

*Carpodacus mexicanus* 正體中文

**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Fringillidae

**Common name** house finch (English), pinzon mexicano (Spanish)

**Synonym**

**Similar species** *Carpodacus purpureus*

**Summary** *Carpodacus mexicanus* (house finch) is native to the western United States and Mexico. In 1940, wild birds illegally sold as "Hollywood Finches" in New York were released by dealers anxious to avoid prosecution, and populations now exist throughout eastern North America. In many areas, house finches are not considered a nuisance and are appreciated for their musical song and bright colours. However, they are highly adaptable to urban and suburban environments as they peck and feed on practically all deciduous fruits, berries, grains and seed. Consequently, large populations have become a nuisance, even in their native range, where they have caused economic losses in agricultural areas.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

## Species Description

*Carpodacus mexicanus* (house finches) are about the same size as house sparrows. Males are brownish with a bright red breast, forehead, rump and stripe over the eye. They also have narrow dark stripes on the flanks and belly. Females are sparrow-like, with a plain head, streaked underparts and no eye stripe. House finches have a warbling song, frequently ending in harsh, nasal notes. Their chirp is similar to that of a house sparrow (Clark, J., Hygnstrom, S. 1994).

## Lifecycle Stages

Pair formation begins in the winter, culminating in pairbonds established just before the breeding season begins. Females are most likely to choose a mate that has the most brightly coloured plumage, rather than a dominant male. In the northeast of the USA, house finches may breed twice during the breeding season, which starts in the earliest part of spring. The female incubates her eggs for 12-14 days and the young fledge 11-19 days after hatching (Pappas, 2002).

## Habitat Description

In the eastern United States, *Carpodacus mexicanus* (house finches) are highly adaptable to urban and suburban environments. They are especially invasive in agricultural areas. House finches are also found in open desert and desert grassland, chaparral, oak savannah, riparian areas and open coniferous forests in the western United States (Pappas, 2002). House finches nest on ledges, on branches of trees, shrubs and cactus and in holes in trees or wall (InfoNatura, 2004).



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## Reproduction

The nest is made of grasses, hair or any available fibres and is fashioned as a shallow cup. A clutch consists of three to six bluish or greenish-white eggs that are black-spotted near the large end. Each egg weighs approximately 2.4g.

## Nutrition

Seeds, including those from thistle, dandelion, sunflower and mistletoe, as well as buds, are consumed. In addition, fruits such as cherries and mulberries are favoured. The house finch eats, almost exclusively, plant materials .

## General Impacts

*Carpodacus mexicanus* (house finches) peck and feed on practically all deciduous fruits, berries, grains, vegetable seed and flower seed. Damage involves feeding on ripening fruit, such as apples, apricots, avocados, blackberries, cherries, figs, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, raspberries and strawberries. They also detach the bracts of fruit buds and eat the buds; at blossom time they knock off petals and eat the embryonic fruits. Damage occurs to ripening fruit during three periods: early season (damage by nesting adults), mid to late season (damage by young and adult birds resident in the locality), and winter (damage to late ripening fruit by flocks of birds gathering in their winter habitats) (Clark, J., Hygnstrom, S. 1994). House finches use nests of other species (e.g., grosbeak, cliff swallow). They are however not considered a competitive threat to native cavity nesting birds in eastern North America (InfoNatura, 2004).

## Management Info

Physical: [Clark and Hygnstrom \(2005\)](#) describe several prevention and control methods. Exclusion involves installing plastic netting to protect crops. Habitat modification can deter house finches from feeding on crops and can be done by removing large brush piles, stacks of irrigation pipe, and piles of boxes to eliminate nesting and resting areas. Other methods of controlling the house finch population include frightening the birds with loud noises or alarms. Trapping devices may also be useful. Some repellents may be used, but they are not considered very effective. Shooting will somewhat reduce the number of birds present, but is a costly and rather futile method of crop protection.

**Principal source:** [Pappas, J. 2002. \*Carpodacus mexicanus\* \(On-line\), Animal Diversity Web.](#)

**Compiler:** National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

**Review:** Kevin P. B. Oh. Graduate Student. Dr. Badyaev's Lab Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona Tucson, USA.

**Publication date:** 2007-01-24

## ALIEN RANGE

[1] CANADA

[25] UNITED STATES

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

8 references found for *Carpodacus mexicanus*

### Managment information

[Clark, Jerry P. and Scott E. Hygnstrom., 2005. House Finch \(Linnets\)](#)

**Summary:** A detailed report on all aspects of the house finch, including biology, ecology, and control methods.

Available from: <http://icwdm.org/handbook/birds/HouseFinches.asp> [Accessed 5 February 2008].

### General information

Allen, R. Brittingham, M. 1997. House Finch Conjunctivitis. Pennsylvania Wildlife Series.

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FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Carpodacus mexicanus*

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[CWBO \(Chipper Woods Bird Observatory\). 2003. House Finch. Wild Birds Unlimited, Inc.](#)

**Summary:** General information on the house finch in Indiana, USA.

Available from: <http://www.wbu.com/chipperwoods/photos/housefinch.htm> [Accessed 21 June 2003].

[Gough, G.A., Sauer, J.R., Iliff, M. Patuxent Bird Identification Infocenter. 1998. Version 97.1. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.](#)

**Summary:** Identification tips and similar species information.

Available from: <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/Infocenter/i5190id.html> [Accessed 10 June 2003].

[InfoNatura, 2004. Carpodacus mexicanus. House Finch.](#)

**Summary:** Images, range information and taxonomy.

Available from: <http://www.natureserve.org/infonatura/servlet/InfoNatura?searchSciOrCommonName=carpodacus> [Accessed 5 february 2008]

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2004. Online Database Carpodacus mexicanus](#)

**Summary:** An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

Available from: [http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search\\_topic=TSN&search\\_value=179191](http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=179191) [Accessed December 31 2004]

[Pappas, J. 2002. Carpodacus mexicanus \(On-line\), Animal Diversity Web.](#)

**Summary:** This report reviews available information on the description, taxonomy and habitat of the House Finch.

Available from: [http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Carpodacus\\_mexicanus.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Carpodacus_mexicanus.html) [Accessed May 31, 2004].

Tallman, D. 1997. *House Finch*. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

**Summary:** A report on the Natural History and distribution on the House Finch in the United States.