

A Feathery Recital

By Natalie Lawson

Mammals and birds are the only warm blooded animals. I can stop worrying about birds being cold out in the snow. They have an unusually large heart with a high rate of beat which keeps the body well supplied with a fast flow of blood throughout their bodies. The blood of birds is known to be the richest blood in the world. Their rapid breathing ensures a plentiful supply of oxygen. I am assuming this explains their ability to fly.

There are so many types of birds I enjoy watching especially when there is a conglomerate of them in all different colors. The red cardinals are my favorite. The northern cardinal has expanded their range from north to west. They depend on bird feeders to help them survive the cold winters. Its cheery whistled song is one of the first signs of spring. A gathering of familiar East Coast winter birds – Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, common Red Polls, and American Gold Finches, along with the Red Cardinals can be entertaining. There are too many different species to name all of them. Our regular familiar ones are Orioles, Grosbeaks, Warblers, and Woodpeckers.

My daughter Linda sent me a picture of a mass of birds outside the cabin where they have a bird feeder. It's quite a scene catching that many different birds feeding on top of a beautiful snow fall. Included is my favorite, the red cardinal. One of the reasons I love to visit Pennsylvania is because of the trees and all of the birds.