

FEBRUARY

ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE

PHAINOPEPLA

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PHAINOPEPLA



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This month, we're exploring **Phainopepla** (*Phainopepla nitens*). Here are some fun and key facts about this species:

- **Phainopepla formed a symbiotic relationship with mistletoe**, feeding on the abundance of mistletoe berries when ripe, typically in February.
- **Males are silky black, with an elegant crest, red eyes**, and a flash of white on their wings in flight.
- Known as **silky flycatchers**, they are not related to flycatchers; instead, their **closest relative are waxwings**. However, they do **feed on insects**.

Sources:

- Cornell Lab All About Birds - <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Phainopepla/overview>
- iNaturalist - <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/3996-Phainopepla>