

*A Field Guide*



# THE BIRDS OF WEST VIRGINIA



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*First Grade*



2021-2022

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Thank you First Grade Crews for your dedication in researching West Virginia Birds to share information in support of your module - Birds' Amazing Bodies.

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## *Table of Contents*

Northern Cardinal	4
Blue Jay	5
American Robin	6
American Crow	7
Song Sparrow	8
Mourning Dove	9
American Goldfinch	10
Carolina Wren	11
Downy Woodpecker	12
Eastern Towhee	13
House Sparrow	14
Red-Winged Blackbird	15
Carolina Chickadee	16
European Starling	17
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	18
White-Breasted Nuthatch	19
House Finch	20

Eastern Bluebird	21
Acknowledgment	22

# NORTHERN CARDINAL

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 21-23 cm

Color: Vibrant red

### Female

Size: 21-23 cm

Color: Brown

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: 3 Claws forward,  
one backward

Beak: Hefty, bright

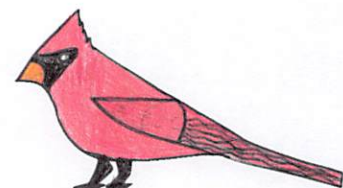
Feathers: Down

## **Food:**

- Seeds
- Insects
- Fruit

## **Fun Facts:**

- Found at most bird feeders in the United States.
- It is a songbird.
- It has a mask on its face.





# BLUE JAY

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## Description:

### Male

Size: 9-12 inches

Color: Mostly grey & blue

### Female

Size: 9-12 inches

Color: Grey, blue, black & white

## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: 3 toes

Beak: Long

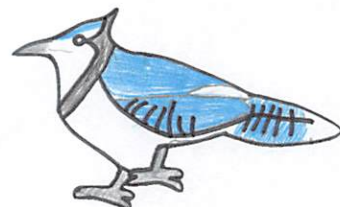
Feathers: Pigmented

## Food:

- Acorns
- Seeds
- Fruits & grains

## Fun Facts:

- They can fly 20-25 miles an hour.
- They are cautious birds.
- They nest 35 feet off the ground.



# AMERICAN ROBIN

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 10 inches

Color: Black with red

### Female

Size: 10 inches

Color: Black and red

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Look like a stick

Beak: Pointy and orange

Feathers: Black/brown

## **Food:**

- Earth worms
- Insects
- Berries

## **Fun Facts:**

- They sing in forests and suburbs.
- The American Robin has a population of 310 million.
- They are known to be worm eaters.



# AMERICAN CROW

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## Description:

### Male

Size: 17 inches

Color: Black

### Female

Size: 17 inches

Color: Black

## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: Sharp

Beak: Spiky

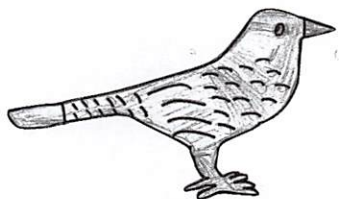
Feathers: Black

## Food:

- Mice
- Seeds
- Fruits

## Fun Facts:

- They often stay together.
- They can fly 30-60 miles per hour.
- They can fly up to 40 miles a day.





# SONG SPARROW

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 4.7-6.7 inches

Color: Streaky brown

### Female

Size: 4.7-6.7 inches

Color: Streaky brown

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Sharp and long

Beak: Sharp and small

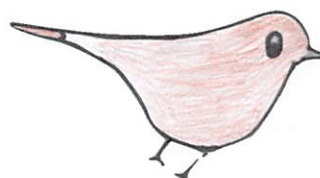
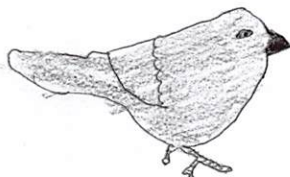
Feathers: Brown stripes

## **Food:**

- Insects
- Seeds
- Fruit

## **Fun Facts:**

- There are 31 subspecies, more than any other bird species found in North America.
- They are the most common to North America.



# MOURNING DOVE

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 12 inches

Color: Black spots

### Female

Size: 12 inches

Color: Black spots

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Skinny

Beak: Small

Feathers: Tan

## **Food:**

- Peanuts
- Berries
- Seeds & weeds

## **Fun Facts:**

- These birds have nests on the ground.
- Their habitat is open woodlands.
- Mourning Doves feed on the ground.



# AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

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## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: Small

Beak: Small

Feathers: Colorful

## Description:

### Male

Size: 4.3-5.1 in.

Color: Yellow and black

### Female

Size: 4.3-5.1 in.

Color: Yellow and black

## Food:

- Seeds

## Fun Facts:

- They mostly eat seeds.
- Males and females move around together.
- Their eggs are bluish white with small faint brown spots.



# CAROLINA WREN

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## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: Pointy

Beak: Sharp and curved

Feathers: Magnificent

## Description:

### Male

Size: 4.7-5.5 in.

Color: Reddish brown

### Female

Size: 4.7-5.5 in.

Color: Reddish brown

## Food:

- Insects

## Fun Facts:

- They defend their territories with constant singing.
- They are weak flyers.
- Carolina Wren is the state bird of South Carolina.





# DOWNY WOODPECKER

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 14-17 cm

Color: Red black white

### Female

Size: 14-17cm

Color: Black white

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Strong

Beak: Chisel like

Feathers: 9.8-11.8 Wing  
Span

## **Food:**

- Insects

## **Fun Facts:**

- They have nests in dead trees.
- They move quickly.
- They have completely white eggs.



