

MOCKINGBIRDS

Common Name: Northern Mockingbird

Other Names: Mockingbird, Mocker

Scientific Name: Mimus polyglottos

Appearance:

| | |
|-------|--|
| size | - about 9 inches long, including tail |
| color | - grayish brown |
| other | - white wing patches visible in flight |

Range: - statewide

Habitat: - suburban areas, parklands (favors mowed lawns)

Diet:

- 50% arthropods (grasshoppers, ants, wasps, bees, cicadas)
- 50% fruit
- occasionally eats small lizards and earthworms

Reproduction: - nests low in trees and in shrubs, several times per season (spring)

Behavior:

- perches in full view and sings loud, repetitive songs culled from other birds' songs, other animals and humans and neighborhood noises
- runs and hops across lawns, chasing insect prey
- swift, acrobatic flight display during courtship

Problems:

- may attack humans and/or pets in defense of territory during nesting season
- may sing loudly late at night or very early in morning

Solutions: - avoid nesting area for duration of use (about three weeks)

Legal Aspects: - Mockingbirds are protected by state and federal laws

Printed Material in Appendix: yes