

Blue Jay

The Blue Jay is a common backyard bird in North America. It has a pronounced crest which may be raised or lowered according to the bird's mood. Its plumage is blue in the crest, back, wings and tail. Its face is white. The underside is off-white and neck is collared with black. The tail is barred with black, blue and white. The bill, legs and eyes are all black.



See colors
and learn more





KneeHigh Naturalist
Sac County Conservation

Songbirds Kit



Songbird Craft

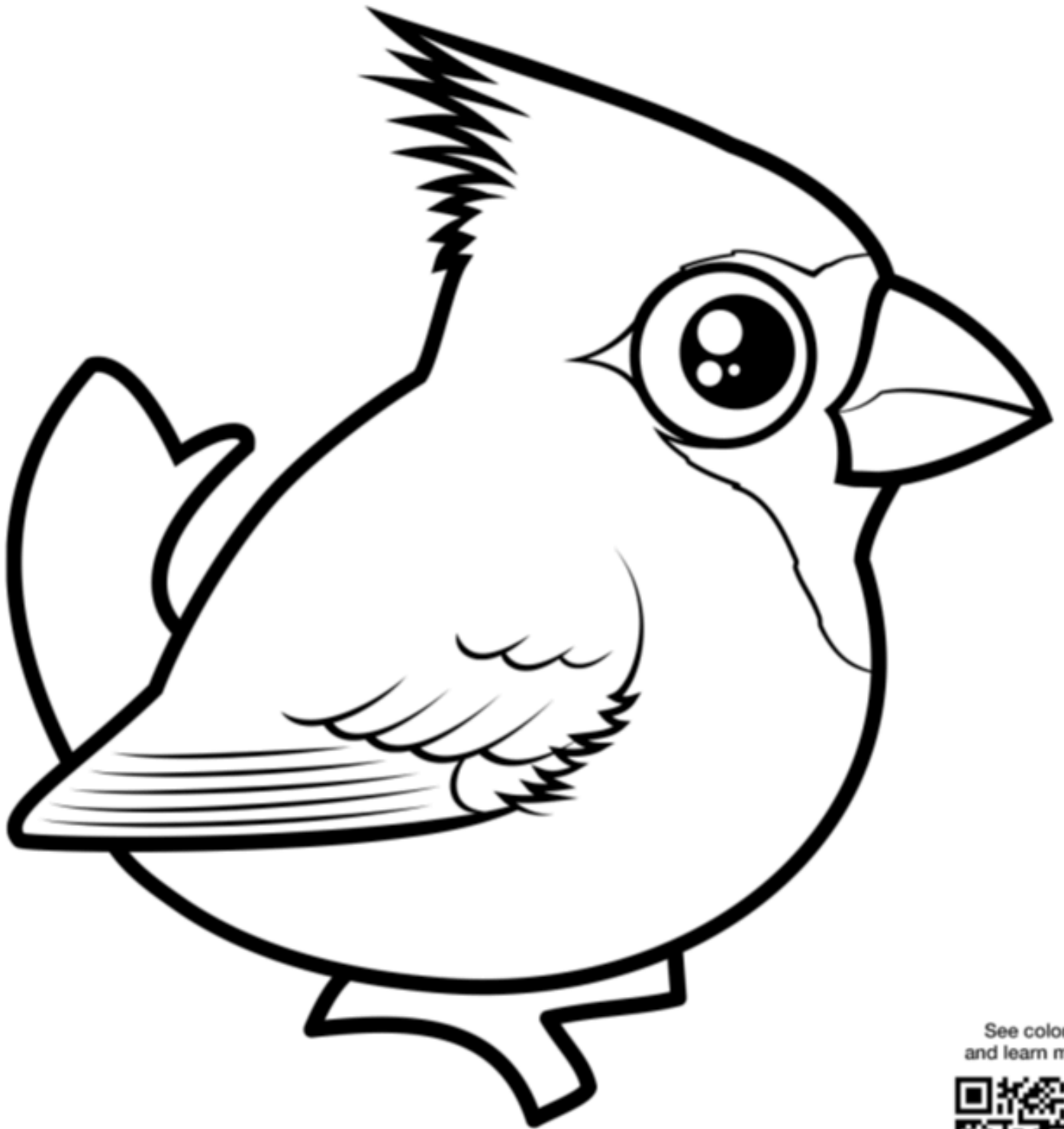
Create your own bird feeder!

Use the thing of white stuff, which is called Lard (Pork Fat) as edible glue. Fill your pine with lard and then carefully (perhaps outside) stuff your pinecone with birdseed. Then find a place outside to set it. See who comes to visit!

Helpful hint: Lard removal from your hands is best done with warm water. It will make it "melt" off your hands.

