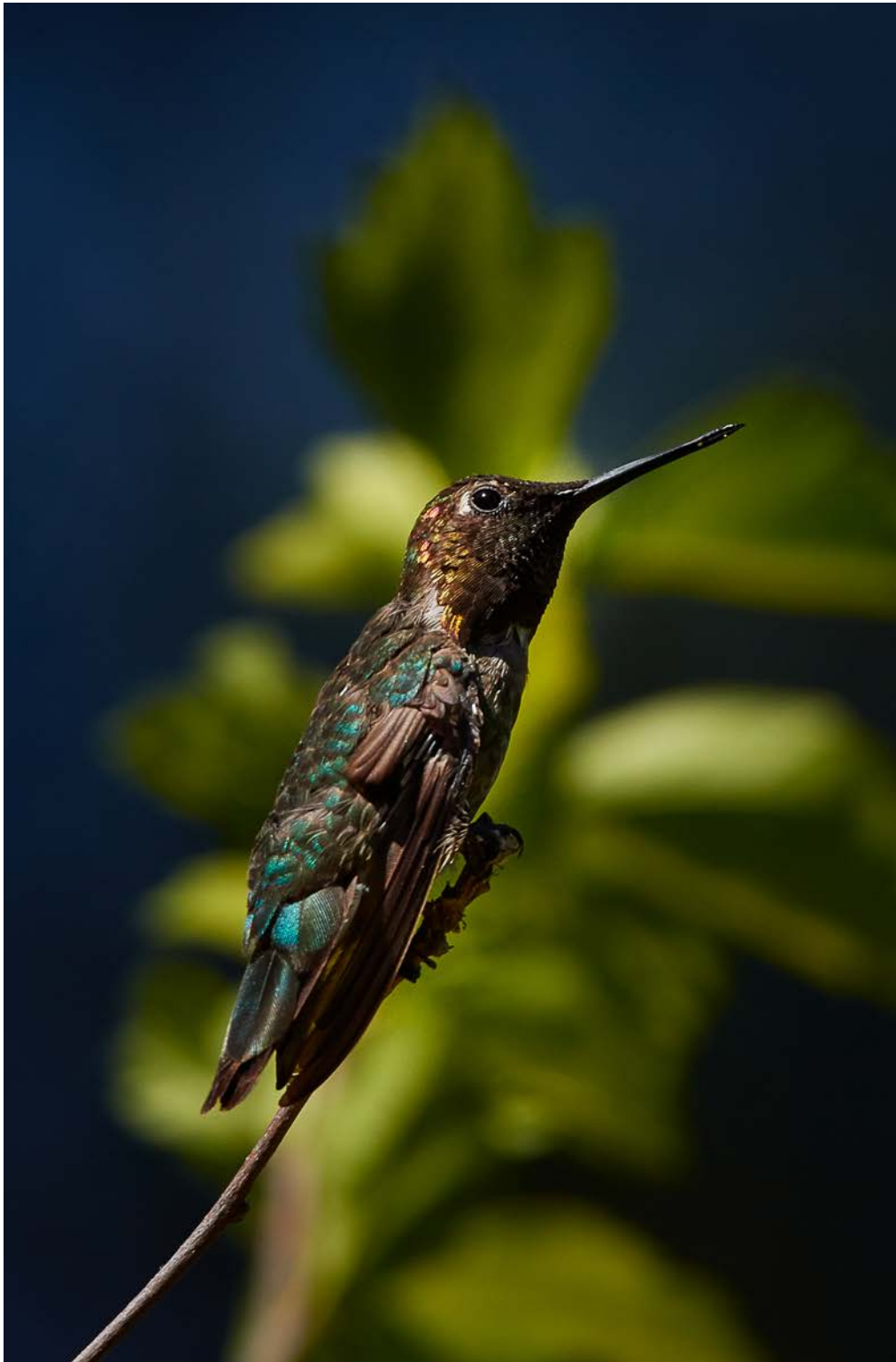


A landscape photograph of a desert valley. In the foreground, there are ripples in the sand, likely from wind. A small, dry, bushy plant is growing on a sand dune. The middle ground shows a wide, flat valley floor. In the background, there are mountains with some snow or light-colored rock. The sky is dark and cloudy.

