

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 04



### Red-winged blackbird

AVES (BIRDS)

#### HABITAT:

Wetlands. Marshes. Fields. Often found around ponds with cattails or willow plants.

#### DIET:

Insects during warmer months while breeding. Seeds from grasses. Some fruits and berries.

#### FUN FACTS:

Females are a beautiful striped brown color. Males are striking black with red and yellow wing patches. Males flash their bright colors to defend territory in mating season. They hide these colors when not in mating season.



## HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED TO BIRDS SINGING?

This past week, I knew spring is approaching because the red-winged blackbirds became much louder than they have been during the winter! This isn't only because many more are arriving in our yard but also because they are becoming more vocal. They are preparing for mating season.

Red-winged blackbirds make many different noises through songs and calls. They have a lot to say! One reason is because Red-winged blackbirds are very territorial, which means they work hard to protect their nesting spots. Whether defending their area or finding a mate, Red-winged blackbirds are a joy to listen to. They are songbirds, and God designed songbirds with a special vocal box. Unlike us, songbirds can sing two notes at once, even a rising and falling note together. God created them as incredible singers; their many melodies remind us that God's creation sings praise. We can join in, also!

Job 12:7-10 says, “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you. Speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea tell you. Every one of these knows that the hand of the Lord has done this. The life of every creature and the breath of all people are in God’s hand.”

God's creation has a lot to say about him!

Have you ever learned to recognize a bird by its song? Consider using a free app like Merlin Bird ID. Click the Sound ID to record birdsong outside and let it tell you which birds are singing!

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