

Interesting Facts

- The word Cardinal means "principle," and comes from the Latin "cardo," which means a hinge or pivot.
- The Cardinal is named for its color, which matches the robes of Catholic Cardinals.
- While Cardinals do not migrate, they have greatly increased their breeding range over the past 80 years by pushing farther North and West as suburbs and bird feeders proliferate.
- The Cardinal is really not a hard bird to please. Provide their favorite seeds and they will often be your first bird to feed in the morning and the last at night.
- In Spring you'll enjoy seeing the male Cardinal offer the female a carefully selected seed as part of their mate feeding ritual.



The More You Know

The Cardinal's territorial behavior in the Spring can prove to be annoying as the male will batter himself against a window at the site of his reflection in attempt to scare away what he perceives to be a potential competitor.

Utilizing an ultraviolet window decal can help in this situation as it reduces reflection. The UV light is invisible to humans' eyes but appears to birds, deterring them from coming near the window.



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Want To Know More?

Visit www.SongbirdEssentials.com
for information on Cardinals and more!

Songbird Essentials' Tips for Attracting Cardinals



About Cardinals

The red bird with the big beak really has it made. During the holidays, just about everyone receives its picture. It might just be the number one Christmas card pinup!

The Northern Cardinal, as this bird is officially named, is popular for good reason. No other bird looks so good against freshly fallen snow. Both male and female sing a pleasant, simple song that the other counter sings - or answers back.

Few other songbirds reward us so richly or rapidly when we scatter a few handfuls of seed for them.



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Food & Feeders

A Cardinal's primary diet consists of insects, fruit, and seed. Their favorite seeds include Black Oil Sunflower and Safflower. Offer both at the same time, and you are sure to keep your Cardinals happy.

Cardinals are ground feeders; however, they will feed on flat surfaces. Platform feeders such as hopper feeders, fly through, and open platform feeders, placed about five feet above ground level are ideal to attract them. Note that the perches on most tube feeders are too small to allow Northern Cardinals to comfortably feed. If you wish to use a tube feeder, ensure you are offering one with perches made specifically for Cardinals, or attach a tray to the bottom of the feeder. Utilizing a BE162 deck and ground feeder, you are able to enjoy Cardinals at closer view on your deck or on the ground.



BE164 Tube Feeder with Cardinal Perches

SESEED100GC



BE162

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Water

Cardinals appreciate a water source. Like all birds, they need it to maintain bodily function. As they are year-round residents, Cardinals will especially appreciate a heated water source in the winter - like our SE995 Songbird Spa or SE509 heated birdbath.

Heated water is critical to Cardinals to keep their feathers clean and fluffy. This allows them to puff out and stay warm during the cold winter months.



SE995