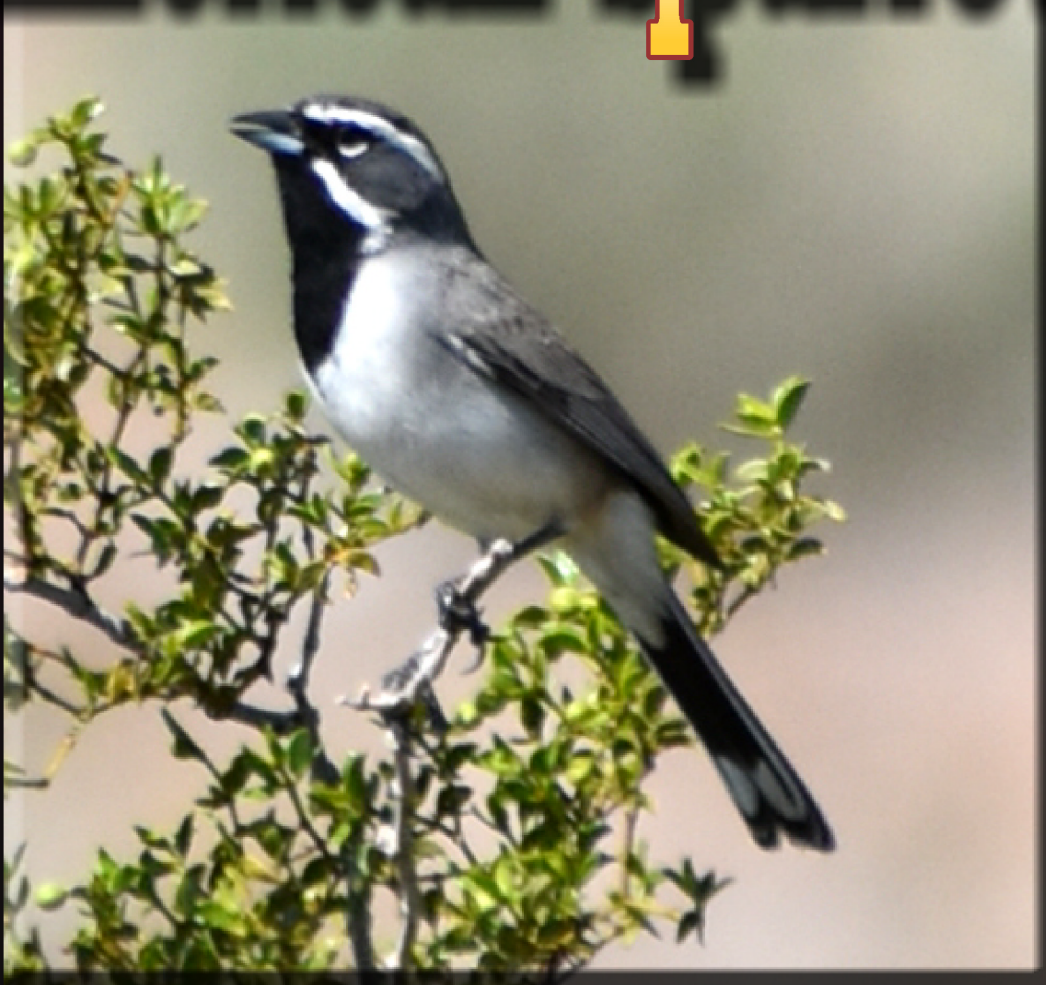


PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

American Sparrows



Family **PASERELLIDAE** (Sparrows)

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)



Great Smoky Mtns NP



Bosque del Apache NWR; NM



Great Smoky Mountains NP; NC/TN



Clark Co. Wetlands Pk; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV

Measurements:

Length: 5" Wing Span: 8" Average Weight: .5 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

small size; mottled-brown wings, back; plain gray nape, throat, underparts; 2 faint, pale wingbars; short tail; short black bill; dark eyes; pinkish legs; no sexual dimorphism; (**breeding**) copper-brown cap; bold white supercillium (eyebrow); black eyeline; (non-breeding/juvenile) duller overall; brown cap; gray eyeline; breast streaks on immature

Notes:

common; gregarious; comfortable in a large variety of urban and rural habitats throughout most of NA (except the Arctic and s FL) south through MEX; 2 subspecies; forages mainly on the ground for seeds, insects, spiders, etc.

