



Bird Spotlight

Carolina Chickadee: *Poecile carolinensis*



Photo: Isaac Sanchez

Size & Shape

Tiny bird with a short neck and large head, giving it a round body shape. It also has a long, narrow tail and a short bill.

Field Marks

Black cap and bib, white cheeks, gray back. The wing feathers gray edged with white, and pale chest and belly.

Sounds

Song is a simple, pure 4-note whistled fee-bee-fee-bay. They make their chickadee-dee-dee call using increasing numbers of dee notes when they are alarmed.

Habitat

Any habitat that has trees or woody shrubs, from forests and woodlots to

residential neighborhoods and parks. Chickadees are cavity nesters that will use nest boxes.

Food

In winter, chickadees eat seeds, berries, insects, spiders, suet. In spring, summer, and fall, insects, spiders, and other animal food make up 80-90 percent of their diet.

Behavior

Chickadees are active, acrobatic birds and associate in flocks, especially in winter. They often fly across roads and open areas one at a time with a bouncy flight.

Conservation Status

Still common, but populations declined 17% since the 1960s. Carolina Chickadee is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in some parts of Texas.



Audubon TEXAS

A State Program of the National Audubon Society



Photo: David Bonta

Plants for Birds

Did you know that a single pair of chickadees can use 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars just to raise one nest of young?

By choosing to plant native plants in your yard, container garden, or in community parks and schoolyards, you can make your community better for birds and the environment.

Native plants provide shelter and food for birds, including providing food for the insects birds need to feed their young. Native plants also help reduce the need for fertilizers and lawn mowers, which improves water and air quality.

Learn about Plants for Birds where you live: audubon.org/nativeplants

What's the Bird Word?

Search up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally to find the hidden words in the puzzle.

WORDS

ALBINO
BEAK
BIRDER
CALL
CLIMATE
COURT
CROWN
EGG
FEATHER
FLEDGE
FLIGHT
MELODY
MIGRATION
NATIVE
NEST
PLANT
PLUME
RAPTOR
ROOST
SING
SPECIES
TALON
TWEET
WATER
WINGS



FEE-BEE-
FEE-BAY



VISIT US ONLINE AT TX.AUDUBON.ORG

