

# Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*



Photo Credit: McCauley CUNY 2013



Photo Credit: Wikipedia

The Black-capped Chickadee is most widely known as cute for its undersized body and oversized head, and is easily recognizable from its black cap and “bib.” They are curious and active birds who are capable of remembering thousands of their food hiding places.

## Description

Size and Shape- Small bird with a small neck, large head, narrow tail, and short beak- round overall

Color Pattern- Black cap and “bib” with white sides on face, light brown to white chest and striped black and white wings and tail

Behavior- Are territorial during summer and fly in flocks during spring. Are active and curious birds and may forage seeds and hide them to eat later

Song- Pure whistled fee-bee (high-low), chickadee-dee-dee-dee

Habitat- Deciduous and mixed forests, parks, willow thickets, and bird feeders

Range- Year-round in Central to North US, Central to South Canada, and Alaska

Diet- Insects (esp. caterpillars), spiders, insect eggs, berries, and seeds

## Bird Statistics

Scientific name- *Poecile atricapillus*

Family- Paridae

Conservation Status- Least concern

Length- 4.7-5.9 in (12-15 cm)

Wingspan- 6.3-8.3 in (16-21 cm)

Weight- 0.3-0.5 oz (9-14 g)

## Egg Statistics

Color- White with reddish-brown spots

Nest- Nest box or tree cavity with moss and soft lining such as rabbit fur

Clutch size- 1-13 eggs

Number of broods- 1

Length- 0.6 in (1.5 cm)

Width- 0.5 in (1.2 cm)

Incubation period- 12-13 days

Nestling period- 12-16 days

## Additional Information

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-capped\\_chickadee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-capped_chickadee)

<http://birds.audubon.org/birds/black-capped-chickadee>

<http://www.nwf.org/wildlife/wildlife-library/birds/black-capped-chickadee.aspx>