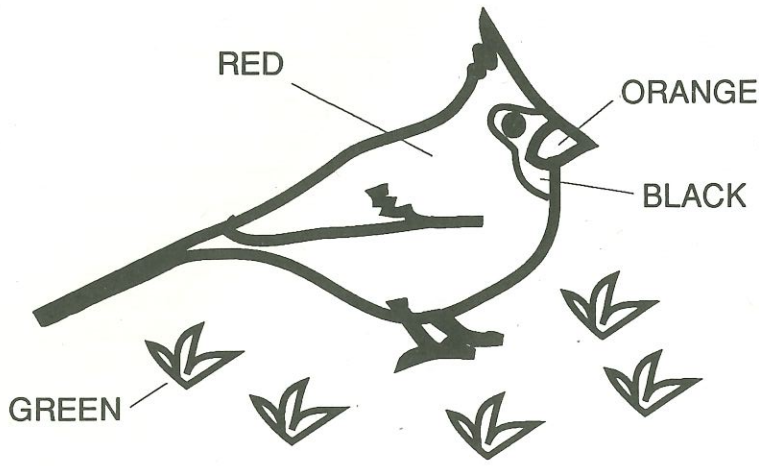


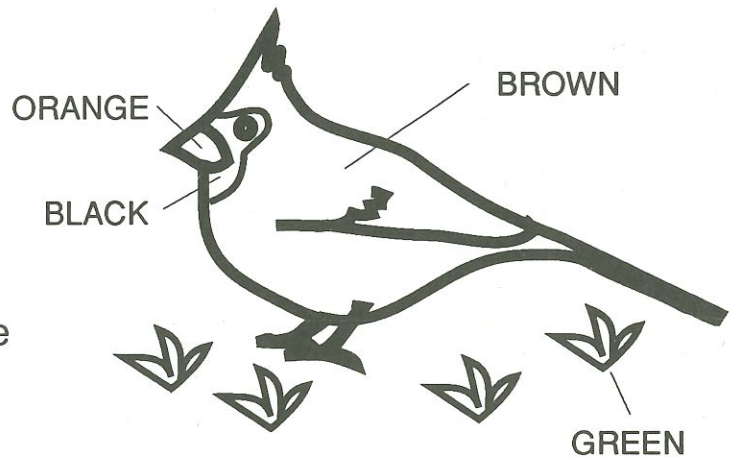
COLORING BOOK

KIDS' CORNER



This is a **male** cardinal. He looks just like a female cardinal, but he is all red. Male cardinals are pretty to see in the snow or on a green tree.

This is a **female** cardinal. Her body is brown rather than red. She does all of the sitting on the eggs. Maybe her brown color keeps her from being seen on the nest. This way she is very safe.



THE CHICKADEE

*Feathered Energy
Always in Fine Spirits*



by **DICK E. BIRD**

Dick E. Bird News
P.O. Box 377, Acme, MI 49610

Burroughs said, "the chickadee has a voice full of unspeakable tenderness and fidelity." Everyone identifies with the call the chickadee is named for, but among the other dozen or so sounds is one like Rich Little doing a Phoebe. These small wonders of the woods are one of the most trustful found at the feeder. With a little patience it is very easy to have them literally eating out of your hand in just a few hours.

Like their friends the nuthatches, these restless little

feather dusters are very comfortable upside down looking for insects in the bark or hanging from a twig. They are not tree climbers, but do cling just like a woodpecker and check every angle and view for an hors d'oeuvre or two.

During the winter these birds gather in a flock and hang out with a group of nuthatches, kinglets, woodpeckers and creepers. They act like they love it when there is a blizzard. They are so small and delicate, I think they feel they have to try and look macho.

It is possible that no other bird possesses a higher economic value than this small powerhouse of activity. When not hanging out at the feeder, they spend all summer eating insects, and all winter they chow down on the eggs of insects hidden among the trees. It is reported that unlike most birds that eat the seed from poison ivy, the chickadees eat the wax. You also must consider the amount of seed these birds consume from the feeders around the country, and how that helps the Gross National Product indicators soar.

Chickadees are a very happy bird with a great outlook on life. To help them keep this disposition, I suggest you put a little suet out for them.

They are cavity nesters and prefer to find an old woodpecker hole, but if not will make their own in a decayed limb. Having to excavate their own hole is not at the top of their list of favorite things to do. If you offer them housing of appropriate size they are easily convinced to move in. They line their cavities with moss, hair, ferns and five to eight white eggs.

They received their name from Audubon like many other birds. He named them after the note they sound. The Mr. and Mrs. dress alike, and both help in building a suitable nest and incubating the eggs. They are a member of the Titmouse family and never miss a winter reunion with the rest of the clan. A nest full of chickadee babies looks like a bunch of little chips off the old block.

If you welcome the birds, it is almost certain you will have the chickadee as a regular customer. They like many feeders, and you will find them not to be a real choosy guest. I have even seen them use the hummingbird feeder. I do not want to give you the impression they never complain. Just let the feeder get a little low and they are the first to let you know. To me they are the best show I have ever watched in black and white.