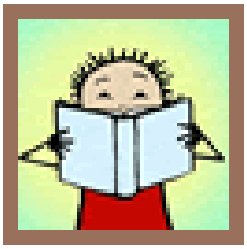
BIOLOGY, LEGAL STATUS, CONTROL MATERIALS AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

Family: Bombycillidae

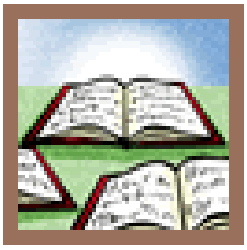


Introduction: The cedar waxwing is a nomadic fruit eating bird. Many aspects of its life may be traced to its dependence upon fruit. Indeed it specializes in eating fruit and can survive on this diet alone for several months. Unlike many birds that regurgitate seeds from fruit they eat, the cedar waxwing passes the seeds in the droppings. The name 'waxwing' comes from the waxy red tips of the secondary feathers.

Identification: The tail is tipped with yellow or orange depending on diet. Adults have a pale yellow belly. Immature birds are streaked on the throat and flanks, and often do not have the black mask of the adults. The flight of waxwings is strong and direct, and the movement of the flock in flight resembles that of a flock of small pale European Starlings. They are 6.5 inches in length. Further information is available at:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

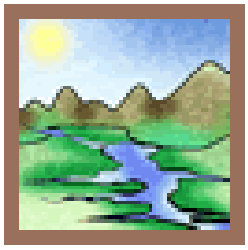


Legal Status: Cedar waxwings are listed as migratory nongame birds in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. They may be controlled only under permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No permit is required to scare or herd cedar waxwings.

Damage: Cherries, grapes, strawberries, berries, and ornamental berries, have been reported damaged by flocks of cedar waxwings.

Range:

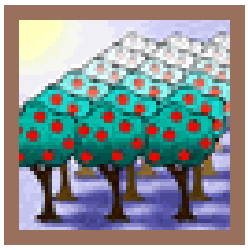
Cedar Waxwing



Habitat: Waxwings preferred habitat consists of trees at the edge of wooded areas, or "open" forests, especially those that provide access to berry sources as well as water. Waxwings are attracted to the sound of running water, and love to bathe and drink from shallow creeks. In urban or suburban environments, waxwings often favor parkland with well-spaced trees, golf courses, cemeteries, or other landscaping with well-spaced trees, bushes that provide berries, and a water source, such as a fountain or birdbath.

Biology: The cedar waxwing forages for fleshy fruit and insects. It catches flying insects and gleans insects from vegetation. It plucks fruit while perched, or may hover briefly to snatch fruit, or swallows entire fruit

The nest is a bulky open cup of twigs, grasses, moss, and other materials usually placed in a fork of a tree branch. Eggs are pale blue gray with sparse black spots. The clutch is usually four to five eggs.



Damage Prevention and Control Methods

Exclusion: Protective plastic netting has provided excellent protection in strawberries from flocks of cedar waxwings.

Frightening Devices: Frightening devices have usually been ineffective in dispersing cedar waxwings.

Trapping: A Federal permit is required. Modified Australian crow traps (MAC traps) are effective for capturing large numbers of waxwings. If allowed on the permit, the live birds should be released at a minimum of 20 miles from the trap site so they will not return. Palmer (1972) reported trapping 10,000 waxwings in Kingsburg, CA using MAC traps. See MAC trap illustration.

REFERENCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

Askham, Leonard R., 1992. Efficacy of Methyl Anthranilate as a Bird Repellent on Cherries, Blueberries, and Grapes. Proc. 15th Vertebrate Pest Conf. (J.E. Borrecco & R.E. Marsh, Eds.) Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. Pp. 137-141.

Avery, Michael L., 1992. Evaluation of Methyl Anthranilate as a Bird Repellent in Fruit Crops. Proc. 15th Vertebrate Pest Conf. (J.E. Borrecco & R.E. Marsh, Eds.) Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. Pp. 130-133.

Gadd Jr., Pierre, 1996. Use of the Modified Australian Crow Trap for the Control of Depredating Birds in Sonoma County. Proc. 17th Vertebrate Pest Conf. (R.M. Timm & A.C. Crabb, Eds.) Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. Pp. 103-107.

Gorenzel, W.P., T.P. Salmon, A.C. Crabb, 2000. A National Review of the Status of Trapping for Bird Control. Proc. 19th Vertebrate Pest Conf. (T.P. Salmon & A.C. Crabb, Eds.) Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. Pp. 5-21.