



OUR “RESIDENT” CARDINALS[©]

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida - June 15, 2021

Let's start off by stating a commonly-accepted belief about cardinals. That is (per a direct quote from a web site): Customarily, the cardinal is a symbol of life, hope, and renewal. This symbol associates the cardinal with faith, and they come in our sight to remind us that though things might not be going the way we hope them to be, there is always hope.

As we had posted on our Face Book site some weeks ago, my wife and I observed a female cardinal hard at work for several days in building a nest in one of the 3 pygmy date palms in our back yard, immediately outside our swimming pool enclosure. We were truly excited about this development and were looking forward to continuing our observations of Mr. & Mrs. Cardinal's activities during their course of producing and nurturing some young ones! Although we had seen both the male and female cardinals darting in and out of their selected nest site, they suddenly seemingly disappeared, as if they had deserted the sight. We speculated that they simply didn't want to be in such close proximity to my wife and my own “prying eyes” and other disturbances. This was a BIG disappointment, but, please read on. We retained “hope” that we were wrong!

Today while spending time grooming our plants around our pool deck, a male cardinal was seen on 3 different occasions going back and forth to what we had believed was a deserted nest site. It seems that our “hope” has prevailed and our observations today are positive proof! What we have learned via some research is, once the female is on the nest and “brooding her eggs”, prior to the emergence of the hatchlings (takes 11-13 days); it is the male's responsibility to feed the female; that seems to be the precise reason for the activity we have observed today! Thus, our hope for the immediate future is to witness some brand-new cardinals presenting themselves right here in our back yard!

Our favorite definition of HOPE is from the Cambridge Dictionary which states:

To want something to happen or to be true, and usually have a good reason to think that it might!