

# LaRC Species Highlight:

## Gray Catbird

COMMON NAME: Gray Catbird

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dumetella carolinensis*

TYPE: Mimidae

DIET: Mostly insects and berries

SIZE: 8.3 - 9.4 inches

WEIGHT: 1.2 oz.



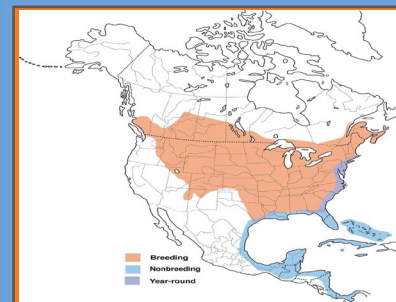
### FUN FACTS

#### Appearance and Attributes

- ✓ Gray Catbirds have a black cap, a blackish tail, and a rich cinnamon-brown patch under their tail.
- ✓ They are reluctant to fly over open areas, preferring quick, low flights over vegetation.
- ✓ These birds are fairly long-legged and have broad, rounded wings.
- ✓ Love being in undergrowth, brush, thorn scrub, and suburban gardens.
- ✓ They make a cat-like meowing sound.

#### Life History and Diet

- ✓ Usually lay 4 eggs that are greenish-blue and sometimes have red spots.
- ✓ Both parents feed the nestlings.
- ✓ Nestlings feed almost entirely on insects.
- ✓ As feeders, they can eat a bizarre array of foods including doughnuts, cheese boiled potatoes, and corn flakes. As with any wild animal, do not disturb or try to feed at LaRC.

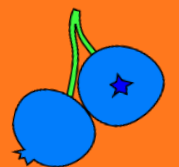
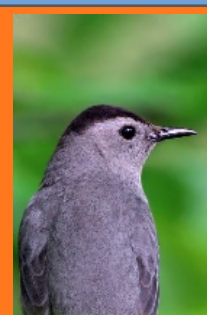


● Distribution

Map of habitat range in North America.



The Gray Catbird's long song may last for up to 10 minutes!



Gray Catbirds love to eat ripe bananas and blueberries.

Gray Catbirds are relatives of mockingbirds and are expert mimics, able to imitate several other birds and other animals such as frogs. They can even mimic some mechanical sounds. They often forage on the ground, flipping leaves aside with their bills. If a Gray Catbird is hurt or in distress at LaRC, please call the LaRC Environmental Office (Ande Remington) at 757-864-8332.

### SPECIES STATUS:



Least Concern

[environmental.larc.nasa.gov](http://environmental.larc.nasa.gov)