Mojave presence: migratory; some year-round

Comments:

Though common across their range, "chippies" as a species are far less so in the Mojave compared to many other sparrow species (especially white crowns, black throateds, and juncos). Red Rock Canyon NCA is a good place to expect to encounter them in summer. However, the youngsters above (subspecies *S. p. arizonae*) were photographed in the fall at Corn Creek in the Desert NWR in September of 2020 (top right), and Clark County Wetlands Park in October, 2020 (bottom right).

Family **PASERELLIDAE** (Sparrows)

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)



Dolan Springs, AZ



Pine Canyon; Dolan Springs, AZ



Dolan Springs, AZ



Dolan Springs, AZ



Dolan Springs, AZ

Measurements:

Length: 5.5" Wing Span: 7.5" Average Weight: .4 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

small size; streaked gray-brown above; pale gray-white below, plain to finely streaked; **pale gray eyebrow** and malar, **brown eyeline**; brown, streaked wings with 2 pale, indistinct wingbars; long, notched tail; yellow conical bill with dark tip; dark eyes with complete, **thin white eyering**; pinkish legs; no sexual dimorphism

Notes:

common; social; found in sagebrush, thickets, forests, etc., of w NA from s CAN south to NV/UT/w CO in summer, migrating south to sw US and MEX in winter; smallest sparrow in NA; 2 subspecies; forages in shrubs or on the ground for insects and seeds

Mojave presence: migratory (winter range in some areas)

Comments:

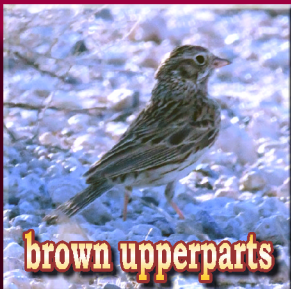
The nominate subspecies shown here, *S. b. breweri*, is the one typically found in the arid brushlands of the interior west (the darker and larger subspecies--the **Timberline Sparrow**, *S. b. taverneri*--prefers higher-elevation forested areas). As common as this bird is in general, it is uncommon in the Mojave and difficult to recognize in the field due to its lack of distinctive characteristics, and can easily be confused with other rather bland species, such as the **Cassin's** and **Clay-Colored** sparrows.

Family **PASERELLIDAE** (Sparrows)

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)



Lee Cyn; SMNRA; NV



Corn Crk; Desert NWR; NV



Overton Wildlife Management Area; Overton, NV



Lee Cyn; SMNRA; NV



Overton WMA; NV

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: .8 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; mottled gray-brown above, white below with **distinct spots/streaks**; 2 pale wingbars; notched tail with white outer feathers; 2-toned bill (yellow stained with gray); dark eyes with thin, **complete**, bold **white eyering**, pale eyebrow; **white malar** that wraps around dark cheek; pinkish legs; no sexual dimorphism

Notes:

common; social in mixed flocks in winter; found in fields, grasslands, sagebrush across NA, migrating from northern summer breeding grounds in s CAN/n US to winter grounds in s US/MEX; characteristic chestnut patch on shoulder is rarely seen; closely resembles--and related to--**Lark Sparrow**; sole member of the genus **Pooecetes**; commonly heard singing in the evening, inspiring its name; mainly a ground bird that forages for seeds, insects, etc.

