

Songbirds



DID YOU KNOW:

Songbirds, such as cardinals, bluebirds(above, right), meadowlarks (above, left) goldfinches, orioles, wrens and mockingbirds are the most numerous and colorful birds in our area. These small birds, with their beautiful, often complicated songs, flit and dart around our yards and in the woods.

EATING HABITS:

Almost all baby songbirds are fed insects, worms and caterpillars by their moms and dads. These creeping crawlies are high in protein, fat and moisture. Birds, unlike mammals, do not produce milk. So...never feed a baby bird milk.



THE YOUNG:

Mom, and sometimes Dad (depending on the songbird species), incubates the eggs for about two weeks. After hatching, the young songbirds spend about 10 to 14 days in the nest, growing to adult size and developing feathers.

HABITAT (HOME):

Songbirds live in areas that have places to hide and a source for food. Different songbirds build different types of nests. A cup nest may belong to a robin or a goldfinch, a hanging nest is probably a Baltimore Oriole.



DEFENSIVE HABITS:

Baby songbirds have no way to protect themselves. Once they leave the nest, the young birds are very vulnerable to predators, especially house cats, until they learn how to hide and when to fly away.

UNUSUAL FACTS:

- Birds have a poorly developed sense of smell. If you find a newly hatched songbird on the ground, you can place it back into the nest. If you cannot reach the nest, make a substitute nest from a small plastic tub or container. Punch holes into the bottom, pack it with leaves and grass, tie it tightly to the shaded side of a nearby tree, as high as you can reach, and put the baby in it. Mom and Dad will return soon.
- In most cases, the male songbird is the one who sings. He uses his songs to attract a mate and defend his territory.