

Cedar-Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

Description

The cedar waxwing has a brown body, pale yellow belly, and distinctive black mask with white edges. Its wings are darker grey with red waxy tips, and its tail ends in a yellow, sometimes orange, tip from eating berries.

During mating season from late spring to late summer, male cedar waxwings engage in a charming courtship to attract females. This display involves the male hopping around and offering berries or other small fruits to the female. After pairing, females choose a nest site in a conifer tree, where they lay 4-6 eggs in a nest of bark, twigs, moss, and grass. After about 12 days of incubation, chicks hatch blind and naked. Both parents feed them until they fledge around 2 weeks later.

They are social birds that travel in flocks of 40 or more, grooming each other and moving in search of berry-rich areas.

FUN FACTS

- Cedar-waxwing live and nest in conifer trees.
- The cedar-waxwing nest is shaped familiar to a cup.
- The cedar waxwing thrives in open woodlands, orchards, and residential areas with fruit-bearing trees and bushes.
- The cedar waxwing breeds from southern Canada to the northern US and winters from the US and Mexico south to Panama.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

