



Junior Naturalist

Winter Ovenbird 2012

Winter Birds

Pfeiffer Nature Center
Where Science, Art & Nature Come Together!

Project Feeder Watch

It is not too late to participate. Become a citizen scientist!

Check out <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/index.html> for more information.

Bird Seed Cookies

Winter is here & it's time to make a special treat for all your bird friends to help them make it through the cold winter.

Ingredients for Edible Glue:

3/4 cup flour, 1/2 cup water, 3 Tbsp. corn syrup (add package of plain gelatin for extra holding power) Mix all ingredients together until smooth to create your edible glue.

Add a total of 4 cups of the following ingredients to the glue: birdseed, peanuts, fruits, berries, raisins, or anything else birds enjoy.

Cover tray with waxed paper. Roll out mixture until 1/4-1/2 inch thick. Use cookie cutters to create unique shapes in your "dough". Create a hole near the top of your "cookie" with a pencil. Let dry 4-6 hours. Remove cookie cutters & turn over & dry for 4-6 hours more. If they are still not set, you can place them in the freezer for a few hours. Use raffia to hang from trees.



Black-capped Chickadee

Members of the titmouse family, small, plump, & aggressive chickadees are full of personality. They are acrobatic as they dance around tree branches, never staying in one place for long. Their black bib & cap, combined with their white cheeks, gives their faces a striking appearance. Their loud "bi-dee-dee-dee" call makes them sound louder than they really are. On sunny days, a loud, whistled "[phee-phurr](#)" welcomes spring. In summer, they nest in tiny cavities in tree trunks or hollow limbs. They can be found throughout New York year-round. At feeders, they prefer black oil or striped sunflower seeds.

Blue Jay

Bold, loud, & clever birds, blue jays are members of the crow family. They can be found throughout New York year-round. Larger than a robin, a blue jay adds a dazzling splash of color to New York's winter landscape. When nervous, it holds its blue crest up. A single "flight feather" from a blue jay is beautiful, with a combination of blue, black, & white. Their calls are well known: a "[screaming jay](#)" call & another that mimics the sound of a hand-operated water well pump. Blue jays can eat a large quantity of food at feeders, making them less welcome to some birdwatchers.



Tufted Titmouse

A relative of the chickadee, the gray, tufted titmouse looks something like a cross between a chickadee & a blue jay. With a blue-gray crest & back, large dark eyes, & tan-colored under parts, the titmouse is unmistakable. They are found throughout New York, except the north country. Like chickadees, titmice are cavity nesters, & like cardinals, they are shy at feeders. It is also another bird whose call announces the coming of spring, its call is a loud, whistled "[pheer-pheer-pheer](#)."

Northern Cardinal

The unmistakable brilliant red, crested, black-faced male cardinal is a favorite of birdwatchers. But male & female cardinals do not look alike. Females are much browner, with a splash of red-orange on the wings, tail & head. Perhaps aided by bird feeders, cardinals are expanding their range northward, especially along Lake Ontario's eastern shores & into St. Lawrence Valley. Ground feeders, they often feed under birdfeeders, picking through seeds that other birds spill. Cardinals are a bit timid at feeders; they may be the first to leave at the slightest disturbance. Cardinals have several well-known songs, including "birdy-birdy-birdy" & "[What cheer, what cheer, what?](#)" sung loudly from a perch.



For colored pictures and to hear the songs of these birds please see our online version at our website (www.Pfeiffernaturecenter.org) under the "About Us" tab & look for the "Ovenbird".