

# 9 SONGBIRDS

## CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

This Chestnut-sided Warbler is a long distance traveler. It has its summer breeding grounds in Northeastern USA and Southeastern Canada. It winters in Central America. It actually benefits from the clearing of mature trees. It seems to prefer secondary growth of shrub and small trees. A number of birding books identify its song as . . *pleased, pleased, pleased to MEECHA* . .

## BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE

The Black-capped Chickadee lives in the northern USA and a good portion of Canada. Its curiosity often brings it in close contact with humans. It is a year round bird and its survival depends on an ability to hide seeds for later and then recall thousands of hiding spots. The Black-capped Chickadee has at least 13 song types, some of which are quite complex and deliver an array of information. A common song is a . . *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* . .

## EASTERN BLUEBIRD

The Eastern Bluebird is found east of the Rockies in the USA and southern Canada. It prefers farmland and open meadows near trees. It can be seen sitting on a wire or branch, waiting to drop down to capture an insect. The most common song is a soft . . *tu-a-we* . . that will change to a . . *chit-chit-chit* . . pattern if approached by humans or predators.

## YELLOW WARBLER

The Yellow Warbler can be found in almost regions of North America. Its plumage will vary with seasonal and environmental influences. But the male's coloration during breeding season has been adeptly called "summer yellowbird". The males are referred to as sweet singers. Their call is described as . . *sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet* . . A female may then answer with a soft . . *chip* . . or . . *ship* . .

## VERMILION FLYCATCHER

The Vermilion Flycatcher can be considered a native of Mexico. It is found in all regions of Mexico and only spreads over into the USA and Central American on the fringes. It is a favorite for birders, but it needs to be appreciated in the wild. Captive Vermilion Flycatchers quickly lose their coloration. Their song is described as . . *pit-pit-pitasee* . . and a call is . . *pitz* . .

## SONG SPARROW

The Song Sparrow is found throughout the USA and Canada. Year round residents live in a band across the center of the United States. Migratory Song Sparrows switch between Canada and southern USA. Their plumage is influenced by location and a number of environmental factors. It takes careful observation to avoid misidentification with other sparrow species. They learn their songs from neighboring birds. Thus the repertoire of songs is localized with significant changes between areas.

## NORTHERN CARDINAL

Cardinals are monogamous birds, mating for life. Their territory is the eastern and central USA and Canada. They do not migrate. The Cardinal is the state bird in seven states. The female Cardinal is one of a limited number of female songbirds that sing. She often does her singing while sitting on her nest. It is believed that she is communicating with her male partner who is nearby. . . *wheet, wheet, wit, wit, wit* . .

## BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

This warbler has its breeding grounds in the forests of far northeastern USA and southern Canada. It migrates in the winter to the Caribbean and Central America. It is sexually dimorphic and was once considered as two separate species. The female is olive-brown with a light yellow underside. This bird's song is described as three to seven buzzy notes, . . *zee, zee, zee, zeeee* . . The later syllable has a slight inflection.

## COMMON REDPOLL

The Redpoll can survive temperatures as low as -65 degrees Fahrenheit. It will burrow into the snow to insulate itself from the cold. Its breeding ground is by the Arctic Circle. During the winter it migrates southward to Southern Canada and the Northern USA. It also is found in northern Europe and Asia. It is a member of the finch family. Its song can last up to a half a minute, . . *chi, chi, chi, chic, chi* . . and then a buzzy . . *trrrrrreeeee* . .

*Marina Terauds*

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