

Songbirds

Blue Jay

A common year-round resident, the noisy, gregarious blue jay frequents backyard bird feeders and is often the only colorful, woodland sight on a gray winter's day. Length 12 inches, weight 3 ounces, wingspan of 16 inches. Feeds on a variety of small plant and animal matter. Flight speed up to 20 mph. Builds bulky nests in fairly low, large trees or bushes. One brood of 4-5 young per year.



American Robin

Regarded as the harbinger of spring, this familiar, red-breasted songbird is actually a year-round resident in much of the state. A common sight in backyards and woodlots, its length is 10 inches, weight 2-3 ounces, wingspan of 15 inches. Feeds extensively on earthworms and fruits. Flight speed up to 35 mph. Nests in trees and shrubs. Two broods of 4 young each year.



Black-capped Chickadee

A common resident of woodlands and a regular visitor of bird feeders, this small bird tames quite readily. Its lively, sprightly behavior, its cheerful sounding calls and song, and its tameness make it a favorite of many people. It feeds on insects, seeds, carrion meat and fat. Length 5 inches, weight 1/2 ounce, wingspan of 8 inches. Flight speed up to 15 mph. Nests in tree cavities or nest boxes. One brood of 6-8 young per year.



Northern Cardinal

Also known as the redbird, the northern cardinal now thrives in the suburbia of New York. The bright scarlet color and "cheer, cheer" call of the male cardinal make this bird a favorite at backyard bird feeders. The females also sing and their less spectacular colors of olive green, pale pink and black help camouflage them. Length about 8 inches, weight 1 1/2-2 ounces, wingspan 10-12 inches. Flight speed up to 25 mph. Nests in dense thickets or tangles of vines. Two or three broods of 3-4 young each per year.



Eastern Bluebird

A popular user of nest boxes, the eastern bluebird is the official bird of New York State. Males are a beautiful shade of blue; females are much duller with blue only in the wings and tail. Length 7 inches, weight 1 ounce, wingspan of 12 inches. Feeds on fruits and berries, as well as insects and spiders that it captures on the ground by pouncing on them from a perch. Flight speed up to 17 mph. Two broods of 4-5 young each year.

