

PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Bushtits



Family AEGITHALIDAE (Bushtits)

American Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)



male

South Rim; Grand Cyn NP



pale undersides

South Rim; Grand Cyn NP



South Rim; Grand Canyon National Park; AZ



fluffy blue-gray plumage

South Rim; Grand Cyn NP



South Rim; Grand Cyn NP

Measurements:

Length: 4" Wing Span: 6" Average Weight: .2 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

tiny size; bluish gray overall with paler undersides; stubby, conical black bill; somewhat long tail; (m) darks eyes; (f) yellow eyes with dark pupils

Notes:

common; gregarious, active; favors desert brush and pinyon-juniper woodlands in western NA from sw BC, CAN, south through MEX, and CA east to central TX (only member of family in NA); feeds on insects, some seeds, etc.

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

Bushtits are among the smallest passerine birds in NA, and easily mistaken for the more common gnatcatchers in the Mojave region. Likewise, they are difficult to observe since they flutter constantly through the cover of foliage as they forage for food. This one posed for me in the Cerbat Range above Chloride, AZ, in December, 2021.

