

PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Penduline Tits



Family **REMIZIDAE** (Penduline Tits)

Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*)



HBVP; Henderson, NV



Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve; Henderson, NV



Lake Mead NRA; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR, NV



Dolan Springs, AZ

Measurements:

Length: 4.5" Wing Span: 6.5" Average Weight: .25 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

tiny size; gray overall (paler below) with bright yellow head, chestnut shoulder patch (lesser coverts); relatively long gray tail; short, sharply pointed bill; dark eyes and eyeline (adults); juvenile lacks yellow head, shoulder patch

Notes:

common; solitary; native to desert scrublands from se CA east to c TX, south through most of MEX; one of the smallest songbirds in NA; only member of *Remizidae* in NA; 6 subspecies; primarily eats insects, also some nectar

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

These active, tiny songbirds build their spherical nests of twigs, grass, feathers, etc. in shrubs and thickets. I caught



the one at left putting the final touches on its home at the [Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve](#) in February, 2021. The one at right is inspecting its domicile in Las Vegas, Nevada, in March of 2019. Like other tiny, flitty birds, verdins are seldom seen or photographed in unobstructed situations, but when they are, they make for great pics showing off their bright head color.

