



Green Iowa AmeriCorps

WINTER BIRDS OF IOWA

Sources: Iowa Assoc. of Naturalists- Iowa Winter Birds, allaboutbirds.org



Species

NORTHERN CARDINAL

Fun Facts

Only male Cardinals are red, females are olive-brown with red accents

Unlike most songbird species, both male and female cardinals sing

Cardinals are known to attack their own reflection in windows or mirrors, because they think it is another cardinal, and are very defensive of their breeding territory



Species

CEDAR WAXWING

Fun Facts

These birds, unlike many others, eat entire fruits without spitting out the seed

The name 'waxwing' comes from the red, waxy secretions that are found on the tips of their inner wings

If waxwings eat a lot of the introduced honeysuckle species, the red berry pigment can turn their yellow tail tips orange



Species

BLUE JAY

Fun Facts

As a defense mechanism, blue jays will mock the call of a hawk

Blue jays use the black markings on their faces and necks in order to identify one another

Although it is unknown how common, blue jays are known to take and eat the eggs and nestlings of other birds



Species

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Fun Facts

Males are bright yellow in the summer
and olive-colored in the winter

These are the only finches that molt
their entire body feathers twice a year

Goldfinches have a strict vegetarian
diet, eating solely vegetables