2017

Death Valley and Shingle Springs

Eureka Dunes
(3/8/2016, Death Valley National Park, CA)
© 2016 Jeff Robinson



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)

January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <small>Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday</small>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Eureka Dunes

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)

JANUARY		February 2017					MARCH								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
29	30	31						26	27	28					
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													



© 2016 Jeff Robinson

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)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28</p> </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;"> March 2017 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p> </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Saving Begins					St. Patrick's Day	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Spring (3:30 AM PDT)					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Eureka Dunes

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)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>MARCH</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p> </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">April 2017</div> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>MAY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p> </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						April Fool's Day 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	Tax Day 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)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;"> May 2017 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> JUNE 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 <small>National Day of Prayer</small>	5 <small>Cinco De Mayo</small>	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <small>Mother's Day</small>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 <small>Memorial Day</small>	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)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> 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 </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;"> June 2017 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> JULY 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 </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <small>Father's Day</small>	19	20 <small>Summer (9:25 PM PDT)</small>	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	





Eureka Dunes

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)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> JULY 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 </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;"> August 2017 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> 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 </div> </div>						
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

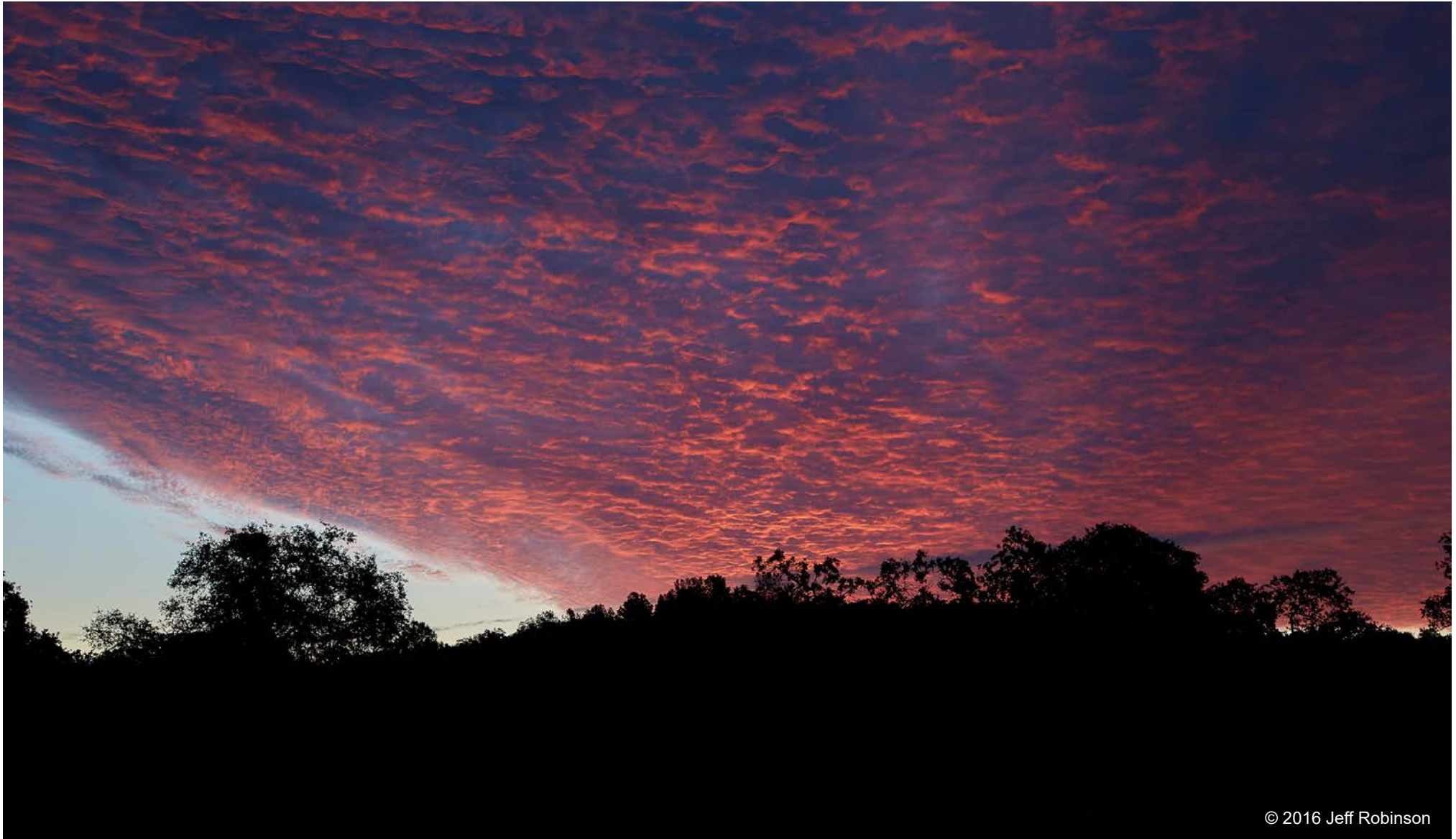
As is common in the bird world, the male Western Bluebird has much more vivid colors than the female.
 (3/23/2016, Shingle Springs, CA)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>AUGUST</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;"> September 2017 </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>OCTOBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p> </div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	Labor Day					
	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	Patriot Day					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
17					Fall (1:03 PM PDT)	
	18	19	20	21	22	23
24						
	25	26	27	28	29	30









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Sunrise

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