Northern Cardinal

The Northern Cardinal is a common mid-sized songbird across the eastern United States. Males are brilliant red with a black face. The female is mostly grayish brown with a slight reddish tint on the wings. The bill is red and the feet are a dark pink-brown.



See colors
and learn more



Songbird Activity

Head outside!

Can you find a rainbow of birds?



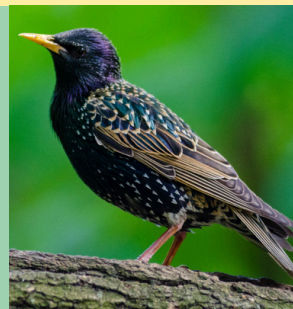
NORTHERN CARDINAL



BALTIMORE ORIOLE



AMERICAN GOLDFINCH



EUROPEAN STARLING



BLUE JAY



PURPLE FINCH



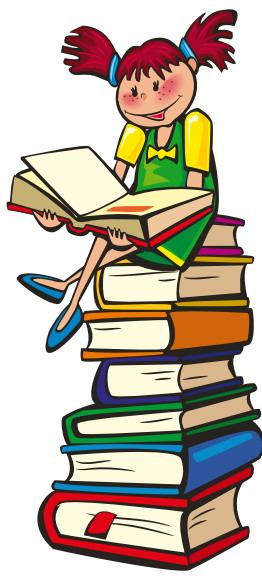
Little Bird Little Bird

**SUNG TO: "TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE
STAR"**

**LITTLE BIRD, LITTLE BIRD, FLY AROUND,
UP TO THE SKY, DOWN TO THE GROUND.
LITTLE BIRD, LITTLE BIRD, FLAP YOUR
WINGS.**

**OPEN YOUR BEAK AND SWEETLY SING.
LITTLE BIRD, LITTLE BIRD, FLY TO YOUR
NEST.**

NOW IT IS TIME TO TAKE A REST.



Suggested Reading

Birds
Kevin Henkes

Bird Watch
Christie Matheson

About Birds
Cathryn Sill

Golden Crowned Kinglet



North America's Smallest Songbird

MALES WILL PUFF UP THE FEATHERS ON THEIR HEADS WHEN EXCITED.

Migratory

Some species of birds will migrate south to Iowa for the winter!



Dark-Eyed Junco

Some can sing two notes at once

Call ALERTS OTHER BIRDS TO DANGER!

MINE MINE MINE

1/2

WORLD'S BIRDS

Songs tell other birds to stay out of their space! Also for boy birds it's to try to get a girlfriend.



SONGS ARE LEARNED.

Which is why

Howdy

SONGBIRDS CAN HAVE REGIONAL DIALECTS. JUST LIKE PEOPLE HAVE ACCENTS.

SYRNIX Songbird voicebox.

Please Keep Your Cats Inside
Cats kill over 2.4 billion birds a year in the US



4,000+ species



Ravens are the biggest songbirds in North America and are about the size of a Red Tailed Hawk

Sing Feathers

1,500+



Can sing more notes than a piano

Songbirds



They breathe 30 breaths a second!

Warm Blooded

Make Their Own Body Heat

Catbirds are named from their meow like call



But they will also mimic the sounds other birds make!



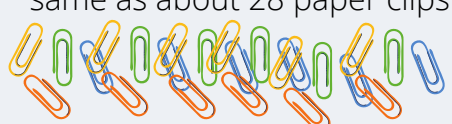
Did you know? Crows are songbirds

Birds have hollow bones so they can fly



LIGHT WEIGHT

Most songbirds weigh the same as about 28 paper clips!

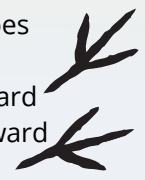


Big Songbirds like a Blue Jay might weigh up to 85 paperclips or 1.5 tennis balls



Black Capped Chickadees will clear out old memories of where they hid seeds to make room for new memories.

They have 4 toes per foot
3 pointed forward
1 pointed backward



Northern Cardinal



BOYS & GIRLS

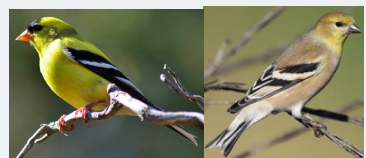
Many species of birds the boys will be bright colors and the girls will be brown to blend in with their nests.

Brown-headed Cowbirds will lay their eggs in the nest of other birds.



Passerines

Official Science Name



Male Goldfinch will change colors from summer to winter.

NESTS

Are usually made in the spring time to hold eggs. They can be made out of grass, twigs, mud and plants.



Eggs are different colors, shapes, and sizes depending on the type bird that lays them.

2-10 eggs

per nest



Cowbird eggs in Eastern Bluebird Nest Photo by Lara Hampton

What's For Lunch?

Songbirds have different kinds of beaks to eat a variety of things.



GENERALIST



INSECT CATCHING



GRAIN EATING