

# Northern Cardinal

Rm. 221

Katelyn #21

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## Introduction

Have you ever seen a bright red bird at your bird feeder? That's a Northern Cardinal. The Cardinal is a bird common throughout the eastern half of North America. Cardinals live in southeastern North Dakota, Minnesota, southern Ontario, and central Maine south to Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, Mexico, and Belize. This document will inform you of the things the Cardinal does for a living.

## Habitat and Food

The female Cardinal usually builds her nest four to five feet (1.2-1.5 m) above the ground in dense shrubbery, tangles of vines, or small trees. The nest is made of weed stems, twigs, bark, and paper. Cardinals are nonmigratory birds. They feed on weed seeds, wild fruit, worms, and beetles and other insects. In winter, they often seek food at feeders provided by people. Cardinals prefer sunflower seeds, but also eat raisins,

## Young

The female typically lays three to four eggs, which are grayish-white with brown spots and many speckles. The eggs hatch in twelve to thirteen days. The female sits on the eggs and the male finds food. After the eggs hatch, both sexes feed the young. The male takes over the feeding entirely when the female builds a new nest for the next brood.

## Description

The male Cardinal is red with some gray on the back. The distinctive black marking around the eyes and at the base of the red-orange bill may reduce glare from the bill. Females are a brownish color with red in the wings, tail, and crest. The Cardinal measures to about seven to nine inches (18-23cm) long.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the female cardinal sings often from the nest. The male Cardinal fiercely defends its breeding territory from other males. If the male Cardinal sees another bird going toward his nest he tries to distract it so the other bird will not go toward the nest. I've learned that the Cardinal may have up to four broods from April to August.



<http://www.harunyahya.com/kids/pictures/wallpaper1024/cardinal.jpg>