

Gillespie Creek Journal

Do you have a favorite bird? One whose call you recognize? A bird that seems to find you when you're hoping for inspiration? I do. As a matter of fact a single bird has imprinted its presence into my sensory memory from each significant place I've called home. In Minnesota it is the [Indigo Bunting](#). Wisconsin it's the [Pileated Woodpecker](#), here in Sun City, Arizona it's this particular Northern Mockingbird !

The Mockingbird's song is a collection of melodies that seamlessly flow together. Appearing chaotic, the songs come together in harmony and understanding as in Babel. He is the Pentecostal bird. The Spanish believe a Mockingbird sings four hundred songs. The Mockingbird is also the state bird of Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi .

Visit gillespiecreek.com for more detail. On your phone click on "Blog" or go to "Home" to begin



Northern Mockingbird

I 'v named my Mockingbird Harry S. He gives me hell mornings if I'm late in opening the patio door on my house. Other times he begins the same happy melody as soon as I stick my head out of the door. Here he is perched in one of his favorite spots... pretty well camouflaged within the fifteen foot tall palm tree that I rescued as a seedling never realizing that it would cost a small fortune to keep it properly trimmed as it grew. Gifts can be granted in strange ways!

According to Jim Cloer of Tucson, Mockingbirds are important in the mythology of many Native American cultures. Pueblo's believe the Mockingbird taught people to speak. Cherokees were said to give children mockingbird heads to eat believing that the food would make them clever. The Maricopa considered this bird a medicine animal. Dreaming of a Mockingbird is a sign that a person has been given special powers. How did he receive his coloration? Legend says that the Mockingbird was the last bird to be colored. Only black paint remained. Thus only a slight slash of black accents his white to grey feathers. Why does the Mockingbird know so many songs? He listened to all the other birds sing while he patiently awaited his own color painting!

