



# *Tales from the Trails at Dunrovin*

October 14, 2019



## The Bench Bird Feeders

Last winter Dunrovin decided to erect a temporary bird feeding station with a bird bath and a webcam on the “bench” that overlooks the forest along the river. Edges between one ecosystem (the fields) and another (the forest) are generally gathering places for birds and wildlife. Dunrovin hoped to provide some new viewing opportunities by drawing in some different species of birds than are generally found at the ospreys’ nest bird feeders.



Our experiment exceeded our expectations. The messy birds scattered seeds all over the ground which brought in all kinds of hungry wildlife looking for a protein rich meal as well as some predators looking to make a meal of the seed eaters.



The inferred night light that was installed over the web camera allowed us to see the night visitors who could not see the light. Once the raccoons discovered the scattered seeds they became regular nightly visitors, sometime squabbling for the best positions. The night light also revealed flying squirrels swooping in from the nearby trees. What a wonderful surprise! Dunrovin had never before seen them at the ranch.



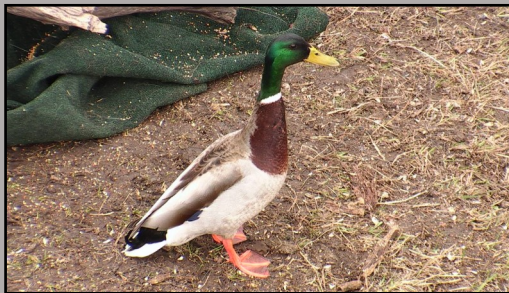


# Different Birds on the Bench

The bench bird feeders did indeed bring in some different birds for us to enjoy via the webcam. One of the most colorful new birds, both in terms of plumage and in terms of temperament, was the Lewis's Woodpecker, named after the explorer Meriwether Lewis. Lewis's woodpeckers could be called bullies, as they frequently chase off all the other small birds before eating the seeds and suet. They want the feeders to themselves.



While wild turkeys, mallard ducks, gold finches may be very common bird species, their beautiful plumages are certain anything but common.



Less common species such as the lazuli bunting, black-headed grosbeak, and evening grosbeaks also made appearances to show off their striking colors.



**Join us for a live broadcast to learn about Dunrovin's plans to create a permanent bench bird feeding station!**

**Broadcast Date: October 8, 2019**

**Time: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Location: \_\_\_\_\_**