

PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Silky Flycatchers



Family PTILIOGONATIDAE (Silky Flycatchers)

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)



Overton WMA; NV



Red Spring; RRCNCA; NV



Valley of Fire State Park; Clark County; NV



Corn Creek; DNWR; NV



Clark Co. Wetlands Pk; LV, NV

Measurements:

Length: 8" Wing Span: 11" Average Weight: 8 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; ragged crest; long tail; short, slender black bill; red eyes; (m) silky black overall; bold white wing patches; (f) plain gray overall; less distinct wing patches

Notes:

common locally; usually found in pairs or small, loose groups; prefers mesquite thickets, oases, spring habitats, etc., in desert areas of sw NA from sc CA east to sw NM (rare farther north), and south through MEX; only member of *Ptiliogonatidae* found in US; closely related to waxwings; eats fruit, berries (especially *Desert Mistletoe*), and insects

Mojave presence: migratory; some year-round residents

Comments:

In my four decades as a Mojave resident, I never saw phainopepla nestlings until April, 2021, while visiting Red Spring in the *Red Rock Canyon NCA*. It was a charming experience to learn that, like many bird species, dad shares the child-rearing duties (left) with his appreciative mate (right).



Ppt2