



20 Aug 1981  
**Describing a veritable**  
*observations & encounters various animals*  
**parade of wildlife** *Frank Cassanova*

We've had such an unusually nice variety of wildlife at our house recently that I'd like to write about it.

First, though, we found a third way to get rid of rattlers. We have a planter that's just a foot high and a rock squirrel burrowed under one of the rosemary plants and killed it, so I set a live trap inside the planter. Several days went by with no results, but on the evening of July 26 an average-sized rattler crawled in, tucked in both ends and sprung the trap. I released it in the desert after photographing it in the trap. On Aug. 4, I hauled off another pack rat and while we were having lunch, finally caught the rock squirrel. It was released, too.

In previous years, we have had occasional visits from hooded orioles, but this summer a whole family stayed with us, and they are still emptying the hummer

feeders daily. Guess black-throated sparrows had been back for some time before we saw our first one Aug. 9.

Eleanor tells me that Western kingbirds are not uncommon here. In fact, she even showed me a nest in downtown Cave Creek. But we had our first one here at the house at breakfast on Aug. 12.

Then two days later, the beginning of the migration of Rufous hummingbirds hit us — seven that evening, and they're still here. So we increased the feeders to four. With their numbers and aggressiveness they seem to be able to bluff the finches away from the feeders, which our smaller number of resident Anna's and broadtailed hummers are unable to do. We heard that hummers will drink from a hand-held feeder, so we gave it a try this morning and were not disappointed.