

# Cedar Waxwing

# *Bombycilla Cedrorum*



Photo Credit Rob Alvey Cedar Waxwing at GCBS 2002



Photo credit Jason Quinn Cedar Waxwing 2012

The cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) is a member of the family Bombycillidae or waxwing family of passerine birds. It is a medium sized, mostly brown, gray, and yellow bird named for its wax-like wing tips.

## Description

Size and Shape- The Cedar Waxwing is a medium-sized, sleek bird with a large head, short neck, and short, wide bill. Waxwings have a crest that often lies flat and droops over the back of the head. The wings are broad and pointed, like a starling's.

Color Pattern- Cedar Waxwings are pale brown on the head and chest fading to soft gray on the wings. The belly is pale yellow, and the tail is gray with a bright yellow tip. The face has a narrow black mask neatly outlined in white.

Behavior- Cedar Waxwings are social birds that you're likely to see in flocks year-round.

Song- Cedar Waxwings have two common calls: a high-pitched, trilled *bzeee* and a sighing whistle. They call often, especially in flight.

Habitat- Look for Cedar Waxwings in woodlands of all kinds, and at farms, orchards, and suburban gardens where there are fruiting trees or shrubs.

Range- Cedar Waxwings are most abundant in the northeastern United States, the Great Lakes region, and southern Ontario.

Diet- Cedar Waxwings feed mainly on fruits year-round. In summer, they feed on fruits such as serviceberry, strawberry, mulberry,

dogwood, and raspberries. The birds' name derives from their appetite for cedar berries in winter. The shrubs and birds are both at the Garden City Bird Sanctuary.

## Bird Statistics

Scientific name- *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Family- Bombycillidae

Conservation Status- Least Concern

Length- 6 to 8 inches

Wingspan- 12 inches

Weight- about an ounce

## Egg Statistics

Color- Pale blue or blue grey

Nest- The female weaves twigs, grasses, cattail down, blossoms, string, horsehair, and similar materials into a bulky cup about 5 inches across and 3 inches high.

Clutch size- 2-6 eggs

Number of broods- 1-2 broods

Length- 0.6-1.1 in (1.6-2.9 cm)

Width- 0.6-0.7 in (1.4-1.8 cm)

Incubation period- 11-13 days

Nestling period- 14-18 days

## Additional Information

<http://www.nwf.org/wildlife/wildlife-library/birds/cedar-waxwing.aspx>

<http://www.birdsource.org/ibs/IBSspecies/cedwax/index.html>