# EASTERN TOWHEE

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## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: Sharp

Beak: Little

Feathers: Wingspan 20-28cm

## Description:

### Male

Size: 6.8-8.2 in.

Color: Black, reddish brown

### Female

Size: 6.8-8.2 in.

Color: Brown, reddish brown

## Food:

- Spiders
- Insects
- Fruit

## Fun Facts:

- They usually nest on the ground.
- Eastern Towhees hop wherever they go.
- They often come to bird feeders.



# HOUSE SPARROW

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 5.9-6.7 in.

Color: Grey, white, black, red

### Female

Size: 5.9-6.7 in.

Color: Brown, grey

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Pointy

Beak: Small, strong

Feathers: White & brown

## **Food:**

- Grains
- Seeds

## **Fun Facts:**

- They sing.
- They are good at perching.
- They are small.





# RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

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## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: Sharp - good for perching

Beak: Cone shaped

Feathers: Wingspan 31-40cm

## Description:

### Male

Size: 17-23 cm

Color: Black, red, yellow

### Female

Size: 17-23 cm

Color: Dark brownish

## Food:

- Insects

## Fun Facts:

- You can find them in saltwater marshes sometimes.
- Their nestling period: 11-14 days.
- They travel 800 miles south in the winter.





# CAROLINA CHICKADEE

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 13 cm

Color: White

### Female

Size: 13 cm

Color: White brown

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Perching

Beak: Small, white,  
pointy

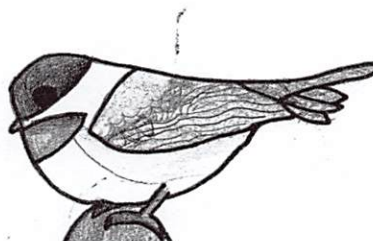
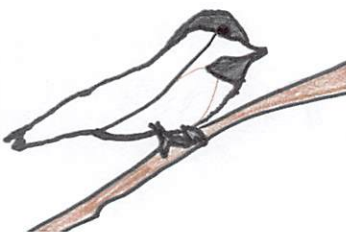
Feathers: White & blue

## **Food:**

- Spiders
- Sunflowers
- Seed

## **Fun Facts:**

- They have 3-10 eggs.
- Their nesting period is 16-19 days.
- They can be found in forests.



# EUROPEAN STARLING

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## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: Red or orange

Beak: Yellow with tan

Feathers: Black with some purple and green

## Description:

### Male

Size: 8.5 in.

Color: Brown

### Female

Size: 21.5 in.

Color: Yellowish and buff

## Food:

- Nectar
- Eggs

## Fun Facts:

- They molt their feathers in the fall.
- Starlings can fly 48 mph.
- Their wings and bills are long and pointed.



# RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 9% larger than females

Color: black, white, & red

### Female

Size: 38-46 cm wing span

Color: black and white

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: 2 toes forward & backward

Beak: Barbed

Feathers: White & black

## **Food:**

- Insects
- Nuts

## **Fun Facts:**

- They nest in dead trees.
- Red-Bellied Woodpeckers lay 2-6 eggs.
- They are entertaining and attracted to noises.





# WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

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## Description:

### Male

Size: 5.1 -5.5

Color: Blue-grey

### Female

Size: 5.1-5.5

Color: Grayish blueish

## Physical Characteristics:

Feet: Perching

Beak: Black on top

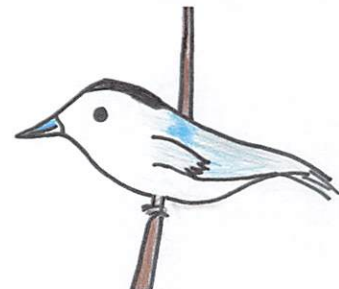
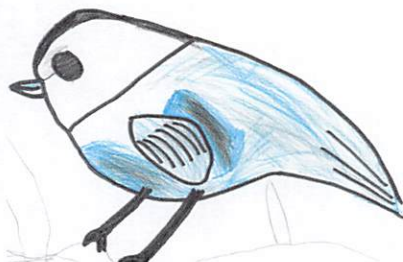
Feathers: Thin

## Food:

- Nuts
- Sunflowers
- Peanut butter

## Fun Facts:

- White-Breasted Nuthatch live in forests.
- Their call is made of short inn notes.
- They can make loud voices.





# HOUSE FINCH

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 14 cm long

Color: Red, streaky black

### Female

Size: 12 cm long

Color: Grey-brown

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Perching

Beak: Large & Thick

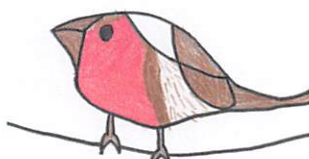
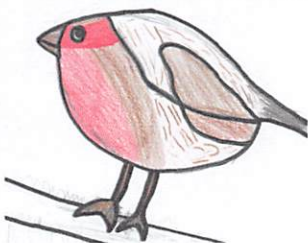
Feathers: Short

## **Food:**

- Weed Seeds
- Flower Parts

## **Fun Facts:**

- House Finch lay 4 -5 eggs.
- Both parents feed nestlings.
- They have a chirp call.



# EASTERN BLUEBIRD

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## **Description:**

### Male

Size: 10 -13 in wing span

Color: Bright head back wings

### Female

Size: 9.8-12.6 wing span

Color: Grey brownish

## **Physical Characteristics:**

Feet: Perching

Beak: Thin

Feathers: Short & Black

## **Food:**

- Worms
- Spiders
- Cherries

## **Fun Facts:**

- They live for 10 years.
- They are found in open woods and forests.
- Eastern Bluebirds nest 50 feet off ground.