Mojave presence: migratory

Comments:

Vespers are not especially common visitors to the Mojave region. The individual above from Lee Canyon in the **Spring Mountains NRA** in September, 2018, is a bit unusual, as these birds are generally found in low-elevation areas. More typical are the ground foragers seen above from Corn Creek in the **Desert NWR** in April, 2021, and the **Overton Wildlife Management Area** in September, 2020.

Family **PASSERELLIDAE** (Sparrows)

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Lee Canyon; SMNRA; NV



Bosque del Apache NWR; Socorro, NM



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV

Measurements:

Length: 6.5" Wing Span: 11" Average Weight: 1 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; mottled brown above, plain whitish below with **dark central spot** on breast; brown, white/tan, and black stripes on crown and face; **brown cheek patch**; black malar; long rounded tail with white-tipped outer feathers; conical gray bill; dark eyes with **bold white brow**, thin dark eyeline; pinkish legs; 2 wingbars; sexually monomorphic

Notes:

uncommon, but widespread; solitary (migrates in flocks); prefers open areas (prairies, pastures, desert scrub, etc.) of w NA from Pacific coast east to Appalachians, sc CAN south to wintering grounds in MEX; closely resembles--and related to--**Vesper Sparrow**; sole member of the genus **Chondestes**; forages mainly on the ground for seeds and insects

Mojave presence: migratory

Comments:

Whereas many sparrows are difficult to distinguish in the field, the lark's distinctive and unique harlequin head pattern and blackish spot in the center of its breast make it easy to recognize. However, the species is quite uncommon in the Mojave; the individuals above from Corn Creek in the **Desert NWR** were photographed in August, 2021; the one from Lee Canyon in the **Spring Mountains NRA** was from September, 2018. I've seen none since.

Pps5

Family **PASERELLIDAE** (Sparrows)

White-Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)



Dolan Springs, AZ



Henderson BVP; NV



Overton Wildlife Management Area; Overton, NV



Valley of Fire SP; NV



Lee Cyn; Spring Mtns NRA; NV

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: 1 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; gray-brown above; plain gray neck, throat, belly; white chin; **bold black stripes** on head separated by **central white stripe**; 2 wingbars; long tail; yellow to pink bill (depending on subspecies); dark eyes, bold white eyebrow, dark eyeline; pinkish legs; sexually monomorphic; (**juv**) stripes on head brown with gray central stripe

Notes:

very common; social in small flocks; inhabits brushy areas throughout NA, migrating from breeding grounds in the far north, south to c MEX (rare to w EUR); 5 subspecies; forages on the ground for seeds and insects

Mojave presence: migratory; some year-round residents

Comments:

The Taiga (*Z. l. leucophrys*) is the most common of the five subspecies, such as seen here at the **West Rim** of the Grand Canyon in January of 2019 (left) and **Floyd Lamb State Park** in Las Vegas in May, 2021 (right). Note how the black head stripes meet above the base of the bill.



Family PASSERELLIDAE (Sparrows)

Black-Throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)



brownish gray above

Cerbat Mtns; Chloride, AZ



black throat/breast patch

Meadview, AZ



US 93; Willow Beach exit; Lake Mead NRA; AZ



pale underparts

Dolan Springs; AZ



juvenile

no black on chest

Red Rock Canyon NCA; NV

Measurements:

Length: 5" Wing Span: 7.5" Average Weight: .5 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

small size; light brownish gray above, grayish below; darker gray head with **bold white eyeline** and **malar**; black lores and **triangular throat/breast patch**; rounded black tail with white outer feathers and corners; gray conical bill; white crescent eyering under black eyes; gray legs; sexually monomorphic (juveniles duller; lack black throat/breast patch)

Notes:

common; social in small groups; inhabits desert scrublands of w US from CA/NV east to CO/TX, e WA/s ID south to c MEX; sole member of the genus **Amphispiza**; aka **Desert Sparrow**; forages on the ground for seeds and insects

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

Though these sparrows are common in the Mojave, getting good pictures can be challenging (even with a long lens) as they are hard to get close to and prefer to stay concealed in the protective plants, such as desert shrubs and cacti. The best opportunities are provided by males in the spring when they alight upon exposed perches to sing for potential mates, as displayed by the croning fellow in Meadview, AZ, in March, 2022 (lower left).

