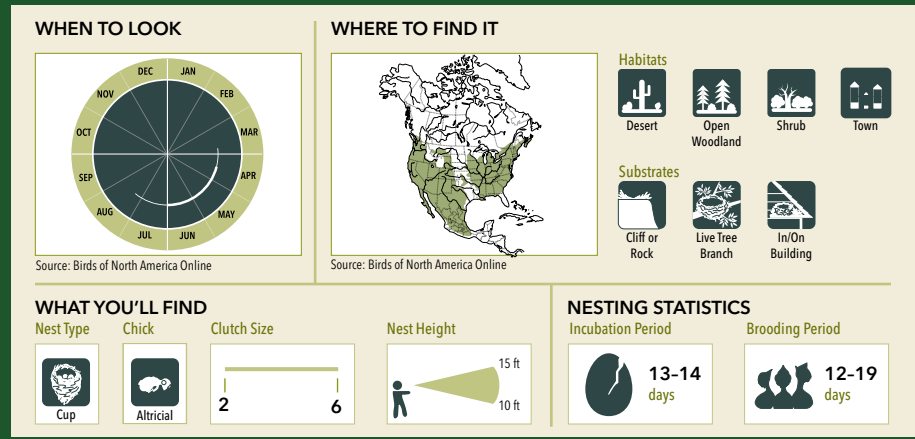




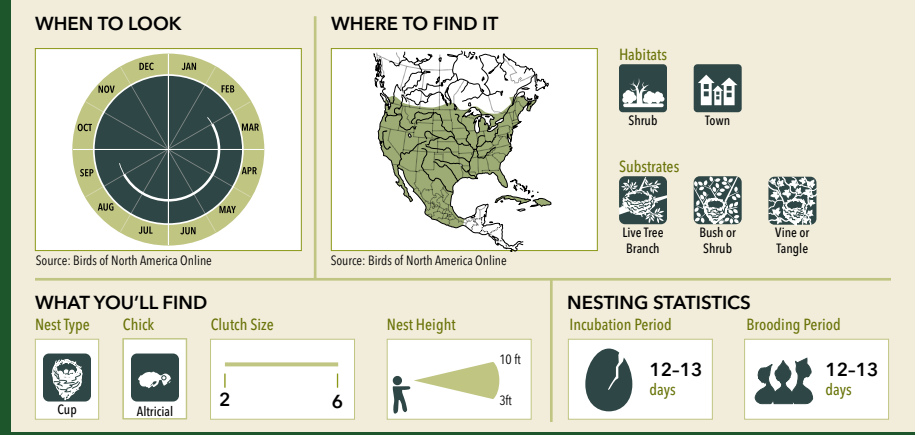
House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

House Finches nest in a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees as well as on cacti, rock ledges, and building ledges.



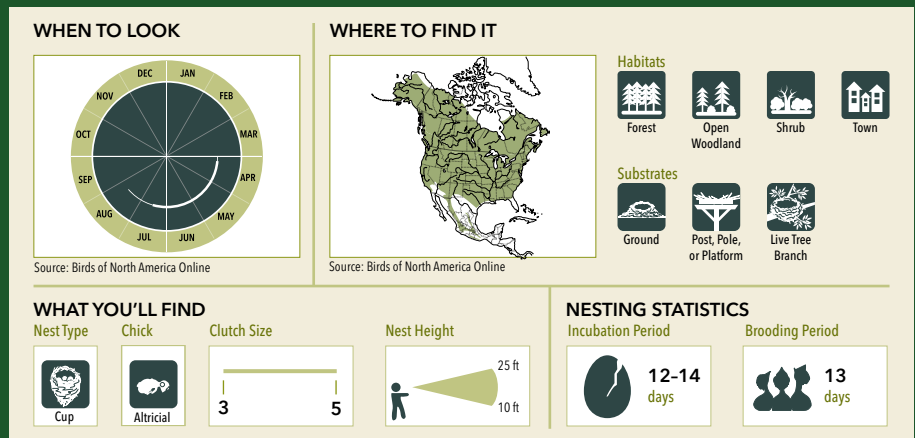
Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

The male and female mockingbird construct their nest together; the male usually begins the nest by building the outer foundation while the female finishes up the inner lining.



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Females build their nests from the inside out, pressing dead grass and twigs into a layer of mud, forming a cup shape using the wrist of one wing.



The **Cornell** Lab of Ornithology
NestWatch

159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
www.birds.cornell.edu

The **Cornell** Lab of Ornithology
NestWatch

Pocket Guide to
Common Nesting Birds

NestWatch.org



What is NestWatch?

NestWatch is a citizen-science project that monitors status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds across the United States, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, and how many nestlings survive.

Why is participating important?

Researchers need your observations to study how environmental disturbances, such as climate change, are affecting breeding birds. Help contribute valuable information to science, while learning firsthand about the fascinating world of birds.

How can you help?

Participating is easy and just about anyone can do it! Visit NestWatch.org, learn our Code of Conduct, become a Certified NestWatcher, and follow our Nest Monitoring Protocol.

