

The Cardinal

Female



Ryan Tasto, 2019

Male



Carol Carpenter, 2019

About the Cardinal

The cardinal is the national bird of 7 different states including Ohio. The female cardinal sings as well and not just the male. The female is also the one who builds the nest for the young but either gender may sit on the eggs to keep them warm. The male cardinal is slightly heavier than the female, but are both have the same wingspan and the same length. Many sports team have the name cardinals as there logo or mascot.



Mating

Cardinals are non-migratory and spend the winter with their most recent offspring and neighboring cardinals in loose, fluid flocks. The female and the male remain together for life. Even the off-season or when they are not breeding. The male will provide food for the female while she is guarding and incubating the eggs which will hatch in about two weeks.



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Habitat/Range

Cardinals have a wide range of states they live in. They are most commonly can be found anywhere where there are thickets and shrubs. Cardinals can be spotted in parks, backyards, and dense bushes are idle for nesting.

Food Web

What they eat

- Seeds
- Berries
- Insects
- Caterpillars

What eats them

- Dogs
- Domestic cats
- Cooper's hawks
- Fox squirrels
- Red squirrels
- Milk snakes
- Black racers

Niv Singer, 2019



Caleb Martin, 2019



Diseases/Pests

Salmonella is common in feeder birds like the cardinal, symptoms could be ruffled feathers and lethargy. Birds who get this usually die in 1 to 3 days. Another thing that can invade and harm the cardinal is mites and lice they hide in the feathers these bugs can unfortunately cause cardinals to leave their young or eggs. Pests are domestic cats and dogs because they sometimes kill the cardinal.

Benefits/Nusense

An adult male cardinal is mostly red with some darker tinting on the wings and tail and they look very pretty. The female cardinal has more of a grayish-brown coloring with some traces of red along the wings and tail feathers. The black masks are common and share the reddish-orange beak. They have a crest which is the small tuft of feathers on the very top of their heads. The look of a cardinal is very fascinating by itself but also, unlike most songbirds, the female cardinal sings. Normally only that male sings but the female cardinal sings with the male. When he is off collecting parts for the nest, she sings to let him know she needs food. However, being loud and being so bright can cause the male to approach enemies, lucky for the female, she is brown and can camouflage.