



The Cardinal is one of our most handsome songbirds. People used to capture and keep it in cages. Now it is completely protected by law. It is found over most of the eastern United States, except in the far North. Cardinals do not migrate. The bright red of the male is even more brilliant against the dark evergreens and white winter snow. The female is a duller olive-gray, with a tinge of red.

The Cardinal's call is a series of loud, merry whistles. Follow the call, and you will soon find the bird in trees or bushes. It is somewhat shy, though it sometimes nests in shrubbery near houses. The nest is made of twigs, loose bark, and rootlets. The female lays three to four bluish-white, spotted eggs. Cardinals feed on beetles, caterpillars, and other insects. In winter they eat wild fruits, weed seeds, and grain.