



Take a Closer Look at the **Northern Cardinal**

The Northern Cardinal, a common backyard sight throughout Mexico and the eastern United States, is one of the most beloved birds out there. It even inspired a baseball team to change its name way back in 1900, plus seven states have claimed the Northern Cardinal as their state bird.

The bright red crested male is unmistakable, while the female Northern Cardinal sports a duller, brownish coat. Like many other songbird species, Northern Cardinals spend their winters in flocks of fellow cardinals, some as large as 50 to 60 birds, as they search for food together.

In winter, these birds lend a rare splash of bright color against the snow, warming souls and hopes in the cold and bleak season. In the warmer months, they charm with their sweet song, which is probably how they earned the nickname Virginia nightingale.

If you catch a sight of these birds in the spring, you may discover something rare about the females: they sing. Before nesting, you might find one in a tree, exchanging songs and swaying with her mate. Then the male will bring her twigs and grasses, while she spends several days building and shaping

the nest.

During nesting, she sings some more while her mate

brings her food. When paired,

Northern Cardinals are loyal to one another, staying mated for life.

This bird species is so loyal, in fact, that it's common to see them attacking their own reflections in windows or car mirrors during the nesting season. Since cardinals aren't quick to back off in a fight, they might even return in the following days to continue sparring with their "rival."

Northern Cardinals prefer feeding on trays, so using a feeder that is covered and raised in an open area to provide protection to the food and refuge for the birds is ideal. Placing the feeder near trees and shrubs will also provide a safe getaway.

And some evening, as the sun is setting, switch off the lights, and sit somewhere that gives you a clear view of your feeder as you might just see a Northern Cardinal coming around for a twilight feeding!



Lyric Cardinal Premium Sunflower & Safflower Mix

If you set out feeders, the chances of drawing in Northern Cardinals are high, especially if you fill your feeder with a mix like Lyric Cardinal Premium Sunflower and Safflower Mix. This hand-crafted mix is specifically designed to attract cardinals to your feeder. **Packed with 70% sunflower seeds**, it will appeal to the bright red bird, as well as other large-beaked backyard species. Fill your feeders and enjoy watching the splash of color as they pay you a visit.

Lyric Wild Bird Food products are manufactured by:
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