

Red-Winged Blackbird



CONSERVATION STATUS:

Red-Winged Blackbirds are protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

- Harming/capturing these birds, or disturbing their nests, could lead to fines or jail time.



BEHAVIOR:

Red-Winged Blackbirds are a common migrant & summer resident in Illinois. **Territory:**

- Both males and females will defend their nests from intruders & predators, especially the males.
 - He will chase other birds out of the territory, including larger predators (i.e. humans).
- Males can be found sitting on high perches over their territories, singing their song (in protest of any intruders).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Stay clear of the nesting area until they are old enough to fly away.

If you must pass their nesting area, do so quickly, and do not linger in the area.

- Wear a hat; Carry an umbrella; Wave your hands above your head.
- Be cognizant of the birds, and look them in the eye while passing by.

Familiarize yourself with the bird's distinctive song (it informs intruders that you are in a nesting area).

NESTING PERIOD:



Nesting occurs during May → July.

The female will incubate 3-4 eggs for a period of 11-13 days.

- The eggs are a pale blue-green color, with black markings.

The young will leave the nest 11-14 days after hatching.

- They stay in the surrounding area for another 2 weeks.



Male: Black feathered body, with red-feathered patches on each wing that are bordered in yellow.

Female: Brown body feathers, with tan stripes.

