



The Redwing is a Blackbird. The shoulder patches of the male are red and buff. The female and young Redwings do not have these colorful shoulder patches. They are dull brown.

Redwings live and nest in fresh-water marshes over most of the United States. They fly south for the winter and return north in spring. Their western relative is called the Tricolored Blackbird. Its shoulder patches are red and white.

Whether you see Redwings in the East or the West you will never forget the sight of a flock of them, swinging among cattails and reeds. They feed on beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, ants and spiders. They also eat weed seeds.

Their nests are made of grass and weeds placed in cattails or low bushes. The female lays three to five eggs. They are about an inch long, bluish-white with brown and black streaks.