

Northern Cardinal



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

NORTHERN CARDINAL

Cardinalis cardinalis

ORDER: Passeriformes

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 9 inches long
- ◆ male scarlet red; female brown with red tinges
- ◆ distinguishing crest on head
- ◆ male has a black face
- ◆ heavy, red bill



Where to Look

The Northern Cardinal is widespread and can be seen in woodland edges and backyards.



What It Eats.

The Northern Cardinal eats seeds, fruits and insects. Its thick bill is ideal for cracking tough seeds.



Nesting

Cardinals build their nests of twigs and grasses in dense shrubs and vines and normally lay 3-4 white eggs.



Call or Song

The cardinal has several songs. the most common sounds like “cheer cheer” or “purty purty purty”.



Did You Know

Cardinals are very territorial. They can be quite aggressive and have even been seen attacking their own reflections in windows.



Migration?

The Northern Cardinal is a year round resident of Georgia.