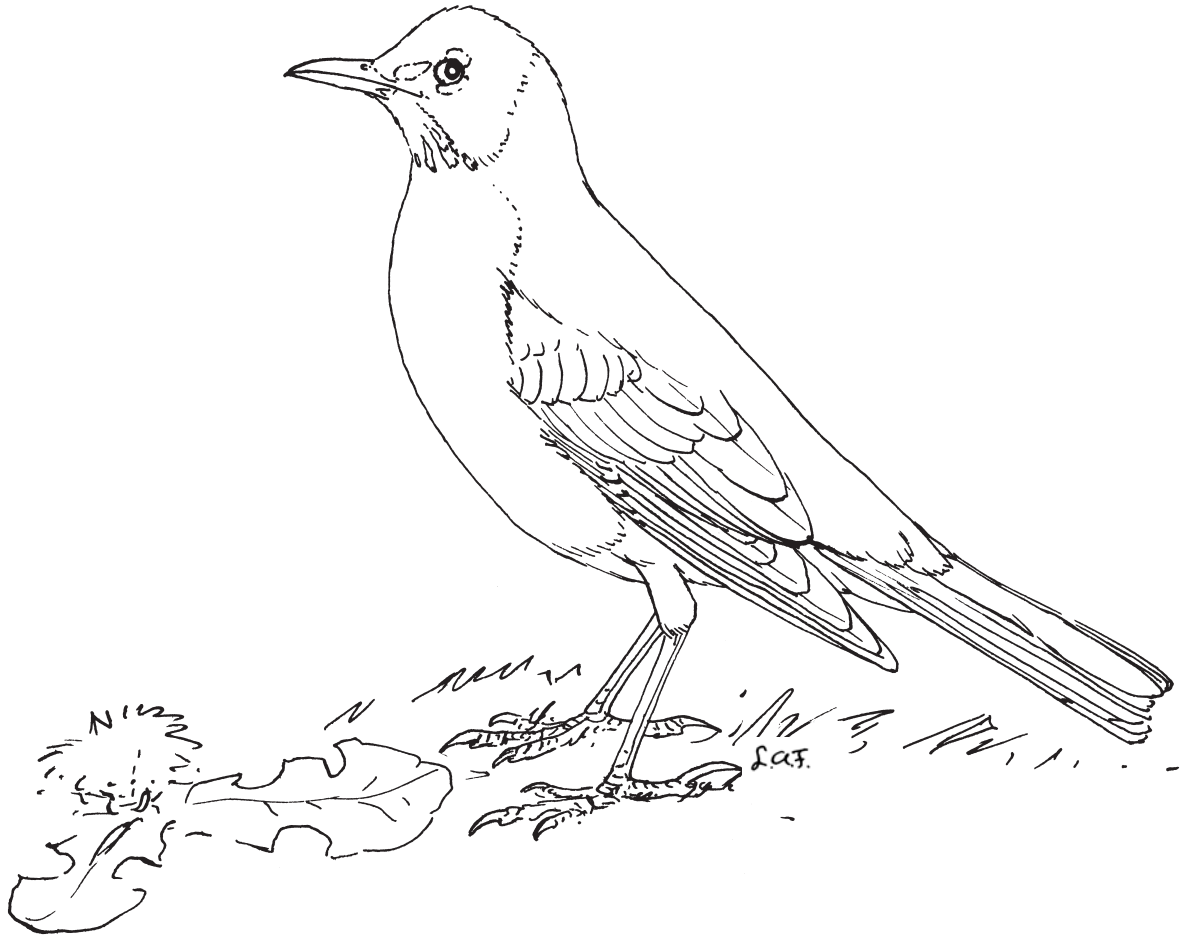


American Robin



The American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is a familiar sight in Sapsucker Woods, bobbing along the trails and the parking lots in search of earthworms. Although most at home in deep, mature forests, robins are tolerant of human-modified habitats but vulnerable to pesticide poisoning and chemical pollution on lawns.

Identification Tips

- Large songbird (8–11 inches from bill to tail) with a thin yellow bill.
- Black to dark gray head white eye crescents.
- Streaked throat and dull red breast and belly.
- Back and wings gray. White under tail.
- Sexes similar; female somewhat paler.
- Song is a musical whistled phrase, *cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up*. Call note a sharp *chup*. Also a very high-pitched thin whistling note.

Cool Facts

- A female robin builds its nest methodically, pressing dead grass and twigs into a cup shape. She carries mud from worm castings in her bill and kneads it into the inner wall. Finally, she lines it with fine pieces of grass.
- Robins eat different types of food depending on the time of day and season; they eat earthworms early in the day and fruit later on. Earthworms are important during the breeding season, but fruit is their main winter diet.