

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

QUIZ 173

January 29, 2023

How old is this northern mockingbird?



Link to ponder: Why do animals [communicate](#)?

THE ANSWER IS ON THE NEXT PAGE



The very dark iris of this northern mockingbird (compare the decidedly yellow eye of the bird below) suggests that it was in its first calendar year when it was photographed in December. Note, though, that older mockingbirds can occasionally show gray irides, making it necessary to examine the details of wing and tail to definitively age the bird. The shape of the rectrix tips and the color and pattern of the primary coverts are invisible here, making certainty difficult or impossible.



Ornithological Quiz Master: Rick Wright
Assistant & Photographer: Sandy Sorkin



Southwest Wings

