

House Finch

Haemorhous mexicanus

Description

The House Finch is a passerine (a song bird) is found year round across the southern part of western Canada, and throughout the United States and Mexico. It is a medium sized finch (about the size of a House Sparrow) with a brown-streaked back and wing, and narrow dark stripes on its whitish under parts. The male's head, throat and rump are generally a pink-red. The female is easily mistaken for a female House Sparrow. Its tail is relatively dark brown, long and squared. The bill is short and thick, cone shaped, an obvious seed-eating bill. They eat seeds from plants, as well as buds, leaves and fruits. They can feed and drink while hovering! This little songbird is very adaptable in terms of where it will live; including finding a home in deserts, grasslands, orchards, open woods, towns, cities and rural properties such as ranches. It will make its compact little woven nest in a bush, tree, natural cavity or building. They form breeding pairs and lay 6 to 8 eggs (lavender with black spots). To attract these birds to your feeder, try tempting them with nyger or millet seed.

FUN FACTS



- The male House Finch colouring can range from deep red to yellowing depending on diet during moulting.
- When it flies it makes several fast wing beats followed by a brief period with wings pulled in against its sides.
- This bird's song is a warbling one, with notes ending with "zeee".
- A group of House Finches are called a "development" of finches




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

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