Nest Monitoring Protocol

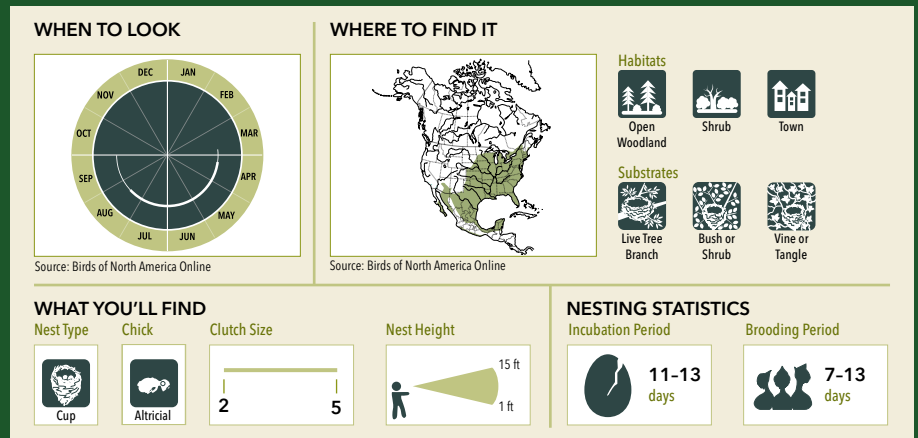
- Find bird nests using the information in this guide and at NestWatch.org.
- Add new nest sites to your online NestWatch account.
- Visit nests every 3–4 days and record what you see.
- **DO NOT** visit nests:
 - ✗ Early in the morning or at night
 - ✗ During inclement weather
 - ✗ During the first few days of incubation
 - ✗ When young are close to fledging
- Record nest summary information after nesting attempts have been completed.

Paintings by Caitlin Turner, Bartels Science Illustration Intern. Learn more at www.birds.cornell.edu/artinterns



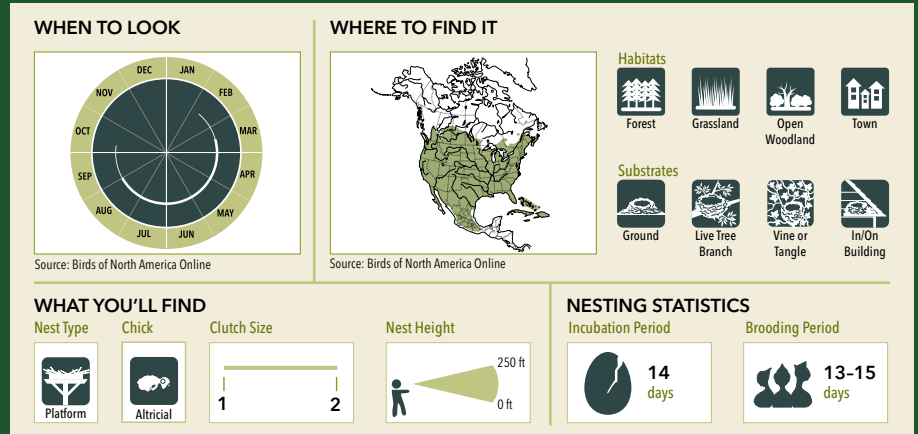
Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

Cardinals do not migrate and often begin the nest-building process as early as late February.



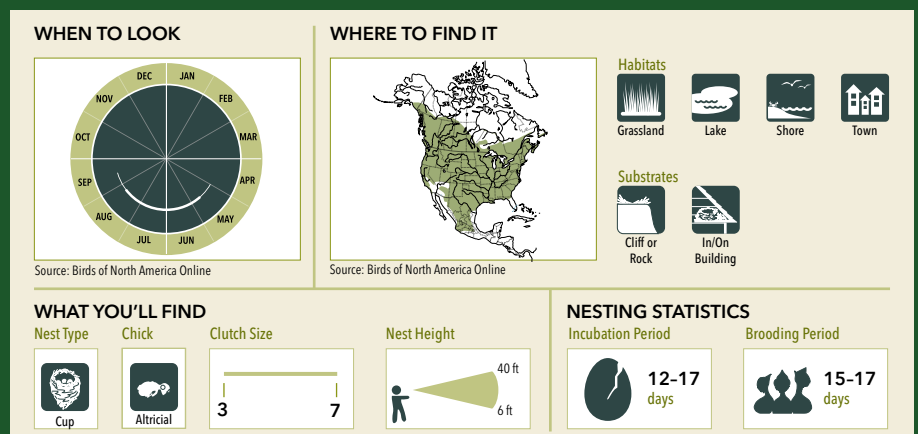
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

Mourning Doves often build nests in hanging flower pots and other human-made structures. They also sometimes reuse old nests from other species.



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Barn Swallows once nested in caves throughout North America, but now build their mud nests almost exclusively on human-made structures.



Why Be a Citizen Scientist?

The only way to get the “big picture” about changes in the movements, distributions, and numbers of birds over time is to gather the observations of people who watch birds. People like you! More than 200,000 people contribute to the Cornell Lab’s citizen-science projects each year, gathering data on a vast scale once unimaginable. Scientists use these data to determine how birds are affected by habitat loss, pollution, and disease. The results have been used to create management guidelines for birds, investigate the effects of acid rain and climate change, and advocate for the protection of declining species.

We need your help! Find the right citizen-science project for you and become a part of our community today.

Project FeederWatch • www.feederwatch.org

Help scientists track bird movements and monitor long-term trends in the distribution and abundance of birds in winter.

Celebrate Urban Birds • www.celebrateurbanbirds.org

Connect to nature through science and the arts, and raise awareness of city birds and urban greening.

YardMap • www.yardmap.org

Tell us about the habitat available to birds in your backyard

and favorite birding spots using this innovative tool.

eBird • www.ebird.org

Keep track of your bird sightings year round and share what you’ve seen with scientists and other bird watchers.

Great Backyard Bird Count • www.birdcount.org

Take part in this free, annual event that compiles bird counts from across the world to create a winter snapshot of bird populations in February.