



WILDLIFE WINDOW: Northern Cardinal

Beautiful Birds of Color and Song for the Holidays.

Photo-story by the P&P Committee

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Regal in color, with a delightful songbook, the Cardinal is the perfect bird to reflect the holiday season. Cardinals are considered a symbol of faith and warmth with their bright red color. Don't let the word "Northern" fool you, while they are certainly found in southern Canada, they range as far south as Mexico.

Let's learn more about these colorful birds.

- Northern Cardinals (*cardinalis*) are common in Florida (and across the eastern US). They are often seen deep in the woods, in wetlands, woodlands, and around town. The male is a vibrant red, while the female is a reddish olive color. The Cardinal has a distinctive crest on its head and a mask on the face which is black in the male and gray in the female. Their diet is mainly seeds, but they also feed on insects and fruit.
- Contrary to popular belief, Northern Cardinals do not migrate - they live in the same place year-round. Nests are huge, deep enough so they can hunker down and protect their babies.
- Cardinals are also known for their beautiful songs. They use a variety of calls to advertise their territory, communicate with their mate, threaten a rival, or ward off nest intruders. Both the males and females sing. There's nothing more relaxing than enjoying dinner on the lanai with a Cardinal serenading in a nearby tree at sunset.



Photo by Bob Frank.



Photo by Sheila Pies

Rivendell offers a favorite habitat for Cardinals. By keeping our ponds and preserves healthy, more wildlife friends will be attracted to Rivendell. Let's enjoy their beauty and keep our property values strong.

We remind you to view the amazing wildlife photos on the **P&P website and Wildlife Photo Gallery at:**
www.rivendellcommunity.com/ponds