Family **PASERELLIDAE** (Sparrows)

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)



Henderson BVP; NV



Bird Viewing Preserve; Henderson, NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Overton WMA; Overton, NV



LV Municipal GC; LV, NV

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 8" Average Weight: .7 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; brown above, white below, with **dark streaking overall**; central dark **brown breast spot**; brown wings and tail with rusty edges; gray face with thick **brown eyeline**; black eyes, thin complete eyering, bold **white moustache** (malar stripe), **eyebrow**; conical gray bill; brownish legs; sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common; generally solitary, but may form small loose groups; found in a variety of rural and urban habitats throughout NA (except Arctic, most of MEX), but prefers riparian brushlands; northern populations migrate south in winter; 25+ subspecies; forages mainly on the ground for seeds and insects

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

The widespread song sparrow occurs in many subspecies, resulting in a great diversification of plumage and morphology between the various populations. Adding to the ID issues is their similarity to **Lincoln** and **Savannah** sparrows. The individuals shown here, so-called **Desert Song Sparrows** (*M. m. fallax*), are endemic to parts of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts. Their streaking is more rufous than brown.

Family **PASERELLIDAE** (Sparrows)

Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*)



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Corn Creek; Desert National Wildlife Refuge; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV

Measurements:

Length: 5.5" Wing Span: 7.5" Average Weight: .6 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

small size; crisply mottled brown above, whitish below with fine streaks, **buffy wash on chest** and sides; brown head stripes bordered in black separated by **gray central stripe**; streaked brown wings; gray face with brown cheeks, thin dark eyeline, buffy malar; **dark eyes**, thin buffy eyering; thin, conical, gray bill; brownish legs; sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common, but secretive; solitary, or small mixed groups; prefers dense brushy areas (forest edges, shrubs, thickets, etc.) near water, breeding across CAN and throughout the Rockies, migrating south to wintering grounds in s US and MEX; 3 subspecies; forages on the ground for seeds, insects, spiders, etc.

Mojave presence: winter range

Comments:

Though common, Lincoln's are seldom seen or photographed, because they are usually very secretive and hidden in dense foliage. Of course, sometimes you just get lucky. Such was the case in October of 2020 at Corn Creek in the **Desert National Wildlife Refuge** when I spotted these individuals merrily foraging on the ground in the open with **Song Sparrows** and other birds. So far, these are the only shots I've gotten of Lincoln sparrows.

Family PASSERELLIDAE (Sparrows)

Sagebrush Sparrow (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*)



brown upperparts

Goodsprings Valley; NV



typical ground foraging

Joshua Tree NP; CA



white forehead spots

Goodsprings Valley; Goodsprings, NV



gray head

complete eyering

Goodsprings Valley; NV



white outer tail feathers

Joshua Tree NP; CA

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 8" Average Weight: .5 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; streaked grayish brown above, buffy to white below with dark spot on center breast (similar to Lark Sparrow); gray head; white throat with thin gray stripe; white patch before each eye; 2 pale wingbars; gray tail with white outer feathers; gray bill; black eyes with complete, white eyering; gray legs; sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common, but inconspicuous; mainly solitary (social in mixed-sparrow flocks during winter and migration); inhabits desert scrublands (sagebrush, creosote, saltbush, etc.) of w NA from w WY southeastward to nw NM in summer breeding grounds, wintering in se CA/s NV/AZ/sw NM/w TX/n MEX; formerly in the genus *Amphispiza*; formerly known as the Sage Sparrow (together with Bell's Sparrow); forages on the ground for seeds and insects

Mojave presence: winter range

Comments:

Because they prefer to remain inconspicuous, these drab-colored sparrows are often overlooked and thus unrecognized in the field. The white and complete eyering, along with its white throat and white spots in front of the eyes should help you realize that this is a seldom-seen bird that is worth getting pictures of.

