

PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Larks



Family **ALAUDIDAE** (Larks)

Sonora Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris leucansiptila*)



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Corn Creek Visitors Center; Desert NWR; southern NV



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Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV

Measurements:

Length: 7" Wing Span: 12" Average Weight: 1 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

small size; plain brownish plumage with paler undersides; yellowish face and throat; dark eyes; short, thin bill; (m) bold black facial mask, head and neck bands; tufty feathers on head resemble "horns" (not always visible); (f) paler markings and coloration

Notes:

common, but in decline as a species; gregarious in small groups; inhabits open fields, oases, etc., in the Mojave Desert in s NV, w AZ, south into MEX; one of 42 sub-species; feeds on insects, spiders, berries, grains, and small seeds of grasses, weeds, etc.

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

Though year-round Mojave residents, I see these birds more often in the late summer into fall, usually foraging on the ground. Corn Creek in the [Desert National Wildlife Refuge](#) is a popular gathering spot. However, they are somewhat camera shy, making it difficult to get good, up-close photos.