

# PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

# Tits



# Family **PARIDAE** (Titmice)

## Juniper Titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgewayi*)



fly little birdie!

Grand Canyon NP; AZ



plain gray overall

Red Rock Cyn NCA; NV



Grand Canyon National Park; AZ



cute little crest

Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Red Rock Cyn NCA; NV

### Measurements:

Length: 5.5"   Wing Span: 9"   Average Weight: .5 oz

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

tiny size; unmarked gray overall, paler breast; crest on head; short, forked tail; short, stout, dark bill; dark eyes; no sexual dimorphism

### Notes:

common locally; social in small groups, very active; inhabits pinyon-juniper woodlands in the Great Basin of sw US mainly from central NV southeastward to NM (scarse presence in surrounding states); forages through shrubs and occasionally on the ground mainly for insects, spiders, etc., but sometimes also berries and seeds

**Mojave presence:** rare (some year-round residents in eastern region)

### Comments:

While I can count on seeing these adorable little birds whenever I visit **Crاند Canyon NP**, I rarely encounter them in the Mojave region. They are fairly restricted to the eastern portion, primarily in the mountains west of Las Vegas, such as the Spring Mountains and Sheep Range. I photographed the one shown above at Willow Spring in the **Red Rock Canyon NCA** in January, 2019. Because of their natural curiosity, they can be easy to photograph, especially in areas where they are used to people. With their perky litte crest, they are reminiscent of tiny gray cardinals!



# Family **FRINGILLIDAE** (Chickadees)

## Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Grand Canyon National Park; AZ



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Lee Cyn; Sprg Mtn NRA; NV



Lee Cyn; Sprg Mtn NRA; NV

### Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 8" Average Weight: .4 oz

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

tiny size; gray back and wings, whitish undersides; black cap, throat, and mask through eye; white forehead and eyeline; short, square tail; small, thin, black bill; dark eyes; no sexual dimorphism

### Notes:

common; social in small groups, active, mixes well with other species; inhabits coniferous and mixed forests in most of w NA from Yukon south to AZ/NM, CA east to Great Plains (isolated populations in surrounding states; rare farther east); feeds mainly on insects, also seeds

**Mojave presence:** rare (mainly nw region: s NV, sw UT, nw AZ)

### Comments:

This diminutive bird is a familiar sight in the higher elevations of mountains throughout its range, but this is not so in the Mojave region. The only place I can somewhat rely on seeing them is in the [Spring Mountains NRA](#) west of Las Vegas. The ones pictured here are from August, 2021.

