

Beloved species from Canada's wetlands

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Agelaius phoeniceus

- ✦ Males can have up to 15 different mates in a breeding season.
- ✦ Have one of the most recognizable songs in Canada's wetlands, described by birders as a "oak-a-lee" or "konk-ke-ree" sound.
- ✦ To attract mates and drive away competitors, males fluff up their shoulders and half-spread their wings to show off their red and yellow feathers.
- ✦ Flock with other species in winter, sometimes in groups of several million birds.
- ✦ Males are seen more often, as they prefer to sit on high perches like cattails. Females spend more time in vegetation near the ground, feeding and working on their nests.
- ✦ To construct their sturdy cup-like nests, females weave plant material around the stems of vegetation like cattails or willows, add leaves and wood bits to the outside, and coat the inside with mud. Males will pretend to help, picking up nest material and acting busy around a completed nest.

