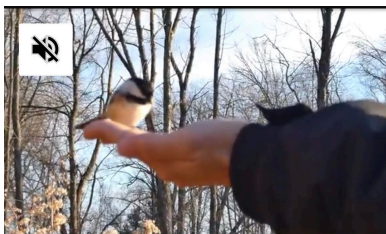


Gillespie Creek Journal

Ralph Waldo Emerson called the Chickadee “a scrap of valor” for its fearlessness and ability to endure frigid winters. Chickadees are able to fluff up their feathers to make an inch-thick furry coat. For us standing outside in -20 degree weather, a 128 degree change, but for small birds, their plumage provides the needed insulation to maintain their body temperature.



Hand-feeding ADORABLE, WILD Chickadees

YouTube Photo

Emerson says further, “Once breakfast was over, my mother would faithfully trudge through the snow to our bird feeder. She’d fill up the feeder and then sprinkle some birdseed on the ground near her statue of St. Francis of Assisi. The first bird to the feeder would inevitably be the brave little Black-capped Chickadee!”



Black-capped Chickadee in My Gillespie Creek Mother Oak Tree 7-23-23

Photo by JA



Black-capped Chickadee

Photo by Janssen, Tessen and Kennedy

Chickadees like their cousins the Titmouse do not have a crop, an internal food bag, so they must eat constantly to keep up their fat reserves and strength. From a photographer’s point of view, one must really be quick on the camera’s shutter to snap a photo before the bird is flying off to another food source.

Chickadee
By Valerie D. Staton
Outside my window in a maple tree,
I saw the most beautiful Chickadee;
Seated on a bough, the little songbird,
Sang the sweetest song I’d ever heard;
The tiny bird’s song drew other birds near;
Creepers and Kinglets I could clearly hear;
When I grabbed my flute and began to play,
Birds relinquished the bough and flew away.

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“Bringers of Messages,” iconic Black-capped Chickadees have been flocking to my feeder this past week. (I have to apologize for the poor quality of the top photo... however, I challenge you to get a better shot!)

The ornithology taxonomy characterizes his species as more often heard but not often seen for more than a nanosecond in one spot. We all are familiar with this bird’s call, “Chick-a-dee-dee” or to me it sounds more like “Ju-dee-dee.” The Black-capped Chick-a-dee is a very common year-around resident of both Minnesota and Wisconsin although they do migrate across the state in the spring and fall. Their favorite habitat is deciduous forests, woodlots, riparian woodland, birch stands, urban parks and backyards with bird feeders.

Chickadees nest in a cavity in a soft rotting stump or tree. The parents line the hole with fur, feathers, moss, grass and cocoons to protect their eggs and young.

The Plains Indian tribes saw a Chickadee as good luck, especially when seeing one in a dream.

Chickadees in hot weather

This time of the year they may begin to molt. I’ve observed a Chickadee showering under a large White Oak leaf following a summer rain storm. The joyful bird flicked rain drops on to its head, fluffed, wiggled, preened, continued to juggle more leaf holding shower water until its feathers glistened and fell back into place...Yes,

Chickadees do sing in the shower!