



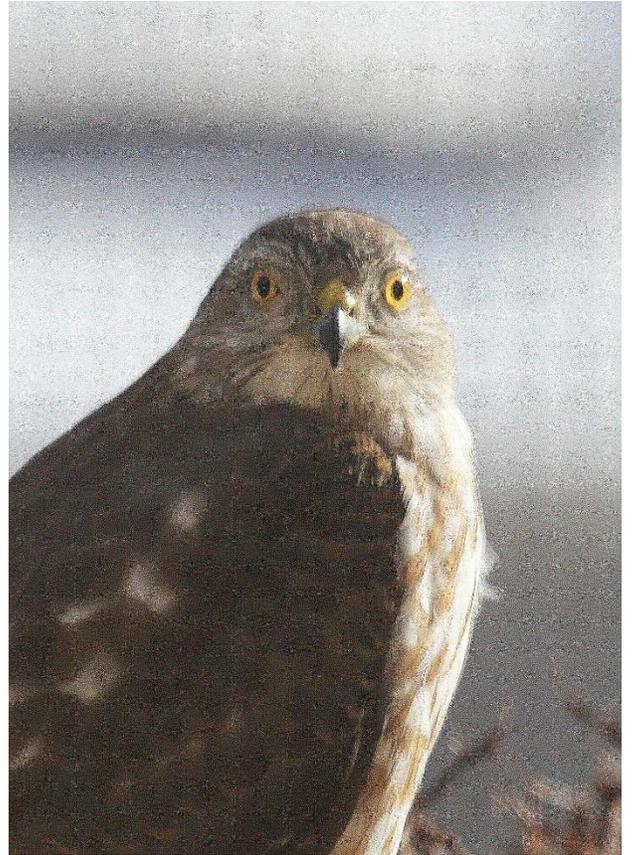
A sub-adult Cooper's Hawk glared down at my camera in the middle of its meal caught near the feeders on my street.

Luckily, another young Cooper's Hawk was digesting its meal, when a Mourning Dove foolishly walked by, protected only by a fence and the hawk's full stomach.



This immature Sharp-shinned Hawk was out for prey during a snow squall. As is often the case, his hunt was unsuccessful.

This bewildered looking Sharp-shinned Hawk was probably staring at its reflection in my window. Of course, those eyes were searching for something more substantial than its own image.



Having rested after a hearty meal and a nap, this Coop finally left the yard where my feeders hang.

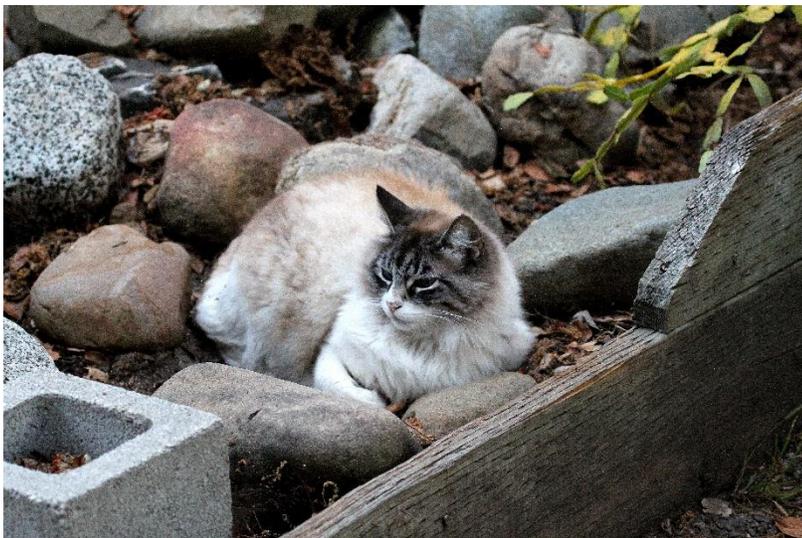
Another large bird that patrols my yard, usually for peanuts, is a Blue Jay. However, it may also find eggs, nestlings, or carrion to feed on.





Case in point: this Blue Jay was pecking at and devouring parts of the body of a dead House Sparrow.

The remains of the House Sparrow were not all there, proving the Blue Jay had dined on the carcass.



A pretty house cat in the garden may seem innocent enough, but if it sees a little birdie flitting about, it can become very interested.

This house cat was very interested in the movements it spied in my neighbor's yard. Permitting cats to roam free may result in the loss of birds that visit your feeders.



A female House Finch had obviously been attacked and somehow survived. Blood was on its neck, and its eye seemed to be damaged.

Another pose of the finch showed blood in her left eye as well as on its neck. Surprisingly, she was spry enough to feed at length from my feeder.





A month later the same House Finch was back at my feeder again. Then, her eye seemed clouded over, and the blood had formed into a dark area on her neck.



She still ate well at the feeder, keeping a watch out with her good right eye.



Bending over to feed, the House Finch revealed a large knot of blood and scar tissue hanging from her wound. Not pleasant to look at, but proof she had spunk.

Another unwelcome predator near feeders is the American Crow. They may visit a feeder area for peanuts, but other birds are not happy to see them there.



Why? Because crows often raid nests in the spring, taking eggs, like this robin's egg, nestlings, or whatever they can steal to eat.

This hawk seems to be wondering what all the fuss is about. It has its needs, and a feeder area may fulfill them.

