STAMP SCOOP

Western Meadowlark · Mountain Bluebird · Western Tanager · Painted Bunting · Baltimore Oriole

Evening Grosbeak · Scarlet Tanager · Rose-Breasted Grosbeak · American Goldfinch · White-Throated Sparrow

SONGBIRDS

Nearly half of the world's bird species – from small chirpers to large squawkers like the crow – are **songbirds**. Belonging to the suborder *Passeri*, male songbirds use their highly developed vocal organs to attract females, and to warn rival males to stay out of their territory.

The Western Meadowlark has a distinct yellow breast and "flutelike" song. It is the state bird of six states, second only to the northern cardinal.

The Mountain Bluebird is covered almost head to talon in brilliant blue feathers. A symbol of happiness, it is seen quite often in western states.

The Western Tanager has a fiery red mask, black wings, and yellow breast, which somehow doesn't hinder it from foraging for insects high up in the trees of western forests.

The Painted Bunting, called nonpareil or "without equal" in French, is one of the most vivid birds in America, breeding in the south central and southeastern US.

The Baltimore Oriole is the state bird of Maryland, named after George Calvert, Lord of Baltimore. The oriole's coloring resembles Calvert's coat of arms.

The Evening Grosbeak breeds in evergreen and mountain territories, venturing southward in the winter to find food. They eat big seeds, cracking them open with their thick beaks.

The Scarlet Tanager is a traveler, migrating from summer homes as far north as Canada to forests as far south as Peru in the winter, when their brilliant red feathers molt to a dull green.

The Rose-Breasted Grosbeak has a signature red slash across his chest. Uniquely, both sexes sing and share nesting duty, warbling to each other when switching tasks.

The American Goldfinch is found in all 48 contiguous states and is known for its "bouncy" flight. Its bright yellow, black-capped feathers make it easy to spot.

The White-Throated Sparrow nests on or near the ground, where it can easily find insects and seeds. It has a striped head, yellow patch between its eyes, and a white throat, giving it its name.