

abundant and the most widespread in North America. It is so well liked in America that it was selected as the official state bird for seven different states. I chose to research and draw the cardinal because I admire its beautiful red color and it also happens to be my mom's favorite bird.

A cardinal's bright red feathers come from their food. The fruits they eat create red, orange, yellow and pink feathers. Female cardinals are mostly brown but have red highlighted feathers. They like to eat mostly grain and seeds but the fruits they eat include wild grapes, dogwood berries and mulberries. They will also eat insects. In urban cities or highly populated areas, cardinals like to eat from bird feeders.

Most cardinals have an average life span of 3-5 years if they can avoid their natural predators which are cats, hawks, owls, and some reptiles. They tend to remain in one place their whole lives and do not migrate. These birds are found mostly in the eastern United States, and can also be found in the midwest. An adult cardinal is usually 4.5"-5.5" tall when standing and is between 6.5"-8.5" wide. They weigh between 1.5-1.7 ounces. Cardinals can sing between 8-10 songs and can be found living in wooded areas, city parks, neighborhoods, and even swampy areas. They like to build nests near bushy areas for cover.

The mating season of cardinals is between March and September. Some have two broods per year with 4-5 eggs in each nest. The female sits on her eggs for about 12 days and then the male and female work together to feed their young who leave the nest after about 10 days.

Resources:

<https://www.usdpor.org/press/2018/04/24/about-our-state-bird/>