



Least Bell's Vireo's Voice

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates Newsletter

June 2021

THINGS TO NOTICE



**Come take a look at the Native Garden:
cleaner and with new plants.**



**Page 4 is our SUPPLEMENT:
An excellent Girl Scout project.
A wonderful way to learn and at the
same time be recognized for your efforts.
GO, GIRL SCOUTS!**

Web site access:

WNNCA.org

Our email: wnnca@att.net

**JULY
BIRD
OF THE MONTH**

**American
Robin**

June Bird of the Month

Phainopepla

(Phainopepla nitens)



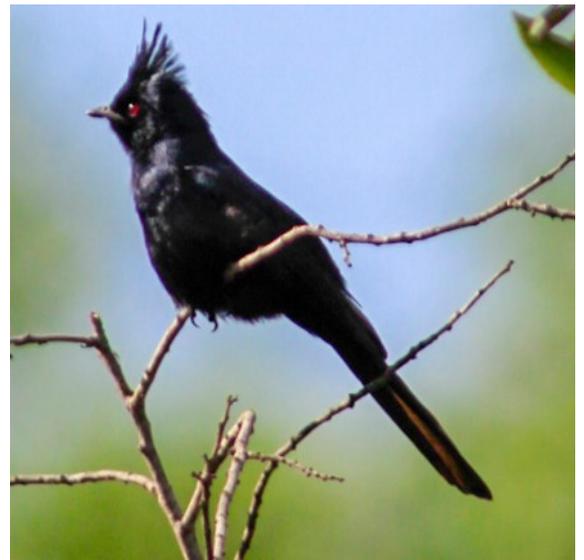
Phainopeplas are very noticeable with their silky black plumage, sassy crest, long tail and red eyes, plus a flash of white wing patch, visible in flight. Females are grayer all around. They do justice to their name, derived from the Greek and meaning “shining robe.”

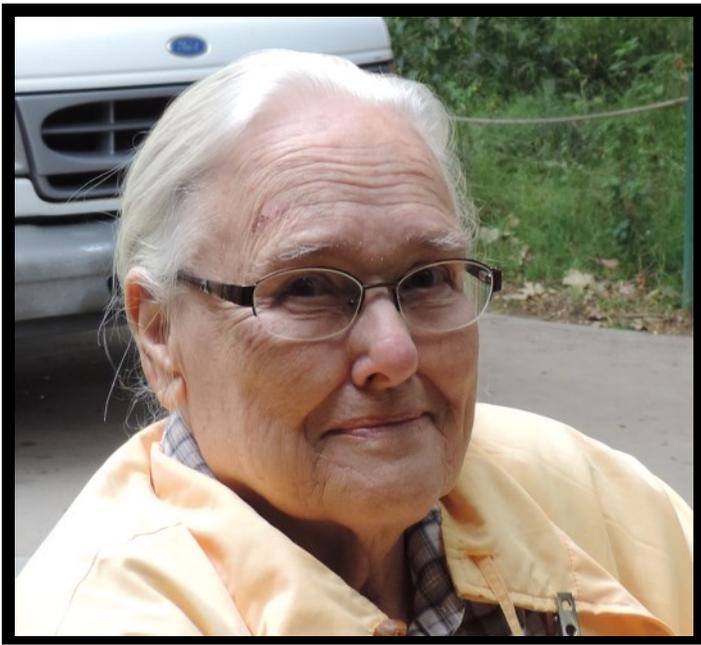
This slender glossy bird ranges through the Southwest, living in desert scrub, chaparral and oak and sycamore woodlands, and *moving to higher elevations in warmer months. It feeds on insects, mistletoe berries (reportedly their favorite) and other berries.*



They exhibit two different behaviors: sometimes very territorial, defending a patch of berries or a nesting site. At other times, they are colonial, with several pairs nesting in the same tree and even forming flocks after breeding season.

Not a very distinctive call, but a an unmistakable visual impact.





Grace's

Wisdom Corner

(Featuring a special plant every month)

Matilija Poppy {*Romneya coulteri*}

This showy bloom is a perennial, the largest of native Californians, growing as tall as 6 to 8 feet. Spreads quickly underground, and the root ball can survive over a year, it can possibly overwhelm its location. A known fire follower, seeds require smoke for germination. Flowering late spring and summer its nickname is “fried-egg plant” for obvious reasons.



Matilija poppies have been used by the Chumash for skin and gum problems and stomach upsets. It defends itself by producing sap that deters animals from eating its leaves, it has a pleasant fragrance.

It came a close second in the quest for the California state flower.

We are told that thirsty hikers can mitigate their thirst by placing a petal on the tongue, stimulating moisture in the mouth.

It is certainly impossible not to be amazed by this awesome beauty.

SUPPLEMENT

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Project By Belle Zeroogian



This is a Girl Scout project that earned Belle a Silver Award.

To enjoy, go to the WNNCA website and click on the title:

Monarch Butterfly Slide Show

We thank Belle for sharing this with us and for her dedication, enthusiasm, and her concern for the world of Nature.