

# Gillespie Creek Journal

“The Northern Mockingbird is one of North America’s most beloved mimics.

Fact #1. There are a total of 16 avian species in the world with the name “Mockingbird.” The Northern Mockingbird is the only native to the United States

Fact #2 The Northern Mockingbird is a year-around resident across much of the U.S. Its expansion to the northeast has been successful due in part to the multiflora rose (rambler rose.) The plant was introduced to the United States in the late 1700’s. This plant is a favorite, providing both food and shelter for Mockingbirds.

Fact #3. Minus polyglots is the latin name for Mockingbird, meaning a person who speaks many languages. Mockingbirds are known to sing several hundred different songs.

Fact #4. An October 2019 study revealed that Mockingbirds have been known to imitate at least 12 different species of North American frogs and toads.

Fact #5. An illegal trade in Mockingbirds in the 19th century depleted Mockingbird populations by poaching wild birds across the east coast.



**Northern Mockingbird**  
Photo by JA



**Mockingbird**  
By Adobe Stock



**Mockingbird**  
Free Photo

**The Mockingbird by William Cullen Bryant**

*A mock-bird in a village  
Had somehow gained the skill  
To imitate the voices  
Of animals at will*

The initial early spring song bird migration has concluded in my neighborhood of Sun City, Arizona. On my walk Merlin eBird and I hear and observe fewer birds. The most prolific singer these mornings is the **Northern Mockingbird.**

The Audubon Society has featured this common species in their email this week.

Enjoy the **“10 Fun Facts About the Northern Mockingbird”** highlights that will follow from their March 2024 publication.

Fact #6 Mockingbirds have easily adapted to human development, taking up residence across suburban towns and cities. Open lawns and parks are perfect for hunting their insect prey.

Fact #7 Mockingbirds are prolific breeders. They may make as many as seven nesting attempts during a breeding season. One female set a record of laying 27 eggs in a single season.

Fact #8 The white patches on a Northern Mockingbird’s wings and outer tail feathers serve dual purposes. First shown off during mating rituals, and second in defending their territory from potential predators like hawks and snakes.

Fact #9 Mocking birds are extremely territorial. They will swoop and dive at pretty much everything, including people.

Fact #10

Mockingbirds are the state bird of Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

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