

Canada Jay

Perisoreus canadensis

Description

The Canada jay, also known as the grey jay, is around 10 inches long with grey upper-parts and greyish-white undersides, featuring a white forehead and throat, and a dark grey cap.

During spring, the male selects a nest site, typically in spruce or fir trees, and constructs a bowl-shaped nest using twigs, grass, moss, and bark, bound together with spider webs and insect cocoons. Nest building, aided by the female, can take up to three weeks. Females lay 2-5 pale green to grey-green speckled eggs, incubated for 16-18 days by both parents. Chicks fledge around 15 days old.

Known as the "camp robber," the Canada jay is tame and often ventures into camps for food. Its vocalizations include whistling sounds like "wheoo" or "wheee-ah," a harsh alarm call of "kren kren kren," and a screeching "jaaayy."

FUN FACTS

- The Canada jay will mold and shape their nest by pressing their bodies against the walls.
- The Canada jay uses its saliva to form seed balls, which it stores for later consumption.
- The Canada jay eats fruits, seeds, and insects, with conifer seeds being a major part of its winter diet.
- Inhabits coniferous and mixed forests, favouring spruce and fir habitats

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.

