

Bird of the Month



DESCRIPTION: BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Poecile atricapilla

SIZE: 5" - 5 1/4"

MALE AND FEMALE: identical with a grayish olive back, black cap and throat patch, white chest and tan belly. Small white wing marks.

NESTING:

Excavates nest hole in rotted wood or uses **birdhouse** or natural cavity. Both male and female build or excavate, making nest with green moss and lining it with animal fur. One brood per year, 5-7 eggs white with fine red-brown speckles.

RECOMMENDED NEST BOX: Countryside Culture Chickadee-Nuthatch Box or Woodlink's Designer Chickadee House.

FEEDING:

Very common at bird feeders where it favors **black oil sunflower seed**. Will also visit **suet** feeders. Very acrobatic when foraging in trees for insects, seeds and berries, and seen swinging upside down on the tips of twigs. With its inquisitive nature, often the first bird to a new feeder.

RECOMMENDED ROGUE SEED: Rogue Chickadee Plus Mix, Rogue Deluxe, or Sunflower.

RECOMMENDED FEEDERS: Tube Feeders, Wood Feeders, Clingers Only Feeder, and Forever Sunflower Feeder.

HABITAT:

A year-round resident in a variety of wooded habitats. Forms winter flocks of 6-10 birds with a fixed dominance hierarchy and defends a winter territory of about 20 acres. In spring, males sing, flock breaks up, and pairs breed. Easily attracted to a simple nest box.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS:

Comes to feeders for one seed at a time, flies away to eat it, and returns for another. Often can be seen "weighing" a seed, dropping it if it feels too lightweight and choosing another.

COMPARE TO:

Similar to Mountain and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Mountain Chickadee has white eyebrows, and the Chestnut-backed Chickadee has a distinctive chestnut-colored body.



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