Family PASSERELLIDAE (Towhees)

Abert's Towhee (*Melospiza aberti*)



light brown overall

Henderson BVP; NV



cinnamon vent

Overton WMA; Overton, NV



Overton Wildlife Management Area; Overton, NV



pale bill, dark mask

Henderson BVP; NV



running for cover

Clark Co. Wetlands Pk; NV

Measurements:

Length: 9" Wing Span: 11" Average Weight: 1.5 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

large size; plain pinkish brown overall with cinnamon wash on breast, rusty undertail coverts (vent); long dark tail; large, cardinal-like, pale grayish bill; dark facial mask; brown eyes, no eyering; pale legs; no sexual dimorphism

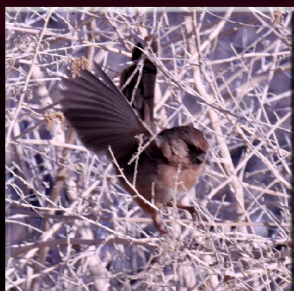
Notes:

common, but secretive, thus seldom seen; monogamous; inhabits dense brushy riparian areas in sw NA from the Sonoran Desert along the MEX border, through the eastern section of the Mojave Desert in AZ/CA/NV/UT; formerly in the genus *Pipilo*; forages on the ground for seeds and insects

Mojave presence: year-round

Comments:

Since these birds are so secretive, good shots are hard to get. Capturing decent flight pictures is an even rarer treat, considering that the Abert's is primarily a ground bird that seldom takes to the air. These lucky shots were taken in February (right) and April (left), 2021, at the Bird Viewing Preserve in Henderson, NV.



Family **PASERELLIDAE** (Towhees)

Green-Tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



South Rim; Grand Canyon National Park; AZ



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Grand Canyon NP; AZ

Measurements:

Length: 7" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: 1 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; light gray overall; **rufous crown**; **white throat** with **black gular stripes**; underwing, wing edges, and tail highlighted with **yellowish green**; gray bill; brown eyes, no eyering; long pale legs; no sexual dimorphism

Notes:

uncommon, secretive; solitary; found in brushy arid habitats, breeding in interior western US from se WA east to WY/CO, south to AZ/NM, migrating south to wintering grounds in MEX; usually remains hidden in cover of dense underbrush; forages on the ground mainly for seeds

Mojave presence: winter range

Comments:

It can be quite a challenge to encounter this secretive bird, much less get good pictures of! In fact, the individual seen here near the Yavapai Museum in **Grand Canyon National Park** in September of 2019 is the only one I have ever seen in my 40-plus years in the Southwest. True to its nature, it was hidden in the underbrush, scratching through leaf litter for a meal. Sporadically, it came out from under cover for only a moment--just long enough to give me a few adequate, but still valuable, shots!

Family PASSERELLIDAE (Towhees)

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)



Theo. Roosevelt NP; ND



Willow Spring; RRCNCA; NV



Bosque del Apache NWR; Socorro, NM



Henderson BVP; NV



Willow Spring; RRCNCA; NV

Measurements:

Length: 8.5" Wing Span: 11" Average Weight: 1.5 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

large size; **black above** with **white spots** on back and wings, white below with **orange flanks**; black, unmarked head, neck, throat; 2 white wingbars; long, dark, tail with white outer edges; black, conical bill; **red eyes**; pinkish legs; slight sexual dimorphism (females dark gray-brown above); juveniles heavily streaked brown

Notes:

uncommon, secretive; solitary; prefers the cover of dense foliage (forests, thickets, etc.) in w NA, migrating from breeding grounds in the nw (sw CAN, MT, ID, WY, etc.) to wintering grounds as far south as n MEX (rare farther east); forages on the ground or in low shrubs for arthropods in summer, seeds, nuts, berries, etc., in winter

Mojave presence: winter range

Comments:

Typical of towhees, these secretive ground foragers prefer to remain hidden in thick foliage--except when males are feeling romantic and choose more open perches to belt out their best tunes, such as these two "Don Juans" in **Mesa Verde NP** in June, 2021.



