

The Northern Mockingbird[©] *by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida - May 19, 2023*



(photo from a web site)

Within the Kissimmee Bay Country Club residential sub-division, it is a very common daily occurrence to see Mockingbirds “skittering about” and amusing us with their extensive repertoire of sounds. The male of the species more so than the female is an amazingly-impressive singer and may utter as many as 200 sounds, including those of other birds and even those of dogs, cats, frogs, and crickets! They may also imitate sounds like squeaking wheels and car alarms. Bird experts have observed that Mockingbirds sing different songs during different seasons of the year.

The Northern Mockingbird is in fact the state bird of Florida (as well as Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas). Their territory actually encompasses a large area of the United States, Central America, and the Caribbean island chain. They are not usually found at all in Europe.

The Northern Mockingbird exists in large numbers throughout the noted regions and is in no danger of becoming extinct. Their life span in the wild is around 8 years, although captive birds may live up to 20. They are monogamous birds that mate for life and will usually produce 3 broods per year. They can be very aggressive in defending their territory and are quite often seen chasing and attacking other larger birds such as crows and blackbirds.

Where ever you may reside, I hope that you too have heard one of the many songs as performed by a Mockingbird. Do listen to their variety of songs when you have a chance! AMAZING!