

## NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

*Mimus polyglottos*



Mockingbirds imitate other birds, but they also have a beautiful song of their own which pours forth day and night during the mating period. They are about the length of a robin, but slimmer, and the tail is longer. They are gray with black and white markings that are particularly striking in flight. When a mockingbird alights, it pumps the long tail up and down.

Mockingbirds are bold and have been known to steal fur from cats for nest lining. Mockingbirds like to live near people, and their range extends as homes and gardens take the place of open land. They feed on fruit and insects. The berries people plant in their yards give them a year-round food supply. The bulky nest is made of twigs, lined with finer materials, and built in dense bushes or trees.

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