Family **PASSERELLIDAE** (Juncos)

Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)



Red Backed



Oregon



Pink Sided



Slate



Gray Headed

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: .7 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; basically gray above, unmarked whitish below (but considerable variation among the numerous subspecies); gray tail with **white outer feathers**; short, conical, **pinkish bill**; dark eyes; pinkish legs; males generally have darker, more distinct markings, otherwise sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common; social, often in mixed flocks; prefers coniferous and mixed woodlands throughout NA from AK/CAN south to MEX; northern populations migrate south for winter; flocks known as a **blizzard**; 14+ subspecies; forages on the ground mainly for seeds, but also occasional insects

Mojave presence: winter range

Comments:

With such variable plumages, junco subspecies can be rather difficult to positively identify in the field, especially in poorly lit conditions. Location can be helpful, as many of the subspecies populations seldom overlap. The following pages describe the more common subspecies that one is likely to encounter in the Mojave region.

Family **PASSERELLIDAE** (Juncos)

Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*)



Red Rock Cyn NCA; NV



Floyd Lamb SP; LV, NV



Grand Canyon National Park; Arizona



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Big Wash Rd; Chloride, AZ

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: .7 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; **black hood** (head, face, neck, throat), brownish back, **rusty flanks**, white belly; gray tail with white outer feathers; pale pink bill; dark eyes; pink legs; females have a dark gray hood, otherwise sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common; social, often in mixed flocks (especially in winter); widespread throughout w NA (rare in the east); aka **Oregon Dark-Eyed Junco**; forages on the ground mainly for seeds, but also occasional insects

Mojave presence: winter range

Comments:

This subspecies is loosely classified in the "**Oregon/Brown-Backed**" group of dark-eyed juncos, which includes the Montana (**J. h. montanus**) and Nevada (**J. h. mutabilis**) varieties, among numerous others. All are so closely similar that--beyond their customary ranges (which is not necessarily diagnostic)--differentiating them is the purview of specialists, and is beyond the scope of this journal. Thus, all presented here are listed generally as the **Oregon Dark-Eyed Junco** (**J. h. oregonus**). They are common winter visitors to the Mojave Desert, and distinctive enough in their plumage that they are easily distinguished from other juncos outside of the brown-backed group.

Family **PASSERELLIDAE** (Juncos)

Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*)



Floyd Lamb SP; LV, NV



Floyd Lamb SP; LV, NV



Floyd Lamb State Park; Las Vegas, NV



Overton WMA; NV



Overton WMA; NV

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: .7 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; slate-gray to brownish-gray overall; gray tail with white outer feathers; pink bill; dark eyes, slight to **no mask**; pinkish legs; females have somewhat duller plumage and a slight cinnamon wash on their flanks and vent, otherwise sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common; social, often in mixed flocks (especially in winter); widespread throughout NA (rare in FL); aka **Slate-Colored Dark-Eyed Junco**; forages on the ground mainly for seeds, but also occasional insects

Mojave presence: winter range (rare)

Comments:

This subspecies is rather rare in the Mojave, restricting its visits to the wetlands and ponds in the far eastern region (southern Nevada and northwestern Arizona). The ones shown here were enjoying pleasant winter days at **Floyd Lamb State Park** in Las Vegas in February of 2021, and the **Overton Wildlife Management Area** in Overton, NV, in October of 2020. They can easily be confused with the **Gray Headed** variety (see next page)--especially in less than optimally lit conditions, such as cloudy days.

