

Northern Cardinal

Perhaps one of the easiest songbirds to ID, the male cardinal has bright red plumage with a black mask that extends down its throat. Both male and female are beautifully crested, with the females colouring being a soft brown all over with red highlights along the wings, tail and crest. These birds are very common around feeders filled with larger seeds like sunflower and even peanut pieces.



Male

Female

White-breasted Nuthatch

With its long slender beak and distinct black and white markings, this insect lover will also visit feeding stations if you put out some large, meaty nuts and seeds such as acorns and peanuts.



Male

COLD CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

— Winter Bird ID —

Although many birds migrate south in the fall, several species live in Canada year round. Here is a list of the top ten bird species that stick around for the winter that you might see.

Black Capped Chickadee

Named for their main identification feature, this small, compact bird has a black cap of feathers on the top of their heads. Small, thick beak and grey and black wings. This little birds love feeders, especially suet with small seeds and nuts.



Male

Blue Jays

Another very noticeable bird around Ontario, the Blue Jay is known for its bright blue and white colouring with notes of black throughout the tail and wing feathers. Like the cardinal, both male and female Blue Jays also have a prominent crest, with the females being identical in features, only slightly smaller. Blue jays are especially fond of acorns, peanuts, corn, and black oil sunflower seeds and suet.



Male

Finches (House and Purple)

Purple: Small in size with males a bright raspberry red and females a mixture of browns, white and black markings

House: Males are a mulled brown colour with rosy red all around the face and upper breast. Females are overall brown, with blurry streaks down the belly. Both species enjoy berries and tree buds of early spring. Leave some sunflowers seeds out to bring them to your feeder.



Male: House Finch



Male: Purple Finch

*A place to **explore**,
A place to **learn**,
A place for **adventure***

Bird Trivia

1. The Peregrine Falcon is the worlds fastest bird. True or False?
2. When drilling holes in trees, how many times/ second do most woodpeckers tap their beaks ?
A) 10 B) 25 C) 45 D) 75
3. Where are penguins found?
A) Artic B) Antarctic
4. Travelling about 71,000 km a year, this bird species has the longest migration of any bird.
A) Artic Tern B) Sooty Shearwater C) Sandpiper
5. Bald Eagles have no feathers on their head, hence their name. True or False ?

American Robin

Yet another very common bird for central and southern Ontario, the male Robin is a larger, round-bellied member of the thrush family. With dark heads, rusty bellies, yellow beaks and ashy brown wings. Females exhibit very similar characteristics with duller colours. They also are smaller in size, and have more prominent white markings around the eyes. Robins enjoy berries and a large variety of medium sized seeds.



Male

Dark-eyed Junco

A medium sized part of the sparrow family with a long tail and a small pale coloured bill. Both males and females have bright, white, outer tail feathers, with males being a charcoal grey with white bellies. Females have a greyish coloured hood and chest with light brown coloured back, wings and tail. These birds feed on small seeds, berries, insects and grasses.



Male

Trivia Answers



1. True
2. B) 25
3. B) Antarctic
4. A) Arctic Tern
5. False

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

The males of this species are medium-sized, stocky birds with black and white feathers. They get their name from their bright red plumage on their breast. The males and females both have very large, triangular beaks with females colouring being muddled brown with white markings around the eyes. To get these birds in your backyard, add sunflowers, shelled peanuts and cranberries to your seed.



Male

Common Redpoll

Male Redpolls are a small brown finch with a red crown and red-washed chest. Females show a similar brown colouring with red a bright red patch on their crowns. Redpolls love birch trees for nesting and are known to enjoy feeding on small seeds and insects.



Male