

Black-capped Chickadee

Poecile atricapillus

Description

The Black-Capped Chickadee is a small, non-migratory songbird. It weighs in at just 9–14 g. (0.4 oz.), is 12–15 cm. (5.5") long, and has a wingspan of 19–21.5 cm (7.5-8"). It has a black cap and bib with white sides to the face. Its under parts are white with rusty brown on the flanks. Its back is grey and the tail is normally slate-grey. This bird has a short dark bill, short rounded wings, and a long pointed tail. The sexes look alike, but males are slightly larger and longer than females. They are found in their greatest numbers year round in deciduous, aspen forests and willow thickets, singing frequently to let you know of their cheery presence. You'll see them in pairs in the spring and summer (times for breeding and raising of young) and in small flocks (usually up to 12 individuals) in the fall and winter.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild bird or animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-239-2488**, for tips, instructions and advice, or look at the website at **www.calgarywildlife.org** for more information.

FUN FACTS

- > These birds are bold around humans and will sometimes come to an open hand for food.
- > Black-capped chickadees can lower their body temperature to preserve energy in the winter.
- > Their bodies rise and fall slightly during short flights. They have rapid wing beats
- > Black-capped chickadees live between 6 and 12 years.



Contact Us

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