Family **PASSERELLIDAE** (Juncos)

Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)



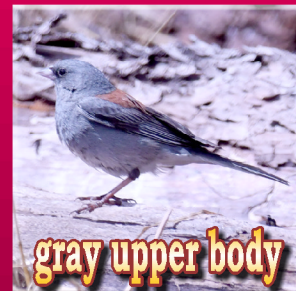
rusty back

Lee Cyn; Spring Mtns NRA; NV



Gray Headed

Lee Canyon; Spring Mountains NRA; Nevada



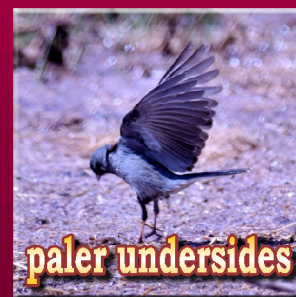
gray upper body

Floyd Lamb SP; LV, NV



got a juicy caterpillar

Floyd Lamb SP; LV, NV



paler undersides

Floyd Lamb SP; LV, NV

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: .7 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; charcoal gray above, distinct **rufus back**, pale gray breast and flanks, white belly; dark gray tail with white outer feathers; pale bill; dark eyes with **black mask**; pinkish legs; sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common; social, often in mixed flocks (especially in winter); found mainly in the Rockies and sw US from NV/AZ east to CO/w TX, south to nc MEX; part of range overlaps with Pink Sided; aka **Gray-Headed Dark-Eyed Junco**; forages on the ground mainly for seeds, but also occasional insects

Mojave presence: migratory

Comments:

This is the most common subspecies seen in the Mojave as it migrates from breeding grounds in the Nevada portion of its range to wintering grounds in Arizona and elsewhere. While the ones above were just on a layover in southern Nevada, Kaibab Lake near Williams, AZ, is a more typical wintering location, such as for this bird in May of 2021.



Family **PASSERELLIDAE** (Juncos)

Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis dorsalis*)



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Bright Angel Lodge; Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Grand Canyon NP; AZ



Grand Canyon NP; AZ

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: .7 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; gray upperbody, **rusty back**, paler gray belly, **white undertail coverts** and breast; gray tail with white outer feathers; grayish-pink bill (upper mandible darker gray); dark **facial mask** and eyes; pinkish legs; sexually monomorphic

Notes:

uncommon; social, often in mixed flocks (especially in winter); occurs in a limited range from AZ east to far western TX; aka **Red-Backed Dark-Eyed Junco**; forages on the ground mainly for seeds, but also occasional insects

Mojave presence: rare (far eastern region)

Comments:

These juncos (easily confused with the gray-backed variety, but paler gray) are rare visitors to the Mojave. In the Arizona portion of their range, they prefer the higher-elevation forests, such as those found on the **Colorado Plateau Province**. The one above enjoyed a quick dip and refreshment in a small stream near the Bright Angel Lodge in **Grand Canyon National Park** in October of 2017. Every now and then they'll wander down into the mountains and canyons in the transition zone in Mohave County, AZ. Note that Mojave is spelled with an "h" in Arizona.

Family **PASSERELLIDAE** (Juncos)

Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)



Corn Creek; DNWR; NV



Corn Creek; Desert National Wildlife Refuge; NV



Corn Creek; DNWR; NV

Pink Sided

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 9" Average Weight: .7 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; **blue-gray hood**, brownish back, pale gray below with **cinnamon-pink flanks**; gray tail with white outer feathers; pinkish bill; dark eyes with **black mask**; pink legs; sexually monomorphic

Notes:

common in limited range; social, often in mixed flocks (especially in winter); found mainly in the Rockies south to nc MEX; (entire range overlaps with Gray Headed); aka **Pink-Sided Dark-Eyed Junco**; forages on the ground mainly for seeds, but also occasional insects

Mojave presence: rare

Comments:

This is another junco subspecies rare to the Mojave region. The only ones I've seen and photographed (that I know of) are those shown above at Corn Creek in the **Desert National Wildlife Refuge** in October, 2020. All were accompanied by loose mixed flocks of **Oregon Dark-Eyed Juncos** and various other species of small birds.