

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Look for it now in Southwest Ohio!

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"Robin Nest" and "Baby Robin" by Dave Woehr

"American Robin" by Lauren Connolly

## American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

By Lauren Connolly, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

Other than April 21 with all that snow, we have had the wonderful sights and sounds of Spring! This time of year, we start to see the American robins being much more active. Although some robins live here throughout the wintertime, especially a mild winter, migratory robins start to move back to this area in March and April. The chorus of birds you hear in the early morning hours as the sun is rising is probably that of the American robin. Our orange-bellied friends are out early in the morning in hunt of their favorite food, earthworms. If you ever wanted to know who the early bird is, it's the robin!

Spring also marks the start of breeding season for these birds. Be on the lookout for nests in trees and many times in wreaths on homes! These songbirds typically lay between three to five bright blue. These birds are often targets for the brown-headed cowbird, a brood parasite. Cowbirds lay one of their eggs in the robin's nest, thus letting the robin do all the work parenting.

To learn more about this species, visit [page 34 of Ohio Division of Wildlife's Common Birds of Ohio Field Guide](#).

### FUN FACTS

- Males and females have no real sexual dimorphism, meaning they look alike, with females being slightly duller in color
- They are omnivores, with diets ranging from earthworms to fruit and seeds
- Their eyesight is so good, they can see where an earthworm is by the smallest disturbance in the soil
- They can fly at around 25 mph
- They were named by early colonists for their visual similarity to European robins. However, American robins are actually a member thrush family and are not related to European robins at all!
- They can raise up to three broods each year