

Mockingbird

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Mockingbirds are a group of New World passerine birds from the Mimidae family. They are best known for the habit of some species mimicking the songs of other birds and the sounds of insects and amphibians,^[1] often loudly and in rapid succession. There are about 17 species in three genera. These do not appear to form a monophyletic lineage: *Mimus* and *Nesomimus* are quite closely related; their closest living relatives appear to be some thrashers, such as the Sage Thrasher. *Melanotis* is more distinct; it seems to represent a very ancient basal lineage of Mimidae.^{[2][3]}

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Species in taxonomic order

- Brown-backed Mockingbird, *Mimus dorsalis*
- Bahama Mockingbird, *Mimus gundlachi*
- Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*
- Patagonian Mockingbird, *Mimus patagonicus*
- Chilean Mockingbird, *Mimus thenca*
- White-banded Mockingbird, *Mimus triurus*
- Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos* (state bird of Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas)
- Socorro Mockingbird, *Mimus graysoni*
- Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*
- Chalk-browed Mockingbird, *Mimus saturninus*
- Hood Mockingbird, *Mimus macdonaldi*
- Galápagos Mockingbird, *Mimus parvulus*
- Floreana Mockingbird or Charles Mockingbird, *Mimus trifasciatus*
- San Cristóbal Mockingbird, *Mimus melanotis*
- Blue Mockingbird *Melanotis caerulescens*
- Blue-and-white Mockingbird *Melanotis hypoleucus*

Darwin and mockingbirds

Northern Mockingbird



Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Aves
Order:	Passeriformes
Family:	Mimidae

Genera

Melanotis
Mimus
Nesomimus



The Chilean Mockingbird, *Mimus thenca*

When the survey voyage of HMS *Beagle* visited the Galápagos Islands in September to October 1835, the naturalist Charles Darwin noticed that the mockingbirds *Mimus thenca* differed from island to island, and were closely allied in appearance to mockingbirds on the South American mainland. Nearly a year later when writing up his notes on the return voyage he speculated that this, together with what he had been told about Galápagos tortoises, could undermine the doctrine of stability of species. This was his first recorded expression of his doubts about species being immutable, which led to him being convinced about the transmutation of species and hence evolution.^[4] It was only after the ship returned to England that he found out about the better known Darwin's Finches.

References

- Keynes, Richard (2001), *Charles Darwin's Beagle Diary*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0521003172

External links

- Mockingbird Intelligence (<http://www.birdminds.com/Mockingbird.html>)
- Mockingbird videos, photographs and sound recordings (<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/family/mockingbirds-thrashers-mimidae>) on the Internet Bird Collection

Notes

- ↑ 10000birds.com (<http://10000birds.com/mockingbirds.htm>)
- ↑ Hunt, Jeffrey S.; Bermingham, Eldredge; & Ricklefs, Robert E. (2001): "Molecular systematics and biogeography of Antillean thrashers, tremblers, and mockingbirds (Aves: Mimidae) (http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3793/is_200101/ai_n8930531) ." *Auk* **118**(1): 35–55. DOI:10.1642/0004-8038(2001)118[0035:MSABOA]2.0.CO;2
- ↑ Barber, Brian R.; Martínez-Gómez, Juan E. & Peterson, A. Townsend (2004) "Systematic position of the Socorro mockingbird *Mimodes graysoni*." *J. Avian Biol.* **35**: 195–198. doi:10.1111/j.0908-8857.2004.03233.x (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111%2Fj.0908-8857.2004.03233.x>)
- ↑ Keynes 2001, p. xix (<http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?itemID=F1840&viewtype=text&pageseq=22>) .

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