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Mockingbirds - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table

1. This document is WEC-QRS-093, one of a series of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611. Publication date: June, 1991 as "Mockingbirds". Reviewed: December, 1998. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

2.

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Table 1.

Common Name:		Northern Mockingbird
Other Names:		Mockingbird, Mocker
Scientific Name:		<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Appearance:	Size:	about 9 inches long, including tail
	Color:	grayish brown
	Other:	white wing patches visible in flight
Range:		statewide
Habitat:		suburban areas, parklands (favors mowed lawns)
Diet:		50% arthropods (grasshoppers, ants, wasps, bees, cicadas)
		50% fruit
		occasionally eats small lizards and earthworms
Reproduction:		nests low in trees and in shrubs, several times per season (spring)
Behavior:		perches in full view and sings loud, repetitive songs culled from other birds' songs, other animals and humans and neighborhood noises
		runs and hops across lawns, chasing insect prey
		swift, acrobatic flight display during courtship
Problems:		may attack humans and/or pets in defense of territory during nesting season
		may sing loudly late at night or very early in morning
Solutions:		avoid nesting area for duration of use (about three weeks)
Legal Aspects:		mockingbirds are protected by state and federal laws
Fact Sheet Available:		yes