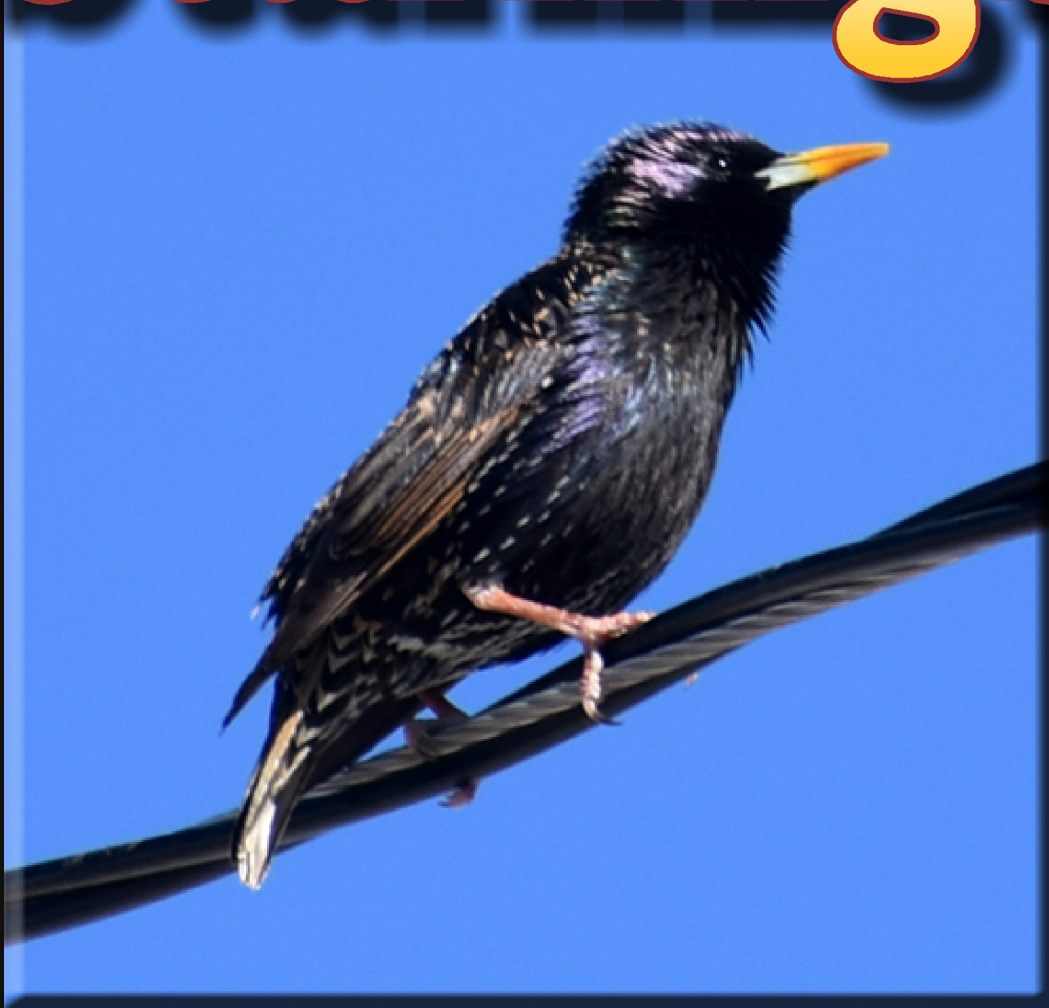


PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Starlings



Pst1

Family STURNIDAE (Starlings)

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)



Las Vegas, NV



Dolan Springs, AZ



Las Vegas, NV



Las Vegas, NV



Las Vegas, NV

Measurements:

Length: 8.5" Wing Span: 15" Average Weight: 3 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size, stocky; short, squared tail; long, narrow, conical bill; narrow, pointed wings; long pink legs; **(breeding)** (Dec-Aug) glossy black overall with iridescent sheen (green on back, purple on head); yellow bill; **(non-breeding)** (Sep-Feb) dark brown overall with white speckling; black bill; **(m)** blue at base of yellow bill; long, fluffy throat feathers; brown iris; **(f)** pink at base of yellow bill; short throat feathers; greyish iris

Notes:

very common; colonial; found throughout NA (except Arctic region), into MEX, parts of Caribbean, also Europe, N/S Africa, w Asia, se Australia, NZ; invasive to NA, descendent from 100 birds released in NYC in 1890s; aka **Common Starling**; at least 12 subspecies; mainly insectivorous, also worms, amphibians, snails, etc.

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

These invasive songbirds have been very successful in NA since their introduction in the late 1800s. They are now among the most common bird species on the continent. They are famous for their dazzling flight patterns called **murmuration** (left).

