

# PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

## Waxwings

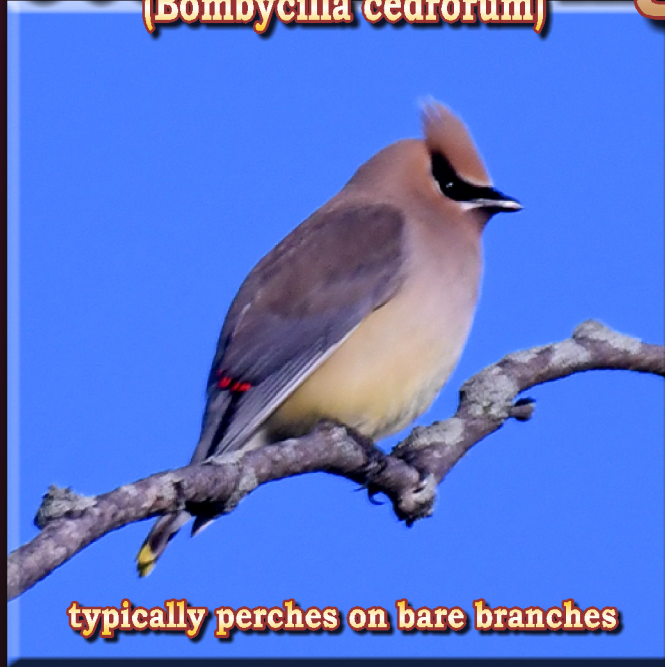


# Family **BOMBYCILLIDAE** (Waxwings)

## **Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Cincinnati, OH



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Cincinnati, OH

### Measurements:

Length: 7.5"   Wing Span: 12"   Average Weight: 1 oz

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; gregarious in small flocks; generally silky grayish brown overall with yellowish belly; bold black facial stripe; dark eyes and bill; crested head, white vent coverts, yellow on tips of short, squared tail; "waxy" red wingtips (though absent on some individuals); no sexual dimorphism

### Notes:

common, but nomadic, thus irregularly seen; found in open woodlands, forests, orchards, urban parklands, etc., throughout NA, except Arctic regions; named for wax-like red patches on wingtips; feeds primarily on berries and other fruits, also flowers, flying insects, etc.; aka **Southern Waxwing**, **Recellet**, **Cedar Bird**, et al.

Mojave presence: winter range

### Comments:

Though considered to be common, I seldom see these birds--and practically never when I'm looking for them! However, Corn Creek at the **Desert National Wildlife Refuge** in southern Nevada has been a somewhat reliable destination for these fall migrants to the Mojave Desert. I encountered the Cincinnati birds at a rest stop on I-75 on a crosscountry trip in May, 2021. They are beautiful birds with a regal poise.