### PASSERIF(ORMES (Songbirds)

### Gnatcatchers



# POLICIPATION DAE (Gnatcatchers)

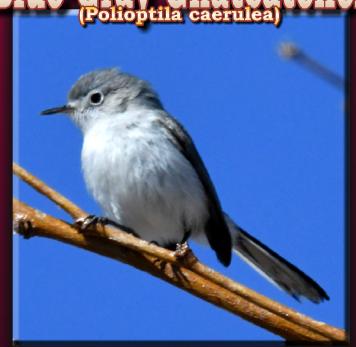
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher



HBVP; Henderson, NV



Clark Co. Wetlands Pk; NV



Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve; Nevada



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Willow Spring; RRCNCA; NV

### Measurements:

Length: 4" Wing Span: 6" Average Weight: .2 oz

### **Distinguishing Field Characteristics:**

tiny size; blue-gray above, whitish below; long tail (black above, white below) with white outer feathers; slender, dark bill; dark eyes, white eyering; (breeding m) dark band on forehead extending over eyes; (f) more gray than blue

### Notes:

common; mostly solitary; native to forests and scrublands of NA from s OR east to s ME, south to wintering grounds in s US and throughout MEX; 2 subspecies; forages in shrubbery for insects (not necessarily gnats), spiders

Mojave presence: summer range; some winter range



#### **Comments:**

It can be quite a challenge getting unobstructed views and photos of these tiny, active birds. When an opportunity does present itself, one telling field characterisite to aid in identification is the propensity to cock its tail high while perched, as performed by this specimen (left) modeling for me at the Clark Co. Wetlands Park in June, 2020. Another at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve demonstrated his outstretched landing technique (right).



# POLICIPATION DAE (Gnatcatchers)

### Black-Tailed Gnatcatcher



Clark Co. Wetlands Pk; NV



Clark Co. Wetlands Pk; NV



Valley of Fire State Park; Clark County, NV



HBVP; Henderson, NV



Willow Beach; Lk Mead NRA

#### Measurements:

Length: 4" Wing Span: 5" Average Weight: .2 oz

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

tiny size; blue-gray above, paler below; long, black tail (above and below) with thin white edges; pointed black bill; dark eyes, white eyering; (breeding m) black cap that extends to eyes; dark eyeline in non-breeding; (f) duller above

### Notes:

uncommon; usually in pairs; inhabits desert scrub, canyons, etc., of sw NA from se CA east to sw TX, and s NV/sw UT south through c MEX; diet consists of small insects and spiders

Mojave presence: year-round in eastern region



#### **Comments:**

These tiny birds constantly flit about through dense shrubbery, making them notoriously difficult to photograph. However, these two--at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve in March, 2022 (left), and Valley of Fire State Park in May, 2019 (right)--didn't just reveal themselves, they also showed off their agile aerial skills!

