

PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Shrikes



Family **LANIIDAE** (Shrikes)

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)



Overton WMA; NV



Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve; Henderson, NV



Overton WMA; NV



West Rim; Grand Canyon; AZ



Overton WMA; NV

Measurements:

Length: 8.5" Wing Span: 12" Average Weight: 1.8 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; gray above, paler to white below; black tail with **white outer feathers**, black wings with distinctive white bar (both seen in flight); thick **black mask through eye**; stubby bill, strongly hooked at tip; no sexual dimorphism

Notes:

uncommon; solitary; endemic to NA in mainly open habitats through most of the US (rare in New England and Great Lakes areas) and parts of south central CAN; aka **Butcherbird**, in reference to habit of impaling prey on sharp objects (thorns, broken twigs, etc.); 7 subspecies; favors insects, but also preys on spiders, reptiles, rodents, and small birds

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

While very difficult to distinguish from its close cousin the **Northern Shrike** where their ranges overlap, there are some subtle differences. The loggerhead is a slightly smaller bird, has darker gray plumage, its mask is thicker and extends through the eye, and its bill is stubbier--none of which can be discerned with casual observation in the field. The loggerhead's range is generally farther south than the northern's, whose range also extends into Siberia.