

Songbirds



Songbirds are generally small- to medium-sized perching birds that comprise the order **Passeriformes**. Characteristically, all passerine birds possess three forward-facing toes and one backward-facing toe to facilitate perching on branches, fencing, wires, etc. They also share a **syrinx** (a vocal organ located at the base of the trachea) that produces diverse vocalizations. Songs are usually melodious, and used to identify other individuals of the species, determine their location, and more importantly, employed by males to attract and court potential mates. More than half of all birds are songbirds, consisting of over 6000 species and about 140 families world wide.