

Bird of the Month - April

Yellow-headed Blackbird



IDENTIFICATION

- **Males black body with yellow head and white in wings**
- **Females charcoal body with dull yellow head**
- **They are often considered to have the worst bird song in North America**

FOOD

- **Feeds mostly on insects and seeds gathered in marshes and farm fields**

PREDATORS

- **Adults are killed by raptors and feral cats. Juveniles can be eaten by raptors, herons, magpies, snakes and nest raiders like racoons and skunks. Surprisingly, the tiny Marsh Wren is a predator of baby Yellow-headed Blackbirds**

BEHAVIORS AND FUN FACTS

- **Habitat - Breeds in wetland prairies and marshes**
- **Most winter in Mexico. Males and females often segregate into single sex flocks in winter**
- **Each male will gather a harem of up to 8 females in his territory. He will help raise his "first mate's" offspring but none of the others**
- **Often come to bird feeders during spring and fall migration**
- **Yellow-headed Blackbirds are one of the few birds whose genus and species names are the same (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). *Xanthocephalus* means "yellow-headed"**