

Scarlet-headed Blackbird

Amblyramphus holosericeus

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Passeriformes*

Family: *Icteridae*

Characteristics:

The scarlet-headed blackbird has a brilliant red-orange head and breast with the rest of the body and legs being black. Both sexes have this brilliant head color. ([Cornell](#)) The long, slender, pointed bill is also black in color. The scarlet-headed blackbird is a small bird measuring 9 inches in length. ([Toronto Zoo](#))

Behavior:

Scarlet-headed blackbirds group in scattered pairs, and are very rarely seen in flocks. These blackbirds are active during the day. They perch on the tops of reeds and sing. They have a distinct song. ([Toronto Zoo](#))

Reproduction:

Scarlet-headed blackbirds are monogamous birds. The pair will build a nest in the shape of a cup. The female usually lays 2 eggs. The juvenile blackbirds start out all black in color and gradually develop the brightly colored hood. ([Toronto Zoo](#))

Diet:

Wild: Mainly fruit, supplemented with seeds, insects, and other invertebrates.

Zoo: fruit, finch seed, mealworms, dog food, softbill food

Conservation:

The [IUCN Redlist](#) of endangered species classifies the scarlet-headed blackbird as least concern. This classification is due to their large range and stable population trend. However, the species is described as uncommon throughout its range.

FYI:

Theodore Roosevelt was impressed by the spectacular sight of the scarlet-headed blackbird during his travels to Brazil. ([Cornell](#))



Range & Habitat:

Found in reedbeds in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, and Bolivia.



Lifespan: 13+ years in captivity, average 2-4 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: They use the long, pointed bill like a woodpecker to open vegetable matter.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

